



VIT-AP UNIVERSITY

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Convocation 2021

Chief Guest



NOBEL LAUREATE

(Awarded in 2019 for the development of lithium-ion batteries)

Dr. M. Stanley Whittingham, FRS

Member, NAE; Director, NECCES

Binghamton University (SUNY), USA

Guest of Honour



Ms. Mayurika Singh

Director - CE&S,

Microsoft India

Presided By

Dr. G. Viswanathan

Founder & Chancellor, VIT

on 23rd September 2021 (Virtual)

Watch live at 6 P.M. on

 www.youtube.com/c/VITAP

INAUGURATION OF NEW BUILDINGS

MAHATMA GANDHI BLOCK
Academic Block: G + 6 Floors: 4,61,300 sq. ft.



NEELAM SANJIVA REDDY BLOCK
Men's Hostel Block - 3: G + 14 Floors: 2,36,956 sq. ft.



ROCK PLAZA
Student Activity Centre: G + 3 Floor: 56,640 sq. ft.



with Rock Climbing Zone, Squash Court, Dance Hall, Food Court etc.

SAVITRIBAI PHULE BLOCK
Women's Hostel Block - 1: G + 14 Floors: 2,04,163 sq. ft.



PROGRAMMES OFFERED

- B.B.A • B.Com Finance • BA, LL.B (Hons) • BBA, LL.B. (Hons)
- B.A. - M.A. (Public Service) • B.Sc. - M.Sc. (Data Science) • B.Tech. • M.Tech.
- M.Sc. (Physics) • M.Sc. (Chemistry) • M.Sc. (Data Science) • Ph.D

2021 BATCH FABULOUS PLACEMENTS



*Full time Placements & Internship

VIT-AP University, Beside AP Secretariat, Near Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 522237 | admission@vitap.ac.in | 08632370444 | 7901091283
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HC seeks replies on plea to de-recognise AAP

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought a response of the Centre, the Delhi Government and the Election Commission (EC) on a plea seeking de-recognition of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleging that it promoted Ganesh Chaturthi using public money which is contrary to the Constitution of a secular country. A Bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Amit Bansal made it clear that it was issuing notices to the Centre, Delhi Government and EC and not to the Chief Minister and other Ministers of the State.

The counsel for the authorities sought time to seek instructions and file replies after which the court listed the matter for further hearing on November 8.

Petitioner and advocate M L Sharma said he was seeking direction to de-recognise AAP as a political party and remove Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other Ministers from the Constitutional office due to alleged deliberate breach of the Constitution and the Representation of People's Act



in the interest of general public.

The plea was opposed by senior advocate Rahul Mehra, representing Delhi government, saying it was a totally motivated and mischievous petition, coloured as a public interest litigation (PIL) and needs to be dismissed with heavy costs.

He also said the decision was taken to prevent religious congregations amid the COVID-19 pandemic and as the Delhi government had prohibited setting up of pandals to prevent overcrowding, the chief minister had merely requested the media to cover the celebration for citizens' participation from their residences.

Mehra said government facilitating religious celebrations is not new and it is done every time during the Kumbh Mela and Amarnath Yatra, and it is the solemn duty of the state to protect public health.

The petition has also

sought to declare that religious ceremony or promotion or funding for religious work or trust in any manner by the state from the state treasury attracts sections 408 (criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating) of IPC. It also sought to declare this act as illegal, arbitrary and unconstitutional.

The plea said the AAP-led Delhi government organised Ganesh Chaturthi event on September 10 which was broadcast live on television channels and said in terms of the constitutional mandate laid down by the Supreme Court, the state cannot promote religious celebrations.

India is a secular country and no government can be seen indulging in religious activities by using public money, it said.

The high court had earlier dismissed Sharma's plea seeking to declare as illegal the Delhi government's move of organising Ganesh Chaturthi from state treasury and releasing advertisement, saying the petition was filed hurriedly and without doing proper homework and granted him liberty to file a fresh plea with proper averments.

AAP to initiate process of making Pusa bio-decomposer on Sept 24

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will start preparing Pusa bio-decomposer, a scientifically method to turn pollution contributing stubble into manure from September 24. The microbial solution will be ready by October 5, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Monday. The Delhi Government will provide this solution free to city farmers to spray in 4,000 hectares of paddy farmlands. A 25 members' committee of city Government will coordinate with the farmers for this initiative. While the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government has urged the national Capital's neighboring States also to follow the Pusa techniques to combat pollution caused due to half burnt particles of crop residues, the city Government is waiting for an interaction with the Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav in this regard.

Rai, addressing the media, said that his Union counterpart is yet to give time for a meeting on the use of Pusa bio-decomposer in states.

It is pivotal to mention here, according to SAFAR's



observation on stubble burning pollution data, at least 33 per cent pollution in city is mainly due to the burning of paddy crop husk. The concentration of harmful particles has been observed abnormally high starting from September end till November when meteorological factors remain unfavorable for Delhi's atmosphere due to thermal inversion.

Meanwhile, Rai illustrated about the scientific method that was used in previous year also. "Stubble burning pollution engulfs North India like a blanket; can't get freedom from it without other states acting on it," Rai said, "farmers just need to fill a form giving details about their land; Delhi government provide it free for farmers."

As the third-party audit has also been done on Pusa technique to combat stubble burning pollution, Rai said, "the solution will be prepared at the Horticulture Department

Nursery in Kharkhari Nahr. The preparations will take place centrally at this location and by the 29th of September we will double the quantity of the solution. By 5th October, the bio-decomposer will be ready to be sprayed. We will provide the spray from this location to wherever it is required in Delhi. Last time, the process started on 5th October, this time it will be completed by then. The spray will then be readily available for the farmers."

With the help of state agriculture department and tractors, the spray will be sprinkled in core paddy cultivation areas in north-west and south Delhi.

About 10 litres of spray is required for an acre of land. For this much spray 4 capsules developed by the Pusa Institute are needed. The capsules are mixed with 250 gram Jaggery(gud), 150 gram Gram Flour(besan). The mixture is then cooked and stored for 5 days after which the quantity of the solution is doubled. About 25 lacs were spent last year in the process all over Delhi last year. Now that the area has doubled, the cost will also double but it is extremely cost-effective as a solution to curb air-pollution," Rai added.

Provide ₹7,000 per month unemployment allowance: Cong to AAP



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar demanded the AAP Government to provide ₹7,000 per month unemployment allowance to the 13 lakh youth registered with the Government portal set up by it during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Congress Delhi unit president said that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had promised 10 guarantees to people of Delhi before the 2020 Assembly elections just like he made a six-point guarantee to the people of 'Dev Bhoomi', Uttarakhand.

"Delhi Chief Minister had promised eight lakh jobs in five years to the youth of Delhi, but after being in power for seven years, just 440 youth got jobs

given while 84 per cent jobs in the employment department are lying vacant. Kejriwal had also guaranteed in-situ flats for the JJ cluster dwellers on "as-is-where-is basis" but his Minister announced recently that Delhi Government would not give flats to the JJ Clusters, and the in-situ flats constructed by the Congress Government would be put on rent," he said.

Kumar also said that the AAP national convener has also promised to set up "Employment and Migrant Ministry" in Uttarakhand though he had done nothing when lakhs of migrant workers walked to their native villages in Bihar, UP and Uttarakhand when they lost jobs and livelihoods during the Covid-19 pandemic.

95 cases of dengue reported last week in Capital, 348 so far

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With 95 cases of dengue reported in the last week, the total number of people infected with this vector borne disease has reached to 348 this year, according to a report issued by civic bodies on Monday.

According to the report released on Monday, 71 cases of malaria and nearly 148 cases of chikungunya have also been reported till August 21 this year. The number of dengue cases for January 1-August 7 period is also the highest this year since 2018 when the count had stood at 64 in that same duration.

Out of the total cases of dengue, 34 patients were infected in other States but diagnosed in Delhi after investigation while the hospital did not provide address of eight other patients, the report said. Similarly, out of total cases of malaria, nine people were infected in other states and diagnosed in the nation-

al capital while 13 cases of malaria also infected in other states but being treated here, it added.

Malaria, dengue and chikungunya are accompanied with high fever and therefore, doctors feel that people might suspect that they have contracted COVID-19.

A senior SDMC official said that domestic breeding checkers found mosquito breeding in 1,12,080 households in the city and 94,701 legal notices have been served for various violations and "12225 prosecutions initiated".

The number of dengue cases for January 1-September 18 period is also the highest this year since 2019 when the count had stood at 217 in that same duration.

According to the civic report issued by the municipal corporations last week, 158 cases of dengue were recorded till September 11 this year. So, 53 fresh cases have been logged in one week.

Right kidney, part of lung removed due to post-Covid mucormycosis

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Doctors at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital have successfully operated a "first known case of mucormycosis" in which the patient's right kidney and a portion of his left lung were severely infected with black fungus post Covid-19.

The surgery was recently conducted by a multidisciplinary team of doctors at the hospital to remove patients' right kidney and a portion of his left lung, hospital authorities said on Monday.

The patient (34) from neighbouring Ghaziabad was brought to the hospital with post-Covid illness, which included breathing difficulties, blood in sputum and high grade fever.

"We were shocked to see that Mucor had not only penetrated nasal cavity but also his left lung and the right kidney. Both the portion of the lung



and the kidney had been severely damaged and there was a fear of further spread. Therefore an emergency removal of mucor infected areas was planned," said Dr Ujjwal Parakh, Senior Consultant, Department of Chest Medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

"Since Mucor is a fast spreading disease and could have further damage to other organs. As a life saving procedure, immediately a part of his left lung and the entire right kidney was removed after complicated surgery which lasted for six hours and the patient was saved," the hospital said in a statement.

According to Dr Manu

Gupta, Consultant, Department of Urology at the hospital "It was a complicated case in which Mucor had penetrated part of the lung and kidney. Time was of the essence in this case to save the patient as other organs could have been affected. The involvement of the kidney was total, and the kidney had become non functional. During surgery the fungus was found almost spreading to the liver, and the large intestine. Thus with great difficulty, the kidney could be removed without injuring the adjacent organs. This case is being reported in medical literature as the first case in the world after Covid infection."

Talking about the cases, Dr Ujjwal Parakh said "He is recovering well and would be on oral antifungal medicine for a few more weeks. Patient has been discharged after 45 days of prolonged antifungal therapy. He is doing well now."

City records 20 Covid cases, positivity rate stands at 0.04%



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi reported 20 Covid-19 cases while the positivity rate stood at 0.04 per cent, according to data shared by the health department here.

According to the report, a total of 47,845 tests -- 39,391 RT-PCR tests and 8,454 rapid antigen tests -- were conducted a day ago, the bulletin said. "The death toll due to the coronavirus infection in Delhi stands at 25,085. The number

of cumulative cases on Saturday stood at 14,38,517. Over 14.13 lakh patients have recovered from the virus," it said.

Delhi battled a brutal second wave of the pandemic in April-May that claimed a massive number of lives, with the issue of oxygen shortage at city hospitals across the city adding to the woes.

The capital has recorded only three fatalities due to the infection in September so far. With the new cases, the overall infection tally in the city climbs to 1,43,869. Of this, over 14.13 lakh patients have recovered from the disease. The death toll stands at 25,085.

Delhi reported 28 cases of the infection on Sunday and 41 on Saturday. On Friday, it reported 55 Covid cases and one death. There are 379 active cases in Delhi, of which 116 are in home isolation.

The government has taken steps to increase the number of hospital beds and accommodate up to 37,000 cases a day and become self-reliant in terms of oxygen supply.

Number of patients with post-Covid cardiac complications rising: Apollo Hosp

New Delhi: A leading private hospital in Delhi on Monday said it has reported a rise in number of consultations for post-Covid cardiac complications, and its doctors claimed that the burden of heart diseases may increase in the coming months.

In a statement, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals said lockdown-induced sedentary lifestyle has given rise to increase in diabetes, hypertension, smoking and stress among many people, leading to greater risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). The country has been battling the Covid-19 pandemic since early 2020, and saw the worst phase during its second wave, the peak being from April-June, with Delhi being badly affected where beds and oxygen crisis compounded people's sufferings.

"The expected increase in the number of patients with heart-related complications is getting evident day by day as the number of consultations for post-Covid cardiac complications like myocarditis are gradually increasing," the hospital claimed in a statement.

People in their post-Covid recovery are facing such complications due to the inflammation and damage caused by the virus in the body, and such damage becomes easier if any part of the body is slightly unhealthy," it said.

Doctors at this leading private facility in south Delhi, also claimed that the burden of heart disease may rise many-fold in the coming months.

With lockdowns and sedentary lifestyle during the pandemic, there is an "emergence of various new cases of CVDs".

PTI

2 Tihar inmates hurt in clash

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two inmates, lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail, were injured after they attacked each other with sharp-edged objects on Saturday evening. This is the fourth such incident reported in Tihar jail this month.

According to a senior prison official, on Saturday evening, in Tihar's jail number three, the two inmates attacked each other with sharp-edged objects.

"One of them was sent to hospital and his condition is stated to be stable while the other prisoner sustained minor injuries," said the senior prison official.

In a similar incident on September 11, two inmates of the jail were injured after a clash broke out between them. The inmates had suffered injuries after they attacked each other with sharp edged-objects, officials had said.

After the incident, the police had registered an attempt to murder case.

The police had also two under trial prisoners of Tihar had sustained injuries when they were attacked with sharp objects by fellow inmates in separate incidents on September 12 and 13. Both the attacks had taken place in jail number three of the prison.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके. शाखा)

चतुर्थ निविदा सूचना

क्र.616/के.कर्म./2021

भोपाल, दिनांक 20.09.2021

नगर निगम भोपाल केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला के द्वारा विभिन्न प्रकार के टायर टयूब क्रय किये जाने हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	निविदा क्र.	सामान का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	धरोहर राशि	निविदा फार्म का मूल्य	प्रदाय अवधि
1	2021_UAD_147836_4	REGARDING PURCHASING TYRE TUBES OF VARIOUS SIZES AT MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL (FOURTH CALL)	19832150/-	198322/-	12500/-	15 दिवस

BID SUBMISSION END DATE- 02.10.2021 TIME- 05.30 PM

BID OPENING DATE- 04.10.2021 TIME- 01.00 PM

निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट mptenders.gov.in पर देखी एवं केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैकेनिकल) से कार्यालयीन समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

सहायक यंत्री
परिवहन शाखा
नगर निगम भोपाल

नि.क्र. 616/021/022

आर.सी.वी.पी. नरोन्हा

प्रशासन एवं प्रबंधकीय अकादमी, म.प्र. भोपाल

फोन नं. 0755-2445035, 2445224

निविदा-विज्ञापित

क्रं./3368/अका/संपदा/2021-22

भोपाल, दिनांक 16.09.2021

आर.सी.वी.पी. नरोन्हा प्रशासन एवं प्रबंधकीय अकादमी, मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल एकीकृत सुविधा प्रबंधन सेवाओं के अंतर्गत अकादमी मुख्य प्रशासनिक भवन, स्वर्ण जयंती सभागार, दोनो छात्रावास, गेस्ट हाउस, खेल परिसर, संपूर्ण अकादमी परिसर एवं उद्यानों की साफ-सफाई, हाउसकीपिंग, सुरक्षा व्यवस्था, रिसेप्शनिस्ट, कम्प्यूटर अपरेटर तथा सामान्य भवन अनुक्षण हेतु आवश्यक कर्मचारियों की सेवाएं प्रदाय किये जाने के हेतु अनुभवी एवं ख्याति-प्राप्त एजेंसियों से द्वि-निविदा प्रणाली में ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ऑनलाईन टेण्डर ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। निविदा का संक्षिप्त विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

स.क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य	समयावधि
1	एकीकृत सुविधा प्रबंधन सेवाएं	12.00 लाख	1500/-	24 माह

विस्तृत निविदा प्रपत्र अकादमी की वेबसाइट www.academy.mp.gov.in पर सिर्फ अवलोकन हेतु उपलब्ध है।

निविदा प्रपत्र ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 21.09.2021 को समय 10:00 बजे से ऑनलाईन क्रय मूल्य जमा कर क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। ई-निविदा दिनांक 01.10.2021 समय 10:00 बजे से दिनांक 21.10.2021 समय अपराह्न 03:00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन जमा किये जा सकेंगे। तकनीकी निविदा दिनांक 22.10.2021 समय अपराह्न 03:00 बजे खोली जायेंगी।

निविदा के संबंध में किसी शंका-समाधान के लिये प्रो-विड बैठक दिनांक 28.09.2021 समय 12:00 बजे अकादमी बोर्ड रूम कक्ष क्रमांक जी-30 में आयोजित की गई है।

संचालक
आर.सी.वी.पी. नरोन्हा
प्रशासन एवं प्रबंधकीय अकादमी म.प्र.

G-17099/21

पहला डोज रक्षा, दूसरा डोज सुरक्षा।

रायगढ़ जिला अर्बन पब्लिक सर्विस सोसायटी

निविदा सूचना पत्र

क्रं. 1484 / RJUPSS/NPN/2021

रायगढ़ दिनांक 20/9/2021

रायगढ़ जिला अर्बन पब्लिक सर्विस सोसायटी द्वारा आर.एफ.पी. में उल्लेखित मापदंडों का पूरा करने वाले निविदाकारों से नीचे दिये गए विवरण के अनुसार आर.आफ.पी. अप्रमंत्रित करती है:-

System Tender No.	Description Project	Last Date to Download RFP Download
83501	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Raigarh city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna at SP complex 2nd floor Hall no 2 (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	08.10.2021
83502	Request for PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF BIDDER FOR DEVELOPMENT OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE under City Diagnostic centre scheme in RAIGARH (1st Call)	08.10.2021

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

Sd/-
Nodal officer (MMSDDY)

रायगढ़ जिला अर्बन पब्लिक सर्विस सोसायटी रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited

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1st Time Extension Notice

NIT No. - 119/PR/JBVNL/2021-22

Online short e-tender invited by General Manager (Commercial), JBVNL for the selection of Project Management Agency (PMA) to provide services for implementation of works under **Revamped Reforms - Linked Results - Based Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)** in JBVNL.

Sl. No.	Details of Work
1	Selection of Project Management Agency (PMA) to provide services and comprehensive support for implementation of works under Revamped Reforms - Linked Results - Based Distribution Sector Scheme in JBVNL
2	Revised Calendar of Events :
iii	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids 27-09-2021 till 15:00 hrs
iv.	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid 28-09-2021 at 16:00 hrs

1. The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाव। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टोल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करावें

PR No. 252943

PR 253531 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(21-22)#D

General Manager (Coml.)

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OPINION 6
OKAY TO FORCE PALM
OIL ON GHEE CULTURE?**WORLD 8**
SHOOTING AT RUSSIAN
VARSITY LEAVES 6 DEAD**SPORT 12**
RCB BUNDLED OUT
FOR 92 BY KKR

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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‘Vaccine Maitri’ to resume

India to export surplus Covid jabs in Oct: Health Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vaccine Maitri’ is all set to resume from the fourth quarter of October, with the Union Minister of Health, Mansukh Mandaviya, on Monday announcing that the export of vaccines would be done in order to fulfil India’s commitment towards COVAX, in line with the country’s motto “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.”

Addressing the media, the Union Health Minister, however, stressed that vaccinating its own citizens remains the topmost priority of the Government. He also said that cumulative doses administered so far across the country have crossed 81 crore and the last 10 crore doses were administered in just 11 days.

“Surplus vaccines will be used to fulfil our commitment to the world for the collective fight against Covid-19. COVAX is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the World Health Organisation (WHO),” the Minister said.

Highlighting the importance of indigenous research and production of Covid vac-



A beneficiary receives a dose of Covid-19 vaccine at the AIIMS vaccination site in New Delhi on Monday

cines in India, he said, “It is due to the relentless efforts and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India was simultaneously undertaking research and production of Covid vaccines in line with the global developments.”

India’s vaccination drive has been a role model for the world and it is marching ahead. “More than four times we have crossed the one crore-mark since the vaccination drive was commenced on January 16,” he added.

He said that more than 30 crore doses will be produced in October and more than 100 crore vaccines will be produced in the coming quarter.

When India was facing a shortage of Covid-19 vaccines for the domestic market in the backdrop of the ferocious second wave, the ‘Vaccine Maitri’ initiative came to a halt in April.

As part of the ‘Vaccine Maitri’ initiative earlier this year, India had supplied over 66 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines to more than 70 countries. Some of the beneficiaries of the initiative were Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Morocco, South Africa, Afghanistan, Mexico, DR Congo, Nigeria and the UK.

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Even fully-vaccinated Indians must quarantine for 10 days in the UK

Ruling leaves many fuming; Tharoor pulls out of events

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The United Kingdom (UK) Government’s decision to restrict Covid-19-related travels and ask travellers from India to undergo quarantine for ten days even if they have got both the doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, has left Indians fuming with a number of Opposition leaders calling the move “offensive”, “weird” and “racist” and “bizarre.”

Starting October 4, passengers not vaccinated under the “approved programmes in the UK (and UK overseas), Europe or US” must self-quarantine for ten days, as well as pay for two Covid tests.

Not impressed at the UK’s revised travel policy, senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor pulled out of several engagements in the country, which were part of launch events for his new book, to



protest Britain’s “offensive” policy while his party colleague Jairam Ramesh took to Twitter saying that the decision was, “absolutely bizarre considering Covishield was originally developed in the UK and the Serum Institute, Pune has supplied doses to that country too! This smacks of racism.”

The Congress leaders’ reaction was in response to a message by aviation analyst Alex Macheras who tweeted about the UK Government’s move for 10-day home quarantine and tests for vaccinated people from Africa, South America and countries including India, the UAE, Turkey, Jordan, Thailand and Russia.

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LAC, Af major challenges facing India: Foreign Secy

India also has to deal with megatrends, says Shringla

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The stand-off with China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the situation in Afghanistan are major challenges facing India, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla said here on Monday.

Flagging these concerns, he said the country also has to deal with “megatrends” like rebalancing in which global activity is moving towards Asia, the rise of China, emerging technologies, and “a battle between different schools of thought.”

On the Quad combine including the US, India, Australia and Japan, the Foreign Secretary said, “We have maintained comprehensive strategic relations with major powers while maintaining strategic autonomy.”

Speaking on the theme ‘India’s foreign policy and its strategic imperative: The way forward,’ at the JP Morgan Investor summit, the Foreign Secretary said India is concerned over the situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban took control and its implica-



tions for the region.

As regards the stand-offs at the LAC in Ladakh, Shringla said peace in the border areas is essential for developing bilateral ties. His remarks came days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi reviewed the situation at the LAC on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

“We have made it clear to the Chinese side that peace and tranquility in border areas is essential for development of our relationship. Development of India-China relationship can only be based on ‘three mutuals’ — mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests,” he said.

Shringla also reiterated India’s stated position that the mostly positive trajectory of India-China ties in the last 40 years was largely due to the agreement between the two

sides to ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas.

On Afghanistan, the Foreign Secretary said India is “naturally concerned about the recent changes within Afghanistan and their implications” for the region.

While the immediate focus has been on evacuating Indian nationals from Afghanistan, he noted the recent UN Security Council resolution 2,593 demands that Afghan soil should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing terror acts and also specifically refers to terrorists proscribed by the Security Council, including those from the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

Shringla said India is monitoring developments related to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, adding as per the UNDP assessment there is an imminent threat of poverty levels rising in Afghanistan.

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Kanhaiya, Jignesh likely to join Cong on Oct 2: Sources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former student leader Kanhaiya Kumar who contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections unsuccessfully and independent Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani are likely to join the Congress on October 2, coinciding with Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary.

AICC sources said the duo was earlier scheduled to join on September 28 — on the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh.

Mevani is a Dalit leader who represents Gujarat’s Vadgam constituency. He could be appointed a working president of the Gujarat Congress. Kanhaiya, former president of Jawaharlal Nehru University Students’ Union (JNUSU) and now with the CPI, is expected to bring a few other Left leaders with him when he jumps to the Congress.

The move underscores the Congress’ push to recruit young and dynamic faces ahead of State elections in



2022 and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

AICC sources said Kanhaiya has met former party chief Rahul Gandhi twice recently and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra once to discuss his future role in the party.

Kanhaiya had contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election from his hometown of Begusarai in Bihar but lost to the BJP’s heavyweight politician Giriraj Singh.

Congress sources also said a Jammu-based lawyer who fought for justice in a horrific rape case involving a minor girl might also join the Congress along with Mevani and Kanhaiya.

Continued on Page 4

Drama in Cong over ‘2022 polls under Sidhu’ quip

Punjab leaders baffled; party does damage control

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Congress affairs in-charge Harish Rawat created a flutter within party circles on Monday morning, hours before the new Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi’s swearing-in ceremony, by asserting that the State Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu would be the party’s face for the 2022 elections.

Rawat’s statement, that the party would be fighting the forthcoming Assembly polls under Sidhu, failed to go down well with several Congress leaders, with many coming out in the open to question the timing and intention for the same.

By evening, the party did damage-control by maintaining that both Channi and Sidhu



would be the party’s face for the polls next year.

The Congress’ senior leader and former State party chief Sunil Jakhar, who was among the frontrunners for the Chief Minister’s post, took exception to Rawat’s “baffling” remarks saying that the same could potentially erode the new Chief Minister’s authority.

“On the swearing-in day of @Charnjit_Channi as Chief Minister, Mr Rawat’s statement that ‘elections will be fought under Sidhu’, is baffling. It’s likely to undermine the CM’s

authority and also negate the very ‘raison d’être’ of his selection for this position,” tweeted Jakhar.

“I am sure Rahul Gandhi has taken cognizance of the statement. There is a CM so how can there be another CM face?” said Jakhar.

At the same time, Rajya Sabha MP Partap Singh Bajwa also requested the party leaders to “keep views to ourselves”, while concentrating on the issues that need to be and should be resolved.

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AICC general secretary Harish Rawat with PCC president Navjot Singh Sidhu and new Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, after Channi’s oath taking ceremony at Raj Bhawan in Chandigarh on Monday

ED to grill 3 UP leaders in money laundering cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will begin the questioning of Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan, gangster Mukhtar Ansari and strongman Ateeq Ahmad in connection with separate money laundering cases against them and their associates. All the three accused hail from Uttar Pradesh and are undergoing judicial custody in separate criminal cases.

The ED is initiating the action after obtaining permission from relevant special courts having jurisdiction in cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), sources said.

“Khan, 72, lodged in the Sitapur district jail of Uttar Pradesh, will be questioned and his statement will be recorded between September 20 and 24,” an official said.

Likewise, Ansari, 58, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) legislator from the Mau seat, will be questioned at the Banda district jail in the State under the PMLA after a court in August allowed the ED to

Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan, gangster Ansari and strongman Ahmad on the list

record his statement.

Following an order authorising the ED to question the 59-year-old Ahmad, who is lodged in the Sabarmati Jail of Gujarat in judicial custody, the agency will record his statement separately.

The agency has filed separate PMLA cases against them and after their questioning the ED is likely to attach their assets under the criminal provisions of PMLA.

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Ram temple warrior Mahant Giri found dead; probe sought

ABHILASH NARAIN ■ ALLAHABAD

The president of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhda Parishad, Mahant Narendra Giri, who was a frontline warrior for the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya, was found dead in Baghambari Math, Prayagraj in mysterious circumstances on Monday evening. Giri was also Mahant of the Bade Hanuman Mandir and was associated with the Niranjani Akhada.

As the body of the Mahant was found hanging from the ceiling, the inmates of the Baghambari Gaddi are suspecting murder, especially in light of his recent rift with the Deputy Mahant of the Hanuman Mandir Anand Giri, who had been ousted from the

Continued on Page 4

Modi, Army chief contribute most treasures to Toshakhana

47 gift articles worth ₹8,81,500 deposited between Jan-May this year

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A cricket bat worth ₹1 lakh that was signed by legendary cricketer Sir Gary Sobers, and a statue of Vajrapani received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a gift are among the 47 items deposited to the Toshakhana between January and May this year amid the Covid pandemic. The treasure trove data shows between January and May this year, the Toshakhana has listed 47 articles worth ₹8,81,500. Some of the gifted



articles are yet to be evaluated.

As per the Toshakhana records, Modi had deposited 16 items and is the highest contributor to the treasure trove

which include the bat of Sir Garfield Sobers; silver boat encased in glass worth ₹1 lakh; three commemorative silver coins, one watch (evaluation of

price is under process), and statue of Vajrapani worth ₹1 lakh. Besides, carpets, books, framed paintings, photo frames, one set of tie and cufflinks and several other gifted items, which Modi received have been contributed to the Toshakhana.

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CAPSULE

SUKANTA REPLACES DILIP AS BENGAL BJP CHIEF

Kolkata: The BJP on Monday replaced Dilip Ghosh as its West Bengal unit president with Lok Sabha MP from Balurghat Sukanta Majumdar, amid infighting and a string of defections from the party to the State’s ruling Trinamool Congress. In a statement, the BJP announced that Ghosh, also a Lower House MP, has been made a national vice president of the party. The change of guard comes 15 months ahead of the expiry of Ghosh’s term as BJP State chief.

BIDEN TO HOST MODI AT WHITE HOUSE ON SEP 24

Washington: President Joe Biden would host Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their first in-person bilateral meeting at the White House on September 24 to further cement the close relationship between the two countries, a senior US official said on Monday.

SONU SOOD BREAKS SILENCE AFTER TAX RAIDS

Mumbai: Every rupee in his foundation is “awaiting its turn” to be used to reach the needy and save lives, actor Sonu Sood said in a statement in response to the CBDT’s allegation that he and his associates evaded tax of ₹20 crore.

ZERO CEASEFIRE VIOLATION IN KASHMIR THIS YR 60-70 foreign terrorists active: Army

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In the absence of successful infiltration bids by heavily armed terrorists from across the Line of Control (LoC) and sustained anti-terrorist operations the total number of ‘active’ foreign terrorists has drastically come down below 70 in the Kashmir region.

Due to the constantly declining number of foreign terrorists, the leftover commanders active in Kashmir valley have reworked their strategy of carrying out only ‘hit and run’ attacks on the security personnel and political representatives with the help of local recruits.

Sharing his assessment of the ground situation in the backdrop of unrest in Afghanistan, General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army’s Srinagar-based 15 Corps or Chinar Corps, Lt Gen D P Pandey Monday said, “there has been no ceasefire violation along the LoC in Kashmir since the reiteration of the agreement between the armies of India and Pakistan in February this year”. The Chinar Corps Commander said there have been some infiltration attempts, but unlike previous years they have not been adequately supported by ceasefire violations.



Referring to the police reports,Lt-Gen Pandey said, “around 60-70 foreign terrorists who are basically Pakistanis are likely present in the Kashmir valley.” Their strategy is to not carry out any terrorist attack, but motivate the local youth to action and give them arms so that they are killed in encounters. It benefits them in a way that when a young boy from our country, our Kashmir, is killed, his family becomes angry with us. This is their strategy and they do not carry out operations and work from behind,” he added.

The GoC, however, said there is a change in the mindset of the peo-

ple in Kashmir as they have “realised that they have been taken up the wrong path by the people within their own community”.

Referring to the threat from Taliban, Lt-Gen Pandey maintained there is no need to worry about the possibility of a spillover of Taliban terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir.

“This question has been asked to me a number of times on events which are unrelated. Right? So, I will again answer your question: why are you worried? You are safe and you will be kept safe. There is enough effort,” The GoC said if anyone picks up arms, they will face consequences and will either be neu-

tralised or apprehended, or will have to surrender.

He said the security forces have been reaching out to the families of the youth who have joined militancy.

“We have to ensure that they (families) reach out to their young ones who have been misled and they should be allowed to surrender by motivating them to be a responsible citizen of the country. There cannot be a better opportunity as of today to ensure that they can fall back to civil society,” he said.

The senior army officer said those people within Kashmir who are “misleading” the youth to pick up arms must be exposed.

“We must expose the people who are within Kashmir who are ensuring that while their children are studying in good schools, colleges, have good jobs or businesses, but the youth which is misled, who is not from such an affluent background, not so well-educated, picks a weapon and dies.

Earlier, the GoC Chinar Corps felicitated students of the first and the second batch of the Army’s Kashmir Super 30 (Medical) course who are now successfully undergoing the MBBS and other courses after clearing the NEET.

Didi asks Supriyo to work and sing

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Two days after defecting to the Trinamool Congress after BJP shunted him to the “reserve benches” and Mamata Banerjee offered him a “playing eleven” berth former Union Minister Babul Supriyo on Monday said that he would be a biddable follower of the Bengal Chief Minister doing “whatever Didi asks me to do.”

Presently Banerjee had asked the singer-turned-BJP-MP-turned-TMC-leader to “work and sing with all his heart” during the festive Durga Puja season.

Supriyo who met the Chief Minister at her Nabanna office (secretariat) alongside TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and poll-strategist Prashant Kishore said “We had a very musical talk... whatever she told me during the discussion was really musical to my years... I am very happy to meet Mamata didi... I am so thankful to her for the way she welcomed me to the TMC family... It was a warm welcome.”

Musical talk notwith-

standing, no portfolio was offered to the former Union Minister on Monday’s meeting, one was told. This was Supriyo’s first meeting with Banerjee after he joined the TMC on Saturday.

On what the Chief Minister told her during the discussion he said “she asked me to work with all my heart and sing with all my heart particularly during the Pujas which I think is icing on the cake.” He said that the discussion between him and the Chief Minister was “really productive” as he had found the direction of his work in days to come. “It was great meeting Didi. We had a very good discussion. I thanked her for giving me an opportunity to work for Bengal and serve the people.”

On whether he would be offered a place in the State Cabinet or would he be sent to the Rajya Sabha Supriyo said it was for the party and the Chief Minister to decide. “I have nothing to say about it. It is for the party and our supremo Mamata Banerjee to decide. It is her prerogative,” he said.

In a change of stance, CPI(M) asks party cadre to be wary of narcotics

KOCHI: Even as hundreds of Christian devotees undertook a rally in Kerala’s Perumbavoor demanding central probe into the charges of narcotics jihad made by various Catholic bishops, leaders of major political parties are making a volt face from their initial stance on the issue.

The ruling CPI(M) which had expressed the party’s unhappiness over Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the Bishop of Pala, who set the cat among the pigeons with his disclosure that jihadis were employing many modus operandi to woo girls from his community, has in a circular to party cadre asked them to campaign relentlessly against any kind of religious extremism and misuse of narcotics.

“It has come to the notice of the CPI(M) that some reckless elements were resorting to drug pushing in educational institutions with ulterior motives and we should warn the society about such dangerous moves,” said the circular by the CPI(M).

The circular is the draft of the speeches to be delivered by the area and local leaders of the party in public meetings to be held as a prelude to the tri-annual State conference of the CPI(M) scheduled for 2022 February.

The party had also deputed V Vasava,, minister for cooperation, to brief the Pala Bishop about the actions being implemented by the LDF Government against Lov Jihad and Narcotics Jihad. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had told reporters that the party was against blaming the Muslim community responsible for acts by some wayward youth.

RS BYPOLL FROM MAHA

Cong opts for Rajani Patil over senior leaders

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Congress high command on Monday nominated the party’s former MP and AICC general secretary Rajani Patil as its candidate for the by-election to the one Rajya Sabha seat scheduled for October 4, after ignoring the claims of several Congress leaders.

The by-election to one RS seat from Maharashtra has been necessitated by the untimely demise of sitting Congress member Rajeev Satav who died because of Covid-19 complications on May 16 this year.”The Congress President Smt Sonia Gandhi has approved the candidature of Smt. Rajani Patil as the party candidate for the ensuing bye-election to Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra,” Mukul Wasnik, general secretary in-charge of Congress’ Central Election Committee (CEC), said in an official statement on Monday.

The Congress high command has chosen Rajani Patil, who is a Gandhi-Nehru family loyalist, as the party candidate for the RS by-polls, ahead of Rajeev’s widow Pradnya Satav, who had lobbied with the party leadership for nomination, vet-

eran party leader Sushilkumar Shinde, party general secretary Mukul Wasnik himself, former Rajasthan state in-charge Avinash Pande, former MP Rajiv Shukla and former union minister Milind Deora.

Sixty-two-year Rajanitai – as she is known in the state political circles -- is currently the All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir. She was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha in 2013. In 1996, Patil had won the Beed Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra for the Congress.

She had replaced AICC general secretary and former Maharashtra chief minister Shushil Kumar Shinde as the in-charge for Himachal in September, 2018. Patil enjoys close rapport with the Gandhi family, especially party president Sonia Gandhi.

Informed party sources said that Rajanitai was to have been nominated as the party candidate for Rajya Sabha polls from Maharashtra in 2020. She was reportedly the choice of Sonia Gandhi herself. However, Rahul Gandhi had rooted for Rajeev Satav and Rajeev had his way.

There was a talk that Rajanitai would not be nominated to the State

Legislative Council from the Governor. However the nominations have not happened as Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari has been sitting over the list of 12 persons recommended by the Maharashtra government for nomination as the MLCs.

With her nomination to the State Legislative Council not coming through, the Congress high command has nominated Rajanitai as the party’s candidate for the RS by-elections scheduled for October 4.

Pradnya, widow of late Satav who was close to former party president Rahul Gandhi, had been lobbying with the party leadership for the RS nomination in place of her husband.

Two things that went against her was that she is new to politics and she had posted a private message from a party president on social media, a thing that the Congress leadership did not take kindly to.

Sources said that the party may compensate Pradnya, who has now been appointed as vice president of the Maharashtra State Congress Committee (MPCC), by sending her to the State Legislative Council in the near future.

PORNOGRAPHIC CONTENT CASE

Mumbai court grants bail to Kundra

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Five days after a comprehensive supplementary chargesheet was filed by the police against him in the alleged pornography content case, a Mumbai Metropolitan Magistrate granted bail to Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty’s husband and businessman Raj Kundra in the much-discussed sensational case against a bail bond of ₹50,000.

After finding merit in the arguments made by his lawyers Niranjan Mundargi and Prashant Patil, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate SB Bhajipale granted bail to Kundra in the alleged pornography content case.

The Magistrate also granted bail to Kundra’s company Viaan Industry’s IT head Ryan Thorpe on similar grounds in the same case.

On September 15, the Crime Branch sleuths of the Mumbai police filed a 1,467-page supplementary charge sheet against Kundra and Ryan.

Among other things, Kundar’s lawyer Mundargi argued that his client had been made a “scapegoat”

in the case and there was no evidence against him in the charge sheet of him being actively involved in the creation of alleged questionable content.

Supplementing the arguments made by Mundargi, Kundra’s another Prashant Patil told the court that the primary chargesheet did not contain a single allegation against his client nor was there any allegation in the supplementary chargesheet to suggest that the victims had interacted with him or had they been approached by Kundra for filming of the obscene videos.

Kundra’s lawyers made a case for his bail by saying in his application that since the Mumbai Police had already filed a chargesheet, it was clear that the investigations against him were over and that he was now entitled for bail.

Kundra’s lawyers also argued in the court that after the first charge-sheet was filed against nine other accused in the case, eight were released on bail. He went on to seek bail on grounds of parity with the other accused already released on

bail.

They also told the court that Kundra was associated with a company which owns the apps, HotShot and Bollyfame for only 10 months.

Opposing the bail pleas of Kundra and Ryan, the Public Prosecutor told the court that the charge-sheet had been filed against Kundra and Ryan could not be the reason for granting them bail.

However, after hearing both the sides, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Bhajipale granted bail to both of them against a bail bond of ₹50,000.

Kundra, who was arrested along with Ryan July 19 in connection with a complaint registered by the Crime Branch in 2021, has been booked under Sections 292, 293 (sale of obscene material) under the Indian Penal Code, Sections 66E, 67, 67A (transmission of sexually explicit material) under the Information Technology Act and provisions of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act.

Kundra, who lives in Mumbai with his wife Shilpa Shetty and two

children, had earlier told the court that there was no evidence to link him against the HotShot App and was being made a “scapegoat.” He had submitted to the court that he had been falsely implicated in the case while the Cyber Cell was making an attempt to connect him with the crime.

Kundra, who is the founder Viaan Industries Ltd, and his United Kingdom-based brother-in-law Pradeep Bakshi, the Chairman of Kenrin Group, London, have been named masterminds of the porn content racket.

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

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

‘Vaccine Maitri’ to resume



From Page 1

India on Friday administered a record number of over 2.50 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses on the occasion of Modi’s 71st birthday. India took 85 days to touch the 10-crore vaccination mark, 45 more days to cross the 20-crore mark and 29 more days to reach the 30-crore mark, according to the Health Ministry.

The country took 24 days to reach 40 crore from 30 crore doses and then 20 more days to cross the 50-crore vaccination mark on August 6. It took 19 more days to go past the 60-crore mark and took only 13 days to reach 70 crore from 60 crore on September 7 and then took just 11 days to reach 80 crore from 70 crore.

Ram temple warrior Mahant Giri found dead; probe sought

From Page 1

Akhara and also from the Hanuman Mandir, but later was pardoned by the Mahant.

Anand Giri, however, said that a conspiracy was being hatched by the land mafia who first tried to separate him from his Guru Mahant Narendra Giri, and when that failed and the two patched-up they killed the Mahant. Police officials are tight-lipped over the incident and a source said that the truth will come to the fore after the autopsy. It is also learnt that a suicide note was found in which he had made mention of mental tension.

Sants, including Ram Vilas Vedanti said that he was quite healthy and strong and had never complained of any cardiac problem, so the possibility of a heart attack and even of suicide can be ruled out. The sants have demanded a high-level enquiry, probably by the CBI and thousands of devotees thronged the Baghambari Math immediately after coming to know about the demise of the Mahant.

During their Prayagraj visits the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Ministers and other Ministers used to visit the Mahant who had been the frontline warrior for the Ram Jannabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya.

ED to grill...

From Page 1

The ED had initiated PMLA probe against Khan in 2019 after taking cognisance of at least 26 FIRs filed by the State police against him including allegations that a university run by him in Rampur district of Uttar Pradesh has been raised over a land that has been grabbed from a ‘enemy property’.

Khan was the urban development Minister in the SP Government under Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav.

The ED is probing Ansari in connection with at least 49 criminal cases booked against him including those on charges of land grabbing, murder and extortion. Ahmad, a former MP, was previously associated with political parties including the Samajwadi Party and the Apna Dal (Sonewal faction). His role in money laundering is being probed by the ED on the basis of 196 FIRs lodged against him by various police stations in Uttar Pradesh on charges of murder, extortion and land grabbing.

Drama in...

From Page 1

“I will request all to let’s keep our views to ourselves...We should work hard and bring our party’s Government in 2022...Channiji has also assured to resolve all the issues, including sacrilege and Bargari cases, and also drugs...There is a need to focus on resolving these issues...we have to resolve these,” said Bajwa.

Notably, the All India Congress Committee general secretary in-charge of Punjab, Rawat had told a TV news channel that Sidhu would be the next Chief Minister if the Congress came to power in the State in 2022.

The statement assumes significance as the Congress Party, after over 24-hour-long hectic parleys, has appointed a Dalit Sikh leader Channi as the Chief Minister of a State with the highest density of Scheduled Caste (SC) population — close to 32 per cent

which is highest in the country.

Channi, whose name was never in the reckoning, emerged winner in the last leg of the race. At one point of time, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa (Jat Sikh leader) was piped to be the next Chief Minister, with his supporters and party colleagues sending out congratulatory messages in the social media. Sidhu was also staking his claims for the post asserting that in case the party wanted to appoint a Jat Sikh, it should be him.

“Making such a statement, ahead of elections, is wrong...The Congress never announces its chief ministerial candidate. It was done in 2017 only when Captain Amarinder’s name was announced by Rahul Gandhi...By saying that Sidhu would be the next CM, the party has undermined Channi...This shows that Channi’s appointment was merely to woo Dalit voters

and nothing else,” said a Congress M.L.A., who did not wish to be named.

Later in the day, the party’s national spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala issued a clarification asserting that both Channi and Sidhu will serve as the party’s face in the 2022 Assembly polls.

“Charanjit Singh Channi is our CM. Navjot Singh Sidhu is our Pradesh Congress Committee chief. Both will be our faces,” Surjewala said, maintaining that he had spoken to Rawat about the issue, who claimed that his statement was misinterpreted.

“I just spoke to Harish Rawat ji minutes ago. Many friends are misreading his statement. Our face will be Channi and Sidhu both, and the ordinary Congress workers and leaders who will be supporting them. If anyone says one or the other will be the face intentionally or otherwise, it is a misinterpretation,” he said.

Kanhaiya, Jignesh likely to join Cong...

From Page 1

Congress sources said while Mevani’s potential will be fully utilised in Gujarat which goes to polls a year later, Kanhaiya services will be used in Hindi belt like Uttar Pradesh and Uttarkhand as both the States will go for Assembly polls early next year.

Giving indications of his inclinations to join the grand old party, Mevani applauded Rahul and the party for appointing a Dalit as Chief Minister of Punjab, saying it would have a “tremendous impact on all subaltern masses”.

“The decision of appointing Charanjit Singh as the CM of Punjab is a message that Rahul and Congress have given. It will have a tremendous impact amongst not just Dalits but all the subaltern masses. For Dalits, the move is not just brilliant but soothing too,” Mevani said on the microblogging site. Earlier this month Mevani also ripped into the BJP after Vijay Rupani was asked to step down as Gujarat Chief Minister. “People of Gujarat would have appreciated had Rupani resigned for his monumental mismanagement of Covid crisis,” Mevani tweeted.

PM Modi, Army chief contribute the most ...

From Page 1

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has deposited a replica of submachine gun along with 6 rounds (along with certificate dated 04.09.2020) and a replica of Pistol along with 6 rounds (along with certificate dated 23.06.2020).

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi has deposited one brass jug with peacock mounted on top and a brass jug/pot with Lord Ganesha and Sheshnaag mounted on top to the Toshakhana.

Vikram Doraiswami, High Commissioner of India, Dhaka has contributed Lapel pin (mujib 100 marking gold with diamond border) to Toshakhana. The evaluation of this item is still under process.

In December 2020, Toshakhana has listed 14 gifted items which include One Brass Buddha with Wooden Base 18x18x24 worth Rs two lakh; RADO Match Point Ltd Edition (Male) worth Rs 3.79 lakh; Rolex Oyster Perpetual (Male) worth Rs 5.79 lakh; gift in the Indian market.

Gold Bangles (ladies) worth Rs four lakh and One Brass Buddha with Wooden Base 18x18x24 worth Rs two lakh. The total value of 14 gifted items was Rs 1613500.

As per protocol, all gifts received by the Prime Minister and other officials from overseas have to be deposited in Toshakhana for evaluation. A Toshkhana is a treasure house wherein gifts that are received as honour are kept. It could be anything - paintings, sarees to other artefacts. It is managed by the MEA. The MEA has its own rate of evaluation done by dedicated personnel. As per a June 1978 gazette notification, every gift received by a person during an official visit should be deposited in the Toshakhana within 30 days of his return.

Recipients are allowed to keep gifts, worth less than Rs 5,000. If it exceeds the limit, recipients can retain the present only after paying extra. The Toshakhana officials are then required to assess the worth of the

Even fully vaccinated Indians must quarantine...

From Page 1

Responding to the tweet, Tharoor said: “Because of this I have pulled out of a debate at the Cambridge Union and out of launch events for the UK edition of my book #TheBattleOfBelonging (published there as #TheStruggleForIndiasSoul). It is offensive to ask fully vaccinated Indians to quarantine. The Brits are reviewing!”

Under these rules, only people who have got both shots of a double-dose vaccine such as Oxford-AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna or the single shot Janssen vaccine “under an approved vaccination programme in the UK, Europe, US or the UK’s vaccine programme overseas” will be considered fully vaccinated.

The rules also consider who have received jabs under public health bodies in Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahrain,

Brunei, Canada, Dominica, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea or Taiwan as fully vaccinated.

The people cited above said the change in UK rules will mostly affect students, who are now returning in large numbers to British universities or travelling to Britain to start new courses. The change will mean they will have to pay extra for more tests and to quarantine.

The Indian side has also been insisting on mutual recognition of vaccination certificates in negotiations with other countries. The people said New Delhi will be in a better position to press this issue once travel to India also starts opening up. The new system is expected to stay in place for at least a year with the next review only scheduled for early 2022.

The European Union (EU) has left it to individual member States to decide on acceptance of Indian vaccination certificates and more than a dozen members have recognised Covishield.

LAC, Af major...

From Page 1

There is also a threat of an imminent drought and a food security crisis. He called for unrestricted and direct access to the humanitarian assistance providers to Afghanistan.

The distribution of humanitarian assistance has to be done in a non-discriminatory manner to all sections of Afghan society, and India’s approach to Afghanistan is guided by the civilisational relationship with the Afghan people, he said.

Elaborating upon the “megatrends,” Shringla said the corona pandemic took place in the midst of a larger geopolitical and ideational shift. “Several parallel megatrends were already in operation before Covid descended upon us. The first of these is the phenomenon of rebalancing in which global activity is moving towards Asia. Increasing eco-

nom ic output and dynamism in Asia, including India, is redistributing global GDP in a manner that is more consistent with the long-term historical record,” he said.

The second major megatrend is the rise of China. This has geotechnical, geo-economic and geopolitical consequences. The unipolar moment that arose after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War has waned. “International relations theory tells us that a change in power equations of this nature causes friction. While India welcomes a multipolar world, this should be predicated on a multipolar Asia,” he observed.

Thirdly, this rebalancing is taking place in the context of an international system that is being severely tested. The main pillars of this system, the United Nations, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the world trade edifice, the G7, and the network of regimes and

structures that were built on this foundation, were constructed after the Second World War.

These treaties and agreements are what an analyst has called the “mainstream concepts of globalization.” They are the intellectual and structural pillars of the world order as we commonly understand it. The Black Swan event that has been the pandemic has, most of us will agree, highlighted the inadequacies of the current structure and the thinking that underlies it, he said.

Shringla said the world is also facing the trend of a battle between schools of thought first time after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Unlike in the Cold War, however, the schools of thought are not always divergent. They have significant intersections. Competition and cooperation coexist. It is a system in which rivalries and alliances are non-linear.

Rajnath discusses Af with US Defence Secy Austin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Ministers of India and US on Monday reviewed their bilateral defence and strategic ties and took stock of the situation in Afghanistan. These telephonic talks between Rajnath Singh and Lloyd Austin came days before the summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden in Washington on September 24.

The two heads of state will also participate in the first in person Quad summit there the same day along with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. Biden is hosting the summit at the White House.

The focus of the Quad summit and Modi-Biden bilateral talks is likely to be Afghanistan, Indo-Pacific in the context of China flexing its maritime muscle and the ongoing fight against the Corona pandemic.

Incidentally, talks between Rajnath and Austin came in the backdrop of formation of Australia, US and UK grouping called AUKUS last week to counter China's growing military prowess.

Giving details of Rajnath's talks with Austin, defence ministry officials



said the telephone call was made by the US Secretary of Defence.

Both the leaders discussed bilateral and regional matters, including developments in Afghanistan. They discussed defence cooperation and looked forward to working closely.

The two ministers also exchanged views about combating terrorism in the region. Both sides appreciated the mutual cooperation in the recent evacuation operations in Afghanistan and agreed to remain in regular contact in view of the evolving situation.

While two ministers have talked on the phone in the past few months, Austin also visited India in March this year to hold bilateral talks with Rajnath.

He had said after the talks then India is committed to further strengthen its robust defence partnership with the US. He also urged the US defence equipment manufacturing industry to make good use of the liberalised for-

eign direct investment (FDI) policies in the defence sector.

US Defence Secretary Austin reiterated Singh's words on strengthening ties, stating that his visit was primarily to convey the Biden-Harris administration's message about the commitment to America's allies and partners.

India was designated as a 'Major Defence Partner' by the United States in 2016.

The US in the past one decade has sold defence equipment including aircraft, helicopters and artillery guns to India amounting to more than 15 billion dollars.

Signifying the growing ties between the two countries, India in the last four to five years signed three "foundational agreements" with the US. "Acknowledging that we have in place the foundational agreements, Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Intelligence (BECA), we discussed steps to be taken to realise their full potential for mutual benefit," the defence ministry statement said after Rajnath's talks with Austin in New Delhi.

Sixth edition SCO Exercise Peaceful Mission 2021 begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The sixth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Exercise Peaceful Mission: 2021 hosted by Russia started in the Orenburg Region of South West Russia on Monday.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat is likely to be present there during his visit to Russia. He will also take part in the meeting of the CDS of the SCO nations. Later, Rawat will travel to the US to meet his counterparts there and hold extensive talks. It will be Rawat's first visit to the two countries after assuming charge as the CDS in early 2020.

The aim of the exercise in Russia is to foster close relations between the SCO Member States and to enhance abilities of the military leaders to command multinational military contingents. An Indian military contingent comprising of an all arms combined force of 200 personnel from Indian Army and Indian Air force is participating in the exercise.

The opening ceremony commenced with an impressive parade by all participating contingents. The contingents were addressed by Colonel General Alexander Pavlovich Lapin, Commander Central Military District, Russian Armed Forces.

The Exercise Peaceful Mission: 2021 is based on joint counter terrorism operations at operational and tactical level in an urban environment in which Armies and Air Forces of all SCO member states are participating.

Over the next few days, troops will train, share and rehearse tactical drills which will culminate in a final validation exercise, where-in troops from all Armies and Air Forces will jointly undertake operations in a controlled and simulated environment.

India-Nepal begin 15-day military exercise in Pithoragarh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With a focus on counter-terror drills and disaster relief operations, India and Nepal on Monday began a 15-day military exercise in Pithoragarh of Uttarakhand

The Indian Army said the aim of the 15th India-Nepal military training exercise 'Surya Kiran' is to boost overall inter-operability between the two militaries.

"During the exercise, an Infantry Battalion each from the Indian Army and the Nepali Army will be training together to develop inter-operability and share their experience of counter-terrorism operations and disaster relief operations," the Indian Army said. A traditional opening ceremony was organised to mark the commencement of the exercise which will continue till October 3.

"Lt Gen SS Mahal, GOC Uttar Bharat Area addressed the gathering and exhorted the contingents to train and strengthen mutual confidence, inter-operability and also to share best practices," the Army said in a statement.

"The understandings developed between the two armies at the top level recently are an encouraging sign for both the nations and their armies for further cooperation," Lt Gen Mahal said.

The Indian side in the joint exercise is being represented by the 6th Garhwal Regiment, while the Nepalese side is being represented by Ripu Daman battalion of Nepali Army.

Earlier on Saturday, the Nepali Army contingent arrived at Pithoragarh and was accorded a traditional military reception.

INSHORT

HEALTH MIN ASKS ALL AIIMS TO COORDINATE

New Delhi: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday urged all AIIMS in the country to coordinate with each other so that the best healthcare can be provided to the public. Mandaviya on Monday held a review meeting of six AIIMS in the country from AIIMS, New Delhi. "Today a review meeting of six AIIMS of the country was held from AIIMS, New Delhi. In AIIMS, there was discussion about the construction work and research of modern infrastructure and specialist departments of many diseases. I call upon all AIIMS in the country to coordinate with each other so that we can provide best healthcare to the public," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

'OPP SHOULD INTROSPECT ON COVID STATEMENT'

New Delhi: The Opposition parties should introspect about their "irresponsible" statements on the COVID-19 vaccination programme of the Modi Government that has proved to be the 'biggest and fastest' in the world, BJP president J P Nadda said on Monday. During a visit to a vaccination centre at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here, he congratulated and thanked the team of Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, state health ministers, medical fraternity and people for making the vaccination campaign a "success".

TOTAL CASES TALLY REACHES 3,34,78,419

New Delhi: With 30,256 people testing positive for coronavirus infection, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 3,34,78,419, while the active cases declined to 3,18,181, the lowest in 183 days, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Monday. The death toll climbed to 4,45,133 with 295 more fatalities, according to the data updated at 8 am.



Deputy Director-General of Military Nursing Service Brig SV Saraswati has been bestowed with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020

Kids with high exposure to PM2.5, NO2 more at risk of self-harm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Children exposed to high levels of air pollution are up to 50 per cent more likely to self-harm later in life, suggested a study that adds to evidence of link between air pollution and mental health problems.

Researchers from the University of Manchester in England and Aarhus University examined 1.4million kids under 10 in Denmark and found that those exposed to a high level of nitrogen dioxide were more likely to self-harm in adulthood than their peers, the Daily Mail reported.

And people in the same age group exposed to above average levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) were 48 per cent more likely to subsequently self-harm, revealed the study published in the journal Preventive Medicine.

Nitrogen dioxide is mainly produced by cars, while PM2.5 is mainly emitted by burning diesel



and petrol, which is most commonly used for shipping and heating.

These two pollutants are among those most commonly linked with causing harm to physical health, such as heart and lung diseases, by getting into the bloodstream and causing inflammation.

"Our findings add to the growing evidence-base indicating that higher levels of air pollution exposure are linked with poor mental health outcomes," lead

author Dr Pearl Mok, a research fellow at Manchester University was quoted as saying.

"Although air pollution is widespread, it is a modifiable risk factor and we therefore hope our study findings will inform policymakers who are devising strategies to combat this problem," Mok added.

While the researchers have not explained the mechanism for how these pollutants can cause mental health problems, they say high pollution levels

could trigger inflammation in the brain, leading to mental health conditions, the report said.

Childhood is a 'sensitive time for brain development', so youngsters may be 'particularly susceptible' to negative effects from toxic particles in the air, they added.

Further, the team found that some 32,984 people (2.3 per cent) harmed themselves in the study period, with cases higher among women, those whose parents had mental illness and individuals from poorer families.

Exposure to an average of 19 microgram/m3 or more of particulate matter each day was associated with a 48 per cent higher chance of self-harming later in life, compared to children exposed to an average of 13 microgram/m3 per day or less.

And for every 5 microgram/m3 increase in exposure above 19 microgram/m3, the risk of self-harm rose by 42 per cent, said the study.

NEET-SS 2021: SC agrees to hear plea against last-minute changes in exam pattern

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea challenging the alleged "last-minute" changes made to the examination pattern for the upcoming National Eligibility cum Entrance Test - Super Specialisation (NEET-SS) 2021 which is scheduled in November.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna issued notice and sought responses from the Centre, National Board of Examinations (NBE) and National Medical Commission

(NMC) on the plea filed by 41 post-graduate doctors.

The apex court, which posted the matter for further hearing on September 27, also permitted the petitioners to file brief note of their written submissions. The petitioners, who are qualified post-graduate doctors from across the country and are aspiring to become super specialists by cracking the NEET-SS 2021, have said the dates for the examination was announce on July 23 but the changed pattern was made public on August 31.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the petitioners, said the NEET-SS 2021 exams are scheduled on November 13-14 and it is fairly settled principle including in educational matter that once the calendar is announced, there is no question of then altering the scheme.

The plea, filed through advocate Javedur Rahman, has sought quashing of the scheme of NEET-SS 2021 contained in the August 31 information bulletin, as notified by the NBE and approved by the NMC, alleging it to be "illegal" having been carried out without any authority of law".

PTI

SC seeks Centre's reply on plea of DCPCR for priority Covid vaccination of pregnant women

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea seeking direction to the Centre to declare pregnant as well as lactating women as high-risk category and be given priority for Covid-19 vaccination.

A Bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna issued notice to the Centre on the plea of Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) and sought its response within two weeks.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for DCPCR, said the Centre has issued some guidelines for vaccination of pregnant women and lactating mothers but now it is being stated that there may be some adverse effect on them due to vaccination.

She said there is a need to declare women in these conditions as high-risk categories and since people are dealing with a virus which they do not know much about, there is a need to conduct continuous research on the effects of vaccination on them.

There is also a need to create a plat-

form for registry of pregnant and lactating mothers for proper monitoring, she said.

The top court noted that the petition instituted by DCPCR under Article 32 was filed in May earlier this year amid the second wave of Covid-19 and subsequently operational guidelines were issued for vaccination of pregnant women and lactating mothers. **PTI**



Sidhu, a proxy Punjab CM: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Doubting the 'Dalit focus' of the Congress in Punjab in choosing Charanjit Singh Channi as the new Chief Minister, the BJP on Monday said the State president Navjot Singh Sidhu, a Jat Sikh, is the "proxy CM".

As the Congress shifted and shuffled with its top leadership in the poll-bound Punjab and decided to appoint a Dalit Chief Minister, BJP described the move as a mere political tokenism.

BJP General Secretary Gaurav Bhatia maintained that the real face of Punjab during next year's elections would not be a dalit Channi but Sidhu and quoted Congress-in-charge Harish Rawat to say so.

BJP's National Secretary and MP Vinod Sonkar challenged Congress leadership to declare that Channi will be Chief Minister for five-year post-elections.

He alleged that the Congress has made Channi Punjab chief minister for a few months merely to grab Dalit votes as part of its conspiracy, and cited previous instances of the party giving the key position to a leader from the community only for a short tenure.

Sonkar gave examples of Congress appointing Sushil Kumar Shinde, a dalit, as CM in Maharashtra but post-election declaring Vilas Rao Deshmukh as CM in the state.

Similarly, he cited the appointment of Jagannath Pahadia in Rajasthan who was

replaced by Shiv Charan Mathur after the poll success in the state.

Sonkar alleged that it was the Congress that did not allow Jagjivan Ram, a senior dalits leader in the Congress, to be the Prime Minister of the country.

Rawat's comment that Sidhu and not Channi to lead Congress campaign in Punjab embarrassed the state leadership and confounded an already confused political equations in the state leadership.

Party leader Sunil Jhakhra, who was also a contender for the CM post, lashed out at state in-charge Harish Rawat over the latter's statement that the next year's assembly elections will be fought under Sidhu.

ED arrests managing director of Mumbai firm in ₹915 crore money laundering case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Vinod Chaturvedi, Managing Director of Usher Agro Limited and other group companies under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in a case related to cheating and siphoning of bank loans of over ₹915 crore.

The money laundering investigation was initiated on the basis of FIR lodged by the Banking Securities and Fraud Cell of the CBI, Mumbai registered on January 4, 2019 against Usher Agro Ltd., Vinod Kumar Chaturvedi, Manoj Pathak and others.

It has been alleged in the FIR that the group has taken loan from consortium of banks and has siphoned off

the same.

"During investigation, Proceeds of Crime have been identified and quantified to the tune of ₹915.65 crore. Further, investigation revealed that Aggarwal's promoters have formed 15 shell companies and had carried out bogus transactions with these shell companies," the ED said in a statement.

"Also, the group companies have carried out bogus transactions with DHFL group companies. During Investigation, Vinod Chaturvedi was non-cooperative and did not divulge any information," it further said.

The arrested accused was produced on Saturday before the Special Court that remanded him to five-day custody. Further investigation is under progress, it added.

Former bureaucrat Rajiv Aggarwal takes over as Facebook's public policy head

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Social media giant Facebook on Monday announced that former bureaucrat and Uber executive Rajiv Aggarwal will be taking over as director of public policy. Aggarwal's appointment comes months after Ankhi Das, who was accused of an alleged bias in favour of the ruling NDA Government, quit from her post in late October last year.

As per the Facebook statement, "The appointment of Rajiv Aggarwal as the Director of Public Policy to define and lead important policy development initiatives for Facebook in India on an agenda that covers user safety, data protection & privacy, inclusion and internet governance." Aggarwal will report to the Vice President of Facebook India.

"In this role, Aggarwal will report to




Ajit Mohan, Vice President & Managing Director, Facebook India and will be a part of the India leadership team," it added.

The social media company said Aggarwal joins Facebook with 26 years of experience as an Indian Administrative Officer (IAS), working from grassroots to the global level, including as a District Magistrate in nine districts across the state of Uttar Pradesh. During his tenure as an administrative officer, he served India's first-ever national policy on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) as Joint Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (M/o Commerce), and was instrumental in the digital transformation of India's IP offices," it added.

FIRST COLUMN

AUKUS: A NEW ALLIANCE IS BORN!

This 'alliance' has not been gestating for very long



GWYNNE DYER

When the 9/11 happened in 2001 and the US armed forces went on full alert, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice got on the direct line to Moscow and told Vladimir Putin not to worry: the United States was not going to attack Russia. Putin replied that he understood, and was standing Russian forces down. When Donald Trump claimed in late October that the election was being stolen, and again after the attempted putsch on 6 January, Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called his Chinese counterpart, Gen. Li Zuocheng of the People's Liberation Army, to reassure him that the United States would not attack China. Rice and Milley were both grown-ups, trying to keep their people safe but operating in an international system that still runs by the rules of our hunter-gatherer ancestors. This is how wise leaders

most of the time, but sometimes they get distracted or confused. And the notion of distraction brings us smoothly to the alliance of the week, AUKUS (rhymes with 'caucus'), which has been cobbled together since the fall of Kabul last month to draw attention away from the shambles attending the American retreat from Afghanistan. You could tell that the three wise leaders involved hadn't spent a lot of time negotiating the nature and role of the new US-UK-Australian alliance, because Joe Biden couldn't even remember the name of the Australian prime minister, Scott Morrison.

There they were, each in his own capital with the other two on screens, and Biden managed to thank Boris Johnson by name, but when it came to Morrison the US president had to fake it: "And I want to thank that fella from Down Under. Thank you very much pal. Appreciate it. "You may say it's just a brain fart, and you might even be right, but there are other indications that this 'alliance' has not been gestating for very long. Consider the case of the French submarines. The French foreign and defence ministers spoke with their Australian counterparts as recently as 30 August and declared: "Both sides are committed to deepen defence industry cooperation and enhance their capability in the region. Ministers underlined the importance of the future submarine program." (In 2016 Canberra agreed to spend \$66 billion to build a dozen French-designed submarines.) It's not unknown for a sovereign state to rat on an international deal, but it's bad form to pledge undying loyalty to a deal just two weeks before ratting on it. When Australia announced last Wednesday that it will build at least eight nuclear submarines using American and British technology instead, French foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian called it "a stab in the back." Then there's the fact that the US, the UK and Australia will spend the next 18 months trying to fill in the details of how this nuclear submarine deal and the alliance it serves will actually work. The Chinese responded to the creation of AUKUS just as foolishly, with the state-owned 'Global Times' warning that Australian troops are "likely to be the first batch of Western soldiers to waste their lives in the South China Sea." The US and NATO pull-out from Afghanistan was long foreseen and no big deal, but everybody has lost the plot. Even if we must now talk about 'sides' in the Asia-Pacific region (and we really shouldn't), eight Australian nuclear submarines in fifteen years' time isn't going to make the slightest difference. It's short-term gesture politics of the worst kind, and a number of people deserve to be spanked.

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

Asset monetisation: Will it take off?

The biggest bottleneck is the cumbersome procedures involved in striking such deals and the accompanying bureaucratic red tape



UTTAM GUPTA

In her maiden budget presented to Parliament on in 2019, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid a roadmap for catapulting the Indian economy to \$5 trillion by 2024-25, its most crucial component being investment in infrastructure to the tune of a mammoth ₹100,00,000 crore (\$1.4 trillion) over a period of five years. Thirty-nine per cent each of this amount was to come from the Centre and States and the balance from the private sector.

The Centre's contribution works out to around ₹40,00,000 crore over five years or ₹800,000 crore per annum. Against this, the revised estimate (RE) for capital expenditure during 2020-21 was ₹439,000 crore. Even assuming that all of this was on building infrastructure, it is just about half of what was required. For 2021-22, the Budget allocation is ₹5,54,000 crore or 70 per cent of what is required.

This is when the Modi Government kept a generous fiscal deficit (FD) target for these years. From 2022-23 onward, it is committed to return to fiscal discipline aiming to reach 4.5 per cent in 2024-25. That means it will not be able to sustain even the capital spending of 2020-21 or 2021-22. The mandarins in finance ministry are well aware of this. So, they are looking for alternative ways.

One of these is monetization of public assets — both green-field projects as well as brown-field in areas such as roads, highways, railways, ports, power transmission lines, gas pipelines and so on. It involves 'transfer of revenue rights to a private player for a specified period of time say up to 20 years or more in lieu of an upfront (or periodic) payment defined by a 'concession/contractual framework'. This way, the Government intends to unlock value and leverage the proceeds from sale of 'revenue rights' for investing in new projects.

It intends to garner over ₹600,000 crore from this exercise. Prima facie, this looks great as with this much money in hand and assuming debt-equity ratio of 4:1 (a jargon for borrowing ₹4 for every one rupee of a person's own money), it can arrange for funding worth ₹24,00,000 crore. If the Government can rope in a private partner contributing an equal amount under a joint venture (JV), projects worth ₹4800,000 crore can be executed.

Since the arrangement only involves selling of the 'revenue rights' and ownership of the asset continues to be with Government, it cannot be dubbed as privatization per se. So, it also escapes any criticism that invariably goes with the mere whisper of any move to sell public assets lock, stock and barrel.

But, chartering the course - as delineated above-is easier said than done. Let us face some harsh realities.

A private firm interested to take an asset say, a road under the proposed

model would like to ensure that it gets a reasonable return on the capital he gives to the Government upfront. To get there, it will conduct due diligence to fully satisfy itself about the quality of the asset and its capability to generate a good income (revenue minus expenses) stream during the contract term; enjoy full flexibility in operating the asset that would include inter alia fixing charges for the services rendered by it — free from any outside interference.

The second point can be a bone of contention. When the Government or its agency runs a public utility, it is prone to offering the services at subsidized rates; for instance, fixing passenger fare in case of railways or toll tax (expressway) or power tariff at below the cost of making these available. It also involves offering services on routes which are not lucrative. The under-recovery arising there from is normally paid from the budget. The unpaid amount if any, remains on the balance sheet of the agency to be eventually cleared as and when funds are released from the exchequer.

When the asset is transferred to a private operator, he would like to take it free from any of these encumbrances. He would also seek full immunity from any untoward incident (for instance, protestors laying siege on toll plazas at national highways during farmers' agitation). In fact, the bidder will insist on inclusion in the concession/contractual framework, all safeguards necessary to protect his interest during the pendency of the lease period.

If the Government is unable to give these assurances, the deal will come unstuck. In case the bidder decides to go ahead sans these safeguards, he will build in a very high rate of return in his financial calculations to compensate for all the associated risks leading to a very low bid amount for the asset. In either case, the asset monetization program will turn out to be a damp squib. The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

In August 2021, the Government had put up for auction 109 railway passenger routes offering rights to run passenger services for 35 years hoping to garner ₹30,000 crore. The exercise ended up in a fiasco as the bidders backed out 'citing rules favoring the national transporter, lack of a truly independent regulator, curbs on route flexibility and other unresolved issues'.

In early 2019, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had proposed to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to stop construction and instead, focus on monetization of the assets already built. The PMO had recommended auction of all completed projects under the so-called toll operate and transfer (TOT) model. Under this, private companies were to take over completed roads for 10 to 20 years and make an upfront payment to the NHAI. Two years on, there is hardly any progress.

Things are unlikely to change overnight. To conclude, what appears to be an attractive proposition on the face of it, is not so in reality. The biggest bottleneck is cumbersome procedures involved in striking such deals and accompanying bureaucratic red tape. Moreover, an overarching stipulation that 'the ownership of the asset remains with the Government' makes the typical babu's role even more excruciating. In the name of protecting state interest, he or she goes on increasing the clauses in the agreement — to a point of vexing the bidder.

There is dire need to bring about a drastic change in the way Indian bureaucracy works. Prime Minister Narendra Modi should drive bureaucrats to be 'resilient' and 'pragmatic' in their approach. This could help in untangling many a knot and improve investor confidence.

The Government also needs to reform the way subsidies in India are administered. Currently, this is done by pricing services or utilities, viz., passenger fare, power tariff, toll tax at below the cost of making these available or the market price. This must stop. Instead, it should give subsidy 'directly' to the beneficiary as income support and leave suppliers to fix tariff based on market forces.

Together with unshackling of bureaucracy, this will ease the process of transferring revenue rights and help in giving a head start to the asset monetization program.

THERE IS A DIRE NEED TO BRING ABOUT A DRASTIC CHANGE IN THE WAY THE INDIAN BUREAUCRACY WORKS. PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI SHOULD DRIVE BUREAUCRATS TO BE 'RESILIENT' AND 'PRAGMATIC' IN THEIR APPROACH. THIS COULD HELP IN UNTANGLING MANY A KNOT AND IMPROVE INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

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

Justice in high-profile corporate cases

In the Tata vs Mistry case, the SC missed a golden opportunity to lay down legal principles that corporate India can be guided by



J GOPIKRISHNAN

Many a time, delivery of justice in high profile corporate cases is curious and subject of debate. The interplay of jurisprudence, facts, merits and delivery of justice in such cases is always debated. In the past few years, one such high profile commercial dispute is Ratan Tata Vs Cyrus Mistry.

Many opine that the apex court's decision was not well-founded for a variety of reasons. Not in the least because it casts aside the well settled law that directors owe fiduciary duties to the company and not to the shareholders nominating them. The main argument is Supreme Court has entered into the domain of fact-finding of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) instead of limiting to the question of law.

The Supreme Court is foremost a court of law. Its jurisdiction under Section 423 of the Companies Act, 2013 is to decide "questions of law" emanating from the orders of the NCLAT. Identical provisions are found in many statutes and serve an important objective of shutting out appeals that do not involve questions of law from engaging the Supreme Court's precious judicial time.

The Supreme Court is not expected to, and indeed should not, get embroiled in the facts of a particular case or re-appreciate the evidence afresh. But that is exactly what the apex court has done here and without any sound legal basis. The result is that a

golden opportunity to lay down legal principles that corporate India can be guided by, has been missed.

While it may be argued that questions of fact and questions of law are sometimes mingled, it is wrong to say there is no distinction between the two. A simple example, in the context of this

case, will make the distinction clear. Whether Cyrus Mistry was removed because of his lack of performance (as the Tatas claimed) or because he resisted interference by a super board (as the SP Group claimed) is a question of fact as indeed is the question whether the manner of his removal and the methods employed for this purpose lacked probity. The NCLAT answered both questions in the SP Group's favour.

The Supreme Court was required to evaluate what was the legal effect of the NCLAT findings. Did they make out a case of oppression in law and, if they did, whether the reliefs granted by the NCLAT were justified, as a matter of law? A court of law can interfere with the findings of fact only if the findings were either based on no evidence or were perverse, i.e., the finding was so shocking that no reasonable fact could have been arrived at on the basis of evidence before it. Ironically, the Court acknowledged this to be the correct test but abandoned the principle altogether.

Supreme Court's decision is replete with findings/ comments on the list between the parties. Each of these findings/comments fall within the domain of pure questions of fact that are not matters the Court ought to have waded into. The Court has re-appreciated the evidence de-novo and, in the process, disturbed the findings of fact of the NCLAT without even explaining why the findings

of fact of the NCLAT called for interference.

Tribunals like the NCLAT exercise the jurisdiction that High Courts formerly did. Challenge to the constitutional validity of provisions that make NCLAT the final fact-finding body was repelled by Constitution Bench of five judges of the Supreme Court in a landmark case of Madras Bar Association v Union of India. In this case, the apex court found it perfectly reasonable that the NCLAT (comprising judicial members on par with the judge of High Court) was empowered to decide all questions of fact and law whereas an appeal against its orders to the Supreme Court would lie only on questions of law.

But the judgment has overlooked this well-settled practice. What could explain this deviation from established principle of judicial reticence of a court of law to the trier of fact (fact finding by jury or judge by evidences)? Part of the problem lies in the Court perhaps viewing this high-profile corporate case more as a battle between two personalities — a patriarch and his anointed successor — rather than an issue involving the rights and duties of a majority and minority shareholders of India's biggest corporate house. Simply the apex court considered emotional issues rather than looking into the facts found by the appellate tribunal, which is not a good symptom for corporate governance in professional ways.

US launches mass expulsion of Haitian migrants from Texas

AP ■ DEL RIO (US)

The US is flying Haitians camped in a Texas border town back to their homeland and blocking others from crossing the border from Mexico in a massive show of force that signals the beginning of what could be one of America's swiftest, large-scale expulsions of migrants or refugees in decades.

More than 320 migrants arrived in Port-au-Prince on three flights Sunday, and Haiti said six flights were expected Tuesday.

In all, US authorities moved to expel many of the more 12,000 migrants camped around a bridge in Del Rio, Texas, after crossing from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

The US plans to begin seven expulsion flights daily on Wednesday, four to Port-au-Prince and three to Cap-Haitien, according to a US official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Flights will continue to depart from San Antonio but authorities may add El Paso, the official said.

The only obvious parallel for such an expulsion without an opportunity to seek asylum was in 1992 when the Coast Guard intercepted Haitian refugees at sea, said Yael

Schacher, senior US advocate at Refugees International whose doctoral studies focused on the history of US asylum law.

Similarly large numbers of Mexicans have been sent home during peak years of immigration but over land and not so suddenly.

Central Americans have also crossed the border in comparable numbers without being subject to mass expulsion, although Mexico has agreed to accept them from the US under pandemic-related authority in effect since March 2020. Mexico does not accept expelled Haitians or people of other nationalities outside of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

When the border was closed Sunday, the migrants initially found other ways to cross nearby until they were confronted by federal and state law enforcement.

An Associated Press reporter saw Haitian immigrants still crossing the river into the US about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) east of the previous spot, but they were eventually stopped by Border Patrol agents on horseback and Texas law enforcement officials.

As they crossed, some Haitians carried boxes on their heads filled with food. Some removed their pants before



Haitians who were deported from the United States deplane at the Toussaint Louverture International Airport, in Port au Prince, Haiti on Sunday

AP

getting into the river and carried them. Others were unconcerned about getting wet.

Agents yelled at the migrants who were crossing in the waist-deep river to get out of the water. The several hun-

dred who had successfully crossed and were sitting along the river bank on the US side were ordered to the Del Rio camp. "Go now," agents yelled. Mexican authorities in an airboat told others trying to cross

to go back into Mexico.

Migrant Charlie Jean had crossed back into Ciudad Acuña from the camps to get food for his wife and three daughters, ages 2, 5 and 12. He was waiting on the Mexican

side for a restaurant to bring him an order of rice.

"We need food for every day. I can go without, but my kids can't," said Jean, who had been living in Chile for five years before beginning the trek

north to the US. It was unknown if he made it back across and to the camp.

Mexico said Sunday it would also begin deporting Haitians to their homeland. A government official said the flights would be from towns near the US border and the border with Guatemala, where the largest group remains.

Haitians have been migrating to the US in large numbers from South America for several years, many having left their Caribbean nation after a devastating 2010 earthquake.

After jobs dried up from the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, many made the dangerous trek by foot, bus and car to the US border, including through the infamous Darien Gap, a Panamanian jungle.

Some of the migrants at the Del Rio camp said the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti and the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse make them afraid to return to a country that seems more unstable than when they left.

"In Haiti, there is no security," said Fabricio Jean, a 38-year-old Haitian who arrived in Texas with his wife and two daughters.

"The country is in a political crisis." Since Friday, 3,300 migrants have already been removed from the Del Rio

camp to planes or detention centers, Border Patrol Chief Raul L. Ortiz said Sunday. He expected to have 3,000 of the approximately 12,600 remaining migrants moved within a day, and aimed for the rest to be gone within the week.

"We are working around the clock to expeditiously move migrants out of the heat, elements and from underneath this bridge to our processing facilities in order to quickly process and remove individuals from the United States consistent with our laws and our policies," Ortiz said at news conference at the Del Rio bridge. The Texas city of about 35,000 people sits roughly 145 miles (230 kilometers) west of San Antonio.

Six flights were scheduled in Haiti on Tuesday — three in Port-au-Prince and three in the northern city of Cap-Haitien, said Jean Nègout Bonheur Delva, Haiti's migration director.

The rapid expulsions were made possible by a pandemic-related authority adopted by former President Donald Trump in March 2020 that allows for migrants to be immediately removed from the country without an opportunity to seek asylum. President Joe Biden exempted unaccompanied children from the order but let the rest stand.

Shooting at Russian varsity leaves 6 dead

AP ■ MOSCOW

A student opened fire on Monday at a university in Russia, leaving six people dead and 28 hurt, before being shot by police and detained, officials said.

Beyond saying that he was a student, authorities offered no further information on his identity or possible motive.

During the attack, students and staff at Perm State University locked themselves in rooms, and video posted on Russian news sites showed some students jumping out of second-story windows.

In some footage, a black-clad, helmeted figure could be seen striding on a campus sidewalk cradling a long-barreled weapon. Russia's Investigative Committee, the country's top body for criminal probes, said the gunman fired a smoothbore hunting weapon. That could indicate he used a shotgun.

The Investigative Committee said six people were killed, revising down its earlier figure of eight dead. No explanation was given for the



Police officers run to the Perm State University in Perm, about 1,100 kilometers east of Moscow, Russia on Monday

AP

change.

A traffic police unit was the first to reach the scene, and the suspect opened fire on them, according to the Interior Ministry. He was wounded when police returned fire and then was disarmed, the ministry said. The gunman also was armed with a knife, it said.

Although firearms laws are strict in Russia, many people obtain permits for hunting weapons. News reports cited

officials as saying the suspect had a permit for a pump-action shotgun, although it was not clear if it was for the weapon used.

Despite the firearms regulations, mass shootings take place. In May, a gunman opened fire at a school in the city of Kazan, killing seven students and two teachers, with a registered weapon. A student at a college in Russia-annexed Crimea killed 20 students and himself in 2018.

Hindu family in Pak tortured for fetching water from mosque

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Fetching drinking water from a mosque in Pakistan's Punjab province landed a family of poor farmers from the minority Hindu community in trouble as some people tortured and held them hostage for "violating the sanctity" of their place of worship, a media report said on Monday.

Alam Ram Bheel, a resident of Punjab's Rahimyar Khan city, was picking raw cotton along with his other family members, including his wife, in a field.

Bheel said when the family went outside a nearby mosque to fetch drinking water from a tap, some local landlords beat them up, the Dawn newspaper reported.

When the family was returning home after unloading the picked cotton, the landlords held them hostage at their dera (outhouse) and tortured them again for "violating the sanctity" of the mosque, it said.

The police did not register a case as the attackers were related to a local parliamentarian of Prime Minister Imran Khan's ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, Bheel said. Protesting the police apathy, Bheel held a sit-in outside the police station along with another clan member Peter John Bheel.

Peter, also a member of the district peace committee, said that they approached ruling PTI lawmaker Javed Warriach who helped them lodge a case on Friday. Peter requested other members of the district peace committee to call an emergency meeting over the issue but they did not take the matter seriously, the report said.

PTT's south Punjab minority wing secretary general Yodhister Chohan said that incident was in his knowledge but due to the influence of a ruling party's MP, he preferred to stay away.

District Police Officer Asad Sarfraz said that he was looking into the matter.

UN chief warns China, US to avoid new Cold War

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Warning of a potential new Cold War, the head of the United Nations implored China and the United States to repair their "completely dysfunctional" relationship before problems between the two large and deeply influential countries spill over even further into the rest of the planet.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spoke to The Associated Press this weekend ahead of this week's annual United Nations gathering of world leaders — a convening blemished by COVID, climate concerns and contentiousness across the planet.

Guterres said the world's two major economic powers should be cooperating on climate and negotiating more robustly on trade and technology even given persisting political fissures about human rights, economics, online security and sovereignty in the South China Sea.

"Unfortunately, today we only have confrontation," Guterres said Saturday in the AP interview.

"We need to re-establish a

functional relationship between the two powers," he said, calling that "essential to address the problems

of vaccination, the problems of climate change and many other global challenges that cannot be solved without constructive relations within the international community and mainly among the superpowers."

Two years ago, Guterres warned global leaders of the risk of the world splitting in two, with the United States and China creating rival internets, currency, trade, financial rules "and their own zero-sum geopolitical and military strategies."

He reiterated that warning in the AP interview, adding that two rival geopolitical and military strategies would pose "dangers" and divide the world. Thus, he said, the foundering relationship must be repaired — and soon.

"We need to avoid at all cost a Cold War that would be different from the past one, and probably more dangerous and more difficult to manage," Guterres said. The so-called Cold War between the Soviet

Union and its East bloc allies and the United States and its Western allies began immediately after World War II and ended with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

It was a clash of two nuclear-armed superpowers with rival ideologies — communism and authoritarianism on one side, capitalism and democracy on the other.

The UN chief said a new Cold War could be more perilous because the Soviet-US antipathy created clear rules, and both sides were conscious of the risk of nuclear destruction. That produced back channels and forums "to guarantee that things would not get out of control," he said.

"Now, today, everything is more fluid, and even the experience that existed in the past to manage crisis is no longer there," Guterres said.

He said the US-Britain deal to give Australia nuclear-powered submarines so it could operate undetected in Asia "is just one small piece of

a more complex puzzle ... This completely dysfunctional relationship between China and the United States."

ISIS terrorists claim attacks on Taliban

Cairo: The extremist Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for a series of deadly bombings targeting Taliban vehicles in eastern Afghanistan. The claim, published late Sunday on the militant group's media arm, the Aamaq news agency, signals a growing threat to the Taliban by their long-time rivals.

At least eight people, including several Taliban fighters, were killed in the attacks on Sunday and Saturday in the provincial city of Jalalabad, an IS stronghold.

The Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in a blitz campaign last month, overrunning the capital of Kabul while U.S. And NATO were in the final phase of withdrawing their troops. AP

'Hotel Rwanda' hero sentenced to 25 years on terror charges

AP ■ KIGALI (RWANDA)

The man who inspired the film 'Hotel Rwanda' was convicted of terrorism offences Monday and sentenced to 25 years in prison in a trial that human rights watchdogs and other critics of Rwanda's repressive government have described as an act of retaliation.

Paul Rusesabagina, credited with saving ethnic Tutsis during Rwanda's 1994 genocide and a recipient of the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, boycotted the announcement of the verdict after saying he didn't expect justice in a trial he called a "sham".

The US resident and Belgian citizen was convicted on nine charges including the formation of an illegal armed group, membership in a terrorist group, financing a terror group, murder and abduction.

Canadians vote in pandemic election that could cost Trudeau

AP ■ TORONTO

Canadians began voting on Monday in an election that that threatens to knock Justin Trudeau from power. Trudeau gambled on an early election in a bid to win a majority of seats in Parliament.

Polls indicate Trudeau's Liberal Party is in a tight race with the rival Conservatives: It will likely win the most seats in Parliament, but still fail to get a majority, forcing it to rely on an opposition party to pass legislation.

Polling stations opened first in the Atlantic coast province of Newfoundland.

"Trudeau made an incredibly stupid error in judgement," said Robert Bothwell, a professor of Canadian history and international relations at the University of Toronto. Trudeau entered the election leading a stable minority government that wasn't under threat of being toppled.

The opposition has been relentless in accusing Trudeau of calling the early vote — two years before the deadline — for his own personal ambition.

China launches cargo spacecraft to carry supplies to its space station

PTI ■ BEIJING

China successfully launched an unmanned cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-3 on Monday to deliver supplies for its under-construction space station Tiangong, which is scheduled to be completed by next year.

The Long March-7 Y4 rocket, carrying Tianzhou-3, blasted off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern island province of Hainan, China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said.

Tianzhou-3, which carried supplies for the upcoming six-month manned mission called Shenzhou-13, later successfully docked with the

space station, the CMSA said.

The Tianzhou series are cargo spacecraft carrying material supplies to the space station which is to be ready by next year.

On September 18, the Tianzhou-2 cargo craft separated from the rear docking port of Tianhe and docked with its front docking port.

The CMSA said that the combination of Tianhe and Tianzhou-2 is in good condition, waiting for docking with the Tianzhou-3 cargo craft and the next manned mission Shenzhou-13 spaceship, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

On September 17, three Chinese astronauts who spent 90 days, the

country's longest crewed mission, returned to Earth. The three spent three months building the station.

They spent 90 days at the Tianhe module on China's space station, some 380 kilometres above Earth.

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

China previously sent the space station's Tianhe core cabin module on April 29, and a cargo spacecraft with supplies on May 29.

US announces new international travel system

Only fully vaccinated individuals to be allowed

Washington: The US on Monday announced a new international travel system under which fully vaccinated individuals would be allowed to enter the country beginning in November.

This essentially also lifts the travel ban on countries like India that the US had earlier enforced. Former president Donald Trump had imposed a blanket ban on foreign travellers from entering the US at the start of the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020.

Vaccinated people from countries like India can now travel to the US with proof of their vaccination before they start flying for the United States, White House officials said. "Today we're announcing a new international air travel system. This new system includes strict protocols to prevent the spread of Covid-19 from passengers flying into the United States, protecting Americans and making international air travel safer," White House Covid-19 Response Coordinator Jeff Zients told reporters during a virtual news

conference.

The United States, he said, with science and public health as its guide, has developed a new international air travel system that both enhances the safety of Americans here at home and enhances the safety of international air travel.

"Most importantly, beginning in early November, foreign nationals flying to the United States will be required to be fully vaccinated and they must show proof of vaccination prior to boarding a US bound airplane," he said.

Responding to a question on the existing quarantine requirements and travel ban from countries like India, Brazil, United Kingdom, China, Iran and South Africa, Zients said early November the United States will move to this new and much stricter global system. "It will require for nationals to be vaccinated, to prove they're vaccinated, and then to go to the testing and contract tracing regimens," he said.

"That's right, for (fully) vaccinated travellers it is not required to be a quarantine going forward," he said in response to another question.

Nearly six billion Covid-19 vaccines have already been administered globally, he said, adding that the US is leading the effort to get even more shots and arms across the world.

PTI

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PUBLIC NOTICE
(For the kind attention of Stakeholders/Investors of
Superior Finlease Limited)

Notice is hereby given that recently the Company came to know through the BSE Website that the Company has been covered under the information list due to unsolicited messages that have been circulated via use of social media. And, as soon as the Company received such information, the Company gave the initial intimation/Clarification to the Stock Exchange and the same has also been uploaded on the BSE portal for the benefit and protection of interest of Stakeholders/Investors. Further, this is to intimate you that the management of the company has considered this matter very seriously and has lodged a Complaint vide Complaint no. 8176010072100082 on September 17, 2021 with Delhi Police (NCRB) with the request to take stringent action for the misinformation that has been circulated about the Company. Furthermore, this is to inform you that the Company, its Promoters, Directors or any employee(s) of the company have no information or role in the Unsolicited Messages that has been circulated containing stock tips or recommendation. Investors are advised to be cautious while dealing in the share based on the unsolicited Messages received from any unknown sources / unauthorized person. The aforementioned details would also be made available on the website of the Company i.e. at www.superiorfinlease.com and on the website of BSE Limited at <http://www.bseindia.com>.

For Superior Finlease Limited
Sd/-
Rajneesh Kumar
(Director)

Date: September 20, 2021
Place: New Delhi

Markets plunge as central bank meetings loom

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex plunged 525 points while the Nifty finished below the 17,400-mark on Monday, reflecting the sombre mood in global markets ahead of a flurry of central bank meetings which are expected to provide cues on the imminent tapering of massive stimulus measures.

A sharp drop in the rupee added to the woes, traders said, adding that worries over the fate of Chinese real estate major Evergrande and its impact on the world's second largest economy pulled down global commodity prices.

Sliding for the second consecutive session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 524.96 points or 0.89 per cent lower at 58,490.93.

The broader NSE Nifty tumbled 188.25 points or 1.07 per cent to close close at 17,396.90.

Tata Steel was the top loser on the Sensex chart, crashing 9.53 per cent, followed by SBI, IndusInd Bank, HDFC, Dr Reddy's, M&M and UltraTech Cement.

The HDFC twins and Tata Steel accounted for over half of the benchmark's losses.

In contrast, HUL, Bajaj

Finserv, ITC, HCL Tech, Nestle India, Bajaj Finance and RIL managed to close in the green, climbing up to 2.84 per cent.

Investors lost over Rs 3.49 lakh crore in Monday's session, with the market capitalisation of all BSE-listed companies standing at Rs 2,55,47,063.52 crore at close of trade.

"Indian markets finally seem to be taking a small pause, largely driven by nervousness in the global markets," said Milind Muchhala, Executive Director, Julius Baer.

"Two key factors playing on the minds of global investors include the upcoming Fed meeting and the uncertainty building up in the Chinese real estate market due to stress on one of the major property players in the country," he added.

While the markets are keenly awaiting clarity on Fed's taper plans in terms of time-lines and quantum, we believe it may give an advance notice on tapering in this week's meeting, followed by a formal announcement at the following meeting in November, he stated.

S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, said, "As global markets corrected fearing the contagion around the Chinese developer,

risk aversion was seen across markets. Barring the FMCG pack, the market breadth was extremely weak with sectoral indices trading in the red."

Sectorally, BSE metal, basic materials, realty, power and utilities indices tanked up to 7.19 per cent, while FMCG closed with gains.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices plunged as much as 1.84 per cent.

Elsewhere in Asia, Hang Seng ended over 3 per cent lower, dragged by Evergrande which plummeted to more than 10-year lows. Bourses in China, Japan and South Korea were closed for holidays.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading with steep losses in mid-session deals.

All eyes are on the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting beginning Tuesday. A total of 16 central banks are slated to hold meetings this week, including those in the UK and Japan. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude fell 1.92 per cent to USD 73.89 per barrel.

The Indian rupee skidded 26 paise to close at 73.74 against the US dollar on Monday, tracking a strong American currency in the overseas market.

Govt clears sugar export subsidy worth ₹1,800 cr this season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has so far cleared ₹1,800 crore in subsidy to sugar mills for undertaking a mandated export of 6 million tonnes of the sweetener in the 2020-21 season-ending this month, according to a senior Food Ministry official.

The Government had to offer export subsidies during the last three seasons to reduce surplus stocks and help cash-starved sugar mills clear cane payments to growers on time. It offered subsidies for the export of a fixed quota of sugar. "About ₹3,500 crore budget was allocated towards export subsidy for the ongoing season. Out of which, ₹1,800 crore has been spent on clearing the subsidy claims," the official told PTI.

The balance subsidy will be paid to mills soon, once the funds are released from the finance ministry, he said.

The official said mills have already exported the entire quota of 6 million tonnes set for the current 2020-21 season. They have also exported sugar without subsidies taking advantage of the firm global trends.

This has encouraged mills to clear ₹8,300 crore cane price dues to farmers so far in the current season, against the total

payable dues of ₹91,000 crore, he said, adding that the balance will also get cleared by the mills.

Exports were undertaken smoothly even as the government slashed subsidies on sugar exports for the current season from ₹6,000 per tonne to ₹4,000 per tonne because of firm international prices.

On the pending subsidy claims of the 2019-20 season, the official mentioned that Rs 5,000 crore subsidy claims were cleared so far. The balance of Rs 1,200 crore will be paid to mills in the next two months.

Going forward, the government has decided not to offer subsidies in the new season 2021-22, beginning October onwards, as the international sugar prices are ruling firm -- owing to likely shortage of the cane crop in the world's largest sugar producing nation Brazil.

Recently, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey in a press briefing had said there was no need for subsidies for undertaking sugar exports in the 2021-22 season.

According to the ministry, the country's sugar production is likely to remain flat at 30.5 million tonnes in the next 2021-22 season as more sugarcane will be diverted for ethanol making.

India Inc expected to dole out 8.6% avg increment in 2022: Deloitte survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Corporate India handed over an average increment of 8 per cent in 2021, and early estimates reveal that average increment for 2022 is expected to increase to 8.6 per cent in line with a healing economy and improving confidence, according to a Deloitte survey.

As per the second phase of Deloitte's Workforce and Increment Trends survey 2021, 92 per cent companies gave an increment in 2021 at an average of 8 per cent, compared with only 4.4 per cent in 2020, where just 60 per cent companies had extended a pay hike.

For 2022, average increment is expected to increase to 8.6 per cent, at par with the pre-pandemic levels of 2019, the survey said, adding that about 25 per cent companies surveyed have projected a double-digit increment for 2022.

The 2021 Workforce and Increment Trends survey was launched in July 2021. The primary audience for this survey were seasoned HR professionals. More than 450 organisations participated in this edition spread across seven sectors and 24 sub-sectors.

FDI key to India's aspiration to be a \$5 trillion economy, says Deloitte CEO

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

FDI, he said.

Also, it is still believed that India is a challenging place to do business. This perception is due to low awareness about government programmes, incentives and reforms, particularly those that have just been announced by the government, he said.

"Of 1,200 business leaders surveyed in the US, UK, Japan and Singapore, 44 per cent are planning additional or first-time investments in India. Among the first-time investors, nearly two-third are planning to do so within the next two years," Renjen said.

The Deloitte CEO noted that although there is a significant crossover, access to India's domestic market is very important in addition to the country being an export hub.

But the attraction of the domestic market is very important for FDI investment, he said, adding, "Business leaders rated India higher on economic growth and skilled workforce, which are great attractors."

Observing that government policies are certainly very welcome and are helping in attracting FDI in India, Renjen said some of the recent policy clarification is very good and the stated investment in infrastructure is very positive.

We take allegations of improper actions seriously, investigate them fully: Amazon

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid reports of Amazon aprobng bribery-related charges against some of its legal representatives in India, the US e-commerce giant on Monday said it takes allegations of improper actions seriously and investigates them fully to take appropriate action.

Without confirming or denying allegations, Amazon said it has "zero tolerance for corruption".

According to a report by The Morning Context, Amazon has initiated an investigation against some of its legal representatives for allegedly bribing Indian government officials. Its senior corporate counsel has reportedly been sent on leave in this matter.

When contacted, an Amazon spokesperson said: "We have zero tolerance for corruption. We take allegations of improper actions seriously, investigate them fully, and take appropriate action. We are not commenting on specific allegations or the status of any investigation at this time".

A person aware of the development said US-headquartered companies such as Amazon take whistleblower complaints seriously, especially those related to payment of bribes to foreign government officials in order to retain or obtain business. This is also to ensure compliance with corporate governance rules.

Meanwhile, traders' body CAIT has demanded a CBI inquiry saying the matter relates to the credibility of government.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that certificates of shares of Safari Industries (India) Limited standing in the name of Minakshi Vakkar under folio no. M00661 bearing certificate No. 62 and Distinctive Nos. 32506 to 33005 have been lost or mislaid and application has been made to the company to issue duplicate in lieu thereof. Any person who has a claim in respect to the said shares should lodge such claim with the Company's Registrars & Transfer Agents at: "Adroit Corporate Services Pvt Ltd." 19, Jalefthor Industrial Estate 1st Floor, Mahavara Road, Marol Naka, Andher (E), Mumbai- 400059, within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, else the Company will proceed to issue Duplicate Certificates. **Mrs. Minakshi Vakkar** WZF- 58 A, Meerakshi Ground, New Delhi-110016

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby informed that the owner (lottees of Flat No. M-37, (With Scooter Garage) Ground Floor, Type IIA, Sector-25, Jhalvayu Vihar, Noida 201301, Cor.(Retd.), Nathi Singh Makhi Singh Rawat S/o Late Makhi Singh Rawat R/o G-704, Sector A, Jhalvayu Vihar, Pawai, Mumbai- 400076 has sold the above flat on GPA basis to Mrs. Nandita Pradhan D/o Mr. Vijay Ram Bahadur Gopal R/o 201/185 Shahraara Bagh, Allahabad, U.P.-211003, and executed GPA which is regd. in the office of sub- Registrar-III, Noida. Vide Book No.-IV, Volume No. 173, Pages 475 - 484, Document No. 804, on dated 19.09.2002 and the agreement to sell was executed but not registered. Because, the Agreement To Sell was not registered so, with the help of this notice, it is inform to all the persons that the above said flat is transferring in favour of Mrs. Sheelwati Srivastava W/o Vijay Ram Bahadur Gopal R/o 201/185 Shahraara Bagh, Allahabad, Allahabad, U.P.-211003, If anyone has any objection to the registration he/she will submit his / her objection with documentary evidence in the Group Housing Department of Noida Authority, sector-6, Noida within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.
(Nandita Pradhan)

SIA-India pitch for equal opportunity for space sector in Defence Offset

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Satellite Industry Association of India (SIA) India led by President Dr Subba Rao Pavuluri called on Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar ad highlighted the possibilities for the country's Defence requirement with emergence of commercial space sector and space start-ups in India. The nascent industry is on the verge of taking its rightful place among the large players internationally, Rao mentioned to the Government.

The Joint Doctrine of the three services emphatically emphasizes the importance satellite systems. The use of space assets for communications, reconnaissance, imagery and geolocation are integral to modern military requirements. Space tech needs to be optimally utilized, the SIA stated.

Dr. Ajay Kumar observed "While other countries are looking at space for leisure, in India we are still far behind in our development of Space technologies and the opportunities thereof"

The private sector is moving towards significant rationalization of cost of launch and is on the path toward a proliferated constellation of small satellites for navigation, sensing, Command, Control, Communications, Computers (C4) in space.

Airtel commits 50% cut in greenhouse gas emissions across ops by FY31

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel on Monday said it has joined global efforts to combat climate change, as the telco has committed to reduce 50 per cent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by FY31 across its operations.

The company has pledged to significantly reduce its carbon footprint and emissions from its network operations and will achieve its overarching goals through multiple interventions, including accelerated green energy adoption across its network operations, energy-efficient infrastructure and processes as well as implementing sustainable business practices at its workplaces.

"Bharti Airtel today announced its commitment to contribute to global efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change and build a sustainable planet," Airtel said in a statement. The company said it is committed to a 50 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by FY31 across its operations.

"Airtel has joined the Science-Based Targets initiative's (SBTi) 'Business Ambition for 1.5° C' campaign and adopted targets to significantly reduce its carbon footprint and emissions from its network operations," the company statement added.

In simple terms, Business Ambition for 1.5 degree C is an urgent call to action for global businesses to commit to set science-based emissions reduction targets. It aims to avert the worst climate change impacts by limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degree celsius, and heading towards achieving a net-zero emissions economy. Commenting on the latest initiative, Vidut Gulati, Director - Legal, Bharti Airtel, termed climate change as the biggest challenge facing humanity.

"We must act collectively without further delay to ensure we do not go past the point of no return and have a sustainable planet. Businesses have a fundamental responsibility to contribute to this effort and Airtel has adopted an ambitious target in this direction and will report its progress transparently," Gulati said.

Meanwhile, Airtel has also become the first Indian telecommunications company to join the United Nations (UN) Global Compact - the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world.

Asset monetisation plan hinges critically on road assets: Crisil

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The success of the Centre's recently announced national monetisation pipeline (NMP) plan hinges critically on road assets, rating agency Crisil said on Monday.

The agency also said that the state-owned National Highways Authority of India's asset pool can generate 15 per cent of its potential funding needs over the next five fiscals.

Under the ambitious national asset monetisation plan, the government aims to generate ₹1.6 lakh crore by monetising 26,700 km of four-lane and above national highways.

"Monetisation of road assets holds the key here, as it accounts for 27 per cent of the NMP in value terms," the rating agency said.

Crisil noted that the NHAI has greatly accelerated its pace of highway construction, from only 2,623 km in fiscal 2017 to 4,175 km in fiscal 2021.

"Successful monetisation of the roads pipeline of Rs 1.6 lakh crore is critical, as it could potentially meet 15 per cent of the NHAI's fund requirements over fiscal 2022 to 2026, compared with less than 5 per cent over fiscal 2017-2021," it said.

Crisil said given the ambitious targets under Bharatmala and the construction of high-value expressways, along with higher repayment of borrowings, the NHAI's fund requirements are expected to double to Rs 10 lakh crore over the next five years vis-a-vis the previous 5 years.



UJVN Ltd.
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone-0135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763598
CIN No. U40101UR2001SG0025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com

RO No. 687 SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE Date: 20.09.2021

Office of the Executive Engineer, (M&G) Pathri Power House, Bahadrad, Hardwar invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below:-

Tender No.: 24/EE(Pathri)/2021-22 - Polypoxy protective coating works on By-pass Gates.

Tender No.: 25/EE(Pathri)/2021-22 – Repairing of Debris Trolley & Winch Machine.

Tender No.: 26/EE(Pathri)/2021-22 – Replacement of Rubber Seal of Intake Gates & Other allied works on intake structure.

Estimated Cost: Rs. 12.07, 500/- (GST extra), Rs.6,46,000/- (GST extra) & Rs. 10,45,545/- (GST extra) respectively.

Date of availability of bid document on website:- 21.09.2021
Last date for submission of tender: 07.10.2021, up to 11:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

Executive Engineer (M&G)



Ansar Ahmad

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Ansar Ahmad S/o: Fazrul Rehman, R/o: H. No. 7, Gali No. 01, East Baharpur Shahdara, Delhi** has been missing since **13.09.2021** at about **5:00pm** from **Parking of Water Tank, Near SBI Bank, GT Road, Shahdara, Delhi**. In this regard **DD No. 97A dated 14.09.2021** has been registered at **P.S. Shahdara, Delhi**. The description of missing man is as under:

Name: Ansar Ahmad Age: 50 Years, Height: 5'8", Built: Normal, Face: Long, Complexion: Bright, Wearing: White Colour Kurta Pajama and Black Colour Challap.

If anyone have any information about this missing man please inform P.S. Shahdara, Delhi

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station Shahdara, Delhi
Ph: 011-22831778, 22832087

Centre issues uniform specifications for procurement of foodgrains

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday said it has issued uniform specifications for foodgrains to be procured by the Centre in order to ensure that farmers get due price without any rejection of their crops. State-owned Food Corporation of India and other procurement agencies have been asked to buy grains from farmers as per the specifications. The agencies have been directed to ensure hassle-free procurement from farmers at the minimum support price (MSP).

For the first time, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution issued uniform specifications for Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) for grade A & Common Rice, an official statement said. In case of procurement of fortified rice stocks, 1 per cent of FRK (w/w) should be blended with normal rice stock.

The department issued the uniform specifications of food grains for central pool procurement for the ensuing

Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2020-21. The KMS runs from October to September. These specifications as per standard practice have been issued in respect of paddy, rice and other coarse grains namely Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi. These specifications also include standards of rice to be supplied to States/UTs for distribution under TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System) and Other Welfare Schemes based on the uniform specifications of rice for KMS 2020-21.

LIC launches mobile app for officers

NEW DELHI: LIC launched a new mobile app 'PRAGATI' (Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator) for exclusive use of its Development Officers. It was launched at the hands of LIC Chairperson Shri M R Kumar in the presence of Managing Directors, Shri Mukesh Gupta, Shri. Raj Kumar, Shri Siddhartha Mohanty and Ms. Mini Ipe and other Senior Officials of the Corporation on 17.9.2021.



उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम
कार्यालय: अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण शाखा, ओएनएमडीसीओ अवराल के सामने, कमला नगर, देहरादून-248001 फोन नं.: 0135-2755703 ईमेल: secudjpsddn@gmail.com

पत्रांक-2732 / निविदा / 217 दिनांक:- 20.09.2021

ई-निविदा सूचना

अध्यक्ष, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम, देहरादून (उत्तराखण्ड) की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून द्वारा जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत जनपद देहरादून के विकासखण्ड सहसपुर की सहसपुर पेयजल योजना के अन्तर्गत पाईप लाइन, राईडिंग मेन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून के पत्रांक 4653 / निविदा / 297 दिनांक 15.09.2021 तथा सहसपुर पेयजल योजना के अन्तर्गत उर्ध्व जलाशय एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्यों हेतु अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून के पत्रांक 4652 / निविदा / 296 दिनांक 15.09.2021 द्वारा ई-निविदायें राज्य सरकार की वेबसाईट— <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> के माध्यम से दिनांक 18.09.2021 से 06.10.2021 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा के नियम व शर्तें उपरोक्त वेबसाईट से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
COMMISSIONERATE OF PANCHAYAT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
PANJABARI, GUWAHATI-37.

Eol No : CPRD/PMAY-G/81/2021/51

Invitation for Expression of Interest

Office of Commissioner, Panchayat and Rural Development invites Expression of interest (EOI) from training providers affiliated/accredited by any one of the below mentioned National/State level organization

1. Training institutes affiliated by NCVT/DGT
2. Affiliated with Construction Skill Development Council (CSDC) of India
3. National Skill Development Council (NSDC) approved Training Providers
4. Training institutes affiliated to State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs)
5. Training Institution affiliated by any State/Central body as per the norms of NQAfat the minimum of NQAF level accreditation.
6. State Run Training Institutes affiliated with CSDCI

for conducting onsite training of Rural Mason under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mode for the construction of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna - Gramin.

Agencies/organizations/institutions fulfilling the eligibility criteria can access and download the complete EOI document and submit the Eol online in <https://assamtenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Joint Director,
Office of the Commissioner,
Janasanyog No. CF/1383/21
Panchayat & Rural Development, Assam



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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kalicharan Das/ Pushpa Das/ Lalu Mohan Das/ Pulin Das/ LBLUC00004634081	House No. 2/625/H (LIG), Jankipuram, Sitapur Road Joyna Lucknow Uttar Pradesh/ September 14, 2021	June 19, 2021, Rs. 10,53,883/-	Gurgaon
2.	Khalid Waseem/ Khalid Azeem/ LBMDB00004461123	Plot No. C-43, MIG Type 2, Ekta Vihar South Joyna MDU/Colon Near Over Head Tank Rampur Road Moradabad Uttar Pradesh/ September 15, 2021	June 23,2021/ Rs. 25,05,826/-	Delhi


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

Date : September 21, 2021
Place : Gurgaon


Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

DOCYARD
DR SHWETA GOSWAMI
Medical Director

ZEEVA FERTILITY CLINIC,
NOIDA



Ideal vegetarian diet for PCOS



Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome widely known as PCOS is a condition that causes hormonal imbalances and creates problems with your metabolism. A study conducted by, AIIMS shows that 20.25% of Indian women of childbearing age (ages 15 to 44) are suffering from PCOS. It can also lead to serious other health challenges such as diabetes, depression, cardiovascular problems, and creates problems in conceiving endometrial cancer. Women with PCOS produce a higher amount of male hormones. The hormonal imbalance causes them to skip menstrual periods and makes it harder for them in getting pregnant. Your diet is a bank account. Good food choices are good investments.

- FIGHT PCOS WITH DIET:**
- ♦ **Fiber-rich foods**
Fibre keeps you full, improves health, and aids weight loss. Good sources include barley, oatmeal, beans, nuts, and fruits. Broccoli, cauliflower, beans, almond, sweet potatoes, pumpkin are also adorned with good fibre content.
 - ♦ **Green leafy vegetables**
These are particularly recommended for a woman struggling to lose weight. They are rich in iron, potassium, calcium and Vitamin K, C, E, and B.
 - ♦ **Anti-inflammation food and spices**
The anti-inflammatory diet carries plenty of probiotics, fibre, antioxidants, and omega-3s, which means a diet rich in vegetables, whole fruit, whole grains, legumes. Tomatoes, spinach, almond and walnuts, olive oil, Turmeric, cinnamon also serve the purpose.
 - ♦ **Fruits**
Some may hesitate to consume them due to the fructose content; however, fruits have several minerals, poly nutrients, and fibre. Consume fruits with a low glycemic index like guava, pears, strawberries, blueberries, kiwi, apples, oranges and watermelons.
 - ♦ **Healthy fats**
To most people, the word 'fat' does not seem to go hand in hand with PCOS, but you need to eat healthy fats provide essential fatty acids. It includes seeds, olive oil, avocado, and nuts.
 - ♦ **Low glycemic index or GI Diet**
The GI measures how quickly a food raises blood sugar levels. So a low GI diet helps prevent insulin spikes by raising blood sugar levels slowly. The low-GI diet consists of eating whole lean protein, whole grains, fruits and vegetables, and healthy fats. Moreover, the advantages of consuming a low GI diet are clinically backed by lots of studies and surveys.
 - ♦ **Avoid the following:**
 - * Sugar and involved snacks/drinks such as soda or juice.
 - * Food that is high in refined carbohydrates such as White bread and muffins
 - * Avoid high consumption

The hormonal imbalance in women with PCOS causes irregular menstrual periods and makes it harder for them in getting pregnant

- * Dairy products, as they tend to cause an increase in testosterone level
 - * Caffeine in general effects fertility in women
 - * Any stuff made with white flour
 - * Starchy vegetables like potatoes, corn, and peas
 - * Sugary foods like cookies, cakes, and candy.
 - * Avoid packaged, processed food, junk, /fast food.
- ♦ **Here are some Pro-Tips:**
Have lots of fluid and low calorie (Chana, fruits, sprouts) snacking on the whole day.
One can balance out the imbalance of hormones in PCOS by making breakfast the biggest meal and dinner the smallest.
Reducing your carb intake may improve the hormonal imbalance linked to PCOS and boost weight loss in women with PCOS.
Keep stress at bay. So try not to panic and peacefully go through the diet plan or medication.
There is no definite cure or medication for PCOS. Yet switching to a healthy lifestyle that is based on a better diet and regular exercise can help you fight the disorder by manifolds.

SUMMERCOOLER

GREEN PEPPERCORNS: For most of us, monsoon season is all about sipping tea and munch on pakoras and samosas while sitting back and relaxing. Little do we know that the rainy season comes along with a chain of health issues that might put the body's immune system to the test. Piperine is an alkaloid present in green peppercorns which provides a number of

health benefits. It is also rich in vitamin C and vitamin K. Green Peppercorns is full of antioxidants that help in fighting deadly diseases by deactivating free radicals. For smooth digestion, it helps you get rid of gas by increasing the production of hydrochloric acid. The antibacterial capabilities in it minimise the risk of food poisoning by killing the bacteria.

According to Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India, the number of people suffering from this disease is expected to reach 7.6 million. DR RAJNISH KUMAR tells you how medication and cognitive retraining in the early phases can help slow its progression

Alzheimer's: Abane

Millions of people all over the world suffer from Alzheimer's disease which makes it a global crisis. In India, more than 5.3 million have some form of dementia (a condition in which memory, communication, thinking and social abilities tend to deteriorate), most of which result from Alzheimer's disease. According to a report published by the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI), the number of people suffering from Alzheimer's disease is expected to reach 7.6 million in India. The disease mainly affects the elderly where a combination of environmental and genetic factors usually lead to its inception. While there is no cure available for this disease, medication and cognitive retraining in the early phases can help slow its progression.

The present population of India is estimated to be around 1.39 billion with the elderly population expected to touch 13.1 per cent in 2031. With demographic ageing, India will have to bear the brunt of dementia which will only go up as the years pass on. In 2015, there were nearly 4.1 million persons in India aged over 60 years who had dementia. This is estimated to rise to 6.35 million by 2025 and 13.33 million by 2050. The proportion of dementia within the age group of 60-75 years is expected to rise steadily over the coming decades which will further have a devastating impact on the healthcare system of the country. With a lack of awareness, priority and treatment for Alzheimer's in India, India will face a complexity of issues if steps are not taken in the right direction.

RISK FACTORS

- ♦ **Age**
Old age is one of the biggest risk factors for developing this disease. A majority of people who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease happen to be of 65 years of age or above.
- ♦ **Genetics**
Scientists have identified different variants of genes that increases the possibility of developing Alzheimer's disease. The most common risk gene that leads to Alzheimer's disease is the APOE-e4 gene. It is estimated that this gene plays a vital role in as many as one-quarter of Alzheimer's cases.
- ♦ **Family history**
The chances of developing the disease



The proportion of dementia within the age group of 60-75 years is expected to rise steadily over the coming decades which will further have a devastating impact on the healthcare system of the country. A better knowledge of risk factors would likely influence patients and family members to seek treatment early and allow healthcare professionals to detect the disease early on — DR RAJNISH KUMAR

increases when someone does have siblings or parents affected with Alzheimer's. While it is still not completely understood as to what causes Alzheimer's to run in families, genetics, lifestyle and environmental factors may all play a part.

- ♦ **Cardiovascular Disease**
The health of the brain is closely associated to the health of the blood vessels and heart. The

heart pumps blood which provides nutrients and oxygen to the brain. Thus, factors that lead to cardiovascular disease also may be linked to a higher risk of developing Alzheimer's such as obesity, diabetes, smoking, high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

- ♦ **Traumatic Injury to the Brain**
The risk of developing Alzheimer's disease increases to a certain extent after a severe or moderate traumatic brain injury, like an injury of the skull or blow to the head that causes loss of consciousness for more than 30 minutes.
- ♦ **Treatment and support**
Presently, there are no treatments available to stop the brain damage caused by Alzheimer's disease. However, different medications are available that can temporarily help improve the symptoms of dementia. These medications primarily work by increasing neurotransmitters in the brain. Research is underway to find better ways to treat Alzheimer's and other progressive dementias. Currently, lots of pharmacologic treatments and therapies are also being worked upon to focus on stopping the brain cell death associated with Alzheimer's disease.

The use of behavioural interventions can go a long way in improving the quality of life for both people with Alzheimer's and their caregivers and families. This may include:

- * Treating coexisting medical conditions
- * Improvement in the mood by participating in activities
- * Behavioural interventions that can help cope with agitation, sleep issues and aggression
- * Engaging the affected person in conversation
- * Involving the person in regular exercise activities like swimming, walking, etc.

Considering the present situation of Alzheimer's disease in India, it is imperative to carry out a thorough pan-India investigation into the current incidence and burden of Alzheimer's. It is also the need of the hour to provide genetic testing services for the Alzheimer's disease gene (APOE-e4) and fund clinical trials. As Alzheimer's can have a variety of risk factors including genetic, environmental and lifestyle, clinical trials specific to the country are required without relying on those conducted in developed nations. A better knowledge of risk factors would likely influence patients and family members to seek treatment early and allow healthcare professionals to detect the disease early on.

The writer is HOD, Neurology, Paras Hospitals, Gurugram

Prenatal care not just for women



Fertility diet should not be just restricted to the mother. DR ANUBHA SINGH tells you why it is equally important for the father to take care of his fertility diet and the right supplements to maintain healthy testosterone levels

When it comes to reproductive health, we always think that it's the woman that needs to take care of her fertility diet but there is still a lot that needs to be discovered and understood by couples. Eating well and maintaining a regular exercise schedule are great ways to pursue a healthy lifestyle at any age. But sometimes it's okay if we need an extra boost in the form of vitamins or supplements, especially for men.

It is said that consumption of prenatal vitamins is, in fact, one of the first things that a woman should do to reduce the risk of birth defects and make it conducive for both the mother and the baby. But, what about the father? Do prenatal vitamins exist for men, too? What's the need for pre-natal for men?

So, what all men should take, let's have a look:

- ♦ **Krill oil**
Many of us are familiar with taking fish oil supplements for things like brain and heart health. Krill oil supplements are very similar to fish oil, except they come from crustacean species. Krill oil, just like fish oil, has high levels of EPA and DHA. These are two types of Omega-3 fatty acids, which are popular nutrients for improving heart health.
- ♦ **Ashwagandha**
Many doctors agree that ashwagandha, a natural herb used in Ayurvedic medicine for centuries, has incredible benefits for helping with anxiety and increasing testosterone. The major problem with men over 40 experience is the steady drop in testosterone levels and this causes men to start packing on more abdominal fat as they get older. With this in mind, it's important for men to take supplements that help them maintain their normal levels of testosterone. Ashwagandha unlocks reserves of the body's testosterone creating up to a 400% testosterone boost.
- ♦ **Zinc**
Zinc is an essential mineral for sperm formation, and folate, the natural form of folic acid, depends on zinc to help form DNA in the sperm. Zinc is found in high amounts in animal foods, such as meat, fish, eggs, and shellfish. Furthermore, zinc supplements may reduce the decreased testosterone levels that are associated with excessive amounts of high-intensity exercise.

- ♦ **Vitamin D**
Vitamin D is an important supplement for health, as it can help with things like bone strength, reducing risk of cancer, and improving overall mood. Vitamin D also enhances testosterone levels to prevent sleep apnea and low metabolism. Red meat, egg yolks, salmon are great sources of Vitamin D.
- ♦ **Probiotics**
Probiotics are an important supplement for men to take to improve and maintain their overall health. Probiotics are living microorganisms that help the existing beneficial bacteria in our gut, supporting our digestive and overall health in the process. Yogurt, kimchi, traditional buttermilk, pickles, cheese etc are great sources of probiotics.

The writer is Medical Director, Shnatah Fertility Centre, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

Dementia amidst pandemic

During the time of COVID-19, people with dementia faced various difficulties such as disruption of medical services. DR VIVEK NAMBIAR talks about other challenges also faced

The Brazilian study published in 2021 showed that there is three times increased mortality in patients of covid if they have concurrent dementia. A similar picture has been seen in England and Wales that there was a significant high death among dementia patients. So, COVID and dementia is a challenge. Even though COVID affects elderly people, they are still prone to Alzheimer's because their brain is vulnerable to the virus and further immunological damage. Also, they will have other concurrent illnesses like pneumonia, and all this can make these people more prone to death. So, the mortality of Alzheimer's disease is much more when they get COVID-19 infection.

On the other hand, if we look at the age wise prevalence of dementia about 2% of people belonging to the age group of 60-70 have dementia. Also, when 70 progresses to 80 - 90 years, there is 20% prevalence of dementia and 34% of prevalence of dementia in people above the age of 90 years. Thus, it is very evident that with the rise of age, prevalence of

dementia increases and the majority of these dementias are Alzheimer's disease.

A pre runner of dementia is called minimal cognitive impairments (MCI). MCI is a condition where certain membrane impairment does not amount to the disruption of normal life. This type of mild cognitive impairment is actually the start of brain deterioration for memory faculty. So, there will be certain difficulties in the memory, language, reasoning, and personality in these patients. so gradually it will gain momentum and one third of the people can progress to dementia and one third will remain in the same state of mild impairment without social disruption and others will sometimes improve also. so the annual conversion rate of the MCI to dementia in community samples is about 10%. The prevalence of MCI in Indian studies is about 14-25%. This is what numerous studies across India from 2007-2019 show. But, out of this, only 10-15 % progress to dementia. They can get good medical attention to begin with and can identify

the cause of dementia, if they can have medication to prevent the progression from MCI to the complete dementia.

The percentage of elderly people population is high in Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala. In 2021, the percentage of people with dementia is extremely high in Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh. The number of elderly people with MCI likely to develop dementia in one year is maximum in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

Proper neurological assistance and diagnosis of dementia is of paramount importance because when somebody experiences memory impairment consistently and starts disrupting his normal life, then they should consult a proper specialist to assess the function, conduct various memory tests and if it is found to be low, then he has to undergo proper evaluation.

Then there will be hormone deficiency hypothyroidism, nutritional deficiencies and sometimes liver diseases can make our memories slow and patients get con-

fused. At times, a simple CT scan will prove especially useful to identify subdural hematoma. Subdural hematoma is caused by a head injury strong enough to burst blood vessels. This can cause pooled blood to push on the brain.

These all are treatable to considerable extent and there is substance abuse like alcohol, heavy metal poisoning, which all can cause dementia. The identification of these potentially reversible things will really help to change the life of people who are affected by memory impairment. And in patients who have been diagnosed with dementia, there are several medications to reduce the progression of dementia and improve the quality of life. The major challenge of the health care system in India would be to support these upcoming enormous numbers of dementia people with various disabilities. The number of care homes even in metropolitan cities is much insufficient to cater the enormous number of potentially disabling patients.

The writer is Clinical Assistant Professor, Stroke Medicine Department, Amrita Hospital, Kochi

INBRIEF Sepsis Summit

Noting the lack of awareness regarding sepsis, particularly affecting new-borns and pregnant women, doctors and health experts have concurred that the growing incidence of this potentially life-threatening condition may kill more people by 2050 than cancer and heart attacks. Gathered at the second Sepsis Summit India 2021, organised by the leading health awareness institution Integrated Health & Wellbeing (IHW) Council, they emphasized on the need for awareness and early diagnosis as well as controlling the rampant use of antibiotics.

"Sepsis is the most preventable cause of death. Affecting nearly 50 million and killing almost 11 million out of them annually, sepsis takes life every 2.8 seconds. More people are vulnerable to sepsis than to cancer or cardiovascular diseases because it can be caused by many common diseases such as dengue, malaria, UTIs or even diarrhoea. Among most of the deaths caused in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some can be attributed to this dysregulated immune response. A significant burden of sepsis cases comes from middle income countries of which India is a part," said Mr Kamal Narayan, CEO, Integrated Health and Wellbeing (IHW) Council.

The World Health Organization defines sepsis as a syndromic response to infection that killed nearly 11 million people worldwide in 2017, and accounted for about 20 per cent of all global deaths.

BCCI's sexual harassment policy brings players within its ambit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Monday ratified a comprehensive Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) policy which also brings the Indian cricketers within its ambit. Until now, the BCCI did not

have a specific policy to deal the matters of sexual harassment. The policy is also applicable to office-bearers, members of Apex Council and IPL Governing Council besides the cricketers from senior to U-16 level. In a nine-page document in possession of

PTI, the BCCI states that a four member Internal Committee will be formed to investigate sexual harassment complaints. It did not name the members during its Apex Council meeting on Monday. "The presiding officer of the IC shall be a woman employed

at a senior level at the Workplace ("Presiding Officer"), reads the policy. "2 members of the IC will be selected from among the employees, preferably who are committed to the cause of women or have experience in social work or have legal

knowledge. "1 member of the IC will be selected from a Non-Governmental Organization or association committed to the cause of women or a person familiar with issues relating to sexual harassment ("External Member"). At least

one half of the members of the IC will be women." The complainant must file the complaint within three months from the date of incident and the IC will give seven working days to the accused to respond to the allegations. The respondent gets 10 days to respond.

The ICC gets 90 days from the date of complaint to complete its inquiry and forward its recommendations to the BCCI which will act on it within 60 days. The complainant or respondent can go to court if they are not satisfied with BCCI's verdict.

BCCI to pay USD 1.5 million to Emirates Cricket Board for hosting T20 World Cup "BCCI is paying ECB a fixed fee of USD 1.5 million (from our host fee of USD 13.5 Million) and operational costs of USD 5.5 million which will be covered by ICC. Total fee payable is USD 7Million," read an official note. Majority of the matches will be played in the UAE. Oman Cricket, which is hosting six matches, gets a fee of USD 400,000. PTI



PTI ■ ABU DHABI

An authoritative Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) bossed Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) from the beginning to the end to record a convincing nine-wicket win in their Indian Premier League match here on Monday. Showing serious intent after their mediocre outing in the first phase of the league earlier this year, the Knight Riders bowlers fired in unison to bundle out Royal Challengers Bangalore for a paltry 92.

Then, the opening duo of Shubman Gill and debutant Venkatesh Iyer played some breathtaking shots and made light work of the chase of 93, completing the formality with as many as 10 overs to spare.

The supremely-talented Gill got out for a 48 off 34 deliveries while Iyer, who could have been a successful management professional after finishing his MBA in finance and giving up a placement as a tax consultant, was looking good on a 27-ball 41 not out

Win by 9 wickets



when the winning run was hit.

The result will not just boost their morale immensely but also improve KKR's net run rate going ahead.

Opening the bowling, architect-turned-mystery spinner Chakravathy (3/13) did the star turn with three wickets in an excellent four-over spell. Star all-rounder Andre Russell (3/9 in three overs) also bagged three wickets,

including AB de Villiers' golden duck, while there were two for Lockie Ferguson.

Devdutt Padikkal was the highest scorer with 22 runs in a forgettable outing in skipper Virat Kohli's 200th game for RCB.

Bowling the day's second over, right-arm medium pacer Prasidh Krishna dealt RCB a big blow when he had Virat Kohli trapped in front of wicket with his fourth delivery that jagged in and hit him above the knee-roll.

Having completed a double century of matches for RCB, Kohli went for a review but the ball-tracking technology confirmed that it was going on to hit the stumps. This was immediately after Kohli sent a Krishna delivery in front of square on the off-side for a lovely four.

New Zealand fast bowler Lockie Ferguson replaced Chakravathy and the gifted Devdutt Padikkal smashed the pacer straight over his head to get things moving for RCB.

Krishna bowled back-to-back no balls (one front foot and one beamer) in the next over and while debutant Srikar Bharat failed to break the shackles, Padikkal capitalised on the extra deliv-

ery with a boundary.

KKR skipper Eoin Morgan made another bowling change by bringing in Sunil Narine and while the Trinidadian spinner could not get a breakthrough in his first over, Ferguson succeeded in his second when he had Padikkal caught behind when the batsman tried to play the ball fine past the keeper despite hardly getting any room to execute the ramp shot.

Russell ended Bharat's stay in the middle as the pressure mounted on the batsman. And then came the biggest blow for RCB when Russell bowled AB de Villiers for a first-ball duck with a top-notch yorker targeting the leg-stump.

RCB were in all sorts of trouble at 52 for four in the ninth over and it became only worse for them with the departure of Glenn Maxwell, who brought his own downfall with a needless heave against Chakravathy's tossed-up delivery, and Wanindu Hasaranga, the team's another debutant, getting out cheaply.

Both batsmen were dismissed off successive balls on a surface that was on the slower side, something that Kohli talked about after opting to bat at the toss.

India's busy home season announced by BCCI

IAN S ■ MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah announced on Monday a busy 2021/22 home season for the Indian men's team, starting from November 17, just three days after the final of the men's T20 World Cup in Dubai. India is set to host four Tests, three ODIs and 14 T20Is after the BCCI's apex council gave green signal to the schedule during its meeting on Monday.

New Zealand and Sri Lanka will visit India for two Tests and three T20Is each in November

INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND (2021)	
1st T20I- November 17, Jaipur, 2nd T20I- November 19, Ranchi, 3rd T20I- November 21, Kolkata	
1st Test- November 25-29, Kanpur, 2nd Test- December 03-07, Mumbai	
India vs West Indies (2022)	
1st ODI- February 06, Ahmedabad, 2nd ODI- February 09, Jaipur, 3rd ODI- February 12, Kolkata	
1st T20I- February 15, Cuttack, 2nd T20I- February 18, Visakhapatnam, 3rd T20I- February 20, Trivandrum	

2021 and March 2022 respectively. West Indies will tour

India vs Sri Lanka (2022)	
1st Test- February 25-01 March, Bengaluru, 2nd Test- March 05-09, Mohali	
1st T20I- March 13, Mohali, 2nd T20I- March 15, Dharamsala, 3rd T20I- March 18, Lucknow	
India vs South Africa (2022)	
1st T20I- June 09, Chennai, 2nd T20I- June 12, Bengaluru, 3rd T20I- June 14, Nagpur	
4th T20I- June 15, Rajkot, 5th T20I- June 19, Delhi.	

India for three ODIs and as many T20Is in February 2022.

In between the home season, India is scheduled to tour South Africa in December-January for an all-formats series.

After the 15th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), schedule for which is yet to be known, India's home season will end with a rare home series in June 2022 comprising five T20Is against South Africa.

Kanpur and Mumbai are venues for the two Tests against New Zealand while Bengaluru and Mohali will play hosts for the two Tests against Sri Lanka. Both series are a part of the World Test Championship's 2021-23 cycle.

TEAM	PLD	NET RR	PTS	FORM
1 CSK	8	+1.223	12	W L W
2 DC	8	+0.547	12	W W L
3 RCB	7	-0.171	10	L W L
4 MI	8	-0.071	8	L W W
5 RR	7	-0.190	6	W L W
6 PBKS	8	-0.368	6	L W L
7 KKR	7	-0.494	4	L W L
8 SRH	7	-0.623	2	L L L

England too calls off Pak tour over security concerns

London: England on Monday called off next month's men's and women's tours of Pakistan, three days after New Zealand abandoned their white-ball series in the South Asian country over security concerns. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) arrived at the decision to withdraw after deliberating over the weekend, pulling out of what would have been the country's first tour of Pakistan since 2005. The England men's team had been due to play back-to-back T20 Internationals on October 13 and 14 as part of their preparations for the World Cup that starts in the UAE the following week, while the women's side were scheduled to play two T20 Internationals and three ODIs.

PTI

BCCI to pay 50% compensation for last season's Ranji Trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Monday announced that domestic cricketers affected by the COVID-curtailed 2020-21 season will be paid 50 per cent additional match fee as compensation for the disruption and also hiked their remuneration for the upcoming season.

Many Indian cricketers struggled financially after the Ranji Trophy was not held last year for the first time in its history due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The BCCI compensation package for these players was awaited for a long



time. "Cricketers who participated in 2019-20 Domestic Season will get 50 per cent additional match fee as compensation for season 2020-21 lost due to COVID-19 situation," BCCI general secretary Jay Shah said in a tweet.

This effectively means that all players who participated in the last season and played Mushtaq Ali T20 and Vijay Hazare Trophy will get a compensation of Rs 70,000 per Ranji Trophy match (half of match fees of Rs 1.40 lakh).

The decision to give compensation and increase the match fee was taken during the BCCI's Apex Council meeting on Monday.

Madrid overcome Valencia to go top of La Liga table



IAN S ■ MADRID

Real Madrid came from behind to win 2-1 away to Valencia and open up a two-point gap at the top of La Liga on Sunday night.

Carlo Ancelotti's side looked to be heading for defeat in the game between the top two in the table as Valencia's high-pressing game had them on the back foot and trailing after Hugo Duro put the home side ahead in the 66th minute.

Duro hit a left foot shot that took a deflection on its way past Thibaut Courtois and the goal sparked more life into Real Madrid and in the last 15 minutes Valencia were guilty of sitting deep and trying to defend their lead. Vinicius Jr levelled for Madrid in the 86th minute with his shot also taking a big deflection to wrong-foot Valencia keeper Giorgi Mamardashvili and the Brazilian had a hand in his side's second goal two min-

utes later when he crossed for Karim Benzema to score off his shoulder, Xinhua reports.

Malloca and Villarreal drew 0-0 on Sunday in a game that was more entertaining than the final score suggests, with Villarreal (who have drawn their last four games) having the best chances.

Real Sociedad and Sevilla also failed to trouble the scoreboard in a duel between top-four hopefuls in San Sebastian. Sevilla will probably travel home happier with the points than the home side, who saw Mikel Oyarzabal's poor penalty saved by Sevilla keeper Bono.

Leandro Cabrera scored a 97th minute equalizer to save a point for Espanyol in a 2-2 draw away to Betis.

Alexis Vidal side-footed Espanyol ahead in the 16th minute, but William Jose and Nabil Fekir turned the score around for Betis before the break.

World Car Free Day

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

To reduce pollution, do not use private vehicles on Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Adopt eco-friendly means such as Bicycles, Car pooling and Public transport

Haryana Government's significant steps towards environment conservation

'Waste to Wealth Mission', environment conservation with self-reliance

Expansion of forests and vatikas (gardens) from Panchkula to Morni

'Pran Vayu Devta Pension Yojna' for old trees and establishment of urban forests - 'Oxyvan'

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