

OPINION 6

THE HISTORY OF THE
ASSAM PROBLEM

WORLD 8

AFGHANISTAN, MYANMAR
WILL NOT ADDRESS UNGA

MONEY 9

GOVT TO BORROW ₹5L CR
TO FUND REVENUE GAP

CHANDIGARH, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹2

the pioneer

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MOEEN ALI
RETIRES FROM
TEST CRICKET
12 SPORTSC slams arbitrary change
in NEET speciality syllabusAuthorities can't
treat doctors as
footballs, tell us
justification: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a stinging snub to the Centre, the Supreme Court on Monday warned that it may pass strictures if it is not satisfied with justification for the last-minute changes to the NEET Super Speciality Examination 2021 syllabus. The court also asked the Centre not to treat "young doctors as football in the game of power".

Asserting that it will not allow these young doctors to be placed in the hands of some insensitive bureaucrats, the court asked the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), National Medical Commission (NMC) and National Board of Examination (NBE) to "put their house in order".

The court was hearing a plea from 41 postgraduate doctors who have challenged the last-minute changes made to the syllabus after the notification for examination was



issued.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, to hold a meeting with the other two authorities within a week.

"Better come with some strong reasons, and if we are not satisfied, we will pass strictures," it said.

"Don't treat these young doctors as footballs in the game of power. Hold the meeting and put your house in order. We will not allow the lives of these young doctors to



be placed in the hands of some insensitive bureaucrats," it added.

In their plea, the doctors pointed out as per the prevailing pattern of examination, 60 per cent marks are given on questions from super speciality courses while 40 per cent on

questions from other courses. "But as per the notification issued on August 31 for modifying the pattern of examination, 100 per cent marks will now be given on questions from general medicines," they said.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, who represented the doctors, said that there is urgency in the matter and they have filed a written submission also in the matter.

Advocate Gaurav Sharma, appearing for NMC, said he would like to file reply in the matter and sought adjournment of one week.

Kisan Bharat Bandh: Road,
railway traffic grinds to haltPNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH/
LUCKNOW/KOLKATA

The Bharat Bandh call given by farmers on Monday to demand scrapping of three controversial farm laws affected normal life as the farmers blocked highways and disrupted railway traffic at many places across the country.

The 10-hour bandh called by farmers' body Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) hit normal life in Punjab and Haryana as 50 trains were cancelled, highways and key roads blocked. Flow of traffic at Delhi's borders with Uttar Pradesh and Haryana was affected, but shops and businesses remained open.

The impact of bandh was felt the most around Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh and also in large pockets of Kerala, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. The massive jams that prevented the cross border movement of commuters as well as trucks carrying essentials. The blockade was lifted at 4 pm.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait said, "Our Bharat Bandh was successful. We had the full support of farmers... We can't seal down everything as we have to facilitate the movement of people. We are ready for



Farmers block the railway tracks during their 'Bharat Bandh' against Central Government's three farm reform laws, at Devi Dass Pura on the outskirts of Amritsar on Monday

talks with the Government but no discussions are happening."

The SKM termed it's an historic bandh as there was an unprecedented response from every part of the country. "Crores of farmers came together in a show of unity and solidarity," it said.

The Delhi-NCR region, including the satellite towns of Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Noida, was particularly hit as cross-border movement was badly hit.

IMPACT OF CHAKKA JAM

■ About 50 trains cancelled

■ In Delhi, markets remained open but business activities were largely unaffected, though massive traffic snarls were witnessed in border areas due to road blockades

■ The bandh hit normal life in Punjab and Haryana as protesters blocked highways and squatted on railway tracks at many places in the two northern States

■ Normal life was affected in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu

■ The bandh failed to evoke any response in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, while it had lukewarm response in Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh

CAPSULE

DOPE TESTS ON FLIGHT
CREW FROM 2022: DGCA

New Delhi: For the first time in India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced on Monday a rule that pilots, crew members and air traffic controllers (ATCOs) will face random dope tests from January 31, 2022. The new rules require that at least 10% of these personnel in the organisation be tested annually.

WHO NOD FOR COVAXIN
DELAYED FURTHER

New Delhi: The WHO has further delayed the emergency use authorisation (EUA) for Covaxin, as the global body has sent more technical queries to its manufacturer Bharat Biotech, according to sources.

MAN WANTED IN DELHI
RIOTS CASES HELD

New Delhi: A 29-year-old man wanted in several cases related to last year's Northeast Delhi riots has been arrested from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh, police said on Monday.

INDIA TESTS 'AKASH
PRIME' MISSILE

New Delhi: A new version of the Akash Missile — 'Akash Prime' — was successfully tested from the Integrated Test Range at Odisha's Chandipur on Monday at around 4:30 pm.

Digital IDs a new phase
of health facilities: ModiPM launches Digital
Health Mission

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched the Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM) which will ensure that every citizen in India has a separate health ID containing all health details.

While launching the Ayushman Bharat digital mission, Modi said, "The drive to strengthen the health facilities of the country, in the last 7 years, is entering a new phase today. This is not an ordinary phase. This is an extraordinary phase."

The nationwide rollout of PM-DHM coincides with the National Health Authority (NHA) celebrating the third anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

On August 15, 2020, Modi had announced the mission (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Madaviya, who was present on the occasion, said, "I believe



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses at the launch of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, through video conferencing in New Delhi on Monday

that this will bring a revolutionary change in the health sector."

Currently, over one lakh unique health IDs have been created under the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), which was initially launched across six States and Union territories on a pilot basis.

Based on the foundations laid down in the form of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM) trinity, and other digital initiatives of the Government, PM-DHM will create a seamless online platform through the provision of a wide range of data, information, and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems while ensuring the security, confidence,

and privacy of health-related personal information, said a senior official from the Union Health Ministry.

The key components of PM-DHM include a health ID-unique — 14-digit health identification — for every citizen that will also work as their health account. The national Health ID will be a repository of all health-related information of a person. The health ID will enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent.

This health account will contain details of every test, every disease, the doctors visited, the medicines taken, and the diagnosis, said the official.

Punjab CM exhorts administrative
secys to prepare comprehensive
roadmap of their departments

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

I am soft and gentle but please don't mistake my gentleness for something that will let inaction go unnoticed," Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi told the administrative secretaries on Monday.

Chairing his first meeting with the administrative secretaries of all the departments, Channi exhorted them to prepare a comprehensive roadmap of 100 days of their departments to bring in more efficiency and transparency. He asked the administrative secretaries to submit detailed proposals in this regard to the Chief Secretary within a week.

The Chief Minister said the core sectors of health and education should be prioritised so as to provide the best and affordable healthcare facilities to people, besides imparting quality education to students, especially in the rural areas. He asked the administrative secretaries to discharge their duties diligently in ensuring a clean, transparent and corruption-free administration to people, which, he added, is the hallmark of the Congress government in the state.

"I am soft and gentle but please don't mistake my gentleness for something that will let inaction go unnoticed. I will

act against those who won't act for the common people," Channi said. He said corruption has to be eradicated at all costs and added that the work of the common man should be done on priority.

The Chief Minister also said justice should be done to every citizen irrespective of his caste, creed and community. He urged the officials to give due respect to the Ministers, MLAs and elected representatives but at the same time, reminded them that the rule of law should be the only criterion for decision making. Channi also asked the administrative secretaries to ensure a timely completion of the ongoing projects, besides implementing welfare measures so the last man standing in the queue could avail the benefits offered by the state government. He urged them to follow an employee-friendly approach to resolve their issues amicably so that they should not resort to agitation.

Assuring Channi of good governance, Chief Secretary Anirudh Tewari said since his message is loud and clear, they will leave no stone unturned to achieve the desired goals in line with the clean and transparent roadmap that has come directly from the Chief Minister.

Deol is new
Punjab AG

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Senior advocate Amar Preet Singh Deol was on Monday appointed Punjab Advocate-General. The post fell vacant about eight days back after Atul Nanda stepped down as the AG soon after Capt Amarinder Singh's resignation from the Chief Minister's post.

Enrolled as a lawyer in August 1984 and designated senior advocate in April 2007, Deol has been practicing on the criminal and Constitutional side.

Deol was also the counsel for former Director-General of Police Sumedh Singh Saini and IG Paramraj Singh Umaranangal — both accused in the Behlbal Kalan police firing case. He had been representing the former top cop in various cases against him.

Deol has been the frontrunner for the coveted post since Saturday, after the high command turned down the names of senior advocates DS Patwalia and then Anmol Ratan Singh Sidhu.

Covid caused biggest fall in life
expectancy since WWII: Oxford

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 has caused the biggest decrease in life expectancy in 2020 by a huge amount — the largest since the Second World War — according to an Oxford study. The paper was published in the *International Journal of Epidemiology*.

"Life expectancy in 2020 was slashed by more than six months compared to 2019 in 22 of the 29 countries that were analysed. Of the 29 sampled countries, 27 belonged to Europe, while the other two were Chile and the United States," the study said.

The results highlight a large impact that is directly attributable to Covid-19. "This shows how devastating a shock it has been for many countries," Dr Ridhi Kashyap, co-lead



author of published paper, said.

Highlighting the urgency of more research on Covid-19, she called for the publication and availability of further information and data to better understand the worldwide impacts of the coronavirus.

She also urged the

Governments of other countries, especially low-income and middle-income countries, to make available their data on Covid-19 mortality rates.

The study also shows that due to Covid-19 life expectancy of men dropped by a greater margin than that of women in most of the sample countries.

HC stays order asking
Delhi Govt to deliver on
promise of rent for poor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday stayed its Single Bench order that had directed the AAP Government to formulate a policy to implement Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's announcement that if a poor tenant was unable to pay rent during the Covid-19 pandemic, the State Government would pay it.

A bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh issued notice on the Delhi Government's appeal against the order passed by Justice Pratibha M Singh.

The order came as a big relief to the Kejriwal Government since Justice Pratibha Singh had also held that a Chief Minister's promise

to citizens is enforceable.

However the HC said, "There is a prima case in favour of the appellant (Delhi Govt). Balance of convenience is in favour of the appellant and irreparable loss shall be caused. We stay the operation, implementation, and execution of the order of the single judge till the next date of hearing." Next hearing is on November 29.

Delhi Government's senior counsel Manish Vashisht claimed that in the backdrop of the outbreak of the pandemic, a "fervent appeal" was made by the Chief Minister to the public at large not to coerce the tenants into paying rent, however, the same was "found" to be "a sort of a promise" by the single judge.

Panchjanya dubs Amazon
'East India Company 2.0'E-commerce firm
highlights positive
impact on small
traders in India;
Cong raps RSS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after RSS mouthpiece weekly magazine *Panchjanya* attacked Amazon as "East India Company 2.0" and labelled it a "threat to indigenous entrepreneurship", the e-commerce giant highlighted its "positive impact on small businesses, including sellers, artisans, and delivery and logistics partners".

"During the pandemic three lakh new sellers joined us



of which 75,000 were local neighbourhood shops (dukaans) from 450+ cities (selling) furniture, stationery, consumer electronics, beauty products, mobile phones, garments, medical products..." a statement by the company said.

The Congress, which had earlier attacked Amazon,

found an opportunity to slam the RSS saying whatever the Sangh says was irrelevant as it did not say anything in national interest, but in the interest of the ruling BJP. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara said the allegations of bribery against the US e-commerce giant are serious and cannot be ignored. "The issue of Amazon is a serious one and it merits everybody's attention," he said.

Raising the issue of a bribery scandal being probed by e-commerce giant Amazon, the grand old party last week had alleged that the company's representatives had paid huge bribes for presence in India during 2018-20.

The article has, however, been backed by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT).

First full Cabinet meeting of Channi held; expresses solidarity with farmers

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The re-constituted Punjab Government on Monday held its first full Cabinet meeting with Ministers-without-portfolios. A day after 15 Ministers were sworn in, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi presided over the meeting with the Ministers awaiting portfolios, but with staff and rooms at their disposal.

The Government claimed that the “emergency” meeting was called to express solidarity with the farmers in view of their Bharat Bandh call, given by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha in protest against the three farm laws, for Monday. During the meeting only the farmers’ issues were discussed, while all other agendas were postponed for the next meeting on October 1.

Already facing a herculean task of fulfilling all pre-poll promises with just about 100 days in hand before the State goes to polls early next year, the Council of Ministers is yet

to get the charge of their departments.

As of now, the Chief Minister is going full throttle, holding meetings, going through files, passing orders related to all departments, despite having a team of two Deputy Chief Ministers and 15 Cabinet Ministers.

In fact, till the filing of this report, the Ministers were still awaiting the distribution of portfolios even as they have been allotted the rooms and also personal staff in the Punjab Civil Secretariat.

Sources have informed The Pioneer that after many flip-flops in selection of Cabinet Ministers, which has raised many eyebrows, Channi is treading cautiously to allot the ministries. In fact, in portfolio allocation also, he is said to have been holding consultations with the party high command and the state party chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

It has been learnt that the party was to decide on the portfolios along with the selection of Ministers, but because

of last-minute flip-flop, the decision was delayed.

“We have limited time in which we have to perform. Not just a day but every single minute, even second in important of each one of us. Our chief minister is going beyond the call of his duty, working day and night, to make this new Government perform. It would have been better if the portfolios were allocated, at least we should have started working from the day one,” said a Cabinet Minister, “off the record”.

Even as the portfolios are yet to be allocated, race is on for Home, Revenue, Transport, and Local Government Departments.

It is believed that Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa is eyeing Home portfolio considering the fact that he was vocal on seeking action against the Badals in sacrilege and related firing cases, besides SAD leader Bikram Majithia for his alleged involvement in drug cases.

As far as Transport is concerned, first-time Minister Amarinder Singh Raja Warring is aspirant for the same as he has the knowledge and even will to improve the department. He has been raising his voice against the free hand given to the private bus operators, including the Badals.

Already, there are heartburns over some of the names inducted in the Council of Ministers. Rana Gurjit Singh is one of the names which was being questioned by six Congress MLAs. Hours before his swearing-in, seven Congress leaders from Doaba, including six MLAs, met Punjab Congress president Sidhu saying that “tainted” Rana Gurjit should not be inducted in the Cabinet as he had faced accusations of corruption in sand mining.

Besides, it has also been learnt that Sidhu was opposed to induct Dinanagar MLA Aruna Chaudhary in the Cabinet. He was backing Punjab Congress’s Scheduled

Caste (SC) wing head and MLA Raj Kumar Chhabewal. Chaudhary, who was also one of the two female Cabinet Ministers in Capt Amarinder Singh led Cabinet, is said to be facing a strong anti-incumbency in her constituency.

The cabinet composition seems to also have upset caste dynamics, with no adequate representation given to Mazhabi Sikhs who make up 30% of SCs. The current assembly has nine MLAs from the community. Sources say Channi was not receptive to the idea of accommodating Mazhabi Sikhs as he was pitching for his own community.

CABINET PASSES RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH FARMERS

During the meeting, the Cabinet passed a resolution expressing solidarity with the farmers and their demands.

Terming these laws as anti-farmers and anti-food security, Chief Minister said

that these laws are a potent threat to the livelihood of farmers and their future generations. Making a firm resolve, the Chief Minister said that the earlier resolutions passed by the State Assembly in support of the state farmers’ demand to repeal these black laws should be conceded by the Government of India forthwith without any further delay.

Notably, the State Government had earlier also categorically reiterated its commitment to the resolutions passed by the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on August 28, 2020, and October 20, 2020, emphasizing that all the genuine demands of the farmers must be accepted and urging the Government of India to “repeal the Farm Laws as Agriculture is a State Subject under the Constitution of India, and to make MSP a statutory right.”

It welcomed the Supreme Court order staying the central legislations as acknowledgement of the concerns of the farmers of Punjab who are

protesting against the Farm Laws, and recognition of their pain and anguish.

“There is need for broad-based dialogue and proper consultation with all stakeholders as these legislations impact the future of millions of farmers across the country, and all genuine demands of the farmers must be accepted.

Expressing solidarity with the victim families of farmers who have lost lives during the ongoing agitation against draconian farm laws, the Chief Minister stressed on the need to win over their confidence as the Congress government has always stood firmly in support of their demands from day one when the Government of India thrust these anti-farmer laws upon them.

MINISTERS TO PERSONALLY HAND OVER APPOINTMENT LETTERS FOR GOVT JOBS TO DECEASED FARMERS’ FAMILIES

He asked all the Ministers to personally visit the houses

of the deceased farmers to deliver the appointment letters for government jobs to their family members. “Nearly 155 such appointment letters are ready and the same should be delivered to them within a week,” he said. The Chief Minister also asked the Chief Secretary to ensure verification of other remaining such cases expeditiously so as to complete the process of giving government jobs to the eligible next of kin.

EXPLORE WAYS TO RATIONALIZE COMPENSATION TO FARMERS’ SATISFACTION

Taking cognizance of the widespread resentment amongst the farmers for getting inadequate compensation in view of their land acquired by the various government agencies, Channi directed the Chief Secretary to explore ways and means to rationalize the quantum of compensation to be awarded to the farmers to their satisfaction.

Bharat bandh gets good response in Haryana, Punjab



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Bharat bandh or the nationwide shutdown on Monday on the call by farmers’ unions to demand scrapping of three Central Farm Laws got a good response in Punjab and Haryana where thousands of farmers blocked major highways, including National Highway 1 linking Delhi, putting a complete stop to movement of vehicular traffic.

Shops and other commercial establishments were closed in most towns as traders extended

their support to the agitating farmers. They opened their establishments only after the shutdown was over. However, there was no report of any untoward incident from anywhere in the states. Emergency medical services were exempted from the blockade.

Traffic across Punjab and Haryana was hit badly for several hours as farmers, farm labourers, commission agents, trade and employee unions and activists of political parties squatted on national highways for ten hours from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. The protesting farmers parked their tractors on highways and major link roads in both Punjab and Haryana and squatted on the road.

Farmers squatted on railway tracks at many places in Punjab and Haryana including at Shahbad near Kurukshetra, Sonipat, Bahadurgarh, Charkhi Dabri, Jind, Hisar, Amritsar, Patiala, Barnala and Lalru near Derabassi. As a result, several trains were held up. Officials said around 25 trains in the two states were affected. At Phagwara in Punjab, where two trains were stranded, many passengers said they support the farmers, but common people should not be made to suffer. “More than 20 locations are being blocked in Delhi, Ambala, and Ferozpur divisions. About 25 trains were affected due to this,” a spokesperson for the Northern Railway said.

Heavy police presence was seen at various places in Haryana and Punjab to maintain law and order. The police diverted traffic at several places as the farmers

blocked the highways. Hundreds of people had a harrowing time as buses, taxis and trains did not ply due to the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM)-called Bharat Bandh.

Commuters were left stranded at railway stations and bus stands in various towns and cities as public transport did not ply. People were forced to trudge with heavy luggage and office-goers too were hit hard. State roadways, private buses and taxis were off the roads, causing misery to thousands of passengers.

Buses remained parked at bus stands or bus depots, and passengers were left stranded. Auto-rickshaws and cycle-rickshaws made a quick buck from people wanting to reach their destination on time. Most of the roads across the two states, including in joint capital Chandigarh, wore a deserted look. While most of the private schools were shut, the attendance at government offices was negligible.

In Punjab, the worst affected places were Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Patiala, Amritsar, Bathinda, Ferozepur and Moga. In neighbouring Haryana, there were reports of protesters blocking highways in Ambala, Karnal, Panipat, Sirsa, Fatehabad and Kurukshetra districts.

The farmers are demanding the repeal of the three farm laws passed by Parliament last year and have expressed apprehension that they would pave the way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the mercy of big corporate houses. The government has maintained that the new laws will provide farmers with better opportunities. It has also accused the opposition parties of misleading farmers.

The government and farmer unions have held 11 rounds of talks so far, the last being on January 22, to break the deadlock and end the farmers’ protest. Talks have not resumed following widespread violence during a tractor rally by protesting farmers on January 26.

Haryana Govt notifies Commission of Inquiry for incident of lathicharge on farmers in Karnal

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After the approval of Haryana Cabinet last week, the State Government has notified the constitution of Commission of Inquiry into the incident of lathicharge on farmers at Bastara toll plaza in Karnal on August 28.

The cabinet had on September 22 approved the constitution of the commission.

“In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1962, the Governor of Haryana hereby appoints Justice Som Nath Aggarwal (retired) of Punjab and Haryana High Court as Commission of Inquiry to give its recommendation and findings on the events leading to the incident at Bastara Toll Plaza in Karnal,” stated the notification.

Karnal assembly seat is represented by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Haryana Vidhan Sabha.

According to the notification, “The Commission of Inquiry will inquire into the circumstances leading up to and including the action by the Police at Karnal on August 28 and the use of force against the demonstrators. It will also ascertain persons responsible for said situation and further will inquire into the role of IAS Ayush Sinha, the then Karnal sub divisional magistrate, in the action by the police.”

It further said, “The Commission shall complete the inquiry and submit the report to the State Government of Haryana within a period of one month from the date of publication of this notification in the official gazette.”

The Commission shall devise and specify its own procedure for conduct of the inquiry subject to provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952. The terms and conditions of the appointment of the Commission of Inquiry shall be issued later on, the notification added.

Notably, Haryana Police had lathicharged a group of farmers at Karnal’s Bastara toll plaza on August 28 while they were heading to protest against a BJP meeting where Chief Minister and senior BJP leaders were present. At least 15 farmers were injured during the incident while one farmer died later.

Following the incident, the farmers’ unions had demanded action against IAS officer Ayush Sinha, who was caught on tape allegedly telling policemen to “break heads” of protesting farmers. After five days of farmers’ protest outside the mini-secretariat in Karnal, the State Government had on September 11 assured to conduct an investigation by a retired judge of the High Court into the entire episode of lathicharge in Karnal.

VVIPs’ security curtailed in Punjab

Sarpanches, councillors to get entry cards for easy access to Secretariats, Govt offices

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In the maiden meeting of the reconstituted Council of Ministers, Punjab Government has decided to curtail the security of VVIPs across the State, with the Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi once again asking the state police chief to “act immediately” in pruning his security cover.

At the same time, the Government decided to provide entry cards to all sarpanches, councillors for easier entry into the fortified Punjab Secretariat, and all government offices across the State.

Underlining the need to curb the VIP culture, Chief Minister Channi asked the Ministers to keep their security personnel at the barest minimum as per the guidelines as he had already curtailed his own security.

He said that this initiative would not only be instrumental in deployment of extra security personnel judiciously, but also save the general public from unnecessary inconvenience in this regard.

In order to provide easy access to the elected representatives like sarpanches, municipal councillors etc, it was also decided to issue an entry card from the office of concerned Deputy Commissioner or SDM and the holders of such card would be allowed hassle free entry in state government offices and Civil Secretariats in Chandigarh.

Emphasizing the need to prepare a comprehensive roadmap, the Chief Minister asked all the administrative secretaries or head of departments to prepare an action plan to implement their development projects and welfare schemes in a time bound and holistic manner.

Assuring a clean, transparent, fair, just and efficient administration to the people, Channi asked the Ministers to perform to the best of their capacities and capabilities to repose trust in the state government.

The Chief Minister said that now they would have to work overtime so as to come up to the expectations of the people in delivering good governance to them to their satisfaction. He urged all of them to work zealously with utmost sincerity, honesty and commitment to boost the image of government and meet the aspirations of the people particularly at the grass roots level.

The Chief Minister also placed on record deep appreciation to the former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and his Cabinet colleagues for implementation of pro-people initiatives and overall development works in the state.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

For the convenience of the rail passengers, Railways have decided to provide experimental stoppage on Bhopal Division for six months of following trains on the below mentioned stations, details are as under :-

Station	09167 Ahmedabad-Varanasi Exp. Spl.		09168 Varanasi-Ahmedabad Exp. Spl.		W.E.F.
	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	
ASHOK NAGAR	13:30	13:32	09:48	09:50	29.09.2021
PIPRAIGAOI	13:48	13:50	09:25	09:27	
MUNGAOLI	14:08	14:10	09:06	09:08	
Stoppage period as per JCO	28.09.2021 to 26.03.2022		28.09.2021 to 25.03.2022		

Additional stoppage to 09307/09308 Indore Jn.-Chandigarh-Indore Jn. Express Special (Original 19307/19308) at BADARWAS station

Station	09307 Indore Jn.-Chandigarh Exp. Spl.		09308 Chandigarh-Indore Jn. Exp. Spl.		W.E.F.
	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	
GUNA	13:25	13:35	07:50	08:00	14.10.2021
BADARWAS	14:18	14:20	06:42	06:44	
SHIVPURI	14:55	14:57	06:10	06:12	
Stoppage period as per JCO	14.10.2021 to 07.04.2022		15.10.2021 to 08.04.2022		

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

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

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Haryana Govt to launch ‘Home Stay Scheme 2021’ to promote tourism

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

The tourists in Haryana will soon be able to stay with a local family to experience the local culture and relish the State’s authentic cuisines. For, the Manohar Lal Khattar Government in the State has chalked out a “Home Stay Scheme 2021”, allowing the house owners to provide home stays to tourists.

The scheme is aimed at giving an impetus to tourism in the state after the impact of Covid-19 on the tourism sector. The Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar is scheduled to launch the “Home Stay Scheme 2021” at Tikkar Tal, Panchkula on September 29.

The scheme lays down the eligibility criteria for home stays, incentives for them, registration procedure, inspection and police verification, marketing and promotion, responsibility of proprietor among other parameters.

Under the scheme, any house located within the limit of any type of municipal body is not eligible for registration and consequential subsidy under the scheme. Existing OYO or Airbnb, or B&B proprietors will also be not eligible.

The Department of Tourism will publish on its website the list of all approved home stay units. Brochures,

leaflets, amongst other publicity materials will also be developed and disseminated at suitable public places in this regard.

As per the scheme, any proprietor can register a maximum four fully owned accommodation rooms in the scheme. All rooms must be in the same house and all registered rooms should be available for letting out. At least one of the proprietors/owner must be physically staying in the same house.

The offered house will be inspected by the Tourism Department officials for verifying suitability and proposed renovation or refurbishing for which loan amount is sought.

Every registered home stay will also have to display on notice board for the tourists regarding their certification, guidelines, prohibitions and other guidelines. It will be mandatory for the proprietor to maintain a registration book and collect a copy of valid

photo ID for letting out rooms to the tourists. The charges for food, facility, activity, rent etc. will not be prescribed by the Department of Tourism, but proprietor cannot charge more than the charges intimated at proper time to the Department for respective heads, the scheme stated.

The proprietor of the home stay will be responsible for any casualty which may occur during the stay of the visitors and would be liable to provide immediate medical and transportation assistance. Any loss sustained during the causality will be compensated to the victim by the home stay proprietor and an affidavit to this effect will be signed at the time of registration.

The house selected under the scheme could also avail of loan amount for refurbishment or renovation of rooms offered for home stay. Such loan will be provided by the scheduled commercial bank

CM Manohar Lal to launch various tourism activities on Sept 29

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Chief Minister will unveil a host of activities and schemes for the promotion of tourism in Haryana on September 29. As per the programme, Khattar will inaugurate an exciting package of scenic and religious day tours in Panchkula.

The scenic tour will explore tourist spots like Tikkar Tal, Morni Hills, Yadavindra (Pinjore) gardens, Mandhana etc while the religious tour will explore various religious sites of Panchkula like Mata Mansa

Devi temple, Kalka Ji temple, Gurudwara Nada Sahib.

A tourist facilitation centre will also be inaugurated by the Chief Minister at Red Bishop, Panchkula. The Centre will be equipped with all requisite information needed by a tourist when travelling in Haryana.

Apart from this, the activities like aero sports and water sports like parasailing, paramotor and jet scooter will be operational commercially after the formal inauguration by Khattar at Tikkar Tal, Morni Hills, Panchkula.

and interest subsidy till five years will be borne by State Government, on the conditions that proprietors shall not default on any instalment of the bank, and his room bookings

shall not fall below 15 percent of combined total of all rooms offered under the scheme in any quarter. The maximum loan amount shall be Rs one lakh per room.

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Amar Shaheed Sardar Bhagat Singh Ji,

'DESHBHAKTI CURRICULUM' IN DELHI'S SCHOOLS FROM TODAY



**NOW EVERY CHILD WILL LEARN
PATRIOTISM. NOW EVERY CHILD WILL
BECOME A TRUE PATRIOT**

-Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



ED questions Raj CM's brother in fertiliser scam



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's brother Agrasain Gehlot in a money laundering case linked to fertiliser scam entailing alleged fertiliser export irregularities.

Gehlot's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), officials said.

Gehlot, accompanied by a lawyer, appeared before the agency here for questioning at around 11.30 am.

The agency had questioned him earlier also but he had approached the court seeking relief from the ED action.

The Rajasthan High Court recently asked him to cooperate with the agency in the

investigation as it directed the ED not to take any coercive action against him.

The agency had raided his business premises located in Rajasthan in July last year. The raids came when a political slugfest was then on between CM Ashok Gehlot and his then deputy CM Sachin Pilot in the State.

Agrasain Gehlot's son Anupam too had deposed before the agency in this case.

The ED searches against him came after it filed a criminal case under the PMLA based on a 2007-09 Customs department case in which it was alleged that irregularities took place in the procurement and export of subsidised Muriate of Potash (MOP) meant for farmers and investigation in this case was finalised in 2013.

The ED took cognisance of the Customs FIR and a charge sheet (filed on July 13, 2020) in this case to press money laundering charges and probe a "smuggling syndicate" allegedly linked to Agrasain Gehlot, his firm Anupam Krishi and others.

The agency had said the case pertained to fraudulent export of MOP, a restricted commodity for exports, in the guise of industrial salts to buyers based in Malaysia and Taiwan.

Its export is restricted so that it is available to Indian farmers.

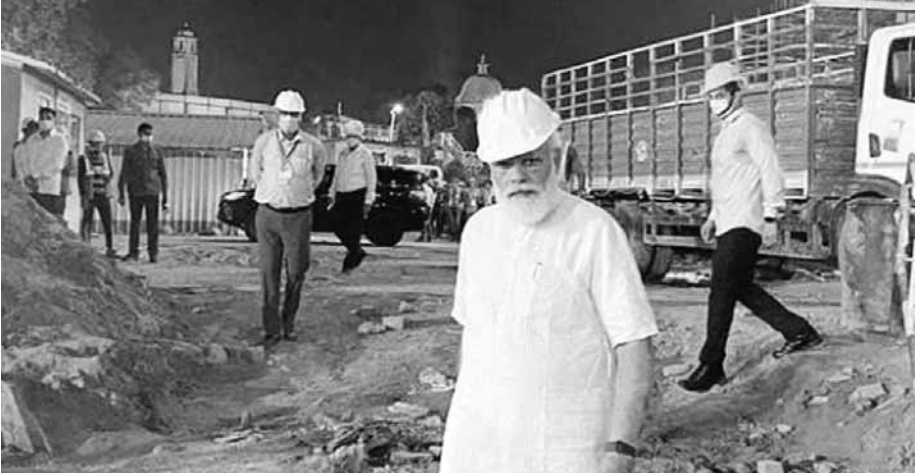
Agrasain Gehlot and his firm were slapped with over ₹60 crore in penalties by the Customs for these alleged export irregularities in 2013.

Gehlot's company allegedly "diverted" 35,000 metric tonnes of MOP that had a value of ₹130 crore in the international market, according to sources.

The ED has claimed that Gehlot, in his capacity of being a dealer, was the custodian of the MOP and was "solely responsible" for its proper distribution to the farmers.

Gehlot's alleged connivance with a company Saraf Impex Pvt Ltd and others resulted in the diversion of MOP that was imported by Indian Potash Limited at concessional rate of duty.

Opp plays Modi for visiting Central Vista project site



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition, led by the Congress, on Monday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for visiting the construction site of the Central Vista project, and dubbed it as a "thoughtless and insensitive" gesture.

It said the timing of the Central Vista project was questionable as the country was still recovering from the coronavirus pandemic after losing precious lives during the second wave.

"We would have supported him had he visited some hospital site. I am sorry we cannot support a gesture as thoughtless, as insensitive as this," Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said at AICC briefing.

When asked about the PM's visit to the under-construction

The building is part of the Central Vista project, which has faced criticism from the Opposition

site of the new Parliament complex, the Congress leader asked whether he ever visited a hospital or an oxygen plant site.

"I don't know if the Prime Minister was seen visiting a hospital or an oxygen plant under construction. Three months ago, we were trying to save our loved ones and today our PM goes to visit the ₹25,000 crore Central Vista project, the timing of which is questionable. The country is yet to recover from the pain, grief

and sorrow that we went through," he said.

AIMIM questioned why the Prime Minister was there without the Lok Sabha Speaker as Parliament is the domain of Speaker.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi slammed Modi saying the PM violated the principle of separation of powers, which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution. "Parliament isn't PMO's domain. Why was he there without Lok Sabha Speaker? Did Speaker permit him? This violates principle of separation of powers, which is part of basic structure of Constitution. Maybe it was the jet lag from his US tour. It was AM there but PM was here," Owaisi said.

The building is part of the Central Vista project, which

Digital archive must be set up to recognise contribution of workers employed in Vista project: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reviewing the ongoing construction work of the new Parliament building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that a digital archive must be set up to recognise the contribution of workers employed there.

He also told officials to ensure Covid-19 vaccination and monthly health check-up of all workers engaged at the site, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement on Monday. Modi had visited the site on Sunday evening and had laid emphasis on timely completion of the project.

He interacted with workers engaged at the site and also enquired about their well-being. Prime Minister Modi stressed that they are engaged in a "pious and historic" work. The digital archive at the site should also reflect their personal details, including their

name, place they belong to, their picture, while noting their contribution to the construction work, he said. Workers should also be given a certificate about their role and participation in this endeavour, the statement said.

The surprise inspection by the Prime Minister was done with minimal security detail, and he spent over an hour at the site, it added.

The new Parliament building will be ready by Winter Session in 2022. The new building will have an area of 64,500 square metres. It will also have a grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for members of Parliament, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and ample parking space. In the new building, the Lok Sabha chamber will have a seating capacity for 888 members, while the Rajya Sabha will have 384 seats for members.

ED grills Azam Khan in money laundering case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan in Sitapur jail in a money laundering case.

The ED move comes after the agency on September 20 secured an order from a designated Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court to grill Khan in the jail where he is currently undergoing judicial custody.

Khan is accused in several criminal cases in Uttar Pradesh and the ED questioning related to alleged illegal construction of a university in Rampur on an enemy property, sources said.

Based on similar court orders for questioning inside the jail premises, the agency is set to question two other strongmen from the State—Atiq Ahmed lodged in Sabarmati Jail, Ahmedabad and Mukhtar Ansari undergoing judicial custody in Banda Jail of Uttar Pradesh. The duo is accused of separate cases of money laundering.

VP exhorts security forces to establish their superiority in cyber warfare



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday urged the security forces to prepare themselves to dominate not only in a conventional war but also establish their superiority in the new and emerging areas of conflict such as information and cyber warfare along with the increasing use of robotics and drones in the battlefield.

He said the geo-strategic environment around us was turning unpredictable. "We are facing both symmetric and asymmetric threats from outside and within", he observed.

Making these observations during an interaction with the officers and troops of 12 RAPID Division of Indian Army in Jaisalmer, the Vice President termed peace as



War Museum' where he was received by Major General Ajeet Singh Gahlot, General Officer Commanding 12 RAPID.

He praised the Indian Army's Battle Axe Division (12 RAPID) for defending the nation and also guarding the borders in scorching Thar desert and in harsh climatic conditions. "The nation is assured that any misadventure by an adversary will be given a befitting reply by the Indian Army," he told the troops of 12 RAPID.

Reiterating that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, the Vice President said by doing away with Article 370, which was a temporary provision only, Parliament removed a major barrier between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India.

India must expedite its artillery modernisation programme: Artillery chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has to fast track its artillery modernisation plan with stress on self-reliance by manufacturing the guns within the country, artillery chief Lt General TK Chawla said here on Monday.

He also said the army is handholding two programmes to develop indigenous guns including Dhanush and Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAG). These projects are running behind schedule.

Addressing a news conference on the eve of the Gunners' Day here, the artillery chief said the army is keen that the two projects succeed.

Elaborating upon the delay, he said the summer trials of the ATAG could not meet the required parameters and will go for more modifications. The parameters needing improvement include firing and non-firing parameters, Chawla said. The trials were conducted in Pokhran, Rajasthan.

He also said it was difficult to put down a timeline for the induction of the guns into the Army. Chawla said the issues were flagged to the DRDO, adding the army wants a robust and reliable gun capable of firing accurately. The ATAG programme took

off in 2012.

As regards the Dhanush gun, Chawla said he discussed some issues with the Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur which is manufacturing the gun. The army had placed an order for 114 Dhanush guns in 2019 and so far only 12 of them with long range firing capability have joined service.

These two projects are part of the Field Artillery Rationalisation Programme (FARP). As per the FARP, the Army has planned to procure a mix of around 3,000-3,600 155mm howitzers — with different calibre types by 2025-27.

The K9 Vajra and M-777 lightweight howitzers projects part of the FARP are on track. The K-9 Vajra howitzers, manufactured by Larsen and Toubro in collaboration with a South Korean firm are now induced.

On the US made M-777, assembled by India's Mahindra Defence, the artillery chief said half of those ordered have reached the Army, adding that the Covid pandemic caused a delay.

He ruled out the Army looking at ordering more M-777s, adding that three regiments of the howitzers have been deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

3.08 crore jobs generated in April-June quarter of 2021-22, claims Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday claimed that 3.08 crore jobs were generated in nine sectors in the April-June quarter of 2021-22, reflecting a growth of 29 per cent. These nine selected sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/ BPO and Financial Services.

The Government made the claim as it released a report of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) part (April to June 2021) of the All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES) prepared by the Labour Bureau.

According to the report released by Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Monday, the most impressive growth of 152 percent has been recorded in the IT/BPO sector, while growth rates in Health 77 percent, Financial Services 48 percent, Education 39 percent, Manufacturing 22 percent, Transport 68 percent and Construction 42 percent were also quite significant. However, employment in Trade came down by 25 percent and in Accommodation and Restaurant the decline was by 13 percent.

The survey report said that nearly 90 percent of the establishments have been estimated to work with less than 100 workers, though 34.8 percent of the IT/BPO establishments worked with at least 100 workers, including about 13.8 percent engaging 500 workers or more.

In the Health sector, 18 percent of the establishments had 100 or more workers. It may be mentioned that 95 percent of the establishments were reported to working with less than 100 workers in the Sixth Economic Census. And in the IT/BPO sector the figures during 2013-14 for the size classes 100 or more and 500 or more stood at 19 and 6 respectively. Regular workers constitute 88 per cent of the estimated workforce in the nine selected sectors, with only 2 per cent being casual workers.

However, 18 per cent of workers in the construction sector are contractual employees and 13 per cent are casual workers. Only 9 per cent of the establishments (with at least 10 workers) were not registered with any authority or under any act. While 26 per cent of all the establishments were registered under the Companies Act with 71 per cent registration in IT/BPO, 58 per cent registration in construction, 46 per cent in manufacturing, 42 per cent in transport, 35 per cent in trade and 28 per cent in financial services.

Four in CBI net in coal pilferage case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Monday arrested four persons in the ongoing investigation of a case related to multi-crore coal pilferage scam in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. areas during the last seven-eight years in which West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee is also embroiled.

The four arrested accused are Jaydeb Mondal, Narayan Kharka alias Narayan Nanda, Gurupada Maji and Nirad Baran Mondal.

"The Central Bureau of Investigation has today arrested four persons in on-going investigation of a case related to alleged theft of coal in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. areas during the last 7/8 years," the agency said in a statement here.

It was alleged that the arrested persons were close associates of other accused and assisted him in engaging miners, arranging transporters and



sold the illegally excavated coal. The arrested accused will be produced before the Court of CBI Special Judge, Asansol, District Paschim Bardhaman (West Bengal), it said.

The four arrested were close aides of prime accused Anup Majhi, alias Lala, who is the alleged mastermind behind the alleged pilferage of dry fuel from Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) mines in Asansol in Paschim Bardhaman district, officials said.

The Anti-Corruption Branch of the CBI in Kolkata summoned the four to appear before its officials at the agency's office there. They were arrested following a brief interrogation.

Earlier, the agency had arrested Vikash Mishra, brother

of Trinamool Congress youth leader Binay Mishra, in connection with the case.

The CBI had registered an FIR in November last year against Lala, the alleged kingpin of the pilferage racket, ECL general managers Amit Kumar Dhar and Jayesh Chandra Rai, ECL security chief Tanmay Das, Kunustoria area security inspector Dhananjay Rai and Kajor area security in-charge Debashish Mukherjee.

Earlier, the agency had raided Lala's official premises, residences and other properties in Asansol, Raniganj and Kolkata. It had also issued a look-out circular against him.

The scam, arising out of illegal mining from abandoned mines of ECL, runs into thousands of crores of rupees and part of the crime proceeds had been transacted through the hawala route for which the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also joined the case to investigate the money laundering aspect.

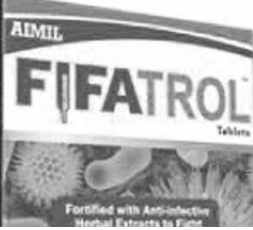
Herbal drugs like Fifatrol helpful in Covid recovery, boosting immunity: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Covid-19-battled India grapples with influenza, viral fever and dengue, ayurveda experts have claimed that immunity boosting herbal drugs like Fifatrol can not only hasten the recovery from the infection but also strengthen immunity of the patients.

Prof KN Diwedi from the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) said there are some herbs which can prevent progression of the infections due to seasonal influenza, viral fever and vector-borne diseases.

Fifatrol comprises such time-tested immunity strengthening herbs, he said. Some of them are guduchi, sanjeevini ghan vati, daruharidra, apamarga, chirayata, karanja, kutaki, tulsi, godanti (bhasam), mrityunjaya rasa, tribhuvana kriti rasa and sanjivani vati.



The herbal drug is being recommended by ayurveda experts to even dengue patients and has been found to give positive results.

Professor Divedi explained that there are four types of dengue — serotypes 1 to 4 at play. "The prevalence of serotype-2 has been growing very fast across the States. It is more severe than other variants of dengue stereotypes. In serotype-2 dengue infections, platelets drop rapidly and the body's immune response is hyperactive, resulting in a cytokine storm which can damage the organs. This variant of dengue also impacts the kidneys," he said.

Dope tests on flight crew from 2022 for fliers' safety: DGCA

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure safety and security of air passengers, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday issued guidelines under which pilots, cabin crew, maintenance staff and air traffic controllers would face dope tests on a random basis.

The DGCA has asked all scheduled commercial aircraft operators to carryout, random drug testing on flight crew members and Air traffic controllers. The rules will be effective from January 31, 2022. This is the first time that DGCA has come out for such random testing of flying and ground staff crews.

According to the DGCA, the rules will be applicable to aircraft operators engaged in commercial operations, Maintenance & Repair Organizations, Flying Training Organizations and Air Navigation Service Providers.

"All scheduled commercial aircraft operators and Air navigation service provider shall

carryout, random drug testing for the consumption of psychoactive substance by flight crew members and Air traffic controllers employed by them respectively at the facilities established by them using the services of an appropriate laboratory. The medical personnel of the concerned Organisation shall associate during this process. This programme shall ensure that at least 10% of the employees of an organization," DGCA chief Arun Kumar said.

The rules said that the organizations shall use a scientifically valid method such as a random-number table or a computer-based random-number generator to select the employees for testing using the unique identifying number. The organization must ensure that all employees have an equal chance of being tested each time the selection is made. Specific individuals or groups must not be targeted including certain locations.

The Organisations shall ensure that Flight Crew Member, Air Traffic Control

Officers, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers/ certifying staff, trainee pilots and Instructors/examiners in their employment are tested for consumption of psychoactive substances on the following occasions: a) Before employing a person b) Before admitting a trainee pilot in a FTO c) Follow-Up testing of confirmed cases. d) At first available opportunity, in case an aviation personnel has refused drug test to a foreign regulator during flight operation to that country/duty in that country. It said that all the positive cases shall be reported by the organization to DAS, DGCA (HQ) within 24 hours. In addition the information shall also be submitted to DDG/JDG Air Safety and DMS (CA).

In case a person refuses for the test on second occasion or is tested positive after first occasion of refusal for testing, the license shall be suspended for a period of three years and any subsequent violation shall lead to the cancellation of licence.

Opp helps Bharat Bandh in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Monday’s Bharat Bandh held under the auspices of the Opposition political parties turned out to be a big success in Kerala with all Government and private establishments downing shutters and vehicles remaining off the roads. The dawn to dusk bundh was to express solidarity with the farmers across the country who are protesting against the three agricultural reforms bills enacted by the Union Government. The farmers who have been waging relentless agitation against the Union Government feel that the bills would destroy their agricultural operations and deny them the right to have minimum support price.

Since the bundh was held on Monday, Government employees could enjoy an

extended weekend. “Had it been held on Tuesday or on Wednesday, it would have upset the rhythm of our life,” said Sujit Thannikkal of Ernakulam, an entrepreneur.

The weekend that began on Saturday night went up to late Monday night in the State. The CPI(M)-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF had declared their support to the Bundh which gave the shut-down an official seal. All KSRTC and private buses along with taxis and auto rickshaws stayed off the road throughout the State.

But the State saw seven persons losing their lives in different road accidents during the bundh hours sensing the message that roads in Kerala are not safe even on a bundh day. Leaders of the CPI(M) and the Congress thanked the people of the State for their coop-

eration in making the shut down a success.

But cynics were quick to find fault with the Kerala Government’s support to the Bharat Bundh. September 27 was the World Tourism Day and the Kerala Government had launched an advertisement campaign in all newspapers in the State about the sound tourism practiced in the State. “In this ad on World Tourism Day, Kerala tourism minister Mohammed Riyaz says the world has started to ‘travel worry-free’ & that our centres are ‘safe’. His party is conducting a State hartal today! Are people ‘safe’ because they sit at home? - Can they ‘travel worry-free’ today?,” asked Sreejith Panickar, political commentator in his social media site.

The strongest condemnation of the frequent Bharat

Bundh calls by political parties was made by G Vijaya Raghavan, former chief executive officer of Techno Park.

1. Whom is the protest against? The answer is of course the central Govt.

2. Has this strike affected the working of the PMO or the offices of any union minister or Secretary to Govt of India. The answer is a big No.

3. Then who is the one who is impacted by the Bandh or Hartal? The common man of course and they have no means to protect themselves and are forced to stay away from work and they get no wage and a day’s income is lost.

It is high time we changed our methods of protest. A protest is successful and makes an impact only when it affects the person or group of persons against whom the protest is targeted at,” said Vijayaraghavan.

Protect identities in POSH cases: HC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has issued fresh guidelines relating to the Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (“the POSH Act”) and Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Rules, 2013, prohibiting publication of names and addresses of the people involved and mandating that all hearings be held in the judges’ chamber or in Camera.

“It is imperative, therefore,

to protect the identities of the parties from disclosure, even accidental disclosure, in these proceedings. This is in the interest of both sides. There appear to be no established guidelines so far in such matters,” Justice G.S. Patel of the high court noted, as he prefaced his order, imposing restrictions for hearing, dealing, and reporting on cases pertaining to the POSH Act and POSH Rules.

The order came during the course of a hearing of a POSH case involving a major blue-chip company and its woman staffer who was represented by advo-

cate Abha Singh.

“This order, setting out a working protocol for future orders, hearings and case file management, is a first endeavour in that direction. These are only initial guidelines, and will necessarily be subject to revision or modification as needed,” the Judge ruled, in his order passed on September 24.

Among other things, the guidelines have stated: “In the order sheets, the names of the parties will not be mentioned. The orders will read “A v B”, “P vs D” etc. In the body of the order, the parties will not be

referred to by their names but only as Plaintiff, Defendant No.1 etc” The HC has restricted all from mentioning the names of the parties in the case, their Personally Identifiable Information (PII) such as email ids, mobile or telephone numbers, addresses etc.

No witness’ names will be mentioned, nor will their addresses be noted. (d) Orders/judgments on merits will not be uploaded. Because this order sets out general guidelines and does not address the merits, it is permitted to be uploaded.

Hardeep Singh Puri launches ‘Swachchh Survekshan 2022’

New Delhi: Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday launched the ‘Swachchh Survekshan 2022’, the seventh edition of the annual cleanliness survey under which district rankings have been introduced for the first time.

In a statement, the ministry said that this year’s survey will create a level playing field for smaller cities by introducing two population categories -- under 15,000 and between 15,000-25,000. The scope of the survey has been expanded to now cover 100 per cent wards for sampling as compared to 40 per cent in previous years, according to the HUA Ministry.

Speaking at the event, Puri said that the Swachh Bharat Mission is an important and transformative programme of the country which has achieved success due to involvement of all stakeholders at the grassroot level. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the catalyst for converting the vision of Mahatma Gandhi into reality by leading from the front and converting it into a peoples’ movement. The road to success was not easy but today we have not only achieved ODF but also succeeded in solid waste management," the statement quoted him as saying.

He said SBM 2.0 and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 will be launched by the Prime Minister on October 1. The ministry said that in order to seamlessly carry out this ambitious exercise, ‘Swachh Survekshan 2022’ will see more than twice the number of assessors deployed last year for on-field assessment.

PNS

Didi is face against Modi: Deb after becoming TMC RS MP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Batting strongly for her new political boss Mamata Banerjee, Trinamool Congress leader Sushmita Deb on Monday said that the Bengal Chief Minister was fast emerging as the face of the Opposition against the BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Deb who was on Monday elected uncontested to Rajya Sabha from Bengal said an anti-BJP force is being formed all over the country... People want an alternative to BJP. Mamata Banerjee is at the forefront of the leadership needed to build that strength. It cannot be denied in anyway.

When asked to comment on “deflating steam” of the Congress Party the senior leader from Assam who recently left the Congress to join the TMC said, “Why the Congress is in his situation today is a matter of debate. But people are relying on Mamata Banerjee as an alternative force,” adding I will do whatever my party and my leader Mamata Banerjee wants me to do, Dropping sufficient hints that

she was going to be her new party’s charge-de-affairs for the North East Deb the daughter of late Union Minister and Silchar Congress leader Santosh Mohan Deb said “I never thought I would do politics in Assam and I will be elected as an MP from Bengal ... In Parliament, I will have to talk about Assam as well as Bengal ... voice should also be raised for the whole of Northeast India including Tripura.”

Speaking about the BJP Government’s alleged “fascist ways” she said “Modi government does not give importance to the opposition in the parliament. Parliamentary customs do not mean. No bill goes to the standing committee, no debate is allowed. I will protest against such behavior of theirs. I will fight shoulder to shoulder with other Trinamool MPs in the Rajya Sabha.”

One of the Young Turks of the Congress Party, Deb had kept from making any statement on or against the Congress Party which could be the main stumbling block in the path of Mamata Banerjee’s Delhi dreams.

ED raids home of ex-Sena MP Anandrao Adsul, son

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials on Monday raided the residence of former Shiv Sena MP Anandrao Adsul and his son Abhijit Adsul in connection with a complaint of alleged scam worth ₹980 crore in the City Cooperative Bank Ltd, here.

As part of an on-going bitter political battle between them and Adsuls, independent MLA from Badnera, Ravi Rana, the husband of ex-actress and independent MP from Amravati, Navnit Kaur-Rana had lodged a complaint against Anandrao and his son Abhijit with the ED.

Acting on Ranas’ complaint, ED had summoned Adsuls for questioning on Monday.

In their complaint, Ranas have accused the Adsuls of alleged misappropriation of the City Cooperative Bank Ltd. ’s depositors’ funds to the tune of ₹900-crore. However, Anandrao and his son Abhijit have vehemently denied the charge.

A former five-time MP from Amravati and Buldhana Lok Sabha seats, Anandrao Adsul is the chairman, while his son Abhijit is a director in the

Mumbai-based bank.

After the IT department descended on their residence at Kandivli in north Mumbai, Anandrao became indisposed and was rushed to a nearby hospital.

After ED had issued first summons to him in connection with the complaint, Anandrao had appeared before the instigating agency and recorded his statement. “Later on my father lodged a complaint with the NM Marg police in connection with the alleged fraud in the bank,” Abhijit said

On his part, Anandrao has gone on record saying: “How could there be a fraud of 980 crore in a bank that has a turn-over of ₹800 crore? After I came to know there was fraud in the bank, I had complained to the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai Police. An inquiry is going on in the case”.

Ravi Rana’s allegation is that Anandrao, who is the chairman of the bank, had illegally diverted the money deposited in the bank by the account holders in his real estate business and as a result, the bank went into liquidation. He has alleged that Anandrao and his son had indulged in a massive scam in the bank.

China defends visa curbs against stranded Indians

Says it’s ‘appropriate’ to combat Covid

Beijing: China on Monday defended its visa curbs which have prevented thousands of stranded Indians from returning to Beijing, saying they are "appropriate" to control the spread of Covid-19 and do not target India alone, but are applied to even Chinese citizens coming back from overseas.

Responding to questions on Indian ambassador to Beijing Vikram Misri’s criticism of China’s prolonged stringent travel restrictions, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying also ruled out the easing of the curbs in the near future. Misri, in his address to the Track-II Dialogue on China-India Relations last week, expressed “disappointment” over China’s reluctance to permit the return of thousands of stranded Indian students, employees and their families due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He described China’s restrictions as an "unscientific approach" to a purely humanitarian issue. Asked for her reaction, Hua told a media briefing here that the measures were taken for the safety and wellbeing of the people.

“China’s measures are appropriate and also I would like to say that China applies quarantine measures to all inbound travellers. China is willing to have good arrangements on the bilateral travel of personnel,” she said.

PTI

Maha RS bypolls: Rajani may be elected unopposed

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Congress’ former MP and CAICC general secretary Rajani Patil on Monday appeared poised to get elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha in the elections scheduled for October 4 after the Opposition BJP responded to the ruling party’s call and withdrew its candidate Sanjay Upadhyay keeping in view with the political traditions followed in the state

The BJP’s decision to withdraw its candidate from RS poll fray came four days after

State Congress president Nana Patole and senior state Congress minister Balasaheb Thorat met former chief minister and current leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis at the latter’s Mumbai residence and requested him to ensure the election of their party candidate Rajani Patil unopposed.

Announcing the withdrawal of his party’s candidate

from the RS by-poll fray, Maharashtra BJP president Chandrakant Patil said: “Keeping in view the request made by the Congress leaders and tradition followed in the elections held after the death of a sitting member, we withdrew our candidate Sanjay Upadhyay from the RS poll fray”.

The October 4 by-election to one RS seat from Maharashtra has been necessitated by the untimely demise of sitting Congress member Rajeev Satav who died because of Covid-19 complications on May 16 this year.

On its part, the BJP had earlier said that in the first place it would not have fielded a candidate if the Congress were to put up a candidate from Satav’s family member and that the ruling party had instead nominated a former MP for the seat.

The Congress high command has chosen Rajani Patil, who is a Gandhi-Nehru family loyalist, as the party candi-

date for the RS by-polls, ahead of Rajeev’s widow Pradnya Satav, who had lobbied with the party leadership for nomination, veteran party leader Sushilkumar Shinde, party general secretary Mukul Wasnik himself, former Rajasthan state in charge Avinash Pande, former MP Rajiv Shukla and former union minister Milind Deora.

Sixty-two-year-old Rajanitai – as she is known in the state political circles -- is currently the All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir. She was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha in 2013. In 1996, Patil had won the Beed Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra for the Congress. She had replaced AICC general secretary and former Maharashtra chief minister Shushil Kumar Shinde as the in-charge for Himachal in September, 2018 Patil enjoys close rapport with the Gandhi

family, especially party president Sonia Gandhi.

After the state Congress leaders Patole and Thorat met Fadnavis and requested the latter to withdraw his party’s candidate to ensure the election of Rajani Patil unopposed, there was intense speculation in the media that the BJP had reportedly offered to support to the Congress candidate on a condition that in lieu of its support, the MVA Government withdraw the suspension of 12 of its MLAs who were acted against when they “abused” and “misbehaved” with the presiding officer inside and outside the State Assembly in July this year.

It may be recalled that on July 5, as many as 12 BJP MLAs were suspended from the Maharashtra Assembly on Monday for a period of one year “abusing” and “misbehaving” with the presiding officer inside and outside the House.



A farmer works in a paddy field during harvest season, at Kangan area of Ganderbal District of Central Kashmir on Monday PTI

Two minors gangraped, blackmailed in Kannauj

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sensational incident reported from Kannauj, two girls were allegedly held hostage and gangraped in a cyber cafe when they went there to get some documents photocopied.

Police said on Monday that four men took the two girl students hostage at the cyber cafe on September 13 and gang-raped them and one of the accused also recorded the act. The accused also extorted ₹10,000 from the girls by threatening to circulate the video.

Superintendent of Police Prashant Verma said a case was registered at Sadar Kotwali on Sunday against six people, including a woman, based on the complaint of one of the girls.

The 17-year-old student in her complaint said she had gone to the cyber cafe along with her friend at noon on September 13 when four people, who were already present there, raped them.

One of the accused also made a video of the act and handed it over to his brother-in-law who extorted ₹10,000 by threatening to make it viral, police said.

The girl said she and her friend stole money from their houses to give it to the accused, the police said. It was the missing money which alerted their family members after which the incident came to light, they said.

The girls were sent to the district hospital for medical examination.

Police were raiding all possible

places, the SP said, adding in the initial investigation, the police found signs of prostitution from the cyber cafe.

The victim had said that after the incident, the wife of one of the accused made her phone calls, pressurising her into prostitution and some neighbours had also spoken about presence of young girls there, the SP said, adding that efforts were on to nab the accused.

Meanwhile, in a brutal killing, the body of a youth was found in the Dadiyamau area of Fatehpur Kotwali in Barabanki district on Monday morning.

The victim was brutally beaten by some blunt object and the accused escaped after the youth succumbed to his injuries.

On Monday morning, the body of the youth was found lying on the side of the road covered in blood. The police reached after getting the information and started investigating the case by sending the body for post-mortem.

According to the police, the victim, Ajay Kumar Verma (35) son of Ramchandra of village Dadiyamau of Kotwali area, had left the house on Sunday evening after taking Rs 500 from his father.

When he did not return home till late in the night, the family members and villagers started searching for him. On Monday morning, the body of Ajay Verma was found lying in a pool of blood on the Nandanakala Dadiyagau contact road. There were injury marks on the head of the deceased.

Steepest fall in new Covid cases in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a big success towards eradicating the deadly coronavirus, Uttar Pradesh witnessed the steepest decline in the number of fresh cases on Monday with only seven new infections being reported, making it the lowest single-day tally. In sharp contrast to other states like Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, UP, the most populous state of the country, has significantly lesser cases and has been largely successful in harnessing the raging disease. When other States are witnessing a surge of fresh Covid-19 cases (daily cases ranging from 20,000-2,000), Uttar Pradesh has restricted the daily-case count to below 50 for 47 days in a row. The downward trend has continued for the 11th-consecutive week.

UP to begin ethanol production from cane from October

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh will commence production of ethanol directly from sugarcane from the next cane crushing season commencing from October. Ethanol used for blending with petrol will be produced at the public sector undertaking Pipraich sugar mill at Gorakhpur and Balrampur sugar mill. The UP government had decided in October last year to produce ethanol directly from sugarcane and a pilot project was started at the Pipraich sugar mill.

UP is the top producer of the ethanol in India and more use of the commodity for blending with petrol will help the industry to earn more revenue and clear the payment of the farmers. There are 53 distilleries producing ethanol and annual installed capacity is 158.44 crore litre. In the financial year 2016-17, UP produced 42.70 crore litres of ethanol which increased to 99.31 crore litre in 2020-21. UP has 72 distilleries which include 25 standalone and 47 attached with the sugar mills. Sugar Industry Minister Suresh Rana said in a press conference on Monday that the hike in State advisory price of sugarcane for the next crushing season 2021-22 would fetch an additional over ₹4,000 crore to the farmers. He said the sugar mills had cleared 100 per cent payment of the 2019-20 and over 85 per cent of the last season (2020-21) had been cleared by the industry. He said against the demand of ₹33,014 crore, the sugar mills had so far paid ₹28,015 crore to the farmers for the 2020-21 season.

He said during the 10-year rule of the Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party from 2007 to 2017, sugar mills made total payment of ₹1,47 lakh crore to the farmers while the during the four years of Yogi Adityanath government, the payment made from 2017 to 2021 was ₹1,44 lakh crore till September 21 this year.

“The focus of the Bharatiya Janata Party government in the last four years was on ensuring payment to the farmers, reviving the closed sugar mills and introducing the latest technology in the industry,” the Minister said.



Visitors at Hawa Mahal on World Tourism Day in Jaipur on Monday

PTI



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Inhumane

Dalits in India live in a sorry state, whether it is spoken about or not

In the 21st century, while India plans to reach the Moon and Mars, Dalits cannot afford to go a hundred yards riding a horse. In a country that the Government wants to make self-reliant as a way out of its economic morass, Dalits dare not make themselves “*aatma nirbhar*”. What is a more unnerving aspect of our ultra-modern society is the inglorious fact that the Government authorities are, as we speak, formally searching for hamlets and villages where untouchability is still practised with two hoots to the law. The search follows two quick incidents of untouchability reported from the Koppal district of Karnataka within a fortnight. In the first instance, a Dalit family was fined ₹25,000 by upper caste village elders because their three-year-old child entered a temple. Dalits are banned from entering the temple in that village. In the second incident, a Dalit youth was asked to pay ₹11,000 for entering a temple in another village.



The fine would be used to purify the temple, the upper caste villagers told him. These incidents are not new. They happen dime a dozen in most Indian States. Dalits have no right to worship, believe, celebrate or cremate their dead on public property because the upper castes treat all public property as fief and the Dalits have none in their names.

However, what is startling is the Koppal administration telling the media that untouchability is still practised in 25-30 villages in that district. The very admission of such a fact is violative of the Constitution but all that the administration and the

police are willing to do is search for those villages. Obviously, they are not going to find them because nobody will admit to practising untouchability. What is scary is the routinisation of the Indian, casteist social order, immune to the Constitution, even as the society claims to embrace modernity. The Dalit is so untouchable s/he can get killed for touching an animal. A youth was hacked to death in Gujarat in 2018 because he rode a horse. In 2019, a Dalit groom's family was socially boycotted because he sat on a horse, again in Gujarat. In 2020, a Dalit youth found out being an army jawan does not make him immune to upper caste taunts as he was forced down from his horse, also in Gujarat. After dozens of similar cases were reported in Uttar Pradesh, a Dalit groom in Meerut managed to reach the bride's home on his horse because of police protection. The only consolation for the poor Dalits is that even prosperous Dalits suffer the same insults. Young Dalits get a taste of the discrimination quite early, during mid-day meals in schools. Whom can Dalits turn to seek equality as human beings in everyday life and not be beaten or killed for wearing new clothes or walking on a paved street or drinking water from a public tap?

PICTALK



Tourists paragliding at Solang Valley, near Manali

PTI

High time

It's time to take a leaf out of Kerala's book to take steps to nurture our next generation

Come November 1 and schools and colleges in Kerala would reopen after a 21-month hiatus caused by COVID-19. November 1 assumes significance as it was on this day in 1956 that the State came into existence following the merger of Travancore, Kochi and Malabar. This is the longest ever closedown seen in the educational sector of the State known more for its militant trade unionism and student agitation.



The LDF Government, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has been doubly cautious about announcing the lifting of lockdown in schools and colleges because of the 'once bitten twice shy' syndrome experienced by the State. Vijayan had declared on May 8, 2020, that Kerala had become COVID-free, thanks to the State's well-functioning health sector. However, within weeks, the pandemic returned with renewed potency and caused devastating havoc by claiming nearly 25,000 lives. This time round, the State administration is leaving no stone unturned to ensure student safety. The bio-bubble scheme under the

Government's consideration envisages three offline classes and an equal number of online classes for each batch of students. Only those parents who are confident of the cleanliness of the schools need send their wards for physical classes. The rest could continue with the on-line sessions which are in vogue now.

Another Government initiative is the de-addiction centres planned across the State to ensure that students do not fall to drugs. Narcotics smugglers are out in the open across the State and schools and colleges are on their target. Since the lockdown was slapped in the State, another social evil in the name of online games has hit Kerala. This has resulted in suicides by students and parents, who were left in financial distress. Vijayan said that all police inspectors have been instructed to establish close rapport with head masters and parent teachers' associations to save students from drug pushers and online gaming operators. The State also saw some students resorting to the extreme measure of suicide because of mental agony arising out of the absence of peer company. The partial opening of schools is expected to go a long way in resolving the issue while the students have to be trained to face the changed lifestyle as they emerge from COVID-19. Life will not be the same anywhere in India and Gen-Next should be warned about the ground reality. This step should be replicated across India.

The history of the Assam problem



PRAFULL GORADIA

The tale of illegal migrants into Assam is old, told by all observers but swept under the carpet by the Congress and its Muslim supporters

What happened in Darrang district a few days ago, where by two alleged infiltrators were killed, was sad but reflected the historic agony of the Assamese people. Under the Government of India Act of 1935, provincial governments were formed by political parties. Soon enough, a Sir Mohammed Saadulla of the Muslim League became the Premier. In the 1937 elections, the League led by MA Jinnah was disappointed with its meagre winnings in UP, the largest province. Talk of a distinctly separate Muslim holy land began in seriousness.

The idea was first concretely mooted by the poet Iqbal who presided over the 1930 League session at Allahabad. A few years later, Cambridge University scholar Chaudhry Rehmat Ali worked out a theoretical note and innovated the name Pakistan, the land of the devout. Jinnah's idea was that five provinces should form the holy land including Assam, Bengal, North-West Frontier, Punjab and Sindh. Balochistan came in later. From the Muslim majority angle, Assam appeared touch and go to Jinnah although the Hindu impression was that they had a clear majority. Premier Saadulla got down to the business of facilitating as many east Bengali Muslims to come across and settle in Assam. A whispering campaign was started that the Adivasis were not really Hindus but worshipped animals or were Christian. There was thus a race to somehow prove that there were more Muslims in Assam than Hindus.

In the course of a discussion at Shillong in 1945, Viceroy Lord Wavell noted in his diary that while the reason for the encouragement of this migration was officially justified as being to grow more food, the real object was to increase Mohammadans (as recorded by BK Nehru in his book *Nice Guys Finish Second*). The tale of illegal migrants into Assam is an old one told by all observers but swept under the carpet by the Congress and its Muslim supporters. Other distinguished Muslims like Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and late Pakistan PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto,



who openly expressed the view that without Assam, the economy of East Pakistan could not be complete.

The entire episode is heart rending for those who care for Assam. The writer has often visited the state and seen all its tea growing sub-districts. He was there for some ten days during the 1983 elections, which were boycotted by those who loved Assam. In many of the assembly constituencies, the voting was pathetically low although the Hiteswar Saikia Government had ensured perfect law and order. Most of the electoral officers in the heartland constituencies and the booths therein were manned by men flown in from other States. Nevertheless, for five days, the Assamese districts seemed as dead as graveyards.

Quoting from the *Hindustan Standard*, a well patronized Kolkata daily of those days, Rajendra Prasad in his book *India Divided*, stated: "It is sad but by no means improbable that in another 30 years Sibsagar district will be the only part of Assam in which an Assamese will find himself at home."

The Census Report of 1941 completes the story with a short but significant sentence, quoted: "The most noticeable rise in the Muslim population



A WHISPERING CAMPAIGN WAS STARTED THAT THE ADIVASIS WERE NOT REALLY HINDUS BUT WORSHIPPED ANIMALS OR WERE CHRISTIAN. THERE WAS THUS A RACE TO SOMEHOW PROVE THAT THERE WERE MORE MUSLIMS IN ASSAM THAN HINDUS

is in Assam and once again represents migration from Mymensingh and east Bengal generally." This policy of colonisation of Assam by the Muslims of Bengal was continued under the joint auspices of the Muslim League ministries of Sir Saadullah in Assam and Sir Nazimuddin in Bengal, as the following Bengal Government communique published in the press, in the last week of October 1944, shows. It goes on to quote the Census Report of 1941: "The Government of Assam in their resolution dated the 21st June 1940 prohibited settlement of land with persons coming from outside the province after the 1st January, 1938 — The Bengal Legislative Council went on to appeal to the Governor to ask for the Viceroy's intervention in Assam.

Dr Prasad quoted a retired SP Desai (ICS) writing in *Hindustan Standard* of December 1944: "Every day, new bamboo sheds and temporary huts are springing up in the reserves. I found that the immigrants absolutely ignore the local officers." The few Nepali graziers and Assamese Pamasu finding no protection from anywhere give 'dohai' in the name of the King Emperor. Verily, the cup of humiliation for the Assamese was full.

Thus the Indira Gandhi

Government in collaboration with Assam CM Hiteswar Saikia suppressed the people of Assam and their sentiments. They continued to protest and agitate but to no avail. As if to rub salt on their wounds, the Central Government passed the pernicious Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act in 1983. Hereby, in Assam the onus of proving that a particular person is an infiltrator rested with his complainant or the Government of Assam, not on the suspect. The Foreigners Act of 1946, whereby the onus of proving his bona fides is on the suspect, continued to apply to all other States in India. The only exception made was Assam to help out the illegal migrants. When travelling from Guwahati to Shillong, one does not spontaneously realise when one has crossed from Assam to Meghalaya. Yet in the latter State, the Central law was the old 1946 Act! Such was the discrimination against the Assamese people.

(This is part of an ongoing series on India making multi-dimensional advancement across States and nations.)

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FARMERS' BHARAT BANDH

Sir — It is uncharitable to say that the Bharat Bandh called by farmer unions has caused 'disruption', 'inconvenience' and 'hardships' for the public when it is a life-and-death struggle for them. It is important that we keep a sense of proportion. The do-or-die spirit with which the farmers are protesting reveals their deep disquiet over the three farm laws enacted to pave the way for the dismantling of the MSP system, takeover of the agriculture sector by big corporate houses and the eventual loss of agricultural land. It is futile to try and trivialise the farm protests and show them in a negative light, given the rightness of their cause and the mass support for them.

The support extended by the Opposition parties to the ongoing protests is not 'pandering' to the farmers when elections in several States are around the corner. To say that the farmers are 'egged on' by the Opposition is an insult to the integrity of both the farmers and the Opposition. The ruling party can easily outsmart the Opposition by repealing the three farm laws. The attempt to pit the protesting farmers against 'common citizens' is eminently avoidable. Farmers are a part of social organisms; they are ordinary, decent, hard working people for anyone to speak ill of them or attempt to trash their reputation.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

ABOLISH MISUSED EXEMPTIONS

Sir — The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) should widen the scope of Form 26AS of Income Tax Act by auto-inclusion of allowable deductions like investment in Public Provident Fund, LIC policies, Government securities, mutual funds etc. Insurance companies should be directed to compulsorily put PAN number and Aadhar number on policies. The outdated Income Tax Act, 1961, with so many amendments should be replaced by an altogether new and simplified Act as repeatedly assured by the Government.

Our political parties are rich enough to spend heavily for their political purposes which regrettably also includes costly

Seven years in orbit



It's truly delightful and a matter of pride to know that India's Mars orbiter has completed seven years in its orbit, well beyond its designed mission life of six months. The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), also called Mangalyaan, was the maiden interplanetary mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It was launched in November 2013 and the probe was successfully inserted into Martian orbit in September, 2014 in its first attempt. The successful survival of the Mangalyaan during all these years has enabled the ISRO to continuously mon-

itor the spacecraft and its scientific instruments giving the scientists enough time to analyse and study the strengths and the glitches so that these could be made useful in future space missions. The longevity of the MOM has raised the confidence of ISRO scientists.

Mangalyaan's success in the red planet's orbit is sure to be an impetus in ISRO's ambitious space exploring plans like - launching its own space station, the Chandrayaan mission, Aditya L1, the mission to explore the Sun's corona and so on. The biggest advantage is that other nations have begun to keenly observe our low cost space technology. While the developed countries spend billions on space missions, India has been able to do the same on a low budget but precisely and flawlessly. It stands testimony to our accomplishment in space exploration that many nations rely on ISRO for launching their satellites into space using our rockets.

M Pradyu | Kanpur

super-luxury stay of MLAs in costly five-starred resorts and hotels for immoral ways of toppling or saving Governments. Tax-exemptions in respect of political parties are also heavily misused by an ever-increasing number of registered political parties with most of them not having contested any election. Considering massive misuse of tax-free agricultural income by super rich celebrities and heavy spending on ongoing farmers-agitation, agricultural income should also be taxed by having a basic exemption-limit of ₹5 lakh with various deductible investments or spending clubbed together for maximum rupees two lakhs.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal | Delhi

THE CYCLONE NAMED 'GULAB'

Sir — The cyclonic storm 'Gulab' is likely to move nearly westwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coasts between Kalingapatnam and Gopalpur around Sunday evening, the Cyclone Warning Division revealed. The Odisha Government has already mobilised men

and machinery and launched an evacuation drive in seven identified districts in the southern parts of the State.

Over the next three days, the sea condition will be rough to severe and fishermen in Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have been asked to not venture into east-central and adjoining northeast Bay of Bengal. It is understandable to issue a cyclone warning by raising the red flag in coastal areas of these two States.

A visual storm warning signage is permanently hoisted at the mast of ports to alert ships of the weather condition in the ports they approach, that is the common practice. While certain countries hoist flags, India uses distinct signs for day and night. Day signals are a combination of cylinders and cones, while night signals are red and white lamps. Deep depression intensifies and it is indeed a dangerous signal for the coastal areas.

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The farmers' non-violent '*satyagraha*' is intact today but the exploitive Government doesn't like it and that is why Bharat is 'bandh'.

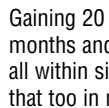


—Congress leader
Rahul Gandhi



Now is the time to eliminate nuclear weapons from our world and usher in a new era of dialogue, trust and peace for all people.

—UN Secretary-General
Antonio Guterres



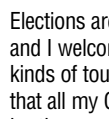
Gaining 20 kg in six months and losing it all within six months that too in my thirties messed up many things in my body.

—Actor
Kangana Ranaut



It is difficult. You have been playing Test cricket for five months and suddenly you have to come and play white-ball cricket.

—Chennai Super Kings batter
Ravindra Jadeja



Elections are close and I welcome all kinds of tourism so that all my Goan brothers and sisters have access to a new business in Goa.

—Goa Chief Minister
Pramod Sawant

FIRST COLUMN

CHILD ADVERSITY AND CHRONIC PAIN

It is necessary to understand what links early life adversity to poor adult health



TIM HALE

There is a widely held belief that our health is largely preordained by the genes we inherit from our parents. Indeed, this lottery of inheritance plays an instrumental role in some health outcomes. Early onset diabetes is an example of an inherited disease which, although debilitating, is relatively uncommon with only three new cases per 100,000 children in India. Late onset diabetes is much more common afflicting 12 per cent in urban populations and, like most predominant diseases, lacks a clear pattern of inheritance. The evidence suggests a greater role for nurture (environment) rather than nature (genes) in maintaining well being. That is good news because we can improve the environment. Chronic pain (pain that lasts longer than three months) is another debilitating con-



dition that lacks clear genetic origins. It is much more common than all forms of diabetes, estimated to affect approximately 20 per cent of adults in India. A report this year reveals that pain of the lower back and extremities afflicted 83 per cent of an adult population in rural Gadchiroli in Maharashtra in a period of one year, leading to 11 lost workdays per study participant.

In addition to unquantifiable personal suffering, the estimated economic costs of lost work and medication are staggering; each person with pain lost 4.9 per cent of the annual per capita regional income. Even a small reduction in the prevalence of chronic pain would be exceptionally beneficial. Unfortunately, pain treatment options have limited efficacy and for many recurring chronic pain becomes a way of life. However, not all adults living in similar circumstances are vulnerable to chronic pain. Some are remarkably resilient. If this is not because of genetics, then why are some vulnerable and others resilient? The answer may lie in exposure to childhood adversity. Adverse childhood experiences include physical or emotional abuse, neglect and domestic violence. The World Health Organisation describes adverse childhood experiences as the most common and intense childhood stressors. Many of us experience at least one and children exposed to several adverse events are likely to have more frequent and severe health problems later in life, including chronic pain. Furthermore, childhood adversity is emerging as a leading contributor to health disparities, disproportionately affecting the poorest in society. There is a strong relationship between exposure to childhood adversities and social deprivation. However, there is a lack of screening for exposure to childhood adversity, which might otherwise enable targeted health interventions. Reasons for this include inconsistent screening methods and poor understanding of factors that may contribute to vulnerabilities following exposure. The Consortium Against Pain Inequality (CAPE), led by the University of Dundee, seeks to overcome these deficiencies in understanding. CAPE will develop a comprehensive tool for screening exposure and establish mechanisms linking early life adversity to chronic pain in adulthood. By understanding what links early life adversity to poor adult health, we hope to address pain inequality by identifying those at greatest risk and providing tailored interventions. By raising awareness of the long-term impact of childhood adversity we will promote efforts to improve childhood and adult well being.

(The writer is Professor of Anaesthesia and Principal Investigator of the Consortium Against Pain Inequalities at the University of Dundee, UK. The views expressed are personal.)

Banks' bailout — Make it transparent

The proposed 'bad bank' scheme by the Government is merely an attempt at using taxpayers' money for bailing out NPA-afflicted banks

In the Union Budget for 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had proposed setting up of a bad bank. Crafted as National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), it will bundle up all the non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks and sell them to investors such as private equity funds, alternative investment funds (AIFs) and so on, by putting a turnaround plan in place. On September 16, 2021, she announced the broad contours of the action plan.

Under it, the NARCL will purchase NPAs from banks under 15:85 structure, wherein it will pay up to 15 per cent of the agreed or discounted value of the loans in cash and issue Security Receipts (SRs) for the rest. The Government will provide sovereign guarantee - valid for a period of 5 years - for the SRs issued by NARCL. The guarantee would be invoked to cover the loss being the difference between the realized value (resolution/liquidation) and face value of SRs. A provision of ₹30,600 crore has been made for this purpose.

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has already started the process with incorporation of the NARCL and applied to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a license as an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) with a capital base of ₹6,000-crore. The public sector banks (PSBs) will have 51 per cent ownership in the NARCL. The remaining shareholding will vest in 16 entities including private banks and non-bank finance companies.

The NARCL is intended to resolve stressed loan assets above ₹500 crore each amounting to about ₹200,000 crore. In phase I, it will take over fully provisioned assets of about ₹90,000 crore while the remaining assets would be transferred in phase II.

High NPAs have been haunting the Modi Government ever since it took charge in 2014. In 2016, it enacted the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), an overarching law that gives lenders and banks the power to drag defaulting borrowers to a judicial authority. It also amended the Banking Regulation Act giving RBI powers to force banks to act within strict timelines.

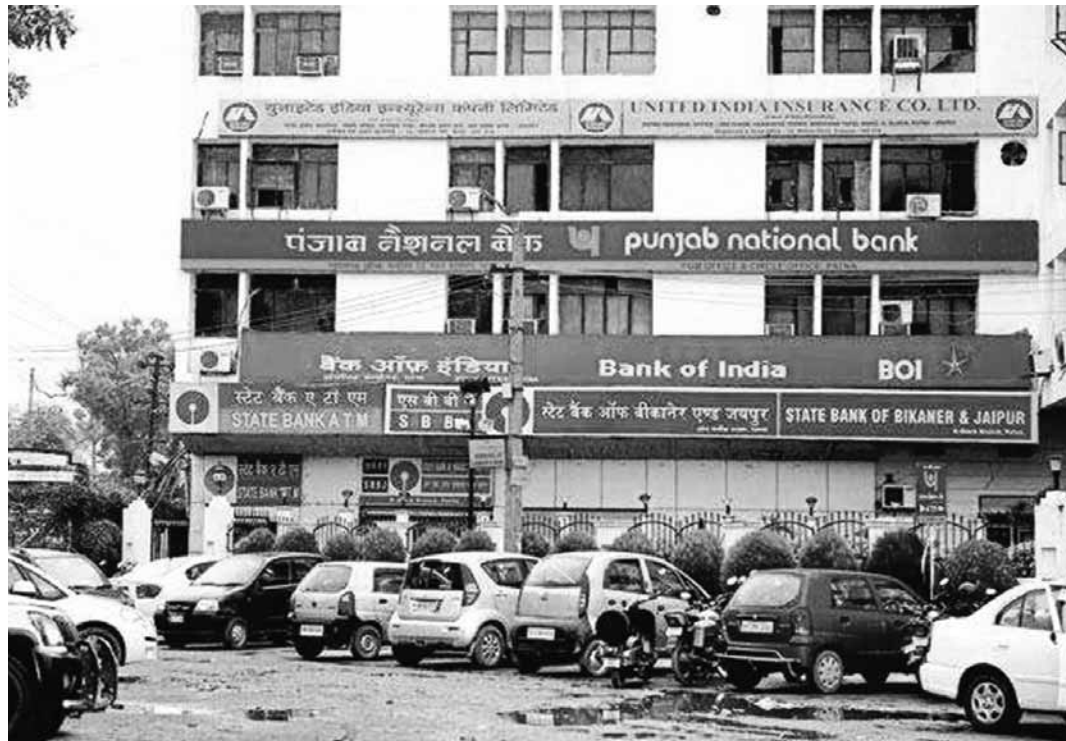
As per RBI circular dated February 12, 2018, for accounts with aggregate exposure of over ₹2,000 crore, as soon as there was a default in the account with any lender, all lenders - singly or jointly - shall initiate steps to cure the default by preparing a resolution plan. The plan had to be readied within 6 months from the default date. If not, proceedings under IBC would be initiated by referring the case to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) which would get six months to resolve.

According to a statement in parliament by Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad, PSBs alone have



THE NON-PERFORMING ASSETS HAVE BEEN HAUNTING THE MODI GOVERNMENT SINCE 2014. IN 2016, IT ENACTED THE INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE (IBC) THAT ENABLES LENDERS AND BANKS TO DRAG DEFAULTING BORROWERS TO A JUDICIAL AUTHORITY. IT ALSO AMENDED THE BANKING REGULATION ACT, GIVING THE RBI THE POWERS TO FORCE BANKS TO ACT WITHIN STRICT TIMELINES

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



recovered over ₹500,000 crore. The NPAs ought to have gone down by this much but the decline is only about ₹200,000 crore and the difference of ₹300,000 crore is due to fresh slippages. This figure excludes the Covid period — March 1, 2020 to March 24, 2021 — during which banks were not allowed to recognize bad loans. On their inclusion, we could get back to March 31, 2018 level.

Much lower yield than expected from the IBC mechanism has a lot to do with a revised RBI circular dated June 7, 2019 — issued under Supreme Court orders - which took away powers from the banking regulator and gave too much of flexibility to the latter in working out the resolution plan. Effectively, it rendered the IBC process dysfunctional.

Now, the Government wants the 'bad bank' do the trick. Look at the first lot of ₹90,000 crore. These loans being in default for over 3 years, the banks have already made a full provision and captured in the profit and loss figures. There is no compulsion on them to recover this money. They will not object to NARCL paying a very low price.

However, what prevents other asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) from bidding for a higher price. Indeed, the proposed mechanism requires NARCL to go for the "Swiss Challenge" auction wherein other ARCs will be invited to better the offer made by it.

However, in the present case, this will not work as the bank would play safe by giving asset to NARCL whose SRs enjoy sovereign guarantee.

As for the remaining ₹110,000 crore for which a lower provision has been made and the chances of recovery are better, the bank could have reason to offer lower discount on the face value. This is provided transfer happens fast. If, this is delayed and default period increases even exceeding three years, the fate of these loans too will be no different from those in the first lot.

In short, the entire bad loan book on offer (read: ₹200,000 crore) would be available to the 'bad bank' at heavy discount to the face value. What if this is fixed at say 18 per cent?

In absolute terms, this works out to ₹36,000 crore. Of this, NARCL pays 15 per cent or ₹5400 crore in cash to the banks and for the balance ₹30,600 crore, it will issue SRs. To redeem them, the former must realize at least ₹30,600 crore from selling the NPAs to investors. If, the NARCL doesn't realize even one rupee, then also it need not worry as SRs valued up to ₹30,600 crore being guaranteed by the Union Government, the latter will pay for it in full.

Short of jargon and high-sounding phraseology, the proposed 'bad bank' is merely an attempt to use tax payers' money

for bailing out NPAs afflicted banks. Put simply, of the ₹200,000 crore, the Union Government will give ₹30,600 crore by way of sovereign guarantee and the rest (sans a tiny sum of ₹5400 crore) as direct budgetary support.

The Government should stop taking recourse to disingenuous methods. Instead of following a circuitous route, making things non-transparent, setting up new institutions, adding to administrative and overhead costs and so on, it should candidly accept the dire need to inject that much capital in to the banks and give it from the Budget. During the last four years, it gave them ₹300,000 crore to deal with their NPAs; it can give a further ₹200,000 crore.

At the same time, to recover bad loans and stem their proliferation, first, it should revitalise the IBC mechanism by restoring the February 12, 2018 circular and strengthening the NCLT; secondly, expeditious disposal of challenges to NCLT orders in High Courts and SC; thirdly, stepping up 'tracking' and 'surveillance' within banks for early detection of bad loans including frauds (at present, it takes years for them to report) and lastly, stem corruption and nepotism.

Sans these harsh steps, the tide of NPAs will not stop forcing the Government to repeatedly bail them out.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE BJP DID NOT LET DIDI ATTEND THE ROME PEACE MEETING AS SHE IS MORE POPULAR THAN MODI. —TMC GENERAL SECRETARY ABHISHEK BANERJEE



NO POLITICAL LEADER IN THE COUNTRY, LET ALONE DIDI, MATCHES PM MODI. ABHISHEK SHOULD WAIT FOR 2024. —BJP LEADER SUVENHU ADHIKARI

US corp pledge elusive; bad bank is expensive

Economic development is a complex matter. The Government alone cannot make it happen but needs the involvement of all – businesses and the public

The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US has tried to kindle hopes in an economy that needs investment but the American companies have not yet given any firm commitment to him. He held meetings with five global CEOs for potential investments.

India has taken many steps to bring in reforms through an asset reconstruction construction company (ARC) or the bad bank, lower interest rates, networked businesses and chain of roads. Companies like Qualcomm have investments in wireless modem, digital media networking, dairy transportation and defence. Now Modi has suggested to them to invest in hi-tech sectors and



SHIVAJI SARKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

in measures to strengthen innovation ecosystem. General Atomics, which opened its first office in India in 2018, is making significant contributions to deepen India-US defence and security cooperation. It is working with both governments to provide India with the latest defence systems.

Investments in real estate too are always lucrative. Blackstone has so far invested \$15 billion in real estate, private equity, real estate, education, fashion, packaging and housing finance. It would continue to do so as per the assurance of its CEO Stephen Schwarzman.

Blackstone Real Estate Fund is said to be the largest owner of commercial real estate in India. The company



played a key role in launching India's first real estate investment trust (REIT) along with its partner Embassy Group in 2019 and has since then launched two REITs in the country.

The Quad is a symbolic multilateral body. It provides a platform to seek cooperation from like-minded countries on issues like ensuring respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes. Quad leaders agreed to scale up collective

strategic cooperation.

There may be gains in the future. As of now, there are only expectations amid not-a-so-good domestic economic situation. The country's non-performing assets have increased. Steps like taming inflation, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act, Real Estate Regulatory Act, and GST did not add to the desired growth. These have shaken the system and market confidence. The rules are more stringent and do not help the people. The foreign investors though keen to invest may also have apprehensions, which the scrapping of the retrospective taxation may partially help resolve.

Corporate tax rates were cut but it ignored the pivot the individual. His taxes peaked during 2019. It hit the basic

capacity of the individual to ride through a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic situation. At 42 per cent plus various cesses, India has the highest tax rates. The gestures by foreign countries would not be enough to bring that confidence back. It would be welcome even now to cut the income tax rates. It would boost the individual's capabilities and benefit the whole economy as the individual consumes more.

The lower interest rate is playing havoc along with tax deductions on deposit hedging against inflation that interest accrual does. It affects the developmental process. To accelerate development, the interest rates must be lowered. Economic development is a complex matter. The govern-

ment on its own cannot make it happen. It needs the involvement of all — businesses and the public in their various spheres of activity. The country needs to ponder how the entire system is revamped.

The new ARC or the bad bank with the limited government guarantee will remove ₹22.14 lakh crore (\$30 billion) of NPAs from the system. Since now it will be now under one entity resolution would be easier, it is being said. Bad bank is not all virtue.

The world experience with bad banks is that they have excessive and hidden fees, bouncing cheques, expensive debits, big banking errors and failure to honour promises. It can create a new kind of market in dealing with stressed loans but there

are apprehensions that asset buyers may resort to harsh unethical methods.

In a difficult situation, new methods are inevitably tried out but it has to be remembered that all Euro-US models of capital market should not be copied as the financial literacy is poor here. Moreover, Indian society is far more complex and heterogeneous. A complicated system may not be a proper solution. Hiving off bad assets may be practical but settling or reselling those for realization of dues is not easy and would have many complications as each of the cases are different. True, the nation will chart out its course. Setting the new course is not easy and none as of now has a clear idea how it would function.

Govt to borrow ₹5L cr to fund revenue gap

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will borrow ₹5.03 lakh crore in the second half of the current fiscal to fund the revenue gap for reviving the pandemic-hit economy, the Finance Ministry said on Monday.

During the first half, the government has raised ₹ 7.02 lakh crore by issuing bonds, the ministry said in a statement.

“Out of gross market borrowing of ₹12.05 lakh crore projected for FY 2021-22 in the Union Budget, ₹7.24 lakh crore (60 per cent) was planned to be borrowed in first half (H1).

“The effective borrowing in H1 of FY 2021-22 was ₹ 7.02

The Budget has pegged fiscal deficit at 6.8 per cent for the next fiscal

lakh crore. The Government now plans to borrow the balance ₹5.03 lakh crore in second half year (H2) of FY 2021-22,” it said.

The H2 projection also factors requirements for release of balance amount to states on account of back-to-back loan facility in-lieu of GST compensation during the year, it added.

According to the Budget

for 2021-22, the government’s gross borrowing was estimated at ₹12.05 lakh crore, while net borrowing was pegged at ₹ 9.37 lakh crore in the financial year beginning April 1.

Gross borrowing includes repayments of past loans. Repayment for past loans in the next financial year has been pegged at ₹2.80 lakh crore.

The Government raises money from the market to fund its fiscal deficit through dated securities and treasury bills.

The Budget has pegged fiscal deficit at 6.8 per cent for the next fiscal, down from 9.5 per cent of the GDP in the current financial year.

Ministerial panels set up to review GST exempt list, rate merger, identify evasion sources

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has set up two committees of state finance ministers which would rework rate slabs, review GST exempt items and identify potential evasion sources.

Four years after the roll out of the national Goods and Services Tax (GST), which replaced the complex indirect tax structure, the centre and states have started work on moving towards a “simpler rate structure in GST” by reviewing the current rate slabs, including special rates and merger of rate slabs.

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation would also review items under inverted duty structure to help minimise refund payout, and

review the supply of goods and services exempt under GST with an objective to expand the tax base and eliminate breaking of input tax credit (ITC) chain.

The 7-member panel, which would submit a report in two months, would be headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and include West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra, Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishore Prasad.

Under GST a four-rate structure that exempts or imposes a low rate of tax 5 per cent on essential items and top rate of 28 per cent on cars is levied.

The other slabs of tax are 12 and 18 per cent.

Commercial mining: Govt launches ‘2nd attempt’ of auction process for 11 coal mines

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday announced the launch of the “second attempt” of auction process for 11 coal mines for commercial mining.

These were the mines which were offered in the first attempt launched on March 25 this year and had fetched single bids, the coal ministry said in a statement.

“The Nominated Authority of the Ministry of Coal has launched today the second attempt of auction process for eleven coal mines (4 mines under the Tranche 12 of CM(SP) Act and 7 mines under the Tranche 2 of MMDR Act) earmarked for sale of coal in accordance with the rules prescribed under these Acts,” the

statement said.

Out of these 11 mines, six are fully explored and five are partially explored.

The auction will be held online through a transparent two-stage process, on the basis of percentage revenue share.

Key features of auction process include introduction of National

Coal Index, ease in participation with no restriction for prior coal mining experience, full flexibility in coal utilisation, optimised payment structures, efficiency promotion through incentives for early production and use of clean coal technology.

“The commencement of sale of tender document shall start from September 27, 2021,” the ministry said.

99% Indian business travellers want to resume work trips: Study

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

About 99 per cent of Indian business travellers aim to resume work trips within the next 12 months, a new study showed on Monday. Over 78 per cent are “very willing” to get back on work trips which is higher than the global average. The study commissioned by SAP Concur Respondents was carried out in India, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. AAWhile professionals are eager to restart in-person meetings soon, they also want greater control over how they will travel, so that their safety and health can be better safeguarded amidst the pandemic.

Diesel price rises by 70 paise in 4 days; petrol rate hike next

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel price on Monday was hiked by 25 paise per litre - the third increase since last week - and more rate hikes for both diesel and petrol are in the offing in the coming days as international oil prices have soared to a three-year high.

The price of diesel was hiked to ₹9.32 per litre in Delhi and to ₹96.94 in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the second straight day of increase in diesel prices and the third since September 24 when the state-owned oil firms ended a three-week hiatus in rates.

Just like the previous two occasions, petrol price was not changed on Monday. It costs ₹ 101.19 a litre in Delhi and ₹ 107.26 in Mumbai.

However, industry sources said the price of petrol, alongside diesel, is likely to be increased in the coming days as the rally in

international crude oil prices has continued, with Brent Future prices quoting at more than USD 78 per barrel since September 24.

Crude oil prices have reached a nearly three-year high as global output disruptions have forced energy companies to draw more crude oil out of their stockpiles.

Accordingly, US crude oil inventory levels are also nearing a three-year low.

“Global demand for crude oil has been increasing consistently with the easing of pandemic restrictions and improving vaccination rates.

On the supply side, OPEC+ alliance has been slow in easing output restrictions, contributing to the tightened supply in the market,” a source said.

Additionally, hurricanes Ida and Nicholas have impacted crude oil production in the US Gulf of Mexico region, when they hit in late August and September respectively.

Sensex, Nifty tick higher to fresh records; auto stocks in top gear

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices pared most of their early gains but managed to close at fresh lifetime highs on Monday as robust buying in RIL and auto stocks offset profit booking in the IT pack.

Rising for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 29.41 points or 0.05 per cent higher at its new closing peak of 60,077.88. Intra-day, it soared to an all-time high of 60,412.32.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty inched up 1.90 points or 0.01 per cent to end at its fresh lifetime high of 17,855.10.

Maruti Suzuki was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 6.53 per cent, followed by M&M, Bajaj Auto, NTPC, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and UltraTech Cement.

On the other hand, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Infosys, L&T, Nestle India and HUL were among the main laggards, shedding up

to 4.58 per cent.

The market breadth was negative, with 17 of the 30 Sensex components ending in the red, while 13 mustered gains. “Domestic equities traded range-bound amid positive cues from global equities. Heavy profit-booking in IT and pharma nullified the impact of sharp recovery in auto stocks,” said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Auto stocks witnessed strong rebound as continued underperformance for last couple of months, expectations of improvement in demand scenario from October and positive commentary from select companies about semiconductor issue made investors buy quality names in OEMs, he noted.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, “Due to profit booking in IT, Pharma and FMCG, domestic markets failed to uphold its winning streak to close flat in a volatile session.”

I-T dept detects ₹300-cr black income after raids on Maharashtra-based steel rolling mills

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax department has detected unaccounted income of over ₹300 crore following raids on a group of four major steel rolling mills based in Maharashtra, the CBDT claimed on Monday.

The searches on the business groups, engaged in manufacturing steel TMT bars and billets mostly using steel scrap as raw material, were conducted on September 23 on 32 premises located in Jalna, Aurangabad, Mumbai, Pune and Kolkata.

“Evidence detected so far indicates that unaccounted income is likely to exceed ₹300 crore and the four companies have already disclosed additional income to the extent of ₹ 71 crore consequent to the search,” the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

It added that “unaccounted” cash of more than ₹2.10 crore and jewellery worth Rs 1.07 crore have also been seized.

NMDC dedicates equal amount for villages covered under Slurry Pipeline Project

Hyderabad: The public sector mining company NMDC asserts that an equal amount has been sanctioned for the development work of all villages from Bacheli to Nagarnar covered under its ambitious Slurry Pipeline Project.

As per the guidelines of Petroleum and Mineral Pipeline Act 1962, NMDC proposed the laying of underground pipeline and sanctioned an amount of ₹30 lakhs to each of the affected 61 villages in the route of the Slurry Pipeline from Bailadila to Nagarnar.

NMDC has constructed an Iron Ore Stockpile in one of the villages in this route - Dongriguda, in Tokapal Block, Bastar District. The company has been allotted 3.15 hectares of land in Dongriguda village especially for the iron ore stockpile.

Agribazaar expects trade volume to rise at 2.5 mn tonne this kharif season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Agri-tech player Agribazaar on Monday said it expects an increase in traded commodity volume to 2.5 million tonne on favourable prospects of kharif (summer) crops this season. In the last kharif season of 2020-21 crop year (July-June), the company handled 1.5 million tonne of commodities, with a gross merchandise value of about ₹9,000 crore, it said in a statement.

“However, the outlook for the kharif harvest seems even more promising this year, as rains have been abundant since mid-August, and there are chances of strong crop prospects in soyabean and cotton,” it said.

Agribazaar Co-founder and CEO Amith Agarwal said: “Agribazaar is investing in strengthening its trading plat-

form and is also in the process of building a proof of concept for the Agriculture Ministry’s digital platform.”

The solutions in the digital agri platform are for crop identification and estimation. For this, the company is leveraging remote sensing technology and providing advisory services to farmers, post-harvest intelligence and market linkages, he said. “We are also planning to launch trading in cotton on our platform by December and Guntur red chilli by January,” he added. Agribazaar is already operating in about 100 villages in the Guna district of Madhya Pradesh and Kota in Rajasthan. It is planning to expand to Maharashtra to provide advisory services to farmers and equip them with the latest tools while also adding more commodities to the platform.

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

E- TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed **“Open Tender”** through online (E-Tendering) for the following work.

Description of Work	E-Tender No.	Approx. Cost	Earnest Money	Date of Closing Tender	Date of completion /period from issue acceptance letter.
Jhansi Division :- Improvement to road surface of L-Xing under Sr. DENE/JHS.	JHS-ENGGE-E-2021-78	3675978.11	0.00	15/10/2021 at 15:00 hrs.	04 Months

• Tender online can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs on 15.10.2021• For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.irfeps.gov.in.**

1033/21 (AN)

North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | @ CPONCR

**Gudia**

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Gudia D/o Ganga Ram R/o Anil Ka Makan, Puliya Ke pass Chilla Village, Mayur Vihar-I, Delhi** has been missing since 04.09.2021 at 7:30 AM from her house the area of P.S. Mayur Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 34-A** dated **05.09.2021** has been lodged at PS, Mayur Vihar, Delhi.
The description of missing girl is as under :
Name: Gudia, **Father's Name :** Ganga Ram, **Age :** 19 years, **Height :** 5'2", **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing :** Green Colour Kurti & White Colour Legging & Brown Colour Sleeper in feet.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/698/ED/2021

SHO
P.S., Mayur Vihar, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22710335,
8750870627

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Dy. CSTE/TW, Divisional Railway Manager Office, 2nd Floor, Room No. 203, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055 for & on behalf of 'President of India' invites online **OPEN E-Tender in single packet system** from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work:

1	Name of work	"Provision of OFC & associated equipments in Kolhapura - Fazilka Section of FZR Division(80 KMs)."
2	Tender No.	172-Sig-TW-NR-T-11
3	Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 3,57,93,812.80 (Three Crore Fifty Seven Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Eight Hundred Twelve and paise Eighty only).
4	Cost of tender form	Nil.
5	Address from where tender document can be downloaded	Indian Railways website www.irfeps.gov.in from 27.09.2021.
6	Earnest money	Nil. (Bid Security declaration required)
7	Completion period	07 (Seven) months.
8	Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.irfeps.gov.in on 06.10.2021 up to 11:30 hrs. of 20.10.2021. Date of tender Opening: 20.10.2021 after 11:30 hrs.
9	Detailed Tender Notice	Available at Indian Railways website www.irfeps.gov.in

No.: 172-Sig-TW-NR-T-11 Date: 27.09.2021 2182/2021

Serving Customers with a Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

To, be known to all that my client **MR. VIKAS S/o SH. SAJAN KUMAR R/o H. NO. 793, GALI NO. 39-D, MOLARABAND EXTENSION, NEW DELHI-110014**, allottee of **DDA FLAT NO.41-21, Cat 3 HIG, SECOND FLOOR, CLUSTER-4, BLOCK-A, VASANT KUNJ, NEW DELHI** vide FILE NO. 3/365/4/08/2019/DDA/VK, The **LOST ORIGINAL DEMAND LETTER** has been lost/misplace. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in the police station Crime Branch Delhi, vide (LR NO.67/186/2021 Dated 08.09.2021) any person(s) claiming any right, internet having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write / contact with above Address/Phone **9650650487** Within **15 day** from the date of publication of this notice.
The person claiming any right, interest, objection Director DDA Housing Scheme-2019, DDA Vikas Sajan, New Delhi-110023. **S. P SINGH** (Advocate) Delhi High Court Ch. Central Circular Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054.

Deputy General Manager, Rajasthan State Guest House 13, Veer, Tikendrajeet Marg, Chanakypuri, New Delhi-110021
F-14/RSQH/2021/215 **Date: 22.09.2021**

Notice Inviting Bid
Bid for Providing Linen Washing & Dry cleaning Work On Yearly Rate Contract at Rajasthan State Guest House, 13 Veer Tikendrajeet Marg, Chanakypuri, New Delhi are invited from interested bidders. The bid will open from **23.09.2021** and is up to **04.10.2021 till 04:00 P.M.** The tender value is **Rs. 5,00,000.00** and other Participants of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (**https://spp.rajasthan.gov.in**) of the State.
NIB : GAD2122A0024
UBN: GAD2122SSRC00026

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager,
Rajasthan State Guest House
Chanakypuri, New Delhi.
DIPR/C/9768/2021

No.DSW(ICDS)/G/126/2021/8

Notice Inviting Tender

Directorate of Social Welfare, Assam, Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1 invites e-tenders in two bid system affixing Court fee stamp of Rs.8.25 only, for supply of Drinking Water Filters for Anganwadi Centres and Mini Anganwadi Centres in different OCDS Projects of Assam from the Manufacturers / Authorized Dealers for procurement under ICDS Scheme during the financial year 2021-22. The terms & conditions and details of items to be supplied are described in the Tender Document.

Important dates of the tender:

Sl. No.	Scheduled	Start date	Start time	End date	End time
1.	Tender publishing	27/09/2021	05:00 PM	NA	NA
2.	Tender download	27/09/2021	05:00 PM	21/10/2021	03:00 PM
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	No Pre-Bid meeting will be conducted due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Bidders may send the queries through email at directorsocialwelfareassam1@gmail.com till 01/10/2021 if during tender period Covid 19 protocol allows to hold such meeting in that situation matter will be notified in due course.			
4.	Bid submission	27/09/2021	05:00 PM	21/10/2021	03:00 PM
5.	Bid opening	22/10/2021	11.00 AM	NA	NA

Tender documents may be downloaded from the official website **https://assamtenders.gov.in**. The bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions from the website shall submit their tender online on the website **https://assamtenders.gov.in** with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of **Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand)** only for each tender by crossed Demand Draft/Banker's cheque issued by a Nationalized Bank I Scheduled Commercial Bank drawn in favour of the Director of Social Welfare, Assam, Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1 and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted online- date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule. The bidders shall have to submit the proof of payment of Earnest Money Deposit of Rs. 20.00 lakhs only in the form of crossed Demand Draft/ Bankers Cheque/ Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR)/Bank Guarantee drawn in favour of Director, Social Welfare, Assam from a Nationalized Bank I Scheduled Commercial Bank and payable at Guwahati.

The Tenders should be submitted through e-procurement system only.

The original crossed Demand Draft/Bankers Cheque for tender fee and Demand Draft/ Bankers Cheque/ Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR)/Bank Guarantee for E.M.D. along with 2 Nos. of Samples of Drinking Water Filter as per prescribed specification & other necessary documents should be submitted to the Director of Social Welfare, Assam, Uzanbazar, Gajwahati-1, in a sealed cover, on or before the last date and time of submission of tender. The cover should be superscripted with the details of the tender as shown above.

Samples are not returnable.

The Director of Social Welfare, Assam, Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1 reserves the right to change the opening time and date of the tender due to administrative reason by notifying the same on the website **https://assamtenders.gov.in**. The Directorate of Social Welfare, Assam will not be liable for any delay in submission of tenders and system errors (if any).

Sd/-
Director
Social Welfare, Assam
Janasanyog/C/5947/21

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sartaj Singh/ Rupa Singh or Alias Rupa Bhatia/ LBGUR00003396842	Flat No- D-303, Second Floor Block D, Central Park Flamingo Floor-S Sector 29, Gurgaon, Haryana/ September 22, 2021	June 16, 2021/ Rs. 58,75,395/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Prashant Chauhan/ Uma Chauhan/ LBDEL00002390915	House No-756/ P, Sector- 9, Ubean Estate Gurgaon Haryana/ September 22, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 80,70,231/-	Delhi/ Ncr
3.	Dinesh Kumar Sirsiwal/ Anju Sirsiwal/ LBNOD00003178723	Flat No B4 1002, Tower-4 10th Floor Supertech Hill Town Proposed Township Sector-2 Sohna Gurgaon/ September 22, 2021	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 15,93,035/-	Delhi/ Ncr
4.	Neeraj Poras/ Mridul Singh Poras/ LBGUR00004462922/ LBGUR00005147701	Plot No-387, Urban Estate, Gurgaon/ September 22, 2021	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 37,40,669/-	Delhi/ Ncr
5.	Akash Bedi/ Chanchal VEDI/ LBNOD00004087778	Flat No-2808 28th Floor Supertech, Super Nova- Tower Nova East, Plot No 3, Sec 94, Noida/ September 23, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 2,44,43,757/-	Delhi/ Ncr
6.	Ankur Tyagi/ Shweta Tyagi/ LBNOD00003078610	Flat No 1123, 11th Floor Ferrara Mahagun, Mezzaria Siena Plot No GH- 01/A Sector-78, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh/ September 23, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 88,72,403/-	Delhi/ Ncr
7.	Tanmoy Tarunkumar Bhattacharya/ Paramjeet Bhattacharya/ LBNOD00005130830	Flat No-1401, 14th Floor Block/ Tower-C, Plot No GH-03, The Nimbus Hyde Park Sector 78, Noida Develop Authority, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh/ September 23, 2021	June 25, 2021/ Rs. 45,04,307/-	Delhi/ Ncr
8.	Rajat Kumar Pradhan/ Tapaswini R Pradhan/ LBNOD00002967672	Flat No-04, Ground Floor Tower-F, Pan Oasis, Plot No- Gh-01, Sector-70 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh/ September 23, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 85,18,289/-	Delhi/ Ncr
9.	Taposh Kumar Dass/ Sucheta Dass/ LBGUR00003784625	Flat No 1504, 15th Floor, Tower-G1, Eco Village G1 Bldg. Plot No-8 Sector- 1, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ September 23, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 64,30,055/-	Delhi/ Ncr
10.	Elwis Mariyol/ Reema Bajaj/ LBGUR00002030632	Flat No-1103, 11th Floor, Tower- 12, Unitech Horizon, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ September 23, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 42,43,967/-	Delhi/ Ncr
11.	Gunvir Singh Panwar/ Seema Nagar/ LBNOD00003588270/ LBNOD00004866773	Flat No 703, 7th Floor Tower E, Jewel Of Noida, Plot No- 14 Eco City Sector-75 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh/ September 23, 2021	June 25, 2021/ Rs. 46,70,753/-	Delhi/ Ncr
12.	Kusum Bala/ Nareesh/ LBNOD00004928141	Flat No 1606 16th Floor Tower D, Ajnara Ambrosia Plot No GH- 01 Sector- 118, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh/ September 23, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 48,56,811/-	Delhi/ Ncr
13.	Mohammad Noorul Haque Siddiqui/ Sabrun Nisha/ Siddiqui Interiors/ LBNOD00004458303	Flat No 261, Ground Floor Block-B Cassia Estate Sector- PI -02 Greater Noida, Noida/ September 23, 2021	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 18,31,021/-	Delhi/ Ncr
14.	Rajesh Kumar Nagar/ Seema Nagar/ LBGUR0000470923	Plot/ House/ No-413, Block-A, Sector- 03 Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ September 23, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 51,48,885/-	Delhi/ Ncr
15.	Saurabh Jain/ Shweta Jain/ LBNOD00002342778	Flat No 1004 10th Floor, Tower-H , Ajnara Ambrosia Plot No GH-01 Sector 118, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ September 23, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 51,39,266/-	Delhi/ Ncr
16.	Vineet Anand/ Sudhir Anand/ LBNOD00002303813/ LBDEL00000376995/ LBDEL00000376898	Plot- 354 Block- H, Sector- Alpha, Greater Nodia (U.P.)/ September 23, 2021	June 25, 2021/ Rs. 9,42,290/-	Delhi/ Ncr
17.	Kapil Kapur/ Neelam Verma/ LBDEL00002382775	Flat No 1607 16th Floor Tower- C, Plot No GH 02 Unnati Thearanya Residency Sector 119, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh/ September 23, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 47,51,417/-	Delhi/ Ncr
18.	Kapil Kapur/ Neelam Verma/ LBDEL00002418562	Flat No 1607 16th Floor Tower- C, Plot No GH 02 Unnati Thearanya Residency Sector 119, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh/ September 23, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 47,76,684/-	Delhi/ Ncr

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

Date : September 28, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR


Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

DOCYARD


DR PANKAJ N SURANGE

Managing Director and CEO

IPSC INDIA



Get rid of chronic pain




Chronic pain – defined as any persistent pain lasting more than three months – is rapidly emerging as a significant healthcare challenge in India that is going to extract a heavy toll on the social and health infrastructure of the country in the coming years. This was said by pain specialists of Interventional Pain and Spine Centre (IPSC), a chain of single-specialty centres offering state-of-the-art spine care and chronic pain management with less invasive techniques. More than 19% of Indian adult population today suffers from chronic pain of some kind, with prevalence being higher in females (25%). The prevalence increases steeply beyond the age of 65 years, according to a survey. This may be the tip of the iceberg as Indians usually understate their health issues and would rather not reveal their pain problems to others.

Chronic pain will take a huge social and economic toll in the next two decades with significant spending on surgical treatment and hospitalisation. It has a serious impact on work, with increasing loss of workdays associated with chronic pain, especially low back pain. It also interferes with one's social life, daily routine like walking or exercising, taking care of oneself and the family, and leading an independent lifestyle. Many patients start suffering from depression, anxiety and sleeping problems. Chronic pain does not occur in isolation. There are often a variety of mental and physical health problems behind it.

There has been a gradual rise in the number of older people in the society due to rising life expectancy. This is driving an increase in the incidence of chronic pain. The younger population too is getting affected, mainly due to leading a sedentary and physically inactive lifestyle. The commonest types of chronic pain faced by people include spinal pain, joint pain and migraine. Arthritis, degenerative conditions of the spine, and cancer are the most common contributors to chronic pain.

In the West, pain medicine has been a super-specialty for the last three to four decades. In India, it is only 15-20 years old.

Types of chronic pain often faced include spinal pain, joint pain and migraine. Arthritis, degenerative conditions of the spine, and cancer are also responsible



Since most of these non-surgical procedures can be done in a day care setting, they cost almost half compared to conventional surgeries. Patients can go back home the same day. Early interventions not only relieve pain, but also reduce morbidity and improve quality of life. We currently have Indian protocols for all interventional procedures for pain management, which is a big step forward.

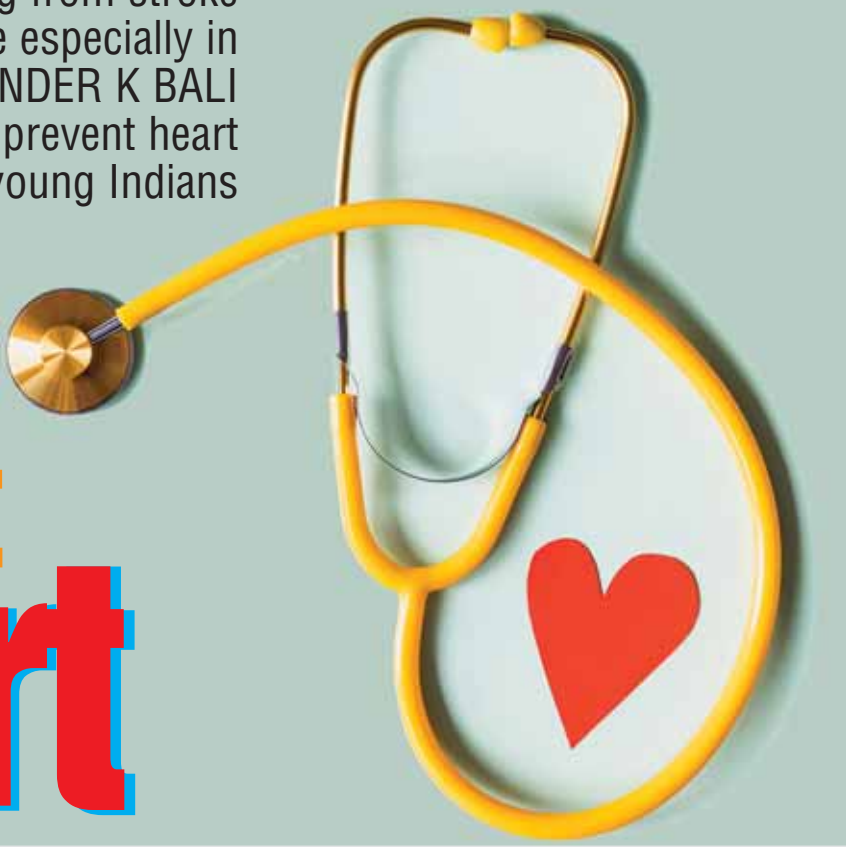
A 2018 survey of 20,000 patients of back pain from Indian metro cities estimated that 46% of Bengaluru's population in the younger age group suffers from spinal problems. This is among the highest incidence in the country. About 43% of patients neglect their pain for more than 7 weeks, leading to delayed treatment and increased risk of surgery.

With better understanding of chronic pain and technological advancement, pain physicians can now control chronic pain adequately and cure it in most cases. However, it is the responsibility of the doctors to treat acute stages of pain promptly to prevent patients from sliding into chronic pain.

ailments like food poisoning. Raisins are full of nutrients and can make for a great snack option. Although it does not have the water content of regular grapes which makes them less filling than whole fruit and it becomes easy to munch on. Sticking to small portions would work wonders as it would not add much calories to your diet.

According to the World Health Organisation, India accounts for one-fifth of the total deaths occurring from stroke and ischaemic heart disease especially in young adults. DR HARINDER K BALI shares some ways to prevent heart ailments in young Indians

Not so young at Heart



India accounts for one-fifth of the total deaths occurring from stroke and ischaemic heart disease especially in younger adults according to the World Health Organisation. Cardiovascular diseases affect Indians a decade earlier than their western counterparts and nearly 3 million people die of stroke and heart attack every year. The most unfortunate part is that forty per cent of those who suffering a heart attack are below the age of 55. The rising trend of smoking among young adults can be contributed to different factors like lack of sleep, diabetes, excessive stress, alcohol intake, drug abuse, unsafe and unnecessary supplements, over-exercise and slimming pills. With the incidences of heart disease deaths rising in India by 34% over the last 26 years, it is time to be aware of this serious issue and take necessary steps to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in the country.

Major Risk Factors:

Being informed about the risk factors can help people to manage their symptoms early and avoid the chances of a sudden heart attack. These are some of the significant risk factors that one should be aware of:

Smoking

India has the second-largest number of smokers in the world, second only to China. Reports state that 34.6 of adults in India are smokers and India is home to 12 per cent of the world's smokers. Smoking can increase heart rate, lead to irregular heart rhythm and tighten the arteries. This can make the heart work harder and eventually result in stroke or heart attack.

Obesity

The high burden of obesity in India is a major challenge to mitigate the growing incidences of cardiovascular diseases among the population. India has the highest number of overweight and obese children who, as adults, are likely to contribute further to a higher burden of cardiovascular disease morbidity and mortality. Obese people are more likely to suffer from high blood pressure which is one of the biggest causes of heart attacks.

Hypertension

A Harvard University study revealed that hypertension among young adults in India is higher than that of Central and Eastern Europe, the region that previously had the highest numbers for this group. Hypertension contributes to 10.8% of all deaths in India and it has been on a steep rise over the last three decades both in

urban and rural areas. Hypertension eventually escalates the risk of developing high blood pressure and diabetes.

Diabetes

There's been an exponential rise in the number of people diagnosed with type 2 diabetes over the last 30 years in India which has significantly contributed to the world burden as well. In India, people under the age of 25 are increasingly at risk of type-2 diabetes and life-threatening complications like heart diseases.

Ways to Prevent Heart Ailments in Young Indians

In the present society, young adults are under constant mental and physical stress from intense work demands, family issues, job security and much more. Increased periods of stress is often associated with high blood pressure and diabetes. The concerning fact is that young adults often fall prey to smoking and excessive alcohol consumption to deal with the overburdening stress. Lifestyle modifications are the key to reduce these risk and prevent premature heart attacks.

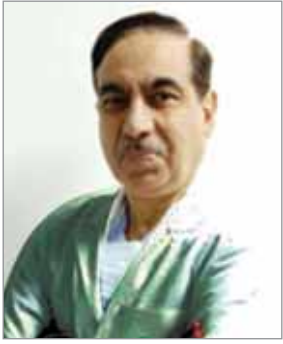
Young people must engage in regular periods of moderate to intense exercises like jogging, cycling, brisk walking, yoga, aerobics, weight training and swimming to prevent the onset of diabetes as well as keep blood pressure and weight in check. Also, one should stay away from excessive alcohol consumption and smoking.

A proper balanced diet is another requirement for healthy heart health. Instead of munching on junk foods, young people should look for healthy alternatives like fruits, juices, soya products and nuts. It is also equally important to avoid trans-fatty acids and include plenty of fresh, green vegetables in the diet rich in minerals and calcium. Apart from what is on the plate, it is also vital that proper attention is paid to the time of the meals. Late lunch and dinner is a strict no for those who wish to keep good care of their overall health.

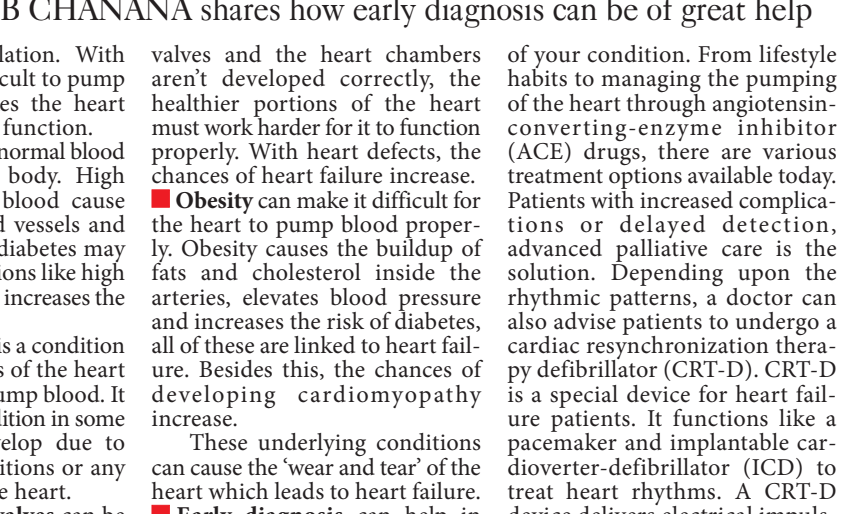
It has been observed that if a person had a heart attack at a younger age, it increases the likelihood of another heart attack or stroke during the later stages of life. Spreading awareness about early detection and prevention is the most critical step in the successful prevention and management of this condition. Young adults should also get their cardiac evaluation done every year to stay safe and healthy.

The writer is Chairman, Cardiac Sciences, Paras Hospitals, Panchkula

The concerning fact is that young adults often fall prey to smoking and excessive alcohol consumption to deal with the increasing stress. Lifestyle modifications are the key to reduce these risks and prevent premature heart attacks. Young people must engage in regular periods of moderate to intense exercises and maintain a proper balanced diet — DR HARINDER K BALI



Know reason for cardiac failure



According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), the annual number of deaths from cardiac diseases is 4.77 million. DR BB CHANANA shares how early diagnosis can be of great help

The term heart failure doesn't indicate that the heart has completely stopped working. In simple terms, heart failure is the heart's inability to pump enough to meet the body's need. The heart pumps the blood at a slower rate which increases the pressure on the heart.

Some common signs and symptoms of heart failure are shortness of breath, fatigue, dizziness, irregular heartbeat, nausea, bloating, swollen ankles and weakness during an activity. Generally, heart failure develops if a person has or had one or more conditions described below.

Coronary artery disease

is a disease in which the arteries supplying oxygen and blood to the heart get blocked and the heart receives insufficient oxygen. Plaque builds up due to cholesterol and fats on the walls of the arteries, causing them to narrow, this is known as atherosclerosis.

High blood pressure

is a major risk factor for causing heart failure. When the pressure in the arteries is high, it causes the heart to pump the blood harder than normal for

proper blood circulation. With time it becomes difficult to pump the blood and makes the heart muscles too weak to function.

Diabetes

causes abnormal blood sugar levels in the body. High sugar levels in the blood cause damage to the blood vessels and nerves. People with diabetes may develop other conditions like high blood pressure which increases the risk of heart failure.

Cardiomyopathy

is a condition in which the muscles of the heart make it difficult to pump blood. It may be a genetic condition in some cases or might develop due to blood pressure conditions or any other infection in the heart.

Abnormal heart valves

can be the result of infections, certain diseases or a birth defect. Due to improper functioning of the heart valves, the muscles of the heart have to work harder for the blood to keep circulating at normal rates. When the pressure on the heart increases, heart failure can occur.

Congenital heart defects

are the defects present from birth and can cause deformities in the development of the heart. If the

valves and the heart chambers aren't developed correctly, the healthier portions of the heart must work harder for it to function properly. With heart defects, the chances of heart failure increase.

Obesity

can make it difficult for the heart to pump blood properly. Obesity causes the buildup of fats and cholesterol inside the arteries, elevates blood pressure and increases the risk of diabetes, all of these are linked to heart failure. Besides this, the chances of developing cardiomyopathy increase.

These underlying conditions can cause the 'wear and tear' of the heart which leads to heart failure.

Early diagnosis

can help in timely treatment for heart failure. A physical examination and electrocardiogram (ECG) testing can help in determining potential chances of heart failure. Some lifestyle changes that make an impact on heart health are avoiding high cholesterol food, getting good sleep, giving up smoking and limiting alcohol consumption.

Treatment


options for heart failure depend upon the severity

of your condition. From lifestyle habits to managing the pumping of the heart through angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor (ACE) drugs, there are various treatment options available today. Patients with increased complications or delayed detection, advanced palliative care is the solution. Depending upon the rhythmic patterns, a doctor can also advise patients to undergo a cardiac resynchronization therapy defibrillator (CRT-D). CRT-D is a special device for heart failure patients. It functions like a pacemaker and implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) to treat heart rhythms. A CRT-D device delivers electrical impulses to the left and right ventricles, helping the heart to pump efficiently.

With technological advancements, come greater responsibility of educating people about them along with symptoms and preventive measures of dealing with heart failure.

The writer is Senior Interventional Cardiologist & HOD, Maharaja Agrasen Hospital, New Delhi

CONTRACEPTION DURING COVID



Contraception is an important component of reproductive health. DR LOVLEENA NADIR tells you how contraceptives can be helpful in preventing cases of unwanted pregnancy and miscarriage

Everyone has a right to access the quality and affordable contraceptive options. They can be helpful in preventing cases of unwanted pregnancy and miscarriage. They also play a role in preventing many sexually transmitted diseases. World Contraception Day is observed every year on 26th September.

Even during the pandemic, our focus has been to ensure availability of high quality contraceptive options to the people, thereby ensuring the right health of the mother and reducing the number of premature deaths.

Every person should choose the option of contraception according to his/her need and choice. In general, contraceptive options are divided into two categories, reversible and permanent. Awareness about fertility (calendar method, birth control app, withdrawal method), barrier method (condom, diaphragm, cervical cap, contraceptive sponge, spermicidal jelly), intrauterine device, hormonal pills, transdermal patch etc. fall under the reversible category. At the same time, sterilization in men and tubal ligation in women are kept in the permanent category of contraception.

In this time of the corona epidemic, counseling regarding contraception is a mandatory step. Now, while choosing long-term reversible contraception, such as intrauterine devices etc provisions related to the corona pandemic such as social distancing, wearing of masks etc. should be taken care of.

Permanent contraception procedures like bilateral tubal ligation are done at the time of cesarean section /normal delivery for those who opt for it. Advice is given on correct use of lactational amenorrhea (some patients do not have period at the time of breastfeeding). The option of user-controlled contraceptives is also given to lactating and non-lactating women. Postpartum contraception is advised to patients immediately after delivery before hospital discharge.

All methods of contraception are safe even in this time of pandemic. Due to limited movement in hospitals, user controlled reversible options should be adopted. Condoms, fertility awareness methods & lactational, amenorrhea methods (for exclusive breastfeeding mothers) are good contraceptive options for self-care.

Condoms also protect against sexually transmitted infections and are used correctly & consistently. If hospitalization is not possible due to restrictions on movement, do not be concerned about delays in the implant or removal of an intrauterine contraceptive device. There are no medical problems caused by delayed removal of IUDs or implants. There is no harm in contraceptive options even if a person is corona positive. However, the use of hormonal drugs etc. should be avoided. Instead of combined hormonal contraceptives, progesterone-only pills or non-hormonal methods may be used. After complete recovery, combined hormonal contraceptive options can be used.

The writer is Senior Consultant, OB-GYN at Rosewalk Hospital

INBRIEF

National Snakebite Awareness Summit

Public health experts, policymakers and administrators gathered at the maiden National Snakebite Awareness Summit, organised by the leading health awareness institution Integrated Health & Wellbeing (IHW) Council, have underlined the need to spread awareness on means to prevent attacks by snakes as well as gather adequate data to formulate the right and better ways to treat the cases at the primary health centres.

Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry; Ms Vinita Srivastava, Advisor for Tribal Health Cell, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India; Mr. Vishwanath Swarup, COO, Bharat Serums & Vaccines Limited; Dr Priyanka Kadam, President, Founder, Snakebite Healing and Education Society along with others were the key speakers.

"There is an inadequacy of antivenom supply and we need expertise in administering antivenom – following the protocol is important but we may need protocols according to the region. Availability of dialysis facility and antivenoms are important as much as ambulance facility to take the affected person to the healthcare provider," says Soundararajan. She adds, "Walking in accumulated rainwater can be dangerous. We have seen a lot of cases where people dealing with snake carcasses were poisoned through the teeth of dead snakes."

The finder shall be suitably rewarded.



Samson's 82 take RR to 164

PTI ■ DUBAI

Skipper Sanju Samson produced a well-calculated 82-run knock on a sluggish track to help Rajasthan Royals reach 164 for five in their Indian Premier League match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, here on Monday.

It is second consecutive fifty for Samson after conjuring up an unbeaten 70 against Delhi Capitals on Saturday.

The captain sent the ball seven times to the fence and three times over it in his impressive 57-ball innings, with which he became the leading run-scorer (433) of the season, surpassing Delhi Capitals' Shikhar Dhawan (430).

Yashasvi Jaiswal (36) and Mahipal Lomror (29 not out, who was dropped twice (23 and

29), were the other two batters to provide valuable contributions on a wicket where the ball did not come on to the bat easily for a major part of Royals innings.

Asked to bowl, pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/28) bowled a splendid length ball, on leg stump which worked perfectly for SRH as the dangerous Evin Lewis (6) hit straight to Abdul Samad at deep backward square leg in the second over.

Despite snaring Lewis' wicket early, the Sunrisers bowlers were guilty of bowling wide and short and Jaiswal took the opportunity to counterattack. The youngster, who smashed four boundaries and a six, played some splendid shots with skipper Samson also slowly finding his feet as the two collected 46 runs in the

Powerplay.

The duo went on to share a 56-run stand before Sandeep Sharma (1/30) got rid of Jaiswal, who had hit a stunning six just a ball earlier.

To keep the pressure on the Royals, SRH skipper Kane Williamson brought in star Afghan leg-spinner Rashid Khan (1/31) back into the attack and a mis-hit by Liam Livingstone (4) meant the move was met with the desired result.

With Lomror playing second fiddle to perfection, Samson took over the proceedings. But Siddharth Kaul (2/36) bowled a great last over, dismissing Samson and Riyan Parag (0) to restrict the Royals to 164 after being hit for 20 runs in his third over.

Rajasthan Royals:

Evin Lewis c A Samad 19
b B Kumar 6
Yashasvi Jaiswal
b S Sharma 36
Sanju Samson c J Holder 82
b S Kaul 8
Liam Livingstone c A Samad b R Khan 4
Mahipal Lomror not out 29
Riyan Parag c Roy 7
b S Kaul 0
Rahul Tewatia not out 0
Extras: (B-1, LB-3, NB-3) 7
Total (For 5 wickets in 20 overs) 164
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-67, 3-77, 4-161, 5-162.
Bowling: Sandeep Sharma 3-0-30-1, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-1-28-1, Jason Holder 4-0-27-0, Siddharth Kaul 4-0-36-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-31-1, Abhishek Sharma 1-0-8-0.

Match: 41	IPL 2021	Sept 28	3:30 pm
Kolkata Knight Riders	VS	Delhi Capitals	
Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Sharjah			
Kolkata Knight Riders	Total IPL matches played: 202		
Won: 103	Lost: 99		
Highest total: 245/6			
Delhi Capitals	Total IPL matches played: 204		
Won: 94	Lost: 108		
Highest total: 231/4			
No results: 2			
Head-to-Head in IPL			
Matches played: 26			
KKR	DC		
Won: 14	Lost: 12		
Highest total: 210/8		Highest total: 228/4	
KDK SportsGraphics			

Match: 42	IPL 2021	Sept 28	7:30 pm
Mumbai Indians	VS	Punjab Kings	
Zayed Cricket Stadium, Abu Dhabi			
Mumbai Indians	Total IPL matches played: 213		
Won: 124	Lost: 89		
Highest total: 223/6			
Punjab Kings	Total IPL matches played: 200		
Won: 92	Lost: 108		
Highest total: 232/2			
Head-to-Head in IPL			
Matches played: 26			
MI	PBKS		
Won: 14	Lost: 12		
Highest total: 223/6		Highest total: 230/3	
KDK SportsGraphics			

TEAM	PLD	NET RR	PTS
1 CSK	10	+1.069	16
2 DC	10	+0.711	16
3 RCB	10	-0.359	12
4 KKR	10	+0.322	8
5 PBKS	10	-0.271	8
6 RR	9	-0.319	8
7 MI	10	-0.551	8
8 SRH	9	-0.637	2

‘Content’ Moeen Ali retires from Test cricket



PTI ■ LONDON

England's spin bowling all-rounder Moeen Ali on Monday announced retirement from Test cricket to prolong his career in white-ball formats, saying he is "content" despite the widespread belief that he could have achieved a lot more.

The 34-year-old leaves the Test arena with 2,914 runs in 64 matches at an average of 28.29.

Besides his five centuries with the bat, Ali has taken 195 wickets with his off-spin bowling at an average of 36.66 since his Test debut in 2014.

"I'm 34 now and I want to play for as long as I can and I just want to enjoy my cricket," Ali said.

"Test cricket is amazing, when you're having a good day it's better than any other format by far, it's more rewarding and you feel like you've really earned it."

Ali had already informed his England captain Joe Root and head coach Chris Silverwood of his decision.

There will miss just walking out there with the lads, playing against best in the world with that feeling of nerves but also from a bowling point of view, knowing with my best ball I could get anyone out.

"I've enjoyed Test cricket but that intensity can be too much sometimes and I feel like I've done enough of it and I'm happy and content with how I've done."

Ali, who has not played a lot of Test cricket since the 2019 Ashes, was recalled for the recent home series against India. He was apparently not comfortable with the thought of staying away from family for extended periods.

He had made up his mind even before the COVID-19 protocols were shared with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for the Ashes tour to Australia.

According to a press release issued by England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Ali hopes that his Test career will inspire and open the door for other British Muslims to play for England.

Stop cursing India for Kiwis, England pullouts, BCCI official to Pakistan

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has recently faced a severe blow after New Zealand and England cancelled their respective tours. The Kiwis cited security as a reason whereas England stated the 'mental and physical well-being' of the players was an issue. The cancellation of the tours has affected Pakistan financially and 'morally' as well. The newly appointed chairman of PCB Ramiz Raja lambasted the two nations for abandoning their respective series.

However, now some of the Pakistan Ministers and former cricketers have started "dragging India's" name in their statements. They are also allegedly blaming BCCI for the cancellation of their tours.

To this, a senior BCCI official told IANs that Pakistan has an old habit of 'using' India's name in all their 'big or small news' that too without any proof. "We wish Ramiz Raja good luck...Pakistan cricket reaches new heights under him. We want to clear one thing that the BCCI has no role in the cancellation of England and New Zealand tours to Pakistan."

"We don't have time for all this...And also, I don't know why some ex-Pakistan players are cursing the IPL (Indian Premier League) for no reason? I read somewhere that Raja said that the Aussie players have even changed their DNA for the sake of the money they make by playing in the IPL. He accused Aussies of playing happily against India without their usual aggressive approach. "Now from where the IPL came here? What kind of frustration is that? We understand you are feeling bad but there is no need to drag India everywhere," official added.

Heavy rain, cyclone alert forces BCCI to delay start of domestic season

New Delhi: The start of India's domestic season has been delayed by two days with the Under-19 events for boys and girls pushed back to September 30 due to a cyclone alert in south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts.

The U19 Boys Vinoo Mankad Trophy and U19 Girls One-Day tournament was scheduled to begin on Tuesday across seven venues. Heavy rain is expected in Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar, that are among host cities for the matches along with Indore, Vizag, Surat, Rajkot and Nagpur.

"Owing to the incessant rain and the cyclone alert issued by MET, the BCCI is compelled to postpone the start of the group stage from 28.09.2021 to 30.09.2021," wrote Dhiraj Malhotra, BCCI General Manager — Game Development — in his letter to the seven host associations.

winning the Super Cup and the League Winners' Shield, the 21-year-old custodian became a pivotal member of Gaurs' set up. He recorded as many as nine cleansheets in 33 appearances in his first two seasons with the Goan side. Mohammad Nawaz said: "I would like to thank Mumbai City FC for showing faith in me and giving me the opportunity to play at a club that wants to win games and win trophies. I had a chance to speak to many of my friends who are now my teammates and they spoke highly of the great culture at the club. I'm looking forward to getting started on this exciting journey with my new family and achieve great things along the way."

Mumbai City FC sign goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz

IANs ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC have signed up goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz on a three-year contract until May 2024, the franchise announced on Monday. The 21-year-old, a product of AIEFF Elite Academy, joins the defending ISL champions from FC Goa.

Nawaz secured a move to FC Goa in 2018, where he featured for the club's reserve team in the I-League 2nd Division and was later handed his first team debut during the 2018-19 campaign, the club informed in a release on Monday. Having played an instrumental role in the FC Goa's successful campaigns in 2018-19 and 2019-20,



and now scoring again. It was a moment of magic that clinched a 1-0 victory over winless Southampton.

Wearing protective head gear, the Mexican breezed through the defense in the 61st minute before striking past goalkeeper Alex McCarthy.

Arsenal humiliates Spurs, seasons head in opposite direction

AP ■ LONDON

However bad things have seemed for Arsenal over the last decade, beating Tottenham at the Emirates Stadium can usually be relied on.

Just not usually as emphatically as Sunday's north London derby triumph — a 3-1 victory helping to clear the early-season gloom for Mikel Arteta's side.

Never before in the Premier League has Arsenal scored three goals as quickly in a derby. The goals inside the opening 34 minutes from Emile Smith Rowe, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Bukayo Saka rattled Tottenham and gave Arsenal fans an afternoon of gloating in the late September sun.

"It's quite easy when you have boys like this — they always listen, always ready to learn," Aubameyang said. "They feel free when they play. That's why they're doing amazing."

It was a month ago as August was drawing to a close that Arsenal had opened the season with three losses — including at defending champion Manchester City — without scoring while Tottenham was top with a perfect start.



Arsenal's Bukayo Saka, centre, celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur at the Emirates stadium in London, Sunday

The captain wanted to put things right.

"After the game after City, we needed to have a chat between players," Aubameyang said. "We're doing really well right

now."The only thing consistent this month for Tottenham has been losing all three games and conceding three in each. Arsenal, meanwhile, has won all three games since the international break.

But in a sign of recent inferiority for the neighbors, they aren't challenging at the top but midtable with Arsenal 10th on goal difference and Tottenham 11th in the standings.

Spurs haven't won at Arsenal in the league since 2010, and they did everything to ensure that dismal run wouldn't end.

Just look at how much space was gifted to Arsenal to launch the attack that ended in the opening goal in the 12th minute.

Smith Rowe wasn't tracked by the visitors as he found space in the penalty area to get on the end of Saka's cross, evading a futile late tackle by Davinson Sanchez to net.

"I've always wanted to score against Tottenham in a derby," the 21-year-old academy graduate said. "It's just the best feeling ever."Arteta will be feeling relieved.

"He just tells us to keep calm," Smith Rowe said, "and he encourages us."

A couple of months into the job, Tottenham manager Nuno Espirito Santo was unable to have any impact in preventing this humiliation.

"I am very honest," he said, "If the game plan didn't work out the way you wanted, it's because you didn't decide it well."

Not even Harry Kane, stopped from joining Manchester City, could come to the rescue.

In fact, the striker managed to give away the ball inside Tottenham's half to Thomas Parthey that led to Arsenal scoring again on the break.

Kane did try to recover the situation as Arsenal advanced, but his tackle on Saka could not prevent him from getting the shot away to add the third.

Although Son Heung-min turned in a cross from Sergio Reguilon in the 79th, there would be no late Tottenham comeback. Especially not after Lucas Moura had a strike tipped onto the crossbar by goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale.

"It is one of the nicest things I have experienced in this stadium," said Arteta, who has finished eighth in both of his seasons in charge of Arsenal.

It was at Arsenal in November 2020 that Raúl Jiménez suffered a head injury from a clash with David Luiz that might have ended the Wolverhampton striker's career.

He's back this season

Public Notice				
Election Programme for the election of Managing Committee The Jind Central Cooperative Consumer Store Ltd., Jind, Teh & Distt., Jind to be held on 31-10-2021.				
Sr. No.	Particulars	Date	Time	Place
	Exhibition of Election Programme	25-09-2021 to 01.10.2021	10:00 A.M. to 05:00 P.M.	1. In the office of ARCS, Jind 2. In the office of DFSC, Jind 3. In the office of the Jind Central Coop. Bank Ltd., Jind 4. In the office of the society 5. Exhibited in main places 6. Exhibited in Daily English & Hindi Newspaper.
2.	Filling of Nomination Papers.	11-10-2021	10:00 A.M. to 2:00 PM	In the office of Assistant Registrar, Coop. Soc. Jind.
3.	Scrutiny of Nomination Papers.	12-10-2021	10:00 A.M. to 2:00 PM	--do
4.	Display of List of Validly Nominated Candidates.	12-10-2021	3:00 P.M.	--do
5.	Withdrawal of Nomination Papers.	14-10-2021	10:00 A.M. to 2:00 PM	----do-----
6(a)	Allocation of Symbols	14-10-2021	3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.	----do-----
6(b)	Display of List of contesting candidates.	14-10-2021	4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.	
7.	Taking of poll, if necessary.	31-10-2021	8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	Detail of places given below
Zone. No.	Name of Zone	Total Vote	Place of poll	
1.	Rohtak Road, Jind (General)	1 to 342	The Jind Coop. Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd. Old Anai Mandi, Jind.	
2.	Patiala Chock, Jind (Reserve for woman)	1 to 596	The Jind Distt. Coop. L/C Fed. Ltd. Railway Road, Jind	
3.	Safidon Gate, Jind (Reserve for woman)	1 to 697	The Jind Primary Agriculture Coop. Society Ltd. near Dalam wala Hospital, Safidon Road.	
4.	Ramrai Gate, Jind (Reserve for SC)	1 to 525	Jind The Jind Central Cooperative Consumer Store Ltd. Old Bus Stand, Jind.	
Note:- It is compulsory for all Voters to bring their Photo L.D. at the time of polling)				
Krishan Chander Returning Officer cum Assistant Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Jind.				