OPINION 6

THE NATIONAL

THEATRE OF ABSURD

WORLD 8

TAIWAN DRILLS MILITARY AS

CONCERNS OVER CHINA GROW

SPORT 12

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DEHRADUN, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹2 the pioneer www.dailypioneer.com

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

MEDIA WISELY: ANIL KAPOOR 10 VIVACITY

Govt Ok's big telecom reforms Allows 4-vear moratorium Tata Sons, SpiceJet bid

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

 $U_{\text{Wednesday approved}}^{\text{nion Cabinet on}}$ major reforms in telecom sector by handing out a four-year moratorium on payment of dues. The Cabinet also approved 100 per cent FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) in telecom via the automatic route. The Government also came out with a ₹26.058 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto, autocomponents and drone indus-

tries.

The four-year moratori-

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

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

Briefing reporters on the decisions taken by the Cabinet, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnay said nine structural reforms for the telecom sector were approved. The definition of AGR, which had been a major reason for the stress in the sector, has been rationalised by excluding non-telecom revenue of telecom companies.

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

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

The FDI easing rule will apply to all areas of telecom, including the manufacture of infrastructure. Earlier, 100 per



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

MAJOR REFORM PUSH

- The four-year moratorium in the AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) dues is a major relief to telecom players Vodafone-Idea, facing acute financial problems, and Airtel They have a combined dues of more than
- In another significant decision, the Cabinet cleared 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the telecom sector through automatic route, which will encourage greater participation of players. However, all safeguards will apply, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said
- The Cabinet also rationalised definition of AGR by excluding non-telecom revenue of



- telecom players from payment of statutory levies
- Bank guarantees have also been rationalised, while interest rates too have been modified with removal of penalties
- For future spectrum auctions, no bank guarantees will be needed. Also the spectrum tenure has been increased from 20 years to 30 years. Surrendering of spectrum will only be allowed after 10 years, the Cabinet decided

equipment manufacturing and provision of IT-enabled services, but only 49 per cent came under the automatic route. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said that ₹26,058 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto, auto-components and drone industries will enhance India's manufacturing capabilities. The PLI scheme will incentivize the emergence of advanced automotive technologies' global supply chain in India, added Thakur. It is estimated that over a period of five vears, the PLI scheme for the automobile and auto components industry will lead to fresh investment of over ₹42,500 crore, incremental production of over ₹2.3 lakh crore and will create additional employment opportunities of over 7.5 lakh jobs, Thakur said. The PLI scheme for automobile and drone industries is part of the overall announcement of PLI schemes for 13 sectors made earlier during the Union Budget 2021-22, with an outlay of ₹1.97

lakh crore. The scheme for the auto sector envisages overcoming the cost disabilities to the industry for the manufacture of advanced automotive technology products in India. The incentive structure will encourage industry to make fresh investments for the indigenous global supply chain of Advanced Automotive Technology prod

for Air India

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Sons and SpiceJet's Ajay Singh have emerged as bidders for the Air India disinvestment on the last day for putting in the financial bid on Wednesdav.

If Tata buys Air India, the history will come full circle and this will mark the return of the airline to a group after 67 vears which had built and nurtured it into one of the world's finest airlines until grasping and sloppy Governments run it into the ground.

Taking to Twitter, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, said the disinvestment process now moves to the concluding stage. "Financial bids for Air India disinvestment received by Transaction Adviser. Process now moves to concluding stage," Pandey tweeted.

The financial bids will be evaluated against an undisclosed reserve price and the bid offering the highest price above that benchmark would be accepted. The bid will be initially examined by the transaction advisor before the recommendation is sent to the Cabinet for approval.

If Tata wins, Al will return to it after 67 years



According to reports, a Tata Sons spokesperson has confirmed that Tatas have submitted a financial bid for Air India. Though Tata Sons have confirmed their participation in the financial bid, sources said the promoter of domestic carrier SpiceJet, Ajay Singh, also reported to have placed the bids for Air India disinvestment. Tata Group was among the multiple entities that had put in initial expression of interest (EoI) in December 2020 for buying the Maharaja.

Tata, who founded Air India in 1932, is seen among the front-runners for getting the airline back. The Government nationalised the airline in 1953. Tatas operate a premier full-service carrier, Vistara, in partnership with Singapore Airlines.

Delhi Govt moves SC against power to L-G

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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through its amendments, has given more power to the Lieutenant Governor than the elected Government of the people of Delhi, the Aam Party Aadmi (AAP) Government said in a Press statement issued from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

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Importantly, the Centre, development, the Delhi Government said with GNCTD Act Centre's attempt to treat the Lieutenant Governor as the "default administering authority over the NCT of Delhi", encroaches upon the powers of the legislators. "The Centre's amendments violate the basic struc-Issuing a statement on the ture of the Constitution; go



against section 239-AA and constitutional bench order," auoted Delhi Government's statement

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

Rules, 1993. It is important to mention here that in 2016, following differences between the L-G and the Delhi Government in respect of powers, duties and governance, the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court

had held that the Council of Ministers shall inform all its decisions to the L-G but that does not mean the accord of the L-G is required.

While on March this year, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ruled Central Government introduced the GNCTD Act Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha and passed it and the Bill received the assent of the became the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act 2021, on March 28, 2021.

In its petition, the Delhi Government has contended that the amended sections of the GNCTD Act diminish constitutionally guaranteed powers and functions of the elected legislative Assembly and council of Ministers of Delhi and overturn the constitutionally stipulated balance between the Delhi Government and the Union Government and overrule the judgment of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court "Government of NCT of Delhi v Union of India, (2018)".

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday castigated Pakistan and the OIC for raising the Kashmir issue at the UN Human Rights Council, saying it does not state" and the "epicentre of terrorism" and chided the 57 nation bloc for "helplessly allowing itself to be held

"hostage" by Islamabad.
At the 48th session of the UNHRC, India mounted a blistering attack on Pakistan, saying it has been globally recognised as a country openly supporting, training, financing and arming terrorists including UN proscribed terrorists as a "matter of state policy". India's response was delivered by Pawan Badhe, the first secretary in its permanent mis-

sion in Geneva. Exercising the right to reply to comments made by Pakistan and the Organisation of Islamic



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

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

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

dren, 149 incidents of fake profile and 98 of data theft n

maximum 60.2 per cent cyber

In terms of motive, the

It was followed by sexual

2020, the data suggested.

and malicious propaganda" against India.

The council is aware of Pakistan's attempts to divert the council's attention from serious human rights violations being perpetrated by its government, ıdino in th occupied by it," he said.
"India, as not only the

world's largest democracy but a robustly functional and vibrant one, does not need lessons from a failed state like Pakistan which is the epicentre of terrorism and worst abuser

of human rights," he said. The Indian diplomat said Pakistan has failed to protect the rights of its minorities, including Sikhs, Hindus,

Christians and Ahmadiyas. "Thousands of women and girls from minority communities have been subjected to abductions, forced marriages and conversions in Pakistan

and its occupied territories, Badhe said in his statement.

I-T Dept raids six premises of Sonu Sood

linked to Bollywood actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood in connection with allegations of tax evasion in a deal struck between the actor's company and a Lucknowbased real estate firm.

However, the ruling BJP

India records 11.8% rise in cybercrimes in 2020

PNS NEW DELHI

Tndia recorded 50,035 cases of Lcybercrime in 2020, marking 11.8 per cent surge in such offences in contrast to 2019.

As many as 578 incidents of "fake news on social media" were also reported, according to official data released on Wednesday by the National Crime Records Bureau.

Among the States, the maximum 11,097 cybercrime cases were reported in Uttar Pradesh followed by Karnataka (10,741), Maharashtra (5,496), Telangana (5,024) and Assam (3,530), it showed.

However, the crime rate was highest in Karnataka with 16.2 per cent followed by Telangana (13.4 per cent), Assam (10.1 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (4.8 per cent) and Maharashtra (4.4 per cent), in 2020. the data revealed.

The rate of cybercrime of fake news on social media,

(incidents per lakh population) also increased marginally from 3.3 per cent in 2019 to 3.7 per cent in 2020 in the country, according to the NCRB data.

In 2019, 44,735 cases of cybercrime were recorded, while the figures stood at 27,248 in 2018.

crimes lodged in 2020 were done for fraud (30,142 out of 50,035 cases), the NCRB, which In 2020, 4,047 cases of functions under the Ministry of online banking fraud, 1,093 Home Affairs, stated. OTP frauds and 1,194 credit/debit card fraud were reportexploitation with 6.6 per cent

ed. A many as 2,160 cases (3,293 cases) and extortion 4.9 related to ATM were reported per cent (2,440 cases), the data showed. The national Capital Delhi There were also 578 cases recorded 168 such cases during

the year with a crime rate of 0.8 per cent. The NCRB, which is

responsible for collecting and analysing crime data at the pan-India level as defined by the Indian Penal Code and special and local laws in the

80 murders a day in India in **2020: NCRB**

New Delhi: India reported an average 80 murders daily in 2020, totalling 29,193 fatalities over the year, with Uttar Pradesh topping the chart among States, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data issued on Wednesday.

PNS MUMBAI The Income Tax (IT) department on

Wednesday conducted searches at six locations The simultaneous search-

es were conducted in Mumbai and Lucknow. Coming on the heels of Sood's meeting with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who declared him the brand ambassador for his Government's mentorship programme for school students in the Capital, the searches by the IT officials raised eyebrows in the political circles.

at the Centre has denied that the searches on Sood's premises had anything to do with politics.

972 related to cyberstalking or bullying of women and chil-



Convocation ceremony held in SRHU INBRIEFS LEOPARD CAUGHT IN VILLAGE

segregated convocation Accremony spreading over four days was organised by the Swami Rama Himalayan University, Jollygrant ended on Wednesday. A total of 869

in two phases during the pro-

In the second phase degrees were awarded to 227 doctors and 147 nurses. Addressing the ceremony

on Wednesday, the Vice Exhorting the doctors, nurses

Rama Himalayan University, Vijay Dhasmana said that the institute is working in the direction of removing the shortage of doctors in the mountainous areas of the state.

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1	34168058, 7551974 & 7548169	LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY	1. M/S SWARGASHRAM GEMS EMPOURIM 2. UMA SHANKAR 3. INDU VERMA	06.09.2021	1,79,19,325.76/-	PROPERTY: 1 ALL THAT PIECE AN PARCEL OF PROPERTY COMPRISE KHASRA NO. 779 C, KHATA NO. 1 ADMEASURING 235 SQ. MTRS. SITUATE AT ONKARANAND MARG KAILASHGATI DHAMAANDSYUN, MUNI KI RET TEHSIL: NARANDRA NAGAR, DISTRIC TIHRI, GARHWAL AND BOUNDED AS: EAS ROAD 30 FEETWEST: OIL MILL NORTI MURARI LAL JI SOUTH: 30 FEET ROAD PROPERTY NO.2 ALL THAT PIECE AN PARCEL OF PROPERTY SITUATED A KHASRA NO. 187, VILLAGE TAPOWAL

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TEHRI GARHWAL, UTTARAKHAND

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Engagement of "Ayurvedic & Homeopathic Practitioner in Northern Railway, Moradabad Division on contractual basis (Part-time, on honorarium basis) for unreserved candidate SC/ST, OBC candidate can also apply.

Applications are invited for engagement of Part-time Medical Practitioners on contractual basis (honorarium basis) in Northern Railway, Divisional Hospital, Moradabad for one post of Ayurvedic Practitioners & one post of Homeopathic Practitioner in the following system of indigenous Medicine on honorarium basis under the aegis of Divisional Staff Benefit Fund (DSBF) Committee, Moradabad division on the under mentioned terms and conditions:-

BAMS	внмѕ			
Ayurvedic Practitioner	Homeopathic Practitioner			
(i) 04 years Bachelor Degree/diploma in BAMS from recognized university/ statutory state board/council/faculty of Indian Medicine central council Act, 1970 (48 of 1970)	(i) Degree in BMS (Homeopathy)/DHM/DHS/DMS Homeopathy, BMBS/04 years diploma in MHMS/ Degree in GSMS from recognized university/ statutory state board/council/faculty of Indian			

(ii) Enrolment on the central Register of (ii) Enrolment on the central Register of Indian

Indian Medicine or a state Register of Indian Medicine

Post - (02) 01 Ayurvedic & 01 Homeopathy

b. Honorarium - Rs. 22,500/- per month.

Working Hrs - 4 hrs daily (13:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs)

d. The practitioners will be engaged by the Divisional Staff Benefit Fund committee, Northern His/her engagement shall be on purely temporary basis for a period of ONE YEAR.

Engagement of the above Practitioners will be only for one year purely temporary on contractual basis. Their engagement can be extended upto the age of 63 year, keeping in view of their satisfactory working report every year.

f. During the duty hours, they will not attend any private patient and does not leave the hospital premises without the permission of the competent authority.

g. They will be required to work in Northern Railway, Divisional Hospital, Moradabad. 04 Hours a day from 13:00 hrs on 17:00 hrs i.e. from Monday to Saturday on all working days h. The engaged Practitioners shall be paid a consolidated honorarium indicated above at each

Practitioner without any allowances from Divisional Staff Benefit Fund. Casual Leave of 08 (Eight) days shall be permissible to them on pro-rata basis and no other

kind of leave shall be admissible

The selection for the above posts will be held on the basis of Viva Voce.

k. Deduction on pro-rata basis shall be made from the consolidated monthly honorarium for

absence no covered by Casual Leave. No TA/DA shall be admissible to the engaged Practitioner and no expenses to join the new

assignment shall be permissible. Candidates shall have to make their own arrangement for stay during the selection, if required.

m. No Railway Quarter shall be provided by the Railway Administration to the engaged Practitioner during the period of engagement.

 n. He/She will not be treated as Railway employee and does not entitle for any privilege, admissible to a Railway employee, No medical treatment from Railway Hospital is admissible

to the Practitioner or his/her family members. No Railway Passes/PTOs shall be permissible in favour of the engaged Practitioners.

The engaged Practitioner shall not be allowed to issue any sick and fit certificate in favour of the Railway employees. Private practice shall be permitted but without hampering the normal

q. Services of engaged Practitioner shall be terminated on reaching the age of 63 years or after the completion of period of engagement, whichever is earlier. Even prior to this, the services can be terminated on 14 days notice on either side. The Divisional Staff Benefit Fund (DSBF) Committee/Moradabad Division shall not be bound to assign any reason for such termination and this power may be exercised by the Chairman/DSBF Committee/MB division and the Practitioner will have no right to challenge the order of DSBF committee to this effect in any

Last date for receipt of completed application: 12.10.2021.

Eligible and willing candidates should submit their application to Chair Person/DSBFC & Sr Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager Office, Moradabad on the format enclosed. Photostat copies of certificates in support of their claim duly attested by a Gazetted Officer should be enclosed along with their application. Last date of receipt is 12.10.2021.

The details of notification, application form and necessary guidelines are available on www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

No TA/DA would be allowed.

2059/2021

Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer

Northern Railway, Moradabad.

No. LW/AHD/DHMB/2021 DATED: .09.2021.

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and Para medical staff to become sensitive and provide best possible treatment to the

> be listened with empathy. The registrar of the university Sushila Sharma said that a total of 869 degrees were awarded to the students during the ceremony in which the

patients Dhasmana said that

the problems of patients should

protocols of the pandemic of Covid-19 were strictly adhered

Dr Alia Tausif, Dr Nishant Setia, Dr Ishika Gandhi, Dr Shivani Mehra, Dr Akshi Singhal, Dr Shivangi Singh, Sejal Singh, Ojasvi Mittal, Ramita Goyal, Milan Arora, Tapan Pandey, Ruchika Puri, Rishika Trivedi, Arjun Sehgal,

Akash Gupta and Mansvi Kalra were given Academic awards while Swami Rama Best Graduate Award was conferred upon Dr Manisvi Kalra (MBBS) and Rakesh Pundir (Nursing).
The Pro Vice Chancellor

Dr Vijendra Chauhan, Dr Prakash Keshaviah and others were present on the occasion.

Singhal receives Aqua Foundation Dam Safety Award

The UJVN Limited managing director Sandeep Singhal has received the Aqua Foundation Dam Safety Award 2021. He was awarded in the Professional Excellence- Individual category for his achievements, commendable performance, dam safety and other noteworthy works. The Aqua Foundation, New Delhi presents this award to persons for



achievements in various during his 34 year service.

other related aspects along with commendable works

environment, power, science and pollution

control. Singhal was

presented this award

considering his efficiency in design of

various hydro power

projects, contracts,

construction and

Punjab PCC chief Sidhu targets

Badals, not Capt Amarinder

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

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

At the same time, Sidhu, who leave no chance to attack his party's Chief Minister, main-

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Uttarakhand

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tained a strategic silence over Capt Amarinder Singh's "lift your dharnas from Punjab" remarks for the protesting farmers.

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

bête noire Sidhu refused to comment. "No comments," inquisitive queries.

Completely focussed on his line of attack aimed at the Badals and making conscious attempts not to attack his own party's Government, Sidhu accused the previous SAD-BJP government in Punjab of laying the foundation of the Centre's farm laws over which the farmers are protesting at Delhi borders for the past 10 months now.

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

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

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

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

Presenting a copy of the Act to the media, Sidhu said that many salient features of the two Acts are similar. "In the Contract Farming Act, there is no provision that says farmers' produce cannot be purchased below MSP. A list of 108 crops was attached saying that these crops could be pro-

cured below the MSP. The list also included wheat and paddy, he pointed.

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

Sidhu, giving clause-by-clause details of the Punjab Contract Farming law and how BJP-led Government photocopied the clauses with minor changes as new agri laws, said: "BJP and SAD are two sides of the same coin. The breakup of the alliance was a smokescreen. They were one and they will be one once again after the elec-

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

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

Sidhu said that as per these two laws, it was the corporate who would decide farm services and they could also procure crop directly from fields that could kill the APMC mandis. Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) were given protection and no farmer could file any suit under these two laws, he said adding that these laws were framed only to benefit the corporate. He also slammed the Badals for first backing the Centre's three farm laws and then taking a U-turn after criticism from farmers.

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

Bageshwar: A leopard was trapped in a cage by the Forest department in Matela village of Almora district late on Tuesday evening. District Panchayat member Mahendra Singh Bisht said that though trapping of one leopard comes as a relief, villagers have been spotting leopards at various places. The locals have demanded effective action to tackle the

PNB HOLDS VARIOUS HINDI COMPETITIONS

Dehradun: Punjab National Bank organised various competitions to mark Hindi month. The bank's Dehradun (west) circle head Raiendra Bhatia and other officials were also present on the occasion. Officials and employees of the bank participated in various events and competitions held on the occasion. The senior manager (Rajbhasha) Aruna Jyoti was also among those present on the occasion.

BOB MARKS HINDI DIWAS

Dehradun: The Bank of Baroda commemorated Hindi Diwas with enthusiasm. At the Dehradun regional office of the bank, the regional manager Anup Sharma exhorted the bank's staff members to do their work in Hindi while also recalling the golden history of the language. He also motivated them to use simple and effective language to further

Himachal CM presides over all party meeting to review arrangements for proposed visit of President Kovind

PNS ■ SHIMLA

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

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

The Chief Minister said that the State Government had planned to organize year-long celebrations to mark the golden jubilee year of the statehood, but due to the Corona pandemic it was not possible to celebrate it on a large scale.

He said that to commemorate this auspicious occasion, a special session of state Vidhan Sabha will be addressed by the President. Besides the sitting MLAs, all the former MLAs have been invited on this auspicious occasion. This event would be held in a highly dignified and graceful manner so as to make it a memorable event, he said.

Thakur also sought all possible cooperation from the leaders of all the political parties. Speaker of Vidhan Sabha, Vipin Singh Parmar said that all the former MPs and MLAs have been invited to be part of

this mega event. He said that over 73 former MPs and MLAs have been given their consent to be part of this event.

Leader of Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri said that this event is above party politics and assured full cooperation from the Congress party to the State Government. MLA Rakesh Singha said that it is an event of the people of the state who have made immense contributions towards the development of Himachal.

Chief Whip Bikram Jaryal, MLAs Asha Kumari and Ram Lal Thakur also shared their views during the meeting.

According to the schedule, the President will reach Annadale Helipad on September 16 at 12 noon via Chandigarh from Palam Airport, Delhi. Subsequently, he will reach Cecil hotel at Chaura Maidan here at around On September 17, the

President will address the State Assembly while in the evening, he will attend a cultural programme at 7.30 pm and banquet at 8 pm hosted by the state Governor. He will be chief guest at the valedictory ceremony of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS Officer Trainees of 2018 and 2019 Batches) at the National Academy of Audit and Accounts at Shimla on September 18 and will return to Delhi on September 19.

Deaths of children: Haryana Govt says probable reason of fever could be drinking water contamination

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Government on Wednesday said that the prima facie inquiry into deaths of seven children due to fever outbreak at two villages- Chilli and Chilla- in Palwal district could be due to the unhygienic conditions and illegal drinking water pipe connections that led to contamination of drinking water.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health Department, Rajeev Arora said that Department's survey regarding the suspected fever outbreak at villages Chilli and Chilla, SC-Gohpur PHC Uttawar. CHC-Hathin in district Palwal reveals that out of the seven deaths, two deaths were reported to be of children below 5 years of age and five deaths were of children above 5 years of age. It came to light during the

investigations being conducted that the prima facie, probable cause of outbreak could be the unhygienic conditions and illegal drinking water pipe connections that led to contamination of drinking water. However, the final cause of deaths among these children can only be commented upon after completion of epidemiological investigation, he said. Arora said that information

regarding suspected fever deaths among children in villages Chilli and Chilla was received by the District Health Authorities, Palwal and in order to assess the ground situation, district rapid response team was activated by Civil Surgeon, Palwal and sent to the area affected. An epidemiological investigation was ordered in

coordination with WHO representative, he added.

He further said that the population of the affected villages Chilli and Chilla is 2947 and 763 respectively. There are 186 households in Chilla village and 72 households in village Chilla. This outbreak started on September 9, 2021.

Divulging more details, he said that the rapid response team visited the affected area on September 12 to investigate the outbreak and household survey was done wherever deaths were reported. Furthermore, as per ongoing epidemiological investigation, house to house active case search for fever cases is being done by the health teams and total 1089 houses have been visited and checked till Tuesday.

Arora said that as per

ongoing epidemiological investigation, house to house active case search for fever cases is being done by the health teams. Besides this, all anti larval activities like fogging, water bodies checking etc. are ongoing in the affected area, he added. Meanwhile, as per the laboratory findings of the area there are all negative reports of 175 malaria blood slides, negative reports of 250 RDT malaria test reports, non-reactive 12 dengue ELISA samples, negative reports of 64 RTPCR COVID-19 tests and negative reports of 50 COVID-19 antigen test. Further elaborating on the probable reason for the fever outbreak, he said that the officials found a leakage in the pipeline of drinking water and public health officers have been instructed to repair it at the ear-

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Gurmit Singh sworn in as U'khand Governor | Covid-19: 49 new cases,

ieutenant general (retd) Lieutenant general (1604), Gurmit Singh took the oath of office as the new Governor of Uttarakhand on Wednesday. The Uttarakhand High Court chief justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan administered the oath to Singh at a function held in Raj Bhawan.

Later, in an informal interaction with the media persons, the Governor listed his priorities. He said that as the women of Uttarakhand are independent and courageous a new chapter in woman empowerment will be written by motivating the state's daughters for Sainik schools and the National Defence Academy. He said that there is a considerable number of ex-servicemen, families and aged parents of soldiers in the state. Resolving the issues related to their health and pension along with ex-servicemen contributory health scheme



(ECHS) will be among his pri-

More than 6K benefit

scheme in U'khand

from ONORC

PNS DEHRADUN

More than 6,000 beneficia-ries have so far availed the

benefit of One Nation One

Ration Card (ONORC) scheme

since its implementation in Uttarakhand. The secretary of

food and civil supplies, B S Manral told The Pioneer that

1,303 migrants from other states

have taken the benefit of the

scheme while a total of 835

natives of the states who have

changed the districts within the

state have availed the scheme. He

said that the process of digitiza-

tion and Aadhaar seeding of

99.87 per cent ration cards

under the National Food

Security scheme has been com-

pleted. There are 14.03 Lakh

such cards with 61 lakh units in

the state. Manral added that

under the State Food security

scheme the state has 9.65 lakh

ration cards. There are more

than 23 lakh total ration cards in

PNS DEHRADUN

 $R^{
m enovation}$ work is being started in the historic build-

ing of the Forest Research

Institute (FRI) here. The main

building of FRI was construct-

ed during the year 1929 in

Dehradun. Its construction was

started in the year 1923 by the

Central Public Works

Department. According to offi-

cials, after the earthquake in

The Governor said that with the Char Dham shrines of

The one nation one ration

card scheme strives to enable

national portability of ration

card. The scheme is being imple-

mented under National Food Security Act (NFSA). Under

the scheme all the ration card

holders can avail the benefit

from Fair Price Shops (FPS) any-

where in the country. For avail-

ing this benefit the beneficiaries

need to make a call on toll free

number 14,445 and inform the

place they have shifted to. The

service would then tell the near-

est FPS to which the beneficia-

ry can take the ration. The FPS

concerned would then do a

simple authentication based on

bio-metric system and Aadhaar

and provide the ration to the dis-

placed card holder. The One

Nation One Ration Card scheme

was initially started in four

states in August 2019 and it is

now implemented in the entire

Department with the help of

CBRI, Roorkee is initiating

renovation work.

Gangotri and Yamunotri, the maternal places of Ganga and Yamuna along with famous pilgrimages like Nanakmatta Sahib, Reetha Sahib and Hemkund Sahib, the land of Uttarakhand is sacred and to serve this sacred land is a mat-

Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for appointing him as the Governor of Uttarakhand. Referring to the natural wealth of the state, he said that there is major scope for employment and entrepreneurship in the mountains by encouraging tourism, tourism-based businesses, organic farming, Yoga-Avurveda and cottage indus-The current government is making good efforts in this direction and will continue to do so in the future. Singh further said that the state has two international borders, considering which connectivity bridges, roads and tunnels for communication and transpor are also important. He also paid his tributes to the gallantry award winners from Uttarakhand. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and his cabinet colleagues were also present on the occasion.

Coordination needed between three pillars of democracy, says Speaker

The Speaker of Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha Prem Chand Agarwal has said that coordination, communication and conviction are needed between legislature, executive and judiciary for strengthening democracy. He was addressing the 81st convention of All India officers on Presiding Wednesday.

In view of the prevailing situation of the pandemic of Covid-19 the programme was organised virtually. He said that the three pillars of the democracy are both complimentary and controller of one another. Agarwal opined that instead of engaging in a com-

Despite there being several government offices and shops in the Rajiv Gandhi

multipurpose complex at

points can be observed too.

Many shopkeepers even throw

the waste generated in their

The theme of this year's convention of the presiding officers was 'use of Information **Technology in** legislative functions'.

petition to show one another in poor light these pillars should work in strengthening one another. He said that the members of legislature should use the question hour effectively as it is an important tool to ensure the responsibility of the executive.

The Lok Sabha speaker, Om Birla said that deliberations during the convention would help in meeting the challenges facing the democ-

racy in a better way. The theme of this year's convention of the presiding officers was 'use of Information Technology in legislative functions'. The presiding officers deliberated on the role of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas in strengthening the democracy in the country during the con-

The deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha, the speakers of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Goa, Karnataka, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland and others attended the convention

33 recoveries in U'khand

The state health department reported 49 new cases of the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) and 33 recoveries from the disease on Wednesday. No death from the disease was reported on the day in the state.

The cumulative count of Covid-19 patients in the state is now at 3,43,310 while a total of 3,29,554 patients have recovered from the disease so far. In the state, 7389 people have lost their lives to Covid -19 till date. The recovery percentage from

the disease is at 95.99 while the sample positivity rate on Wednesday was 0.26 per cent. The state health depart-

ment reported 20 new patients of Covid -19 from Pauri, 10 from Dehradun, five from Uttarkashi, four from Pithoragarh, two each from Champawat, Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar and one each from Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli and Nainital districts on Wednesday. No new cases of the disease were reported from Rudraprayag and Tehri districts

active cases of Covid-19. Dehradun with 148 cases is at the top of the table of active cases while Pauri has 29 active cases. Tehri has no active case of the disease.

In the ongoing vaccination drive 62,056 people were vaccinated in 969 sessions in the state held on Wednesday. As per the data of the state health department 70,92,429 people in the state have received the first dose of vaccine while 24,72,389 have received both doses of the

Uttarakhand police starts Operation Smile

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand police has started a month long Operation Smile to search for missing peo-ple across the state from Wednesday. In Dehradun, the senior superintendent of police (SSP) Janmejaya Khanduri has

appointed circle officer Shekhar Chandra Suyal as the nodal officer of the operation and four teams will work under him.

Suyal also conducted a meeting with the officials of various departments like health, labour and child help line among others besides some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to make them aware of the agenda of the operation. The officials informed that the police will search for children, women and men missing since the year 2000 under this opera-

They said that if anybody goes missing from September 15 to October 14, locals can contact the nodal officer at 9411112759 or anti-human trafficking cell at 7579245420 to provide required details.

Corporation of Dehradun

(MCD) several times to start a

garbage pickup service for the

establishments in the complex

but they refused saying that Mussoorie Dehradun

Development Authority (MDDA) is responsible for

2nd phase of Parivartan Yatra of Cong from Sept 17

PNS DEHRADUN

The second phase of the Parivartan Yatra of Uttarakhand Congress would commence on September 17 from Har Ki Paidi in Haridwar. Releasing the programme of the second phase of the Yatra, the Vice president of Uttarakhand Congress and senior spokesperson Dhirendra Pratap said the Parivartan Yatra would pass through the different assembly constituencies of the Haridwar districts in the second phase. Former chief minister and the head of the campaign committee of the Uttarakhand Congress Harish Rawat, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Ganesh Godiyal, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) Pritam Singh and other senior leaders of the party would attend the Yatra. Pratap said that the second phase of the Parivartan Yatra would commence with the Ganga Arti from Har Ki Paidi at 6 pm on September 17. The Yatra would meander through Jawalapur, BHEL, Bahadrabad, Roorke, Medav, Imlikheda, Bhagwanpur, Jhabreda, Manglaur, Dhandera, Landora, Laksar, Sultanpur, Pherupur and Kankhal to end on September 20.

AAP launches selfie with temple campaign to make Uttarakhand

PNS DEHRADUN

Bringing its Hindu card to play ahead of the coming Assembly elections, the Aam paign in Uttarakhand. During his last visit to the state, the Uttarakhand will be made a website last week and said that recommendations to make the state a spiritual capital besides showing their support for the

port through this website and thousands have suggested several ideas, party leader Naveen Pirshali said that selfie with temple campaign is one such recommendation. While addressing media persons in a Press conference on Wednesday, Pirshali said, "We appeal to the people to click selfies with temples or similar sites in their locality or any nearby areas and share with us through social media platforms.

temples and places which are quite important traditionally but still unknown to many due to lack of knowledge." He said that this campaign will prove to be a milestone in the direction of making Uttarakhand the spiritual cap-

Rajiv Gandhi complex suffers from poor sanitation

PNS DEHRADUN

Renovation of FRI building begins Dispensary Road, the level of sanitation of the premises continues to be pathetic and questionable. Walls and staircases stained with Pan and Gutkha marks, empty sachets of Gutkha and candy wrappers, stubs of cigarettes and beedis, paper cups and polythenes lying on the staircases inside the complex have become a Chamoli, Uttarakhand during There are over 100 shops in the the year 1999, some parts of this complex besides government offices like Tehsil, district suphistoric building had develply office and district conoped cracks. Apart from this, with the passage of time, probsumer forum but the condition of staircases of every establems of leakage, seepage and other issues were also being lishment is almost the same experienced in it. here. Besides this, the garbage To deal with these probaccumulated at the corners of lems the Central Public Works the complex and its entrance



shops like paper waste, broken glasses or shreds of clothing within the premises or just at the entry points of the complex. At times, many rag pickers can

be observed going through the garbage heaps to collect the items valuable to them. According to the shopkeepers, garbage disposal has become a

big issue in the complex in the last few years but nothing is being done by the authorities. "We have complained to the officials in the Municipal

(MDDA) is responsible for providing sanitation facilities here. When we approach MDDA, they say that we should approach MCD," stated one of the shopkeepers. The district magistrate R Rajesh Kumar had also expressed his Kumar had also expressed his dissatisfaction at poor sanitation facilities in the complex his surprise inspection of Tehsil and directed the officials concerned to keep the place clean. Despite this, the sanitation condition has worsened in the complex. "When the officials are not working to improve the sanitation condition of this place even after DM's orders then how our attempts will make the situation better," questioned a garment shopkeeper in the complex.

Hindu spiritual capital said that Uttarakhand will be made a spiritual capital if his party comes to power next

Aadmi Party (AAP) has started a selfie with temple camnational convener of AAP and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had stated that spiritual capital for Hindus living all around the world if the party comes to power next year. Taking this statement a step ahead, the Chief Ministerial candidate of the party Ajay Kothiyal launched a through this, people can make

Claiming that about 24,000 people have shown their sup-

Through this campaign, more people will get to know about the importance of such ital of Hindus.

Complacency & inaction cause for serious concern: Activists

SAMRIDHI MALL DEHRADUN

As the United Nations member countries commemorate the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer on Thursday, environmentalists and activists in Uttarakhand expressed their concerns over the government's complacency and awareness about the ozone layer.

Activist and lawyer Reenu Paul said, "The people hardly talk about this. Everything depends on the leadership they don't create the kind of atmosphere where these discussions can be held and dismiss such issues as a hindrance in their development. When we talk about forestation, the government still tries to refer to old data rather than the latest one. We are in denial mode. They are coming up with projects which are not according to the state's identity. They don't see the Himalayas as a fragile mountain range, the significance of the Shivalik range, that's why we see all these disasters happening around us. They have closed their eyes to whatever is happening around us."

Activist Lokesh Ohri said, "The general attitude of the people is very constructive, they are very concerned about what is happening to our tree cover. The government seems to think in the opposite direc-

The founder of Social ness of society, which should tion, they are on an infrastructure building spree. All the Development for Communities lead to some concrete and sus-

(SDC) foundation, Anoop Nautiyal opined, "There is no resources are with the government and there seems to be a huge gap in what the people awareness among people and want and what the government even if they are aware of the issue, they are not taking suitdelivers. We should freeze any more road building activity able actions. The vast majoriand maintain the existing ones. The Government of India has ty are indulging in plastic pollution. We cannot look at indisanctioned 60 new projects on vidual days, the environmental Ganga and its tributaries, awareness has to be seen in totality by both government which should be immediately scrapped. We as a state are facand society. The government's ing several natural disasters framework needs to be year after year, but we don't strengthened to avoid loopseem to be doing anything holes and there is a need for further sensitisation and aware-

tainable action." It is pertinent to mention

that in 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed September 16 the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Montreal protocol is a global agreement to protect the Earth's ozone layer by phasing out the chemicals that deplete it.

BJP election in-charge and co-incharge to reach Doon today

PNS DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata **■** Party election incharge and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi along with the co-incharge RP Singh and Locket Chatterjee will arrive in Dehradun on Thursday. They will attend 10 programmes including four organisational meetings during their two-day state tour. The BJP state president Madan Kaushik and general secretary Ajey have finalised the schedule of their activities during the two-day stay. The BJP State media

in-charge Manveer Singh Chauhan informed that the party's election in-charge and co in-charge will arrive at the Dehradun airport at 10:30 AM.

Party workers will welcome them at 10 sites between the airport and Dilaram Chowk. The leaders will then garland the statues of BR Ambedkar at Clock Tower, Deen Dayal Upadhyay and pay tributes to statehood movement martyrs.

In the afternoon, Joshi will hold a meeting with state office bearers of the party, district heads and district in-charge. At

4 PM he will attend a meeting with members of the Sikh community, after which he will hold a meeting with the party in-charge of media and social media.

He will then attend a meeting in the night which will also be attended by the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the party's state president and the general secretary to discuss the future programmes of the

Chauhan further informed that on September 17, the leaders will participate in a sanita-

tion campaign as part of the Sewa Samarpan Diwas to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. They will also attend fruit distribution programme at the Coronation Hospital.

After that, they will attend a meeting at the BJP state office with those made election in-charge of Vidhan Sabha constituencies following which a Press conference will be held. a Press conference will be held.

The meeting of the BJP state core group will also be held in the afternoon, added

8TH INDIAN ARMY CHIEF'S CONCLAVE

Army top brass to discuss Af, **LAC** situation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tions, people familiar with the

"The 21st meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State

will be held on September 17

in Dushanbe in a hybrid for-

mat. The meeting will be

chaired by the President of

Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

will lead the Indian delegation

and address the plenary session

of the summit via video-link,"

the Ministry of External

Affairs(MEA)said here on

Wednesday. "At Dushanbe,

India will be represented by

External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar," it said in a state-

The MEA said the summit

matter said.

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

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

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

will be attended by the leaders Jaishankar will take part in of the SCO member states, meetings of the SCO expected observer states, secretary gento extensively deliberate on eral of the SCO, executive director of the SCO regional the Afghan crisis and its internal as well as external implicaanti-terrorist structure, the

president of Turkmenistan and other invited guests.

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

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

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

terweight to NATO, is an eightmember economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

Rajnath urges US def industry to transfer state of technology

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

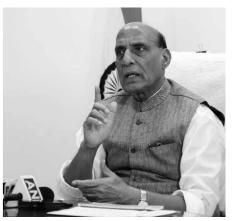
Highlighting some initiatives, the Minister said these have transformed India into a strong and reliable investment destination. He said, India is now home to stable and secure Government which focuses on economic growth through series of reforms.

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

research and development with the young minds of the country which will increase the linkages among the industries and create an ecosystem through equal contribution from academia and

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

Cong to raise price rise, unemployment issues through protest



delivering the inaugural address at the 18th India-US Economic Summit, organised by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, in New Delhi on September 15

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

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

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

77 rapes reported daily in 2020: NCRB

Number of murders record a surge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

women last year, the maximum 1,11,549 were under the category "cruelty by husband or relatives", while there were 62,300 cases of kidnapping and abduc-

85,392 cases of "assault to outrage modesty" and 3,741 cases of "attempt to commit rape",

the NCRB data showed.

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

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

Cases of kidnapping and abduction, however, went down by over 19 per cent in

2020 as compared to 2019. There were a total 84,805 lodged cases of kidnapping Besides rape, there were and abduction in 2020 as against 1,05,036 in 2019, according to the NCRB statisAmong the States, the maximum 3,779 murder cases in 2020 were lodged in Uttar Pradesh followed by Bihar (3,150), Maharashtra (2,163), Madhya Pradesh (2,101) and West Bengal (1,948), the data

Delhi logged 472 murder cases in 2020.

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

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

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

napping and abduction cases

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

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

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

plan for agitations after identifying the issues and will present the report to Sonia Gandhi for Bora and Udit Raj also suggested that a senior leader like Rahul Gandhi should take over as party chief and lead protests across the country to make

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

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

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also participated in the meeting that was held at the party's "war Rakab Ganj road. She also called for raising the issue of plight of MSMEs due to wrong" economic policies,

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

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

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

Meanwhile, Rahul on

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

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

Record 44 students score 100 percentile in JEE-Main



PNS NEW DELH

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

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

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

ond in March.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Antiviral drug Umifenovir can check Covid virus multiplication: CDRI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

"In a study, double-blind mode

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

Studies by CDRI in collaboration with CSIR-IMT, Chandigarh, also showed that Umifenovir exhibits good cell culture inhibition of SARSČov2, which suggests that the drug inhibits the entry of SARS-Cov2 virus into human cells.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Anil Kumar MD of Patliputra Builders Ltd held under PMLA



PNS ■ NEW DELH

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

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

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

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

Kerala logs 17,681 new Covid cases

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

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

However, 17,681 fresh positive cases, reported in the last 24 hours, out of 97,070 samples tested during the same period, gives a figure of more than 18 per cent.

Among the 14 Thiruvananthapuram recorded the highest with 2,143 fresh cases followed by Kottayam (1,702), Kozhikode (1,680), Ernakulam (1,645), Thrissur (1,567) Palakkad (1,558), Malappuram (1,372), Kollam (1,348), Alappuzha (969) and Kannur (967), the release said. Of the new cases, 97 were health workers, 47 from outside the state and 16,656 infected through contact, with the source of the contact not being clear in 881 cases, it said. There are currently 5,61,239 people

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

Bengal extends corona restrictions till Sept 30

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

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

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

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

Didi supports farm stir, asks Centre to withdraw farm bills

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

 $B^{\text{engal Chief Minister Mamata}}_{\text{Banerjee on Wednesday reiterated}}$ her stance against the Farmers' Bill and asked the Centre to withdraw it pledging her support for the Punjab farm-

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

Speaking to a collection of Sikh gentry inside the most revered

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

Even as a section of the people said

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

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

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

stituency has a good 5,000 Punjabi vot-

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

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

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

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

BJP MP Arjun Singh gets Z category security

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

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

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

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

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

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



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

2 Kerala Cong leaders quit, join CPI(M)

sion to decimate the Congress in Kerala, if the latest developments in the State are

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

Anil Kumar is the second leader of the Congress to join the CPI(M) in the last fortnight. P S Prasanth, another regional satrap from Thiruvananthapuram., who was the assembly constituency, too had shocked the Congress leadership by joining the It is the fall out of the organisation-

al restructuring of the Congress, with the appointment of K Sudhakaran as president of the KPCC and V D Satheeshan as Leader of the Opposition which led to a cascading effect in the party. Interestingly, no senior leaders from the Congress had joined the CPI(M) since T K Hamza, the then DCC president of Malappuram in 1987.
The CPI(M) had never encouraged

party hoppers to join them. But the latest trend has come as a surprise to political pundits in the State. "They may be preparing for a clean sweep in the 2024 Lok Sabha election and the 2026 assembly election. The 2021 election results has

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

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

Chandi and former LoP Ramesh Chennithala who felt let down by the Congress High Command during the reorganisation of the DCCs are upset and are on a warpath with the party leader-

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

The Bishop while addressing a

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

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

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

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

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

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

No recce in Mumbai, weapons or explosives not found: Maha ATS chief more about the case. We want to

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

Shaikh took a train from Mumbai Central for Hazrat Nizamuddin in Delhi on September 13 and he was arrested by a Delhi Police team at Kota in Rajasthan on Tuesday. "It was their case and operation," Agrawal said. "We are coordinating with Delhi

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

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

know the exact conspiracy or terror plans and will also share whatever information we have with Delhi Police," Agrawal said. Meanwhile, the Mumbai crime

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

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

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

"He worked as a driver and was

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Govt open for discussion on NEP: Karnataka CM

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

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

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

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

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

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

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

into 1,500 pages.

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

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

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

Kundra, who is the founder Viaan Industries Ltd, and his United Kingdom-based brothLondon, have been named masterminds of the porn content racket.

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

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

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

Mumbai cops file supplementary chargesheet against Kundra who is married to Kundra's sister - is the Chairman of

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

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

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

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

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

victed Kajal, Manjit Khokar, Suleman, and Niraj Mishra to seven years each and also imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on each of them. According to prosecution officer Sandeep

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

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

Maha: 16-year-old rape victim commits suicide

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

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

According to the police, the girl was allegedly raped by a relative of her step-mother in June, following which a police complaint was lodged and the accused was arrested, the official said. The accused, who was charged for

rape, was recently released on bail from

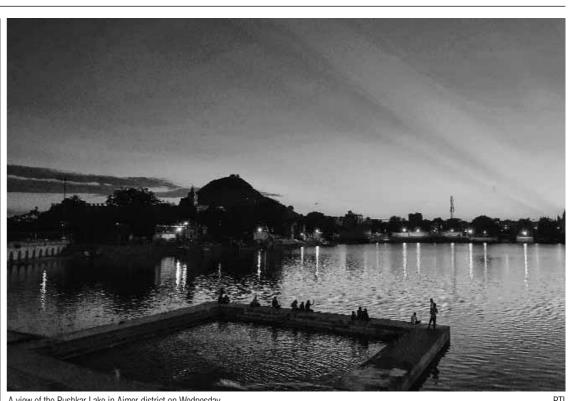
the central jail, he said, adding that the girl had been depressed ever since. The deceased teen's body has been sent for post-mortem and a case of accidental death has been registered, the

Kerala school teacher booked over minor student's suicide

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

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

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



A view of the Pushkar Lake in Ajmer district on Wednesday

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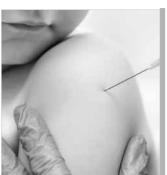
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- PAPER WITH PASSION

Get that jab

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

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



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

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

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



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

Taking wings

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

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



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

was delayed due to the pandemic. Therefore, Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had made it clear that September 15, 2021 would be the last day for submitting the bid and would not be changed.

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

The national theatre of absurd



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Recently, the Twitter CEO donated generously to an RSS-supported NGÓ. To put it in perspective, Jack Dorsey, CEO of Twitter, donated \$2.5 million in his personal capac-

ity to Sewa International, an affiliate of the RSS. Dorsey's announcement sparked off controversy on Twitter itself but that proved nothing more than a storm in a teacup. What is interesting is that the grant came at a time when Twitter had suspended accounts of the right-wingers for hate speech. It included an account of actress Kangana Ranaut's. It was seen as an attempt to stifle right-wing voices; interesting coincidences there.

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HEAT OF THE 'MYSTERY FEVER'

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

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

G David Milton | *Maruthancode*

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

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

A vision beyond religion



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

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

TOO MANY NAMESAKES

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

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

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

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Banerjee for passing of a long-pending resolution of the State Assembly to rename the state as Bangla, thus removing the ever-confusing prefix 'west'.

There has been gradual change in names and spellings of cities but the process still remains incomplete even after decades of independence. Distorted spellings such as Jullender and Simla by the British have been rectified to Jalandhar and Shimla. But spellings of cities like Delhi and Bareilly as per actual pronunciation are still to be modified. Delhi is a distorted version of Dehli, meaning entrance. Countries like Bangladesh and China have already respelled names of their capitals as per actual pronunciation. There are too many Rampurs and Bilaspurs in India which require renaming to avoid confusion. These places can be renamed after the heroic characters from India's history.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

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

> **Delhi Chief Minister** — Arvind Kejriwal



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

South African President - Cyril Ramaphosa

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

The role of *Maadi*





he has to open the batting because he is not going to

Former England cricketer

 Gautam Gambhir Post the implemen-

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

> **Delhi Deputy Chief Minister** - Manish Sisodia

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TESLA

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



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

here are many ways in which decision-making can be structured or planning can be done. There are many ways in which the struggle for the control of the decision-making processes takes place. Ultimately, those who emerge victors in the various competing ways of doing something carry the day. The articulate in the group become cheer leaders and those who care or dare to oppose are either eliminated or left to languish or perish. This happens in matters big and small. The last few weeks have seen the emasculation of an army which was proclaimed to be one of the finest equipped in the world. The current ruling elite in Afghanistan have made no bones about their distaste for matters such as democratically elected governance. They are in control and some of the mightiest powers in the world are ready to encourage this regime. Clearly the jury has not even convened, let alone 'be out' for a decision. The international system has yet again proved



its ineptness in sufficiently holding out values and making worthwhile moves to push for them. Even the so-called cause of women's rights in Afghanistan has not echoed much in any significant part of the world. Staunch proponents of gender equality can be seen occasionally demonstrating in some city, somewhere. Indeed, counter collectives reportedly have gathered of women in Afghanistan proclaiming, in effect, that the country's establishment's views on the status of women is indeed correct and must prevail. Philosophy has little scope to sort out a seemingly contentious views especially when there are few listeners. The international bodies including the United Nations are observing a thundering silence on this issue. Almost all of the global women's movements have suddenly dried up in the dreary desert sands of abject disinterest.

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

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

Import duty cutback on Tesla is no good



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

FOOT PRINT

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

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

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

If we reduce tariff on fullyassembled electric cars and cars of other companies, say, Volkswagen who have also started staking

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

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

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

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

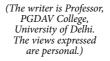
Fourthly, we should not also forget that Tesla's business model company does not give any opportunity to the domestic auto components manufacturers.

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

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

Thirdly, we must leverage the

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



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



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

Taxing the new-age digital companies

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

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

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

companies to levy taxes. This inconsistency has led to an urgent need to amend



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

international taxation laws.

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



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

business relation between any

According to the recommendation of BEPS Action Plan 1, a non-resident enterprise would be taxable if it has

profit of a non-resident entity.

a SEP in that country, engaged in a focussed, continuous and sustained engagement with the economy with the help of technology and automation. Interestingly, India has been one of the early movers in this direction. As amending the existing tax laws is a timetaking process, a committee was set under the guidance of

the Central Board of Direct taxes (CBDT), the apex tax administrative body in India, that recommended, in 2016, an equalization levy of six percent as a viable option for India in online advertising and ancil-Instagram, and social netlary services. Later on, by works and other engagement-

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

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

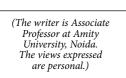
based platforms, like Whatsapp, WeChat and Tiktok, under the ambit of Indian taxation rules, subject to their incomes or user base crossing the prescribed thresh-

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

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

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

Agreement (DTAA) India has



Pakistan Govt open to pardon TTP members

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

reports of TTP figures being released from prisons in the

Afghanistan, Qureshi said, "If those guys come and start creating problems for us over here, it will affect innocent lives and we don't want that."

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

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

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

wake of the Taliban takeover of Taliban administration's announcement that they would not allow any terrorist groups to use their soil against any country, including Pakistan.

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

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

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

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

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

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters here that the US has no legitimate reasons to freeze Afghanistan's assets.

Asked about the Taliban's demand that the US should unfreeze Afghanistan's assets stating that they belong to the people of Afghanistan and the

a legal action possible to get the funds released, Zhao said, "I think that the (Taliban's) spokesperson is right".

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

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

power in Afghanistan last

month, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank halted their aid to the wartorn country which largely depends upon the flow of foreign funds. According to reports from Afghanistan's economy is near collapse even as the United Nations has made hectic efforts to galvanise global efforts to rush food and essential supplies.

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

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

A foreign exchange crunch

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

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

Afghan female footballers evade Taliban, reach Pak

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

The move to bring the 32



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

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

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

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, AMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (JPDCL), JÁMMMU

POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Tel/Fax No: 0191-2562593, e-Mail: xened1power@gmail.com

e- NIT No: ED-I/e-NIT/42 of 2021-22

Dated: 11.09.2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the

Executive Engineer (Distribution), JPDCL, ED-I, Parade, Jammu, hereinafter referred as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered contractors for "Supply, Erection, Testing & Commisssioning of 11 KV line including dismantling of existing HT Line 0.250 Kms. of Jacti local feeder to avoid crossing in the Premises of IIM, Jammu and Supply, Erection, Testing & Commisssioning of 11 KV line including dismantling of existing HT Line 0.250 Kms. of feeder at IIT Jagti to avoid crossing over the IIM, Jagti Under the jurisdiction of Electric Division Div.-I (JPDCL) Jammu. On Turn Key basis.' (on Turn Key basis)

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications. 2. The tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested

Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below A. Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date :- 11.09.2021; (10:00 AM onwards)

B. Tender Document Sale/Download End Date: -04.10.2021; (upto 02:00 PM) C. e-Bid submission (start) date & time :- 13.09.2021; (10:00 AM onwards) D. e-Bid submission (end) date & time :- 04.10.2021; (upto 02:00 PM)

E. Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee & EMD Instrument (End) date & time 04.10.2021 (up to 04:00 PM) F. Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time: -05.10.2021; 02:00 PM

G. Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders):-Will be communicated to the Technically Qualifying Bidders. H. Venue of opening of techno-commercial Bids :- Office of Executive Engineer, JPDCL, Ed-I, Parade, Jammu

I. Tender Value :- Rs. 26.11 lacs (funds in pipeline)

J. Cost of e-Bid document :- Rs. 10000 (Rupees one thousand only) (Non-Refundable)

K. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): - Bid securing declaration form as per Format enclosed (In reference to Circular No. A/Misc.(2018)-III-895/J Dated 22-12-2020 issued by Finance Department Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir)

No. DIP/J-2927-P/21

Sd/- Executive Engineer JPDCL, Electric Division-I Parade Jammu.

ISIS bride wants chance to face UK courts, fight terror

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

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

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

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

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

UK bans Chinese envoy from Parl; angry Beijing condemns move

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

Rishi Sunak, Priti Patel retain top iobs as Boris **shuffles Cabinet**

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris
Johnson on Wednesday undertook a reshuffle of his top team, keeping two of his senior Indian-origin Cabinet Ministers Rishi Sunak and Priti Patel in their posts. Sunak will remain next

door to Johnson at Downing Street as his Chancellor of the Exchequer and Patel, who had been at the centre of some speculation of being moved, remains in her post as Home Secretary. Sunak, the son-inlaw of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, has been in his post since February last year and has led the UK's financial response to the Covid-19.

Patel, whose parents are of Gujarati-Ugandan descent, has been the Home Secretary since July 2019. However, among the senior ministers being shuffled around include Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who accepted a demotion to take charge as the new Justice Secretary, alongside his other roles of Lord Chancellor and Deputy Prime Minister.

Khalistanis gaining ground in US: Report **India's appeals**

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

to curb them

fall on deaf ears

Pakistan-backed Khalistani separatist groups, banned by the Indian Government, are quietly gaining ground in the US, a top American think tank has warned, ruing that Washington has so far remained indifferent to the appeals made by New Delhi to curb their destabilising anti-India activities.

The US-based Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) is a pro-Khalistan group. In 2019, the Indian government banned it for its alleged anti-national activities.

The SFJ had pushed for Sikh Referendum 2020 as part of its separatist agenda. It openly espouses the cause of Khalistan and in that process challenges the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. The outlawed group's primary

objective is to establish an "independent and sovereign country" in Punjab.

In its 'Pakistan's
Destabilization Playbook:

Khalistani Activism in the US' report published on Tuesday, the Hudson Institute examines the conduct of "Khalistan and Kashmir separatist groups within the United States" to investigate their support by The report looks at these

groups' ties to militant and terrorist outfits in India, and the possible detrimental effects of their activities on US foreign policy in South Asia. The report demonstrates

that "like Pakistan-based Islamist terrorist groups, the Khalistan groups can emerge under new names."

"Unfortunately, the United States government has shown no interest in violence committed by Khalistan activists, even though the Khalistan campaign's most ardent supporters are located in western countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada and the

United States.

Govt. 🎏 of Bihar

BIHAR STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO. LTD., PATNA (A subsidiary company of Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd., Patna) CIN- U40102BR2012SGC018889

Description of work

Date of opening of price part

Date of opening of Techno-Commercial Bid (Part-I):

Head Office, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800021 Email address- cetransom.bsptcl@gmail.com Mob. No.7763817721 Website- www.bsptcl.ir Tender Notice (NIT) NO.- 35/PR/BSPTCL/2021 (Through e-procurement mode only -www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Cost of B.O.O.

To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation

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

		WC 0.51	Refundable)(Rs.)	Fee(Rs.)	500.07.0000.00	
Design, Manufacture, testing, supply & delivery of 33KV, 1600A, 25KA, C2-M2 Class Vacuum Breaker with support structures, marshaling boxes, terminal connectors (suitable for ACSR Moose) etc- 150Sets	3.77 Cr	7,54,728.00	11,800	5,900	6(Six) Months from NOA	
Bid submission Start Date and Ti	From 15:00 Hrs. of 29.09.2021					
Date of Pre-bid meeting (via onli	On	On 11:00 Hrs. of 04.10.2021				
Rid submission End Date and Tim	The	Up to 15:00 Hrs. of 20 10 2021				

E.M.D.

(www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) "Bid Processing Fee is mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e. Internet Payment Gateway (Credit/Debit Card), Net Banking, NEFT/RTGS"

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

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

Pre-Bid meeting for the Tender shall be conducted via online mode. Interested bidders must provide the details viz. contact and email address to the Mob no.-7763817768 before schedule pre-bid meeting date. $Tender\,may\,be\,cancelled\,at\,any\,stage\,by\,the\,competent\,authority\,without\,refunding\,the\,Cost$

Bidder should have valid GST and all other applicable tax registration certificate and copies of the same duly attested shall be furnished. No separate transportation cost shall be paid and the bidder shall have to quote the rate

inclusive of transportation cost and all taxes. Eligibility Criteria, tender documents along with General/Special condition, bids and any

 $corrigen dum/addendum\ of\ the\ tender\ are\ available\ only\ at\ website\ www.eproc2. bihar.gov. in$ Chief Engineer (O&M)

www.eproc2.bihar.gov.inand e-Procurement Help Desk Toll free No: 1800 572 6571 , Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays).

While participating in e-tendering process, the contractor shall have to get them registered to get user ID,
Passwords and digital signature. This will enable them to access the Website: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in only

'विवादों के निष्पादन के लिए लोक अदालत का लाभ उठायें परस्पर सहमति से न्यायिक निर्णय प्राप्त करेंसमय एवं खर्च की बचत करें।" For further details please visit website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 🚁 Toll Free No.: 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED, IN CZECH GAS BLAST

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

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

SMALL PLANE CRASHES IN INDONESIA'S PAPUA

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

SRI LANKAN PRISONS MINISTER RESIGNS Colombo: Sri Lankan Prisons

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

Iran's nuclear chief admits removal of damaged IAEA cameras

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

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

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

Eslami's comments come days after

Kim Jong Un's

sister warns of

'destruction' of

AP ■ SEOUL

hours apart.

South Korean ties

The powerful sister of Pool in Rolling Control of the State of the Sta ¬he powerful sister of North Korean leader

South Korea's President and threatened a

"complete destruction" of bilateral relations after

both of the countries tested ballistic missiles

return of tensions between the rivals at a time

when talks aimed at stripping North Korea of

Korean President Moon Jae-in for comments

he made while observing his country's missile

tests, including its first of a submarine-launched

ballistic missile. Moon said South Korea's

growing missile capabilities will serve as a "sure

deterrence" against North Korean provocations.

The tests came hours after the South

its nuclear program are stalled.

The launches of missiles underscored a

Kim's sister, Kim Yo Jong, criticised South

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

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

about the agency's broken surveil-lance cameras, Eslami said Wednesday they were damaged during recent "terrorist operations," without elaborating.

Taiwan drills military as concerns over China grow

screeched across the sky on Wednesday before landing on a highway cut through pineapple fields in southwestern Taiwan to refuel quickly and take off again.

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

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

Jiadong (Taiwan): The F-16 and strategizing over an effective response.

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

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

TENDER NOTICE

No.SSA/CW/KGBV-Lumding/264/2020/7584

Dated - 14/09/2021

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

Name of Work	Package No	Place	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
CONSTRUCTION OF KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (CLASS VI TO X) (ACADEMIC BLOCK ASSAM TYPE WITH RCC HOSTEL BUILDING (G+2) (KGBV-TYPE-II), SSA, ASSAM	1L	Lumding ,Hojai	Rs.1,91,28,9 00.00 [Per site]	12 (twelve months)	Rs.3,82,578.00 (for General) Rs.1,91,289.00 (for reserved Category) [PER SITE]	The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Guwahati -19	Rs.5000.00

সৰ্বশিক্ষা অভিযান, অসম

👺 শিক্ষাৰ অধিকাৰ -

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

Korean and Japanese militaries said North Korea had fired two ballistic missiles Janasanyog/CF/1344/21

AUTOMOTIVE, DRONE INDUSTRIES

Govt approves ₹26k crore PLI scheme

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

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

scheme for drones with clear revenue targets and focus on domestic value addition is key to building capacity and making these key drivers of India's growth strategy.

The PLI for Drones and

Drone components industry, will over a period of three years, lead to investments worth ₹5,000 Crore, increase in eligible sales of ₹1500 crore and create additional employment of about 10,000 jobs," the Government said in a state-

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

"A product specific PLI associated components, launch and recovery systems, Inertial Measurement Unit, Inertial Navigation System, flight control module, ground control station and associated compo-

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

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

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

Pharma and HDFC Bank were

among the laggards, shedding

Union Cabinet on Wednesday

approved a relief package for

the telecom sector that includes

In big bang reforms, the

up to 0.38 per cent.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

the 30-share BSE Sensex surged 476.11 points or 0.82 per cent to close at its new all-time high of 58,723.20. It touched an intra-day record of 58,777.06. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 139.45 points or 0.80 per cent to its fresh clos-

ing record of 17,519.45. During the session, it touched an alltime peak of 17,532.70. NTPC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 7.16 per cent, followed by

HCL Tech, Titan, SBI, PowerGrid, TCS and IndusInd Bank also notched up gains. On the other hand, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, UltraTech

Cement, Nestle India, Sun

Bharti Airtel at 4.53 per cent.

a four-year moratorium on payment of statutory dues by telecom companies as well as allowing 100 per cent foreign investment through the automatic route. The Cabinet also approved

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

the cash-strapped sector. This is positive for banks, too, since banks' exposure too will decline significantly," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

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

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

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

modative stance.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that as part of the reforms in the telecom sector, the Cabinet has allowed a four-year moratorium on all dues that telecom operators have to pay to the government, including annual payments of dues arising out of the AGR judgment and spectrum purchased in past auctions exclud-

The government has given the option to telecom operators to pay the interest amount arising due to deferment of

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

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

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

FinMin asks IBA to play pivotal role in resurgence of economy



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

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

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

Inaugurating the Delhi office of IBA, the secretary suggested that the Association can also look at providing training and skilling to middle management banking professionals so as to unburden banks in the same task

"IBA has a pivotal role to play in terms of research and key banking issues and a sig-nificant role to play in the resurgence of the economy in the 75th year of India's independence," he said.

During the occasion, IBA Chairman Raikiran Rai said IBA's transformation started in 2018 and is now more closely involved in the business side operations than mere advoca-

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

Govt to sell 5% in Hindustan Copper via OFS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Reconfigure

Talling for repurposing

Udamaging incentives to the

agriculture sector that is price

distorting and environmental-

ly and socially harmful, a new

United Nations (UN) report

has said reconfiguring agricul-

tural producer support rather

than eliminating it will help

The report, 'A multi-billion

fight climate change better.

Repurposing agricultural sup-

port to transform food systems,

launched late on Tuesday night

by the Food and Agriculture

Organisation (FAO), the UN

Development Programme

(UNDP) and the UN

Environment Programme

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

agricultural producer

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

Promoter...Proposes to sell up to 48,351,201 equity shares of

(UNEP) has found that the cur-

rent support to producers

mostly consists of price incen-

tives. These price incentives

such as import tariffs and export subsidies, as well as fis-

cal subsidies are tied to the pro-

duction of a specific commodity or input." These are ineffi-

cient, distort food prices, hurt

people's health, degrade the

environment, and are often

inequitable, putting big agri-

farmers, a large share of whom are women," the report said.

ers in the agricultural sector

amounts to \$540 billion per

year, making up 15 per cent of

total agricultural production

Global support to produc-

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

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

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA Regional Office: 4, Nehru Place, Tonk Road, Jaipur-15 (Raiasthan)

An e-tender notice is invited, under two-bid system for appointment of regular Roal Transport Contractor on **GeM Portal** for two years from various dispatching Center

to various receiving centers of Rajasthan region.

Under e-tender notice ROJ/CONTRACT/RTC/03/2021, the bids shall be accepted.

ONLINE from 16.09.2021, 02.30 PM to 06.10.2021, 02.00 PM. All the Terms of Conditions and other details are available on Government E-Marketplace (GeM Conditions and other details are available on Government Conditions and Order Website https://gem.gov.in and Corporation's website www.fci.gov.in. General Manager (Region



UJVN LIMITED

Date Extension Notice-05 Due to unavoidable reasons the Date of Submission & opening of the

e-NIT No. NCB/01/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22 & NCB/02/EE/PCM DKP/TN/2021-22 invited by the office of the Executive Engineer Project Civil Maintenance-Dakpathar is being extended as below

Last Date & Time for submission of bids on the portal Upto 17:00 hrs of 18.10.2021

Information regarding Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation etc. of tender may be obtained from the website

Full & Further Details of tender can be seen from the e-procurement porta "https://uktenders.gov.in" **Executive Engineer (PCM)**



Delhi, Age: 10 years, Height: 3'4" Built: Medium, wearing Multi colour T-Shirt, Half Blue colour Jeans Nikkar and Blue colour Chappal in feet, has

been missing from nearby area of Ashoka Park Metro P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi.

the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned. Website : http://cbi.nic.in

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

BOARD

CORP./AUTH

SR.

DP/551/WD/2021

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Sunny, S/o Vinod, R/o Jhuggi near Sai Baba Mandir, Madipur Metro Station, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval,

SHO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

Station since 03.09.2021. In this regard a FIR No. 835/21 U/S 363 IPC, dated 05.09.2021 has been registered at Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out

Fax: 011-24368639

Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi Ph. No.: 8287641531, 8750871124

OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO.13/UH/MM/XEN/P-

IV/QHII/2061 DATED 29.07.2021 2021_HBC_181696_1

ing the March 2021 auction.

payment by way of equity.

per cent level.

"We look forward to work-

ing with the Government of India and other industry players in reaching all the goals and milestones of the Digital India vision, so that we can collectively make every sector of the economy productive and enhance the ease of living for every Indian," Jio said.

ASHNOOR TEXTILE MILLS LIMITED

Corporate Identity Number: L17226HR1984PLC033384
Regd. Office: Behrampur Road, Village Khandsa, District Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 Phone: 0124 4809755; E-mail: atml_delhi@yahoo.com; Web: ashnoortex.com

NOTICE OF 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION FOR REMOTE E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE

the Company will be held through Video Conferencing ("**VC"**) / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. to transact the business a set forth in the notice of the AGM, in compliance with General Circular No. 02/2021 dated 13th January, 2021 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs(MCA) read with General Circular No. 20/2020 dated 5th May, 2020, General Circular Nos. 14 & 17/2020 dated 8th April, 2020 and 13th April, 2020 respectively, Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") Circular No. SEBI/HO/ CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated 15th January 2021 and No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/ CIR/P/2020/79 dated 12th May, 2020 (collectively referred as ("relevant circulars") permitted convening AGM through VC / OAVM, without the physical presence of the members at a common venue. In accordance with relevant circulars the AGM of the Company through VC / OAVM shall be deemed to convene at the registered office of the Company. Members will able to attend the AGM through VC/DAVM or view the live webcast at https://instemeet.linkintime.co.in. All the members participating through VC / OAVM facility shall be counted for the purpose of quorun under section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

In compliance relevant circulars notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for the financial year 2020-2021 has been sent on September 6, 2021 only through electronic mode to those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depositories. Members may note that the Notice and Annual Report for the financial year 2020–2021 will be available on the Company's website www.ashnoortex.com, website of the Stock Exchange, i.e., BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com, and on the website of Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent, Link Intime India Private Limited at www.linkintime.co.in.

The Company is providing to its members facility to exercise their right to vote on la vd MDA te hasser before the AGM or during the AGM in respect of all the businesses to be transacted at the aforesaid meeting using electronic voting system to be provided by Link Intime India Private Limited. Remote e-voting period will start on Monday, 27th September, 2021 (9:30 A.M. IST) and ends at Wednesday, 29th September, 2021 (5:30 P.M. IST). During this period shareholders of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date (record date) of Thursday, September 23, 2021 may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting thereafter. Detailed procedure for voting by electronic means is given in the notice of the AGM. The members who have cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting may attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote(s) again in AGM. Pursuant to Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements)

Regulations, 2015 and Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant Rules he Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from Friday, September 24, 2021 to Thursday, September 30, 2021 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM. Any person becomes a member of the Company after mailing of the of notice of AGM but

before cut-off date may obtain login ID and password by sending request to Mr. Swapan Kumar Naskar, AVP-North, Link Intime India Private Limited at Noble Heights, 1st Floor, Plot NH 2 C-1 Block LSC, Near Savitri Market, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 (Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent) at email ID-swapann@linkintime.co.in or phone number- +91 11 49411000 for obtaining the credentials for remote e-voting. However, a person is already registered with LIIPL for e-voting than existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.

In case of queries/grievances regarding e-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-Voting manual available at https://instavote.linkintime.co.in, under help section or write an email to delhi@linkintime.co.in / enotices@linkintime.co.in or may call at :- Tel : +91-11-49411000 / 022-49186000 or write to Mr. Swapan Kumar Naskar or write to the Company at atml agm@yahoo.co.in.

For and behalf of Ashnoor Textile Mills Limited

Place: Gurugram, Haryana

Managing Director DIN-00052084

BOARD

CORP./AUTH

NODAL

OFFICER/CONTACT

DETAILS/EMAIL

cemm@uhbvn.org.in

RO NO. 4740

n No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Railway Station to Greater Noida for connecting Terminal 3 of IGI Airport

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Md. Usman Qureshi S/o Md. Haji Mustkin Qureshi R/o H. No. 98A, DDA Flat, Shastri Park, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. 118/18 U/s 63/65 CR Act dated 19.05.2018 registered at P.S. Seelampur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said Md. Usman Qureshi could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Md. Usman Qureshi has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Md. Usman Qureshi is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 21.10.2021.

(Court Notice)

By Order Sh. Arun Kumar Garg, DP/1029/NE/2021 Metropolitian Magistrate - 03, Room No. 68 Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara, Delhi

Appeal for Identification



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

> General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 65 Yrs., Height: 5'6", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish Face: Long, Built: Thin, ID Marks: Something written on right hand but unreadable., Place of Recovery: Near Elect. Room PF No. 11, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

> > Ph.: 011-23961522

In this regard DD No. 15 A, U/s 174 Cr.PC, Dated 12.09.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign. SHO P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi

DP/254/RLY/2021

Lost & Found Notice here by given Tejpal Singh Kohli S/c Kulbir Singh Kohli R/o L-7 Rajouri Garden New Delhi-27.a member of The Panchshee Cooperative House Building Society office at House no.107, Telephone exchange colony Zirakpur Distt Mohali Punjab membership no.7, Plot no. 84 The Panchsheel Cooperative House Building Society Ltd Ajitgarh, Distt Mohal

Punjab declare that I have lost original

receipts Rs 3000 and Rs 5110 and share

certificate in my favour and | have applied

for duplicate share certificate, receipt of

payment and allotment letter. If anyone

have objection please contact within

15 days to secretary of the society

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi **TENDER NOTICE** Date: 16.09.2021 Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-Date & Time of Opening **Brief Item Description** CMC/BR/21- SUPPLY OF 4 WAY O/D MOTORISED RMU 29.09.2021 29.09.2021 6.20.000/ 22/RB/RJ/952 WITH FRTU IN BRPL CMC/BR/21- SUPPLY OF 630 kVA DRY TYPE DT IN BRPL 05.10.2021 05.10.2021 5,70,000/ 15:30 HRS 16: 00 HRS Cost of each Tender Document :: ₹ 1180/-For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@relianceada.com

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)

NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM

PROCUREMENT OF GI HEXAGONAL NUTS AND BOLTS UHBVN & DHBVN, DATE OF

SUBMISSION UPTO 20.09.2021 (13.00 HRS.)



SLUMBER, THE BEST MEDICINE

Digital health technologies are the vehicles of change and awareness for ensuring a good night's sleep, says DR SIBASISH DEY

The ongoing pandemic has spurred the adoption of digital health technologies across the country. People far and wide have resorted to online consultations and remote monitoring tools to treat diseases. The government of India also launched the National Digital Health Mission to advance the healthcare ecosystem and fuel the adoption of telemedicine and telemonitoring.

Digital healthcare tools and techniques enable remote monitoring of patients, bridging the accessibility gap between the doctor and the patient. They also help reduce the impact of the dismal doctor-patient ratio in India, which currently stands at 1:1445 (one doctor for every 1445 patients). The ideal ratio, as prescribed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), is 1:1000. Overall, digital healthcare and the data collected helps the medical community to predict health problems, develop effective solutions and advance medical research. Digital healthcare has also given sleep awareness an exponential boost. More people willingly are undertaking sleep tests and subsequent therapies today.

But why should sleep be moni-

Sleep is one of the most important biological processes that help the body to function properly. It allows the body enough time to rest and aids in healing and repairing blood vessels, muscles, and even the heart. When we sleep, memory consolidation happens. Our thoughts and experiences are organised and stored in our memory for quick recall at a later stage. Productivity during the day is better, while reaction to various challenges is faster and more effective. Even though sleep has multiple benefits, a good night's sleep is not common amongst most people, given today's erratic lifestyle and working



Though our work schedules and lifestyle highly impact our sleeping patterns, negligence is the biggest cause of unhealthy sleep cycles. We respect the importance of food and exercise in our lives but do not give sleep the attention it deserves. Ironically, sleep tends to be way more critical. Another vital aspect to consider here is the quality of sleep. We may sleep for over seven hours each day; still, if it is interrupted, the purpose is lost. This leads to sleeping issues such as insomnia and sleep apnea. Sleeping disorders like sleep apnea have detrimental effects on our bodies, making their diagnosis and treatment even more critical. In a country with over 1.3 billion people, sleep awareness remains an unspoken subject to date. India is the second most sleep-deprived country globally, with an average of seven hours, one minute of sleep and is only ahead of Japan.

Innovation in digital technologies

As evident from the data above, India is a sleep-deprived country. Apart from the unimportance given to it, the primary reason is the awareness gap and unavailability of suitable infrastructure to support sleep testing. Polysomnography, the study of sleep, requires a sleep laboratory. It is expensive and a tedious process, so people do not willingly undertake it. The introduction of digital solutions for sleep disorder testing and treatment has given manageable and easy to apply devices that are now available in the comfort of our homes. They are user friendly, cost-effective, and enable remote monitoring of the patient. For example, continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) therapy has proven to be an effective connected treatment option for sleep-disordered breathing, commonly known as Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA), at home. Administered with the help of a modest size device,



it pushes air into the patient's breathing system with a calibrated pressure that opens the obstructed airway.

Similarly, testing of sleep disorders has transitioned from sleep labs to our bedrooms with simple wearable devices. The easy access and increasing awareness about overall well-being have also encouraged people to undertake sleep tests even on experiencing mild symptoms of sleep disorders. India's medical fraternity has also begun considering sleep disorders as a possible cause of multiple chronic ailments such as hypertension and cardiovascular issues and have started recommending sleep testing and therapy to their patients.

The road ahead

Even though digital healthcare solutions have pushed sleep awareness, the need of the hour is also a nationwide awareness campaign about the various types of sleep disorders and

the consequences. An erratic lifestyle and long working hours resulting from the pandemic have put our health at significant risk, making it essential to monitor our sleep

A healthy sleep cycle impacts our overall well-being in numerous ways. Apart from keeping our productivity in check, it also improves our cardiovascular system, blood pressure, mental health, keeps obesity in check, and multiple other things. The key takeaway here is that we must practice a healthy sleep routine. If anyone experiences morning headaches, daytime fatigue, and other associated symptoms, they should consult a sleep-specialist. A night of sound sleep leads to a healthy mind and a healthy body.

(The author is the head of medical affairs at ResMed, a medical equipment company, in India and



Confidence and comfort over style

SIDDHARTH GROVER highlights why women's closets are incomplete without a good collection of lingerie

In the present times, modern women prefer possess-Ing lingerie that is comfortable and size appropriate. Passé are the days when inner-wear was solely the dire need for females. It is no longer a dream for them to own colourful and seductive lingerie. Rather, it has now become a style quotient symbol that helps them gain happiness and confidence beyond comfort and cover-

The consumer psyche has undergone a major shift and women prefer variety not only in clothes but in lingerie as well. Their innerwear now occupies a prominent position in their closet. In fact, they have a lingerie wardrobe that they regularly maintain and wish to own lingerie that is simple, comfortable, and skin-

The rising prominence of a lingerie wardrobe amongst females

Lingerie is now recognized as modern times' trendy underclothing product that helps boost the self-morale and enhances the beauty of a female rather than just acting as a mere coverall. Females nowadays are indepen-

dent, bold, and explicitly share about their choices and preferences. Well-fitting lingerie has become their ideal companion now and hence they want nothing but the best.

Just like the branded clothes, intimate wear also has its dedicated space in the females' closets. Rather, they now

have a lingerie wardrobe that simply refers to having a variety. Women are always on the lookout for options that offer comfort and yet are voguish in design. However, they also desire to have innerwear that is vibrant, attractive, and sexy at the same time. Variety in fabric, design, style, and colors is something that they vouch for!

Since following fashion seems to be the new fad, with the change in dressing styles and fashion statements, the need for a variety of innerwear is also driven. The female community in ultra-modern times loves to experiment. They are also aware that lingerie can make or break your outfit and that the right pieces can impose a remarkable impact. Hence, they opt for matching their innerwear or contrasting it with their clothes.

Their collection now has t-shirt bras specifically for less and off-shoulder bras for designer tops and dresses along with a diverse variety of thongs and bikini bottoms as well as other underwear variants for special occasions. They also own innerwear in nude, white, black, along with neon and other colours that pop out and add stylish hues to their outfits. Camisoles, spaghettis, and so on, to be worn under dresses are a part of their lingerie wardrobe nowadays as well. The sole reason for this is that any single type of innerwear won't suffice their requirement and won't compliment the kinds of clothes that modern females wear. Hence, owning a lingerie wardrobe with diversity is important

Summing up

The innerwear industry is also leaving no stone unturned so as to bring about innovations and cater to the rising as well as diverse requirements of the female consumers. It is proliferating significantly in order to match up with the surging demands.

Lingerie is the first thing we put on while dressing up. A good experience with the right innerwear can be mesmerising but a bad one can turn out to be horrifying or even a nightmare. Hence, females now love their innerwear immensely. They choose the one that fits their bill of comfort, style, and fitting and are dedicating their attention towards building their lingerie closet rather than providing it a space in their existing wardrobe!

Lingerie can be of various types ranging from daily wear, bridal, nightwear, sporty, and occasional wear comprising of camisoles, bralettes, bikinis, stickies, pasties, etc. It is suggested that one should do a thorough research and select the one as per the usage and the requirement. Also one should be open to experiment and flexible enough to try out varieties. Building up your lingerie wardrobe is indeed a gradual process. Hence, one should give it time and patience.

(The author is the director of Groversons Paris Beauty, a high-end lingerie brand.)

Healthy transformation

ARJUN KAPOOR reveals how he became fit through social media chat sessions. By TEAM VIVA



 $B^{\text{ollywood actor Arjun Kapoor has been the talk}} \\ \text{Bof the town recently because of his physical trans-} \\$ formation. The actor says he feels encouraged with the appreciation that he has been receiving and that it is motivating him to constantly work towards being better each day. Arjun, who has battled obesity for the longest time, wants to share the wealth of knowledge that his trainer and food-curator has to offer through his social media so that people benefit from it.

The actor confesses, "It is really encouraging to see people appreciative of the hard work that I'm putting in. It feels great to constantly try to become better. I have to give a lot of credit to my trainer Drew Neal and Akshat Arora, who has taken care of my nutritional needs with his inventive dishes, for keeping me on track. I'm really lucky that I have them to keep me focussed on my fitness goals every single day."

He adds, "A lot of people have been asking me to share how I have transformed myself and so, I'm thinking of starting chat sessions on social media with my trainer, my food curator, among others, to discuss how transformation can be achieved without pushing your body close to the edge, without doing it in a harmful way that can have adverse effects on one's body and health. One should have long-term planning to stay fit and healthy and not look at short-term

Arjun's social media is highly engaging as he has some unique IP's like Arjun Recommends, through which he suggests high content films and shows for people to enjoy. He recently started another social media property called Bak Bak with Baba in which he hosts fun and engaging chat sessions with his friends and colleagues. This talk show is different from the other chat shows that have existed so far as it's more personal, anecdotal and steers clear from addressing

Transforming education: One podcast at a time

Dushyantt Kohli discusses the future of knowledge delivery for young and growing brains

In the older times, audio was the only means by which people learned and passed on learning. In fact, even before the TV was invented, wireless radiocommunication was a part of everyday life to communicate and share information.

Can audio still play a vital role in literacy? Will listening to audio or podcasts help stuwill it simply be a rather passive way to consume content? Currently, research highlights that a growing number of young minds are choosing to listen to audio stories or content, when travelling or in their leisure time, instead of reading books.

Having said that, now the question that arises here is, can audio learning become the future of knowledge delivery for these young and growing minds?

The fact- At present, the population of India is 1.4 billion, and 1.1 billion have mobile devices or smartphones. Out of 1.1 billion people, 622 million are active internet users. That makes 43 per cent of the population. All these people using the internet can access audio as all it requires is a basic mobile handset and minimal internet bandwidth. Considering the convenience of minimal infrastructural need to be able to consume audio content and fast-growing internet penetration in tier-3 and 4 markets of India, one can agree that the potential of content consumption through audio is better. Therefore, the possibility of audio-led digital education in our country is immense.

Let's take a look at another aspect; 850 million people are below 35 years old and 70 per cent of them live in rural India. If we talk



about educating this lot, digital mediums with a focus on audio platforms are the way forward.

Rising demand for audio content- At present, India is witnessing a rapid digital revolution. A large part of the population is getting accustomed to the use of several digital platforms. It has been flooded with a variety of content. Moreover, with the fast adaptation of digital content consumption and impressive growth of OTT platforms in the past two years, people got habitual of consuming content on their personal devices at the time of their choice.

At the same time, knowing the ill effects of increasing screen time, people are now turning to audio content especially for gaining knowledge and fulfilling their learning need through podcasts, audiobooks, and so on. In fact, India's podcast market is growing at 34.5 per cent CAGR and will continue to grow at the same rate till 2023, as per a KPMG report.

Moreover, the demand for audio content in Indian regional languages has increased considerably in the last few years. The pan-

demic-induced lockdown has been a driving factor. Now more people are opting for podcasts that offer relevant content in regional lan-

guages for e-learning and entertain-

ment purposes. Further, considering the bigger challenge of infrastructure and limited availability of resources to the rural population of India, audio is becoming the most convenient way of consuming content for any purpose. Similarly, for education, audio has the potential to provide maximum coverage, considering the 19,500 different languages/dialects prevalent in our country. It is because audio content is faster to create and can be accessed in a low-bandwidth area even on a basic mobile phone, unlike other mediums where the screen plays an important role.

Benefits of podcasts/audio content- So, the podcast-based platforms or audio content are addressing the digital learning need-gap with their innovationdriven approach. These are bringing about the desired change, catering to a large number of learners, especially from the rural

acquainted with vernacular languages. On the other hand, it is also true that people enjoy listening to the news and stories in their regional languages. There is also a wide range of

parts of India, who are only

options available to choose from, according to the listening interests and needs of people like educational or inspirational audio, news, sto-All these are enough to provide the required exposure that anyone might need. It is not just eliminating the

language barrier, but further empowering students, from even the remotest parts of the country, to receive a quality education. When it comes to passive learning, audio has its peculiar benefits ensuring that students get a holistic understanding and more time for learning. Audio content can also be easily understood by anyone; including children.

Audio content is mostly engaging and has the potential to increase the concentration power of the students. Overall, it has made learning an easy and joyful experience. The cost-effectiveness of podcasts is also an added advan-

Therefore, the large-scale adoption of audio content can be the 'revolution in education' in India. And so, we must rethink education and develop more innovative ways of learning with audio in mind. This format is already showing its potential to cater to the needs of digital learning. It has paved its way in delivering knowledge for India's diverse, young and growing brains.

(The author is the cofounder and COO of Khabri, an Indian vernacular audio plat-

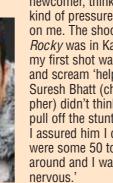


'DON'T MISUSE SOCIAL MEDIA

Actor ANIL KAPOOR, who is very active on social media, during a conversation with actor-filmmaker Arbaaz Khan on the chat show Pinch Season 2, shared his views about the same.

"My advice is, don't be trigger-happy, use social media positively. It can be a great platform for spreading love and positive messages. Don't exploit it for sensationalism," Kapoor cautioned. 'When you don't have much knowledge about a matter, why do you comment on it? It is better to remain silent and mind your own business,' he added.





'I was nervous. I was a newcomer, think about the kind of pressure that was on me. The shooting of Rocky was in Kashmir and my first shot was to jump and scream 'help'. Mr. Suresh Bhatt (choreographer) didn't think I could pull off the stunt in one go. I assured him I can. There were some 50 to 60 people around and I was very

TREND:





'I do believe in the ultimate supremacy of God, and I am a person full of faith. So, it gets easier for me to get into the emotion of the character because to play the role of Mirabai who is a devotee of Lord Krishna is a blessing. To bring out the character, I am seen in a yellow-coloured saree donned with intricate flower jewellery.'

CHALLENGES PUSH ME FORWARD: COMER

Actress JODIE COMER was thrilled by the opportunity to work with Shawn Levy and Ryan Reynolds in their forthcoming project. "Ryan is one of the funniest people on earth, and knowing I would mostly be doing scenes with him, working as his partner, was terrifying," she expressed.

"What I loved about *Free Guy* was the aspect of it being live-action," Comer said. Comer plays Millie, a beautiful and brilliant video-game designer and programmer who comes into Guy's life.



BEING VOCAL FOR LOCAL

Vidushi Sahani and Divya Singh Rathore discuss key strategies to increase rural tourism in India

artin Luther King Jr once said, "A visit to India was not just tourism but a pilgrimage..." And not just him, but travellers like Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, Tavernier, Francois Bernier were so fascinated by the grandeur and attraction of real India. Today, we might have moved beyond, but the essence of that Indianness is still visible in our villages. Rural India holds the potential to change the face of India's economy and with 65 per cent of us living across seven million villages, rural India is a force to reckon with. With a maddening rush to urban areas and the rat race to go cosmopolitan, we are ignoring the real India we grew up in. If atma nirbharta is the ultimate goal, then, building a self-sustaining rural economy is the key. Undoubtedly, rural tourism is one of such bright avenues.

For the first time India has come up with a draft of the national strategy for the development of rural tourism. If executed well, it would create several job opportunities and sources of livelihood in rural areas.

A proper governance structure and institutional mechanism at the national and state level will help to address the most persistent factors ailing the tourism sector — coordination. With this direction and political will, it is expected that the hidden opportunities for tourism in India's hinterlands would see the light of the

Another remarkable feature is the adoption of a cluster-based approach. This will ensure that the natural and cultural heterogeneity of India is leveraged, which cannot be accomplished in the case of blanket schemes. What would be interesting to note is how clusters that should not disturb their natural potential vis-àvis the administrative boundaries would be identified. In short, the rural tourism strategy has emphasised all key aspects of tourism such as model policies and best practices, digital technologies and building clusters, providing marketing support, creating capacity of stakeholders, governance, and institutional framework.

Most of all, the policy has come at an opportune time, when the global tourism industry is gasping for a fresh start. The burden of protocols, the fear of contagion, and the lack of preparedness have crippled the sector. However, what must also be noted is that tourism is something that is innate to society and cannot be con-

tained for long.

The pandemic has redefined many things along with the existing structures. It might feel sudden, but



the shift was imminent nonetheless. However, the pandemic-ridden psyches of urban India have brought forth interesting insights. People are desperately looking out for an urban and digital detox. Having spent the last two years digitally caved up, there is an urge to move from mechanical cities to a more earthy lifestyle without compromising one's health.

However, we have witnessed that these city dwellers planned short trips to rural offbeat locations which were already overburdened with tourist footfall, draining their originality and exclusivity. This trend highlights the dire need for a policy intervention to ensure tourist dispersal to lesser-known but equally attractive

Across the globe, tourist dispersal has become a priority. Nations are taking concrete steps to divert tourist traffic to the least-visited destinations and rural areas. For instance, nations like Australia and New Zealand have national level policies and strategies for encouraging tourist dispersal across the nation.

Another important aspect is the need to overcome financial bottlenecks in the implementation of the strategy. For instance, countries like Sweden, Germany, and so forth have



public spending on rural tourism within their rural development programs. On the other hand, we have China's case where a major government policy has ensured the unhindered flow of funds and prioritisation.

Now that India is heading towards strategic rural tourism, we can expect bigger gains. The strategy addresses all the pain points of tourism in India, be

it lack of coordination, work in silos, a scattered skill ecosystem, and skewed private participation. Interestingly, the strategy embeds tourism as a component of rural development. With this, we depart from the current scheme of things where random rural tourism projects are undertaken across the nation without a strategic direction or accountability for other states and

Distinctively, the strategy note mentions that the process of identification of rural tourism clusters should be broad-based, involving stakeholders from Government, industry, NGOs, rural community and local businesses. This would be a progressive step in acknowledging the critical role of private stakeholders and local communities especially rural youth in tourism development. However, a formal mechanism would be needed to elicit this cooperation in real terms.

Even globally, local communities are the fulcrum of rural tourism policies. Countries like France, Austria, and the United Kingdom have a longestablished tradition of farm tourism, giving impetus to farming communities and their livelihood. Then, there are countries like Cambodia and Costa Rica where rural communities have been made key stakeholders for tourism development. Tortuguero village of Costa Rica is a rare example of how an entire population was involved in travel-related activities, with sea turtles conservation at the epicentre. Conservation efforts, policy changes, and behavioural changes made the village a globally recognised ecotourism hub.

This brings us to another important aspect, environmental protection. While sustainability remains at the heart of rural tourism, this is one area that is missing from the draft strategy document. Before embarking on any rural tourism plans, it is extremely important to chalk out an ecotourism strategy

The success of the strategy would greatly depend on how the centre, states and all the private stakeholders can strike a synergy and overcome all the administrative bottlenecks. Tourism is one area which is spread across multiple domains and ministries and thus cannot function without appropriate conver-

The rural tourism strategy is nevertheless a step in the right direction. For any nation, tourism is a story of its culture and its originality. Undoubtedly, our villages, some pristine and untouched, still hold that unique cultural and natural wealth. They are the reflection of our past and our Indianness. As Mahatma Gandhi rightly

said, "The future of India lies in its villages. If pampered and tended to, our villages can lead India as a global tourist destination, thriving on its sheer originality and Indianness."

(The authors are independent policy researchers.)

Ajit Sharma takes charge as DMRC's new director (Finance)

A jit Sharma has taken charge as the new director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's (DMRC) Finance department. Prior to joining DMRC, Sharma was working as the Finance director of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (MRVC), a PSU under the Ministry of Railways.

He is an electrical engineer from PEC, Chandigarh and MBA from the faculty of man-agement studies in Delhi University and has a vast experience of 32 years with distinction in various capacities in the Indian Railways as well as in areas of planning and dealing with multilateral development banks in procurement and



financing during his tenure in Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation. He has extensively studied railways systems across the world and has indepth knowledge of both suburban and non-suburban railway systems.

Alka Arora is NSIC's new CMD

A lka Nangia Arora, IDAS (91) has assumed the additional charge as the chairman cum managing director (CMD) of The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC), on September

On the occasion, she interacted with senior officers of NSIC and encouraged all employees to continue giving their best performance during 2021-22.

Arora is an industry veteran with over 30 years of experience in diverse activities across the country. She is serving as a joint secretary in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and she has also served in major positions in organisations under Government of India such as the additional commissioner of Handicrafts, in the Ministry of Textiles, the MD of Cottage Emporium, and the integrated financial advisor to the Western Air Command (Subroto Park) and FA Army Hospital (R & R).

She has also served in various capacities with the Navy; as a financial advisor to the Naval Dockyard and the joint-controller of defence accounts in Mumbai and as an FA to the Eastern Command Army, Kolkata.

PFC wins Rajbhasha Kirti award



 $P^{\text{ower Finance Corporation}}_{\text{Ltd (PFC), the country's lead-}}$ ing non-banking financial company in the power sector, has won first prize in the prestigious Rajbhasha Kirti for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21. PFC has won these prizes in the category of PSUs, in the region 'A, for best performance in the official language implementation.

Home Minister Amit Shah presented both awards to Ravinder Singh Dhillon, the CMD of PFC, during the Hindi Diwas celebrations that is organised at Vigyan Bhawan. PFC has been conferred this award for the eighth time in a row (winning first place for the sixth time).

PK Singh, the director of Commercial & Projects (additional charge), Parminder Chopra, the director of Finance, G Jawahar, the CGM of PFC, and Arun Shrivastava, the general manager of PFC, were also present on the occasion.

POWERGRID's CorpCom team commended

L Communications team of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWER-GRID), a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has featured in Reputation Today's 'India's Top 30 Corporate Communications teams'. The team is ranked 18th in the list which features only two PSUs from India.

The team was felicitated by the CMD of POWERGRID, K Sreekant for this achievement in the presence of V K Singh. the director of Personnel, Mohammed Taj Mukarrum,



the director of Finance and Abhay Choudhary, the director of Projects yesterday.



Sri Lankan delegation visits NAFED to explore mutual business avenues

SRM and HCL collaboratively open an in-vitro diagnostic lab

SRM Institute of Science Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur, has tied up with HCL Technologies Limited to open an in-vitro diagnos-

tic lab on their premises. The facility was inaugurated by the vice-chancellor of SRMIST, Dr C Muthamizhchelvan and the senior vice president of HCL, R Balamurugan.

SRMIST had signed an MoU with HCL to undertake collaborative device and assay development programmes along with



other collaborative R&D programs, verification and validation and other suste-

nance activities. As a part of the MoU, HCL IVD Lab was established and inaugurated in the SRMIST Kattankulathur Campus.

Also, SRMIST's registrar, Dr S Ponnusamy, the dean of Research, Dr B Neppolian and the coordinator of IIISM, Dr R C Satish Kumar were present on the occasion. From HCL Technologies Ltd Mohammed Praveen Kumar Mavila and M Chockalingam were present during the inaugu-

Hindi Diwas celebrations at PNB's head office

Multiple departments of the organisation were rewarded under the Lala Lajpat Rai Shield Scheme for excellent implementation of the official language

 $P^{\text{unjab National Bank (PNB),}}_{\text{the country's leading public}}$ sector organisation, celebrated Hindi Diwas yesterday with great zeal and enthusiasm in all the administrative offices and branches. On this occasion, Hindi Diwas Samaroh and cultural event was organised at the bank's head office in Dwarka, New Delhi, which was presided over by the bank's MD and CEO, S S Mallikarjuna Rao. Executive directors of the bank, Sanjay Kumar, Vijay Dubey, Swaroop Kumar Saha, as well as chief general managers and general managers were also present on the occasion. A cultural programme was also organised by the staff members, in accordance with Covid-19 protocols and Rao felicitated the winners of Lala Lajpat Rai Shield competitions which were organised by the

While addressing the gathering, Rao heartily congratulated all the employees of the bank for being awarded Rajbhasha Kirti's first prize for the fourth consecutive year, which was conferred by the Department of Official



further said that the use of Hindi in banking is not only a constitutional requirement but also a commercial necessity. That's why PNB has adopted Hindi by heart and all digital products of the organisation such as net banking, mobile banking and the PNB One app have been made available in Hindi as well as other regional languages for the benefit of the customers. He urged all the staff

Sanjay suggested using the simple and easy official language in banking operations and enriching the Hindi dictionary by including words of other regional languages in it. Additionally, he administered the *rajbhasha* pledge to all staff members.

Congratulating all the award winners, the chief general manager, Rajbhasha, B S Mann requested them to contribute in the

keep the bank at the topmost level in the field of official language.

Oh the occasion, Manisha Sharma, the assistant general manager, Rajbhasha, apprised all the staff members about the work being done by the official language department of the bank for the propagation of Hindi and informed about the achievements of the bank in this field.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by S K Dash, the general manager,

Working and growing together

The Uganda High Commission in India, with the support of PHD Chamber of Commerce (PHDCCI), is working to improve the balance of trade between the two countries

The Uganda High Commission in India, with the support of PHD Chamber of Commerce (PHDCCI), is organising a three-day road show from September 16-18, at Hotel Clarks Amer in Jaipur to discuss the immense investment and business opportunities in Uganda and invite investors from India to encash the same in Uganda. A press briefing was organised yesterday for the same.

Speaking on the occasion, Digvijay Dhabriya, the chairman of PHDCCI's Rajasthan chapter, informed about the century-old friendly Indo-Ugandan relations. Large number of Indians settled in Uganda have contributed significantly to the growth and development of trade and industry and through its robust policy framework and other facilities, Uganda is attracting foreign investment and entrepreneurs so that the existing adverse balance of trade can be improved, Dhabriya informed. Both the countries are committed for this and the road show at Jaipur is being organised in this direction, he

During the briefing, Mohammad Kajala, Uganda High Commission in India's deputy high commissioner, informed about immense business opportunities in different sectors for



PRESS BRIEFING

the investors. The prospective sectors include oil and gas, infrastructure, agriculture, food processing, dairy, mines and minerals, healthcare, education, skill development, tourism, film-making, information and communication technology, Kajala informed. At present the total exports from India to Uganda is to the tune of \$800 million as against the meager import of \$47 million, resulting in a very adverse balance of trade; both countries are committed to improve

Through its investors-friendly policies and ease of doing business, Uganda is striving to achieve maximum value-addition of its resources in the country. During the three day hybrid road show, senior ministers

and government officials of different departments would be interacting with the Indian investors and industry leaders and provide details of opportunities, facilities and incentives, legal and policy framework for the investors while looking for new partnership and collaborations from Indian investors and entrepreneurs to harness opportunities, Kajala added. The rich cultural heritage of Uganda would also be exhibited through various cultural performances, he added. During the road show, detailed

deliberations would be held on investment-climate and other opportunities in ICT, oil and gas, manufacturing, SME, trade-promotion, tourism and film-making sectors to attract Indian

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



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

The top seven batsmen led by England's Dawid Malan maintained their rankings while South African keeper-batter Quinton de Kock is now ranked eighth while West Indies he has been dropped from the Indian

ninth in the list.

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

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

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

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

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

places to 20th) have also made notable progress.

However, Shakib Al Hasan has

conceded the top spot for all-rounders to Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi.

In the ODI rankings for batters, Jaskaran Malhotra of the United States, who struck sixes in an over from Papua New Guinea's Gaudi Toka in a World Cup Super League 2 match, has rocketed 169 places to 132nd.

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

ums when the much-awaited Indian Premier League resumes in the UAE this weekend, the event's organisers announced on Wednesday.

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

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

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

Last year, the league was played behind closed doors in the UAE while the first half of the 2021 edition was also played inside a strict bio-bubble. Although the league organisers did not specify the exact number of fans who would be let in but sources said their presence would be 50 per cent of the stadium capacity.

"Fans can buy tickets starting September 16 for the remainder of the tournament on the official website www.Iplt20.Com. Tickets can also be purchased on PlatinumList.Net," the league organisers said.

Head coach Mark Boucher hopes South Africa's T20

World Cup bound players can

pick up "bits of information"

about the UAE conditions dur-

ing the Indian Premier League

which he feels will stand the

team in good stead during the

The 44-year-old empha-

sised that the players need to

manage themselves during the

league so that they can peak at

the right time as a unit for

"We've spoken to the guys

marquee ICC event.

South Africa.



Delhi Capitals include net bowler Khejroliya in main squad

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

quadriceps strain. "Delhi Capitals today announced that left-arm orthodox bowler Manimaran Siddharth has been

ruled out of the IPL 2021 due to an injury. The 23year-old incurred a 💯 quadriceps strain during training in Dubai," Delhi

Capitals said in a release.

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

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

The 29-year-old had a below-par IPL debut season for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL 2018

and 2019 seasons, taking 3 wickets in 5 IPL matches. 'The DC support staff is currently overlooking Manimaran Siddharth's rehabilitation programme in Dubai,"

Manika Batra not in India squad

Desai (72), Manav Thakkar

taking part in the event, raising

medal hopes in the men's team

event. Singles and doubles com-

petitions will also be conducted.

India had made it clear that any

player not attending the camp

will not be considered for selec-

tion. The team was picked on

Wednesday and was subse-

quently published on TTFI web-

attendance in camps compulsory following the Tokyo

The federation had made

Powerhouse China is not

(134) and Sanil Shetty (247).



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

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

Veteran Sharath Kamal (ranked 33) will spearhead the men's challenge in the company

Manika had informed the federation that she would like to continue training with her personal coach in Pune. The Khel Ratna awardee has

also made match fixing allegations against national coach Soumydeep Roy for asking her to throw a match during the Olympic qualifiers. TTFI has formed an inquiry panel to probe the allegations. Sathiyan, Desai and Sutirtha

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

Men's team: Manav Thakkar, Sharath Kamal, G Sathiyan, Harmeet Desai, Sanil

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

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

Kamath and Sreeja Akula; Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika

Mixed doubles: Manav Thakkar and Archana Kamath; Harmeet Desai and Sreeja

Will try and replicate 2017 Champions Trophy final: Hasan Ali

 ${
m P}^{
m akistan}$ seamer Hasan Ali is confident that his team can beat arch-rivals India in the opening match of the ICC T20 World Cup, replicating its convincing win in the 2017 Champions Trophy final at the Oval. Since then, Pakistan has played India twice in the 50-over format and got thrashed both times — at the 2018 Asia Cup in Dubai and the 2019 ODI World Cup in England.

Before every global event, there is always a lot of hullabaloo from the Pakistan corner but till date, they haven't beaten India in either 50-over or T20 World

In fact, they have also failed to beat India in practice games.
"When we won the

was a very good time for us and we will try to beat them again in the T20 World Cup.

We will give our best. Playing against India is always a pressure game because of the expectations of fans from both countries," Hasan told a virtual media conference on

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

Star Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell believes having the Indian Premier League in the UAE will level the playing field "a fair bit' in the T20 World Cup to be held at the same venue next month. The IPL will resume

on September 19 in the UAE after being suspended in May due to the second wave of COVID-19 in India, which led to multiple cases inside its bio-bub-

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

ably levels the playing field a little bit," Maxwell, who plays for Royal Challenger Bangalore in the IPL, told 'icc-cricket.Com'. "Probably makes it a little bit easier for there not to be as much of a home ground advantage. For the IPL to be there to have a lot of international

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

Australia's top players, including Steve Smith, David Warner, Aaron Finch and Pat

Players picking up bits of information on UAE

Cummins, have not competed in the last few months and will be back in action at Maxwell said the IPL stint will help the

preparation of the Australian players. The fact we've got a lot of guys going over for the IPL as a preparation, get a few games in those conditions, it's going to do wonders for our batters," he said.

"Our bowlers are going to be up and firing by the time the tournament starts. I can assure you everyone is looking forward to hitting the ground running over

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

Juventus beats Malmo 3-0 for 1st win since Ronaldo's exit

AP ■ MALMO (SWEDEN)

Juventus claimed its first win of the post-Cristiano Ronaldo era by beating Malmo 3-0 in the Champions League after a flurry of first-half goals.

Alex Sandro's 23rd-minute opener was followed by goals in the space of 60 seconds by Paulo Dybala - from the penalty spot — and Alvaro Morata on the stroke of halftime in the south of Sweden on

Juventus has failed to win any of its three games in Serie A this season, the last two being losses that came after the departure of Ronaldo to Manchester United.

A trip to the Swedish champions offered some respite from its domestic problems for Massimiliano Allegri's team, which can take some momentum into a big match in the Italian league against AC Milan on Sunday. "We came here after some bad results, but we knew that this is another competition and we knew what to do," Dybala said.

"We did it, playing with serenity." Sandro's goal — a stooping header from a rightwing cross from Juan Cuadrado that was flicked on by Rodrigo Bentancur — came just as Malmo was starting to apply some pressure on Juventus. After that, the visitors dominated.

Bayern beats Barcelona 3-0 for 1st loss of post-Messi era

AP BARCELONA

 $B^{\text{ayern Munich showed}}_{\text{Barcelona exactly how}}$ dreary life will be without Lionel Messi when it dealt the Spanish team its first loss since the exit of the star forward. Thomas Müller scored a

goal and Robert Lewandowski added two more to help Bayern ease to a 3-0 victory at Camp Nou in their Champions League opener on Tuesday. Müller's 34th-minute strike

took his career tally to seven goals against Barcelona, including the two he netted in the 8-2 shellacking Bayern dealt Barcelona the last time they met in August 2020.

Without Messi to rely on as it had for years, Barcelona was running scared from the start as it focused on protecting itself from another embarrass-



ing defeat. The final score hid the total dominance of the Bundesliga powerhouse. Julian Nagelsmann's team turned the once great attacking juggernaut

of Barcelona into a jittery bunch hunkered down in their

Lewandowski capitalized

with goals in the 56th and 85th, post to the striker. "We gave little away at the back," Müller said.

"Going forward, we could have scored one or two more. on Bayern's complete control

both times putting in rebounds from shots that came off the

It's a lot of fun playing here, the boys enjoyed it."

Performance in first match will set tone for DC this IPL, says Kaif

PTI DUBAI

Assistant coach Mohammad Kaif reckons the first match in the second half of the Indian Premier League will set the tone for the rest of the tournament for table toppers Delhi Capitals.

The second leg of the T20 league, which was suspended in May due to the increasing COVID-19 cases in India and multiple infections in the IPL bio-bubble, is scheduled to resume in the UAE from September 19.

The Capitals are currently perched on top of the points table with 12 points from eight matches.

"There has been a big break after the first half of the IPL, but we are fortunate that most of the players have been playing international cricket regularly," Kaif was quoted as saying in a media

"We have a well-balanced side as there are players with international cricket experience and domestic players, who have been putting in good performances. The first match is going to be crucial for us.

"Our performance in the first match will set the momentum for us," he said.

Lukaku seals Chelsea win over Zenit to start CL defence

AP ■ LONDON

 $F^{our\ games.\ Four\ goals.\ Just}_{what\ was\ expected\ of}$ Romelu Lukaku. Just what Chelsea missed so often last season. And just what he couldn't produce in his first spell at Stamford Bridge.

The striker who couldn't even get on the field in the Champions League a decade ago for Chelsea is back as the lead-

debut for the club, the 28-yearold Belgian ensured Chelsea made a successful start to its Champions League title defense by clinching a 1-0 victory over Zenit St. Petersburg on Tuesday.

ing targetman. On his European

The goal showed why Chelsea invested a club-record 115 million euros (\$135 million ahead, because winning and in August) in signing from Inter another clean sheet is super Milan the player it offloaded in important for the belief and for 2014 as a peripheral figure. our process. We are not finished,

the penalty area, evading the defense, to meet a cross from Cesar Azpilicueta and head it into the net in the 69th minute against the Russian champions. "That is why he is here," Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said. "It is another step

Lukaku darted into space in

but are in a good place to improve."It added to the three goals — including two in Saturday's win over Aston Villa
— Lukaku has already scored in the Premier League this season. "We have to keep growing.

Today was a better performance than the weekend," Lukaku said. "It was a beautiful ball from Cesar. I just had to get my timing right and then place the ball

International the laid down criteria.

conditions in IPL will help SA at T20 WC: Boucher

going to the IPL. They need to stay quite disciplined and realise we want to peak at the right time as a unit," Boucher was quoted as saying by 'ESPNCricinfo'.

"They'll be picking up bits of information about playing in those conditions that will really get them ready for a big tournament and if they manage themselves well and get some good time in the nets and get used to facilities it will stand us in good stead."

The IPL, which was suspended midway in May due to multiple cases of COVID-19 in its bio bubble, is scheduled to be held in the UAE from September 19 to October 15.

The T20 World Cup is slated to begin on October 17 in Oman and UAE.

Have deepest concerns on 'place of boxing' in Olympics: IOC



PTI LAUSANNE

The International Olympic Committee on Wednesday "restated its deepest concerns" on boxing's place in the 2024 Paris Olympics, citing "unresolved" issues with the Boxing Association's governance structure, financial situation and the scoring system even as the AIBA promised to "exceed"

In a letter addressed to AIBA President Umar Kremley, IOC Director General Christophe De Kepper said the Olympic body's Executive Board has asked him and its

Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer to "follow up" on the situation. The AIBA responded by saying that it is doing every-thing that that IOC expects

"AIBA has been working on comprehensive reform for some time now and is grateful for the IOC's public acknowledgment that a step forward has certainly been taken in terms of good governance...," the AIBA stated in an e-mail to PTI, responding to the IOC letter. In the four-page communication, IOC expressed dissatisfaction with the work done by the AIBA to address concerns related to its governance, finances and the

refereeing and judging system that has been under intense scrutiny since the 2016 Rio Olympics.
"On the basis of the above,

the IOC Executive Board restated its deepest concerns and reiterated its previous position regarding the place of boxing in the programme of the Olympic Games Paris 2024 and future editions of the Olympic Games," the letter stated.

The AIBA said it would do more than what has been mandated to regain the IOC's con-

"Wide-ranging reforms are already underway in terms of financial integrity, good governance and sporting integrity, including all the areas mentioned by the IOC and more," the AIBA said.

"Independent experts are involved in each of these sectors. AIBA is confident these reforms will see AIBA meet and even exceed the criteria laid down by the IOC for reinstatement." The IOC said while it acknowledges that AIBA has taken "a step forward in the direction of better governance" but several concerns remain unaddressed.