

OPINION 6

SONU IS AN ALTRUIST,
NOT A SWINDLER

WORLD 8

ENVOYS OF CHINA, RUSSIA, PAK MEET
TALIBAN OFFICIALS, AF LEADERS

SPORT 12

DOMINANT DC
DEMOLISH SRH

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

GOURAV CAN'T
WAIT TO WORK
WITH ZOYA
10 VIVACITY

₹50K to Covid victims' kin: Govt

Ex-gratia aid also to family of those who fall prey to coronavirus in future, SC told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that an amount of ₹50,000 will be given by the States as ex-gratia to the kin of all those who died of Covid-19 and also to those who die of the disease in future. The ex-gratia assistance will also be given to the kin of those who died of the virus due to involvement in Covid-19 relief operations or activities associated with the preparedness for dealing with the pandemic, the Centre said.

In an affidavit, the Centre said the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has made these recommendations.

The ex-gratia assistance will be subject to the cause of death being certified as Covid-19 as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the ICMR, the Government said. It added that the ex-gratia assistance will be provided by States from the State Disaster Response Fund.

On September 3, the top court had expressed displeasure over delay in framing of guidelines for issuance of death certificates to the families of those who died of Covid-19. The SC had in its June 30 verdict directed the NDMA to recommend within six weeks the guidelines for ex-gratia to the family of the Covid victims.

On June 30, Justice Ashok Bhushan-headed bench ordered the Centre to imple-

ment the mandated ex-gratia to Covid victims, which was cancelled by the Government, when Covid started spreading.

Before the first lockdown, as per NDMA guidelines, ₹4 lakh was granted as ex-gratia when a calamity is declared as a national disaster. But after declaring the lockdown, an order was issued to cancel the ex-gratia provision. The Prime Minister-chaired NDMA received flak from the SC for it.

The SC also ordered steps to simplify guidelines for issuance of 'death certificates/official documents stating the exact cause of death, that is, 'Death due to Covid-19' for enabling dependents to get benefits of welfare schemes.

Continued on Page 2



UK nod to Covishield, but Indians still face 'quarantine'

UK recognises vaccine
but keeps India out of
eligible countries list
flagging jab certification

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after New Delhi slammed the UK for adopting a "discriminatory" policy against Covishield and warned of "reciprocal measures," the British Government on Wednesday added it to the list of approved Covid-19 vaccines but kept India out of the

eligible countries list flagging the vaccine's certification. Fully vaccinated Indians will still have to undergo a 10-day self isolation or quarantine after their arrival in Britain.

The Oxford/AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, was recently excluded from a list of eligible Covid-19 vaccines recognised under Britain's reviewed international travel norms, effective from October 4.

The updated UK travel guidelines now said,



"Formulations of the four listed vaccines, such as AstraZeneca Covishield,

AstraZeneca Vaxzevria and Modern Takeda, qualify as approved vaccines."

The site explains that from 4 am, October 4, those who have taken vaccines from a "relevant public health body" in specific countries will be considered "fully vaccinated". That list does not include India.

This suggests that Indians vaccinated with two doses of Covishield, produced by SII, will still need to quarantine even though India is now on the Amber list.

Continued on Page 2

US visit to boost strategic ties: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As he left for his three-day US tour, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said his interaction with world leaders, including President Joe Biden, will strengthen the Indo-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and consolidate ties with Japan and Australia.

Issuing a statement before leaving for the US, Modi said he will conclude his visit with an address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) focusing on the pressing global challenges, including the Covid-19 pandemic, the need to combat terrorism, climate change and other important issues.

The PMO tweeted his picture just before Modi boarded the plane for the US where he will take part in a wide range of programmes. He will be accompanied by National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar besides Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla and some other top officials there.

"I will be visiting the USA from 22-25 September, 2021, at the invitation of His Excellency President Joe Biden of the United States of America. During my visit, I will review the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership



Prime Minister Narendra Modi departs from New Delhi for his visit to the USA PTI

with President Biden and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," said the PM.

"I am also looking forward to meeting Vice-President

Kamala Harris to explore opportunities for cooperation between our two nations particularly in the area of science and technology," he said.

Continued on Page 2

Pakistan lets Modi travel via its airspace to US

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan allowed India to use its airspace for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to travel to the US. The PM's plane avoided Afghanistan as it has closed its airspace for any commercial use since the Taliban took control.

India had sought permission from Pakistan regarding

the usage of Pakistan's airspace for Modi's flight to the US, for which Islamabad gave a nod.

In the past, Islamabad had denied this access when President Ram Nath Kovind and Modi travelled abroad in 2019. This move was to protest against abrogation of Article 370 giving special status to Jammu & Kashmir.

Continued on Page 2

Mahant Narendra Giri given Bhoo Samadhi

A 'V' mark seen
on neck of SantABHILASH NARAIN ■
ALLAHABAD

Amidst chanting of mantras and following all the rituals Akhara Parishad chief Mahant Narendra Giri was given Bhoo Samadhi on Baghambari Gaddi Ashram premises under a lemon tree as per his wish, on Wednesday afternoon. Office-bearers of all 13 Akharas were present there at the time of the Bhoo Samadhi.

Prior to the Samadhi, his body was taken to the mortuary of SRN Hospital for post-mortem examination, and then was taken to the Sangam for bathing it with the sacred waters of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the Saraswati.

The mortal remains, placed in a flower bedecked lorry, were moved around the city to let people pay their homage to the Brahmalen seer before the Samadhi.

Thousands of sants, disci-



Akhara Sadhus perform a ritual during 'Bhoo Samadhi' of mortal remains of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad president Mahant Narendra Giri Maharaj, at Baghambari Gaddi Math in Prayagraj, on Wednesday PTI

ples and devotees marched through the route raising slogans for the Mahant. The van was stationed at Bare Hanuman Mandir near the Sangam for Darshan. Narendra Giri was the Mahant of this temple.

Though the detailed post-mortem report is awaited, what

had been briefed suggested that the cause of death was suffocation. A 'V' mark was seen on the neck of the Mahant.

Under video camera watch, a panel of five doctors performed autopsy.

Continued on Page 2

Zee Ent shares zoom after merger with Sony Pictures announcement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited on Wednesday zoomed nearly 32 per cent after announcement of a merger with Sony Pictures.

Leading media firms Zee Entertainment and Sony Pictures on Wednesday said they have received in-principle approval for a merger that will combine both companies' linear networks, digital assets, production operations and programme libraries.

The stock jumped 31.86 per cent to close at ₹337.10 on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 39 per cent to its 52-week high of ₹355.40.

On the NSE, it zoomed 30.50 per cent to close at ₹333.70. The company's market valuation also jumped ₹7,823.98 crore to ₹32,378.98 crore on the BSE.

Buying was also there in other group stocks, with Zee Learn zooming 14.30 per cent and Zee Media Corporation gaining 4.92 per cent on the BSE.

Detailed report on P9

May too far! SC allows women to take NDA exam in Nov itself

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday put the Government on notice in two separate matters related to girls.

Maintaining that induction of women to the NDA cannot be postponed by one year, the Supreme Court allowed female candidates to take the exam in November this year and not wait till May 2022 as requested by the Government.

Hearing a separate matter, the apex court directed the Centre to file an affidavit within two weeks on the issue of induction of girls in the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) in Dehradun saying the issue cannot be delayed further.

Refusing to accept the Centre's request to allow women candidates to appear for the National Defence Academy (NDA) entrance from next year, the apex court said it doesn't want women to be denied their right.

The Centre had told the top court that a notification allowing women candidates to appear for the NDA exam will



be out by May next year. A Study Group has been constituted by the Defence services, comprising experts to expeditiously formulate a comprehensive curriculum for women cadets at NDA, it had said, adding that a Board of Officers has been convened to give a holistic and futuristic proposal for training of women Cadets at NDA incorporating all relevant aspects.

A Bench headed by Justice SK Kaul said the armed forces are the best response team to deal with emergency situations and it is hopeful that nec-

essary arrangements will be put in place to pave the way for the induction of women in NDA without delay.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, stated that the Study Group has been constituted by the Defence services to examine the changes in curriculum, infrastructure, fitness training, accommodation facilities, etc, and sought for skipping the upcoming NDA entrance examination, scheduled to be held on November 14.

Continued on Page 2

Captain revolts, to put up 'strong candidate' to dash Sidhu's CM hopes

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

In what is being seen as Capt Amarinder Singh's decision to break away from the party he served for decades, the former Punjab Chief Minister on Wednesday announced his decision to pitch a strong candidate against "Super CM" Navjot Singh Sidhu.

His assertion came almost simultaneously with a tweet from his OSD saying, "Reverting Back in a Big Bang," with Capt Amarinder' picture and superimposed caption — Capt 2022.

Virtually raising a banner of revolt, Amarinder criticised Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi for their "inexperi-

ence", adding "their advisers are misguiding them".

Also taking a dig at Sidhu & Company over charges of no action against the Badals and SAD leader Bikram Majithia, Amarinder challenged them to "throw the Akalis leaders behind bars if they can".

At the same time, he came down heavily on his bête noire Sidhu for "interfering" in his successor Charanjit Singh Channi's domain by "dictating the terms".

Not sparing even Congress supremo Sonia Gandhi, Amarinder declared that he had offered to quit as Punjab CM three weeks back she had asked him to continue.

Continued on Page 2



Carcass of a whale at Vasai beach in Palghar district on Wednesday PTI

SRH's Natarajan tests Covid positive, no effect on IPL match as rest of team fine

Dubai: Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer T Natarajan tested positive for Covid-19 but the team's IPL match against Delhi Capitals on Wednesday went ahead as scheduled after the remaining contingent was

found to be negative. Left-arm pacer Natarajan, who is coming back from a knee surgery, has been isolated along with six close contacts which also include out of favour India all-rounder Vijay Shankar.

"Sunrisers Hyderabad player T Natarajan tested positive for Covid-19 at a scheduled RT-PCR test. The player has isolated himself from the rest of the squad," a BCCI release stated.

P12

Brazil Health Min contracts Covid after UNGA visit

Brasilia: Brazil's Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga tested positive for Covid-19 hours after accompanying President Jair Bolsonaro to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Tuesday, the Government said.

Queiroga will remain in New York in quarantine, the Government's communications office said.

"The Minister is doing well," the statement said. It added that the rest of the delegation tested negative for the virus.

Bolsonaro, a vaccine skeptic, defied UN rules that asked all those attending the Assembly to be vaccinated.

He has bragged about not getting vaccinated. Agencies

Attacks on Taliban vehicles kill 5 in Af

AP ■ KABUL

Attackers struck Taliban vehicles in an eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, witnesses said, killing at least two fighters and three civilians in the latest violence since the group's takeover of the country in mid-August.

In one attack, gunmen opened fire on a Taliban vehicle at a local gas station in the provincial capital of Jalalabad, killing two fighters and a gas station attendant, witnesses said. A child was also killed, they added.

Another child was killed and two Taliban were wounded in a separate attack — a bombing of another vehicle. Another bombing of a Taliban vehicle in Jalalabad also



wounded a person nearby, although it was unclear if that person was a Taliban official or not. The witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution.

No one claimed immediate responsibility for Wednesday's attacks, although the Islamic State group, which is headquartered in eastern Afghanistan, took responsibility for similar attacks in Jalalabad last week that killed eight.

Continued on Page 2

Cleric held for running ‘conversion syndicate’

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested well-known Islamic scholar Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui from Meerut for allegedly running the “biggest conversion syndicate”, a police official said here on Wednesday. Siddiqui was arrested by the ATS, which is probing this racket, at around 9 pm on Tuesday and was brought to the agency’s headquarters in Lucknow after being produced in a court, Additional Director General (ADG), Law and Order, Prashant Kumar said. He was arrested three months after Delhi’s Jamia Nagar residents Mufti Qazi Jahangir Alam Qasmi and Mohammad Umar Gautam were apprehended by the ATS on June 20.

Qasmi and Gautam were running Islamic Dawah Center, an outfit allegedly working on the ISI funding for converting deaf-mute students to Islam, according to officials. The ATS has so far arrested 10 people in connection with the conversion racket, Kumar said. Samajwadi Party Sambhal MP Shafigur Rehman Barq termed the Siddiqui’s arrest “wrong”. “The BJP Government has non work other than targeting and harassing Muslims,” he said.

Giving details of the racket, the ADG said it came to light during the probe that Gautam and his accomplice were funded ₹57 crore by Britain-based Al-Falaa Trust but the two did

not give details of its expenditure.

It was also found that Siddiqui is involved in the illegal conversion racket under the garb of running various educational, social and religious organisations, Kumar said. “Foreign funding was done for this (conversion) in a big way and the illegal conversion was being carried out in a planned and organised way and many well-known and institutions are involved in it,” the ADG said.

He said it also came to the fore that Siddiqui ran the “biggest unlawful conversion syndicate” and threatened and misled people for conversion and prepared them for ‘Dawah’ (the act of inviting or calling people to embrace Islam). **PTI**

Captain revolts, to put...

From Page 1
Declaring that he would only leave politics on a high, Amarinder declared that he would fight Sidhu’s elevation to Punjab chief ministership tooth and nail, and was ready to make any sacrifice to save the country from such a “dangerous man”.

Rebelling against his own party, Amarinder reiterated his earlier stand to counter any move to make Sidhu the State’s Chief Ministerial face. “I will pit a strong candidate against the PPCC president in the 2022 Assembly polls to ensure his defeat. He is dangerous for the State,” Amarinder added.

Notably, the former CM, at the time when Sidhu was continuously taking on Capt Amarinder led government over several issues and taking into account his increased political activities in Patiala city, had challenged him to contest polls against him in his home constituency - Patiala urban.

Amarinder, making clear his intentions of not bidding a goodbye to politics considering

current circumstances, said that he had earlier offered to quit but was asked to continue.

“I was ready to leave after victory but never after a loss,” he said. “If she had just called me and asked me to step down, I would have,” he said, adding that “as a soldier, I know how to do my task and leave once I am called back”.

Amarinder said he had even told Sonia that he was ready to hang his boots and allow someone else to take over as Chief Minister after leading the Congress to another sweeping win in Punjab. “But that did not happen, so I will fight,” he asserted, taking strong exception to being subjected to humiliation by calling a CLP in a secretive manner, without taking him into confidence.

Expressing unhappiness with the turn of events that led to his dethroning by convening a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting, Capt Amarinder said: “I would not have taken MLAs on a flight to Goa or some place. That is not how I operate. I don’t do gimmicks, and the Gandhi siblings know that is not my way,” he said, adding, “Priyanka and Rahul (Gandhi siblings) are like my children...this should not have ended like this. I am hurt.”

Amarinder, mincing now words, said that the Gandhi children were quite inexperienced and their advisors were clearly misguiding them.

Indicating that he was still keeping his political options open, the 79-year-old said that he was talking to his friends before deciding on his future course of action. “You can be old at 40 and young at 80,” he quipped, making it clear that he did not see his age as a hurdle.

Ridiculing the way Punjab was being run from Delhi now, Capt Amarinder expressed shock at the way things were happening.

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता, म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग, उत्तर परिक्षेत्र, ग्वालियर
Website: www.mp.gov.in/pwdmp, E-mail cpwdnorth@mp.nic.in, Phone-2340932, 2340731, Fax- 2341103

निविदा विज्ञप्ति – 12

मध्यप्रदेश लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से मध्यप्रदेश के राज्यपाल की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु सड़क कार्यों की दर अनुसूची प्रभावशील दिनांक 29.08.2017 निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना जारी होने के दिनांक तक सम्पन्न संशोधनों सहित ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति द्वारा ऑनलाईन निविदाएँ ई.पी.सी. मोड के आर.एफ.पी. में निहित शर्तों के अनुसार आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिसकी सिस्तुत निविदा सूचना एवं कार्यों का विवरण वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकता है। वेबसाइट पर होने वाली तकनीकी समस्याओं हेतु विभाग जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा।

टेण्डर आई.डी. क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत जीएसटी सहित (करोड़ में)	अंशद मनी डिपोजिट (करोड़ में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु.)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	सम्मत की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2021_PWDRB-159515_1	संभाग श्योरु। निर्माण कार्य अटरघाट से सबलगढ़ टेंटर से विजयपुर, विजयपुर वाईपास, विजयपुर का कुछ शहरी भाग, विजयपुर वाईपास से सहसराम, सहसराम से धोक्नी (गोवंधन), गोवंधन से एन.एच.ए.आई मोहना जखन तक मार्ग लम्बाई 107.605 किमी. अ) मार्ग की पीएस-12 प्रतिशत जीएसटी सहित। रु. 140.66 करोड़ रु.) विद्युत कार्य। (1) पोलिशिंगिंग कार्य की पीएस-12 प्रतिशत जीएसटी सहित। (2) 5 प्रतिशत सुपरवीजन चार्ज एम्पॉईबी की राशि राशि रु. 3.48 करोड़ पर करनी होगी। (3) 18 प्रतिशत जी.एस.टी. चार्ज सुपरवीजन की राशि 0.173 करोड़ पर करनी होगी। रु. 0.031 करोड़ योग रु. 144.744 करोड़ आवश्यकतानुसार नदी-नालों पर डायवर्जन भी तैयार करने होंगे। निर्माण कार्य मेजर ब्रिज एक ना की राशि रु. 5.87 करोड़ जीएसटी सहित शामिल नहीं की गई है। इसकी निविदा सेतु संभाग द्वारा अलग से लगाई जा रही है।	144.744	1.45	50000+ Portal Charges	24 माह वर्षाकाल सहित	As per Article-17 of Tender Document

क्र.	कार्यक्रम का विवरण	निर्धारित निविदा कार्यक्रम (की-डेट्स) एवं समय
1	ऑनलाईन टेण्डर पब्लिश दिनांक	15.09.2021 समय 17:30 बजे
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड/विक्रय प्रारंभ दिनांक	15.09.2021 समय 17:30 बजे
3	ऑनलाईन बिड सबमिशन का प्रारंभ दिनांक	15.09.2021 समय 17:30 बजे
4	प्री-बिड मीटिंग	22.09.2021 समय 12:00 बजे
5	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड/विक्रय अंतिम दिनांक	01.10.2021 समय 17:30 बजे
6	ऑनलाईन बिड सबमिशन का अंतिम दिनांक	01.10.2021 समय 17:20 बजे
7	बिड ओपनिंग दिनांक	05.10.2021 समय 11:30 बजे

उपरोक्त वेबसाइट ऑनलाईन भुगतान करने के उपरान्त निविदा प्रपत्र (टेंडर डॉक्यूमेंट) वेबसाइट के माध्यम से प्राप्त हो सकेगे। विस्तृत एन.आई.टी. एवं अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाइट में देखी जा सकती है।

G-17184/21 (आर.एफ. भारतीय), मुख्य अभियंता, लो.नि.वि., उत्तर परिक्षेत्र, ग्वालियर

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(C)DWARKA,
DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT OF NCT DELHI,
COMMAND TANK NO-4, SECTOR-20,
DWARKA, NEW DELHI- 110077.**

STOP CORONA

"WASH YOUR HAND"

"WEAR MASK"

"MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE"

PRESS NIT NO.08 (C) Dwarka (Unit of SW-I) (2021-22)

S.No	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/ time receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Boring of 09 Nos. of Tubewells at Command Tank-1 under EE(C) Dwarka.	Rs.334375/-	Tender ID No.2021_DJB_208600_1 20-09-2021 06.55 PM onward	06-10-2021 up to 3.00 PM
2	Boring of 07 Nos. of Tubewells at Command Tank-2 under EE(C)Dwarka.	Rs.260089/-	Tender ID No.2021_DJB_208600_2 20-09-2021 06.55 PM onward	06-10-2021 up to 3.00 PM
3	Boring of 07 Nos. of Tubewells at Command Tank-3 under EE(C)Dwarka.	Rs.260089/-	Tender ID No.2021_DJB_208600_3 20-09-2021 06.55 PM onward	06-10-2021 up to 3.00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on DJB Web Site

<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

Advt. No. 416 (2021-22)

sd/-

**(SHARMA NAND PARSHAD)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DWARKA**

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and published by Narendra Kumar for and on behalf of CMYK Printtech Ltd., No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

Int'l travel should be made easier through mutual recognition of job certificates: PM

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that international travel should be made easier through mutual recognition of vaccine certificates, amid several countries adopting different sets of rules to allow foreigners to enter their territory in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In his video remarks at the Global Covid Summit hosted by US President Joe Biden, Modi also said India is ramping up production capacity of existing vaccines and the supply chains of raw materials must be kept open so that vaccine supplies to other countries can be resumed.

“We also need to focus on addressing the pandemic’s economic effects. To that end, international travel should be made easier, through mutual recognition of vaccine certificates,” Modi said.

His remarks comes on a day when the UK government issued an updated international travel advisory to include AstraZeneca Covishield among the eligi-

ble Covid-19 vaccine formulations but kept India out of the 18 countries on an approved vaccinations list, requiring Indians to follow rules set out for “non-vaccinated” travellers.

Despite the inclusion of Covishield, Indian travellers are not exempt from the quarantine rules under the UK’s new international travel norms that will come into force from October 4.

On Monday, the US had announced a new international travel system under which fully vaccinated individuals would be allowed to enter the country beginning early November.

Former US 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. The new system adopted by the Biden administration essentially lifts the travel ban on countries like India that the US had earlier enforced.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Modi said that India is ramping up production capacity of existing vaccines.

UK nod to Covishield, but Indians ...

From Page 1
The guidelines provided in the latest advisory suggest that Britain has no problems with the formulation of the Covishield vaccine, but with the vaccine certification provided by India. India had earlier protested the UK’s non-recognition of the Covishield vaccine and warned of “reciprocal measures” if the “discriminatory policy” was not amended.

A British High Commission statement on Tuesday said “We are engaging with the Government of India to explore how we could expand UK recognition of vaccine certification to people vaccinated by a relevant public health body in India.”

Certification after Covid jabs in India is a centralised national system managed through the CoWin app and portal. RS Sharma, the CEO of the National Health Authority, said there are “no issues” on CoWin with Covid certification.

“The system is entirely World Health Organization (WHO) compliant. We continue to have discussions with the International Civil Aviation Organization as well. The UK High Commissioner visited me on September 2. They wanted to understand the CoWin system, the technical aspects. A resource has been allocated to them for this purpose and two further conversations have happened with their team. These were technical-level conversations,” Sharma said.

Serum Institute’s Adar Poonawalla, expressing “delight” at Covishield being recognised, noted that the matter for Indians travelling to the UK was still not resolved.

“We are delighted that Covishield is recognised as a vaccine equivalent to AstraZeneca on the official gov.uk website. However, the matter for travel and quarantine is not resolved and all those looking to travel to the UK should carefully follow official entry guidelines,” Poonawalla said.

The revised advisory from the UK’s Department for Transport and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) also said “You must have had a complete course of an approved vaccine at least 14 days before you arrive in England,” it adds.

The move will also mean that a pre-departure PCR test is no longer required as long as vaccinated travellers pre-book a day two test post-arrival in England and complete the compulsory passenger locator form in advance.

From October 4, the current traffic light system of red, amber and green countries based on levels of Covid-19 risk will be scrapped and replaced with one red list only.

J&K SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (SICOP)
(A J&K GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
2nd floor, Udyog Bhawan, Railhead Complex Jammu/Sanat Ghar, Bemina, Srinagar
ISO 27001:2013 ISO 9001:2015, e-mail- jkssidc@gmail.com
e-NIT No.: SICOP/ IT 02 OF 2021 Dated: 16.09.2021
For and on behalf of the Managing Director of J&K SICOP, fresh Online tenders are invited from registered and reputed Software Company who have experience in similar nature of works/ having full knowledge for such particular type of work for the **“Takeover of existing Single Window Portal / Development of End-to-End Integrated Single Window Online System Under Ease of Doing Business for Jammu & Kashmir”**. The tender documents for the above job can be seen on the website **www.gem.gov.in** from **16-09-2021 (1800 Hrs) and last date for bid submission is 28-09-2021 (1400 Hrs).**
Sd/- Project Manager (IT) SICOP
No. DIP/J-3085-P/21 Dated:- 22-09-2021

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर - 19,
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)
// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //
भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14/09/2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अंतर्गत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स सहस्रपुर लोहार लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो.मोहम्मद असलम मेमन), ग्राम- सहस्रपुर लोहार, तहसील-सहस्रपुर लोहार, जिला-कबीरधाम स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 933/1, 933/2, 933/3, 933/4, 933/5, 964/2, 964/3 एवं 964/4, कुल क्षेत्रफल-2.18 हेक्टेयर चूना पत्थर (ग्रेण खनिज) खदान उत्खनन क्षमता - 52,000.03 टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृत हेतु लोक सुनवाई वाकृत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर में आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/ सुझाव/ विचार/ टीका टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला- दुर्ग के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 27/10/2021 को समय दोपहर 12:30 बजे स्थान - स्वच्छता मंगल भवन, सहस्रपुर लोहार, तहसील-सहस्रपुर लोहार, जिला-कबीरधाम (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि :-

- लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्प्लित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल/सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई में सम्प्लित होने वाले व्यक्तियों का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाईजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्प्लित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
- कोरोना वायरस के निर्वण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी सम्पन्न दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितम्बर 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन/ पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (सॉफ्ट कॉपी) डाइरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, गोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (डब्लू.सी.जेड) पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, ग्राउण्ड फ्लोर ईस्ट विंग न्यू सेक्रेटरीएट बिल्डिंग, सिविल लाईन, नागपुर (महाराष्ट्र), कलेक्टर कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला-कबीरधाम, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, जिला-कबीरधाम, महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, जिला-कबीरधाम, मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी, नगर पंचायत-सहस्रपुर लोहार, जिला-कबीरधाम, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास, भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर में रखी गई है।

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

A new dementia case emerging every 3 seconds, says WHO

New Delhi: As the number of people living with Dementia in India is expected to touch 7.6 million within the next 10 years, early detection is a key to ensure early treatment, experts have said here as they pointed out that Alzheimer’s is the most common cause of dementia and accounts for over 60 per cent of cases of dementia.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) there are more than 55 million people living with dementia across the world, with a new case developing every 3 seconds.

However, despite being the 7th leading cause of death and a major cause of dependency amongst elderly, public awareness about early signs and symptoms of dementia remains incredibly low, says Dr Jayashree Dasgupta, Project Director and Co-Founder, Samvedna Senior Care.

Prof. (Dr.) RK Dhamija, Head of Neurology Department, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi noted that national policies and programmes specifically targeting epilepsy, neuro infections, dementia and neuro-degenerative diseases need to

be planned by the government. He also said that neurological diseases and mental disorders are becoming a serious public health crisis and are emerging as major challenges to health care systems across the world.

He was speaking at an event organized by the ASSOCHAM, as part of its ‘Illness to Wellness’, campaign with an objective to cascade and raise awareness about Alzheimer’s disease (AD).Asserting that it is painful to see the loved ones not recognizing you, Dr Ritu Rana, Heading Mission-Health, HelpAge India Rana stated that while AD can be quite harsh to deal with, care together with love and affection can help the patients live with dignity.Sharing her views, Dr. Suvarna Alladi, Professor of Neurology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore wisdom termed dementia as a common brain disease among older people with loss of memory being a major problem which might lead to agitation, suspiciousness and other distressing behavioural problems. **PNS**

Attacks on Taliban...

From Page 1

The Taliban and ISIS are enemies, and the attacks have raised the specter of wider conflict between the country’s new Taliban rulers and their long-time rivals.

The Taliban are under pressure to contain IS militants, in part to make good on a promise to the international community that they will prevent the staging of terror attacks from Afghan soil. There is also a widely held expectation among conflict-weary Afghans that — despite fears and misgivings about the Taliban — the new rulers will at least restore a measure of public safety.

Pakistan lets Modi...

From Page 1

Incidentally, India had allowed Prime Minister Imran Khan’s plane to fly across Indian airspace in February this year enroute Sri Lanka, sources said. Denying the use of its airspace, Pakistan in 2019 said it took the measure in view of the situation in Jammu & Kashmir and India’s “attitude, oppression and barbarity”.

“We have decided not to give permission to the Indian prime minister and we have conveyed this decision to the Indian High Commission,” Pakistan Foreign Ministry had said in a statement in 2019. India registered a protest against Pakistan with the International Civil Aviation Organisation on the denial.

US visit to boost...

From Page 1

Modi said he will participate in the first in-per-son Quad Leaders’ Summit along with President Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Premier Yoshihide Suga.The Summit provides an opportunity to take stock of the outcomes of the Quad leaders’ Virtual Summit in March this year and identify priorities for future engagements based on our shared vision for the Indo-Pacific region, he said.

“I will also meet Prime Minister Morrison of Australia and Prime Minister Suga of Japan to take stock of the strong bilateral relations with their respective countries and continue our useful exchanges on regional and global issues,” Modi said. “My visit to the US would be an occasion to strengthen the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership with the USA, consolidate relations with our strategic partners -- Japan and Australia -- and to take forward our collaboration on important global issues,” he said in his departure statement.

The Afghanistan crisis and its implications, China’s growing assertiveness, ways to stem radicalism and cross-border terrorism and further expansion of India-US global partnership are expected to be the central focus of the first in-per-son meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Biden in Washington on September 24. Giving details of his schedule, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla had said on Tuesday the developments in Afghanistan will be extensively discussed in the bilateral talks between Modi and Biden and the Indian side will convey that Washington needs to continue focus on that country. Modi will also participate in the Covid-19 global summit being hosted by President Biden, the Foreign Secretary said.

After concluding his engagements in Washington, Modi will travel to New York on the evening of September 24 and address the 76th session of the UN General Assembly the next day. The prime minister is also scheduled to meet a number of top executives of major American companies.

₹50K to Covid...

From Page 1

A bench also comprising Justice MR Shah, however, had noted the “peculiarity and the impact and effect” of the pandemic and said that it cannot order payment of Rs 4 lakh as ex-gratia compensation which should be decided by the NDMA as there was a need to “focus simultaneously on prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, which calls for a different order of mobilisation of both financial and technical resources”. “The courts would be very slow to interfere with priorities fixed by the Government in providing reliefs, unless it is patently arbitrary and/or not in

the larger public interest at all. The Government should be free to take policy decisions/decide priorities..” the Bench said while refusing to fix the compensation amount. “We direct the NDMA to recommend guidelines for ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life to the family members of the persons who died due to Covid-19, as mandated under Section 12(iii) of Disaster Management Act (DMA) 2005 for the minimum standards of relief to be provided to the persons affected by disaster - Covid-19 Pandemic, over and above the guidelines already recommended for the minimum standards of relief to be provided..,” it said. Justice Shah, writing the 66-page judgement for the

bench, had directed the Centre to take appropriate steps on recommendations of the Finance Commission on providing insurance cover for deaths caused by Covid. The direction came after the Centre said that presently there was no guideline/policy/scheme in NDMA which relates to National Insurance mechanism that may be used to pay for disaster related deaths due to Covid.”

The top court’s verdict came on two separate pleas filed by lawyers Reepak Kansal and Gaurav Kumar Bansal seeking directions to the Centre and the states to provide Rs 4 lakh compensation to the families of coronavirus victims as provisioned under the Act.

FINANCIAL AID TO THOSE WHO LOST BREAD EARNER TO COVID

SMC not needed if spouse is alive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will provide financial assistance to the families who lost their bread earners due to Covid-19. As per the 'Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Parivar Arthik Sahayata Yojana', Surviving Member Certificates (SMCs) are no longer required for application in case one of the spouses is alive.

As Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has always assured the people of Delhi, that the Government will stand with the people in their time of grief. It is our duty to help the families who have lost their loved ones in this pandemic in every

way possible," Kailash Gahlot, Revenue Minister said after chairing a high-level meeting with department officials to review the "Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Parivar Arthik Sahayata Yojana". The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner, District Magistrate (HQ) and all the District Magistrates (DMs).

During the meeting, it has been decided that under this Yojna there will no longer be a need for obtaining SMC from the applicant in cases where one of the spouses is alive. However, the SMC will remain in force for the grant of ex-gratia for other applicants.

In cases where the

deceased was a single parent, the surviving children are entitled to the ex-gratia which is to be equally distributed among all children. However for that, the name of the applicant should be reflected in the SMC. Similarly if the deceased is unmarried or is a minor son/daughter, the father or mother of the deceased will get relief under the scheme subject to their name appearing in SMC

The Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Parivar Arthik Sahayata Yojna was started by the Delhi Government in June, 2021 to provide relief to the survivors of the deceased who died of Covid-19.

Parents laud impact of Mega PTM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Parents of Delhi Government school students said that the 'Mega PTM' increased their participation in the overall development of their children. As per the research conducted by State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) on Mega PTMs, 97 per cent of the parents were satisfied with Directorate of Education (DoE's) approach in bridging the gap between student, teachers and parents.

On Wednesday, the Director of SCERT Delhi and his team handed over a copy of this research to the Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia.

Sisodia said that research and training are two important

things in the realm of SCERT. "In the last several years, the role of SCERT has been more prominent in the field of training and the field of research could not receive the due attention. However, now SCERT Delhi has demonstrated that it is prepared to work in the field of research," Sisodia said.

Appreciating the Director of SCERT Delhi and his team for this step in the field of research, he said, "This research done by SCERT will prove to be helpful in adopting necessary changes in educational programs and policies."

The basic objective of this research published in the context of the Mega PTM is to examine the awareness among parents and teachers, to understand their perception about Mega PTM, to establish the dif-

ference between the perception of parents and teachers about Mega PTM and to understand methods for better implementation. In this research it was found that mass media had played an important role in making parents aware about Mega PTM.

During the PTM, 71 per cent of the parents and 61 per cent of the teachers discussed the regularity of children in schools, academic activities at school and home, improvement of children in learning level, children's health and hygiene, home environment and activities of children. Most of the parents and teachers agreed that Mega PTM will increase the regularity of children in schools and their academic performance in the future.

Prof Yogesh Singh appointed VC of Delhi University

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Professor Yogesh Singh, ex-Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Technological University (DTU), was on Wednesday appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University (DU).

At present, Professor Pooran Chand Joshi is the interim Vice-Chancellor. He was appointed to the post following then V-C Professor Yogesh Kumar Tyagi's suspension. The Union Education Ministry said that Yogesh Singh has been appointed as the V-C of Delhi University. "The Hon'ble Visitor appoints Vice-Chancellors of two Central Universities: University of Delhi (Prof Yogesh Singh); Dr Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (Prof Neelima Gupta)," the Ministry said in a tweet.

Professor Singh joined the DTU in 2017. He served as the



Director of Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology from 2014-2017. The V-C of Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda between 2011 and 14, and as Dean of Information Technology at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, or IP University from 2001 to 2006. He received his M.Tech. (Electronics and Communication Engineering) and Ph.D. (Computer Engineering) degrees from National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, Haryana. He has supervised 23 Ph.Ds in the area of Software Engineering.

EDMC brings out new policy for spas

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has approved the proposal for allowing spa centres to function in its areas with certain guidelines, the civic body said in a statement.

According to the new guidelines, cross-gender massage will not be allowed in spa centres and spa facilities will not be provided behind closed doors. A senior EDMC official said that rooms in these centres shall have no latches and bolts inside the doors.

A series of guidelines have been issued for them before they start function. Now the new rules will be applicable to all the spa centres running in the East Corporation jurisdiction," he said.

Mayor of East Delhi Shyam Sundar Agarwal has given anticipatory approval to this proposal. Talking about the issue, Agarwal said that it has been made mandatory to note down the details of all the customers in a register containing their contact details and ID proof. Apart from this, spa centres can remain open only between 9 am to 9 pm.

The Mayor also informed that the centres will have separate changing rooms for men and women and the premises will not be used for residential purposes. Chairman of the Standing Committee, Beer Singh Panwar informed that under the new guidelines, it is now necessary for the masseur to have a degree/diploma or certificate in physiotherapy.

AAP claims NMC selling schools to coaching centres; BJP refutes charge

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) senior leader Saurabh Bhardwaj on Wednesday accused the BJP-ruled municipal corporations of having floated tenders to sell 14 MCD schools to private coaching centres.

Bhardwaj said that while the number of students studying in Delhi Government schools is exponentially rising, the headcount in MCD schools has reduced from three lakh to two lakh thirty thousand in the last few years. The AAP leader said that the BJP has given away MCD school buildings to its own people. "Private coaching institutes will now run in MCD schools. There are only 30-40

children left in several schools of the MCD and they do not even have enough students to run those schools. It is important to mention here that the Corporations keep claiming they do not have enough land for Mohalla Clinics but sell school buildings to private players," he added.

Reacting to this, Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that the allegation is baseless as North DMC is not leasing or selling any of its schools to private coaching centres. "The civic body has tens of school buildings lying empty as certain areas especially in the City Zone have gone commercial with very little population left thus rendering schools useless," he said.

Delhi 5-star hotel chef arrested for snatching

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 35 year-old chef of a five-star hotel for multiple cases of snatching in South Delhi. Police said that the accused had a good salary but he took to snatching to pay off his gambling debts.

The accused has been identified as Harish, a resident of Sangam Vihar area, Police said that Harish, who holds degrees in BA and hotel management, worked at a five-star hotel near the IGI Airport.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Spouth district, after receiving a tip off, Harish was arrested from Neb Sarai area on Tuesday evening where he had

gone for more snatchings.

"Harish especially targeted women going for a walk or travelling to offices near Saket Metro Station. Other times, he would lurk in the park adjoining the metro station or at Ambedkar Nagar bus stand on Mehrauli-Badarpur (MB) Road," said the DCP.

"Finding himself trapped, the accused took out his country-made pistol but the police personnel overpowered him and snatched the firearm from his hand," he said.

"After his arrest, Harish disclosed that he had sold three snatched gold chains to a goldsmith in Sangam Vihar area. On the basis of his testimony, police arrested Rajender Aggarwal for buying the stolen property," the DCP added.

SDMC launches portal to give permission for film shooting in its areas

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI


South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has launched a portal to grant permission for film shooting in its areas.

A senior SDMC official said that under Ease of Doing Business, a 'single window' policy for online approval of film shooting is also being developed for various agencies of Delhi and Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation (DTTDC) has been appointed the nodal agency.


A senior SDMC official said that the SDMC has formulated a policy for allowing shooting films and the portal is

developed for smooth facilitation of the entire process of granting approval. "Applicants will have to apply through SDMC's official website. After submitting relevant documents and paying the permission fee, approval of film shooting will be given by the Directorate of Press and Information in a period of three days. The newly developed system is transparent and easy to apply as it has no manual interference. Earlier, approval was being given manually," he said.

Various agencies like Delhi Traffic Police, ASI, local bodies of Delhi, DMRC, Railways, DIAL, GMR Group, Escon, etc have been working at one platform.



Govt. of Haryana




75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

हरियाणा के वीरों का इतिहास है गौरवशाली शौर्य, साहस, बहादुरी से देश की करते रखवाली


Haryana Veer Evam Shaheedi Diwas

Thursday, September 23, 2021




“Our brave soldiers are our heroes and the Nation's pride. They keep inspiring every generation by their immense love for the motherland and strong will to sacrifice their lives in the honour of the Country.”

- Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



“It is a matter of pride that every tenth soldier serving in the Indian Army belongs to Haryana. The brave soldiers of Haryana are safeguarding the borders and have scripted a glorious history of sacrifices during the freedom movement.”

- Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana



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

No issues with CoWin app, jab certification: NHA CEO



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There are no issues with the CoWin app or the vaccine certification process, National Health Authority CEO RS Sharma said on Tuesday, a few minutes after a revised UK advisory accepted Covishield as a valid vaccine but said double-jabbed Indians still have to quarantine because of “vaccination certification issues.”

“There are no issues on CoWin with certification... system is entirely WHO compliant. We continue to have discussions with the International Civil Aviation Organisation. The UK High Commissioner visited me on September 2.

Changes in UK rules are most likely to affect Indian students

vaccines, such as AstraZeneca Covishield, AstraZeneca Vaxzevria... qualify as approved vaccines”.

Serum Institute CEO Adar Poonawalla, whose facility manufactures (and then ships back to the UK) Covishield said that he was “delighted” with the recognition but warned “the matter for travel and quarantine is not resolved”

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.

Changes in UK rules are most likely to 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 quarantine.

WHO DG praises Health Min’s decision to export vaccine

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, on Wednesday thanked Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya for resuming shipments of covid-19 vaccines for COVAX, a multilateral initiative aimed at fostering global access to coronavirus vaccines from October.

Taking it to twitter Tedros said, “Thank you Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya for announcing India will resume crucial COVID19 vaccine shipments to COVAX in October. This is an important development in support of reaching the 40% vaccination target in all countries by the end of the year.”

Mandaviya on Monday had said that India will resume exports of covid-19 vaccines from October in order to meet its commitment for global supplies through COVAX. The Minister had further said that with the production of covid-19 vaccines being accelerated, the central government will

receive over 30 crore doses in October followed by 100 crores additional doses in the next three months.

COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the Access to covid-19 Tools Accelerator, is co-convened by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and World Health Organization (WHO), working in partnership with Unicef, vaccine manufacturers across developed and developing countries and World Bank, among others.

The COVAX earlier this month cut the forecast for the availability of doses for 2021 by 25% citing export restrictions on Serum Institute of India (SII). The major reasons for the reduction in the number of doses that COVAX expected to receive in 2021 were export restrictions and uncertainty around the resumption of exports from SII, a key COVAX supplier, and increased challenges at manufacturing sites that supply COVAX.

There are 11 vaccines in the COVAX portfolio, including Covishield.

SC nixes Padmanabha temple trust plea to exempt from audit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a plea filed by Shree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust, run by the Travancore royal family, seeking to exempt it from the audit of 25 years as ordered by the top court last year. A bench headed by Justice U U Lalit said the audit should be completed as early as possible, preferably within three months.

“It is clear that the audit contemplated was not intended to be confined to the temple only but with respect to the trust. This direction has to be seen in light of the reports of the amicus curiae in the case as recorded in order dated 2015,” said the bench, also comprising Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi. The apex court, however, refrained from passing any order on the plea of the Trust to exempt it from the administrative supervision of the Administrative Committee constituted by it saying that it requires factual analysis.

The Administrative Committee of the Shree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Kerala had on September 17 told the apex court that it is in great financial stress and the offerings are not sufficient to



Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for the Trust, had argued that it is a public Trust made by the Royal family and has no role in administration

meet the expenses, while seeking an audit of the temple-related trust run by the Travancore royal family.

All temples in Kerala are closed and while this temple’s monthly expenses are ₹1.25 crore, “we are able to hardly get 60-70 lakh rupees. Therefore, we have sought certain directions,” senior advocate R Basant, appearing for the committee, had said. The temple is

in great financial stress and “we are not able to function”, Basant had said, alleging that the Trust is trying to avoid its obligation by not making their record available for audit.

The Trust has 2.87 crore in cash and 1.95 crore in assets as per the 2013 auditors’ report and that is why the entire thing has to be gone into to find out how much money it has, he had said. The Trust is constituted as per court’s order and it must contribute to the temple, Basant had told the bench.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for the Trust, had argued that it is a public Trust made by the Royal family and has no role in administration. The Trust was just mentioned by the Amicus Curiae in the case, not as part of the petition, he said.

Cong seeks SC-led probe into drug seizure from Gujarat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Demanding a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the large drugs haul in Gujarat and in the alleged bribery case involving e-commerce firm Amazon, the Congress on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should answer the nation on these “very serious” issues of national security.

“These issues are concerned with the country’s security and those involved in these issues are guilty of sedition and that is why

the prime minister will have to answer the nation,” Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, a day after the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 2,988.21 kg heroin worth crores of rupees from two containers at the Adani-operated Mundra port in Gujarat’s Kutch district and subsequently.

Those involved in these cases are “traitors,” Surjewala said adding “Should this matter now not be investigated by a special commission of sitting judges of the Supreme Court and a special SIT be put at their disposal?”

He also rejected suggestions of seeking a CBI probe, saying, “How can CBI probe those who are its bosses?” He said the shocking revelations in the two cases have shaken the conscience of the country.

On the Amazon case, he said it has now come out that the e-commerce giant spent Rs 8,546 crore in “legal fees”, whereas India’s Law Ministry’s annual budget is only ₹1,100 crore.

“The so-called alleged bribery of ₹8,546 crore was being given to whom in the Modi Government? Who received the money? Was this money given to annihilate the trade and business of crores of small shopkeepers, MSMEs and traders so that e-commerce companies like Amazon could take away their businesses and livelihood,” he asked.

Canada suspends flights from India till September 26



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Canada has suspended flights from India until September 26. The flights may be resumed from September 27 but it would depend on the results of Covid-19 tests conducted on arrival in Canada on passengers travelling from New Delhi on three flights on Wednesday. Air Canada has nonstops on Delhi-Toronto and Delhi-Vancouver routes. Air India flies to Canada direct from Delhi.

“As Canada prepares for the return of direct flights from India to Canada, Transport Canada has announced an extension of the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) that restricts all direct commercial and private passenger flights to Canada from India until September 26, 2021, at 23:59 EDT. As a first step, on September 22, 2021, three direct flights from India will arrive in Canada and all passengers on these flights will be

If a high number of positive Covid-19 results are found, the planned lifting of the flight ban on September 27 will be reconsidered

tested for COVID-19 upon arrival to ensure that the new measures are working,” the Canada government said.

If a high number of positive Covid-19 results are found, the planned lifting of the flight ban on September 27 will be reconsidered.

Once the restriction on direct flights expires, travellers eligible to enter Canada will be able to board direct flights from India to Canada must have proof of a negative

COVID-19 molecular test from the approved Genestrings Laboratory at the Delhi airport taken within 18 hours of the scheduled departure of their direct flight to Canada.

“Prior to boarding, air operators will be checking the travellers’ test results ensuring they are eligible to come to Canada, and that fully vaccinated travellers have uploaded their information into the ArriveCAN mobile app or website. Travellers who are unable to meet these requirements will be denied boarding,” it said.

“After the resumption of direct flights, travellers who are eligible to enter Canada who depart India for Canada via an indirect route will continue to be required to obtain, within 72 hours of departure, a valid negative COVID-19 molecular test from a third country – other than India – before continuing their journey to Canada,” it added.

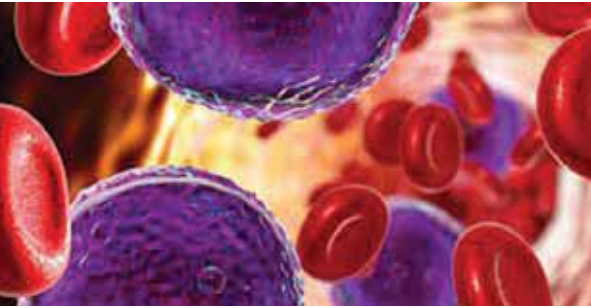
Children with Down’s Syndrome have lower chance of survival from ALL: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Children with Down’s syndrome have a lower chance of survival from acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), a particular high-risk form of blood cancer, than children without the disability, new research published in Lancet Haematology has said.

In other words, children at higher risk of their cancer coming back usually receive more intensive treatment. But that’s not possible for children with Down, as they tend to have more side effects from treatment. The syndrome is a genetic disorder – but the possible effect of DNA changes in leukemia cells in Down’s Syndrome was still unknown.

In a new study, scientists from the Princess Máxima Center and the Erasmus Medical Center compared the effect of therapy in leukemia patients with and without Down’s Syndrome. The international study, involving



researchers from the United Kingdom, Germany, Scandinavia and Australia, was in the Netherlands, the study was funded by the Princess Máxima Center Foundation and the Children’s Oncological Center Rotterdam Foundation.

To account for differences in known risk factors, data from 136 leukemia patients with Down’s Syndrome were matched with those from 407 children who did not have Down’s Syndrome. The matched ‘duos’ had the same age, ALL subtype, and blood results at diagnosis. That’s how the researchers knew

that any differences that remained were linked to Down’s Syndrome.

Their analysis showed that the levels of leukemia cells decreased equally well in both groups of children after the first month of treatment. But the scientists discovered an important difference in longer-term outcome between children with and without Down’s Syndrome in the so-called Ikaros form of ALL.

A DNA error in the Ikaros gene leads to a more aggressive form of the disease in all children with leukemia. But children who also had

Down’s Syndrome had an even worse outcome than children without the disability, the researchers found.

Naomi Michels, PhD student in the Den Boer group, also part of the Oncode Institute, was involved in the study. “The Ikaros gene mainly increases the risk of cancer coming back,” she said. “Children with Down’s Syndrome and Ikaros ALL were more likely to see their leukemia return within five years of treatment.” This was the case in 37 per cent of these children, compared with 13 per cent of Ikaros ALL patients who did not have Down syndrome. In other types of ALL, there was no notable difference between children with and without Down syndrome.

The researchers believe the difference has to do with an interaction between the genetic changes in Down’s Syndrome and the Ikaros gene. Michels: “We need to continue the search for treatments with fewer side effects – such as targeted therapies and forms of immunotherapy – in order to be able to better treat children with Down syndrome who have this high-risk form of ALL.”

But children who also had



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked both the Uttar Pradesh Government and officials of Allahabad High Court to sit together and jointly submit the suggestions for regulating the matters of bail applications during the pendency of the appeals of the convicted persons.

The top court said that if the suggestions are not given, then it may formulate some guidelines on its own.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and B R Gavai said that Allahabad High Court registry has 20-25 page suggestions which are like counter-suggestions to those already given by Uttar Pradesh government.

The top court was

informed that Allahabad High Court had filed the suggestions last evening.

“State Government has said something and now you (Allahabad High Court) have said something. They have given suggestions and now you have given counter-suggestions of 20-25 pages. How are we supposed to zero in on the most suitable ones? If you are unable to give suggestions then we will formulate some guidelines on our own,” the bench said.

Additional Advocate General Garima Prashad, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, said that sometime be given to them as now they have come to know about the thinking of the High Court and they will sit together and compile the most suitable suggestions.

The bench said that the

High Court may itself issue some directions which may meet its expectation and both the UP government and registry staff of the High Court can sit together and sort out the problem.

It posted the matter for further hearing on October 5.

The top court is hearing 18 criminal appeals of the convicts in heinous offences seeking bail on the ground that they have spent seven or more years in jail and be granted bail as their appeals against the convictions are yet to be listed for regular hearing in the high court due to the long pendency.

The High Court has given a slew of suggestions to the top court like in cases of serious and grave offences, rights of the victim and his family should be considered before granting bail to an accused.

CBI files two more FIRs in Bengal post-poll violence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With 2 more FIRs on Wednesday, the CBI has so far re-registered as many as 40 cases related to post poll violence in West Bengal following the Calcutta high court orders.

Out of the two new cases, the first was earlier registered at Jhargram police station in Jhargram district as FIR No.55/2021 dated March 21, 2021.

The case was lodged on the allegations that the accused, residents of Pindrakuli in the district, attacked the victim on the same day with sharp weapons due to their alleged political rivalry, while the victim was sitting in a tea stall.

The victim was admitted to Jhargram Super Speciality Hospital. Later, the victim succumbed to the injuries.

The other case was earlier registered at Narendrapur police station in South 24

Parganas district as FIR No. 588/2021 dated May 6 on the allegations that the accused and others attacked the house of the complainant on May 5 this year due to alleged political rivalry.

It was further alleged that the victim (complainant’s husband) who tried to intervene with the miscreants, was attacked. The victim was rushed to the May 6, he succumbed to injuries.

The CBI is taking over cases of post-poll violence in West Bengal in compliance with the orders of Calcutta High Court passed in connection with a clutch of writ petitions.

The HC had passed the orders on August 19 and took over the investigation of these cases earlier registered at different police stations of West Bengal on various allegations.

CBI has so far registered 40 cases and Investigation is continuing in these cases.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE**
1) TATAMOTORS- T_ACE REG. NO. DL1LR7389 YOM 2012
2) AL ECOMET 1212 REG.NO. HR55Q5792- YOM -2012
3) BHARATBENZ 4928 REG. NO. RJ09GC0156 YOM 2018
4) HYUNDAIXNT REG. NO. HR55W1888-YOM-2015
5) CB_VE 10.95 CAB CHASSIS REG. NO. UP14HT3951-YOM-2018
6) CB_TATA_ACE REG. NO. UP37AT5722-YOM -2020
7) EICHER VENUS REG. NO. DGSET 180KVA YOM 2019
8) CB_TATA ACE REG. NO. UP15ET9519-YOM-2020
9) TATAACE REG. NO. UP14JT9404-YOM-2020
10) EICHER 10.90 REG.NO. UP15DT7692-YOM-2018
11)EICHER 10.75 REG. NO. DL01LX5315-YOM-2016
12)CB_TATA LPT 2518 FULLY BUILT GOODS-REG. NO. HR739525- YOM -2014
13)SML ISUZU LIMITED-CB_SML SARTAJ-REG. NO. UP15DT5069-YOM-2018
14) T_2518G REG. NO. HR737695-YOM -2013
UNDER HYPOTHECACTION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 07 DAYS AT
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK
3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR
CONTACT : RAJESH ANTIL
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.
CONTACT: 9711173320

We'll play, fight, oust BJP: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee once again invoked the “Khela” (game) slogan while addressing an audience in the Bhawanipore Assembly by-elections. Attacking the BJP she said “*khelbo, lorbo, BJP ke harabo ... Bharat theke tariya charbo* (we will play, fight and defeat the BJP and banish it from India),” the Chief Minister said attacking the Centre and the other saffron Governments of the country including the one running in Tripura.

The Chief Minister who was defeated from Nandgram seat is seeking election from Bhawanipore her home constituency from where she won in 2011 and 2016 before leaving this seat for Nandigram in 2021.

Bhawanipore was earlier vacated by sitting MLA Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay to let Banerjee contest from this seat.The TMC had trailed to the BJP from this Assembly segment in 2019 parliamentary elections.



Hitting the BJP with its own weapon Banerjee questioned the BJP's Government's clamping of restrictive orders in Tripura apparently to stop YMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee from organizing rallies in that State.

Referring to the oft repeated allegations by saffron leaders that “Mamata Banerjee Government does not allow Durga Pujas, Laxmi Pujas in Bengal ... but now they have imposed Section 144 in Tripura

till November 4 ... now I am asking how will Durga Pujas, Laxmi Pujas or even the Kali Puja will take place in Tripura ... so Are you not stopping the Pujas in that State.”

Aware that her “outsider” plank had yielded results during the April-May Assembly elections Banerjee once again raised the issue saying “the BJP is once again bringing outsiders to Bhawanipore to defeat me ... but I am the daughter of this area ... the people will never jettison me ... the BJP had

brought all kinds of people from all over the country but all of them were discarded by the voters ... again the outsiders who are coming to Bengal will get a befitting reply.”

Listing her exploits the Chief Minister said how her Government had dug 3.5 lakh ponds all over the state to harvest rain water and how she has been working round the clock to introduce the people-friendly policies like “Swasthya Saathi (health insurance for all), Sabuj Saathi (free cycles to school students), ₹10 lakh worth Students’ Credit Cards, Kanyashree (scheme for girl students)” Banerjee said the Centre was allowing the two ports of Bengal to lapse into non-use.

“But we are constructing a third port at Tajpur near Digha,” she said adding if she is allowed to remain the Chief Minister more developments will follow. “If I am defeated Someone else will be the Chief Minister but that is not all ... my question is I want to perform ... I want to work for you and so I have come once again to you,” she said.

BJP candidate injured in post-poll violence dies

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Alleged post-poll violence claimed yet another victim when the BJP's candidate for the Magrahat West Assembly seat Dhurjati Saha succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday.

The saffron outfit immediately said that it will petition the National Human Rights Commission seeking intervention and demanded that the ongoing court-monitored CBI investigation into the post-election violation be extended to cover the Wednesday's incident.

Saha was attacked on the counting day as the election results started pouring in. “He was trailing during the counting and when he came out of the counting station Trinamool Congress goons led by local TMC MLA Ghyasuddin Molla attacked him giving him head injuries ... the next day he was hospitalized ... and finally he succumbed to his injuries today,” Saha's family members alleged demanding CBI inves-

tigation into the case.

BJP MP Arjun Singh who visited the hospital too said, “he was beaten up by the henchmen of local TMC MLA after counting trends showed he (Saha) was trailing. He had to be admitted to the hospital the next day... we are bringing it to the notice of the NHRC and will demand a CBI investigation.”

After leaving incommunicado for the most part of the day Molla later told in the evening that he had nothing to do with the incident.

New Bengal BJP president Dr Sukanto Majumdar said “this is the instance of a democratic government being run by Mamata Banerjee ... where even as candidate is not spared ... the TMC goons promoted by the State Government has killed Dhurjati Saha who was a dedicated and honest party man ... this the blackest day in the Bengal's politics.”

The death of Saha takes place amid ongoing CBI investigation into the post-poll violence in Bengal.

lence in Bengal.

A five-member bench of the Calcutta High Court acting upon a recommendation of the NHRC had earlier ordered a court-monitored CBI investigation into the incidents of violence.

The death of the BJP candidate comes at a time when a petition --- seeking quashing of the High Court order --- filed by the State Government is pending before the Supreme Court. In the petition the State has claimed that it had acted on 58 percent of the reported cases of violence.

Besides it has also said that most of the violence took place during when the Election Commission was at the helm and not the TMC Government.

On whether the Wednesday's incident could have any impact on the Apex Court decision a set of lawyers said “we cannot say that it won't ... the Supreme Court will take into account everything legal and factual.”



Members of the Traders' Federation stage a protest during the Jammu Bandh stir against the opening of new showrooms and retailer shops of Reliance Mart, in Jammu on Wednesday

6 J&K Govt employees sacked for terror links

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir administration headed by Lt-Gov Manoj Sinha on Wednesday issued orders of dismissal of six more employees, three each from Kashmir and Jammu divisions for having terror links and working as Over Ground Workers (OGW).

At least eleven (11) employees including two sons of Hizbul Mujahideen founder Syed Salahuddin were also dismissed from their services by the UT administration on July 10, 2021.

According to official sources, “two police constables, two school teachers, a range officer in the Forest department and a junior assistant in the Public Works Department were dismissed from their services after a designated committee recommended their cases under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution”.

The dismissal orders were

issued by the Commissioner/Secretary to the General Administration department on Wednesday.

According to these orders, two police constables identified as Showkat Ahmad Khan hailing from Budgam and Jaffer Hussain Butt from Kishtwar were dismissed from their services with immediate effect.

According to police records, Jaffer Hussain Butt was arrested by the police and chargesheeted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a case on gun-running while khan is alleged to have been involved in looting of weapons from an MLC's house. He was posted as a PSO with a Legislative Council member. He was detained under the PSA in 2019. According to police, Jaffer, currently on bail, is alleged to have provided his car to Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists and facilitated their safe movement, a fact which is explained in the NIA chargesheet.

Another Government

employee Abdul Hamid Wani, a resident of Bijbehara in Anantnag, who was working as a teacher had a history of working as a district commander of the now-defunct terrorist outfit, Allah Tigers. He managed his employment without any selection process.

Banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) cadre had played a key role in inducting him in the government services. As per police records Wani was among the key speakers and organisers during the 2016 agitations following the death of Burhan Wani, the poster boy of banned terror group Hizbul Mujahideen.

According to official sources, Junior assistant Mohd Rafi Butt, also a resident of Kishtwar and posted in the Road and Building Department, was sacked for providing logistical support to Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists in Kishtwar and for providing them a safe environment to execute terror plans.

His name also figures in an FIR registered by the NIA. He was arrested and is at present on bail.

Liyaqat Ali Kakroo, a resident of Baramulla in North Kashmir and a teacher by profession since 1983, was arrested in 2001 which “revealed that he was a locally trained terrorist”. An explosive substance was recovered from his possession and he was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for two years in 2002. He was subsequently acquitted by the court in both cases.

Tariq Mehmood Kohli, a resident of Poonch and posted as a range officer in the Forest Department, was also sacked for allegedly being involved in smuggling of illegal arms, ammunition, explosives, including hard drugs and Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) from Pakistan, the officials said. He is alleged to have remained in touch with active militants and is recorded as an OGW in police records.

BJP has taken credit for our work in UP: Akhilesh Yadav

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday accused the Yogi Adityanath Government of usurping the credit of his developmental work in Uttar Pradesh and failing to even read the BJP manifesto, forget about keeping its poll promises.

In a statement, he also charged the saffron party Government with weakening the democracy of the country by “sustained attack on various institutions”.

“The BJP has no shame (laaz) that it did not read even a single page of its 'sankalp patra' of 2017 Assembly elections and failed to implement any of the promises,” Yadav said, adding ahead of the assembly polls, they have now begun beating their own trumpet through advertisements.

“This attitude of breaking promises (wadakhilaphi) is a form of cor-

ruption. Spending State resources without doing any work of public interest is betrayal with the people,” he said. The SP president alleged that the saffron party would try to “manipulate” voting at the booth level during the elections early next year and asked party workers to be cautious of it.

Arrears of sugarcane growers ride in electricity rates, problems of weavers and unemployed youths, atrocity against women and rising crime graph are the hallmarks of the BJP rule in UP, he said.

Yadav also attacked the Union Government accusing it of weakening the country's economy by demonetisation and enforcing GST.

“The Government which weaved a dream of five trillion economy is conspiring to confuse people with the help of advertisements,” he said.

Gehlot chairs first Cabinet meet after angioplasty

Reviews soon-to-be-launched welfare scheme

Jaipur: In his first Cabinet meeting after undergoing angioplasty last month, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Wednesday reviewed his administration's public outreach programme which is slated to be launched on October 2.

The Prashashan Sharon ke Sang and Prashasan Gaon ke Sang (the administration with cities and villages) focuses on works like lease allotment and a minister Wednesday said various relaxations will be given to people during the campaign. It was Gehlot's first Cabinet meeting after he recovered to good health following his angioplasty at the SMS Government hospital here last month. After the Cabinet meeting, Transport Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas told reporters that the preparations for the scheme were reviewed and the Chief Minister instructed the ministers to visit districts during the campaign.

“The Rajasthan Government is focusing on the development of the State and welfare of people. For this, Prashasan Sharon ke Sang and Prashasan Gaon ke Sang campaign will be launched from October 2 across the State for works like lease allotment etc,” he said.

PTI

Caste census a must, let 50% cap be broken if required: Lalu

PTI ■ PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal president Lalu Prasad on Wednesday reiterated the demand for a caste census and favoured “breaking” the 50 per cent ceiling on reservations if the population of SCs, STs and OBCs was found to be more than half of the total.

Prasad, who has been convalescing in Delhi after his release from jail earlier this year, made the remarks while addressing a training camp of his party workers organised here to which he got connected online.

“I was the first one to raise the demand for caste census. I had made the demand on the floor of the Parliament,” said the multiple-term former MP and the railway minister in the UPA-1 Government.

The former Bihar Chief

Minister, who has ended up spending a long time behind bars following his conviction in fodder scam cases, said “my demand is for the welfare of all, SCs and STs included. Quotas have been decided taking into account a census conducted before Independence. We must have a fresh estimate of the population of different social segments”.

“The existing quotas have been insufficient. And even these are rarely filled, resulting in huge backlogs. Let there be a fresh caste census and all get quotas in proportion to their population. If it needs breaking of the 50 per cent barrier, so be it,” said Prasad, who owes his rise in politics to the Mandal churn of the 1990s.

Prasad's younger son and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav, who is the leader of the opposition in state assembly, had

recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to broach the issue of caste census as part of a delegation headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar – an arch rival of the RJD supremo.

The Centre's contention that only enumeration of SCs and STs was proposed has triggered demands that the same be done for OBCs as well. A cap of 50 per cent on quotas has been fixed by an order of the Supreme Court.

Prasad, who is in his late 70s and suffers from multiple ailments, spoke for less than 30 minutes and the audience were left pining for his wit and repartee that had made him a legend in his heydays.

He, nonetheless, sought to assure his foot soldiers that his health was improving and he will soon be in Bihar, touring all districts to energise the rank and file.

INSHORT

TOOLKIT CASE: SC JUNKS PLEAS OF C'GARH GOVT
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain two separate appeals of the Chhattisgarh Government against orders of the High Court granting a stay on investigation in an FIR registered against senior BJP leader and former Chief Minister Raman Singh and the party spokesman Sambit Patra for their tweets in connection with the alleged fake toolkit case.

GOVT PROCESS HAS TO ABIDE BY COURT DIRECTIONS: SC
New Delhi: The Government process has to “abide” by court directions, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday while pulling up Kerala authorities for not deciding the proposal pertaining to premature release of two convicts who are serving life term and have been in jail for 28 years, including remission.

SCBA SEEKS AUDIENCE FROM CJI IN BAR ISSUE
New Delhi: The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has written to Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana urging that an audience be given to its Executive Committee members to discuss issues such as elevation of apex court lawyers as High Court judges, their designation as seniors and allotment of chambers in the premises here.

MOU SIGNED TO IMPROVE LIVESTOCK SECTOR
New Delhi: The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have signed a multi-year MoU to work together on sustainably improving India's livestock sector to support the nation's food and nutritional security, and protect the economic wellbeing of small-scale livestock producers.

India’s oldest mosque set to reopen after renovation

Thrissur: India's first-ever mosque and the oldest in the sub-continent is all set to welcome back devotees and general public after regaining its past glory and grandeur.

The classic beauty and humble style of the “Cheraman Juma Masjid”, dating back to 629 AD, was restored after a painstaking renovation and conservation process spread over nearly 30 months under the state-run Muziris Heritage Project (MHP). Located at Kodungallur taluk in this central Kerala district, the heritage structure was recreated in tune with its original character and aesthetics, at a cost of ₹1.14 crore, P M Noushad, Managing Director of MHP, said.

Besides the renovation and conservation initiative, which started in May 2019, a two-storey Islamic Heritage Museum was also constructed in the mosque campus spending nearly Rs one crore and its internal refurbishment is going on now, he noted. After submitting the letter of completion to the government, the MHP authorities are now awaiting Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's date to reopen the oldest mosque for visitors. “It is expected to happen any day. We are waiting for a convenient day of the Chief Minister for the inaugural function. If the Covid-19 situation is completely under control, it may happen within the next two week,” Noushad said.

PTI

Muslim organisations ask Catholic Bishop to withdraw his ‘narcotic jihad’ remark

PTI ■ KOZHIKODE (KER)

Various Muslim organisations on Wednesday urged Catholic Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt to withdraw his controversial “love and narcotic jihad” statement, saying no religious leaders should make such “immature” remarks.

Their meeting held here to discuss the issue also said that the Bishop of Pala, through the statement, was aiming at the Muslim community.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Indian Union Muslim League leader Panakkad Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal, who chaired the session, said no religious leader should make such immature statements or comments.

Such remarks would not help maintain communal harmony and strengthen

the secular credentials of the state, Thangal said and urged the Government to strongly and effectively intervene in the issue.

He said the leaders of Muslim community did not make any immature response to the Bishop's statement.

Thirteen Muslim religious organisations attended the meeting.

Veteran IUML leader and Lok Sabha MP E T Muhammed Basheer said he supports the demand of various political parties to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the issue.

In the wake of the Bishop's controversial “love and narcotic jihad” remarks a few days ago, leaders of various religions met at Thiruvananthapuram on Monday last and called for steps to strengthen the secular fabric of Kerala society.

847 new Covid cases, 20 deaths in Karnataka

Bengaluru: Karnataka logged 847 new Covid-19 cases and 20 deaths on Wednesday, taking the total number of infections to 29,70,208 and the toll to 37,668.

The day also saw 946 discharges, taking the total number of recoveries in the State so far to 29,18,890.

Out of 847 new cases reported on Wednesday, 312 were from Bengaluru Urban, as the city saw 219 discharges and six deaths.

The total number of active cases in the state is at 13,621 While the positivity rate for the day stood at 0.57 per cent, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was 2.36 per cent, a health department bulletin said.

Coming behind Bengaluru Urban in number of deaths was Dakshina Kannada (5) and Udupi (2), followed by others.

Among new cases, Dakshina Kannada accounted for 108, Mysuru 74, Shivamogga 52, Udupi 48, Hassan 46, followed by others.

PTI



Metro workers celebrate after Tunnel Boring Machine 'URJA' broke-through at the Shivajinagar Station from Bangalore Cantonment Station, in Bengaluru on Wednesday

PTI



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

The doldrums

To rid UP of economic woes, the Govt must revisit and redraw its strategy

The recent report on Uttar Pradesh's economy released by the State Planning Institute does not paint a rosy picture, particularly when Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has set the target to take the State to \$1 tn economy in the next five years. At present, the State's nominal GDP for 2020-21 is ₹17.05 lakh crore (\$240 bn). There is no denying that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted UP's economy as its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) shrunk by 5.9 per cent in 2020-21 but the worrying sign is that the economy grew at less than five per cent during Yogi's tenure. The revised data released for 2018-19 (revised provisional), 2019-20 (revised quick) and 2020-21 (revised advance) also indicate that the economy grew at a slower rate than expected. The revised estimates of UP's income show a systemic decline in the health of its economy. The GSDP growth in 2017-18 was 4.9 per cent. In 2018-19 and 2019-20, it remained at about 4.3 per cent only. As per these estimates, the rate of economy's growth was less than five per cent during 2017-20 and (- 5.9 per cent) in 2020-21. The advance estimates for 2020-21 (released in March) had shown a contraction of about 6.4 per cent in the GSDP. The UP Government can take solace that the Indian economy too contracted by 7.3 per cent in the 2020-21 fiscal, as per the GDP statistics released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on May 31.

These figures clearly signal that the UP Government will have to mobilise additional resources to push the economy. The worrisome fact is that sectors like manufacturing registered negative rates of growth over the last four years. Its share in GSDP is also declining and is less than 15 per cent. For a State yearning for industrialisation, it is not a good sign. On the contrary, the performance of the agricultural sector has been quite good. Even during the pandemic fiscal, this sector has shown a positive growth of 2.7 per cent. Services or the tertiary sector has done well except in 2020-21 when it contracted by 7.9 per cent. The data show that UP's GSDP (at current prices) is estimated to have reached ₹15,82,682 crore in 2018-19, ₹17,25,860 crore in 2019-20, and ₹17,39,114 crore in 2020-21. The State Government had recently claimed that the GSDP has increased from ₹17,91,263 crore to ₹19,40,527 crore (revised estimate) on March 31, 2021. These facts should be a sobering reminder to the UP Government that much needs to be done to put the State on the fast trajectory of growth. If it really wants to become a \$1 tn economy, it has to come up with a clear road map. The poor GSDP does not instil confidence that the State will be able to achieve the target within the stipulated timeline. It would be better if the Government goes back to the drawing board and revises its strategy.



PICTALK



A view of the Golden Temple in Amritsar

PTI

Alarm bells

As COVID-19 takes first wicket in the IPL's second spell, organisers sweat more than fans

Fresh disappointment for the IPL fans could be around the corner as Sunrisers Hyderabad bowler T Natarajan tested COVID positive just ahead of Wednesday's match. The second leg of the tournament, which resumed last Sunday after a break of nearly five months due to the petrifying second wave in India, got another COVID fright. However, the rest of the contingent — including Natarajan's six close contacts — tested negative and hence the match went on as scheduled at the Dubai International Stadium. This has been a tough year for Natarajan, currently in self-isolation and asymptomatic, as he was ruled out of the first half of IPL 2021 due to a knee injury which he had sustained during the tour of Australia. Sunrisers Hyderabad has so far lost six of the seven games in this season and now with the "yorker specialist" gone for another 10 days or so, the team, and of course the owners, would be miffed. SRH is already short of captain Jonny Bairstow who had pulled out of the league after the BCCI cancelled

the fifth Test of the India-England LV series after a few staff members of the Indian contingent tested COVID positive. Three England players, including Bairstow, had withdrawn from the league as revenge, perhaps.

However, it is worth questioning why the organisers did not consider postponing or cancelling Wednesday's match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals when the crucial fifth Test at Manchester was called off due to "COVID fears"; or were the IPL franchises too eager to move the players to UAE for the tournament? India has not won a Test series in England since 2007 and, if this Test is forfeited, the series which India was leading will be levelled at 2-2. Organising a tournament as grand as the IPL involves high stakes and a lot of money; hence, it is in the best interests of the franchises to keep the league going. The "bio-bubble measures" have been unable to contain the virus and the fans can only hope that no new cases surface during the remaining matches. Another question is whether this seemingly minor sloppiness in the IPL would become a bigger concern for the ICC T20 World Cup, scheduled to start next month in the UAE itself? The cricket authorities need to take a call: Is their priority players and public health or the lure of lucre?



Sonu is an altruist, not a swindler

The law will certainly take its course but it beats logic and experience to see a righteous person like Sonu Sood be charged with tax evasion



JAY KUMAR

The current situation reminds me of George Washington's statement: "Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains taken to bring it to light."

I have known Sonu for over 30 years. Back then he was nobody, not even a struggling actor; just a friend with whom we had a good time. We shared laughter and food, hanging out all day long. We rode our bikes and roamed around as most students do. What made our relationship special was his nature; he valued friendship and cared for everyone he came in contact with.

Coming from a typical middle class family, he didn't have much money as the rest of us who were broke most of the time. We were not sure about our future. None of us even thought about it; just took life as it came. Sonu got into local modelling projects during college and, by the end of it, he developed an interest in cinema and acting. We had a gala time during his early modelling days, watching movies in Nagpur. All these times, I observed that Sonu is the perfect example of a 'giver'. A 'giver' who tends to provide support to others, no strings attached. I always thought Sonu would fit into an NGO or do social work. Many a time, he paid the fees of poor kids. He could always connect with people.

He could strike a conversation with anyone, anywhere. *Chai ki dukaans* were our favourite hangouts. Sonu always got special treatment there. He was friends with every *chaiwala* in town, treating them with compassion. He never had airs about him or the snobbery that accompanies people when they become famous. I remember during the release of '*Ek Vivaah... Aisa Bhi*', Sooraj Barjatya, Kaushik Gosh, Sonu Sood and I were sitting at a dining table at the airport. He was helping the waiter bring stuff and shaking hands with all the staff there. Sonu was not a big star at the time though, but he never changed.

On my show, he told me how he built his team. Not just



a team, but a team of 'givers'. All those associated with him started helping him. His driver, cook, everybody started acting in some capacity to form his staff during the pandemic. For instance, his driver volunteered to coordinate efforts to provide help to those who needed medical care. Sonu's charm brought out the best in everyone around him. He would call the doctor to fix an appointment, and the person would get treatment. No mean achievement this, considering at the time no one would entertain patients due to Corona scare.

Why am I thinking about all this now? Well, something happened that just does not match the character of Sonu I know or knew. I read about the income tax raids on his premises and the allegations that Sonu and his aides evaded taxes. Also, that there is the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) violation while raising funds from abroad. Interestingly, a person close to Sonu told me that the I-T officers who raided his premises were apologetic and even praised his humanitarian work.



ALL THESE TIMES, I OBSERVED THAT SONU IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A 'GIVER'. A 'GIVER' WHO TENDS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO OTHERS, WITHOUT ANY STRINGS ATTACHED. I ALWAYS THOUGHT SONU WOULD FIT INTO AN NGO OR TAKE UP SOCIAL WORK

I know one can become biased when one has an emotional attachment with someone. But I share the sentiment that all expatriates in the US have about this incident. The NRIs here donated tonnes of money through MILAP platform during COVID-19 and have always been high on nationalistic flavour. Sonu, the on-screen villain, has been one of our cherished heroes. We all have 100 per cent confidence that the money we trusted him with was spent in right earnest.

Sonu is a person who doesn't care much about what people would think about him. I remember once we went to a fashion show in Delhi. We somehow managed to get to the front row and while we talked to the stars there, he held his broken helmet in his hand. Why would such a person need money, I ask?

To me, personally, he would be the last person to do something like tax evasion, and bring a bad name to himself and let us down. I am not even recounting his good work in the pandemic or earlier. I am sure law will take its course and the truth

would come out sooner than later, but it gives me sleepless nights thinking why Sonu, of all the people, had to face this? Where did he go wrong? What did he do wrong? I have no idea; I get filtered news here in the US. We need to make sure that we Indians don't get into crab mentality and pull each other down at the slightest hint of others doing better.

I hear the raids lasted three days and unearthed tax evasion of ₹20 crore. Three days is a long time and Sonu is not a business tycoon or a gangster. I am sure that many times that amount he would willingly spend on needy people: sending them home, feeding them and getting them treated. Why, I ask, would Sonu do it? I don't have an answer. Perhaps Sonu himself rightly summed it up: "You don't have to always tell your side of the story. Time will." I am sure it will and my friend would be exonerated honourably. An honour he so well deserves!

(The writer, an NRI and host of the 'Jay Ho' talk show, has long been friends with actor Sonu Sood. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONGRESS'S DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

Sir — On the face of it, the Congress high command has tried to kill two birds with one stone by replacing Captain Amarinder Singh with three-time Dalit legislator Charanjit Singh Channi as the Chief Minister in Punjab. On the one hand, the ongoing rift between the Captain and his *bete noire* Navjot Singh Sidhu has subsided for the time being while, on the other, this manoeuvre could neutralise the SAD-BSP alliance's poll promise to provide the State with a deputy CM from the Dalit community.

Interestingly, this high command culture has also been followed by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party as it replaced four Chief Ministers in three States — Kerala, Uttarakhand and Gujarat — with a view to averting politically precarious conditions. But then, Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds the same sway over his party leaders as Indira Gandhi did on hers. The appointment of the new Punjab Chief Minister comes across as a 'stop-gap' arrangement given that the State is going to polls in a few months. The long and short of the matter is that this high command culture can bear the desired fruit only as long as the party leadership is strong, which is miserably missing in the grand old party.

Azhazh A Khan | Rampur

PALM OIL IS NOT WORTH IT

Sir — The Centre's ambitious push for indigenous palm oil cultivation will only add to the existing problem of water scarcity and will trigger conversion of forest areas into palm oil plantations. For a country like India where agriculture is the backbone of its economic system, the large-scale adoption of palm oil cultivation, which has a long gestation period, will have a major impact on the economic security of our farmers. The Union Government is already aware of the impediments it will face if it goes on increasing palm oil production.

Some of them are — long gestation period that restricts income flow to farmers, small land-holdings of farmers with

Biden's maiden UNGA address



In his first United Nations General Assembly address, US President Joe Biden unveiled his administration's vision, priorities, policies and action plans; he made all the right noises. He opined that the world is at the "inflection point" at this time. He urged the world leaders to focus on a collective fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and the borderless climate crisis. He pledged \$11 million a year as aid to the developing countries to support their response to climate emergencies. He held

that "bombs and bullets cannot protect us from COVID-19 or its future variants"; stressing the importance of global cooperation in the fight against the pandemic which still has the world in its vice-like grip.

Biden's categorical assurance that the US is "not seeking a new Cold War era or a world divided into rigid blocs" was the highlight of his speech. As the leader of "the land of freedom", Biden took care to emphasise that "democracy remains the best tool to unlock full human potential" and that human rights and dignity are of paramount importance. He urged world leaders to use technology "to empower people and not to deepen repression". The general tenor of the address went down well with the gathering of world leaders and the world audience. Past experiences show that the US Presidents usually talked the talk. President Biden must prove that he can walk the walk.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

limited resources, fluctuation in prices, and erratic monsoon leading to shortage of water. In fact, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education hasn't agreed to palm oil plantations in biodiverse areas like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. India may be thirsty for edible oil production, but palm oil plantations cannot quench this thirst. In fact, many countries in the European Union and the US are moving away from expanding palm oil cultivation due to its harmful effects.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

DECEPTION AND DELUSION

Sir — The Karnataka Government is understood to have embarked on the idea of bringing a new law to control illegal and forcible religious conversions, according to Karnataka Home Minister Araga Gnanendra. The Home Minister was responding to the members who demanded a law similar to the one in Uttar Pradesh. Isolated cases of conversion can be ignored or forgiven. But mass

conversions through inducements or force are reprehensible, for which an anti-conversion law is absolutely needed.

BJP MLA Goolihatti Shekar laments that his mother has been forcibly converted to Christianity. "She has removed all photos of Hindu gods. She does not wear a *bindi* anymore and has changed the caller tune on her mobile phone to a Christian hymn. If I try to convince her, she threatens to commit suicide. She has been brainwashed." Shekar alleges that over 15000 people from the SC/ST communities in his Assembly constituency have been converted. There may also be a class of people who have renounced their parent religion but are practising the customs and traditions of other faiths in order to enjoy benefits available to the people based on caste. This aspect must engage the attention of the Government.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Look at the timing of these notices. They came at a time when the AAP is gearing for upcoming Assembly elections.



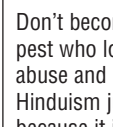
AAP leader — Raghav Chadha



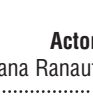
Thank you Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya for announcing that India will resume

crucial COVID-19 vaccine shipments in October.

WHO Director-General — Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus



Don't become a pest who loves to abuse and condemn Hinduism just because it is the most tolerant religion.

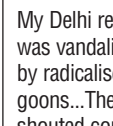


Actor — Kangana Ranaut



Based on one game, I wouldn't want to drop players. Sometimes the first game doesn't go well but we need to give them another opportunity.

Women's ODI skipper — Mithali Raj



My Delhi residence was vandalised by radicalised goons...The mob shouted communal slogans and threatened to kill me.

AIMIM chief — Asaduddin Owaisi

FIRST COLUMN

NORWAY'S DILEMMA OF OIL EXPLORATION

Whether Norway should stop pumping has become an issue in national politics



GWYNNE DYER

You can see why Saudi Arabia wants to go on pumping as much oil as it can. Oil exports account for 87 per cent of the Saudi Government budget and 42 per cent of GDP. The Saudi population, now 35 million, is growing by two-thirds of a million a year, and the country already imports 80 per cent of its food. They'd be starving in a few years if they stopped pumping. Norway, however, is in a much more interesting place. It's the world's seventh largest exporter of oil and gas, and those exports account for 42 per cent of the country's GDP. Per capita income is higher than in the United States, partly thanks to the fossil fuel industry. So, the five million Norwegians do have a major stake in their fossil fuel industry. Indeed, 7 per cent of the population actually works in it. Yet Norwegian attitudes towards carbon dioxide emissions are seriously conflicted, and the question of whether the country should stop pumping has even become an issue in national politics. The Conservative Party, which



lost the latest election after eight years in power, never had a big problem with living off the proceeds of fossil fuel exports. When asked in an election debate last week for the party's preferred date to end production, one Conservative candidate said: "In about 300 years' time." The Labour Party, which won the most seats and must now build a left-wing coalition Government, was also careful not to alienate potential supporters who worry about their jobs. Party leader Jonas Gahr Støre promised not to include any party in the new coalition that demands a halt to all exploration or production — but that leaves some room for manoeuvre. Both Labour's traditional coalition partners, the Socialist Left and the Centre Party, take a more robust approach to the question of curbing Norway's fossil fuel exports. "Our demand is to stop looking for oil and gas, and stop handing out new permits to companies," said Lars Haltbrekken, climate and energy spokesman for the Socialist Left party.

Nobody wants to shut all oil and gas production down now - that would be far too great a shock to the economy - but just under half the population would be willing to stop exploration now. This is not a view you will encounter very often in Kuwait, Russia or Alberta, but Norway is a very conscientious place where people worry a lot about climate change. Its grid runs almost entirely on hydroelectric power, and 70 per cent of new car purchases this year were all-electric. It helps, too, that Norway has a very strong safety net. It is one of the most generous welfare states in Europe, and its sovereign wealth fund of \$1.4 trillion (saved up from past oil revenues) is the biggest in the world. But it's no crime to be prudent, and that safety net creates the possibility that Norway could pioneer where other fossil-fuel producing countries will eventually have to follow. There is an imaginable compromise that could bridge the gap between Labour and its prospective partners. Most of the country's oil and gas still comes from older offshore fields in the North Sea, but most of the untapped and unexplored reserves are in the Barents Sea, above the Arctic Circle. Drilling up there is a red line for environmentalists, but the outgoing Conservative government refused to stop handing out licenses for it. Labour has made no such commitment, and withholding those licences would be a modest but meaningful step in the right direction: no dramatic costs right now, but an implicit commitment to a longer-term decline in production.

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

Role of community radios in India

The Government must realise the importance of community radios and sustain them by providing financial support and professional facilities



BRIENDER SINGH PANWAR

The role of Community Radio Stations (CRS) in disseminating critical information during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic is hardly known. Over 322 Community Radios in India, managed by educational institutions called Campus Radios, NGOs-managed radios and Krishi Vigyan Kendra-managed radios, took up the challenge of connecting with their communities by giving relevant information, creating awareness, confidence and motivation amongst the masses to face the grave situation.

Although most of the Community Radios were struggling for survival due to step-motherly treatment in terms of allocation of funds through projects, non-availability of advertisement from the Bureau of Outreach & Communication, and advertisements from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, these Community Radio Stations were not found wanting in discharging their social responsibility in the hour of national crisis.

The Community Radio Association of India (CRA), the recognized body of Community Radio Stations in the country, undertook a survey and based upon the information and data received from 150 community radio stations, it was observed that the most important need of the vulnerable sections of the population was for credible information about the pandemic in local languages and dialects and how they could protect themselves against it.

In the initial days of the pandemic, the CRS answered the following questions: What is Covid-19 and what are its symptoms/signs of spread? What precautions need to be taken? Why lockdown and curfews have become necessary? What are people expected to do to stop the spread? How many cases have been reported in each region?

The community radio teams across the country collated the answers from advisories issued by the district administrations and state governments from time to time. The radio reporters conducted interviews with the doctors and experts and broadcast them prominently. The information based on "Dos and Don'ts" were shared with the public. Data supplied by the Departments of Information & Public Relations, Health, District and State Disaster Management and police was disseminated on a regular basis. The broadcast time of the community radio ranged from 12 to 24 hours daily.

Initially, only 50 per cent of the broadcast content was related to Covid-19, but as the situation worsened and the lockdown was enforced, the content was exclusively pandemic-related. When the crisis was at its peak, the stations broadcast special awareness programmers, appeals of the authorities to stay at home and observe the guidelines issued by the government to fight the virus. Almost all the community radios faced several challenges. Curfew was strictly enforced so manpower crunch was felt because the movements of many community radio reporters were restricted. In many places



CONSIDERING THE ROLE PLAYED BY COMMUNITY RADIOS ACROSS INDIA, THEY SHOULD BE RECOGNISED AT PAR WITH OTHER MODES OF MEDIA AND SHOULD BE PROVIDED THE SAME STATUS AS OTHER MEDIA ORGANISATIONS AND MEDIA PERSONS ENJOY. COMMUNITY RADIOS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE DURING THE THIRD WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

(The writer is the President, Community Radio Association of India. The views expressed are personal.)



they were not issued curfew passes to reach the irrespective studios and the radio operations were managed by one or two community reporters who worked in long shifts.

Many radio reporters worked from home by sending their reports through mail and Whatsapp. The recorded voice clips of local MALs, community leaders, celebrities, district magistrates, superintendents of police, doctors and experts requesting the community members to stay at home and observe social distancing were recorded through telephone and sent through mail and Whatsapp to the studios which were then broadcast on the radio.

Jingles were made in studios or downloaded from common sources with an appeal by celebrities through songs and popular messages to create awareness about the danger of virus and its prevention. Some community radios innovated new methods of virtual broadcasting where the community reporters sent their inputs from home and nobody was present in the studio, but the radio broadcast was on throughout.

The community radios acted as a bridge between the district administration and the community members. All relevant information and messages were passed on through community radio reporters. The community radios received lot of feedback through live programmers, telephony and messages from the public which was duly shared with the administration and the solution of the problems were communicated to the public. The concerns for persons with disabilities, elderly citizens and economically poor were raised as well.

The community radios also regularly broadcast programmers on health awareness, community participation, motivation, positivity, par-

enting, nutrition, fitness, talent connect, Junior RJ connect, homemakers connect, culinary-based programmers, idea sharing of how to engage kids, creative practices, yoga for everyday, inspirational stories and information to seek help and support from each other in this crucial hour. Some community radios connected with the underprivileged sections by providing information on the steps taken by the government and local NGOs to provide them financial help, food and for health services with 'Free-Doc-Tele Consulting', where doctors were available to help people by providing consultation on any kind of health ailment and issues relating to mental health.

Many community radios shared Self-Corona Test Assessments through their blogs to tell people not to get confused and mistake seasonal illness for COVID-19 and undergo virus testing.

A pledge document was floated, digitally, where people of all ages put the irpromises to stay at home for a healthy future of all and sharing how are they were utilising their time in isolation. The responses received from different community radios indicated that they had become an authentic source of information and means of providing entertainment to the community at large during the crucial time of self-isolation.

The community reporters through their vigilant approach also busted fake news being circulated by vested interests in their communities. They would first verify the suspicious news with officials and broadcast the correct version. During the migration of workers from cities to villages, community radios, especially those operating from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, performed a constructive role by broadcasting information that

proved to them on their way.

The community radio stations are keeping the morale of peer stations high by sharing information through Whatsapp and other IT platforms and other audio content in various languages. The CRS produced creative content in the form of jingles, poems and folk songs in different languages and dialects and shared it, giving diversity to their content. Unfortunately, the contribution of community radios has not been suitably recognized and appreciated. The reporters of community radios were not invited to participate when the Prime Minister interacted with the radio jockeys of commercial radios. The Department of Community Outreach, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has not released any advertisement campaign for Community Radio Stations in the last two years. The outstanding dues of the previous four to five years have not been cleared till date. The various ministries totally ignored the CRS while formulating their communication plans for Covid-19 management and other health-related campaigns.

Considering the role played by community radios across India, they should be recognized at par with other modes of media and should be provided the same status other media organizations and media persons enjoy. The community radios throughout the country are prepared to contribute during the third wave of the pandemic. We do hope that the Government and other concerned authorities would realize the important contribution of the Community Radio Stations in this national crisis and would help in sustaining the community radios by providing them financial support and professional facilities for performing better in the times to come.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

CHANNI IS USING CHARTERED PLANES LIKE THE BADALS AND THE CAPTAIN AFTER CLAIMING TO BE AN AAM AADMI. — AAP LEADER HARPAL SINGH CHEEMA



WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH EVERYONE IF A GAREEB (POOR MAN) TAKES A JET RIDE? — PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI

Recovery by 2030 needs public sector revival

Even high growth is insufficient to remove 'the widened income and wealth inequalities and rising social unrest' in the country

An international agency UN Conference Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has predicted highly uneven growth despite possibility of a bounce-back but global output trends of 2016-19 would resume not before 2030. The UNCTAD notes that growth has been the slowest in the 2011-20 decade, since the post 2007-08 financial crisis.

An important UNCTAD recommendation is to revive the public sector as a critical instrument of long-term development. The report underlines the pandemic-driven need for public sector intervention — a call India must heed amid its move for fast-paced privatisation. It suggests that expansionary fiscal measures that most governments are doing may end up "only as fire-fighting



SHIVAJI SARKAR

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

tools". The UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2021 expects India to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2021 and 6.5 per cent in 2022, but "insufficient to regain the pre-COVID-19 income level".

It warns policymakers to trudge carefully particularly on deregulation. The developing economies, which as per it include India also, have been hit while "new heavier debt burden reduces their own room for fiscal policy".

India's growth despite being next to China's "is poised to slow down" because of the inherent fragility in coping with the pandemic and restoring employment and incomes. Even high growth is insufficient to remove "the widened income and wealth inequalities and



rising social unrests".

The UNCTAD warns of rising corruption and rent-seeking saying, "Within advanced economies, the 'rentier' class has experienced an explosion in wealth, while low-earners struggle".

In 2022, UNCTAD expects global growth to slow to 3.6 per cent, leaving world income still 3.7 per cent below where it pre-pandemic trend would have put it.

Indian efforts of a four-year ₹96,000 crore reprieve for spectrum dues to telecom companies; ₹25,938 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for automobile sector; ₹120 crore for drone industry; ₹10683 crore for textiles and others announced for 13 sectors during the last one year is expected to raise minimum production to around ₹37.5 lakh crore over five years and create additional jobs of about

one crore.

Rising prices in India is a constant concern for the RBI. The WPI inflation in August has touched 11.39 per cent against 11.16 per cent in July. It means that retail inflation is galloping. It affects the purchasing power of the people and has affected overall growth, wage and supply conditions. The RBI is under pressure to increase its lowest interest rates. This is also affecting yields of depositors and hits the overall economy.

Tax levying in India is also irrational. Taxing the deposits appears retrograde, GST on self-managed housing societies has come under scanner of the Madras High Court, and the retrospective tax on corporates has caused serious loss of foreign investment and

maligned the country. The policy of taxing commodities and fuel is leading to an overall distress.

With over 40 to 45 percent indirect taxes, tolls, cesses, fees, user charges and continuous hike of all other levies, it is necessary to review why the country should have income-tax at all or why it cannot be at par with corporate income tax of 15 per cent. Taxes on individuals repress growth and international institutions also feel that tax burdens should reduce. The governments would have larger revenue returns with higher turnovers.

The UNCTAD is concerned of the decades of declining wage share and wants wages to rise for a better balance between wages and profits. Despite a decade of massive

monetary injections from public sector, economic stability remains missing.

National Crime Research Bureau finds crimes rising during the pandemic — digital crimes and cyber monetary frauds, including internet banking by 11.8 per cent; social disorders rise 21-fold; other IPC crimes four-fold; 12.4 per cent rise in offences against public tranquility, and 78.1 per cent in environment crimes.

The UNCTAD also wants globally reforms to the international economic architecture, promised after the 2008-09 crisis but abandoned "in the face of 'rentier' class", are now implemented for definite growth worldwide. India needs to take the cue for correcting the policies and paths for taking the country ahead.

Envoys of China, Russia, Pak meet Taliban officials, Af leaders

PTI ■ BEIJING

Special envoys of China, Russia and Pakistan have met the top officials of the Taliban's interim Government as well as Afghan leaders Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah in Kabul and discussed the formation of an inclusive Government, combating terrorism and humanitarian situation, a top Chinese official said on Wednesday.

The three special envoys visited Kabul from September 21 to 22 and held talks with acting Prime Minister Mohammad Hasan Akhund, Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, Finance Minister and other high-level officials of the interim government, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman

Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here.

Significantly, they also met with former president Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, President of the Council for National Reconciliation under the previous government.

"We exchanged views on the current developments in the country, & welcomed the role of AFG's neighbours in achieving peace, stability & inclusive government," Abdullah Abdullah tweeted.

"They emphasised on formation of an inclusive governing acceptable to all, peace, stability, moderate policy, respecting women rights, equal right of education for all Afghans & regional cooperation," he said.

This is perhaps the first

Biden discusses climate change, Afghan with PMs of Britain and Australia

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Ahead of the Quad summit, US President Joe Biden held separate bilateral meetings with prime ministers Boris Johnson of United Kingdom and Scott Morrison of Australia to discuss the situation in the Indo-Pacific region and Afghanistan along with climate change and COVID-19.

Biden met Morrison in New York Tuesday on the sideline of the UN General Assembly session and hosted Johnson at the Oval Office later in the evening in Washington.

"The leaders also discussed our ongoing work on Afghanistan, as well as developments in the Indo-Pacific and the critical role of

European allies and partners, including NATO and the EU, in the region," the White House said in a readout of the bilateral meeting.

This meeting reaffirmed the strong bond between the United States and the United Kingdom, as the leaders agreed to continue working together to fulfill the vision set forward in the Atlantic Charter, it said.

Biden and Johnson reviewed their cooperation on shared global challenges, including, building consensus for action to address the climate crisis, promoting global health security, supporting democracy and human rights, and developing a more inclusive economic future for all countries, the White House said.



UJVN LIMITED

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)

H.O. "UJJWAL", MAHARANI BAGH, GMS ROAD, DEHRADUN- 248006, CN No. 144101UR2015002535861

Tel.: 9135-2763509, 2763508, Fax: 9135-2763507, Website: www.ujvn.com

No. 699 Date : 22.09.2021

e-Tender Cancellation Notice

Due to unavoidable circumstances e-Tender No. 01/EE/(M)/2021-22 for Preparation of MYT and Business Plan invited by Office of the Executive Engineer (Monitoring) "Ujjwal", GMS Road, Dehradun is hereby cancelled.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>"

Executive Engineer (Monitoring), "Ujjwal", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

S.N.	N.I.T. No.	128-W/269/O.E.T.-21-22-NRCH-05
1.	Name of work with its location	Annual Zone work of Central Hospital for the period ending on 30.06.2022 in the section of SSE/WMNRCH underADEN/NRCH. Definition Of Similar Work :- Any Civil work other that track work.
2.	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 7999974.99
3.	Completion period of work	12 Months
4.	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender.	Upto 15.00 hrs on 18.10.2021 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 18.10.2021
5.	Website particulars notice board location/ complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

128-W/269/O.E.T.-21-22-NRCH-05 Dated:22.09.2021 2133/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 50 Yrs., **Height:** 5'6", **Sex:** Male, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Underwear, **Place of Recovery:** Found in unconscious condition at Footh Path Charak Palika Hospital Moti Bagh, New Delhi and admitted in S.J.Hospital on 05.09.2021. During treatment he was declared dead on 10.09.2021.

In this regard **DD No. 12A, Dated 10.09.2021** has been lodged at **Police Station, South Campus, New Delhi**. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign. **SHO P.S. South Campus, New Delhi Ph.: 011-26177179, 7065036223**

DP/852/SW/2021



MAHARAJA AGRASEN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Managed by : Maharaja Agrasen Technical Education Society (Affiliated to GGSIUP University, Delhi)

Maharaja Agrasen Chowk, PSP Area, Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi-110086

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR MANAGEMENT QUOTA: 2021-22

Applications are invited for 10% Management Quota Seats in BBA (1st & 2nd Shift), B.Com (H) (1st & 2nd Shift), BA (JMC) (1st & 2nd Shift), BA Eco (H) (1st & 2nd Shift), BA-LLB-Integrated and BBA-LLB-Integrated

These admissions will be based on the aggregate marks obtained in the qualifying examination. Applicants must have qualified in CET -2021 Conducted by GGSIUP University and CLAT 2021 for BA-LLB & BBA-LLB

Sl. No.	Programme	1 st Shift		2 nd Shift	
		No. of Seats	Minimum % of Marks in 10+2	No. of Seats	Minimum % of Marks in 10+2
1	BBA	18	80	18	70
2	B.COM (H)	06	70	06	60
3	BA (JMC)	06	60	06	60
4	BA (ECO.) Hons.	06	70	06*	60
5	BA-LLB Integrated	12	80		
6	BBA LLB Integrated	06+06* = 12	80		

Admission will be done as per the rules, regulations & guidelines of GGSIUP University & Delhi Government. The Admission will be provisional subject to the final approval of the competent authority.

The application forms will be available in the Institute's office on all working days from 23.09.2021 to 25.09.2021 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. The last date to submit the completed application form in the institute is 09.10.2021, latest by 4.00 pm.

The candidates may visit our website www.mains.ac.in regularly for updated information. Reservation will be applicable as per rules.

* Subject to Approval from GGSIUP University for the academic session 2021-22. (Director)

time that the foreign diplomats met Karzai and Abdullah who stayed put in Kabul after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan last month ahead of the withdrawal of the US and NATO troops.

Their meeting also coin-

cides with the Taliban's letter to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres nominating its spokesman Suhail Shaheen as Afghanistan's new ambassador to the UN.

The Afghan militant group also asked Guterres to allow it

to participate and speak in the 76th session of the General Assembly currently underway in New York.

"The Taliban underscored special attention to advancing relations with Russia, China and Pakistan and stressed the

Qatar's ruler urges world leaders not to boycott Taliban

United Nations: The ruling emir of Qatar, whose nation has played a pivotal role in Afghanistan in the wake of the US withdrawal, urged world leaders gathered at the United Nations against turning their backs on the country's Taliban rulers.

Speaking from the podium of the UN General Assembly Tuesday, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani stressed "the necessity of continuing dialogue with Taliban because boycott only leads to polarization and reactions, whereas

dialogue could bring in positive results."His warning was directed at the many heads of state worried about engaging with the Taliban and recognizing their takeover of Afghanistan.

The Taliban say they want international recognition. The group challenged the credentials of Afghanistan's former UN ambassador and are asking to speak at the UN General Assembly's high-level meeting of world leaders. They say it is the responsibility of the United Nations to recognise their government and for other coun-

tries to have diplomatic relations with them.

Senior State Department officials said they were aware of the Taliban's request as the US is a member of the UN credentials committee, but they would not predict how that panel might rule.

However, one of the officials said the committee "would take some time to deliberate," suggesting that the Taliban's envoy would not be able to speak at the General Assembly at this session, at least during the high-level leaders' week. **AP**

7 female Af lawmakers hosted in Greece

Athens: Seven female lawmakers from Afghanistan have arrived in Greece as part of the wider evacuation effort and are expected to travel to the United States after a short stay, authorities said Wednesday.

Afghanistan's twin-chamber parliament was effectively dissolved after the Taliban

takeover of the country last month. The future of the national assembly and whether women will be allowed to hold any positions of authority remain uncertain.

"The lawmakers and their family members will be hosted in Greece for a short time until procedures for their trans-

fer and settlement in the US are completed," The Greek foreign ministry said.

It said Greece was "committed to hosting a symbolic number of Afghan citizens who advocate the values of freedom of expression and equality."

AP

Nepal recalls its ambassador to India

Kathmandu: Nepal on Wednesday recalled its Ambassador to India over charges of non-cooperation and indulging in anti-government activities.

Ambassador Deep Kumar Upadhyaya had "confronted" with Prime Minister KP

Sharma Oli regarding the cancellation of President Bidya Devi Bhandari's scheduled visit to India, Nepalese Foreign Ministry sources said.

The conversation between Oli and Upadhyaya reportedly took place after the cancellation of the President's trip.

The Nepalese Cabinet had decided to recall Upadhyaya after his brief conversation with the Prime Minister, they said.

Bhandari was scheduled

to visit India from May 9 as the state guest at the invitation of President Pranab Mukherjee. She was also scheduled to participate in a 'Shahi Snan' in Ujjain's Simhashta Kumbh on May 14.

Earlier in the day, government sources in New Delhi said, "We have learnt that Nepali President Bidyadevi Bhandari's official visit to India has been postponed by the Nepali side. We understand that this is on account of the political developments in Nepal."

Upadhyaya, a leader of opposition Nepali Congress who was appointed as Nepal's envoy to India in April last year, has been charged with indulging in anti-government activities. **IANS**

I am not Donald Trump, Biden assures UNGA

United Nations: It wasn't that Joe Biden vacated the time-tested plank of America First outright. No resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue can.

But blame it on the pummelling he and Kamala Harris got on their messy exit from Kabul or the frontal challenge to their authority from Paris, US President Joe Biden wore multilateralism on his sleeve at his debut address to the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

He wasn't the global sherriff that Donald Trump, his predecessor, woke up believing every morning.

Instead, Biden delivered

on Tuesday as if he were an elder sibling.

One who needed every other kid in the global family to chip in if the ship must not sink. Yes, sink irretrievably it could in 10 years, he feared.

If Trump despised Anthony Fauci and the science gang no matter how much sense they made on a spiraling pandemic and he kicked and screamed against a mask over his beautiful face (DT's formulation), Biden was, quite rightly, wide awake to how Covid-19 had changed "the world and America" forever. **IANS**

Will work towards maintaining friendly relations with India and China: Nepal FM Khadka

Kathmandu: Nepal's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Narayan Khadka said on Wednesday that he will work towards maintaining friendly and balanced relations with India and China and forge national consensus with political parties on the matters of foreign relations.

Khadka, 72, was sworn in as the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Wednesday. President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Khadka in a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, Shital Niwas, in the presence of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

Bhandari appointed Khadka the Minister for

major role of the three countries in strengthening peace and security in Afghanistan," Russia's TASS news agency reported, citing Russian government news release on the three envoys' visit to Kabul.

All three countries kept their embassies open in Kabul while the US, India and the EU countries have closed their missions after Taliban's takeover of Kabul.

Besides coordinating closely with Russia on Afghanistan, Pakistan and China, who are playing a lead role after the Taliban seized Kabul, are trying to establish a new grouping of countries sharing borders with Afghanistan.

The new grouping includes China, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and

Uzbekistan, all of them Afghanistan's neighbours. The Foreign Ministers of the group held a virtual meeting on September 7.

Highlighting its significance, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan told BBC on Tuesday that the new group will jointly decide about extending recognition to the Taliban's interim government.

Elaborating on China, Russia, Pakistan Special envoys talks with the Taliban officials in Kabul, Zhao said they discussed the situation especially regarding inclusiveness, human rights, economic and humanitarian matters and the friendly relations between Afghanistan.

They also discussed ties with other countries as well as

the reunification and territorial integrity of the country, he said.

"They had an in-depth and constructive discussion and also expressed support to combating terrorism and drug crimes," he said.

Their offer to extend support comes amid increasing attacks reportedly by ISIS-K on the Taliban officials in Jalalabad in the past few days resulting in a number of casualties.

"Taliban said they highly valued the relations with the three countries and they play a responsible role in consolidating the stability in Afghanistan. The three countries called on more humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan from the international community," Zhao stated.

FBI Director warns Taliban takeover could inspire extremists in US

New Delhi: FBI Director Christopher Wray has warned that the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan could inspire a new wave of extremism in the US, The Hill reported.

Wray testified before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee that extremist groups have never stopped plotting attacks on US soil.

"We are concerned that, with developments in Afghanistan, among other things, that there will be more inspiration to the first bucket,"

Wray told the committee. "So I think we anticipate, unfortunately, growth in both categories as we look ahead over the next couple of years."

This comes as National Counterterrorism Center Director Christine Abizaid also testified to the committee that the terrorism threat to the country is less "acute" than it was two decades ago, the report said.

Abizaid also said that US officials have been monitoring how terror groups al Qaeda and ISIS could rebuild their

forces and conduct an attack on the US.

"In the wake of our withdrawal, the question is, at what point does that regional threat build to a capability and intent that is focused externally and particularly focused on the homeland?" Abizaid said, as per the report.

"I would say from an intelligence community perspective, that's one of our highest priorities, is just to monitor and assess the degree to which those groups actually present an external threat." **IANS**

to it on grounds that the US programme is part of the Indo-Pacific Strategy and its parliamentary ratification would be against Nepal's national interest.

Khadka said the agreement will be carefully reviewed in light of some controversies that surfaced around it and a decision will be taken accordingly.

Khadka also announced plans to transform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs into a more dynamic institution equipped with modern technologies. He said that the appointment of new ambassadors will begin after his return to Nepal from the United Nations General Assembly. **PTI**

'Tiny antibodies from llamas can potentially treat Covid-19'

London: A simple nasal spray of tiny antibodies produced by llamas could provide a new frontline treatment against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, according to a study.

Researchers at the Rosalind Franklin Institute in the UK found that nanobodies -- a smaller, simple form of antibody -- can effectively target the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, shows that short chains of the molecules, which can be produced in large quantities in the laboratory, significantly reduced signs of the COVID-19 disease when administered to infected animal models.

The nanobodies, which bind tightly to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, neutralising it in cell culture, could provide a cheaper and easier to use alternative to human antibodies taken from patients who have recovered from COVID-19, the researchers said.

Human antibodies have been a key treatment for serious COVID-19 cases during the pandemic, but typically need to be administered by infusion through a needle in the hospital, they said.

"Nanobodies have a number of advantages over human antibodies," said Professor Ray Owens, from Rosalind Franklin Institute and lead author of the research.

"They are cheaper to produce and can be delivered directly to the airways through a nebuliser or nasal spray, so can be self-administered at home rather than needing an injection," Owens said. **PTI**

WHO reports global decline in new Covid cases

Geneva: The number of new COVID-19 cases continued to fall last week, with 3.6 million new cases reported globally, down from 4 million new infections the previous week, the World Health Organization said. Last week's drop marked the first substantial decline for more than two months, with falling COVID-19 cases in every world region.

In its latest update on the pandemic released on Tuesday, WHO said there were major decreases in cases in two regions: a 22 per cent fall in the Middle East and a 16 per cent drop in Southeast Asia.

The UN health agency said there were just under 60,000 deaths in the past week, a 7 per cent decline. It said that while Southeast Asia reported a 30 per cent decrease in COVID-

19 deaths, the Western Pacific region reported a 7 per cent increase.

The most coronavirus cases were seen in the U.S., India, Britain, Turkey and the Philippines. WHO said the faster-spreading delta variant has now been seen in 185 countries and is present in every part of the world.

The organisation also revised its list of "variants of interest," or those that it believes have the potential to cause big outbreaks; WHO said it's tracking the lambda and mu variants, which both arose in Latin America but have yet to cause widespread epidemics. WHO has previously said that in all countries where the delta variant is circulating, it has become the predominant virus. **AP**

Infra, health need big push for sustainable growth: Das



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday underlined the need for a big push to infrastructure investment, education and digital economy to achieve sustainable growth and generate jobs in smaller cities. “As we recover (from the pandemic), we must deal with the legacies of the crisis and create conditions for strong, inclusive and sustainable growth. Limiting the damage that the crisis inflicted was just the first step; our endeavour should be to ensure durable and sustainable growth in the post-pandemic future,” Das said.

The governor made these

comments while speaking at the 48th AIMA National Management Convention through video conferencing.

Sustainable growth, Das said, should entail building on macro fundamentals via medium-term investments, sound financial systems and structural reforms. “Towards this objective, a big push to investment in healthcare, education, innovation, physical and digital infrastructure will be required. We should also continue with further reforms in labour and product markets to encourage competition and dynamism, and to benefit from the pandemic induced opportunities,” he said. In addition, the warehouse and supply-chain infrastructure will be critical to bolstering value addition and productivity in the agriculture and horticulture sector, Das said, adding this will create employment opportunities in semi-urban and rural areas and promote inclusive growth.

Need higher investment in healthcare, infrastructure

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday pitched for higher investment in infrastructure and reforms in labour and product markets to achieve sustainable growth post-pandemic.

Addressing AIMA National Management Convention, Das underlined the need for increased investment in healthcare education, digital and physical infrastructure to ensure sustainable growth and generate employment opportunities.

Markets slip ahead of Fed policy decision; HDFC twins top drags

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks ticked lower in choppy trade on Wednesday, weighed by selling in banking and finance counters, as investors turned cautious ahead of the US Fed’s policy decision.

However, global markets were in better shape after China’s Evergrande group reached a deal to pay some bond interest, calming fears of a default.

The 30-share BSE Sensex slipped 77.94 points or 0.13 per cent to close at 58,927.33. The broader NSE Nifty declined 15.35 points or 0.09 per cent to 15,546.65.

HDFC was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 1.46 per cent, followed by Nestle India, Kotak Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, HUL and Axis Bank.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, M&M, HCL Tech, Bajaj Auto, RIL and Tata Steel were among the prominent gainers, climbing up to 3.70 per cent.

Vodafone Idea to approach board for fundraising after Govt issues guidelines on reform measures: CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vodafone Idea will seek board approval afresh to raise funds after the Government issues detailed guidelines on telecom reform measures, and its promoters will get a chance to participate in the fundraising round, a top company official said on Wednesday.

Vodafone Idea MD and CEO Ravinder Takkar told PTI that the company is gearing up to invest in the business and compete in the market.

He said when the actual guidelines are issued by the government, then the company will update its business plans accordingly.

“We expect those to come out in the next few days. On that basis, how much funding is needed, what amounts are needed, what type of funding is needed will emerge.

Zee Entertainment shares zoom 25 pc after merger announcement with Sony Pictures

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited on Wednesday zoomed 25 per cent after announcement of a merger with Sony Pictures.

Leading media firms Zee Entertainment and Sony Pictures on Wednesday said they have received in-principle approval for a merger that will combine both companies’ linear networks, digital assets, production operations and program libraries.

The stock jumped 24.97 per cent to its 52-week high of ₹319.50 on the BSE.

At the NSE, it zoomed 24.99 per cent to its 52-week high of ₹319.60.

Further, Sony Pictures Entertainment, the parent company of Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI), would invest growth capital so that SPNI has a cash balance of approximately USD 1.575 billion, SPNI said in a statement.

According to ZEEL, basis the existing estimated equity

At the NSE, it zoomed 24.99 per cent to its 52-week high of ₹319.60

values of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) and SPNI, the indicative merger ratio would have been 61.25 per cent in favour of ZEEL.

However, with the proposed infusion of growth capital into SPNI, the resultant merger ratio is expected to result in 47.07 per cent of the merged entity to be held by ZEEL shareholders and the balance 52.93 per cent of the merged entity to be held by SPNI shareholders, it said.

It also added that Zee Entertainment Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Punit Goenka, who is facing pressure from two largest shareholders of the company - Invesco and OFI Global China Fund LLC - to quit the post, would continue to lead the merged entity.

Tatas most trusted group amongst the investors: Poll

IANs ■ MUMBAI

Tata Group has emerged as the most trustworthy corporate group in a poll done by Equitymaster.

The poll which gauged the trustworthiness of various corporate groups has, however, found that entities like Hero, Jindal, RPG group and the rest of the corporate groups are trusted only by up to 5 per cent of total number of people interviewed.

The Independent equity research initiative Equitymaster was carried out consisting of 17 of IndiaaYs most well-known corporate groups. A total of 5,274 people, who are the visitors of Equitymaster.com, participated in it.

ADB lowers India’s GDP growth projection for this fiscal to 10 pc on Covid disruptions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered India’s growth projections for the current financial year by a percentage point to 10 per cent, mainly due to disruptions in economic activity caused by the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In April, ADB had projected a growth rate of 11 per cent in 2021-22 for India.

In its update of the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) released on Wednesday, the multilateral lending agency has also trimmed the growth forecast for Asia as a region from 7.3 per cent to 7.1 per cent for 2021, though it retained the growth projections for China at 8.1 per cent. “The growth forecast for India in fiscal year 2021 (ending March 2022) is revised down, as May’s spike in Covid-19 dented the recovery. The outbreak, however, dissipated

faster than anticipated, resulting in several states easing lockdown measures and returning to more normal travel patterns,” said the ADO Update (ADOU) 2021.

The economy is expected to rebound strongly in the remaining three quarters of FY2021, and grow by 10 per cent in the full fiscal year, before moderating to 7.5 per cent in FY2022 (fiscal ending March 2023), ADB said.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also trimmed India’s economic growth projection by a similar margin to 9.5 per cent in June this year.

The forecast, for the 12 months ending March 31, 2022, takes into account disruptions in economic activity caused by the second wave of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic, which adversely impacted services, domestic consumption, and the urban informal sector, ADB said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., that Mr. Rakesh Popli, Mrs. Sushma, Mrs. Shashi Sharma are joint owners, of Property Bearing No. C-29, (area measuring 125 Sq. Yds), Situated at New Krishna Park, Vikas Pur, New Delhi (the said property) & M/s. Rhythm Developers through Mr. Raman Kanwar as developer/ having interest on Second Floor without roof terrace rights, "said floor". All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners and Developer want to sell Second floor, without roof rights of the said property to some one who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd., for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mr. Rakesh Popli, Mrs. Sushma, Mrs. Shashi Sharma & interest of Developer in respect of the said Floor its Sale/Mortgage, & any kind of objections kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, Third Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moh Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph.: 011-4112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., that Mr. Rakesh Popli, Mrs. Sushma, Mrs. Shashi Sharma are joint owners, of Property Bearing No. C-29, (area measuring 125 Sq. Yds), Situated at New Krishna Park, Vikas Pur, New Delhi (the said property) & M/s. Rhythm Developers through Mr. Raman Kanwar as developer/ having interest on Second Floor without roof terrace rights, "said floor". All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners and Developer want to sell Second floor, without roof rights of the said property to some one who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd., for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mr. Rakesh Popli, Mrs. Sushma, Mrs. Shashi Sharma & interest of Developer in respect of the said Floor its Sale/Mortgage, & any kind of objections kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, Third Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moh Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph.: 011-4112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., that Mrs. Reetu Baghia is owner of Second Floor without roof/terrace rights "said Floor", Built on Property Bearing No. C-56-A, (area measuring 125 sq. yds), situated at Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi; vide a Sale Deed dated 06.12.2019, Registration No. 14034, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell Second Floor, without roof rights of the said property to some one who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd., if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mrs. Reetu Baghia in respect of the Second Floor its Sale/Mortgage, and any kind of objections kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, Third Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moh Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph.: 011-4112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public at large that I Ruchika has abandoned and/or cut off my Parental and family relations with Buaa Dass Sharma S/o Pyara Lal Sharma and Sunita Sharma W/o Buaa Dass Sharma. I am now free from all the encumbrances and obligations from the side of Buaa Dass Sharma and his family. Further, I have no obligation or right on the Property of Buaa Dass Sharma or his family member in any manner.

On the other side, I am also not bound to share the part of my property or the information of my property to any of them without the prior consent of me.

Deponent

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy Namely **Shahdab S/o Mohd. Taj R/o H.No. 43911, near Church Jasola Village Sarita Vihar New Delhi**, has been missing/kidnapped from the Sarita Vihar, since 04.03.2019. In this regard, a case **FIR No. 88/19, dated. 04.03.2019 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Sarita Vihar, New Delhi**. The description of the missing boy (At the time of missing) as under.

Age: 18 Month. Complexion: Fair, Height: 2'4", Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue Colour Jacket and Green Colour pant and bare footed. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing boy then please inform Crime Branch, New Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 ACP/AHTU
Fax No. 011-24368639 AHTU/Crime Branch
Sector-16 Rohini, Delhi
DP/116/Crime/2021 PH. 08800519999, 09810272988

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P)
Website : www.noidaauauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

S.No.	JOB NO.	NAME OF WORK	Amount
1.	01/OSD (I) (PG CELL)/2021-22	Call Center Services.	Rs. 38,91,168/-

Which can be uploaded by date **29/09/2021 upto 5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **30/09/2021 at 11.00 AM**.

AGM (Reception)

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

MAHARAJA AGRASEN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(Affiliated to GGSIP University, Delhi & Approved by AICTE)
NBA Accredited programmes B.Tech. (ECE, CSE & MAE) & ISO Certified Institute
Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi-110086

Admission Notice for Management Quota Seats 2021-22
Applications are invited for 10% Management Quota Seats in B. Tech., B. Tech. 3rd Semester (Lateral Entry) & MBA, both in 1st and 2nd Shift. These admissions will be based on the aggregate marks obtained in the qualifying examination. Applicants must have qualified in (JEE) Main Paper 1 Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA) for B.Tech. CET-2021 conducted by GGSIPU for B.Tech. (LE) and CAT 2020/CMAT 2021/CET 2021 for MBA. The candidate should have secured minimum marks as given below:

Sl. No.	Programme	1 st Shift		2 nd Shift	
		No. of Seats	Min. % of marks in 10+2 marks	No. of Seats	Min. % of marks in 10+2 marks
1	B.Tech. (CSE)	18	90	6	90
2	B.Tech. (CST)	6	88	-	-
3	B.Tech.-AI & ML*	6	88	-	-
4	B.Tech. AI & DS*	6	87	-	-
5	B.Tech. (IT)	18	85	-	-
6	B.Tech. (ITE)	6	84	-	-
7	B.Tech (ECE)	18	80	-	-
8	B.Tech (EEE)	18	75	-	-
9	B.Tech. (MAE)	6	70	-	-
10	B.Tech. (ME)	6	70	-	-
11	B.Tech. (LE)	9	60	-	-
12	MBA	18	60	-	-

Note : *Subject to approval of GGSIPU
Admission will be done as per the rules, regulations & guidelines of GGSIPU and Delhi Government and will be provisional subject to the final approval of the competent authority.

The application forms will be available in the institute from September 23 to September 25 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. The last date to submit the completed form at the Institute is October 9, 2021 latest by 4:00 P.M. The candidates may visit our website www.mait.ac.in regularly for updated information.
Director, MAIT

Telangana demands early mandate for animal husbandry projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of Telangana Government led by Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister T Srinivas Yadav on Wednesday met Union Minister Parshottam Rupala and demanded early approval of projects related to the Animal Husbandry Ministry worth ₹698.27 crore. The State Government has proposed dozen-odd projects based on the new central Government guidelines issued for the 2021-22 financial year, Yadav said in a presentation

made to the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy.

The Telangana Government has submitted projects worth ₹ 698.27 crore under different centrally-sponsored schemes. Out of this, ₹ 397.83 is central share, ₹234.08 crore is State share and the balance ₹65.24 crore is the share of the beneficiaries, according to a representation made to the Union Ministry.

A ₹352-core project has been proposed for setting up of mobile veterinary clinics in the state under a scheme on

Assistance to State for Control of Animal Disease (ASCAD), while about six projects with an outlay of ₹58.71 crore have been proposed under the National Livestock Mission (NLM), it added.

“Telangana is having abundant livestock resources and is one of the most advanced states in animal husbandry activities. About 60 lakh families are dependent on livestock rearing directly and indirectly in the state.

The livestock sector contributes 9.9 per cent to the state GDP, the presentation said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. **Guddo Devi** W/o Mr. Bhrampal is the owner of the Plot No. 101, area measuring 100 Sq. Yards, out of Kharsa No.20, Situated at Village Hajipur, urf Khudabensi, in the abadi of Rampark Extn, Pargana Loni, Tehsil and Distt Ghaziabad (U.P.); vide Regd. General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sell & WILL dated 15.06.1999 and same to be financed by **Unmeed Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd.** That, name of the applicant/borrower Mrs. **Guddo Devi** and name of the co-applicant/borrower Mr. **Bhrampal** is mismatched in KYC documents. This public notice has been given to general public in confirmation that Mrs. **Guddo Devi** and Mrs. **Guddo Devi** are names of one of the same person and Mr. **Bhrampal** and Mr. **Bhrampal** are names of one of the same person. If any Person having any type of objection, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below within a week, about his objections.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moh, Opp. Uday Park, South Extn.II, New Delhi-110049
Contact # 011 - 40046316

The Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
UdyogBhawan, TilakMarg,C-Scheme,Jaipur-302005
website: industries.rajasthan.gov.in/rajsico
Phone: 0141-2227079 Fax: 0141-2227257
CIN:U91110RJ1961SGC001118

E-tender BID Invitation Notice
SUPPLY OF POLYTHENE BAGS, BARBED WIRE AND STEEL FURNITURE ITEM RS12122GLOB000002,RS12122GLOB00003,RS12122GLOB000004

RSIC is inviting online competitive BIDS from SSI Units who are registered from Industries Department, Government of Rajasthan for supply of Polythene **Bags, Barbed Wire and Steel Furniture Item** to the Government of Rajasthan Departments, PSUs, etc. rate contract for the period of one year. The Tender/Bid shall only be submitted through online tendering system of **eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Last date of submission of online bids:-

For **SUPPLY OF POLYTHENE BAGS, BARBED WIRE, STEEL FURNITURE ITEM 12-10-2021 till 1 PM**.

For further details visit our website: industries.rajasthan.gov.in/rajsico or sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or contact:Marketing section on 9414787434, 7876595177 & 9511461323
Raj.Samwadi/C/216438

Managing Director

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2358, V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001, Telephone.: 0135-2763672-76, Fax: 0135-2760289, Website : www.uktdenders.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE (NIT)

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd., Dehradun invites e-tender for purchase of following items as detailed below :-

Sl. No.	Tender Specification No.	Name of Item	Tender Quantity (in Nos.)	Estimate Cost (₹)	Average Yearly Turn Over of Preceding Three Financial Year (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of Tender Document Including GST (₹)	Date & Time of Prebid Conference in Online mode	Last Date & Time of request for Tender and Submission of tender in Online & Offline mode	Date of Opening of Part of tender in Online & Offline mode
1.	CCP-II/25/ 2021-22	11 kV Pfler Resistant Metering Cubicle	352	126.269 LAKH	1.900 CRORE	2.530 LAKH	11 800	28.09.21 at 12:00 Hrs.	04.10.21 upto 17:00 Hrs.	05.10.21 at 15:45 Hrs.
2.	CCP-II/26/ 2021-22	33 kV Pfler Resistant Metering Cubicle	50	50.551 LAKH	1.500 CRORE	1.013 LAKH	5 900	04.10.21 upto 17:00 Hrs.	04.10.21 upto 17:00 Hrs.	05.10.21 at 16:00 Hrs.

For further details, please visit our website www.uktdenders.gov.in
No.: 372/EE(CM)/UPL/A-2 Dated : 21.09.2021
Superintending Engineer Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" Use L.E.D. Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912)
Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org (For information on Electricity theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 186 4165 / Fax No. 0135-2760911)

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER- II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- II, DELHI
4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001
R.C.No. 406/2015 E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE Dated: 15.09.2021

ICICI BANK VS. MR. HARISH KUMAR GOSWAMI
“ORDER”

As per my order dated **15.09.2021** the under mentioned properties will be sold by Public e-auction sale on **12.11.2021** in the said Recovery Certificate:-

The auction sale will be “online e-auction” through **website:-www.bankeauctions.com**
Date and Time of Auction: 12.11.2021 between 03:00 PM and 04:00 P.M. (With extensions of 5 minutes duration after 04:00 P.M., if required).

S.No.	Property Description	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)
1.	House No.1007, Kharsa No.204, NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni Ghaziabad- 200001.	Rs. 9,50,000/-	Rs. 95,000/-

Terms & Conditions

- The auction sale will be “online through” e-auction through website portal: **www.bankeauctions.com**.
- The EMD shall be paid either through Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of the “Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi-A/c R.C. No. 406/2015”. The said Demand Draft/Pay Order qua EMD, alongwith self-attested copy of identity (voter I-card/driving license/passport), which should contain the address for future communication, and self-attested copy of PAN card, and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company also, must reach the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi latest by 10.11.2021 before 4:00 P.M. The EMD or original proof of EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
- The envelope containing EMD, along with details of the sender, i.e. address, e-mail ID and mobile number, etc. should be super-scripted **“RC.No. 406/2015”**.
- The property is being sold on **“as is where is basis”** and **“as is what is basis”**.
- The bidders are advised to go through the portal **www.bankeauctions.com** for detailed terms and conditions for e-auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings and/or contact **Sh. Mohit Chadhaa, Zonal Debt Manager, ICICI Bank Ltd. 2nd Floor, Videocom Tower, Jhandewalan Exten. Delhi, Mobile no. 9650957770 Email Id: mohit.chadhaa@icicibank.com**.
- Prospective bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, after deposit of EMD, which is mandatory for bidding in the above e-auction, from **M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog Vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301, Gurugram Haryana-122015, Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan. Mobile no. 9813887931 Email Id: delhi@c1india.com and support@bankeauctions.com**.
- The interested bidders may avail online training on e auction, after deposit of EMD, from **M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog Vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301, Gurugram Haryana 122015, Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile no. 9813887931 Email Id: delhi@c1india.com and support@bankeauctions.com**.
- Only those bidders holding valid user ID & Password and confirmed payment of EMD through demand draft/pay order shall be eligible to participate in on line e auction
- The prospective buyer may inspect the site on **28.10.2021 and 29.10.2021 from 10.30 AM to 04.00 PM**,
- The Interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price by **10.11.2021** in the office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II Delhi, Shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from **03.00 PM TO 04.00 PM, 12.11.2021**. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
- The bidders shall Improve their offer in multiples of **Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)**
- The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi Immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.
- The successful / highest bidder shall have to prepare and deposit Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount, after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. **No. 406/2015** by next bank working day i.e. by **04.00 PM** with this Tribunal, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.
- The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c **R.C. No. 406/2015**, the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day

Earlier, as a measure to enable an additional and exclusive window to senior pensioners, the department allowed the pensioners in the age group of 80 years and above to submit annual life certificate from October 1st onwards, instead of November 1st onwards, every year.

The different modes available to a pensioner for submission of annual life certificate are,

♦Life certificates can be recorded by pension disbursing banks if the pensioner physically appears before the banks.

♦The pensioner does not need to appear if the life certificate form of the pensioner is signed by any designated official. As per the scheme booklet issued by the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO), a pensioner who produces a life certificate in the prescribed form signed by persons specified is exempted from personal appearance.

♦Pensioners can submit a life certificate online from home through Jeevan Pramaan portal. UIDAI has provided the details of all biometric devices which are permissible for capturing biometrics of a person. Pensioners may visit the site www.uidai.gov.in to get information.

♦India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) of the Department of Posts along with the MeitY has successfully launched an initiative for the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare. The initiative focuses on the doorstep service for submis-

ANNOUNCING NEW REGULATIONS

Applicants have to submit annual life certificates in October instead of November for further continuation of pension



sion of digital life certificate through postman. To make this facility available across the country, DoPPW roped in the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to utilise its huge network of postmen and *gramin dak sevaks* in providing doorstep facilities to pensioners for submission of life certificates digitally with smartphones and biometric devices. For leveraging this facility online, a pensioner has to download Postinfo application from the Google Playstore.

♦DoPPW was also instrumental in roping in an alliance comprising 12 public

sector banks, which do doorstep banking for its customers in 100 major cities of the country under the ease of banking reforms. PSB Alliance has introduced the service for the collection of life certificates under the umbrella of doorstep banking. DSB agent shall visit the doorstep of pensioner to render the service.

Compliance with Covid protocols while obtaining life certificates from pensioners

♦Due to the Covid pandemic, all pen-

sion disbursing banks are advised to ensure proper social distancing measures, as well as compliance of Covid appropriate behaviour, while obtaining life certificates from pensioners/family pensioners who physically visit the branches. Officials deployed for this task should be fully vaccinated and should take the highest possible care while attending to pensioners. Banks are also requested to devise their innovative mechanisms to avoid the rush at the branches during the submission of life certificates.

Doorstep banking service, which

also includes the collection of digital life certificate from the pensioners, caters to a very vulnerable group. It may be ensured that all representatives of the banks who visit the homes of the pensioners to obtain life certificates should be fully vaccinated. They should be equipped with a proper mask and sanitiser and should be advised to follow the highest possible care while obtaining the life certificate through bio-metric devices. These biometric devices shall be sanitised by the representative before and after each use. These instructions shall also apply to postmen and *gramin dak sevaks* deployed for the doorstep service for submission of life certificate by India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).

♦As senior pensioners (aged 80 years and above) are scheduled to submit life certificate from October 1st onwards, all pension disbursing banks are also requested to enable video-based customer identification process (V-CIP) methodology, within the permissible RBI guidelines, before October 2021. In the current pandemic, this option will ensure adequate safety and ease of living for senior pensioners.



CELEBRATING WORLD CAR-FREE DAY

The mayor and commissioner ride cycles from their residences to MCC office

Ravi Kant Sharma, mayor of Chandigarh and Anindita Mitra, IAS and commissioner of Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh, rode bicycles from their residences along with other officers and officials of MCC on Wednesday on the occasion of International Car-Free day.

While speaking on the occasion, the mayor expressed that on the day, that is celebrated across the globe encouraging motorists to give up their cars for a day to keep ourselves fit and healthy, we should cycle to work at least once in a week.

The commissioner said that there will be numerous benefits, to the officials and citizens, of going car-free, including reduced air pollution and the promotion of walking and cycling to ensure a safer environment.

POWERGRID features in *Reputation Today*

The Corporate Communications team hits the prestigious list of top teams

Team Corporate Communications of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSU, under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has featured in *Reputation Today's* India's Top 30 Corporate Communications



teams. The team ranks 18th on the list that features only two PSUs from India.

The Corporate Communications Team was felicitated by the chairman managing director of POWERGRID K Sreekant for this achievement in presence of V K Singh, the director personnel, Mohammed Taj Mukarrum, the director of Finance and Abhay Choudhary, the director of Projects.



Oath-taking ceremony of newly appointed members of Consumer Commission held at Food and Supplies department on September 22nd in New Delhi

In the three day Uganda roadshow at Jaipur, being organised by Uganda high commission and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a large number of investors and stakeholders from tourism, filmmaking, tours and travels, hotelier and other professionals gathered. They shared detailed deliberations on mutual cooperation in tourism and filmmaking. They formed new partnerships.

Lalit K Panwar, the former tourism secretary of Government of India, speaking as the guest of honour in the roadshow, complimented Uganda High Commission and PHD

New approaches to touristy

Uganda roadshow attracts investors in filmmaking and tourism sectors

Chamber Of Commerce and Industry for organising such initiatives. It would go a long way in promoting tourism between the two countries. Panwar called upon the stakeholders to redefine, relaunch, repurposed ecology, which is sustainable and socially inclusive of tourism in the post Covid era. He called upon the author-

ities to organise family trips between Uganda and India to carry forward the agenda.

Nnam Alfred, the head of Public Diplomacy department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Eddy Kirya, board member and director of Marketing of Uganda Tourism Board, through their virtual participation,

gave detailed presentations on the opportunities and USPs for filmmaking and tourism sector in Uganda and robust policy framework for the benefit of interested investors. The officials reassured the investors that Uganda is a safe place for making investment and government would welcome investors from India with their full support. It was informed that a comprehensive film policy would be announced very soon.

During the roadshow, artists from Uganda showcased numerous performances depicting the rich cultural heritage of Uganda.

New app for bankers

LIC launches a mobile application, PRAGATI, to assist development officers



LIC launches a new mobile app PRAGATI (Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator) for the benefit of development officers. This feature was launched at the hands of LIC chairperson M R Kumar in the presence of managing directors, Mukesh Gupta, Raj Kumar, Siddhartha Mohanty, Mini Ipe and other senior officials of the corporation.

Pragati is a comprehensive mobile application that gives various information which is updated in near real-time about the performance of their agency force in the critical areas of business performance like premium collection, agency activation, prospective MDRT/centurion agents and so on. Apart from monitoring their team on activities, such as usage of agents mobile app and NACH validations, there is also a calculator to measure their cost ratio.

In these days of digital explosion, gathering information is crucial for any officials to effectively discharge their duties. The scenario becomes more important when it is related to the marketing verticals of any organisation where real-time data and

information is necessary for decision making and preparing market enhancement strategies.

This mobile app gives various information which is updated about the performance of their agency force in critical areas of business performance like Premium collection, agency activation, prospective MDRT / centurion agents and so forth. Apart from monitoring their team on activities such as usage of agents mobile app and NACH validations, there is also a calculator to measure their cost ratio.

In these days of digital

explosion, gathering information is crucial for any officials to effectively carry out their duties. The scenario becomes more important when it is related to the marketing verticals of any organisation. The information is necessary for decision making and preparing market enhancement strategies.

LIC has been taking a lot of customer-centric and digital initiatives for ease of operations for its customers and field force.

Recently LIC had launched the ANANDA Mobile App which is a digital paperless solution that

received an overwhelming response from its agents.

LIC has also come out with an artificial intelligence technology-based app Jeevan Saakshaya which enables our annuitants and retired employees to submit life certificates from the comfort of their homes. The chatbot 'LIC Mitra' is available in English, Hindi and Marathi. Our customer portal has over 1.8 crores registered policyholders with over 1.5 lakh customer's login in every day for availing various services.



Review meeting held

In their 132nd meeting, OSCC plans for guarding old supplies for the nation's oil security concerns

The 132nd meeting of the Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) was held at New Delhi on September 15, under the chairmanship of, the director general of the Indian Coast Guard, K Natarajan. Tarun Kapoor, the secretary of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) was the chief guest. Amarnath, additional secretary of MoP&NG, Subhash Kumar, the CMD of ONGC, members of OSCC and senior officers of armed forces were present in the meeting.

The energy demand will increase multifold and therefore, guarding oil supplies is critical for the nation's energy security. The OSCC collectively plays an important role in addressing India's offshore oil security concerns. Coordination of multiple agencies towards a common goal of securing our offshore oil facilities is the key and Indian Coast Guard, with a mandate of offshore security, has a leading responsibility towards this.

The sea lanes of communication astride India are some of the busiest in world and pass in proximity of major offshore development area, thereby compounding the security and safety vulnerabilities. Recent incident of LPG carrier Gas Yodha accident towards ODA due to machinery breakdown in July this year, wherein collective efforts from stakeholders to tow it away, and prevent any major mishap underlines the importance.

The OSCC was constituted, in 1978, to ensure smooth and effective functioning of offshore security arrangements. It is the apex body for reviewing and evaluating offshore security in India. The Committee comprises of members drawn from the Indian Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, IB, State Police, DG Shipping and ONGC to examine issues related to the safety and security of offshore assets.

SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur announced the winners of the SRM Tamil Peraayam awards 2021 (Thamizh Academy awards) at the press meet held at the Press Club in Chennai. The winners were announced by founder chancellor of SRM Group of Institution, Dr T R Paarivendhar, the SRMIST vice chancellor Dr C Muthamizhchelvan, and Tamil Peraayam head Karu Nagarajan.

Speaking at the press meet, Dr Paarivendhar said, "Every year, we allocate about ₹20 lakhs towards this Thamizh Academy awards. We call for nominations and the section process is done in three stages."

"This is the 10th year we are giving out this award. We have had over 350 entries this year. The purpose of this award is to encourage many more to promote the language all over the world," he added.

The winners were awarded for their best contribution towards Tamil language, literature, and culture for 2021. The awardees and prize money are as follows:

The Pudhumaippithan Padaipillakkia virudhu (short story, novel, drama) of ₹ one lakh was awarded to Kengapuram A Venila and Sruthi from Muthunadu. The Bharathiya Kavithai virudhu of ₹ one lakh

Preserving culture

SRM announces Tamil Peraayam awards 2021



was proffered to Kurunjippookal Kadavoor Manimaran, and Aazha Valliappa Kuzhanthai Ilakkia virudhu of ₹ one lakh was given to Malayar Manipadalgal book *Vettriselvan*; G U Pope Translation award (translation from Tamil) of ₹ one lakh was given to Dr Palani Arangasami. Pai Na Appuswamy Aaruvial Tamil virudhu/APJ Abdul Kalam Technology award (science /technology in Tamil) of ₹ one lakh was won by V Dilli Babu, and Muthuthandavar Thamizhisai virudhu (book on sculpture/ Tamil music) of ₹ one lakh was given to TKS Kalaivanan. The Parithimar Kalaingnar Thamizh Aivaringar virudhu (research book on Tamil) of ₹ one

lakh was awarded C Mahendran, the Muthamizh Arignar Kalaingnar Social Justice award of ₹ one lakh was proffered to C Mageshwaran. Sudesamithiran Thamizh Idhazh Virudhu (Tamil arts, literature and cultural journal) of ₹ 50,000 was awarded to M Poongundran and Tholkappiyar Thamizh Sangam virudhu (₹ 50,000) was won by Manimegalai Mandram from Rajapalayam, the Arunachalakkavirayar virudhu (Tamil music / folklore troupe) of ₹ 50,000 was awarded to Thirupvanam Athmanathan and the Paarivendhar Painthamizh virudhu (lifetime achievement award) of ₹ five lakh was proffered to Dr P Valanarasu.

Engineer's day celebrations

RITES CMD honoured with Eminent Engineer award

V G Suresh Kumar, the director of Projects, chairman and managing director of RITES Ltd, was conferred the prestigious Eminent Engineer award by the Institution of Engineers, India, for his outstanding contribution towards the advancement and application of the practice of engineering in the country. The award was presented on the occasion of Engineer's day.

On the occasion, Kumar said, "I accept this award with humility and it is special for me. Thank you for recognising my endeavours towards facilitating the creation of infrastructure in India and abroad."

The Institution of Engineers (India), established



in 1920, is the largest multi-disciplinary professional body of engineers and aims at promoting the pursuit of excellence in the field of engineering and technology.

Tweets to the rescue

GAIL social media platforms garner over one million followers

GAIL (India) Limited's digital initiatives to spread awareness about natural gas and other clean energy sources have reached a major milestone, with the company's social media platforms garnering over one million followers.

GAIL is present across social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Youtube and Instagram through which information about various GAIL projects of national importance, innovations, new technologies, benefits of natural gas, renewables, bio gas, hydrogen, and so on, are shared with followers regularly.

The natural gas corporation also uses social media for its award winning initiative 'Hawa Badlo' which spreads awareness about the harmful effects of air pollution and ways to

fight the menace.

To connect with its followers, GAIL has carried out various digital initiatives like #StrongerTogether to fight back the pandemic together for a better future, #EnergisingLowCarbonFuel which talks about the use and adoption of clean energy options toward decreasing carbon footprints, #SpreadingEnergyofHappiness which showcased GAIL's efforts towards making a difference with cleaner and efficient natural gas, et al.

The social media platforms are also used for employee engagement initiatives such as #HumKadam, #HainTaiyarHum & #RukJaanaNahin which showcased the resilience of GAILians during the tough Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), a premier fertiliser producing farmers' Cooperative Society has earned a pre-tax profit of ₹513.13 crore during the financial year 2020-21.

The annual accounts of the society have been approved by the members in its 41st Annual General Body meeting held on September 16, which was presided over by Dr Chandra Pal Singh, chairman of KRIBHCO. It was attended by the directors of KRIBHCO and delegates of member cooperatives from different parts of the country at NCUI auditorium in New Delhi. The AGM was organised in hybrid mode through virtual connection where 502 delegates attended it from 45 different locations across various states.

KRIBHCO's urea production during the year 2020-21 was 23.23 lakh MT and ammonia production was 14.02 lakh MT with

AGM held in hybrid mode

KRIBHCO earned a pre-tax profit of ₹513.13 crore during financial year



105.87 per cent and 112.43 per cent of capacity utilisation respectively. The society's product basket consists of neem coated urea, bio-fertilisers, compost, certified seeds, BT cotton seeds, hybrid seeds, SSP, zinc sulphate, imported DAP, MOP and NPS KRIBHCO which is sold highly.

KRIBHCO Fertilisers Ltd (KFL) a wholly-owned subsidiary



of KRIBHCO has produced 10.74 lakh MT of urea and 6.46 lakh MT ammonia with capacity utilisation of 124.26 per cent and 128.83 per cent respectively.

Rajan Chowdhry, the managing director of KRIBHCO, expressed his solidarity with all the people who lost their loved ones due to the pandemic. He informed that despite the chal-

lenges, the society adapted and performed excellently and achieved the highest sales of fertilisers. He also informed that the subsidiary company of the society KFL has performed well and surpassed its previous specific energy consumption record. It has set a new record of achieving the lowest ever specific energy consumptions for ammonia and urea. The society had received many awards in recognition of its excellent performance in various fields of operations.

KRIBHCO is committed to increasing farmers' income, through the reduction in the cost of cultivation with judicious use of fertilisers based on free soil testing and farmers education. By promoting integrated agriculture, KRIBHCO also facilitates the formation of the Farmers Producers Organisation (FPO) through its Gramin Vikas Trust.



Covid scare at IPL: SRH's Natarajan tests +ve

VIJAY SHANKAR ALSO IN ISOLATION

PTI ■ DUBAI

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) pacer T Natarajan tested positive for Covid-19 but the team's IPL match against Delhi Capitals on Wednesday went ahead as scheduled after the remaining contingent was found to be negative.

Left-arm pacer Natarajan, who is coming back from a knee surgery, has been isolated along with six

close contacts which also include out of favour India all-rounder Vijay Shankar.

"Sunrisers Hyderabad player T Natarajan tested positive for Covid-19 at a scheduled RT-PCR test. The player has isolated himself from the rest of the squad. He is currently asymptomatic," a BCCI release stated.

"The rest of the contingent including the close contacts underwent RT-PCR tests at 5AM local time this morning and the test reports are negative.

"As a result, tonight's game between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals will go ahead at the Dubai

International Stadium, Dubai," it further stated.

The close contacts identified by the medical team also include Vijay Kumar (Team Manager), Shyam Sundar J (Physiotherapist), Anjana Vannan (Doctor), Tushar Khedkar (Logistics Manager), and Periyasamy Ganesan (Net Bowler).

As per the IPL's Standard Operating Procedure, Natarajan will now have to isolate for 10 days and test negative twice before being allowed back into the bubble.

A senior BCCI official tracking IPL developments, said that Sunrisers Hyderabad could have done better in



Delhi Capitals officials with flag during match 33 of the Vivo Indian Premier League between Delhi Capital and Sunrisers Hyderabad

BCCI

terms of arranging their travel plans.

"It is a bit weird that Natarajan tested positive on the 11th day of his arrival

from India. He has tested negative thrice as per protocols during the first five days. During the six-day quarantine, there was always the

risk of one such case," he said on conditions of anonymity.

"That effectively means IPL's Covid protocol policy remains questionable. I don't think IPL's operations team should have allowed SRH to arrive that late. In case you are arriving late, then it should have been 14-day hard quarantine," he added.

The development is a major blow to SRH, who could not avail his services in the first leg due to injury.

The 30-year-old Natarajan has 20 IPL wickets from 24 matches that he has played.

The glitzy league resumed here on Sunday after it had to be halted in May due to multiple Covid cases in its bio-bubble when the event was being staged in India.

Even at that time, SRH was affected when senior wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha tested positive.

The league was suspended once his report came out, adding to the three cases that had been detected before that.

A league source told PTI that the organisers are no longer using a mobile app to track close contacts, which was a norm during the last edition in the UAE, and are relying on the afflicted person's inputs to monitor the spread.

"We don't know but that contact tracing app was a very good way to track bubble breaches, if any. I think this is a cost-cutting measure by the BCCI," the source said.

Dominant DC demolish SRH



Shreyas Iyer of Delhi Capitals during match 33 of the Vivo Indian Premier League between Delhi Capital and Sunrisers Hyderabad

BCCI

Dubai: Delhi Capitals rode on a brilliant fast bowling performance from their South African duo Anrich Nortje and Kagiso Rabada to pulverise wooden spoons Sunrisers Hyderabad by eight wickets as they took a giant leap towards Indian Premier League play-offs on Wednesday.

Capitals produced top-notch performance in their first match of the second phase of this year's IPL to eke out the easy win in 17.5 overs in their pursuit of a modest 135-run target.

It was only possible after fast furious Nortje bowled at 150 clicks to finish with 2 for 12 and was ably supported Rabada (3/37) and Axar Patel (2/21) in a brilliant bowling effort.

Last edition's runners-up are now well and truly in contention for clinching a play-off

berth with 14 points from nine games while SRH with two points are all but out of the competition.

DC started their chase on an aggressive note with Shikhar Dhawan and young Prithvi Shaw (11 off 8) adding 20 runs in 17 balls before the latter was caught by Kane Williamson off the bowling of Khaleel Ahmed as the batsman went for an extravagant shot over mid-wicket.

Orange Cap Dhawan was unperturbed as he continued his attacking batting and slog swept Rashid Khan over deep midwicket for a maximum in the Afghan spinner's first over.

While SRH batsmen struggled, Dhawan made batting look easy on the wicket as he then pulled a Jason Holder delivery on to the square leg fence.

Swing bowler Sandeep

Sharma was then taken to task by Dhawan as he hit the medium pacer for back-to-back boundaries in the 10th over take DC to 69 for one.

But Dhawan paid the price for being too aggressive when he was holed out by Abdul Samad off the bowling of Rashid as the left-hander went for a slog sweep over deep square leg in search of a six.

Dhawan's runs came off 37 balls and was laced with six boundaries and one hit over the fence.

Shreyas Iyer (47 not out off 41), who played the second fiddle when Dhawan was around, then took the onus on himself and upped the ante, hitting Sandeep Sharma for two consecutive fours in the 14th over.

Earlier, SRH put up a dismal batting performance to manage a meagre 134 for nine.

Nortje and Rabada were

TEAM	PLD	PB	NET RR	PTS
1	DC	9	+0.613	14
2	CSK	8	+1.223	13
3	RCB	6	-0.706	10
4	MI	8	-0.071	8
5	RR	6	-0.154	8
6	KKR	8	+0.119	6
7	PBKS	9	-0.345	6
8	SRH	8	-0.689	2

terrific with the ball as they extracted extra bounce and pace from the relatively low and slow wicket to dismantle SRH top-order.

The script didn't turn out as SRH wanted after opting to bat as they lost David Warner (0) in the third ball of the innings without any runs on the board.

PTI

MI eye improved batting effort against rejuvenated KKR

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Defending champions Mumbai Indians would look for inspiration from skipper Rohit Sharma, who is set to return to action, when they take on a rejuvenated Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League match here on Thursday. Mumbai were without the services of Rohit and star all-rounder Hardik Pandya in their 20-run defeat to Chennai Super Kings on Sunday as both were rested as a precautionary measure due to having niggles.

However, head coach Mahela Jayawardene has said Rohit should be fit and available for selection for the match against KKR. KKR, on the other hand, have registered a dominating nine-wicket win over Royal

Challengers Bangalore in their opening game of the second leg of the league. Mumbai, who are currently placed fourth in the table with eight points, began their second leg campaign in a typical slow manner but with only half the tournament left to play, the defending champions need to win to stay in the top half of the league table.

Rohit will be expected to continue in the same vein and help his side make amends of the inept batting performance against CSK. Apart from Saurabh Tewary, none of the other batsmen were able to capitalize on their starts against CSK, failing to chase down 156.

Shubman Gill and debutant Venkatesh Iyer chased down the 93-run target with 10 overs to spare.

Match: 34	IPL 2021	Sept 23
7:30 pm		
Mumbai Indians		
VS		
Kolkata Knight Riders		
Zayed Cricket Stadium, Abu Dhabi		
Mumbai Indians		
Total IPL matches played: 211		
Won: 124	Lost: 87	
Highest total: 223/6		
Kolkata Knight Riders		
Total IPL matches played: 200		
Won: 102	Lost: 98	
Highest total: 245/6		
Head-to-Head in IPL		
Matches played: 28		
MI	KKR	
Won: 22	Won: 6	
Highest total: 210/6	Highest total: 232/2	
KDK SportsGraphics		



WI, Pak cricket boards to hold security talks for Dec tour

IANIS ■ TRINIDAD

Cricket West Indies (CWI) chief executive officer (CEO) Johnny Grave said on Wednesday that he will be speaking with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) later this week about security when West Indies will tour Pakistan in December.

Grave's words come after New Zealand abandoned their white-ball tour of Pakistan just before the start of first ODI in Rawalpindi last Friday. On Monday, England decided to withdraw from men's and women's white-ball tours to the country in October due to security and bio-bubble reasons.

"I had a call with Wasim Khan, the Pakistan CEO, (on Tuesday) morning, to find out

everything that had happened during the past week, on the back of New Zealand abandoning their tour and England's decision not to go there, and to suggest that we have another call later this week with our operational teams to discuss our women's and men's tours that are scheduled for later this year," Grave was quoted as saying by Trinidad and Tobago Newsday.

"We'll speak to our Independent Security Consultants, ESI, who we used back in 2018 when we went to Pakistan. We've had an initial meeting with WIPA (West Indies Players Association) too about it, and we're going to follow the same process, that we have done in the past," Grave added.

Rajasthan Royals captain Samson fined ₹12 lakh for slower over rate

IANIS ■ DUBAI

Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson has been fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 match against Punjab Kings at the Dubai International Stadium on Tuesday (September 21). But, as it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences, Samson was fined Rs 12 lakh. Samson's team, helped by pace bowler Kartik Tyagi's brilliant last over overpowered Arshdeep Singh's maiden five-wicket haul for Punjab Kings as the Rajasthan franchise pulled off an absolute heist and sealed a two-run victory from the jaws of defeat here.

RR held their nerve till the end despite Mayank Agarwal's 67 and cameos from PBKS captain KL Rahul, Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran and went on to seal victory.

In the chase, Rahul rode his luck as he got as many as three reprieves and went on to score 49 while Agarwal slammed 67 off 43 balls. Rahul also became the second fastest to score 3000 IPL runs on Tuesday.

However, Tyagi's last-over heroics guided Rajasthan Royals to a nail-biting victory. Punjab needed four runs in the last over but Tyagi conceded just one run and took two wickets to guide his team home.

Former West Indies cricketer Samuels charged under ICC Anti-Corruption Code

IANIS ■ DUBAI

Former West Indies cricketer Marlon Samuels has been charged under the International Cricket Council's (ICC) anti-corruption code, the world governing body said in a statement on Wednesday.

Samuels has been charged by the ICC on behalf of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) for breaching four codes of their Anti-Corruption code for Participants of the T10 League (the 'Code').

"Samuels has been charged under the breach of Article 2.4.2, which says about failing to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official, the receipt of any gift, payment, hospitality or other benefit that was made or given in circumstances that could bring the Participant or the sport of cricket into disrepute."

"He has also been charged under breach of Article 2.4.3 - failing to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official receipt of hospitality with a value of 750 US Dollar or more, Article 2.4.6? failing to cooperate with the Designated Anti-Corruption Official's investigation and Article 2.4.7? obstructing or delaying the Designated Anti-Corruption Official's investigation by concealing information that may have been relevant to the investigation," the statement read.

The former West Indies cricketer has been given a time period of fourteen days, starting from September 21 to respond to the four charges.

The ICC also said that it will not make any further comment in respect of these charges at this stage.

Samuels represented West Indies from 2000 to 2018, playing 71 Test matches, 207 ODIs and 67 T20Is. He was also the player of the match in the finals of the 2012 and 2016 men's T20 World Cup triumphs of West Indies.

also been charged under breach of Article 2.4.3 - failing to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official receipt of hospitality with a value of 750 US Dollar or more, Article 2.4.6? failing to cooperate with the Designated Anti-Corruption Official's investigation and Article 2.4.7? obstructing or delaying the Designated Anti-Corruption Official's investigation by concealing information that may have been relevant to the investigation," the statement read.

The former West Indies cricketer has been given a time period of fourteen days, starting from September 21 to respond to the four charges.

The ICC also said that it will not make any further comment in respect of these charges at this stage.

Samuels represented West Indies from 2000 to 2018, playing 71 Test matches, 207 ODIs and 67 T20Is. He was also the player of the match in the finals of the 2012 and 2016 men's T20 World Cup triumphs of West Indies.

MCC to use gender-neutral terms like 'batter' instead of 'batsman'

London: The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) announced on Wednesday that the gender-neutral terms 'batter' and 'batters' will replace 'batsman' and 'batsmen' after amending the Laws of Cricket. The changes have been approved by the MCC Committee after initial discussion by the Clubs specialist Laws sub-committee.

"MCC believes that the use of gender-neutral terminology helps reinforce cricket's status as an inclusive game for all. The amendments are a natural evolution from work already undertaken in this area as well as an essential part of MCC's global responsibility to the sport. A number of Governing Bodies and media organisations are already using the term 'batter' in their Playing Conditions and reporting. We expect and encourage others to adopt the updated terminology following today's announcement of the change to the Laws," read the statement from MCC. Women's cricket has enjoyed unprecedented growth at all levels around the world in the same period. England's victory

over India in the 2017 World Cup Final took place in front of a capacity crowd at Lord's. A record international crowd saw Australia defeat India in the T20 World Cup Final in Melbourne three years later and earlier this year, Lord's broke the record for a domestic women's match as 17,116 watched Oval Invincibles defeat Southern Brave.

"At the time of the last redraft in 2017 it was agreed, following consultation with the International Cricket Council (ICC) and key figures within women's cricket, that the terminology would remain as 'batsman' and 'batsmen' within the Laws of the game. The changes announced today reflect the wider usage of the terms 'batter' and 'batters' which has occurred in cricketing circles in the intervening period. The move to 'batter' is a natural progression, aligning with the terms of bowlers and fielders that already sit within the Laws."

"MCC believes in cricket being a game for all and this move recognises the changing landscape of the game in modern times," said Jamie Cox, Assistant Secretary (Cricket and Operations) at MCC. AP



Full vaccination mandatory for I-League players, except U-18

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All the footballers taking part in the I-League starting in December will have to be fully vaccinated except for U-18 players and those who have recently recovered from COVID-19 infection, League CEO Sunando Dhar said on Wednesday.

The I-League 2021-22 is expected to be held under bio-secure environment with strict COVID-19 protocols in Kolkata and its surrounding suburbs. "It will be mandatory for all the players and officials taking part in the I-League and I-League qualifiers to have both doses of COVID-19 vaccination. The only exception will be the players who are under-18 years and those who cannot be vaccinated due to recent recovery from the infection," Dhar told PTI in an interview.

"Last year, double dose vaccination was not mandatory but we have made it mandatory this time. In that sense, it is stricter this time," he added. The U-18 players and those who have not got their jabs due to recent COVID-19 recovery will have to undergo more frequent testing during the tournament than the

vaccinated players. "If the fully vaccinated players are having test for every 5-6 days, they (U-18 players and recently recovered players) will be tested every 3-4 days," he said.

All the players and officials are also required to remain in quarantine for six days in their respective hotels after arrival. They will be tested twice during those six days.

Anybody who tested positive will be isolated in a different floor of the hotel and he will have to have three consecutive negative test results before joining their team-mates. Dhar said it will be more challenging to manage the bio-bubble this time as 13 teams are competing as against 11 last year. The 13 teams and match officials will be put up in a bio-bubble comprising three hotels. Last year, the 11 I-League teams were put up in two hotels in Kolkata.

"We have the experience of last year, we were the first in the country to stage tournaments inside a bio-bubble. So we already have a template to follow."

"But the challenge will be to live up to expectations. Moreover, there are two teams more this time than last year. So, more matches and

Suarez brace lifts Atletico back to top of La Liga

IANIS ■ MADRID

Luis Suarez scored two headers in the last 12 minutes to give Atletico Madrid a 2-1 win away to Getafe and take them momentarily to the top of La Liga. The Uruguayan equalised for his side, who had struggled to create chances against bottom of the table Getafe, with a looping header from Mario Hermoso's 78th-minute cross and then won the game in the first minute of injury time after a looped cross from the right-wing. Although Atletico coach Diego Simeone made several changes to the side that drew at home to Athletic Club Bilbao on Saturday with Luis Suarez, Hector Herrera and Yannick Carrasco back

longer duration of the league. But we are hoping we will pull it off smoothly just like last year."

He also said that only six COVID-19 cases were reported during last year's I-League out of the 12500 tests conducted.

Dhar also made a point that the

in the starting 11, Atletico struggled to trouble Getafe in the first half.

The visitors had more of the ball but their own chance was a double occasion that saw David Soria save well from Suarez before Carrasco's effort from the rebound was deflected over, Xinhua reports.

Getafe took the lead after a rare error from Jan Oblak, who failed to collect a high ball, which was clipped back into the area for Stefan Mitrovic to head against the post, with the ball bouncing into the net off the Atletico keeper. Suarez headed against the bar in the 68th minute and Atletico's task was made easier soon after when Getafe midfielder Carles Cunha was sent off for a bad challenge on Atletico substitute Matheus Cunha.

AIFF's COVID-19 management abilities have been appreciated by other countries also.

"I had gone to Kathmandu for a workshop organised by All Nepal Football Association. I was invited to make a presentation on the bio-bubble management of the AIFF so

that they can learn and apply in their domestic competitions," he said.

The I-League qualifiers will be played in Bangalore starting October 4 among 10 teams from which one will be promoted to the I-League. Out of the 10 teams, seven are new teams.

Deepika-Sindhu play badminton, trigger biopic talk



IANIS ■ MUMBAI

Bollywood star Deepika Padukone has posted a motley of pictures from her badminton session with world champion P.V. Sindhu.

The pictures have left social media users wondering if a biopic is being made on Sindhu. Deepika posted the set of pictures on Instagram. In the images, the two are seen playing an intense game of badminton on an indoor court.

"Just a regular day in my life...Burning calories with @pvsind-

hu1!" the actress, who is the daughter of former badminton player Prakash Padukone, captioned the image.

The picture currently has 1.9 million likes. Deepika's husband and actor Ranveer Singh dropped a comment on the photograph.

He wrote: "MAJOR FOMO ATTACK!"

Many social media users reacted to the picture on the comment section.

One wrote: "Lgta h biopic bnne vli h (seems like a biopic is being made)."

"That means i was right, we are getting the PV SINDHU BIOPIC," wrote another.

One heaped praises on Deepika and Sindhu.

The user said: "Two idols in one pic." A user questioned: "Is there a biopic on the wayyy?"

One added: "R u began prep for sindhu's biopic!"