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FOR MY VOICE:
ANURAG BASU
10 VIVACITY

Mullah Baradar to head Afghan Govt

Haibatullah
Akhunzada
to focus on
Islamic issues

AGENCIES ■ KABUL

Taliban co-founder Mullah Baradar will lead the upcoming Government in Afghanistan where the group seized control last control following months of offensives.

Baradar, who heads the Taliban's political office in Doha, will be joined by Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, the son of



Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the leader of the Taliban delegation, speaks during talks between the Afghan Government and Taliban insurgents in Doha File photo

late Taliban co-founder Mullah Omar, and Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, in senior positions in the Government,

Tolo News reported citing sources from the Islamic group. Earlier, the Taliban had announced that Haibatullah

Akhunzada, may lead the forthcoming Government in the country but the sources have informed that he will focus on religious matters and governance within the framework of Islam.

But the new Government's most immediate priority may be to avert the collapse of an economy grappling with drought and the ravages of a 20-year conflict that killed around 2,40,000 Afghans before US forces completed a tumultuous pullout on August 30.

At stake is whether the Taliban can govern a country facing economic meltdown, a humanitarian disaster and threats to security and stability from rival jihadi groups, including a local offshoot of Islamic State.

"All the top leaders have arrived in Kabul, where preparations are in final stages to announce the new Government," a Taliban official told *Reuters*, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Taliban, which seized Kabul on Aug. 15 after sweeping across most of the country, have faced resistance in the Panjshir Valley, where there have been reports of heavy fighting and casualties.

Several thousand fighters of regional militias and remnants of the Government's armed forces have massed in the rugged valley under the leadership of Ahmad Massoud, the son of former Mujahideen commander Ahmad Shah Massoud.

"We will raise our voice and say that Muslims are your own people, your own citizens and they are entitled to equal rights under your law."

As Muslims, it was the group's right to speak out for Muslims living in Kashmir and any other country, Shaheen said while speaking from Doha.

While recalling the terms of the Doha agreement with the US, he said they had "no policy of conducting armed operations against any country."

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Taliban look up to 'best friend China' to rebuild country

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Describing China as its "most important partner", the Taliban have said they look to Beijing to rebuild Afghanistan and exploit its rich copper deposits as the war-ravaged country faces widespread hunger and fears of an economic collapse.

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said the group supports China's One Belt, One Road initiative that seeks to link China with Africa, Asia and Europe through an enormous network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks.

"China is our most important partner and represents a fundamental and extraordinary opportunity for us because it is ready to invest and rebuild our country," *Geo News* quoted Mujahid as saying in an interview to an Italian newspaper on Thursday.

There are "rich copper mines in the country, which, thanks to the Chinese, can be put back into operation and modernised.

In addition, China is our

pass to markets all over the world," said Mujahid.

China has been making some positive statements towards the Taliban and has expressed the hope that the insurgents will follow moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, combat all forms of terrorist forces, live in harmony with other countries, and live up to the aspiration of its own people and the international community.

Stating that China respects Afghanistan's sovereignty and will not interfere and follow the friendship with "entire Afghan people", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Tuesday that, "facts show that in realising economic development we need an open inclusive political structure, implementation of moderate foreign and domestic policies and clean break from terrorist groups in all forms."

The Taliban also view Russia as an important partner in the region and will maintain good relations with Moscow, Mujahid said.

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'Can't expose kids to Covid', SC halts Kerala's XI exams

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/KOCHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed for a week Kerala Government's decision to conduct offline exams for Class XI from September 6 amid rising cases of Covid.

"There is an alarming" situation in the State owing to Covid-19, observed the apex court, adding that "cases in Kerala are about 70 per cent cases of the country. Children of this age cannot be exposed to this risk."

"Prima facie, we find force in submission made by petitioner that the State Government has not seriously considered the prevailing situation before having a physical exam proposed to be conducted in September this year. As we couldn't get a satisfactory response from counsel for the State in this regard, we grant interim relief staying the offline exam till next date of hearing," said a bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar, Hrishikesh Roy and CT Ravikumar. The apex court posted the matter for next hearing on September 13.

The Kerala High Court had earlier observed that conducting examination was a matter of Government policy and no interference was warranted. The apex court bench passed the order on an appeal filed by advocate Rasoolshan A

Offline exam was scheduled to start on September 6



challenging a decision of the high court refusing to interfere with the decision to hold offline exams.

Meanwhile, the night curfew slapped on Kerala since last Sunday has failed to yield any result as the number of new patients diagnosed with Covid-19 continue to remain high. On Friday, out of the 1.63 lakh samples sent for testing, 29,322 persons were found to be infected with Covid-19, said a release by Health Minister Veena George.

The Test Positivity Rate remained high with 17.91 per cent while the pandemic claimed 131 lives taking the death toll in the State till date to 21,280. The State also saw 118 health workers falling prey to Covid-19.

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Have right to raise voice for Muslims in Kashmir: Taliban

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Amid concerns in India that Afghan soil under the Taliban regime can be used for terrorist activities against it, the insurgent group has said it has the right to speak out in favour of Muslims anywhere, including in Kashmir, though it does not have a policy of conducting "armed operations" against any country.

Suhail Shaheen, Taliban spokesman for its political office in Doha, in an exclusive



Suhail Shaheen, Taliban spokesman

interview to *BBC* through video link on Thursday, said,

CAPSULE

COP GOT IPHONE TO LEAK PROBE ON MAHA HM: CBI

New Delhi: An iPhone 12 Pro, which costs over ₹1 lakh, was offered as bribe to a sub-inspector of the Central Bureau of Investigation for accessing a confidential report on a corruption case in which former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh is an accused, the investigators have said.

SC SLAMS AMRAPALI BUYERS OVER DUES

New Delhi: Homebuyers who want their flats completed in stalled projects of the troubled Amrapali Group projects in Noida and Greater Noida must pay their dues, or else their allotment could be cancelled, the Supreme Court said.

SPICEJET STAFF GO ON STRIKE, RETURN LATER

New Delhi: A section of employees of SpiceJet went on strike at the Delhi airport on Friday morning over issues related to reduced salaries and their irregular disbursement. The employees, most of whom work in security department, later returned to work following talks with the management, they said. When asked about the matter, a SpiceJet spokesperson earlier clarified that the carrier's flight operations at the airport are functioning normally.

SC to Govt: Frame guidelines on Covid death certificates by Sept 11

Court frowns at delay in action over its June 30 order

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed displeasure over delay in framing guidelines for issuance of death certificates to the families of those who died of Covid-19 and directed the Centre to do so and file compliance report by September 11.

"We passed the order a long time back. We have already extended the time once. By the time you frame the guidelines, the third phase will also be over", a bench comprising Justices MR Shah and Aniruddha Bose observed.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, assured the apex court that everything is under consideration.



Advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal, who has filed the petition, submitted that under the pretext of consideration things should not be delayed as the top court has already granted four-week extension to the Centre on August 16 to frame guidelines for ex-gratia compensation and now it is seeking more time. Advocate Sumeer Sodhi, who appeared for some of the applicants, said extended time for the first direction passed on June 30 is getting over on September 8.

The bench said it is for the Centre to take decision on compensation within that peri-

od of time and today it was adjourning the matter only for the purpose of compliance with other directions. "Put up on September 13 as Solicitor General seeks time to enable Union of India to comply with earlier order and place on record compliance report of other directions issued by this court on June 30, 2021. Compliance report to be filed with the registry on or before September 11," the bench said.

The apex court had in its June 30 verdict directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to recommend within six weeks appropriate guidelines for ex-gratia assistance on account of loss of life to the family members of persons who died due to Covid-19.

The Centre had moved an application seeking some more time to frame the guidelines on the ground that the exercise which was in active consideration of the NDMA was at an advanced stage and requires a little more in-depth examination.

1 in 7 Covid infected children may have lingering symptoms: Study

'Kids likely to report 3 or more symptoms 15 weeks later'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid debate whether or not students should be sent to schools in view of impending third wave of the coronavirus pandemic in India, a study by University College London and Public Health England has found that even as children rarely become severely ill due to the infection, at least one in seven infected kids may have lingering symptoms.

The study found that 11-to-17-year-olds who tested positive for the virus were twice as likely to report three or more symptoms 15 weeks later than those who had tested negative.

Researchers surveyed 3,065 kids in England who had positive results in a PCR test between January and March,



Children watch a health worker collect a nasal swab sample to test for Covid-19 in a shop in Guwahati on Friday AP

and a control group of 3,739 who tested negative over the same period.

Among those who tested positive, 14 per cent reported three or more symptoms such as unusual tiredness or headaches 15 weeks later, compared with 7 per cent reporting symptoms by that time among the control group.

The researchers said while the findings suggested as many as 32,000 teenagers might have had multiple symptoms linked

to Covid-19 after 15 weeks, the prevalence of long Covid in the age group was lower than some had feared last year.

The findings were a preprint which had not been peer-reviewed. The authors said any decision to extend vaccination to 12-15-year-olds in Britain was unlikely to be based on this study as there was not enough data on whether vaccination protects against long Covid-19.

Early this year, the European Centre for Disease

Prevention and Control had said the majority of children don't develop symptoms when infected with the coronavirus, or their symptoms are very mild.

However, it is becoming increasingly apparent that a large number of children with symptomatic and asymptomatic Covid-19 are experiencing long-term effects, many months after the infection.

So far, most long Covid research is based on adults. There is less information about under-18s, in part because it takes longer to get ethical approval to study children, said Natalie Lambert at Indiana University School of Medicine.

Symptoms of long Covid were first thought to include fatigue, muscle and joint pain, headache, insomnia, respiratory problems and heart palpitations. Now, support groups and researchers said there may be up to 100 other symptoms, including gastrointestinal problems, nausea, dizziness, seizures, hallucinations and testicular pain.

First desi N-missile tracking ship Dhruv puts India in super league

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to enhance its nuclear missile and satellite tracking capabilities, India is likely to commission next week its first ship 'INS Dhruv' with the latest gadgets to detect incoming hostile missiles. With this induction, India will join the select group of nations such as France, UK, Russia, the USA, and China that have such vessels.

The 15,000-tonne ballistic missile surveillance ship was built by the Hindustan Shipyard in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO). The ship is likely to be launched on September 10 in Visakhapatnam, sources said



here on Friday. This ship is part of the Strategic Forces Command.

The sophisticated surveillance systems onboard are powered by 14 MW by INS Dhruv itself. The ship was codenamed VC 1118. Its commissioning into the service was delayed for some months due to the corona pandemic, sources said. Built as part of the Make in India initiative, the

ship cost more than Rs 730 crores and has a crew of about 300 trained personnel. The project commenced in 2014. INS Dhruv will act as a force multiplier as it will provide the Indian Navy a 360 degree view of the Indo-Pacific and the strategically important Indian Ocean region and help plan offensive operations with a high degree of accuracy.

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Govt slashes prices of 39 vital medicines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to provide relief to patients, the Government has slashed prices of about 39 drugs, including anti cancer drugs, anti diabetes, anti viral and antibacterial drugs, antiretroviral drugs, anti-TB drugs, and drugs used in Covid treatment, as it revised the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

The commonly-used drugs which have been brought under price control include anti-cancer like Azacitidine and Fludarabine antiretroviral such as Dolutegravir, Darunavir+Ritonavir, new generation TB medications such as Bedaquiline and Delamanid, anti-allergy Montelukast, anti diabetes drugs like Teneeligiptin and Insulin Glargine, and tobacco cessation and addiction treatment drugs like nico-

tine replacement therapy.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had launched the revised NLEM at an ICMR event recently.

The 39 new drugs include Amikacin (antibiotic), Azacitidine (anti-cancer), Bedaquiline (anti-TB), Bendamustine Hydrochloride (anti-cancer), Buprenorphine (opioid antagonists), Buprenorphine+Naloxone (opioid antagonists), Cefuroxime (antibiotic), Dabigatran (anticoagulant), Daclatasvir (antiviral), Darunavir+Ritonavir (antiretroviral), Delamanid (anti-TB), Dolutegravir (antiretroviral), Fludarabine (anti-cancer), Fludrocortisone (corticosteroid), Fulvestrant (anti-cancer), Insulin Glargine (anti-diabetes), Irinotecan HCL Trihydrate (anti-cancer).

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Singh is king in archery, Praveen jumps to Silver

Avani Lekhara wins shooting Bronze

PTI ■ TOKYO

Shooter Avani Lekhara scripted history once again, teen high-jumper Praveen Kumar knocked off an Asian record for his Silver while Harvinder Singh became India's first archer to finish on podium as the country's Paralympians raised the bar higher with unparalleled performances in the ongoing Games here on Friday.

India picked up three medals on the day and the overall tally rose to 13, including two Gold, six Silver and five Bronze. In a nutshell, the country's best ever Paralympics con-



Harvinder Singh



Praveen Kumar

tinued to get better. It started with Praveen's Silver in the morning.

The 18-year-old, competing in his debut Games, clinched the Silver medal in the men's high jump T64 event, setting a new Asian record with a 2.07m jump to finish behind

Great Britain's Jonathan Broom-Edwards, who notched up his season's best effort of 2.10m for the gold.

This was a personal best performance for him and his first major medal since taking up the sport in 2019.

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Man held for supplying arms to Naxals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested a 58-year-old man allegedly involved in supplying arms and ammunition to criminals and Naxalites. The accused has been identified as Ram Krishna Singh alias Master, a resident of Bhojpur in Bihar. According to Pramod Singh Kushwah, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, the accused Ram Krishna Singh was arrested from Delhi's Nizamuddin area on Wednesday. "Post Covid this year, Singh revived his chain of gangsters and criminals and since June, he has sold over 300 cartridges and 10 pistols to criminals of Delhi/NCR. He has been pre-



viously involved in allegedly trafficking arms and supplying them to criminals in Bihar, Delhi and NCR besides to Naxalites in Odisha and Gadchiroli in Maharashtra," said the DCP.

"On Wednesday, we received information that Singh would come to the road towards Gurudwara Damdama Sahib opposite Sunder Nursery Parking, Nizamuddin, along with five pistols of .32 bore and

200 live cartridges to deliver it to criminals based in Delhi and NCR," said the DCP. "Accordingly, a trap was laid and in the evening, our team spotted Singh coming towards the spot and they immediately surrounded him and apprehended him with a bag containing pistols and cartridges," said the DCP. "Singh has further revealed that he purchases a pistol of .32 bore at a lower rate and further sold it to criminals of Delhi/NCR at a higher rate," said the DCP. "He procured illicit cartridges from one of his contacts based in Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh and the sold it to criminals of Delhi/NCR. Further investigation is on to identify all the forward and backward linkages of this arms and ammunition network," the

DCP said. In 2018, Singh was nabbed by Delhi Police's Special Cell along with 407 live cartridges and it was during his stay in Tihar jail that he developed contacts with gangsters and criminals and as per their demand, he started supplying arms and ammunition to criminals based in Delhi/NCR, said the DCP. Singh, who is a B.Com graduate used to teach in private schools of Bihar after he came in contact with a criminal of his area in 2015, he joined him in trafficking of arms and ammunition to make easy money. Initially, he kept his network in Bihar but due to high demand from criminals and Naxalites of various States, he extended his realm up to Odisha, Maharashtra and other States including Delhi/NCR.

Govt to form expert panel, plan to solve Delhi's waterlogging woes

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will form an expert committee and prepare a short and long-term plan to solve the waterlogging problem. On Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal, Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Satyendar Jain and Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev chaired a meeting and discussed issues pertaining to waterlogging. Soon after the meeting, Sisodia said places of waterlogging will be identified and work will be done at the micro level to bring relief from this problem. Emphasising the need for



coordination among all agencies, the corporations, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the PWD, Sisodia said, "This time Delhi has received more rain than previous years and has faced waterlogging at many places. To eliminate this problem, it is very important that all the agencies related to it, together with coordination, make short-term and long-term plans to deal with this problem and execute it."

"The responsibility to mitigate this will be of the primary agency with the rest of the agency providing support," he added. Underlining the problem of waterlogging occurring near two major places of Delhi, ITO and NH-24, Sisodia directed the officials to remove the problem of waterlogging at both these places at the earliest. Sisodia said that whenever it rained this year, a pond was formed near ITO and on the slip road of NH 24. He said that this problem will be solved only when all other agencies including NHAI, MCDs and the PWD work together. He directed the officers to constitute an expert committee comprising officers of all the agencies.

AAP Govt to beautify Najafgarh, Shahdara drains

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will beautify Najafgarh and the supplementary drain and Shahdara link drain. The Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Satyendar Jain on Friday discussed the beautification plan of lakes and various drains carrying polluted water in the city. "All major drains will be converted into clean water channels again. Currently, these drains are struggling with solid waste, sludge and wastewater," Jain said and instructed the department to include solutions to the problems hampering the water quality of the drain. He reiterated that cleaning the Yamuna was the prime

target of the Delhi Government and multiplicity of the agencies should not slow down the progress of work. He informed the same via Twitter, "Delhi Govt is working towards rejuvenation & beautification of major drains flowing into the Yamuna. Drains will be cleaned, beautified & will carry only clean water. All major drains like Najafgarh, Supplementary & Shahdara drain will be converted to clean water channels again." Jain said, "The department should include solutions to the problems hampering the water quality of the drain. Cleaning the Yamuna is the prime target of the Delhi Government and multiplicity of the department should not slow down the progress of work."



Delhi Legislative Assembly officials discovered a tunnel-like structure reportedly between the Vidhan Sabha and Red Fort on Friday



Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer Photo

Singh is king in archery, Praveen jumps to silver

From Page 1 The teenager is a Noida resident and is now the youngest medal winner in the Indian contingent here. "I can't explain how I feel. This jump was ecstatic. This is my first Paralympic Games and I am waiting to see what lies ahead," he said after the superb performance. The youngster had battled Covid-19 last year and desperate to train amid the lockdown, he had dug up a pit and filled it with soft mud to create a natural mattress for him to land. T64 classification is for athletes with a leg amputation, who compete with prosthetics in a standing position. T44, the disability classifi-

cation that Kumar belongs to but is eligible to compete in T64, is for athletes with a leg deficiency, leg length difference, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in the legs. His impairment, which is congenital, affects the bones that connect his hip to his left leg. Then came Lekhara and scripted history for the second time. The 19-year-old trailblazer claimed the 50m Rifle 3 Position SH1 bronze to add to an unprecedented gold she had secured earlier in the Games. Lekhara, also competing in her debut Games, qualified second for the event with a score of 1176, including 51 inner 10s.

In the fiercely contested finals, Lekhara totalled 445.9 to finish ahead of Ukraine's Iryna Shchetnik, who let slip her grip on the medal spot with a poor third shot of 9.9 in the elimination. She had become the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic gold by claiming the top honours in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event. That was also the first ever shooting medal that India had won in the Games. "It was a tough final but I'm happy to have made it into bronze. I could have done better than this. It's just what finals do to you," Lekhara, who was paralysed below the waist after a car accident in 2012, said about her performance. Prior to her, Joginder Singh Sodhi was the lone Indian to win multiple medals in the same edition of the Games when he fetched one silver and two bronze medals in the 1984 Paralympics. His silver came in shot put, while the two bronze medals were won. Lekhara is not done yet and will next be seen in the mixed 50m rifle prone SH1 event

also featuring Deepak and Siddhartha Babu. And in the evening Harvinder etched his name in the history books with a gritty performance. An economics scholar from the Punjabi University, Patiala, Singh collected three shoot-off wins on the day starting with his triumphs in the opening rounds. The last of his three shoot-off wins came against Korean Kim Min Su in the bronze play-off. The 31-year-old was leading 5-3 before the Korean clinched the fifth set shooting a perfect 10 to force a shoot-off where the Indian responded in style firing a perfect 10 of his own against Kim's 8 for a 6-5 (26-24, 27-29, 28-25, 25-25, 26-27) (10-8) win. In the semifinals, Harvinder lost to world number 10 Kevin Mather of the USA 6-4 in an intense five-setter (25-28, 24-24, 25-25, 25-24, 24-26). Harvinder, who hails from a small village Guhla Cheeka near Kaithal in Haryana, was stretched to the fullest in the first two rounds, but he showed tremendous resilience to overcome his fancied opponents via shoot-offs.

In the first round of 32, Harvinder squandered a 4-0 lead against Stefano Travisani after shooting a 7 in the third set as his Italian rival made it 5-5 (27-24, 26-22, 26-27, 25-25, 25-27) to force a shoot-off. Harvinder clinched the issue -- 6-5 (10-7) -- in style, shooting a perfect 10 in the tie-breaker as his rival managed just a 7. In the last-16, Harvinder pipped former world number one Bato Tsyedendorzhiev of Russia, once again by the thinnest of margins 6-5 (8-7). Harvinder effected a spectacular turnaround from 0-4 down to bring the match on an even keel 5-5 (26-28, 23-26, 29-26, 23-21, 28-28) and force a shoot-off where he edged out his Russian opponent 8-7. In the quarters, he swept aside 49-year-old three-time Paralympian Maik Szarszewski of Germany 6-2 (25-21, 28-23, 25-28, 26-23) dropping just one set. Harvinder's legs do not function properly because of a spurious injection he was administered as a toddler after

catching dengue fever. On the badminton court, Pramod Bhagat and his partner Palak Kohli qualified for the mixed doubles semifinals, while three singles players, including Noida District Magistrate Suhas Yathiraj, also made the last-four stage to continue a rampaging run. Bhagat, who had qualified for the men's singles SL3 event on Thursday, and Kohli beat Thailand's Siripong teamarm and Nipada Saensupa 21-15 21-19 in a 29-minute clash to finish second in group B. The Indian duo will clash with Indonesian pair of Hary Susanto and Leani Ratri in the semifinals on Saturday. In men's singles, Suhas, Tarun Dhillon and Manoj Sarkar also made it to the semifinals on a fruitful day for the country. There were some disappointments as well with Suyash Narayan Jadhav and Niranjan Mukundan failing to qualify for the men's 50m butterfly event. The country also finished outside the medal bracket in women's canoe, men's shot put and women's club throw.

‘Can’t expose kids to Covid’, SC halts...

From page 1 Thrissur diagnosed 3530 persons on Friday and remained at the top of the table of districts with high patients. Ernakulam (3435), Kozhikode (3344), Kollam (2957) were the districts with highest number of Covid-19 patients. Across the State, 2.46 lakh patients are undergoing treatment for Covid-19. The Government's move to reopen schools in the State and conduct examinations for Class XI suffered a setback as the Supreme Court on Friday stayed the move of the LDF Government in this regard in the backdrop of the increasing number of Covid patients in

the State. The apex court took note of the unabated increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in the State and asked the administration whether the Government of Kerala has taken into account the 30,000 cases being recorded per day. "As we could not get satisfactory response from counsel for the State in this regard we grant interim relief staying offline exam till next date of hearing," said the Bench consisting of Judges A M Khanwilkar, Hrishikesh Roy and C T Ravikumar while considering a petition moved on behalf of plus one students in the State.

Delhi sees 35 new Covid cases, zero deaths

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi reported 35 new cases of Covid-19 with a positivity rate of 0.05 per cent while no death was recorded in on Friday, according to a health bulletin issued by the health department of the Delhi Government. As per the bulletin, a total of 63812 tests, including 42437 RT-PCR tests and 21375 rapid-

antigen tests, were conducted a day before. The number of cumulative cases stood at 14,37,874 on Friday. Over 14.12 lakh patients in Delhi have recovered from the virus, the bulletin said. The number of fatalities stands at 25,082 while the case fatality rate is 1.74 per cent, the bulletin said. "The number of people under home isolation was 83 while the number of containment zones

stands at 131, the bulletin said. The bulletin further said that the number of active cases decreased to 362 on Friday. Seventeen patients were discharged in the last 24 hours. Despite a fall in the number of daily cases in the last several days, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier cautioned people, saying the chances of a third wave are quite real.

Have right to raise voice for Muslims ...

From page 1 Shaheen's remarks came days after the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi said Indian envoy to Qatar Deepak Mittal met Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, the head of the Taliban's Political Office in Doha, at the request of the group. In the meeting, Mittal conveyed to Stanekzai that Afghanistan's soil should not be used for anti-Indian activities and terrorism. It was the first publicly acknowledged formal diplomatic engagement that came two weeks after the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan. MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at his weekly briefing on Thursday that India's immediate focus in Afghanistan is to ensure that Afghan soil is not used for terrorist activities against it and it

was still "very early days" to talk about any possible recognition to the Taliban. On a question on Mittal's meeting with Stanekzai, he said: "We used the opportunity to convey our concerns whether it is in getting people out (from Afghanistan) or on the issue of terrorism. We received a positive response. Regarding the Haqqani Network, Shaheen said that the propaganda against the Haqqanis was based on mere claims. He said Haqqani is not a group but they are part of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. "They are the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan," he added. His remarks came as after Al-Qaeda through its Al-Sahab media asked the Muslim community to "free" other Muslim lands after the liberation of Afghanistan, putting Kashmir on the list of targets of jihad. Besides Kashmir, it short-listed the Levant, comprising Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon; Maghreb, or the region in northwest Africa consisting of Libya, Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia and Somalia; and Yemen on its priorities.

Taliban look up to 'best friend...

From Page 1 The Taliban seized control of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, on August 15. The last of the foreign troops left the country on August 31, bringing an end to 20 years of war amid fears of an economic collapse and widespread hunger. Following the chaotic departure, Western states have severely restricted their aid payments to Afghanistan. Earlier this week, United Nations chief Antonio Guterres warned of a looming "humanitarian catastrophe" in Afghanistan and urged countries to provide emergency funding as severe drought and war have forced thousands of families to flee their homes. Guterres expressed his "grave concern at the deepening humanitarian and economic crisis in the country", adding that basic services threatened to collapse "completely". Amid fears of an economic collapse and widespread hunger, the Taliban have indicated a formal government structure was on the horizon.

First desi N-missile tracking ship Dhruv puts India in super league

From Page 1 The ship will also increase the maritime capabilities in the backdrop of China's growing naval prowess and muscle flexing in the Indo-Pacific and the Indian Ocean region, they said. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval (NSA) is likely to commission the ship. Besides tracking nuclear missiles, INS Dhruv can also scan the ocean beds for research and track hostile submarines. The indigenously designed and built ship carries active scanned array radar (AESA) with the ability to scan various spectrums to monitor spy satellites watching over India as well as monitor missile tests in the entire region. The ship can also detect ballistic missile tests carried out by other countries, sources said. With its induction, India will be able to keep an eye on the nuclear arsenal of countries like China and Pakistan.

Govt slashes prices of 39...

From Page 1 The deleted drugs from the NLEM list are Alteplase (clot buster), Atenolol (anti-hypertension), Bleaching Powder, Cetrimide (antiseptic), Erythromycin (antibiotic), Ethinylestradiol+Norethisterone (birth control), Ganciclovir (antiviral), Lamivudine+Nevirapine+Stavudine (antiretroviral), Leflunomide (antirheumatic), Nicotinamide (Vitamin-B) among a few others, said an official from the Ministry. Talking about the list, a senior official stated, "Some of these drugs have been discontinued, new therapies and higher options have been launched. Due to this fact it was essential to delete them." ICMR deleted 16 odd drugs from the record. However, not all-important drugs will come under price capping, he added. At present, around 374 medicines are part of NLEM which are subject to price controls. About 18 per cent of the drugs sold in India are under price controls.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW)-III OVER HEAD TANK ASHOK VIHAR DELHI				
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene" PRESS NIT. No. 26 (2021-22)				
Item No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through E-procurement
1.	Replacement of badly damaged sewer line of 300 dia from H. No. 1 to 28 Pushkar Enclave Paschim Vihar by 315 mm dia HDPE pipe bursting method under EE(NW)/III AC-15.	Item Rate	Tender ID No. 2021_DJB_207763_5 on 31.08.2021 at 01.47 PM	15.09.2021 up to 3.00 pm
Further details in this regard can be seen at (https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)				
SD/- (Mukesh Jindal)				EX. Engineer (NW)-III
ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 357(2021-22)				



NYAY

Transforming the Landscape of Chhattisgarh's Rural Economy

RAJIV GANDHI GRAMIN BHOOMIHIN KRISHI MAJDOOR NYAY YOJANA

- To be implemented from FY 2021-22
- Landless agriculture laborer families to receive assistance of ₹6000 per year
- More than 10 lakh families to be benefitted



Registration Open

from 1st Sep till 30th Nov 2021

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RAJIV GANDHI KISAN NYAY YOJANA

- For year 2021 - ₹3042 cr paid in 2 instalments
Balance 2 installments in due course
- ₹5702 cr transferred last year



GODHAN NYAY YOJANA

- Only state in the country monetizing cow dung
- Generating employment & promoting organic farming

Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

India, US to develop unmanned aerial vehicle

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a step to further strengthen defence and strategic ties, India and the United States of America(USA) have inked a pact for co-operation in the development of Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV).

The Project Agreement(PA) for ALUAV was signed on July 30 under the overall framework of the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) between the two countries, the Defence Ministry said here on Friday.

Describing the pact as a major step towards deepening defence technology cooperation between India and the US, officials said here, the agreement falls under the ambit of the Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) agreement between the two sides that was first signed in 2006 and renewed in January 2015.



"The PA outlines the collaboration between Air Force Research Laboratory, Indian Air Force, and Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) towards design, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation of systems to co-develop an ALUAV Prototype," the ministry said.

It said the main aim of DTTI is to bring sustained

leadership focus to promote collaborative technology exchange and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of future technologies for Indian and US military forces.

Under DTTI, Joint Working Groups on land, naval, air, and aircraft carrier technologies have been established to focus on mutually agreed projects in respective

domains.

The PA for co-development of ALUAV has been overseen by the Joint Working Group on Air Systems and is a major accomplishment for DTTI, officials said.

The latest agreement comes in the backdrop of the US terming India in 2016 as a "Major Defence Partner." In the past few years the two countries key pacts like the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016. It allows their armed forces to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies.

The two sides have also signed Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement(COMCASA) in 2018 that provides for interoperability between the two militaries and the sale of high-end technology from the US to India.

In October last year, India and the US sealed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation

Agreement(BECA) agreement to further boost bilateral defence ties. The pact provides for sharing of high-end military technology, logistics and geospatial maps between the two countries.

The Indian army, a couple of days ago, signed a pact for over 100 'Explosive-Laden Drones', which will be manufactured by Bengaluru-based firm Alpha Design-led joint venture along with Israel's Elbit Security Systems (ELSEC). The drones are called 'SkyStrikers'.

The contract is estimated to be around Rs 100 crore and was signed as per the emergency powers given to the armed forces for procurement.

The 'SkyStriker' drones will have a range of about 100km. These drones will address the Army's requirement for "loitering munition" – a type of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) built to engage beyond the line-of-sight ground targets with an explosive warhead.

India, Russia friendship has stood test of time, says PM

New Delhi: Stressing the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership' between India and Russia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday recalled that the friendship between the two countries has stood the test of time and noted the 'robust' cooperation during the Covid-19 pandemic, including in the vaccination programme and affirmed that mutual partnership can help bring stability to the global energy market.

Addressing the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF), Modi said the pandemic has highlighted the importance of the health and pharma sectors in our bilateral cooperation.

The Prime Minister was delivering a video-address during the plenary session of EEF forum held in Vladivostok, Russia. Modi was the Chief Guest for the 5th

EEF in 2019, the first by an Indian Prime Minister. Recalling the visit of Chief Ministers of Indian States to EEF-2019, Prime Minister extended an invitation to Governors of the 11 regions of Russian Far East to visit India.

Energy, he said, is another major pillar of our strategic partnership. India – Russia energy partnership can help bring stability to the global energy market, said Modi.

The Prime Minister said Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Puri is in Vladivostok to represent India at this forum and that Indian workers are participating in major gas projects in the Amur region, from Yamal to Vladivostok and onward to Chennai. "We envisage an energy and trade bridge. I am happy that the Chennai – Vladivostok Maritime Corridor is making headway. This connectivity pro-

ject along with the International North-South Corridor will bring India and Russia physically closer to each other", he said.

Noting that India has a talented and dedicated workforce while the Far East is rich in resources, the prime minister said there is tremendous scope for Indian talent to contribute to the development of the Russian Far East.

Modi recalled his 2019 visit to the Russian city of Vladivostok to attend the forum and the then announcement of India's commitment to an "Act Far East policy".The policy is an important part of India's "special and privileged strategic partnership" with Russia, Modi said.

An online meeting between Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani and Governor of Sakha-Yakutia province of Russia was held on 2 September on the sidelines of EEF. PNS

Central Universities to fill 6k vacant posts by Oct: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday announced that the Central Universities will work on mission-mode to fill-up the 6,000 vacant posts by end of next month.

Addressing a conference of Central Universities Vice Chancellors, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan encouraged the Central Universities to work on mission-mode to fill-up the 6,000 vacant posts by October, 2021.

There have been more than 10,000 posts lying vacant in teaching and non teaching category at the 40 Central Universities.

Pradhan expressed his happiness to learn about the best practices of Central Universities and on several matters of importance, including filling up of general and reserved vacancies, education during Covid19, online learning and status of NEP implementation. He also urged them to create a framework for alumni endowment.

Pradhan held the meeting with Vice Chancellors of Central Universities through video conferencing. Minister of State for Education Subhash Sarkar, Secretary, Higher

Education, Amit Khare, Chairman UGC, Prof D P Singh and senior officials of the Ministry and UGC attended the meeting.

The VCs were also requested to encourage Sports in their Universities, thereby promoting a sporting culture in the country. The VCs were encouraged to make their students Job Creators by promoting innovation and research in their campuses.

Addressing the participants, Pradhan said that our universities are cradles of creativity, innovation and opportunities. The New Education Policy-2020 will play a crucial role in placing India at the top of the emerging new world order and, as custodians of India's destiny,

our universities should fulfil their responsibilities outlined in the NEP. He stressed on making education a lot more vibrant & holistic and establishing India as a knowledge superpower through NEP.

The Minister said that our higher education institutions are key catalysts for promoting socio-economic development and for realising aspirations and national goals. The Minister appealed that universities should popularise and promote learning in Indian languages, & cultural heritage of India.

The Minister exhorted the Universities to come with the strategies for making India fully literate, as well as to contribute helping the country to meet its Nutrition Challenge during 'Poshan Month' as a mark of AzadiKaAmrutMahotsav.

The Minister thanked the VCs for their insights and valuable suggestions. He urged that as thought leaders, our central universities should assume pioneering roles in building capacities, initiating frameworks for implementation of Academic Bank of Credit, Multiple Entry & Exit, virtual universities and several other facets of the NEP from this academic year itself.

SC refuses Bengal Govt's plea to appoint DGP without consulting UPSC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain West Bengal Government's plea seeking to appoint Director General of Police (DGP) without consulting the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), saying it would be "abuse of law". Expressing displeasure at one point, the apex court told the State not to file applications like these.

"We have seen your application. The points you are raising are exactly the same which you have raised earlier that UPSC should not have a role. When the main matter is taken you can argue this matter. We cannot permit this. This is abuse of process. We will dismiss your application. We cannot have petitions like this. Why are we wasting so much time on these applications," the bench comprising Justices Nageswara Rao, B R Gavai and B V Nagarathna observed.

However, the Bench

allowed the State's impleadment application in the main matter on police reforms and said it will start hearing matter which "hasn't seen the light of day for many years".

Advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for Prakash Singh (main petitioner), requested the bench for an early hearing of the main petition on police reforms saying "unfortunately in most states implementation of directions of the top court remains unimplemented." The court has now posted the matter for hearing in October and said, "We will start hearing the matter. It hasn't seen the light of day for many years."

The apex court was hearing an application filed by West Bengal stating that UPSC does not have expertise to consider and appoint DGP of a state as also that it is not in line with the federal System of governance. The State Government, in its plea, requested the top court to modify its 2018 order in the Prakash Singh case on police reforms which made it mandatory for the state governments to appoint the DGP from a panel of three most senior police officers.

IFFCO MD MONEY-LAUNDERING CASE ED attaches assets worth ₹13.34 cr of RJD MP Amarendra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets in the form of fixed deposit receipts (FDR) worth Rs13.34 crore belonging to Rajya Sabha MP from RJD Amarendra Dhari Singh, under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act in the ongoing investigations against the top court remains unimplemented.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR dated May 17 registered by CBI under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Prevention of Corruption Act against US Awasthi, MD of IFFCO and others, for criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal misconduct.

"Money laundering investigation conducted by ED has revealed that there had been siphoning of funds amounting to Rs 27.79 crore related to criminal activities. Such proceeds of crime were laundered by way of projecting the same as consultancy income, first in the hands of entities under the control of Dubai-based

Chartered Accountant Rajiv Saxena (an accused in Agustawestland case) and subsequently in the hands of entities controlled by India based Chartered Accountant Alok Kumar Agarwal and thereafter in the form of cash to Amarendra Dhari Singh," the agency said in a statement.

Based on the investigation conducted so far by the ED, proceeds of crime have been quantified to the tune of Rs 27.79 crore, which had been used by Amarendra Dhari Singh on his own, it said.

ED had also filed a Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) before Special Court on July 30 against six accused including Amarendra Dhari Singh and Alok Kumar Agarwal. In its order on August 7, the court has held that there was sufficient evidence on record to take cognizance of the offence under PMLA. The Court further held that all accused persons knowingly assisted/were knowingly involved in acquisition of proceeds of crime and hence were liable to be summoned for the said offence and proceeded to issue summons to the accused persons.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo), **Namely : Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : about 40 years, Height : 5'3", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Long, Built : Thin, Hair : Black and long beard, Wearing : Blue colour trouser and White colour check shirt** was found in unconscious condition at footpath Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, near Bangla Sweets, New Delhi. He was shifted at LHMC Hospital, Delhi, where doctor declared him brought dead on 29.08.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No : 27A, dated 29.08.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hrs in LHMC Hospital Mortuary, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi, New Delhi Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-23364100, 23366730

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग

संख्या :: 74 / 70 / 01 / डीआरओ(नॉरशि) / सेवा-1 / 2019-20 दिनांक :: 03 सितम्बर, 2021 विज्ञापित उत्तराखण्ड विशेष अधीनस्थ सार्वग- समूह 'ग' सेवा (सामान्य एवं महिला शाखा) मुख्य परीक्षा- 2020 एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड विशेष अधीनस्थ शिक्षा (प्रवक्ता सार्वग- समूह 'ग') सेवा (सामान्य एवं महिला शाखा) परीक्षा-2020 हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या : A-1/S-1/2020 दिनांक 09 अक्टूबर, 2020 के सापेक्ष मुख्य परीक्षा हेतु औपचरिक रूप से सफल घोषित अभ्यर्थियों का विषयवार मुख्य परीक्षा (स्पर्धनिक प्रकार) का आयोजन दिनांक 07, 08, 09 एवं 10 अक्टूबर, 2021 को हरिद्वार नगर में निम्नलिखित कार्यक्रम के अनुसार निर्धारित किया गया है-

क्र.सं.	तिथि	समय	पद/विषय (सामान्य एवं महिला शाखा)
1	2	3	4
1	07.10.2021 (रुक्वार)	(9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON)	प्रवक्ता रसायन शास्त्र
			प्रवक्ता संस्कृत
		(2:00 PM to 05:00 PM)	प्रवक्ता जीव विज्ञान
2	08.10.2021 (शुक्रवार)	(9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON)	प्रवक्ता गणित
			प्रवक्ता मनोविज्ञान
		(2:00 PM to 05:00 PM)	प्रवक्ता भूगोल
3	09.10.2021 (शनिवार)	(9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON)	प्रवक्ता इतिहास
			प्रवक्ता अंग्रेजी
		(2:00 PM to 05:00 PM)	प्रवक्ता अर्थशास्त्र
4	10.10.2021 (रविवार)	(9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON)	प्रवक्ता नागरिक शास्त्र
			प्रवक्ता कृषि
		(2:00 PM to 05:00 PM)	प्रवक्ता कला

अभ्यर्थी प्रश्नपत्र परीक्षा हेतु अपने प्रवेश पत्र आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in से दिनांक 21.09.2021 से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। अभ्यर्थियों को पृथक से डाक द्वारा अथवा अन्य किसी माध्यम से प्रवेश पत्र प्रेषित नहीं किये जायेंगे। मुख्य परीक्षा हेतु ऑनलाइन परीक्षा शुल्क जमा न करने के कारण अनर्ह घोषित अभ्यर्थियों की सूची आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in पर शीघ्र प्रकाशित की जाएगी। (कर्मन्ध सिंह) सचिव।

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) for tender no. 08/2021-22/Works and 09/2021-22/Works	
Name of work with its location	S.N
1. Annual Zone work for supply of building material and essential items in the S/o DEN/Works under Sr. DEN/Works	1. Annual Zone work for supply of building material and essential items in the S/o DEN/Works under Sr. DEN/Works
2. Repair to PF Shelter with 0.8 mm Meta colour Sheets, velly Gutter and down pipes e.t.c of P.F. 2/3=2850 Sqm, P.F.4/5=2800 Sqm PF No. 8/9=3900 SQM PF No. 12/13=3600 Sqm Mtr PF. 16=2500 Sqm Mtr, Valley Gutters PF 2/3=480 Mtr, PF No. 4/5=480 Mtr PF 8/9=400 Mtr, PF 12/13=400 Mtr, PF 16=300 Mtr, at NDLS in the section of SSE/Works NDLS Under DEN/Works	2. Repair to PF Shelter with 0.8 mm Meta colour Sheets, velly Gutter and down pipes e.t.c of P.F. 2/3=2850 Sqm, P.F.4/5=2800 Sqm PF No. 8/9=3900 SQM PF No. 12/13=3600 Sqm Mtr PF. 16=2500 Sqm Mtr, Valley Gutters PF 2/3=480 Mtr, PF No. 4/5=480 Mtr PF 8/9=400 Mtr, PF 12/13=400 Mtr, PF 16=300 Mtr, at NDLS in the section of SSE/Works NDLS Under DEN/Works

1 Approx. Cost of work	1. Rs. 14979370.98
3 Earnest Money	2. Rs. 14979349.68
4 Cost of tender	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2015/CE-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
5 Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	1. 0/- 2. 0/-
6 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2015/CE-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT-08-2021-22/Works and 09-2021-22/Works Dated: 03.09.2021	Upto 15.00 hrs. on 28.09.2021 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 28.09.2021.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1988/2021	

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 41/2021

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) N.E. Railways Iztanagar For and behalf of president of India invites "OPEN" e-tender through on Line (E-tendering) for the following work:
SN.: 1, Description of works: Maintenance of Level Crossing road, Gate lodge etc. in jurisdiction of ADEN/FGS Section in IZN Division.
Approx. Value : ₹ 54,99,919.74.
E.M.D.: ₹ Nil, Cost of Tender Forms: ₹ Nil, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: **12 Months.**
SN.: 2, Description of works: Maintenance of Level Crossing road, Gate lodge etc. in jurisdiction of ADEN/MRT Section in IZN Division. **Approx. Value:** ₹ 52,00,061.98. **E.M.D.:** ₹ Nil, Cost of Tender Forms: ₹ Nil, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: **12 Months.**
SN.: 3, Description of works: Maintenance of Level Crossing road, Gate lodge etc. in jurisdiction of ADEN/Line/IZN & ATEN/IZN Section in IZN Division. **Approx. Value :** ₹ 55,42,403.04. **E.M.D.:** ₹ Nil, Cost of Tender Forms: ₹ Nil, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: **12 Months.**
1. On line e-tender can be submitted upto to 15.00 hrs of dated 27.09.2021.
2. For Full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), CPORO-164 Iztanagar
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955
"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

Office of the Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Sansadhan Vikas Evam Nirman Nigam, Haldwani

R.T.O. Road, Near Vasundhara Banquet Hall, Haldwani (Nainital) Uttarakhand Email: pmnvrmanagar@gmail.com

PRESS NOTE

Letter No. 1133/Adesh-4/106 Date : 03.09.2021

Government of Uttarakhand "e" procurement Notice

1 Letter No.	Letter No. 1220/ Nivida/ Anubandh- Haldwani / 77 Dt. 03-09-2021	Letter No. 1221/ Nivida/ Anubandh- Haldwani / 78 Dt. 03-09-2021
2 Name of the Works :-	Construction Proposed Lab and Class Room At G.I.C. Nakuchiyatal District Nainital	Construction Proposed Government Aayurvedik Hospital At Nakuchiyatal District Nainital
3 Estimated Cost :-	Rs. 83.49 Lacs	Rs. 82.72 Lacs
4 Period of Completion :-	9 Months	9 Months
5 Date and Time of Availability of bid documents in the portal :-	06/09/2021 – 12.00 Hrs.	
6 Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :-	26/09/2021 – 17.00 Hrs.	
7 Name and Address of Officer Inviting the Bid :-	Genral Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing , Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani.	
8 Pre bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :-	13/09/2021 – 11.00 Hrs. Project Manager, Construction Wing , Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani	

Details of subsequent addendum/ corrigendum /cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website :- www.uktenders.gov.in

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://tendersuttarakhand.gov.in"

Project Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

That My Client Dr. Kiran Pal Singh So Late Main Singh R/o Flats No. 8073/2/ GF/ Pocket D-6, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 has instructed me to release Public Notice that Ms Purnima associated with my client through publication dt. 15/2/2015 as pre-condition partner for taking care of Mentally retarded son on 30/4/2015 on production of Election Card depicting indifferent name of husband and date of birth in place of Aadhar Card, Aadhar Card is again having different date of Birth and all documents shows multiple places of residences. Different date of birth is mentioned in High School Certificate, considered to be doubtful, later on SDM Saket, New Delhi did not register the re-marriage on 23/10/2015 for want verification of documents of Ms Purnima. Ms Purnima Singh implicated my client in several police complaints on 26/10/2015, 28/3/2016, 30/3/2016 etc. which proved to be false and withdrawn, further Ms Purnima filed DVC complaint on 26/7/2016 and second complaint on 2/6/2017 on same ground, which are withdrawn and settled on demand of separate house and alimony @ Rs.15,000/- per month vide Gurugram Court's order dt. 9/11/2016 and Dwarka Court's order dt. 6/9/2017. Ms Purnima lodged FIR No.11/2017 dt. 13/1/2017 which was false and quashed by Hon'ble ASJ Court Dwarka on 8/3/2018. Ms Purnima further filed other complaints on 2/5/2019, 26/5/2019, 30/5/2017 which are declared false by Gurugram Police vide RTI No. 37353 dt. 6/11/2019 and 3823 dt.13/11/2019. Ms Purnima is habitual in filing false and frivolous complaints against my client and there is constant life threat to my client. My client has been attacked several times by suspected persons on 21/1/2016, 26/12/2016, 12/1/2017, 10/3/2019, 24/3/2019, 29/9/2019, 10/9/2019 and 2/5/2019 under criminal cases pending before Distt. Court of Dwarka/ Patiala House/ Saket and High Court of Delhi. Besides the Criminal proceedings of defamation/extortion/ illegal trespassing in the S-11/3, DLF, Ph-3, Gurugram Ms Purnima has been extending constant threats to my client, she has broken open the locks of said S-11/3, DLF property without knowledge of property owners. In view of above, Ms Purnima has been debared by this Public Notice & vide earlier press publications dt. 28/5/2019 & 19/11/2019 from all movable and immovable properties and have no legal claims under prevailing circumstances under HMA Act 1955. My client will not be responsible for misconduct and misdeeds etc. of Ms Purnima since my client is not aware regarding where about of her movements and there is no communication since 22/4/2019 whatsoever with her etc. Therefore my client is not responsible for any acts, misdeeds etc. and my client should not be entangled in any manner. Any person(s) dealing with Ms Purnima in any manner whatsoever will be at his own risk, costs and responsibilities. This is for information to general public/ Govt. Agencies/ Police and Law enforcing Authorities as last option.

Ajit Singh (Advocate), 246, Lawyer's Chamber, Delhi High Court, New Delhi-110503

No reduction in edible oil prices soon, says Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Retail edible oil prices in the country are not coming down anytime soon. And even if they do, the Centre on Friday made it clear, there "would not be any dramatic decline".

Retail prices of edible oils in India, which imports 60 per cent of its requirement, have shot up to 64 per cent in the past just one year, in line with the global developments.

Union Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey on Friday said, "However, looking at the declining trend shown in prices of edible oils for December month in the futures market, it looks like retail prices will start declining. But, there won't be any dramatic decline as there is still global pressure". The arrival of new crops and a likely drop in global prices should help in softening of edible oils' retail prices in the country, he said.

Citing reasons for the sharp rise in domestic edible oils prices, the secretary said one major reason is that prices have gone up in the international markets as many countries are aggressively pursuing the biofuel policy using their own resources.

For instance, Malaysia and Indonesia, which are major suppliers of palm oil to India, are using palm oil for their bio-fuel policy. Likewise, the US is diverting soyabean for biofuel making, he said. Moreover, palm oil and soyabean oil are the top-two oils in terms of share in the Indian market. Palm oil is about 30-31 per cent, soyabean oil is 22 per cent.

Swamy urges PM to speed up prosecution of high profile corruption cases



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing huge delays in prosecution of high profile corruption cases, BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to form an inter-departmental monitoring mechanism in the prosecution proceedings.

In a detailed letter to Modi, Swamy said all agency heads and prosecutors must sit together regularly to speed up the big corruption cases. Swamy blamed the prosecution for lethargy in handling the 2G scam appeal, Aircel-Maxis and INX-Media bribery case and National Herald cases.

"There is, without doubt, an inordinate and inexplicable delay in prosecution of many corruption cases by the Government, which had happened during the UPA tenure at the Centre. Be it 2G Scam appeal pending in Delhi High Court, prosecution in the pending trial of those out on bail viz., Chidambaram involving his and his son's bribery in Aircel-Maxis and INX Media bribery cases, or cases against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald Income Tax evasion of Rs. 450 crores, and cases of eviction and seizing of Herald House by Young Indian Pvt Ltd company owned by these two accused held up in Supreme Court.

Infiltration bid foiled along LoC in Poonch

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A major infiltration bid by the heavily armed group of terrorists was foiled by the alert Indian troops along the line of control in Poonch sector early Friday morning.

This is the second major incident of cross LoC infiltration bid in the Poonch sector in the last one week.

Two foreign terrorists were neutralised by the troops along the LoC in Poonch on August 30.

According to Defence PRO, Lt- Col Devender Anand, "On the intervening night of 2nd and 3rd September 2021, a group of heavily armed Pakistani terrorists attempted to infiltrate in Poonch sector (J&K).

The infiltration attempt of Pakistani terrorists was detect-



ed by alert troops of the Indian Army. The infiltrators were challenged and heavy firing ensued".

Defence PRO said, "Owing to undulating terrain and heavy undergrowth, the terrorists managed to break contact and escaped back towards Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir

under the cover of darkness".

"A thorough search of the encounter site was carried out and a huge quantity of administrative stores left behind by the terrorists were recovered to include clothing, packaged food items and medicines with Pakistani markings", he added.

WB post-poll violence: 2nd CBI chargesheet in 2 days

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Acting fast after taking charge the CBI, investigating the graver offences post Assembly elections on Friday submitted a second chargesheet, this time in a North 24 Parganas murder case where a BJP supporter JP Yadav was bombed to death on June 6 by alleged Trinamool Congress miscreants.

This is the second chargesheet filed in two consecutive days with the first one being filed by the Central Agency in a Rampurhat murder case in Birbhum district.

"Four persons have been named in the chargesheet," a CBI source said adding more investigations were being conducted against other persons who had been named by the complainants.

The CBI is acting upon the orders of the Calcutta High Court which earlier directed a two-pronged probe deputing the central agency to investigate the graver offences whereas asking a Special Investigating Team of the State police to inquire into other offences.

In a related development former Calcutta High Court Chief Justice Manjula Chellur had agreed to supervise the SIT investigation into the "other" post poll "offences." According to sources unavailability of a retired Supreme Court Judge,

for supervising the SIT probe — as was directed by the High Court — Justice Chellur was appointed for the task.

More than a hundred cases of murder, loot, rape and arson was reported post Assembly elections that saw Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool Congress roaring back to power for the third time in a row.

In the post poll violence an allegation of which was summarily rejected by the Chief Minister hundreds of BJP, Left, Congress and Trinamool Congress workers were attacked and their properties looted leading the Opposition BJP and the Left to raise demands for impartial probe accusing the State police of active connivance with the ruling party assailants.

Meanwhile, the TMC leadership which had already filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the High Court order continued to react strongly wondering why only the SIT and not the CBI was being monitored by the judiciary.

"Everyone knows how all the institutions have been saffronised by the BJP— from CBI to EC to NHRC and others—in that case where is the guarantee that the CBI will not conduct biased investigation ... CBI's bias is a well-known fact so why only the SIT and not the CBI will be monitored by the Court," Sukhendu Shekhar Roy TMC Rajya Sabha MP said.

Kerala: Covid cases refuse to come down

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The night curfew slapped on Kerala since last Sunday has failed to yield any result as the number of new patients diagnosed with Covid-19 continue to remain high. On Friday, out of the 1.63 lakh samples sent for testing, 29,322 persons were found to be infected with Covid-19, said a release by health minister Veena George.

The Test Positivity Rate remained high with 17.91 per cent while the pandemic claimed 131 lives taking the death toll in the State till date to 21,280. The State also saw 118 health workers falling prey to Covid-19.

Thrissur diagnosed 3530 persons on Friday and remained at the top of the table of districts with high patients. Ernakulam (3435), Kozhikode (3344), Kollam (2957) were the districts with highest number of Covid -19 patients.

Across the State, 2.46 lakh patients are undergoing treat-

ment for Covid-19. The Government's move to reopen schools in the State and conduct examinations for Class XI suffered a set back as the Supreme Court on Friday stayed the move of the LDF Government in this regard in the backdrop of the increasing number of Covid patients in the State.

The apex court took note of the unabated increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in the State and asked the administration whether the Government of Kerala has taken into account the 30,000 cases being recorded per day.

"As we could not get satisfactory response from counsel for the State in this regard we grant interim relief staying offline exam till next date of hearing," said the Bench consisting of Judges A M Khanwilkar, Hrishikesh Roy and C T Ravikumar while considering a petition moved on behalf of Plus One students in the State.

Adhir claims Cong workers attacked by TMC activists

Kolkata: Congress Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was allegedly gheraoed and harassed on Friday by alleged Trinamool Congress supporters even as he went to Raninagar in Murshidabad district to inquire into the reports of alleged violence on Congress men.

Chowdhury's vehicle was blocked and he was shown black flags, brooms, sandals and stick by a large crowd that gathered at the entry point of Raninagar, the MP said adding his personal security officers managed to escort him out of the crowd.

"I have written to the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, the DM and SP about the continuous violence being perpetrated on the Congress workers ... I have told the Chief Minister to contain political violence in the State reminding if her party needed to resort

to violence even after coming to power for three consecutive terms then there is no more shame that it ... She should now consider that the acts of her party men is putting Bengal to disrepute ... how will outsiders come here," Chowdhury said.

According to the Congress three houses of Congress men were ransacked and their owners beaten up by alleged TMC men on Thursday night. When Chowdhury went to find out the allegations for himself he too was blocked away by alleged Trinamool men and women.

Reacting to the reports Bengal Minister Firhad Hakim said he had no information of such attack saying "the Trinamool does not believe in violence ... I am sure no TMC worker would be involved in the incident." **PNS**

Siddaramaiah asks K'taka to stop NEP, won't attend discussion

Bengaluru: Karnataka's Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah on Friday urged the state government to withdraw its decision to implement the new National Education Policy, while refusing to take part in the discussion on the subject.

"A letter has been written from the office of the Minister of Higher Education informing the implementation of new National Education Policy and requesting the appointment of Leader of Opposition to discuss regarding the same. It is to be noted that the government has already decided and inaugurated to implementation the said policy from the current academic year, without any discussion with the students, teachers, education experts or opposition. It is not correct to call for discussion now after inaugurating the implementation," he said.

"Policy change in matters like education and health are not small issues. Detailed deliberations should have been initiated democratically before drafting such issues which have wide implications. Governments of many developed countries take the complete responsibility of health and education but here in India the government is trying to wash away the responsibility, the former Chief Minister said.

Siddaramaiah further noted that India has a high student to teacher ratio which should come down for the benefit of students. Also, the government allocation for education as a percentage of GDP is very low. Noting that NEP also recommends the allocation to education to be at 6 per cent of GDP, he said that then Karnataka should allocate about Rs 1.08 lakh crore.

"There are many objections and concerns about NEP. It violates federal arrangements and infringes upon the autonomy of states over education and universities. It promotes privatisation leading to inequality and social injustice. The intention is to indoctrinate students with the idea of communalism through education. NEP is unscientific and will push lakhs of students to darkness," the Congress leader contended.

"Government should have discussed and debated these issues before the implementation. NEP decides the future of many students shaping the next 70-80 years. Education is a tool for social elevation for many marginalised sections. Has BJP implemented NEP to prevent this elevation of social status among marginalised sections?" he asked. **IANS**



The national bird peacock dances at Sarthana zoo in Surat on Friday

PTI

IN SHORT

SC JUNKS SAJJAN KUMAR'S BAIL PLEA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the plea of former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar, who is serving life imprisonment in an 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, seeking interim bail on health grounds. The apex court perused the medical records of Kumar and observed that he has been examined by doctors at a government hospital here and his condition is stated to be stable and improving. A bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M M Sundresh said it is not inclined to grant him bail on medical grounds. The 75-year-old Kumar is serving life imprisonment after the Delhi High Court had convicted him in the case on December 17, 2018.

4 MORE STATES TO GIVE FORTIFIED RICE

New Delhi: Four more States, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Kerala, have decided to supply fortified rice through Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal scheme on a pilot basis. Union Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said on Friday that from this month, four more states will implement the pilot programme in one district each.

EXPLOSIVE-LADEN SUV PLANTING AND BUSINESSMAN HIRAN MURDER CASES

NIA files chargesheet against 10 accused

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a charge-sheet against 10 accused, including police officers a convicted constables, in the sensational case involving the recovery of an explosive-laden SUV the residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani in south Mumbai and the subsequent suspected murder of the vehicle owner Mansukh Hiran.

In a voluminous charge-sheet filed in a Special NIA Special Court here, the NIA charged the ten accused – including dismissed Assistant Sub-Inspectors Sachin Waze, Riyazuddin Kazi, yesteryear encounter-specialist Pradeep Sharma, convicted constable Vinayak Shinde – with various offences under various sections of Indian Penal Code for murder, cheating, conspiracy and also various sections of the Arms Act, Explosive Substance Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Apart from Waze, Kazi, Sharma and Shinde, the others who have been named in the charge-sheet are: Naresh R. Gor, Sunil D. Mane, Santosh A. Shelar, Manish V. Soni, Anand P. Jadhav and Satish T. Mothkuri.

The NIA has based its charge-sheet on three FIRs it registered in connection with the twin incidents. While the first FIR registered at the

Gamdevi police station relates to the recovery of a Mahindra Scorpio Vehicle on Carmichael Road, Mumbai during the intervening night of February 24 and 25, 2021 with 20 Gelatine Sticks Explosive and a threat note addressed to Mukesh Ambani.

The second FIR registered with at the Vikhroli Police Stationn relates to theft of the seized Mahindra Scorpio vehicle, while the third FIR registered at Mumbra police station relates to the recovery of Mansukh Hiran's body from the nearby creek on March 5, 2021.

"During the investigations, incriminating evidences came to fore against the ten arrested accused involved in various stages of conspiracy of placing explosive laden Mahindra Scorpio vehicle, its theft and commission of murder of Mansukh Hiran," the CBI said in a statement.

The IPC sections invoked against the accused in the case relate to criminal conspiracy, destroying evidences to escape the consequences, negligence with explosives, abduction with intent to kill, extortion with threats of death or physical harm, grabbing property, criminal breach of trust by public servant, forgery and forging documents of electronic evidence to pass them off as genuine, possession of a fake seal to commit forgery, common intentions, etc.

Modi Govt should reveal NMP objectives: PC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Slamming the BJP-led Government over its National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) decision, former Finance Minister and senior Congressman P Chidambaram on Friday demanded an assurance from the Narendra Modi Government that the entire amount of ₹6 lakh crore, when realized, "will not be used for partly financing the fiscal deficit of ₹5.5 lakh crore in 2021-22 or for retiring old debts"

Posing as many as 20 questions to the BJP-led NDA Government over the NMP, Chidambaram also sought an assurance from the Modi dispensation that the expected sum of ₹6 lakh crore would not be merged with general revenues and will not be used for general expenditure.

In a series of other questions on NMP, the former Finance Minister wanted to know if the Government floated a consultation paper on NMP "Did Government consult the workers or the trade unions or other stakeholders before announcing the NMP? When and where did these

consultations take place? Will the government make public the outcome or the minutes of these consultations?" he asked, while speaking to media persons here.

Chidambaram also demanded to know as to why did not the government discuss the NMP in Parliament and asked if the Government proposed to consult the Opposition parties or discuss the NMP Parliament.

Charging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's oft-repeated claim of "nothing was done in 70 years" stood exposed, Chidambaram said: "The NMP will wash away what has been done in the last 70 years".

"The NMP was not announced in the Parliament. It was announced after the session ended. There was no consultation paper. There were no meetings with trade unions. Nor were there consultations with political parties," he said.

Chidambaram ridiculed Modi by saying that "he is the only Chief Executive in the world who has never interacted with the press".

"The Prime Minister has in the last 7 years never interact-

ed with the press and in the next three years he would not do so. The Finance Minister (Nirmala Sitharaman) never responds to questions in press conference...for farm bills they have not allowed a debate, on Pegasus no debate took place...and I am sure that they will not allow a debate on NMP also," the former finance minister said.

"What are the objectives of the NMP? Is the sole objective of NMP the raising of revenue over a four year period?... Certain assets have been identified by the NMP for monetization. What are the criteria applied for the choice of assets?, he asked.

Chidambaram said that under the UPA, certain criteria were adopted upfront for identifying the PSU that would be disinvested or privatized.

"In the case of roads/highways, there is currently a PPP policy. What is the difference, if any, between the model that is in force for such PPPs and the model that will be adopted under the NMP for monetization?," he wondered.

"If an asset is 'monetized' for, say, 30 or 50 of years, what is the value of the piece of paper

that declares the Government to be the 'owner' of the asset? What kind of asset does the government expect will be returned at the end of the period? Will it not be a fully depreciated asset worth practically nothing?," Chidambaram wanted to know.

"Since the NMP is silent on the subject, will the Government stipulate in the contract that the amount of depreciation should be put in a Depreciation Reserve Account which was used only to maintain, upgrade or add to the asset so that at the end of the lease period a valuable asset is returned to the government?," he asked.

Chidambaram wanted to know if there would be a provision in the contract to prevent asset-stripping by the lessee? "What provisions will be included in the Invitation to Bid (ITB) to ensure that the 'monetization' process does not create monopolies or duopolies in that sector? In particular, what provisions will be included to prevent monopolies/duopolies emerging in the ports, airports, telecom and power sectors?," he asked.

5 States most prone to climate change

New Delhi: At least 70 per cent of 100 most climate change vulnerable districts in the country are in the five States of eastern India - Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha. Outlining this, scientists on Friday called for the urgent need to put in place a multi-hazard warning system, implement local action along with better coordination at inter-agency, inter-ministerial and Centre-State levels to combat the global warming-induced threat.

"Overall, eight States in the country viz., Jharkhand, Mizoram, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal, all in the Eastern India are found to have higher vulnerability. However, out of country's 100 most vulnerable districts, 70 per cent are in Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa," said Dr Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Adviser and Head, Policy Coordination & Programme Management Division, and a climate change expert at the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the two-day policy dialogue on 'Localizing Climate Resilience Agenda: Vision 2050 and 2100' under CAP-RES DST-GOI Project on Friday here.

"As projected by the recent Working group-I report of IPCC, the global temperature which has already increased to 1.1 degree C above the pre-industrial era level

is likely to further increase to 1.5-deg. C in next 2 decades. India too is expected to experience greater impact of global warming in the time to come, There may be an increase in frequency, severity and duration of heat wave.

"Monsoon may become more erratic. There may be more frequent droughts and floods. The Indian seas may witness the more sea-level rise. There has already been increase in sea level in last two decades.. With the increase of carbon dioxide content in the oceans, the sea water may become more acidic, and so on" Dr Gupta pointed out at the programme organized by National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs and DST in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

"Next two decades are going to be very crucial. IPCC's working group report gives the starkest of warnings for global climate impacts. The two-degree rise in global temperatures may come earlier than expected. It may have a huge impact on India, especially on agriculture, health and water security. India is confronted with a challenge of addressing such impacts," he added.

"Science and technology is a major tool to fight the menace of climate change. Of late, hazards are not happening in isolation

but in combination with two or more. There is urgent need to put in place a multi-hazard warning system, along with better coordination at inter-agency, inter-ministerial and Centre-State levels. India made some excellent progress in climate action both in adaptation and mitigation areas," he pointed out.

Maj. Gen. MK Bindal, Executive Director, NIDM, MHA, warned that the danger mark has been reached, rapid access to information is needed to protect lives and livelihood and the use of STI is key to fight climate change problems.

"The sixth IPCC report has pushed the button to act now, and it is time to act locally. Good policies need to be translated into action. We are working with state governments for localising action plan," said Christiane Hieronymus, Head of Economic Cooperation & Development, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany while Prof V K Sharma, Vice Chairman, Sikkim SDMA said that, "We will have to do something at local level, at the municipal level with regional and local approach and also at the panchayat level".

Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA, urged for action with much greater vision, diversifying risks and continuous policy revisions while Prof Anil K Gupta, Head, ECDRM Division, NIDM, discussed ways of translating the concerns to local action. **PNS**



Villagers use boats to cross a flooded area near Kaziranga in Golaghat district

PTI

Dengue and viral fever cases wreaking havoc in UP

Aligarh: Viral Fever and dengue have started wreaking havoc in the district. It spread as an epidemic in the cities like Mathura, Firozabad, Aligarh and Hathras. More than 60 person have lost their lives due to this. About 2000 people are admitted in hospitals of these district and 150 new patients arrived in the OPD of Malkhan Singh District Hospital of Aligarh for treatment. More than ten percent are suffering from viral fever. Two dengue patients are admitted in the hospital, who are undergoing treatment. So far five cases of dengue have been found in the Aligarh district.

Chief Medical Superintendent Dr. Ramkishan said that out of the total patients, more than 10 percent

patients are coming with fever. Fewer cases of dengue and malaria have been reported so far. At present, two dengue patients are admitted in the hospital, who are undergoing treatment. Fever patients are also reaching the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Joint Hospital. CMO Dr. Anand Upadhyay informed that medicines have been made available at all CHCs and PHCs of the district. Spraying of chemicals has been ordered. So far five cases of dengue have been found in the district. The Health Department team is keeping an eye.

Epidemiologist Dr. Rohit had gone to Konh village of Mathura. All major hospitals have been directed to make wards for dengue and fever patients. **PNS**

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Right path?

Is the farmers' protest making any tangible mark or are they being misled?

The farmers' protest in and around Delhi since November 26 is in limbo. They are no closer to getting their demands for repeal of the three farm laws realised than when the protest began. The protest itself has expanded from Sikh farmers of Punjab to now include farmers from western Uttar Pradesh. Over these months, the protest appears to have transformed from an agricultural protest to a political protest to what is now being perceived as an electoral protest. That does not necessarily reflect badly on the farmers because in the absence of any Government response other than more rounds of talks, the farmers have been left with no option but to use current issues to peg their protests on, to keep themselves and their demand relevant. When it began last November, the focus was on the repeal of the three laws. The farmers received sympathy from across the country. The protest sites near Delhi attracted constant media and political attention. The euphoria over the first invitation for talks by the Government gradually dissipated as both sides could not reach a common ground. The protests took a political tone in the process, as the anger of the farmers against the Government turned into disillusionment with the Bharatiya Janata Party. The protests also focused on the BJP Governments in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Over time, and as the Government refused to surrender to the farmers' demands, the protests narrowed down their focus to turn electoral, to teach a lesson to the BJP in the forthcoming Assembly elections in 2022.



Since then, the protests have adopted a revised strategy. The farmers announced a "Mission UP, Uttarakhand", aimed at impacting the electoral prospects of the BJP Governments in these States. In an unadvertised manner, the farmers took their protests to Punjab as well, attacking the BJP and the Akali Dal and not the ruling Congress. If a week ago the farmers protesting against the BJP meeting in Haryana's Karnal were lathicharged, they faced the lathi in Moga, Punjab, this week. The farmers were charged with disrupting an Akali Dal rally by party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal who was launching his 100-day "yatra" across Punjab ahead of the elections next year. The protests are taking a political colour not of the farmers' making; they are being "used" by political parties for their own ends. In UP, the BJP plans to hold farmer outreach programmes in the form of "kisan panchayats". This is expected to drive a wedge in the community along party lines. In Punjab, the Congress openly claims credit for the farmers' protests. Social activists like Yogendra Yadav are giving the protests an entirely different spin: "The question now is not what the farmers can secure for themselves (but) whether they can lead the larger battle for saving the very idea of India." If the farmers remain convinced about the genuineness of their demand, they should begin to distinguish between leading and being led.

PICTALK



Cyclists celebrate the 85th birth anniversary of Assam's first Arjuna Awardee, Bhogeswar Barua, in Guwahati

PTI

Due attention

Paralympics in India has finally come of age and sportspersons are getting noticed

India's participation in the Paralympics remained gloomy until the 2016 Rio Paralympics in which the Indian contingent was represented by 19 athletes, the most since India's first participation in 1968. In that tournament, India recorded its best ever medal haul (four), including two golds. Moving on to the in-progress Tokyo Paralympics 2020, India sent 54 athletes, almost thrice the number sent in the last edition, who have clinched 13 medals (and counting), broken the world record in javelin thrice and brought the much-needed respect and recognition to the Paralympics which has been missing in India. The tournament has made the country proud, but more importantly, it has given hope to the specially abled people in India who account for 2.21 per cent of the total population. However, how fair is it for the State Governments to announce massive financial rewards and Government jobs to para athletes only after they bring home "the glory"? Why doesn't the Government understand that financial support before the competition is much more critical than the 'reward' that follows. The

idea behind Paralympics was not to glorify the specially abled, but to make them feel able and included; however, para athletes were not given due recognition until recently.

Various national sports bodies have tried to distance themselves from the Paralympics, citing "financial overburdening" and "complexities involved in organising tournaments". The Paralympics Committee of India (PCI), set up to promote and contribute to the development of sport opportunities and competitions, was suspended by the International Paralympics Committee (IPC) in 2015 for undermining the development of the Paralympic Movement in India. The committee was again banned in 2019 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) for misgovernance. PCI has been insensitive towards para athletes, however, the Paralympics in India has seen improvements after the 2016 Rio Paralympics because the Government finally gave it due attention. Cricket in India has always been pampered and cricketers have reaped the most out of it, leaving little for other sports. But the Tokyo Olympics and the Tokyo Paralympics brought a shift of spotlight from cricket to other important sports. The para athletes train to compete in events which are held once in four years, therefore, it is important for the Central and State Governments to provide resources and infrastructure that motivate more such people to participate.

UP's progress and Yogi's dynamism

Despite the State being one-fifth of India, it had to wait long before seeing noticeable development under the Yogi Adityanath regime



PRAFULL GORADIA

India's largest State Uttar Pradesh, also its most politically vibrant, has also moved in the field of development the fastest. Be it in the layout of highways, appointments to Government services, providing employment to the people, increasing investments, improving law and order, encouraging tourism and pilgrimage, as well as expanding the small and medium enterprises sector, Uttar Pradesh is making waves.

Since Independence, one never heard that this State had moved in the area of development. It is surprising that New Delhi did not bother, perhaps ignoring the fact that UP is one-fifth of India. If, therefore, UP leaps in progress, the country races ahead in terms of development. Evidently, for the powers-that-be in India's *rajdhani*, UP was treated as a bank of 84 Lok Sabha seats (80 now) and a sure-shot ticket to parliamentary majority at the Centre, but nothing more. In fact, a chief former ruling dynasty was reported to have voiced an opinion in favour of keeping Uttar Pradesh backward and fragmented.

The State today in 2021 is a vastly changed place. From the backwaters of most economic indices, it today has moved to becoming India's second-richest in terms of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), which stands at \$268 billion, behind only Maharashtra now. This, under Yogi Adityanath has been an achievement despite the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the ease of doing business, a crucial global benchmark, UP, which languished at 16th position in the country in 2016, has moved up to the second rank among India's States.

Law and order, the most important prerequisite for any development activity to flower, was never a strong suit in Uttar Pradesh before Adityanath took over. Any economic or capital investment in the State remained a dream. The scenario after Yogi's coming to office in March 2017 is a sharp contrast. Over the past four-and-a-half years, 137 criminals have been liquidated in police action, while close to 3,000 criminals were injured; nearly 37,000 accused have been booked under



the Gangster Act and over 500 under the National Security Act. The Yogi administration has also hit criminals hard by targeting their finances; in the State Government's drive against the mafia, their illicit property worth more than ₹1,500 crore has either been attached or demolished. Along with action against the mafia, the Yogi administration has also provided protection to witnesses.

And a vastly improved law and order has begun to pay off in the realm of development. Here too, figures speak for themselves. The State's development data reveals that over the years, UP has received investment proposals worth ₹66,000 crore from both foreign and local investors. The administration has acted promptly on these proposals. More to the point, companies from Japan, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, the UK, the US, Taiwan and South Korea are lining up to invest in UP; one company has left from China to set up operations in Agra. It is also significant that the Government is ensuring that the flow of investment is not confined to the State's bigger cities, but is also being channelled to smaller towns like Etah, Amroha, Mirzapur, and so on.

COMPANIES FROM JAPAN, CANADA, GERMANY, HONG KONG, THE UK, THE US, TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA ARE LINING UP TO INVEST IN UP; ONE COMPANY HAS LEFT FROM CHINA TO SET UP OPERATIONS IN AGRA

Apart from the fresh proposals for investment, MoUs worth ₹4.68 lakh crore have been signed at investors' summits, of which 371 proposals worth close to ₹3 lakh crore are already functional, generating employment for up to 5 lakh people. Here, one must make mention of the work being done by this Government on the defence industrial manufacturing corridor, which has already drawn up to 14 MoUs. The aim is to transform Uttar Pradesh into a hub of capital-intensive manufacturing, which the defence industry invariably entails.

Farmers have much to be happy about in Yogi Adityanath's rule. Development schemes and programmes, for their long-term success, also need the health of the rural economy to be robust. The Adityanath policy of transparent purchase of wheat and paddy, as also his continuous supervision of the purchase centres, has been successful. The example of paddy should suffice; the State Government has purchased a record 60 lakh metric tonne of the grain against a slated target of 55 lakh metric tonne. Payments made to the State's farmers have been touching new records as

well. The Government has stepped up its efforts to double the income of the State's farmers. Nearly ₹33,000 crore have been transferred to the accounts of the nearly three crore farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, plus separate transfers under crop insurance schemes. The modernisation of 20 sugar mills in the State, along with the reopening of the Pipraich, Munderwa and Ramala sugar mills, is a particularly significant milestone in the Yogi administration's agriculture policy.

Uttar Pradesh under Yogi Adityanath is clearly not the "Bimaru" State it was once derided as, but a State on a rapid march upwards. This is important for the State, which is one-fifth of India. Being backward is bad enough, but if one-fifth of the frame is sick, the rest of the body cannot in any way be healthy. Moreover, the Narasimha Rao-initiated 1991 reforms did not benefit UP. This makes UP's march under Adityanath all the more remarkable.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEAVING A LEGACY BEHIND

Sir — I remember during my school in the late 80s, when I first came across the name 'Chandan Mitra' in an article published in *The Statesman* on an issue of that time. Later, in January 1994, after the sudden demise of music director Rahul Dev Burman, a memoir titled *Agar Tum Na Hote* written by him was published in *The Hindustan Times* and it made me his fan. However, there was another reason for my admiration for him because in those days I had the impression that a man who works at such an important position of a renowned publication would not engage himself in writing on the least important subject like cinema and music.

That culture still prevails in most of the popular publications. The senior journalists/ writers, who write on various burgeoning issues of the country and abroad seldom write on these topics. The editorial policy of promoting cinema, music and culture continued to grow in *The Pioneer* under his able leadership. At a time when some of the esteemed English newspapers have stopped publishing the letters of the readers, *The Pioneer* continued to bring out the column honouring the sentiments of the letter writers.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

PSBs' APATHY TOWARDS LIC OF INDIA

Sir — LIC of India celebrates 1st September as LIC-day in commemoration of the formation of the Life Insurance Corporation of India in 1956 by nationalising and merging 245 private insurance companies. Nearing branches of LIC of India should be merged to reduce unnecessary overheads. But gradually life insurance business is being captured by later constituted private insurance companies, many of which are promoted by private banks. These private banks and their promoted insurance companies always work in alliance to promote their insurance business in addition to their banking business.

Several public sector banks collaborate with private insurance companies rather than promoting the LIC of India. Banking and insurance divisions of the Department

How breathing is killing people



According to a report prepared by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPI), air pollution is likely to reduce the life expectancy of about 40% Indians by more than nine years. The report said that over 480 million people living in the central, eastern and northern India including New Delhi, endure high pollution levels. Long-term exposure to outdoor and household air pollution contributed to over 1.67 million deaths from stroke, heart attack, diabetes, lung cancer, chronic lung diseases and

neonatal diseases in India in 2019. In fact, air pollution has now become the largest risk factor for death among all health risks.

Although the links between air pollution and COVID-19 are not yet known, it is a fact that exposure to high levels of air pollution could worsen the effects of COVID-19. Worsening air pollution has been amongst India's most pressing problems in recent years. Toxic air is a hindrance to development and people's welfare. Air pollution further leads to huge economic loss. The numbers observed in the report are alarming and would continue to rise unless the manufacturing industries, petroleum-run vehicles, and other air-polluting aspects are stopped, which is unlikely to happen in the near future. There is a pressing need for better and more effective ways to combat air pollution. The recently installed smog tower in New Delhi is a good step and should be followed by more such initiatives.

Venu GS | Kollam

of Financial Services should jointly plan a system whereby every branch of each public sector bank may be attached to some nearing unit of LIC of India. All insurance formalities must go through attached units of LIC of India and General Insurance. Healthy competition can be developed by giving appreciation points to branch managers bringing more insurance business into the public sector. This will promote the public-sector, save people from gimmicks and befooling insurance plans of private-sector companies, and provide a single-window facility for all banking and insurance needs.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

COMMUNALISM HURTS JOURNALISM

Sir — Chief Justice of India NV Ramana rightly pointed out that certain sections of the media 'communalise everything'. All right-thinking people share the concern voiced by him over the distinct propensity shown by the media for 'showing everything with a communal angle'. Switching on certain TV channels, you find them spew-

ing communal venom day in, day out, bearing out the veracity of what the CJI had said. Evidently, TV anchors in some news channels are predisposed or conditioned to present a slanted view of events.

Journalists are supposed to be politically neutral and speak the truth, but these anchors openly take the side of the ruling dispensation. They peddle the line of the ruling party and package propaganda as news, leaving us to wonder if they are independent journalists or party spokespersons. They are complicit in the attempt made by Hindu Right to tap the political potential of Hindu identity. Some channels try to keep a fine balance between communalism and secularism to maximise viewership. As observed by the CJI, communal content aired by media outlets brings a bad name to the country. Still, ironically enough, they do it assuming an air of patriotism.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The 100 deaths due to a viral fever in UP need immediate attention. Has the UP Govt not learnt any lessons from the horrific second wave?



Congress general secretary — Priyanka Gandhi Vadra



We care a lot about the 'One Belt, One Road' project. We own rich copper mines, which, thanks to China, will be modernised.

Zabihullah Mujahid — Taliban spokesman

The happy moments are what you're going to see on your deathbed. You're not going to remember the times when you took a cute selfie.



Actor — Emilia Clarke



Heartiest congratulations Praveen Kumar on winning the Silver Medal & also setting an Asian Record in the process in the Men's T44 class high jump.

Former cricketer — Sachin Tendulkar

The Modi Government is dangerous for employment. It does not promote 'friendless' business or employment and snatches jobs from the employed.



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi

FIRST COLUMN

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

Discrimination in waste disposal ignores minority communities of the world



PARTH RAMAN




BELLA GIRTHOFER

There have been many cases of racism throughout the world but the concept of environmental racism is a lot different and an emerging and widespread issue that needs to be addressed and a remedy suggested. Environmental Racism refers to a practice by which the minority communities of the world are ignored and are forced to live in an area that is surrounded by industrial or toxic materials, industrial waste factories, landfills, and other polluting sources. In other words, minority groups, such as coloured people, are discriminated against, and the environment around where they live is generally toxic, surrounded by industries or waste disposal facilities. The policies are often discriminated against them. The word “Environmental Racism” was first used in the United States but now it is used worldwide as cases are increasing daily. “Environmental Racism” was coined in 1982 by Benjamin Chavis, previously executive director of the United Church of Christ (UCC) Commission for Racial Justice. Chavis defined the term as racial discrimination in environmental policymaking, the enforcement of regulations and laws, the deliberate targeting of communities of colour for toxic waste facilities, the official sanctioning of the life-threatening presence of poisons and pollutants in our communities, and the history of excluding people of colour from the leadership of the ecology movements. During the civil rights moments, environmental racism started to gain critical attention and people began to get concerned about their residential areas or neighbourhoods and this led to the beginning of the demand for Environmental Justice. No one wants landfills, industrial waste, dumping of wastes, etc., around their residential colonies but the majority of these policies in the US were against the people of colour and. Therefore, a majority of the landfills were concentrated near areas where the Latino-Americans, African-Americans or low-income groups are housed. Civil rights moments and Environmental Justice joined hands and impacted the United States immensely. People become more concerned about their living environment. The environmental justice movement became a huge protest movement and people from minority communities started to fight for their rights. The Environmental Justice movement started to gain strength during the presidency of Bill Clinton. There have been many cases of environmental racism in the United States, where 70 per cent of the population lives near waste or dumping lands. It can be said that a major portion of contaminated sites exist in the low-income neighbourhoods. “Cancer Alley” is the most polluted area of the United States and it lies along the famous Mississippi River, affecting mainly the communities of colour. Environmental Protection Agency survey shows that non-white Americans mostly face air pollution from industries, oil fumes, smog, etc. They cause problems of the heart, lung cancer, asthma, and other non-communicable diseases because of inhaling poor quality of air. The National Centre for Environmental Assessment’s scientists confirmed that the African Americans in the United States face 1.5 times more dust particles or poor air quality than white people. At present, it is considered that race and not poverty alone should be considered as the main variable for studying environmental effects on poor communities. Surveys have been showing since 1983 that only 25 per cent of the wastelands are constructed near where white Americans live while the rest come up near the housing projects of minority communities. In 1990, many environmental justice leaders signed a public petition against the 10 big environmental groups for racial bias in policy development and the presence of only whites on their boards. This led to some of these organizations including people of colour or the poor in their workforce. Continued pressure led to the creation of the US Office of Environmental Equity.

(Parth Raman is Faculty, ICRI Group and Bella Girthofer is Researcher, International Relations and Peace. The views expressed are personal.)

Rockets in the Stratosphere

The typical rocket launch dumps the same amount of CO2 into the atmosphere as one airliner does in the course of a trans-Atlantic crossing



GWYNNE DYER

If you're worried about your 'carbon footprint' - a concept foisted on the world in 2004 by British Petroleum to persuade people that their own behaviour, and not giant oil companies like BP, is causing the climate problem - then you definitely should not sign up for a sub-orbital space flight. Besides, you probably can't afford it (\$250,000 pp).


Millions of people can afford it, however, and since the Branson/Bezos 'space race' last month tickets for sub-orbital flights are selling fast. These are commercial ventures, after all.

There are only three more flights scheduled for Jeff Bezos's 'Blue Origin' rocket before the end of the year, and two more for Richard Branson's 'VSS Unity', but both

men clearly intend to ramp up to more frequent flights. (Branson predicts 400 flights a year.) The era of mass space tourism is just around the corner.

Well, what did you expect? The travel and tourism industry accounted for 10.7 per cent of world GDP in the last normal year (2019), so nowhere is safe, including the stratosphere. And like every other tourist destination, the stratosphere suffers some environmental damage from all the tourists passing through. The key question, so far unanswered, is: how much?

Hardly any at the moment. The typical rocket launch dumps the same amount of CO2 into the atmosphere as one airliner does in the course of a trans-Atlantic crossing.



Since there are only three or four passengers aboard each of those sub-orbital flights, their individual carbon footprints are huge - but more than 1,700 commercial jets cross the Atlantic on the average day.

Most rockets, including Elon Musk's 'Falcon Heavies' and most of the big Chinese and Russian vehicles, burn a mixture of kerosene and liquid oxygen and produce an exhaust plume little different from that of jet aircraft: mostly carbon dioxide and water.

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Moreover, some of the newer rockets, like Bezos's 'New Shepard', most European launch vehicles, and the last stage of the new Long March rockets, use Liquid Hydrogen and Liquid Oxygen, which leaves only water and a few traces of other chemicals. So far, so relatively harmless - except that all the other rockets leave black carbon ('soot') in the upper stratosphere, where airliners don't fly.

The commercial aircraft do leave soot in the lowest part of the stratosphere, where its effects are reasonably well understood. It warms the lower stratosphere. It presumably does that in the upper

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Bezos's launches get a pass because he's not burning kerosene and leaving soot behind. Branson's rocket, however, is powered by a 'hybrid engine' that burns hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (synthetic rubber), with nitrous oxide as an oxidiser. You can think of it as a soot generator with stratospheric capability. And 400 flights a year.

So, the Branson rocket should be closely monitored for its impact on the stratosphere, and how that might affect the climate. The impact could be insignificant, but it will be a much bigger contributor to stratospheric pollution than its size suggests. And what of space flight in general?


There will certainly be more orbital flights as time goes on, but most satellites are now very small packages that can be packed together on a single launch. Moreover, there is a clear move towards using liquid hydrogen rather than kerosene as a fuel, despite hydrogen's current high price, and a longer-term aspiration to use high-energy biofuels that are carbon-neutral.

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The remedy for that is to fly in the lower atmosphere, where contrails rarely form - but that puts planes back down in the turbulence, which passengers do not like. Planes could be designed that would counter that turbulence (ducted flow and computer-driven instant response), but there's no sign of it yet.

The MBS impact on geopolitics

The Crown Prince is aiming to spend over \$7 billion within the next 10 years across the public and private sectors to diversify its economy away from oil



PRASHANT TEWARI




TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION, SAUDI ARABIA HAS ISSUED DEBT, DRAWN DOWN ITS FISCAL RESERVES AND VAT — A FORM OF SALES TAX. THE KINGDOM CAN ALSO CONTINUE TO DRAW FROM ITS RESERVES, WHICH STOOD AT \$130BN AT THE END OF THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2021. NEVERTHELESS, PRIVATISATIONS ARE LIKELY TO GAIN NEW MOMENTUM OVER THE COMING YEARS


(The writer is Editor in Chief of Opinion Express & columnist with The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IF THE BJP WORKERS TURN AROUND AND SPIT, BAGHEL AND HIS ENTIRE CABINET WOULD BE SWEEPED AWAY. — CHHATTISGARH BJP IN-CHARGE D PURANDESWARI




PURANDESWARI'S MENTAL STATUS HAS COME DOWN TO THIS AFTER JOINING THE BJP. IF YOU SPIT ON THE SKY, IT'S SURE TO FALL ON YOUR FACE. — CHHATTISGARH CHIEF MINISTER BHUPESH BAGHEL



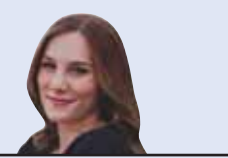
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Taliban, Af flags fly side by side

AFP ■ KABUL

A near-full house turned out to watch Afghanistan's top cricketers play in a trial match on Friday, with Taliban and Afghan flags waving side by side in what sports officials called a show of national unity.

It was the first match since the Taliban swept to power on August 15, leaving organisers of sports and cultural events wondering what is now acceptable under the hardline Islamists' rule.

The two sides — called Peace Defenders and Peace Heroes — featured many members of the Afghan national team, currently preparing for the Twenty20 World Cup to be played in UAE and Oman from October 17.

"It is great to be here and watch cricket," Taliban's Hamza told *AFP* at the stadium in Kabul, an American M-16 rifle slung over his shoulder.

He was in charge of a contingent of Taliban keeping guard among the crowd — some watching the game more intently than the spectators.

"I am a player myself," said

'UNITY' CRICKET MATCH



Hamza. "An all-rounder."

The return of the Taliban has sparked widespread fear in Afghanistan and in the international community, reviving memories of their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001, when they imposed a harsh version of Islamic law.

That regime banned most forms of entertainment — including many sports — and stadiums doubled as public execution venues.

Sports the Taliban did allow were strictly controlled,

and were only for men to play or watch.

Certainly there were no women among the crowd of around 4,000 on Friday, but there was plenty of enthusiasm as the teams played a Twenty20 match — the shortest version of the game — scheduled to finish in time for Friday prayers, the most important of the week.

Cricket was barely known in Afghanistan until the early 2000s, and its explosive rise in popularity is linked with con-

flict — the sport was picked up in Pakistan by Afghan refugees who then seeded it in their home country.

The national team has enjoyed a meteoric rise on the international scene since then, gaining coveted Test status in 2017 and now ranking among the top 10 sides in the world in the one-day and Twenty20 formats.

In the last 20 years, it has emerged as a powerful symbol of national unity in a country riven by civil war and ethnic conflict.

On Friday, fans waved Afghan and Taliban flags side by side, while "Baba cricket" — an elderly superfan dressed head to toe in national colours — was ushered to a prime spot in the stand.

Entry was free for spectators on Friday, although everyone was patted down by Taliban guards as they entered the stadium near Chaman Uzuri — a Kabul neighbourhood dominated by Pashtuns, who make up a majority of Taliban fighters.

Although many Kabul residents say security has

improved in the weeks since the government fell, the Taliban are still on alert following the Islamic State suicide bomb attacks at the airport last week that killed more than 100 people — including 13 American troops as they wrapped up a chaotic withdrawal.

A beaming Hamid Shinwari, CEO of the Afghan Cricket Board, told *AFP* the display of flags at the match — which Peace Defenders won by 62 runs — was a positive sign for the country.

"It is unity," he said, adding that talks with Taliban officials signalled a bright future for the sport.

He would not be drawn, however, on the fate of the women's team, with various media reports saying many members had already fled the country or were in hiding — fearful for their future under the new regime.

"We have a group on WhatsApp and every night we are talking about our problems and sharing plans about what we should do," one member of the team told the *BBC* this week.

March for women's rights at Kabul palace



Women gather to demand their rights under the Taliban rule during a protest in Kabul, Afghanistan on Friday

AP

Kabul: A few dozen protesters have gathered outside the presidential palace in Kabul, urging the country's new Taliban leadership to uphold women's rights achieved under Western patronage and include women in the upcoming Government.

At one gate on Friday, around a dozen women held up small printed pages urging for "A heroic Cabinet with the presence

of women." The protesters chanted slogans asserting human rights and saying they did not want to return to the past.

A document circulated by protesters demanded that Afghan women are granted full rights to education, social and political contributions in the country's future, and general freedoms including that of free speech. *AP*

New Zealand police kill 'terrorist' after he stabs 6 people

AP ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand authorities were so worried about an extremist inspired by the Islamic State (ISIS) group they were following him around-the-clock and were able to shoot and kill him within 60 seconds of him unleashing a frenzied knife attack that wounded six people on Friday at an Auckland supermarket.

Three of the shoppers were taken to Auckland hospitals in critical condition, police said. Another was in serious condition, while two more were in moderate condition.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the incident was a terror attack. She said the man was a Sri Lankan national who was inspired by the

Islamic State group and was well known to the nation's security agencies.

Polish PM to EU: Don't lecture us Poles about democracy

Warsaw: Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said on Friday that nobody has the right to lecture his country on democracy, after the European Union said talks were still ongoing over the payment of billions of euros to bloc member Poland.

"Nobody will teach us what democracy and rule of law are because Poland has a very long and noble history of fighting against all kinds of totalitarianism and despots," Morawiecki said on Facebook.

"We fought for the rule of law and democracy during the terrible years of communism, but we have a much longer tradition of democracy and we do not want to be instructed by anyone in Western Europe about what democracy is, what the rule of law is," the PM added. *AP*

EU Mins outline conditions for relations with Taliban

Brdo Castle (Slovenia): European Union officials on Friday listed a set of conditions for defining the EU's level of engagement with the Taliban as the new rulers of Afghanistan, including respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Following the Afghan

Government's collapse last month, the 27-nation bloc and its member countries have evacuated their diplomats from Afghanistan. But EU officials have said they are willing to cooperate with the Taliban now that they have returned to power.

The EU is focusing on deliv-

ering humanitarian aid, guaranteeing a safe passage out of the country of Afghan collaborators and employees who were left behind during the airlifts from Kabul, and trying to prevent a mass exodus of refugees that could prompt another migration crisis in Europe. *AP*

Taliban say Western Union to resume ops

Kabul: The Taliban say Western Union will resume its operations in Afghanistan, opening a rare conduit for foreign funds to flow into the cash-strapped country.

The group's cultural commission spokesman, Ahmadullah Muttaqi, announced the move on Friday. The American financial services giant had halted operations in Afghanistan when the Taliban took power in the capital on August 15.


The opening will be especially welcomed by Afghans with foreign relatives abroad. Hundreds of people have been lining up daily outside Afghan banks to withdraw cash. *AP*

UK Foreign Secretary sees importance in engaging with Taliban

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab on Friday said it is important to engage with the Taliban Government in Afghanistan for a range of reasons, including the safe passage of British citizens, but dismissed talks of recognising it officially as "premature".

Addressing a joint press conference in Islamabad alongside Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Raab, who is Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, said it would not have been possible to evacuate some 15,000 people from Kabul without some degree of cooperation from the Taliban.



MODI RUBBER LIMITED
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Website: www.modirubberlimited.com; **Email:** investors@modigroup.net; **Phone:** +91-11-47107398

NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that the 48th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of Modi Rubber Limited ("Company") will be held on Monday, the 27th September, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. (IST) through Video Conferencing ("VC")/ Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") facility provided by Mas Services Limited to transact the business set out in the Notice convening the AGM.
Notice of AGM and Annual Report: In compliance with general circular dated January, 13 2021 read with circulars dated April 8, 2020, April, 13 2020 and May 5, 2020 and all other applicable laws and circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to transact the Ordinary and Special businesses as set out in the Notice. The Notice setting out the business to be transacted at the AGM together with the Integrated Annual Report of the Company for the year 2020-21 has been sent on 03.09.2021 through electronic mode only to the members whose email address is registered with the Company / Depository Participant(s). The Notice and the Integrated Annual Report are also available on the Company's website at www.modirubberlimited.com and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively.
E-voting: The Company is providing to the members, the facility to cast their vote(s) on the business as set out in the Notice of the AGM through remote e-voting facility ("remote e-voting") as well as during the AGM to those members who could not cast their vote(s) by remote evoting. Members are requested to note the following:
i. the company has fixed 20th September 2021 as the 'Cut Off date' to ascertain the eligibility of members to vote by remote e-voting or by e-voting at the AGM.
ii. A person, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. 20th September 2021 only, shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or for participation and voting at the AGM.
iii. the remote e-voting period shall be available as under:
Commencement of remote e-voting : from 09:00 a.m.(IST) on Friday 24th September 2021
End of remote e-voting : till 05:00 pm (IST) on Sunday, 26th September 2021
iv. any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice and holds shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password. by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in. However, if the person is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then he/she can use their existing User ID and password for casting the vote.
v. the members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM can also attend/ participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again at the AGM.
vi. the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL after 5.00 p.m. (IST) on 26th September 2021. The votes once cast by the member, cannot be changed subsequently.
vii. those members, who intend to participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM facility and could not cast their vote on the resolutions through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting during the AGM.
viii. the manner of voting for members holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM. The notice will also be available on the website of the Company at www.modirubberlimited.com. Members are requested to carefully read all the Notes set out in the Notice of the AGM with respect to instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting vote etc. Contact details: In case of any queries relating to e-voting, the members may refer to the FAQs for members and e-voting user manual for members available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 1800-222-990 or send a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in.
The members are requested to note the following contact details for addressing queries/ grievances, if any:

MAS Services Limited
T-34, IInd Floor, Okhla Industrial Area
Phase-II, New Delhi - 110020

Phone No. +91-11-2638 7281 82, 83
Fax no. +91-11-2638 7384
E-mail: info@masserv.com

By order of the Board of Directors

Sd/-
(S K Bajpai)

Head - Legal & Co. Secretary



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

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

S.No.	Job no/ Work name	Amount
1	06/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2021-22, D/o R.S.P. (Theme Painting) in Elevated road pillar No-56, 57, DND pillars, Under ground car parking sector-03, Nursery Sector-8, Police Station sector-20 Noida, Power room Gol Chakkar Sector-62 and 63, wall in front of sector-63, Indera puram under pass, wall near Toilet no-45 near Gol Chakkar, Painting at vilopit Kudaghar etc. Noida.	Cost Rs.32.02 Lacs
2	07/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2021-22, M/o R.S.P (Vertical Garden) with two year maintenance in sector-59, 61, 62 and 63 Metro Station Pillars.	Cost Rs.83.44 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date **13.09.2021** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date **14.09.2021** at **11.00 AM**.
Office: Director (Hort.)
Sector-39 NOIDA
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Delhi.
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street New Delhi - 110001.

OA No 63/2020
Date: 31.08.2021

Bank Of Baroda-Applicant Versus **Sh. Hem Singh Bharana & Ors.-Respondent**
To, DEFENDANT
1. Sh.Hem Singh Bharana S/O Late Sh. R.S. Bharana R/O C-146 Sarvodaya Enclave New Delhi - 110017
2. M/S Paulo Realtech Pvt. Ltd. House No. 130 1st Floor Masjid Moth South Extension Part-II New Delhi
3. M/S Demas Developers Pvt. Ltd.
4. M/S Dore Realtors Pvt. Ltd.
5. Mr. Nuray Realtech Pvt. Ltd.
6. M/S Alviya Realtors Pvt. Ltd.
All At: House No. 130 1st Floor Masjid Moth South Extension Part-2 New Delhi - 49
10. Union Bank Of India Union Bank Bhawan, 239 Vidhan Bhawan Marg Nariman Point Mumbai - 400021 Also At: Industrial Finance Branch M-11 Connaught Circus New Delhi - 01
11. Oriental Bank Of Commerce Harsha Bhawan, E- Block Connaught Place New Delhi -01 Also At: A-Block, A- 30 To 33 Rajiv Chowk 1st Floor New Delhi - 08
12. Indian Overseas Bank 763 Anna Salai Chennai - 600002 Also At: 14-15 Farm Bhawan Nehru Place New Delhi - 110019
14. Corporation Bank P.B. No. 88 Mangaladevi Temple Road Mangalore- 575001
Also At: Mgf Building 2nd Floor Faiz Road Jhandewalan New I Ej-5- Also At: Ifb Branch, 10th Floor 18/20 Hindustan House K.G. Marg' Aratt'
16. IDBI Bank Ltd. IDBI Tower WTC Complex Cuffe Parade Mumbai - 400005 Also At: 1st Floor Videocon Tower Jhandewalan Extension Jhandewalan New Delhi - 110055 Also At: 3rd Floor Indian Red Cross Society Building 1, Red Cross Road New Delhi
17. State Bank Of India State Bank Bhavan Madame Cama Road Nariman Point Mumbai - 400021
Also AT: Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan 1, Tolstoy Marg New Delhi - 01 Also At: Erstwhile State Bank Of Hyderabad Hyderabad Bank Tower Gunfoundry Hyderabad- 500001 Alsoat: Commercial Branch: 74 Janpath New Delhi - 01
19. Central Bank Of India 14th Floor Chander Mukhi Nariman Point Mumbai - 400021
20. General Insurance Corporation Of India Suraksha 170, J Tata Road Church Gate Mumbai - 400020
21. Karnataka Bank Ltd. Mahaveera Circle Kankanady Mangalore - 575002 Alsoat: K-38, Choudhary Building Outer Circle Connaught Place New Delhi
23. Punjab & Sind Bank 7th Floor, 21, Bank House Rajendra Place New Delhi - 08 Also At: G. Floor Bank House 21, Rajendra Place New Delhi - 08
25. UCO Bank 10, BTM Sarani Barbourne Road 7th Floor Kolkata West Bengal - 700001
26. United Bank Of India & Fin Department 4th Floor, 11, Hemanta Basu Sarai Kolkata - 700001
27. NPC Trustee/ A/C LIC Pension Fund Scheme I (Npc Trustee) Yogakshema East Wing 7th Floor Jeevan Bima Marg Nariman Point Mumbai - 400021
28. Bank Of India Star House C-5 "G" Block Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra East Mumbai - 400051
Also at: New Delhi Large Corporate Branch 10th Floor Chanderlok Building 36, Janpath New Delhi-01
29. SBICAP Trustee Company Ltd. 202, Maker Tower "E" Cuffe Parade Mumbai - 400005
Also at: 424-425, 4th Floor World Trade Centre Babar Lane New Delhi - 110001
Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 395,30,13,425.95/- (Rupee Three Hundred Ninety Five Crore Thirty Lakh Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Five And Paise Ninety Five only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the tribunal on 17.09.2021 at 10.30 A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.
By Order Of The Tribunal, Assistant Registrar DRT-II, Delhi

Lagging in polls, Merkel party's candidate seeks expert help

AP ■ BERLIN

The center-right Union bloc's candidate to succeed Angela Merkel as chancellor in this month's German election announced the naming of eight experts on Friday to advise him on how to tackle issues such as climate change and education, as he struggles to reverse a sustained downward trend in the polls.

A survey released by public broadcaster ARD showed the Union bloc receiving 20 per cent of the vote compared to 25 per cent support for the center-left Social Democrats.

The poll of 1,337 eligible voters conducted August 30-September 1 had a margin of error of 2-3 percentage points.

The Union bloc's candidate for the chancellorship, Armin

Laschet, has received particularly unfavourable reviews after a series of slips on the campaign trail in recent months.

Speaking at the Berlin headquarters of his Christian Democratic Union party, Laschet said he wants his new team to reflect the Christian-social, liberal and conservative wings of the party.

Several of the experts are familiar faces, including former rival Friedrich Merz, who was tapped to advise Laschet on finance and business matters.

Others, like extremism researcher Peter R. Neumann, have not previously figured prominently in the party.

Afghan Govt formation postponed

Peshawar: The formation of a new Afghan Government by the Taliban, which was to be announced on Friday, has now been delayed by a day, according to the spokesman of the insurgents Zabullah Mujahid.

Mujahid said the announcement about the formation of the new Government will now be made on Saturday. Sources said that Chairman of Taliban's Political Office, Doha, Qatar Mulla Abdul Ghani Baradar is likely to be the head of the Taliban.

More than two weeks after the Taliban took over Afghanistan, the hardline Islamists are all set to announce the formation of a Government in Kabul on the lines of the Iranian leadership, with the group's top religious leader Mullah Hebatullah Akhundzada as Afghanistan's supreme authority, a senior member of the group has said. *PTI*

GLOBE TROTTER

OVER 45 DEAD AFTER IDA'S REMNANTS

New York: A stunned US East Coast faced a rising death toll, surging rivers and tornado damage on Thursday after the remnants of Hurricane Ida walloped the region with record-breaking rain, drowning more than 40 people in their homes and cars. In a region that had been warned about potentially deadly flash flooding but hadn't braced for such a blow from the no-longer-hurricane, the storm killed at least 46 people from Maryland to Connecticut on Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

SYRIA: SHOT DOWN ISRAELI MISSILES NEAR CAPITAL

Damascus: Syria says it shot down Israeli missiles as they approached the capital Damascus on Friday, saying it had countered an "aggression" from its longtime adversary with its own air defenses. State news agency SANA said Syria shot down most of the missiles, which were launched from the area southeast of neighbouring Lebanon and targeted areas near Damascus.

EU, ASTRA REACH DEAL TO END VAX DELIVERY DISPUTE

Brussels: The European Union and drugmaker AstraZeneca said on Friday that they reached a deal to end a damaging legal battle over the slow pace of deliveries of the company's Covid-19 vaccines.

9 KILLED IN RAIN-RELATED INCIDENTS IN NEPAL

Kathmandu: At least nine people died in rain-related incidents in Nepal, officials said on Friday, even as the meteorological department predicted further rain throughout the weekend. Four people were killed when a private car they were travelling in was swept away in flood waters in Dang district on Thursday night.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that **Mr. Badrath Bhasin** was the owner of the **Industrial Property No.55F, area admeasuring 675 Sq. Yds., in New Industrial Area, New Township, Faridabad (Haryana), vide Sale Deed dated 13.10.1998**, vide Document No.6368, Book No.1, registered on 13.10.1998 with SR-Faridabad. After demise of Mr. Badrath Bhasin, following are the legal heirs: 1) **Mrs. Kamlesh Bhasin (Wife)**, 2) **Mr. Kaval Bhasin & 3) Mr. Sanjeev Bhasin (both Son)** as per Legal Her Certificate dated 01.07.2021 issued by Tehsilidar, Faridabad. The aforesaid property is mortgaged / financed with **IDFC First Bank Limited**. If any Person having any type of claim right / title / interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below **within 7 days** from the date of notice, about his objections, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.
Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moh, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.II, New Delhi -110049
Contact No 011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client Mohd. Ishmile and Naim Begum are mortgaging property i.e Plot No. 49, Kharsa No. 2105, Roshan Enclave, Village Dasna, Pargana Dasna, District U.P with Satin Housing Finance Ltd. Naim Begum has lost original sale deed executed by M/s. County Farms Developers Pvt. Ltd. in favour of Mrs. Sahista Begum, registered with SR-Ghaziabad, vide doc. no. 5598 on dated 19.09.2000 & Original sale deed executed by Mrs. Sahista Begum in favour of Mrs. Rajjo Devi, duly registered with SR-Ghaziabad vide doc. no. 6246, on dated 17.11.2008 & Original sale deed executed by Mrs. Rajjo Devi in favour of Mr. Nizamuddin, duly registered with SR-Ghaziabad vide doc. no. 9915, on dated 22.12.2014. Police complaint dt. 29.08.2021 was lodged with UP Police. It is informed that any deal with said lost deeds by any person except my said client with said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person found said deeds or is having right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned and within 8 days of this publication.
AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760, Dwarka Sector 10/Dwarka New Delhi-75
M:-9899013918

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC059252
Regd. Office: 110, Babar Road, New Delhi-110001
Ph: 011-46201000 **Fax:** 011-46201002 **E-mail:** jindal@jindal.bz, taxation@jindal.bz
Website: www.jltd.co.in
NOTICE OF 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE
NOTICE is hereby given that the 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Jindal Leasefin Limited will be held on Thursday, 30th September, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. at Kejriwal Farm House, Holambi Kalan, Narela, Delhi-110082.
The notice along with the Annual Report for the financial year 2020-21 in electronic mode has been sent to all the Members whose email ids are registered with the Company/Depository Participants. Physical copies of the notice alongwith the Annual Report have been sent to other Members at their registered addresses.
The members may cast/exercise their right to vote by electronic means through remote e-voting services provided by CDCL. Voting rights shall be reckoned on the paid-up value of shares registered in the name of the member/beneficial owner as on the cut off date i.e. 23rd September, 2021. Any person who becomes member of the company after dispatch of the notice of the meeting and holding shares as on cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2021 may obtain the user ID and password by sending a request at bestairta@gmail.com.
The remote e-voting period commences on Monday, 27th September, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. (IST) and ends on Wednesday, 29th September, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. (IST) Please note that remote e-voting will not be allowed beyond 5:00 p.m. (IST) on 29th September, 2021.
The facility for voting through Ballot Paper shall be made available at the venue of the AGM to the members attending the meeting, who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting. The members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM, may also attend the meeting but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again at the AGM.
The Notice and annual report can also be downloaded from the Company's website: www.jltd.co.in. Any grievance related to e-voting may be addressed to the undersigned.
Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rules thereunder and Regulation 42 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 the Register of members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from 24th September, 2021 to 30th September, 2021 for the purpose of Annual General Meeting.
For Jindal Leasefin Limited
Sd/-
SURENDER KUMAR JINDAL
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Forex reserves surge to record \$633.5 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country's foreign exchange reserves soared by USD 16.663 billion to touch a lifetime high of USD 633.558 billion in the week ended August 27, mainly due to an increase in Special Drawing Rights (SDR) holdings, RBI data showed.

On Wednesday, RBI had said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) made an allocation of SDR 12.57 billion (equivalent to around USD 17.86 billion at the latest exchange rate) to India on August 23, 2021.

SDR holdings are part of the foreign exchange reserves of a country. IMF makes the general SDR allocation to its members in proportion to their existing quotas in the Fund.

In the reporting week ended August 27, 2021, the country's SDR holdings rose by USD 17.866 billion to USD 19.407 billion, as per weekly



data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. India's forex kitty had declined by USD 2.47 billion to USD 616.895 billion in the previous week ended August 20, 2021.

Foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves, dipped by USD 1.409 billion to USD 571.6 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms,

the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up by USD 192 million to USD 37.441 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF rose by USD 14 million to USD 5.11 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

Markets extend record run; Sensex soars past 58,000 on RIL boost

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex scaled the 58,000-mark for the first time on Friday, buoyed by a rally in market heavyweight Reliance Industries as investors remained in risk-on mode amid positive macroeconomic data and sustained foreign fund inflows.

Rising for the second straight day, the 30-share benchmark climbed 277.41 points or 0.48 per cent to its lifetime closing high of 58,129.95.

It touched an intra-day record of 58,194.79.

The Sensex has taken just 3 sessions to go from the 57,000-level to 58,000. The index closed at fresh all-time highs in five of the previous six sessions.

Similarly, Nifty advanced 89.45 points or 0.52 per cent to its all-time closing peak of 17,323.60. During the session, it touched a record of

17,340.10.

It was a scintillating week for the benchmarks, with the Sensex rallying 2,005.23 points or 3.57 per cent, while the Nifty surged 618.40 points or 3.70 per cent.

Reliance Industries was the top gainer in the Sensex pack on Friday, darting up 4.12 per cent after its chairman Mukesh Ambani outlined an ambitious green energy roadmap, including a '1-1-1 vision' to bring down the cost of hydrogen to under USD 1 per 1 kg in 1 decade.

Titan, Tata Steel, Bajaj Auto, Maruti, Dr Reddy's and Asian Paints were the other prominent winners, spurring up to 2.59 per cent.

Maruti Suzuki closed 1.06 per cent higher even as the country's largest carmaker announced a recall of 1,81,754 units of various models to replace faulty motor generator units.

Rupee settles 4 paise higher at 73.02 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee settled with a marginal gain of 4 paise at 73.02 against the US dollar on Friday, even as the domestic equities continued their record-setting spree.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 73.05 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.01 and a low of 73.15. It finally ended at 73.02 against the American currency, registering a gain of just 4 paise over its previous close. On a weekly basis, the local currency has appreciated by 67 paise against the US dollar. According to HDFC Securities' Dilip Parmar, spot USD/INR facing resistance around 73.15 and holding support at 72.90. "Expectations of dollar inflows from many corporates' fund raising also weighed on the pair. In near term, spot USD-INR is expected to consolidate before heading towards 72.

Industry body Dipa disappointed over non-implementation of Trai recommendation on infra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Digital infrastructure industry body Dipa, erstwhile Taipa, on Friday expressed disappointment over non-implementation of Trai's recommendations since 2015 to enhance the scope of infrastructure providers. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has again recommended to Department of Telecom on August 31 that its recommendations dated March 13, 2020 to enhance the scope of infrastructure providers should be decided by the department and the matter should be finalised within three months.

"We thank the Authority (Trai) for once again underlining the need for 'Enhancement of Scope of IP-1' and this time prescribing timelines also for its implementation i.E within 3 months as the same is pending despite numerous follow-ups with DoT," Dipa Director General TR Dua said in a statement.

Infrastructure Providers

(IP-1) provide infrastructure assets such as dark fibre, right of way, duct space and tower on lease, rent-out or sale basis to telecom operators on mutually agreed terms and conditions.

Trai has recommended that the registered IP-1 companies be allowed to own, establish, maintain, and work all such infrastructure items, equipment, and systems which are required for establishing Wireline Access Network, Radio Access Network, and Transmission Links.

The regulator also suggested that the scope of IP-1 registration should include, but not limited to, right of way, duct space, optical fiber, tower, feeder cable, antenna, base station, in-building solution (IBS), distributed antenna system (DAS) etc within any part of India. Dua said that once the recommendations are implemented, it will go a long way in not only addressing the capex and opex requirements but also improving the financial health of the sector.

Expect FY22 to be better on job front as companies push hiring: SBI report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Economists at the country's largest lender SBI believe that labour market activity will improve in FY22, saying companies are continuing with their hiring plans as the pandemic wanes.

They pointed to payroll data from Employees Provident Fund Organisation and New Pension Scheme, showing an uptick in new additions to support their optimistic view.

"We expect labour market activity to remain better in the current fiscal as companies will continue with their hiring plans to get ahead of the pandemic," its chief economist Soumya Kanti Ghosh said in a note.

The expectation comes at a time when concerns are being raised about joblessness and the dip in labour participation in the economy coming back to normalcy after the second wave of the pandemic. As per an estimate by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, 15 lakh Indians, including 13 lakh in rural areas alone, lost their jobs in August alone.

About 80% prospective homebuyers want to purchase ready, nearing completion flats: CII-Anarock

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 80 per cent of prospective home buyers prefer to purchase properties that are ready-to-move-in or nearing completion, while only around 20 per cent of customers want to buy newly launched flats, according to a survey conducted by CII and Anarock.

After pricing, the survey suggests that developer credibility, project design and location are the most important attributes while selecting a home.

Industry body CII and property consultant Anarock conducted an online survey during January-June this year with a sample size of 4,965 participants.

As per the survey findings, ready-to-move-in (completed) property continues to be the most preferred among the prospective buyers with 32 per cent in favour.

Around 24 per cent of respondents are willing to buy properties that will be ready within six months, while 23 per cent will not mind buying properties to be ready within a year.

Only 21 per cent are now

willing to purchase a newly launched property.

CII and Anarock said the Covid pandemic has altered homebuyers preferences significantly, with the second wave being a significant change catalyst.

"For the first time, affordable housing is the lowest priority, with more than 34 per cent respondent home seekers focused on properties priced between ₹90 lakh to ₹2.5 crore," Anarock said in a statement.

The survey shows that 35 per cent of respondents favoured properties priced between ₹ 45-90 lakh, just 27 per cent of respondents voted for affordable housing (priced below ₹ 45 lakh).

In the previous H2 2020 survey, about 36 per cent of respondent property seekers eyed budget housing.

While attractive pricing continues to rule the roost of must-haves, established developer credibility is the second-highest priority for 77 per cent of the surveyed buyers.

Google says firmly sees itself as partner to India's financial ecosystem

New Delhi: Internet major Google on Friday said it firmly sees itself as a partner to the existing financial ecosystem in India and that instances of partnerships being described as Google Pay's offerings fuel misinterpretation.

While the company did not elaborate of any specific instances, the latest assertion comes against the backdrop of reports that suggested Google Pay has launched fixed deposit offerings in partnership with a bank. The company emphasised that in every geography where Google Pay is present, its stance is consistently one of partnering with the existing financial services and banking systems to help scale and enable frictionless delivery of financial products and services and contribute to the goal of financial inclusion. In a blogpost, Google India said there have been a few instances where these offerings have been reported as 'Google Pay's offerings' which "fuels misinterpretation".

PTI


Country's economy is booming after second Covid wave, that's what we have read: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"Economy is booming in the country after the second Covid wave", said the Supreme Court on Friday as it refused to entertain a batch of pleas seeking contempt action against Governor of Reserve Bank of India and senior officials of other banks for declaring the loan accounts as Non-Performing Assets (NPA).

The top court said that contempt is between court and contemnor and it is not inclined to initiate contempt action against senior officials of banks.

"In our considered view, we are not inclined to exercise our contempt jurisdiction, since it is not in the interest of justice," said a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Vikram Nath and Hima Kohli. The bench said that petitioners are at liberty to seek remedy under the e Securityisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI Act), 2002.



UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 633

Tender Notice

Date: 03.09.2021

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-SHP), Dharchula, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :
Tender No. 01/EE (Civil-SHP)/Dharchula/2021-22
Name of work: Construction of two (02) nos of public toilets each at Tankul and Simkhola village, Dharchula, Pithoragarh.
Estimated cost : 10.79 Lac + G.S.T. extra
Date of availability of bid document on website : 06/09/2021
Last date for submission of tender : 04/10/2021 upto 15:00 hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"
Executive Engineer (Civil-SHP)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"



छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावास भवन, नॉर्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002
// सर्व संबंधितों को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिवृचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधितों को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स कुकुम्प स्मेटेराइज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, ग्राम-धमनी, तहसील-पथरिया, जिला-मुंगेली सिम्टा Sponge Iron--2,45,000 TPA, Mild Steel Billet-1,79,550 TPA and/or Re rolled Steel Products through Hot Charging-1,31,970, TPA, Re rolled Steel Products through Reheating Furnace-42,194 TPA, Ferro Alloys-75000 TPA or Pig Iron-1,50,000 TPA, Captive Power Plant (WHRB-16 MW & FBC-40 MW), Fly Ash Bricks Plant-1,50,000 TPA, Grain based Bio Ethanol (100 KLD) or 35,000 KLA, Animal Feed Grade Protein DDG-28,000 MT Per Annum and Bio-CNG-3,000 MT Per Annum CO2 (Carbon Di-oxide)-17,500 MT Per Annum, Co-Generation Based Power Plant-3 MW के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक समुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त प्रस्तावित परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/सुझाव/टीका-टिप्पणी इस अधिसूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, बिलासपुर के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 07/10/2021, समय 11-00 बजे, स्थान-प्राथमिक शाला भवन, खम्हारडीह, ग्राम पंचायत रामखोड, तहसील-पथरिया, जिला-मुंगेली में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के ऑफिस मेमोरेडम F No. 22-25/2000/IA.III दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिश-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन कराय़ा जाना अनिवार्य होगा। ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथासंशोधित) के प्रावधानों के अनुसार ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार की प्रति (हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी में) एवं इसकी सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) जन सामान्य के अवलोकन/पठन हेतु कार्यालय कलेक्टर एवं जिला दण्डाधिकारी, जिला-मुंगेली, कार्यालय मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत मुंगेली, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.), कार्यालय अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.) पथरिया, जिला-मुंगेली, कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र मुंगेली, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यापार विहार पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय पार्क के पास, बिलासपुर, सारंघ/राजिव कार्यालय, ग्राम पंचायत खम्हारडीह, रामखोड, पथरिया, धमनी, तहसील-पथरिया, जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.), डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, वायु विंग, जोरबाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, अतिरिक्त प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (परिचालन मध्य क्षेत्र), पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भू-तल, पूर्व विंग, नया सचिवालय भवन, हिक्विल हॉटेल, नागपुर (महाराष्ट्र) एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नॉर्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।

हस्ता/- सदस्य सचिव
छ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION, ASSAM,
SIXMILE KHANAPARA; GUWAHATI-781022.
website: www.dme.assam.gov.in, e-mail: dmeassam@gmail.com

DME/Pulmonary/282/2020/17560

CALL FOR OBJECTIONS

Subject: Inviting comments/objections if any, regarding "proprietary" article for procurement of (1) EBUS & (2) Semi Rigid Thoracoscope for the department of Pulmonary Medicine at Medical Colleges undeir the Directorate of Medical Education Assam against the tender vide IFB No. DME/Pulmonary/282/2020/16657, dated 27-11-2020.

The Directorate of Medical Education Assam has invited bid vide no. DME/ Pulmonary/ 282/2020/16657, dated 27-11-2020 for procurement of (1) EBUS & (2) Semi Rigid Thoracoscope. Accordingly, bid submitted by M/s Alliance Scientific for the aforementioned items are claimed to be proprietary articles. Certificate/documents submitted by the said firm in Support of its claim are uploaded on DME website (www.dmeassam.gov.in)

The above documents in support of the claim of 'Proprietary' articles/items are being uploaded for open information, calling for objections/comments if any from manufacturers/suppliers within 15 (fifteen) days (i.e. on or before 18-09-2021) upto 03:00 PM from the date of issuance/published/uploading of this notification.

The comments/objections if any should be sent to the office of the Directorate of Medical Education Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 on or before 18-09-2021 upto 03:00 PM in a sealed envelope. In the absence of any objections, the claim of "Proprietary item" relating to the aforementioned equipment shall be considered as accepted.

Janasanyog NO.C/5177/21 **Director of Medical Education, Assam**

OFFICE OF THE RAIGARH DISTRICT URBAN PUBLIC SERVICE SOCIETY RAIGARH (C.G.)

S.N./1267/RDUPSS/2021-22 **Tender Notice** RAIGARH DATED 02/09/2021

The Raigarh District Urban Public Service Society Invites online RFP from eligible bidders fulfilling criteria mentioned in RFP for the execution of work as detailed below.

System Tender No.	Description Project	Last Date to Download RFP Document
82680	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Raigarh city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (2nd Call)	17/09/2021
82688	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Pussore city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	22/09/2021
82675	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Kirodimal nagar city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	22/09/2021
82677	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Gharghoda city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	22/09/2021
82678	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Dharamjaigarh city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	22/09/2021
82680	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Kharsia city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	22/09/2021
82682	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Lailunga city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	22/09/2021
82695	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Sarangarh city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	22/09/2021
82702	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Sariya city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	22/09/2021

General information about Tender Fee, Earnest, money & RFP Document can be obtained from E-Procurement web portal <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>.

Nodal officer (MMSDDY)
Raigarh Urban Public Service Society
Raigarh (C.G.)

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR

No. NIT/2021-22/9240-50 **ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 132 / 2021-22** **Dated: 13.08.2021**

निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए केन्द्र /राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों द्वारा पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (₹0)
Remaining work at New District Hospital (400 Bedded) at Dholpur	304.42
UBN: RRC2122WSOB00244	Lakh

ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की अवधि दिनांक 31.08.2021 प्रातः 09.00 बजे से 20.09.2021 सायं 06.00 बजे तक

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, घोरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट <http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in>, तथा <http://roads.raajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc> पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट:eproc.raajasthan.vo.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।

PARIJAT PAPER MILLS LIMITED

CIN : L21012UP1989PLC010589

Vill: Jat Mujhera 10.6 km Stone Bhopa Road,Muzaffarnagar - 251 308 (U.P.)
Website: www.parijatpapermills.com Email: parijatpapermills@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

1.Notice is hereby given that the 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Parijat Paper Mills Limited (Company) will be held on Monday, 27th day of September, 2021 at 12:30 P.M IST at The Registered Office of The Company at Vill-Jat Mujhera, 10.6 KM Stone Bhopa Road, Muzaffarnagar-251308, Uttar Pradesh, to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act) and Rules framed there under read with General Circular issued from time to time, respectively circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars").

2.Electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2021 of the Company shall be sent to all the members, whose email ids are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository participant(s), as on the cut-off date i.e. 27th August, 2021. Please note that the requirement of sending physical copy of the Notice of the 33rd AGM and Annual Report to the Members have been dispensed with vide MCA Circulars. The Notice and the Annual Report will also be available and can be downloaded from the website of the Company www.parijatpapermills.com.

3.The facility of casting the votes by the members ("e-voting") will be provided by Link Intime India Private Limited and the detailed procedure for the same is provided in the Notice of the AGM. The remote e-voting period commences on 24th September, 2021 (09:00 A.M.) and end on 26th September, 2021 (05:00 P.M). During this period, members of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of 20th September, 2021, may cast their vote by remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM. Members participating through in person shall be counted for reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Act.

4.Members, who are holding shares in physical/electronic form and their e-mail addresses are not registered with the Company/their respective Depository Participants, are requested to register their e-mail addresses at the earliest by sending scanned copy of a duly signed letter by the Member(s) mentioning their name, complete address, folio number, number of shares held with the Company along with self-attested scanned copy of the PAN Card and self-attested scanned copy of any one of the following documents viz., Aadhar Card, Driving License, Election Card, Passport, utility bill or any other Govt. document in support of the address proof of the Member as registered with the Company for receiving the Annual Report 2020-21 along with AGM Notice by email to parijatpapermills@yahoo.com. 20 Members holding shares in demat form can update their email address with their Depository Participants. The notice of the AGM contains the instructions regarding the manner in which the shareholders can cast their vote through remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM.

5.The Register of Members and Share Transfer books of the Company will remain closed from Monday, 20th September, 2021 to Monday, 27th September, 2021 (both days inclusive).

6.The Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2020-2021 will be sent to members in accordance with the applicable provisions in due course.

For Parijat Paper Mills Limited.
Sd/-
Amit Mittal
Director
Date: 03.09.2021
Place: Muzaffarnagar
DIN: 00754471



Bollywood
‘The show must go on. I hope everyone enjoys my presence for two weeks.’
—Mika Singh

10

SHORTCIRCUITS



BHAGYASHREE

‘I was 18 years old and though I was in love at that time and going to get married, I had never even hugged a guy till then. I got worried, started crying after hearing that I will have to hug Salman during a song sequence in *Maine Pyar Kiya*. Salman came up to me and innocently requested, saying ‘Please do it’. I couldn’t say no.’



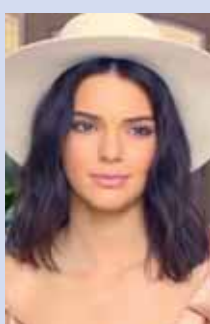
NAKUUL MEHTA

‘Whilst I’m not looking at filling anyone’s shoes, as is asked often, for mainly two reasons, figuratively and literally both Ram Kapoor and I wear different sizes. I am so excited to bring this show (*Bade Acche Lagte Hain 2*) to our audiences a decade from when it was first aired. It was an iconic show. It is both exciting and challenging.’



NIKHIL DWIVEDI

‘I think one important thing about Saket (Chaudhary) is, he knows exactly what he wants. He’s a very calm director, so much that sometimes it’s kind of annoying. You always feel that he has not given any reaction. I think he would only react when things are not going his way.’



KENDALL JENNER

‘I grew up loving fashion and have been incredibly fortunate to work with some of the most brilliant people in this business. As FWRD’s creative director, I am excited to help curate the site’s offering with emerging designers and brands.’

LENA HEADEY

‘The film (*Gunpowder Milkshake*) has lots of brilliant women in it. It’s fresh and fun. I get to fight. To see women in traditional male roles, unafraid to be violent in terms of survival and righting wrongs is great. The cast was amazing. I fell in love with them all! I got to crush on Angela Bassett. Who doesn’t dream of that?’



STUDIO TALK: 60 MINUTES

IN SYNC WITH THE TIMES

Anurag Basu, director, screenwriter, actor and producer, began his career in direction with the television serial *Tara* in 1996, followed by a line of popular shows like *Saturday Suspense*, *Koshish...*, *Ek Aasha*, *Mit*, and so on. He also directed *Stories by Rabindranath Tagore* which recently hit Netflix. Soon, he glided to feature films and the showbiz industry saw some of the greatest cinema, encompassing *Kucch Toh Hai*, *Murder*, *Gangster*, *Life In A... Metro*, *Kites*, and the critically acclaimed *Barfi!*.

However, what we wanted to know more about was his recent success story - *Ludo*, a dark comedy anthology that features intertwined stories of brilliant actors like Abhishek Bachchan, Aditya Roy Kapur, Rajkummar Rao, Sanya Malhotra, Rohit Saraf, Fatima Sana Shaikh, among others. The filmmaker garnered the award for the best director for the same, at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), 2021. Talking about IFFM, Basu expressed, “It was a great festival. All my friends were present and it was a great get-together. Melbourne had given a platform to not just Hindi cinema but all Indian cinema, from Assam to Bengal. They’ve been doing an amazing job since 2012.”

Firstly, many congratulations on winning the best director for *Ludo*!

I would like to know your conjectures about using *O Beta Ji* in the film. Does it ironically reflect the life of Bhagwan Dada?

The song, I believe, is also a perfect summation of the year 2020. What are your thoughts on that?

Thank you. And that’s an interesting perception. I’m glad it fits in well with the current situation. When we initially thought of the song, I never realised it would take off like it did. It came as a surprise to us as to how much the audience appreciated the irony. You have certain thoughts stored in the hard-drive of your brain, and sometimes it randomly strikes you. I was lucky that *O Beta Ji* came to me then. As a child, I would listen to the cassette of *Albela* repeatedly and sometimes, things don’t come to you at the right time. I’m glad it did. But yes, I had never anticipated it would become so iconic.

From passionate movies like *Life in a... Metro*, *Murder* and



The 70s are back again, says ANURAG BASU in a one-on-one with KHUSHBU KIRTI



Gangster to sweet comedies like *Barfi!* to a crime film like *Ludo*... You’ve experimented with vast genres. How has the journey been?

A) It has been great, *yaar*. I’m happy I have made these kinds of films incorporating different genres, different kinds and styles. I hope I keep doing that as long as I can. Although, in hindsight I feel I don’t have my own voice and style which is why I keep changing styles. I’m still looking for my voice, I think.

So, do you feel this change is due to your personal life changes

projecting onto what you are creating?

Of course, the personal life you lead also reflects onto what thoughts are being created from the mind. But I also think I make a very conscious effort to not repeat styles. I constantly have the question ‘what next?’ hovering over me. It’s the first thing I want to answer when I’m writing a script. I should enjoy doing a movie, the uniqueness of the subject is what allows that. Perhaps, that is the second reason.

Do you think dark comedies, so much appreciated by the current



generation, reflect the existential crisis, and perhaps, our privileged discomforts?

A) That is dark and funny. Yes, I do not know how, otherwise, things would transpire. It is what we are feeling universally. Covid happened and we suffered the consequences together.

You like a twist in the tale, beginning with *Tara*. That’s something we find in *Ludo*, too. Is it a format you enjoy?

Yeah, I think you’re right. It’s a fashion in OTT shows, too. Every episode ends on a cliffhanger. We don’t need cliffhangers as much in

films because you know the audience will not leave in between. In OTTs, they want to watch the next episode. So, this can be seen more in television than films.

Talk to us about the end of the star system, and rise of actors like Pankaj Tripathi, and rise of popularity of OTT platforms.

OTT has given rise to new actors, too, who otherwise would have taken four-five years to find the right platform and get known but these platforms have given them the opportunity.

However, I do not think the star system is going to fade. This is very temporary. People are still waiting for theatres to open and clap in the cinema halls on seeing their favourite actors. I believe both things will co-exist. It’s the new 70s era. I’m making this comparison because then Hrishikesh Mukherjee, and Basu Chatterjee were making cinema, Amol Palekar was acting and Amitabh Bachan was also a star. Shyam Benegal was also making Manthan. All different cinemas were blooming together. I think that that golden era is back again.

What will be the future of OTT platforms once the covid situation eases up? Is OTT here to stay?

It is going to grow, yes. It is here to stay, too. But since OTT is also ruled by data, like television, it might not remain so pure. When the creators have free hands to produce something, they keep creating content. But I believe, when theatres will open, theatres will strive, too. So, this debate of theatres v/s OTT is redundant. With OTTs, diversification has taken place. The audience is becoming more cinema-literate. There are viewers for all kind of stories right now, which has given a lot of freedom to us filmmakers, too, on trying our hands at various subjects.

What is something you expect from the actors who work with you? And subsequently the audience that receives your films?

I expect only one thing from my actors and that is trust. Perhaps, friendship will be an added bonus. From my audience, I only expect them to pick and choose right. They shouldn’t be surprised on finding a lot of songs in a film that belongs to the category of musicals. They should watch the movie of genres they enjoy.



A flashback of revelations

FARAH KHAN reveals what went on behind the scenes on the sets of *Maine Pyaar Kiya* on this weekend’s episode of *Zee Comedy Show*. By TEAM VIVA

Even as the pandemic continues to cast its shadow of stress, Zee TV is attempting to lighten up the country’s collective mood by offering its viewers an escape from all the stress via the route of rib-tickling comedy through its reality show, *Zee Comedy Show*. While the show has helped every Indian family unwind on their couch with some of India’s top comedians making them LOL their stress away, this weekend, we will see the popular Bollywood actress Bhagyashree entertain us with her interesting revelations as the actress appears as a special guest during this Sunday’s episode. Her charming personality and her beautiful aura is set to mesmerise the audience while all the ten comedians come together as team *Hasaayenge* and make each one of us laugh out loud.

While the hilarious acts put up by all the comedians coupled with the witty reactions of Farah Khan surely left everyone in splits, it was Khan’s candid confession that caught everyone’s attention. After Sugandha Mishra Bhosle, Dr Sanket Bhosale and Siddharth Sagar’s hilarious *Maine Pyaar Kiya* act, Farah revealed how she had tried to help Salman Khan during the audition of *Maine Pyaar Kya*. However, after seeing how it was going, she bailed out mid-way and went on to believe that Salman would never get the part in the film. But, fate had its own plan!

As Farah revealed, “Salman and I are childhood friends, so when he had to audition for *Maine Pyaar Kiya*, he took me to help him learn some dance moves before his screen test. In fact, he



took me to Sooraj Barjatya’s office and I tried teaching him for four hours, but I ran away midway through it because he was dancing so badly. I thought he will never get the movie, and everyone will doubt my ability after seeing him. But a week or two later, I came to know that he got the film and I laughed back then, but the movie went on to be such a blockbuster. They (Salman and Bhagyashree) were so good in the film, and I must say that the director always makes the correct decision. Sometimes, you need to see things from the eyes of a director and while both Salman and Bhagyashree were great, we must give credit to Sooraj Barjatya too.”

Apart from Farah, Bhagyashree will also be seen making some interesting revelations about *Maine Pyaar Kiya*, Salman and much more. The comic acts by all the artistes during this weekend’s episode is all set to make your weekend a happy one.

(To have a hearty laugh and drive away your stress, tune in to Zee Comedy Show this Saturday and Sunday at 10 PM on Zee TV.)



Spotify’s brand new original podcast, *Virus 2062*, voiced by Bollywood actors and couple, Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal is now available to stream and download for free on the platform. The audio thriller, a 10-episode, single season affair, is centred around ‘Patient 63’, voiced by Fazal, who tells Dr Gayatri Rajput, voiced by Chadha, at a psychiatric facility, that he’s time traveled from the past to prevent a pandemic.

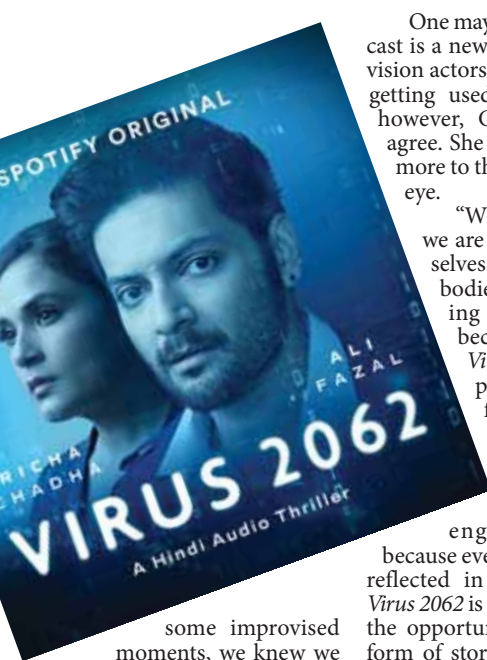
The podcast is an adaptation of *Caso 63*, a Spotify Original from Chile. After transfixing listeners with its science fiction and thriller storytelling in Chile and Brazil, the time traveling show has gone the geographical distance with its release in India. It has been produced locally by MnM Talkies, the audio wing of the production house, MantraMugdh Productions, which produced podcasts such as *Bhaskar Bose*, *I Hear You* and *Darr Ka Raaz* with Dr Phobia. *Virus 2062* is the first podcast on Spotify India which will be led by voices from Bollywood, bringing together Chadha and Fazal as protagonists.

Actor/RJ Mantra, owner of MantraMugdh Productions, expressed gleefully, “*Virus 2062* is hands down the strongest piece of content that has come my way. I can guarantee that people will be sucked into this because there is a voyeuristic pleasure that one may derive from listening to their conversations. I can attest to this because I had mixed the

show, however, I am sure the listeners will agree.”

According to Unni Nambudripad, the executive producer of podcasts at Spotify India, “Spotify is where audio storytelling is. The podcast will keep listeners on the edge of their seat. We are releasing all episodes together so that it’s a complete audio thriller experience that can be binge-listened to. It’s also been such a privilege to work with Chadha and Fazal for this podcast given their background in theatre and the creative process they brought while recording the podcast.”

He further shared that the reason they chose Fazal and Chadha was because of their chemistry, and the quality they individually endorse. Mantra pitched in, “We have seen how on the mic their chemistry helped the development of the characters and after witnessing



some improvised moments, we knew we had made the right choice in roping in the couple.”

The future is nigh

At the launch of Spotify’s latest original podcast, CHRISTY VARGHESE catches up with the team behind *Virus 2062* to find out why RICHCHA CHADHA and ALI FAZAL were brought on board

One may think that since a podcast is a new medium, film or television actors may take their time in getting used to the proceedings, however, Chadha doesn’t really agree. She feels that there is a lot more to this than what meets the eye.

“When we train for theatre, we are taught to express ourselves with our voices and bodies. I was glad I was paying attention back then because it came handy for *Virus 2062*. Recording a podcast is very different from dubbing for shows. It requires the right voice modulation and practice to keep listeners

engaged throughout, because even your expressions are reflected in the narration. Since *Virus 2062* is a fictional thriller, I had the opportunity to explore a new form of storytelling and it was an insightful experience for me to work with Spotify and Mantra. I have

always tried to do unconventional roles in theatre, film, and now on audio, and hope my fans like this new experiment I’ve done”, shared Chadha.

Speaking about his experience and creative process while recording for the show, Fazal said, “Making a shift from onscreen to audio has definitely been a fun ride. It was a very intimate experience, playing with just our voices. The beauty is that we are banking on people’s imaginations. As an actor, I am always looking for ways to expand my creative abilities. While I recall working on a radio play for BBC a long time back, *Virus 2062* has broadened my horizons and I am sure that listeners will be hooked right from the word go.”

The original story of *Caso 63* was written by Julio Rojas, and is set in the year 2022, when psychiatrist Elisa Aldunate begins a series of therapy sessions with ‘patient 63’. As the sessions progress, time, space, and reality begin to blur, playing with listeners’ minds. Drama builds over the course of 10 episodes, delivering thought-provoking mystery for listeners.

The team remarked that while *Virus 2062* is based on *Caso 63*, it contains many elements which have been incorporated specifically to cater to the Hindi audience. What are you waiting for, go ahead and stream/download the episodes right away on Spotify!

TRAVEL BUG

DIVE INTO SAN FRANCISCO



Some cities cannot be confined within one narrow attraction. This cultural, commercial and financial centre in Northern California holds out 28 charms that one can explore, at leisure, once travel opens up

One of the nicest things about visiting San Francisco is that, although the city is 'big' in terms of attractions and amenities, it is geographically small — only 49 square miles. That makes it very easy to see and do a great many things in a short period of time.

Here is a suggested list of the top 28 things not to miss in the city, according to the San Francisco Travel Association:

Walk Over the Golden Gate Bridge: The Golden Gate Bridge, the most famous bridge in the world, manages to impress even the most experienced travellers with its stunning 1.7-mile span. Approximately 1,20,000 automobiles drive across it every day. A pedestrian walkway also allows crossing on foot, and bikes are allowed on the western side. The Golden Gate Bridge is said to be one of the most photographed things on Earth, so get ready with your camera to shoot. #AlwaysSF.

Ride a Cable Car: Cable cars have been transporting people around the city since the late 19th century. The cars run on tracks and are moved by an underground cable along three routes. Their familiar bells can be heard ringing from blocks away. Tickets (\$8 or '580 approx) may be purchased at the cable car turn-arounds at the ends of each route. Each one-way ride provides spectacular views of the city's celebrated hills, as well as an exhilarating ride. Please note: San Francisco's cable cars are currently out of service.

Visit the Rock: Alcatraz, the notorious former prison, is located on an island of the same name in the middle of San Francisco Bay. Some of the United States' most notorious criminals were incarcerated there. Though several tried, no inmate ever made a successful escape from 'The Rock.' The

prison was closed in the 1960s and stories about Alcatraz are legendary. A visit today is fascinating. Recorded cell-house tours are available which allow visitors to learn about the prison as they explore the buildings and grounds. To reach the island, take an Alcatraz Cruises ferry from Pier 33.

See the Sea Lions: Fisherman's Wharf is also home to PIER 39, a festive waterfront marketplace, that is one of the city's most popular attractions. A community of California sea lions has taken up residence on the docks in the PIER 39 Marina and visitors line the nearby railing to watch their antics. From there, it's a short walk to area attractions such as the San Francisco Dungeon and Madame Tussauds, the Museum of 3D Illusions, the Cartoon Art Museum, Ripley's Believe it or Not! Museum, the historic Boudin Bakery and multiple food options, including crab vendors selling walk-away crab and shrimp cocktails.

Have a Picnic in a Park: Dolores Park is the perfect place to enjoy sunny afternoons. With nearly 16 acres of grassy areas, you can play, lounge and people-watch, all with a gorgeous view of the city. The Presidio is another San Francisco favourite. There are several places within its more than two square miles to lay down a blanket and enjoy a meal. You can also picnic in the iconic Golden Gate Park, where you'll find scenic spots at the Conservatory of Flowers and outside the California Academy of Sciences.

Go to an Outdoor Festival: Outdoor festivals have been a popular activity for people of all ages in the city. The Yerba Buena Gardens Festival from May to October has hosting dining, shopping and cultural activities for the whole family. The Stern Grove Festival, a tradition since 1938, is a free outdoor music festival



that has welcomed performers like The Doobie Brothers, Talib Kweli and others. Visit Golden Gate Park for the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass music festival, which happens every October. Please note: Most major outdoor festivals have been postponed, cancelled, or turned into virtual events in the light of public health requirements.

Go on a Walking Tour: The best way to see and experience the place is on foot. Wild SF Walking Tours offers a food crawl, a tour of the Castro & Mission District and a Haunted San Francisco Ghost Tour. Go Behind the Scenes at Oracle Park, the home of San Francisco Giants. You'll have access to the player's dugout, luxury suites and more. There are walking tours for foodies, too. Local Tastes of the City Tours lets you learn about the food history and culture in neighbourhoods such as North Beach, Chinatown and others. During the stops along the way, one can taste all the unique foods originating from different cultures.

See a Show: From rock and pop to hip hop and jazz, San Francisco is a hub for every music genre. Venues like The Fillmore, The Warfield Theatre, and The Masonic are some of the city's most legendary music halls, welcoming musicians from all over the world. Past musical acts at these historic venues include MGMT, Jimi Hendrix, Prince, and many more. SFJAZZ Center hosts concerts as well as classes and workshops designed for aspiring musicians. Please note: Indoor performances are not permitted under current public health



guidelines.

Experience Illuminate SF: Want to know what's glowing in San Francisco? Illuminate SF is an ongoing festival of light art that showcases over 30 installations scattered throughout 17 neighborhoods of San Francisco. Admire light art on buildings, sidewalks, restaurants, cars and more.

Visit the Historic Presidio: A former military base is now a national park and a National Historic Landmark District, widely known for its natural beauty, art and culture and more. If you're visiting with kids, don't pass on a visit to The Walt Disney Family Museum, which is full of interactive exhibits and Disney artifacts.

Explore Haight-Ashbury: Known as the centre of San Francisco's hippie counterculture, the Haight-Ashbury district is a haven for vintage finds and 1960s nostalgia. You can walk in the footsteps of Janis Joplin and the Grateful Dead

on a Flower Power Walking Tour while learning about how music shaped the vibrant history of the Haight.

Explore the Mission: Founded in 1776, the Mission is the city's oldest neighborhood, with some of its newest restaurants and art galleries. Popular food joints and Dolores Park are among the most popular attractions. However, many visitors come here to admire the murals that adorn the walls of buildings.

Sights on a Bike: Although driving around San Francisco is not encouraged, biking surely is. It's an easy way to get to different attractions that are close to one another. The best part is, you won't need to worry about parking. You can also bundle bike tours with attraction passes to make exploring the city even easier.

Locally Made Gifts: If you're looking for goodies that are exclusively made in San Francisco, there are many local

places to shop from. SFMade proudly works with other manufacturers that produce locally-made products, from clothing to coffee blends. At the Ferry Building Marketplace, you'll find goodies from local merchants, sourcing from our neighbouring cities like Sausalito and Guerneville. Take home unique finds while supporting San Francisco small businesses.

Meet the LGBTQ Community: Since San Francisco is widely known for its diversity, it is no surprise that the Castro is a popular spot to explore. Its vibrant and lively atmosphere makes it a great destination. If you're here in October, be sure to check out the annual Castro Street Fair.

Sip at a local brewery or winery: You'll want to be in town for annual events like SF Beer Week. You don't need to go to the wine country to enjoy a glass of wine as San Francisco has a handful of local wineries, including TANK18, The Press Club and many others.

Have Brunch: The city is widely known for its popular brunch spots. Places like Mama's on Washington Square (1701 Stockton St) have been serving their famous fluffy omelettes and homemade jams for over 50 years.

See Wildlife: Take a nice boat ride around Stow Lake, where you can spot birds of different species and turtles along the way. Attractions like the San Francisco Zoo & Gardens and Aquarium of the Bay are perfect for families with kids who are eager to see and interact with wildlife.

Marvel at Scenic Beauty: Discover San Francisco's beauty on the 49-mile scenic drive, which begins at City Hall and guides you to a number of

popular historic and iconic landmarks. If you're up for a hike, the Presidio has several art trails that are worth the stunning views. Urban Hiker SF offers itineraries for group hikes through popular urban destinations like the Castro, Twin Peaks, Coit Tower, and many more.

Learn About the History: There are many museums dedicated to the rich history of the city. The Wells Fargo History Museum invites visitors to use vintage bank machines, send telegraphs, and even ride in a replica stagecoach. If you want to learn about the city's transit history, the San Francisco Railway Museum and the Cable Car Museum give visitors a chance to see and learn about the first streetcars here. Learn about California's richly diverse past at the California Historical Society.

Water View: Want a different perspective of San Francisco? Kayak in the bay to get amazing views of the Golden Gate Bridge and the city skyline, have a romantic dinner on a Hornblower cruise or take a ferry to visit Alcatraz.

Visit Famous Film and TV Locations: If you're a movie buff, these locations should feature on your itinerary. The Rock (1996), starring Sean Connery and Nicholas Cage, featured shots of Alcatraz, The Fairmont, and the Palace of Fine Arts. Vertigo (1958), by Alfred Hitchcock, shot scenes at the Presidio and Fort Point, where Madeleine famously jumps into the bay. The Painted Ladies at Alamo Square is also a very familiar location for Full House fans.

Shop at Union Square: Major department stores and the most exclusive designer boutiques line the streets of Union Square. The Westfield San Francisco Shopping Centre houses the largest Bloomingdale's outside New York and the second-largest Nordstrom in the U.S.

Explore North Beach: North Beach, the city's Italian quarter, isn't a beach at all. It's a neighbourhood of romantic European-style sidewalk cafes, restaurants and shops centred near Washington Square along Columbus and Grant avenues. The Church of Saints Peter and Paul is a landmark. Coit Tower, atop Telegraph Hill, offers a van-

tage point for photos of the bridges and the Bay. Inside the tower, floor-to-ceiling murals painted in the 1930s depict scenes of early San Francisco.

Explore Chinatown: The entrance to Chinatown at Grant Avenue and Bush Street is called the 'Dragon's Gate'. The 24 blocks of this city within a city are best explored on foot. Exotic shops, renowned restaurants, food markets, temples and small museums are all found within its boundaries. Visitors can buy ancient potions from herb shops, relax and enjoy a dim sum lunch or witness the making of fortune cookies.

Dine at World-Class Restaurants: Known as one of America's best restaurant cities, San Francisco chefs excel at combining the freshest local ingredients, authentic international flavours and a touch of creative genius. Choose your cuisine: Chinese, Japanese, French, Italian, Spanish, Moroccan, Indian, Malaysian, Mexican, Greek, Russian or 'fusion', a combination of any or all of these influences and you have options galore.

Celebrate Nightlife: Nightlife in the city is a constantly changing scene. From cocktails in Union Square, to the club scene in SoMa, there are neighbourhoods to experience all types of nightlife. For a different spin, several museums host 21 and up events that invite visitors to sip and see special exhibits.

Get Cultured: A visit to any city is incomplete without a cultural experience. The city is home to an internationally-recognised symphony, opera and ballet companies. Many playwrights introduce their works in San Francisco and avant-garde theatre and dance companies dot the city. The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Asian Art Museum, the de Young Museum, the Legion of Honour, the Contemporary Jewish Museum, other institutions and galleries are devoted to the finest of classical and contemporary arts. The city is also home to the California Academy of Sciences, the only place on the planet with an aquarium, a planetarium, a natural history museum and a four-story rainforest all under one roof.

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Not satisfied, could've done better: Avani

PTI ■ TOKYO

Not quite satisfied despite becoming the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic medals, shooter Avani Lekhara on Friday said she had it in her to perform better at the ongoing Games but was done in by the nerves.

The 19-year-old, who had won the 10m air rifle standing SH1 Gold, added a 50m rifle 3 position SH1 Bronze to her haul, making her the first Indian woman with two Paralympic medals and second overall from the country to claim multiple medals in the same edition of the

Games.

"I was not satisfied with the Gold only (laughs), when I won the Gold, I wanted to fire that last shot better...So this Bronze is definitely not satisfying," Lekhara said in a virtual press conference facilitated by broadcasters Eurosport and the Paralympic Committee of India.

"...That's what finals do to you, you become nervous.

"I am keeping all the celebrations aside and focusing on the next match, so that is my goal, to give my 100 per cent in the next event also," she said referring to the mixed 50m rifle prone event on Sunday.



Lekhara reiterated her admiration for Olympic Gold-medallist Abhinav Bindra and that she always wanted to become like him. On Friday, she in fact went one better on him with her second medal.

"I always wanted to become like him (Bindra) and always wanted to make my country proud, so that is what inspired me a lot," she said.

"I am very happy that I was able to get another medal for the country and it is just I still can't believe it.

Athletes in SH1 Rifle have an impairment in their legs, for example amputations or paraplegia. Some athletes compete in a seated position, while others compete in a standing position.

The Jaipur-based shooter sustained spinal cord injuries in a car accident in 2012 rendering her immobile.

"I had never won a medal in sitting, this is my first international (medal), so I was more nervous. But I just had my focus on my shots. So (in the) last match I was focusing on one shot at a time and it just happened," she

said.

'ROLE MODEL'

Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) President Deepa Malik on Friday lauded shooter Avani Lekhara, who created history by becoming the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic medals, saying the trailblazing athlete has emerged as a "role model" for the country's youngsters.

"She has risen above all the challenges. The way she (Lekhara) showed maturity to handle the pressure during competition, she has emerged as a role model and we are so proud of her," Mailk said at a virtual press conference, facilitated by official broadcasters Eurosport, after the 19-year-old scripted history.

"A Gold and a Bronze from the same Paralympics, people will have to work very hard to kind of reach that mark, she has set the benchmark so high and inspired so many with her performance, absolutely proud of her," said Malik who herself won a shot put Silver in the 2016 Paralympics.

Good day for Indian shuttlers

Bhagat-Kohli pair enters semis; Suhas, Tarun, Manoj too qualify



Tokyo: India's Pramod Bhagat and his partner Palak Kohli qualified for the mixed doubles semifinals, while three singles players also made the last-four stage to continue a rampaging run at the Paralympics badminton competition on Friday.

Bhagat, who had qualified for the men's singles SL3 event on Thursday, and Kohli beat Thailand's Siripong teamarrom and Nipada Saensupa 21-15, 21-19 in a 29-minute clash to finish second in group B.

The Indian duo will clash with Indonesian pair of Hary Susanto and Leani Ratri in the semifinals on Saturday.

In men's singles, Suhas LY, Tarun Dhillon and Kohli Sarkar also made it to the semifinals on a fruitful day for India.

In SL4 class, Suhas, a world number 3, took 19 minutes to get rid of Indonesia's Hary Susanto 21-6, 21-12 in group A, while Tarun, seeded second, recovered from a mid-game slump to outwit Korea's Shin Kyung Hwan 21-18, 15-21, 21-17 in a group B match.

However, Suhas suffered a 15-21, 17-21 loss against France's top seed Lucas Mazur and Tarun went down 19-21, 9-21 to Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan in their final group matches later in the day.

In the semifinals, Suhas has been pitted against Setiawan, while Tarun will lock horns with Mazur, a two-time world champion.

In SL3 class, Manoj secured a 21-16, 21-9 victory over Ukraine's Oleksandr Chyrykov to make it to the knockout stage after finishing at the second spot in group A behind world No 1 Bhagat.

In the semifinals, Manoj will face Great Britain's Daniel Bethell, while Bhagat will take on Japan's Daisuke Fujihara on Saturday.

In SH6 class, Krishna Nagar, seeded second, prevailed 21-17, 21-14 over Brazil's Vitor Goncalves Tavares in 27 minutes for his second win in as many matches to top group B.

Krishna, who qualified for the semifinals, will meet Great Britain's Krysten Coombs in the knockout stage.

Young Kohli, however, signed off her women's singles SU5 campaign with a 11-21, 15-21 loss against Japan's Kaede Kameyama in the quarterfinals.

Earlier, Kohli, 19, and Parul Parmar, 48, suffered their second successive loss in women's doubles SL3-SU5 group A, going down 12-21, 20-22 to the French pair of Lenaig Morin and Faustine Noel.

A google search that started journey of Praveen Kumar

Tokyo: A congenital impairment notwithstanding, 18-year-old Paralympics Silver medallist Praveen Kumar was such a sports freak in his school days that he googled on internet to find out how to take up para athletics and take part in the showpiece.

Praveen, a son of a poor farmer at a village near Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar district, clinched Silver medal in the men's high jump T64/T44 event of the Paralympics by setting a new Asian record of 2.07m.

"My school life was mostly about sports. But at that time I did not know I will reach at this level one day. I was playing volleyball initially in school, but then slowly came to know of para athletics and took up high jump," Praveen said after his event.

"I came to know about Paralympics and how to take part in it after searching on google," the high jumper, whose congenital impairment affects the bones that connect his hip to his left leg, said.

Explaining how he came

to rise to this level, Praveen said, "I took part in a district level competition where I met Ashok Saini sir who gave me phone number of Satyapal sir (his current coach).

"I contacted (Satyapal) sir and then he found out in which classification I will compete. He identified me and said he will take me. This was 2018," said Praveen who is a BA second year student in Motilal Nehru College in Delhi.

Talking about Friday's competition, he said, "I was a bit low in confidence when I cleared 1.97m in my second attempt but I regained confidence after jumping 2.01m. I told myself I will give my best whatever it takes, whether rain or not.

"There was pressure while trying to jump 2.10m. In the final attempt, I just thought of doing my best and it was a very good attempt but there was some problems in my landing and so I could not clear it," said Praveen, who was congratulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on phone.

PTI

Harvinder beats odds with his analytical mind

PTI ■ TOKYO

In a sport where precision matters the most, it was Harvinder Singh's research in economics that gave him the competitive edge, said the para-athlete after winning India's first ever Paralympics medal in archery on Friday.

Instead of bowing to the pressure of three shoot-offs in five matches, the 31-year-old's analytical mind saw each tie-break an opportunity to beat the odds with his single shot as he won a Bronze with a perfect 10 against Korean Kim Min Su.

"Economics is all about calculations and I applied that in my game and my thinking process. It really helped me in winning the medal," Singh, who is pursuing PhD, said after



his 6-5 (10-8) win in the shoot-off.

Singh was stretched to the full in the first two rounds but he remained calm and composed to defeat Stefano Trivisani of Italy and former world number one Bato

Tsydendorzhiev of Russia in the shoot-offs.

"In a shoot-off, you have to put all your practice and training together and deliver in that one single arrow. You have to give all your energies and deliver in about 10-15 seconds," he said.

PTI ■ LONDON

India allowed Ollie Pope and Chris Woakes to earn a substantial 99-run first innings lead for England on day two of the fourth Test at the Oval, leaving their star-studded batting line-up to rise to the occasion in the second essay after a string of indifferent performances.

In the absence of Mohammed Shami, the Indian pace attack did not seem potent enough on the day and was unable to put sustained pressure on the batsmen.

From a precarious 62 for five, England staged a remarkable recovery to score 290 on a pitch getting better for batting with each session.

But despite losing the initiative, India are still in the match after restricting the English lead to less than 100.

The men responsible for giving England the upper hand in the game were Ollie Pope (81 off 159) and Chris Woakes (50 off 60) whose

attacking innings in the final session could well prove to be the difference in the match.

India batting, which has let the team down often in overseas conditions and also in the series so far, will have to find a way to score at least 300 plus in the second innings.

The openers Rohit Sharma (20 batting) and K L Rahul (22 batting) made a promising start, taking India to 43 for no loss in 16 overs at stumps on day two. They still trail England by 56 runs.

Rohit got a life on 6 when Rory Burns failed to sight a regulation catch at second slip.

Considering the batting friendly conditions at The

Oval, the batsmen,

especially the struggling middle-order, will be expected to deliver and keep India in the game.

India's third and fourth choice pacers — especially Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur, were not able to maintain pressure put by Umesh Yadav (3/76) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/67) early in the England innings.

Ravindra Jadeja played his role well, taking two wickets and keeping things tight from his end.

England were bowled out after tea with Woakes getting

Pope, Woakes help Eng take lead

PTI ■ LONDON

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England were bowled out after tea with Woakes getting

4th Test. Day 3
Live from 3:30pm IST
SONY SIX NETWORK

run out after a destructive knock comprising 11 fours. The pitch played true allowing the England batsmen to hit on the up.

Pope, playing his first match of the series, showed an attractive range of strokes including on the up straight drives and cover drives.

In the morning session, Umesh struck twice in the first hour of play before a counter-attacking stand between Bairstow and Pope took England to 139 for five at lunch. England scored 86 runs in the 25-over session.

Umesh, perennially in and out of the playing eleven and featuring in his first Test in nine months, was impressive in his opening spell and got his 150th Test wicket in his first over of the day after

nightwatchman Craig Overton slashed one hard only to edge it to Virat Kohli

at first slip.

JARVO69 ARRESTED

YouTuber Daniel Jarvis, who has gained notoriety for breaching security at will during the ongoing India versus England series, was on Friday arrested by the South London Police after he entered the Oval arena during the pre-lunch session on the second day of the fourth Test.

Jarvis, who goes by the name 'Jarvo69', has been constantly impersonating as India cricketer and on Friday was the third time in three games that he took the advantage of the poor security arrangement by the ECB.

It is learnt that he has been arrested on suspicions of assault as he barged into English batsman Jonny Bairstow during the day.

After trying to set field at Lord's and taking stance at Leeds, Jarvo was seen sprinting just when Umesh Yadav was on top of his bowling mark. He did collide with the non-striker Jonny Bairstow.



B'desh make it two in two

AFP ■ DHAKA

Tom Latham's unbeaten 65 just failed to steal victory from Bangladesh who won the second T20I against New Zealand on Friday by four runs to go 2-0 up in their five match series.

Bangladesh made 141 for six from their 20 overs with Mohammad Naim making 39 and captain Mahmudullah Riyad an unbeaten 37.

New Zealand's chase only came alive in the final overs and with skipper Latham at the helm they came agonisingly close after needing 20 from the final nervy six balls off

Mustafizur Rahman.

Mustafizur gave away seven extras among 15 runs conceded but New Zealand ended on 137 for five.

Bangladesh spinners again dominated on the slow wicket with Shakib and Mahedi Hasan finishing on two for 12 and two for 29 respectively.

Shakib ended a 43 run second wicket stand between Latham and Will Young to get within one wicket of joining Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga as the leading wicket taker in Twenty20 internationals.

The Bangladesh all-rounder now has 106 wickets in the shortest format.

Top seeds advance to 3rd round

AFP ■ NEW YORK

World No 1 Novak Djokovic moved five matches from completing the first men's singles calendar-year Grand Slam in 52 years while Tokyo Olympic champion Alexander Zverev and top-ranked Ashleigh Barty also rolled into the third round of the US Open on Friday.

The 34-year-old Serbian cruised past 121st-ranked Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 at Arthur Ashe Stadium to book a third-round date with 2014 US Open runner-up Kei Nishikori.

The Japanese made himself an obstacle in Djokovic's path to history by outlasting American Mackenzie McDonald 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 2-6, 6-3, avenging a loss in last month's Washington semi-finals.

Djokovic has a 17-2 career record against Nishikori, who last beat the Serbian star in the 2014 US Open semi-finals. Since



then, Djokovic has won 16 in a row, most recently in the Tokyo Olympic quarter-finals.

Remnants of Hurricane Ida killed at least eight people and triggered a rare state of emergency for the city, flooding subways and turning roads into rivers. With abandoned cars scattered across streets near the National Tennis Center and many highways shut down, only a smattering of spectators watched in a cavernous Arthur Ashe Stadium as Barty dispatched Danish 18-year-old Clara Tauson 6-1, 7-5.

Barty send a backhand long to surrender a break in the 10th game of the second set while serving for the match but held her nerve, broke back and held again to win in 90 minutes.

Reigning Wimbledon champion Barty, seeking her



third Grand Slam title, next plays American Shelby Rogers as she chases a sixth trophy of the year and first US Open quarter-finals spot.

German fourth seed Zverev downed 33rd-ranked Spanish left-hander Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-1, 6-0, 6-3. Zverev, last year's US Open runner-up and a champion two weeks ago at Cincinnati, took only 74 minutes to advance.

German Oscar Otto, ranked 144th, became the fifth men's qualifier to reach the third round by defeating 92nd-ranked American Denis Kudla 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. There haven't been so many qualifiers so deep at any Slam since six at the 2011 French Open and not at the US Open since five made it in 1984.

Indian hockey teams unlikely to compete in Birmingham CWG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian hockey teams are unlikely to participate in next year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham to ensure that they hit peak form during the Asian Games, which is a qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics, Indian Olympic Association President Narinder Batra said on Friday.

Batra said he has conveyed this to Sports Authority of India (SAI) Director General Sandip Pradhan during a formal meeting on Friday.

Batra, who is the chief of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and was a former Hockey India president, said the Indian hockey teams' priority is to achieve their peak at the Asian Games, which starts just 35 days after the CWG.

The Birmingham CWG is scheduled to be held from July 28 to August 8, while the

Asian Games will be hosted by Hangzhou, China from September 10 to 25.

"Based on my preliminary discussions with Hockey India, it seems doubtful as of now whether Indian men and women hockey teams will participate in Commonwealth Games 2022," Batra, who still holds considerable influence in Hockey India, said in a statement.

"Hockey India will not like its hockey athletes to peak 35 days before the Asian Games 2022 and would like the athletes to peak at the right time i.e. during the Asian Games 2022.

"The Commonwealth Games in 2022 are just 35 days before the Asian Games in China and in hockey the winners of Asian Games directly qualify for 2024 Paris Olympics. Hence, winning Gold medal in the Asian Games is a must for both men & women's hockey teams," he added.