

## OPINION 6

S LANKA LOOKS AT EMPTY  
PLATES AS HUNGER GNAWS

## WORLD 8

TURKEY COULD BUY MORE RUSSIAN  
MISSILES DESPITE US WARNINGS

## SPORT 12

HAMILTON CREATES F1 HISTORY  
WITH 100TH GRAND PRIX VICTORY

NEW DELHI, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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# Yogi balances caste equation in Cabinet

Ahead of polls  
CM inducts 3  
OBCs, 2 Dalits, 1  
ST & 1 Brahmin

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

In a move to balance the caste equation in his Ministry ahead of next year's Assembly election, Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expanded his Cabinet on Sunday by inducting seven new faces, which included three OBCs, two Dalits, one ST and one Brahmin.

Jitin Prasada (Brahmin), Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar (Kurmi), Paltu Ram (Dalit), Sangita Balwant Bind (OBC), Sanjeev Kumar (ST), Dinesh Khatik (SC) and Dharmvir Prajapati (OBC) were inducted into the Cabinet at a simple ceremony.

Jitin took oath as Cabinet Minister while the others were sworn-in as Minister of State (MoS). The oath was administered by Governor Anandiben Patel at a function in the Gandhi auditorium in the Raj Bhavan.

There were 53 Ministers in



Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with newly sworn-in State Ministers during the expansion of the Cabinet ahead of the UP Assembly elections in Lucknow on Sunday

PTI

the UP Cabinet earlier and seven more were inducted on Sunday as per the constitutional limit, out of which there are now 24 Cabinet Ministers including the Chief Minister.

The Cabinet was expanded for the first time on August 22, 2019 and several new faces were included then, while some

were dropped. There were 56 members in the Cabinet at that time.

Three Ministers died due to Covid-19, which included the Minister of State Vijay Kumar Kashyap, who died recently, while Minister Chetan Chauhan and Minister Kamal Rani Varun died in the first

wave of the Corona pandemic.

Brahmin leader Prasada had been inducted into the BJP earlier this year amid its internal worries about the thin representation of the community in the party. He was made a Cabinet Minister in the Yogi Government.

*Continued on Page 2*

# A younger Cabinet takes shape in Punjab

**Channi tries to  
infuse youth,  
caste balance  
in State Cong**

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The old order came to an end in the Punjab Congress with the induction of young and new faces into the Cabinet in an apparent attempt to infuse enthusiasm and youth in the party, just about three months before elections, while ensuring a social, caste and regional balance.

Six days after he took over the party reins amid a changed political situation, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Sunday introduced his 15-member Council of Ministers, inducting seven new faces while retaining eight from the previous Cabinet. However, the re-entry of Rana Gurjit Singh, who stepped down following his alleged involvement in a mining scam less a year after becoming the Minister in 2018, has attracted a lot of criticism, not only from rivals but from within the party also.

The new Cabinet, formed with the approval of the party high command, especially Rahul Gandhi, has three below-



Punjab's Governor Banwarilal Purohit administers oath to Rana Gurjit Singh during the oath-taking ceremony of Punjab Cabinet Ministers on Sunday

PTI

50 Ministers — indicating the party's effort to bring in a generational shift by giving the youth a chance to perform with just about three months in hand. Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, 43, is the youngest Minister in the Channi Cabinet, while 78-year-old Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa is the oldest.

While constituting the Cabinet, which took about three days of hectic deliberations with the high command and Channi's back-to-back trips to the national Capital, special attention has been paid to strike a balance between all castes, sections, and regions. Besides, an attempt has been made to placate the legislators close to the former Chief

Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, while also paying off for the loyalty to the party.

In all, eight of the 15 Ministers, who took oath of office on Sunday, were retained by Channi, including Brahm Mohindra, Manpreet Singh Badal, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, Aruna Chaudary, Razia Sultana, Bharat Bhushan Ashu, and Vijay Inder Singla. Six are the first timers — Randeep Singh Nabha, Raj Kumar Verka, Sangat Singh Gilzian, Pargat Singh, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, and Gurkirat Singh Kotli; while one Rana Gurjit Singh, who stepped down in 2018, made a re-entry.

*Continued on Page 2*

## CAPSULE

### 2 LET ULTRAS GUNNED DOWN IN ENCOUNTER

**Srinagar:** Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists involved in the murder of BJP leader Waseem Bari and two of his family members last year were killed on Sunday in an encounter with the security forces in Jammu & Kashmir's Bandipora district, police said. **P5**

### INDIA'S MARS PROBE COMPLETES 7 YEARS

**Bengaluru:** India's Mars Orbiter spacecraft has completed seven years in its orbit, well beyond its designed mission life of six months. MOM is the maiden interplanetary mission of ISRO. Launched on November 5, 2013, the probe was successfully inserted into Martian orbit on September 24, 2014 in its first attempt. **P5**

### BLUETOOTH SLIPPERS: 5 TRY TO CHEAT IN REET

**Bikaner:** Five people including three Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET) candidates were arrested before the exam on Sunday as they were found wearing slippers with bluetooth devices, officials said. **P5**

### PROMOTION FOR 3 COPS AFTER ROHINI INCIDENT

**New Delhi:** Names of three Delhi Police personnel, who shot dead two assailants during a dramatic shootout at the Rohini courtroom, will be recommended for out-of-turn promotions, officials said on Sunday. Jailed gangster Jitender Mann alias Gogi was shot inside a Rohini courtroom on Friday by two assailants who were killed in police retaliatory fire.

# 'Don't confuse border mgmt with fixing boundary issues'

Indian envoy  
tells China not  
to shift goalposts

PTI ■ BEIJING

India has told China not to "shift goalposts" and "confuse" managing the border affairs and restoring peace at the frontiers with the larger issue of the resolution of the boundary question, which is dealt with by different designated mechanisms.

After the standoff erupted in eastern Ladakh in May last year, India has consistently maintained that peace and tranquillity in the border areas are essential for the overall development of relations between the two countries.

Besides being neighbours, India and China are also large and emerging economies and "it is not unusual to have differences and problems", Indian envoy to China Vikram Misri said while addressing the 4th High-level Track II Dialogue



on China-India Relations held on September 23.

"The key question is how to deal with them and ensure that outcomes are informed by reasonableness, maturity and respect for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity along our frontiers," Misri said.

Besides Misri, China's Ambassador to India Sun Weidong also participated in the meeting.

Referring to "multi-faceted dialogue" held by the two countries since last year, including several rounds of talks between the top military officials on both sides and the meetings between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi to resolve the military standoff in Eastern Ladakh, Misri said: "These contacts have resulted in significant

progress on the ground."

"Following disengagement in the Galwan Valley in July last year, the two sides have been able to disengage from the North and South Banks of the Pangong Lake in February 2021, and most recently from Gogra in August 2021," he said.

"The conversation between the two sides continues regarding the remaining locations and we hope that disengagement at the remaining friction areas will enable us to reach a point where we can pick up the threads of bilateral cooperation," he said.

"The experience of this multi-faceted dialogue over the last year and a half leads me to believe that we are well-equipped when it comes to resolving pressing issues in the bilateral relationship," he said.

"Our leaders have in the past concurred that we must work out issues peacefully, prevent differences from turning into disputes and, most importantly, preserve peace and tranquillity in our border areas," he said.

*Continued on Page 2*

# PM CHECKS CENTRAL VISTA PROGRESS



**New Delhi:** Back from his three-day hectic visit to the US, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an impromptu tour of the under-construction Central Vista project after he held a meeting on Sunday with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Wearing a helmet, Modi was seen taking a quick check of the ongoing construction.

PNS

# Govt to intensify anti-Naxal ops, choke flow of funds

**Amit Shah holds  
meeting with CMs  
of Naxal-hit States**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A high-level meeting convened by Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Chief Ministers of Naxal-affected States on Sunday decided to intensify the anti-Naxal operations and choke the flow of funds to them.

The three-hour-long meeting with Chief Ministers from six States and top officials of four States also discussed the need to be taken against the frontal organisations of the Maoists, filling up the security vacuum, concerted action by the Enforcement Directorate, the National Investigation Agency and the State police.

The Chief Ministers who attended the meeting were Naveen Patnaik (Odisha), K Chandrashekar Rao



Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrives at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Sunday

PTI

(Telangana), Nitish Kumar (Bihar), Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh), Uddhav Thackeray (Maharashtra) and Hemant Soren (Jharkhand), official sources said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bhupesh Baghel of Chhattisgarh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan did not attend the meeting. Their States were represented by senior officials.

*Continued on Page 2*

# Canada lifts 'pandemic' ban on flights from India

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Canada on Sunday lifted the ban on direct passenger flights from India after a gap of more than five months. Air India and Air Canada will be operating direct flights between the two countries.

At the same time, it has cautioned its own citizens in India to avoid travelling to parts of north-eastern States, especially Assam and Manipur due to the safety and security situation.

Announcing the decision, Transport Canada on Saturday in a tweet said: "Beginning at 00:01 EDT on September 27, direct flights from India can land in Canada with additional public health measures in place." That time translates to 9.30 am IST.

*Continued on Page 2*

# Support for 10-hour Bharat bandh grows

**Protest by farmers  
to mark first anniv  
of three farm laws**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Support has grown for the 10-hour Bharat bandh call given by farmers on Monday to mark the first anniversary of the three controversial farm laws getting presidential assent.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella union of the farmers who are protesting, has appealed to the people of the country to join their nationwide strike. Public transport is likely to be affected in some States.

The Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Telugu



Farmers lie in pits during a protest against farm laws in Ghaziabad

PTI

Desam Party (TDP), the Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party, Trinamool Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Lok Dal, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led Andhra Pradesh Government, MK Stalin led Tamil Nadu Government and P Vijayan Government of Kerala have backed the bandh call.

*Continued on Page 2*

# CJI for 50% quota for women in judiciary

**Shout, demand,  
it's your right,  
CJI Ramana  
tells lawyers**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Backing the demand for reservation for women in the judiciary, Chief Justice NV Ramana on Sunday urged women lawyers to strongly raise their voice for setting aside 50 per cent berths for them and assured them of his "total support".

He said that out of 1.7 million advocates in the country only 15 per cent were women and only two per cent of the elected representatives in the State Bar Councils were women. "I don't want you to cry but with anger, you have to



shout and demand that we need 50 per cent reservation," he said.

Referring to what he called "thousands of years of suppression", he said women are entitled to the reservation.

"I want to say that I strongly recommend and support the demand of a certain percentage of reservation in all

law schools of the country for women, so that they can join the judiciary," he said.

Speaking at a felicitation function organised by Lady Advocates of Supreme Court for the nine newly-appointed judges, including three women judges, CJI Ramana said he has modified Karl Marx's quote "workers of the world unite.

You have nothing to lose but your chains." "I say: Women of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains."

The CJI said, "You all are laughing. Yes, I don't want you to cry but with anger, you have to shout and demand that we need 50 per cent reservation. It's not a small issue but

an issue of thousands of years of suppression. It is high time we have 50 per cent representation of women in the judiciary. You are entitled (to it). It's a matter of right. It is not a matter of charity. It is unfortunate that some things are realised very late."

He said he would be very happy whenever the goal would be realised. "All my sisters and all of you have carved out exceptions for the people and women in society, and for that matter youngsters, whether male or female, are all waiting to see you as role models."

"Your success stories will make them more impulsive and we expect more women will join the profession and we will achieve the goal of 50 per cent shortly. I wholeheartedly support all initiatives taken by you and so long as I am here I will support all of your causes," he said.

*Continued on Page 2*

New York court pauses tax suit to allow Cairn to settle dispute with India

**New Delhi:** A New York court has paused Cairn Energy's pursuit of US assets of Air India for the recovery of USD 1.2 billion arbitral award, so as to allow the British firm to reach a settlement with the Indian Government on the long drawn dispute.

The New York district court delayed the tax suit to November 18, according to court documents reviewed by PTI.

This follows Cairn Energy and Air India jointly asking the court to stay further proceedings in view of the fresh government enacting a fresh law to scrap retrospective taxation in the country.

The new law will result in withdrawal of the Rs 10,247 crore tax demand that the government had sought from Cairn.

Sources with direct knowledge of the matter said the finance ministry is framing rules that will lead to withdrawal of the retrospective tax demand on Cairn and 16 other companies, including Vodafone Group of UK.

These rules require the companies to withdraw all litigations against the government in return for being refunded any money that was collected to force the retrospective tax demand.

A format for the undertaking that the companies will have to furnish committing to withdraw litigations is under finalisation and should be released in coming days, they said. Companies will have to use that format to give an undertaking, post which the money will be refunded.

In all the government has to return about Rs 8,100 crore, of which Rs 7,900 crore is due only to Cairn.

The British company had won an international arbitration award against levy of such taxes and sought to take over Air India assets when the government refused to honour the award and refund USD 1.2 billion-plus interest and penalty.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता

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1	83933	174 / 24.09.2021	सिंगल लिखंड-खरसिया, ग्राम पुरेना	71.93	54000/-
2	83936	175 / 24.09.2021	सिंगल लिखंड-खरसिया, ग्राम नमडेवा एवं झारडीह	85.42	64065/-
3	83937	176 / 24.09.2021	सिंगल लिखंड-खरसिया, ग्राम गामोडीह	40.67	30500/-
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5	83941	178 / 24.09.2021	सिंगल लिखंड-खरसिया, ग्राम गाझपाली	99.53	74600/-
6	83942	179 / 24.09.2021	सिंगल लिखंड-खरसिया, ग्राम नवापारा, सिधुपनपुर	101.49	76100/-
7	83949	180 / 24.09.2021	सिंगल लिखंड-खरसिया, ग्राम नमनसली एवं बेडोझरिया	90.75	68100/-

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R.O. Date : 25/09/2021

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O-765

No. Tender Online RCK – 21 / 21

Letter No.- 2441 e-Procurement NOTICE

Date :- 27.09.2021

1.

Name of the work

: Construction of Charge Office at Aul in the District of Kendrapara for 2021-22..

2.

Class of Contractor

: B & A Class as specified in the column 7 of the Annexure.

3.

Time for Completion

: As specified in the Column-8 of the Annexure.

4.

Detail Projects

: As per Annexure attached

5.

Other Details

:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jaipur	Tender Online RCK - 21 / 21	28.09.21 At 11.00 A.M	18.10.21 At 5.00 P.M	18.10.21 up to 12.00 P.M	21.10.21 At 3.00 P.M	To be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

OIPR-25129/11/0018/2122

Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jaipur

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## Cong asks workers, State chiefs to join Bharat bandh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday asked all its workers, state unit chiefs and heads of frontal organizations to take part in the 'Bharat Bandh' called by farmer unions on September 27 to protest the Centre's three agri laws.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha, the umbrella body of over 40 farm unions spearheading the farmers' agitation, had earlier appealed to the people to join the bandh.

Congress general secretary (organization), K C Venugopal, said the Congress and its workers will extend our full support to the peaceful 'Bharat Bandh' called by farmer unions on Monday.

"We believe in the right of our farmers and we will stand by them in their fight against the black farm laws," he said in a tweet.

"All PCC Presidents, Chiefs of Frontal Organizations are requested to go out in front with our Annadatas in their peaceful Bharat Bandh across the country," Venugopal said.

The Government and farmer unions have held 11 rounds of talks so far, the last being on January 22, to break the deadlock and end the farmers' protest.

Talks have not resumed following widespread violence during a tractor rally by protesting farmers on January 26.

The three laws -- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020 -- were passed by the Parliament in September last year.

Farmer groups have alleged that these laws will end the 'mandi' and the MSP procurement systems and leave the farmers at the mercy of big corporates, even as the government has rejected these apprehensions as misplaced and asserted that these steps will help increase farmers' income.

### CYCLONE 'GULAB'

## Odisha sets 'zero casualty' target in vulnerable districts

**Bhubaneswar:** Hours before cyclone 'Gulab' makes landfall in Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday set a "zero casualty" target in the vulnerable districts of the state, where rainfall activity started in the southern and coastal regions under the influence of the weather system.

The cyclone, the second to hit the state in four months after 'Yaas' wreaked havoc in May, is likely to make landfall between Gopalpur and Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh around mid-night, the India Meteorological Department said.

It lay centered about 125 km southeast of Gopalpur and 160 km east of Kalingapatnam, the Met office said, adding, the system is moving at a speed of 18

Lifeguard alert visitors not to venture out in the sea in view of Cyclone 'Gulab' in Puri on Sunday

kmph in the sea.

"It is likely to move nearly westwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coasts... with maximum sustained wind speed of 75-85 kmph gusting to 95 kmph, around midnight of today. The landfall process will commence from late evening of Sunday," the IMD said, while issuing a 'Red Message' (extreme rain).

## 2 AP fishermen killed in storm, one missing

**Amaravati:** Two fishermen from Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh lost their lives in the cyclonic storm Gulab in Bay of Bengal on Sunday evening while another still remained missing.

Three more fishermen reached the shore safely and called state Fisheries Minister S Appala Raju over phone from Akkupalli village and told him they were safe. Meanwhile, IMD has informed that the cyclone started making landfall and would cross the coast about 25 km north of Kalingapatnam as a cyclonic storm in the next three hours. Six fishermen from Palasa, who were returning to their native village by sea in a new boat they purchased in Odisha two days ago, were caught in the storm.

## 2-day Monsoon festival at Patnitop

**UDHAMPUR:** Directorate of Tourism, Jammu in collaboration with Patnitop Development Authority organised a 2-Day Monsoon Festival here at Padora, Patnitop. The much awaited Monsoon Festival filled with various cultural and fun activities was inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Dr. Raghav Langer along with ADGP Mukesh Singh in presence of Director Tourism, Jammu Vivekanand Rai, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Indu Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Massarat Islam, DIG DKR, Udhay Bhaskar, SSP, Ramban, P.D. Nitya and CEO, Patnitop Development Authority, Sher Singh.

## Canada lifts 'pandemic' ban on flights from India

From Page 1

"Travellers 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," it added.

The passengers will have to "present the test report with a QR code issued by this laboratory to the air operator before boarding," it said. Those who have previously tested positive for Covid-19 can present a positive molecular test report issued by a certified laboratory in India.

The date of collection must be between 14 and 180 days before their scheduled departure to Canada," it said. Airlines will refuse boarding to any traveller who's unable to meet these requirements," it stressed.

Canada has also advised its citizen to avoid travelling to

parts of northeastern States, Jammu and Kashmir and India-Pakistan border areas. "Avoid all travel to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir due to the unpredictable security situation. There is a threat of terrorism, militancy, civil unrest and kidnapping," Canada said in its travel advisory.

It has cautioned to avoid travel to areas within 10 km of the border with Pakistan due to the unpredictable security situation and presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

As per the new traveling norms, passengers who travel from India to Canada via an indirect route still need to provide a pre-departure negative Covid-19 molecular test result from a third country before continuing their journey to Canada.

"The Covid-19 testing for passengers in transit might not be available in all international airports or third countries. If you test positive during transit, you may face local quarantine regulations or be returned to your point of departure," it said.

In April, Canada banned all direct flights to and from India when the second Covid wave hit India. The date of reopening has been postponed many times.

### LOST & FOUND

**I, Aarfa Khatoon D/O. Mr. Abdul Moid Khan** would like to inform the general public that I have lost/misplaced my real sister Asma Khan's Original Share Certificate number 322 issued by Shahjahanabad Group Housing Society Ltd., New Delhi. If anyone finds it, kindly contact me at 9911124540.

## Govt to intensify anti-Naxal...

From Page 1

According to sources, focused investigation and prosecution of cases, action against front organisations, coordination amongst States, capacity building of State intelligence branches and special forces of the States, construction of fortified police stations were other issues discussed at the meeting.

The Union Home Minister reviewed the security situation and ongoing operations against Maoists and development projects being carried out in the Naxalism-affected areas, the sources said.

Shah took stock of the requirements of the States, the strength of forces deployed to tackle the extremists, development works like the construction of roads, bridges, schools, and health centres being carried out in Naxal-hit areas.

Patnaik informed the meeting that the Maoist problem has been reduced to only three dis-

tricts in his State and the meeting discussed what is required to be done to reduce it further.

The development issues which were discussed at the meeting include road connectivity, speeding up the construction of long pending roads, improvement of telecommunication network by upgrading the mobile towers installed in last five years in Naxal-hit areas and expedition of installation of the more mobile towers in poor network zones. The Central Government is also planning to set up Eklavya schools and ensure coverage of post offices in all gram panchayats in Maoist-hit districts. Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Giriraj Singh, Arjun Munda and Nityanada Rai also attended the meeting. Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Arvind Kumar, senior civil and police officers of Central and State Governments were also present.

## A younger Cabinet...

From Page 1

Brahm Mohindra, a prominent Hindu, is the senior-most leader of the Punjab Congress.

Four-time MLA Nabha, popularly known as Kaka, was finally placated by the high command by dropping the name of Punjab Congress' working president Kuljit Singh Nagra at the eleventh hour "without any opposition".

It has been learnt that the Raj Bhawan has to issue an ultimatum to the Punjab Government to share the list of the MLAs to be sworn-in.

Five Ministers — Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi, Balbir Singh Sidhu, Gurpreet Singh Kangar, Sadhu Singh Dharamot, and Sunder Sham Arora — who all supported Captain Amarinder during the political turmoil that led to his dethroning, have been dropped.

The induction of Kotli, grandson of former Chief Minister Beant Singh, was opposed by the Opposition parties — Shiromani Akali Dal and the Aam Aadmi Party. He had faced trial in the 1994 case of abduction and molestation of a French tourist, but was acquitted in 1999.

Besides, seven senior party

leaders from Doaba, including six legislators, have met Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu hours ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, strongly opposing Rana Gurjit's "proposed inclusion". In a letter written to Sidhu, they said: "We all request you to immediately drop Rana Gurjit Singh from the Cabinet expansion and instead include a clean Dalit face in view of the upcoming election."

Other than Channi, the new Cabinet also has Verka from the Scheduled Caste community — apparently to woo the estimated 31 per cent of vote bank in the State. While taking oath, Verka changed the wordings of his "oath" and referred to the Constitution as the one "drafted by BR Ambedkar".

Among the seven new faces, five are Jats, one an OBC, and another a Valmiki. However, Mazhabi Sikh MLAs have been left out of the Cabinet.

Questions were also raised on giving six Ministers from Doaba region, while ignoring Western Malwa region which is the epicentre of active politics having the Badals' and the Aam Aadmi Party's presence.

## 'Don't confuse border mgmt with fixing...

From Page 1

"The recent experience also suggests that at the ground level, when managing a difficult bilateral situation, finding a resolution hinges on mature minds, open channels, and consistency between words and actions. But while these are positive elements we can draw on, we must steer clear of certain obstacles which could block progress," he said.

"The first is to avoid shifting goalposts. For long, the Indian and Chinese sides have adhered to a well-understood distinction between resolving the boundary question and managing border affairs," he said.

"The 1988 understanding between our leaders was precisely for keeping the resolution of the boundary question on a track separate yet parallel to the bilateral relationship, with the maintenance of peace and tranquillity as the prerequisite," he said.

The Special Representatives mechanism, the Agreement on

Political Parameters and Guiding Principles of 2005 and the three-phase framework were all designed to work on the boundary question, "which we agreed was a complex and sensitive issue requiring time to work through," Misri said.

"This is the root cause of the tense situation along the borders. We advocate that we should address the boundary issue through peaceful negotiations and we don't think that the border issue should be linked up to our bilateral ties," he said.

But at the same for managing border affairs on a daily basis, the two countries had evolved a mechanism, "consisting of instruments such as the WMCC (Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs) and a succession of agreements, protocols and CBMs, in order to govern behaviour on the ground and ensure peace and tranquillity."

"A serious violation of peace and tranquillity in the border areas natu-

rally requires us to apply our minds on the basis of established agreements, protocols and mechanisms to resolve it. As we do so, any attempt to confuse border affairs with the Boundary Question is a disservice to the work of those involved in finding solutions," he said.

This is why the Indian side has been consistently saying that the current issue is about restoring peace and tranquillity to the border areas and is not about the resolution of the large Boundary Question, on which India's stance has not changed, despite what happened last year, he said.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control (LAC). China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, which is firmly rejected by India. Misri also said China should not take a one-sided view of mutual concerns and sensitivities.

"The second obstacle is to take a one-sided view of concerns and sensitivities, where one's own preoccupations trump any of those flagged by the other side," he said.

From Page 1

The Chief Justice of India said that he believes in mixing with people, knowing about their ideas so that he understands what is the problem society is facing, but added that these days he is visiting lots of places and has got bored of giving speeches.

"After coming back yesterday night from Odisha, I collected some information about the system in which we are working. In the entire country...In subordinate judiciary less than 30 per cent are women, in high courts women judges are 11.5 per cent and in Supreme Court four women judges out of 33...(that is) 11 or 12 per cent," the CJI said.

"The other day I asked Bar council of India chairman Manan Kumar Mishra what is this in your bar council national committee, you don't have any single woman member represented, this needs urgent correction," he said.

CJI Ramana further said that people will often say easily that it is difficult to have 50 per cent reservation because women have a lot of problems but that's not correct.

## CJI for 50% quota for women...

"I do agree that there is an uncomfortable environment, lack of infrastructure, crowded courtrooms, lack of washrooms, lack of creches and lack of sitting places, which are some of the major issues which are unfriendly to the women lawyers in the system," he said.

He said that after gathering information about the prevailing conditions throughout the country he is proposing "Judicial Infrastructure Corporation", which is the need of the hour.

"In 6,000 courts across the country, 22 per cent of them do not have separate toilets (for women) and even lady officers also have to suffer from this," the CJI said, adding "these are the ground realities which we have to tackle immediately and that is the reason why I am proposing certain issues to the executive to take and correct this.

With regard to lawyers' demand for opening of the top court for physical hearings which has been held virtually since the outset of the pandemic, the CJI said that hopefully after Dussehra vacation it may resume.

## Support for 10-hour Bharat bandh grows

From Page 1

Kerala's ruling LDF has called for a State-wide hartal on September 27 to express solidarity with the farmers. And the Left parties have already extended support to the Bharat Bandh earlier.

The Bharat Bandh will be held from 6 am in the morning to 4 pm in the evening.

The farmers have appealed to all organisations of workers, traders, transporters, businessmen, students, youth and women, and all social movements to extend solidarity with the farmers that day.

In a statement, the SKM said all the Central and State Government offices, markets, shops, factories, schools, colleges and other educational institutions will not be allowed to function. Public and private transport will not be allowed to ply on roads. No public functions will be allowed.

"However, all emergency establishments and essential services, including hospitals, medical stores, relief and rescue work and people attending to personal emergencies will be exempted. The bandh will be enforced in a voluntary and peaceful manner," the SKM has assured.

Congress general secretary

(organisation), KC Venugopal on Sunday said the Congress and its workers will extend our full support to the peaceful Bharat Bandh called by farmer unions on Monday.

"We believe in the right of our farmers and we will stand by them in their fight against the black farm laws," he said in a tweet.

"All PCC Presidents, Chiefs of Frontal Organisations are requested to go out in front with our Annadatas in their peaceful Bharat Bandh across the country," Venugopal said.

The ruling DMK has appealed to the people, farmers, farmworkers and traders to take part in the proposed nationwide strike by farmer unions and urged its functionaries as well to make Bharat Bandh a success in Tamil Nadu.

Former Bihar Deputy CM and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has also extended his support to the farmers' call for the Bharat Bandh. In a tweet, Tejashwi said in the meeting of the top leaders of the grand alliance parties held at the residence, it was unanimously decided to participate and support the Bharat Bandh called on September 27 "in protest against the anti-farmer policies of the NDA Government". "We

are firm with the farmers," he said.

In a joint statement, the CPI, CPI(M), All India Forward Bloc, Revolutionary Socialist Party and the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) said the "historic" farmers' struggle demanding the repeal of the agri-laws and a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price is in its tenth month, and urged people to come out in support of their cause.

Traders, small industries, shopkeepers have nothing to do with the bandh, Bhartiya Udyog Vyapaar Mandal has said. "The bandh call by a handful of so-called farmers has been virtually sponsored by the opposition parties from the back door for their political gain and is anti-development and senseless besides being against the interest of traders," national president Ravi Kant Garg said in a statement.

The All India Bank Officers' Confederation has extended its support to the bandh on Monday. It has requested the Government to have a dialogue with the farmers on their demands and rescind the three laws at the Centre of the standoff.

## Yogi balances caste...

From Page 1

Prasada's entry is meant to help the BJP reset the optics of the Yogi Adityanath Government, perceived by a section of the State's Brahmins as being pro-Thakur (the Chief Minister's caste). Brahmins make up about 13 per cent of UP's voters and are an influential chunk that has steadily gravitated from the Congress towards the BJP over the years.

Earlier, the name of Sanjay Nishad whose party Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal (NISHAD) will contest the 2022 UP Assembly elections in alliance with the BJP was also making the rounds along with that of former Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya to be inducted in the Yogi Cabinet.

In the expansion of the Narendra Modi Cabinet at the Centre on July 8 this year also, special preference was given to leaders from UP. Out of the seven new Ministers included from UP at the Centre, four were OBCs, two Dalits and one was from the Brahmin society.

This is the first time that a record 15 Ministers have been made from UP in the Modi Cabinet.

# Air quality deteriorates marginally in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

From 'good' to 'satisfactory', Delhi's air quality on Sunday 'marginally' deteriorated on the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI).

The values of harmful Suspended Particulate Matters (SPM) Particulate Matter 10 and 2.5 were recorded 61 and 31µgm-3.

According to SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research), a unit of the Ministry of Earth Science (MoEs), Delhi's AQI is in the satisfactory category of local pollution due to scattered rain-fall. "With presence of light rainfall AQI is going to be in a satisfactory category for the next three days," SAFAR said in its forecast.

While other metropolitans –Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad remained 'good' in terms of air quality due to rain-fall, Delhi's air quality has started deteriorating due to low ventilation.

Meanwhile, according to SAFAR, values of both PM 10 and 2.5 will increase in the next three days. For instance – PM 10 on Sunday will fluctuate between 60 and 80 (µgm-3) as



mentioned on the Air Quality Index. Value of PM 2.5 will also increase from 31 (µgm-3) to 40 (µgm-3).

Interestingly, this year, as per SAFAR's measure, there is nil impact of stubble burning while the season of new harvest has been approaching.

Every year, air quality in the last days of September month has started polluting due to low ventilation and presence of half burn particles of crop residue.

This year, to encourage farmers not to burn the crop, the city government has initi-

ated the process of making of microbial. This solution or bio- decomposer will be sprinkled in the paddy field.

Other initiatives, like – installations of smog tower, green war room have also been taken by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government aiming to combat air pollution problems causing respiratory and other life-threatening diseases among children and senior citizens.

Amidst the potential threat of Covid -19 in festive season, air pollution can have a more severe impact on human lungs.

## Delhi Metro earns ₹19.5 cr from sale of 3.55 mn carbon credits

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Metro has earned ₹19.5 crore from sale of 3.55 million carbon credits which it had collected over a period of six years, in its bid towards gaining greater energy efficiency, DMRC authorities said on Sunday.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has been a pioneer in India in quantifying climate change benefits from its operations. It has a number of dedicated projects to its credit oriented towards energy efficiency, it said in a statement.

The DMRC has earned a commendable ₹19.5 crore from the sale of 3.55 million carbon credits which it had collected over a period of six years from 2012 to 2018, it said.

In 2007, Delhi Metro became the first metro or railway project in the world to be registered by the United Nations under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) which enabled Delhi Metro to claim carbon credits for its Regenerative Braking Project, officials said.

The CDM is a project-based green house gas (GHG) offset mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol allowing the public and private sector in high-income nations the



opportunity to purchase carbon credits from greenhouse gas emissions-reducing projects in low or middle-income nations as part of their efforts to meet international emissions targets under the Kyoto Protocol, the DMRC said.

CDM projects generate emissions credits called Certified Emission Reductions (CERs), which are then bought and traded. One CER is equal to one ton of CO2(eq) emission reduced. The CDM helps to deliver sustainable development benefits to the host country, the statement said.

The CDM projects are managed by The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), an entity established to combat "dangerous human interference with the climate system", it said.

Since 2015, Delhi Metro has also been providing CDM consultancy services to other metro systems in India,

enabling them to earn carbon credits from their project.

Already Gujarat Metro, Mumbai Metro and Chennai Metro etc. Have registered their projects under the Delhi Metro's Program of Activities (PoA) project enabling them to earn carbon credits and contribute to India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) in compliance with the Paris Agreement, it added.

For the period 2012-18, combined GHG emission reduction achieved from all the CDM and Gold Standard projects was 3.55 million carbon credits.

The sale of carbon credits accrued from CDM and Gold Standard projects in the period 2012-18 has generated a revenue of Rs 19.5 crore to the DMRC. The total revenue generation from CDM and Gold Standard projects since inception has been Rs 29.05 crore, it said.

## Cycle track to be built from IFFCO Chowk to Golf Course Ext Road

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) will construct a cycle track from IFFCO Chowk to Golf Course Extension Road. The total length of this cycle track will be around 15 km. On this project, the development authority will spend about ₹12.88 crore.

According to the GMDA officials, this project was placed in the meeting of the Core Planning Cell of GMDA held recently. This was approved by the Chief Executive Officer of GMDA.

As per the plan, the cycle track will start from IFFCO Chowk and end at Golf Course Extension Road as a large number of people ride bicycles on this route every day. Officials said that work on the project would be started soon after finalizing the route alignment.

Officials said that if the cycle track is constructed on Golf Course Road, then it will also be connected with the cycle track to be built from IFFCO Chowk to Southern

Peripheral Road (SPR) through Sector-27, 28, 42 and 43. With this, both the roads will also be linked with each other. Due to which cyclists will get a safe route to go from one road to another.

It is noteworthy to mention that the mobility plan was prepared by GMDA to improve the traffic system in the city and reduce pollution.

Under this initiative, the GMDA aims to build 800 km of cycle tracks on city roads by 2035. Officials said that this work will be done in a phased manner. GMDA has so far constructed cycle tracks from Netaji Subhash Marg, Udyog Vihar Road, MDI Chowk to Atul Kataria Chowk and Rejwala Chowk to Bijwasan Border. So far, around 50 km cycle track has been constructed in the city including these routes.

"A cycle track will be built from IFFCO Chowk to Golf Course Extension Road. This track will be 15 km long. Only cyclists will be allowed on it. Its construction will cost an estimated Rs 12.88 crore," a senior official of the GMDA said.

## Pleasant day in city, light rains likely today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

It was a pleasant day in the National Capital on Sunday as the maximum temperature settled at 33.7 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of the year, the India Meteorological Department said.

The minimum temperature was recorded at 25.5 degrees Celsius, two notches above the seasons average, in the morning. The relative humidity was 70 per cent, it said.

The weather department has predicted generally cloudy sky with light rain or drizzle on Monday. The maximum and minimum temperature is likely to settle around 34 and 25 degrees Celsius, respectively, the IMD said.

The IMD has issued an "green" alert for Monday.

The IMD uses four colour codes -- "green" means all is well, "yellow" indicates severely bad weather. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse, causing disruptions in the day-to-day activities.

An "orange" alert is issued as a warning for extremely bad weather with the potential of disruption in commute with road and drain closures and interruption of power supply.

## HC asks SDMC to explain why unauthorised construction was allowed at graveyard

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has tasked the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) to explain why unauthorised construction and encroachment were allowed to come up in and around a graveyard at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg here.

The High Court said the photographs placed on record showed encroachment upon public paths and Delhi Waqf Board land and it would be imperative to ascertain as to how the unauthorised construction and encroachment were allowed to come up in the first place.

Justice Najmi Waziri issued notices to the Delhi government, SDMC and Delhi Waqf Board on a plea seeking contempt action against the authorities for allegedly not complying with the Delhi High Court's division bench order which had directed the authorities to look into the grievances ventilated by petitioner Yuva Sangharsh Samiti and decide the representation as per law.

The high court had on July 16, said if any encroachment is found at the graveyard by the authorities, the decision shall be taken after giving adequate hearing to owners or occupiers of the premises and



it shall be removed as per law.

The petition filed by Yuva Sangharsh Samiti, through advocate Hemant Choudhary, has sought the removal or sealing of encroachment in the form of unauthorised construction over public land at the graveyard here, which is maintained by the Delhi Waqf Board.

The petitioner said its repeated representations to the authorities, in particular to the SDMC, have yielded no results. Justice Waziri, in the September 20 order, said the photographs show that the constructions are old and noted that the authorities have not complied with the directions of the division bench.

"Let the Deputy Commissioner of the SDMC file an affidavit explaining why the unauthorised construction and encroachment were allowed to come up in the first place and fix responsibility

upon the officers, who may be found derelict in their duties. The affidavit shall also explain as to why the above-mentioned order (of division bench) has not been complied with," the high court said.

With regard to the street or public access, it said this shall be cleaned up by the land owning agency and asked the municipal corporation to look into the issue of recent construction which has been attempted at the spot.

Let the Deputy Commissioner of the Corporation file a compliance affidavit before the next date, that is, November 30, the court said.

The plea, before the division bench, had claimed that illegal construction has been done in the form of opening of various offices, eating points and shops on the way to the graveyard and outside the premises.

## Over 2K trees may be axed for construction of highway

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 14 hectares of forest land in east and northeast Delhi having 2,038 trees is proposed to be diverted for the construction of a stretch of a six-lane highway.

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has sought permission from the Delhi forest department for the development of a 14.75-km stretch of the six-lane access controlled Delhi-Saharanpur highway, according to official documents.

There are a total of 2,038 trees on the stretch between the Akshardham NH-9 junction and the Delhi-UP border.

The tree species include Sheesham, Sahtut, Peepal, Champa, Ashok, Subabul, Neem, Eucalyptus, Kikar, Ber, Jamun and Gular.

The Rs 1,500-crore project is part of Phase I of the Bharatmala Pariyojana, the second largest highway construction programme in the country under which 50,000 km of roads will be constructed.

"The project falls in deemed forest land and diversion of this deemed forest land is unavoidable," the proposal read.

## Proposal in SDMC seeks action against restaurants denying entry to those wearing traditional attire

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress vice president and Andrews Ganj councillor Abhishek Dutt has moved a proposal in SDMC demanding that a fine of ₹5 lakh be slapped on any restaurant, bar or hotel denying entry to a person wearing traditional Indian attire.

Other than imposing fine, such establishments should be shut at least for a month, according to the proposal.

Dutt said the move was prompted after a south Delhi restaurant had allegedly "denied entry" to a woman for wearing a sari a few days back. The proposal will be tabled in the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) House meeting on September 29.

Dutt has drafted and moved the proposal on Friday as it is necessary for any member to move any resolution or proposal at least four working days before the House meeting. In the proposal, the Congress leader has demanded that a fine of Rs 5lakh should be slapped against the establishment if any visitor wearing Indian traditional outfit is denied entry.

The proposal moved by Dutt said a video had gone viral of social media where a woman

## City reports 29 Covid cases, no deaths



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Sunday recorded 29 Covid-19 cases and zero death and the positivity rate was 0.05 percent, according to the State health Covid -19 bulletin issued by the city Government.

The Capital has recorded only three fatalities due to the infection in September so far.

On Saturday the city reported 27 cases of coronavirus and 24 on Friday.

There are 371 active cases in Delhi, of which 118 are in home-isolation.

45, 525 RTPCR tests have been done in the past 24 hours. 17021 rapid antigen tests were also conducted in the last 24 hours.

The cumulative positivity rate is 5.25 percent and case fatality rate is 1.74 percent. Total 14,38714 patients have been recovered so far. The death toll stands at 25,085.Active cases 371 and containment zones are 95 till Sunday.

## 2 held in connection with Rohini Court shootout

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police on late Saturday night arrested two persons in connection with the shootout at Delhi's Rohini Court in which three men including jailed gangster Jitender Mann alias Gogi were killed.

The accused has been identified as Umesh Yadav and Vinay. On Friday, Rahul and Jagdeep alias Jagga from Gogi's rival gang dressed as lawyers, entered the courtroom of Judge Gagandeep Singh, and fired upon gangster Gogi, killing him there. Police personnel opened fire on the two assailants in retaliation as the lives of people in the courtroom and court complex were in danger, police said.

According to sources, during interrogation of Umesh and Vinay it was revealed that Rahul and Jagdeep, who shot dead Jitender Gogi inside the Rohini court and were then killed in police retaliatory fire, had planned to surrender after assassinating the gangster. "The accused reached the court in a car at 10 AM on Friday and the initial plan was that four persons, dressed as lawyers, would go inside the court, kill Gogi and then surrender before a judge. However, one of them was wearing a black jeans and because of this,

Yadav and the person who was wearing the black jeans did not go inside the court, the sources said, adding that Rahul and Jagdeep went through with the plan," said the sources.

"Efforts are on to apprehend the person in the black jeans and his identity is yet to be revealed," said police. Yadav and Vinay were arrested from a flat in northwest Delhi's Haiderpur area and it belonged to the former, police said. Gogi was a rival of Tillu, another gangster, and according to police, their gangs have been at war for many years.

Tillu, Sunil Rathee and Naveen Bali, all chiefs of different criminal gangs, are behind this incident, the sources said, adding that they are all in jail.

The person who was wearing the black jeans was sent by Bali. Rahul was an associate of Rathee and Jagdeep an associate of Tillu, sources said. The sources said that on September 15, Yadav received a call from Tillu that two persons will come to him on September 20.

Yadav was instructed that he will arrange accommodation for them, they said. Those behind the incident already had the information that Gogi will be produced at the Rohini court on September 24 (Friday), the sources said.

On Friday, they were informed that one more person will join them around 10 am outside the court. This person was the one wearing black jeans, they said.

The Delhi Police's Special Cell has Yadav in custody while Vinay's custody was given to the Prashant Vihar police station around 3 AM on Sunday, the sources said. Police said they will try to take into remand Tillu, Rathee and Bali, who are all in jail, to interrogate them regarding the incident. The Special Cell has recovered a pistol from Yadav which Tillu gave him around five to six months ago.

The source of the weapon has been traced to Tillu and investigation will reveal the other details, they said.

On Sunday, Gogi's post-mortem was conducted at the Maulana Azad Medical College, police said, adding that the postmortem of Rahul and Jagdeep will be conducted on Monday, most likely in the same hospital.

According to an FIR registered in connection with the Rohini court shootout, Sub-Inspector Vir Singh, who was part of the security team engaged in the exchange of fire, in his statement said several innocent people could have lost their lives if there was no immediate retaliation against the two assailants.

## Arrested accused had borrowed friend's car to ferry Rohini shootout assailants: Probe

**New Delhi:** Initial investigation into the Rohini courtroom shootout case has revealed the car used to ferry the two assailants belonged to arrested accused Umang Yadav's friend who did not know why his vehicle was borrowed, sources said Sunday.

Gym-trainer Jagdeep owned the car which was borrowed by Umang Yadav and used to drop the two attackers to the court on Friday, they said.

Yadav, who was arrested by a team of Delhi Police Special Cell Saturday, told police during interrogation that his friend Jagdeep was not aware of his intention nor the purpose for which the car would be used, said a source.

In a late Saturday night development, the Special Cell had arrested Umang Yadav and Vinay, police said.

Jailed gangster Jitendra Gogi was shot dead by the two men -- Rahul and Jagdeep alias Jagga -- who were dressed as lawyers, inside the crowded courtroom on Friday. The assailants were killed in police counter-fire. Video footage of the incident, which exposed security lapses in the system, showed policemen and lawyers rushing out in panic as gunshots rang out inside courtroom number 207.

PTI

## Yoga teacher strangled by husband

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old yoga trainer was strangled by her husband who suspected her to be in a relationship with someone.

The incident took place on Tuesday. The victim has been identified as Raveet Kaur, a resident of Model Town-3.

The woman was taken to the Pentamed Hospital around 5.30 am where she was declared brought dead, they said.

She was strangled by her husband Paramjeet Singh (45), a senior police official said. Kaun was a yoga trainer and she used to go to gym twice a day. Singh suspected her of having an affair and strangle her, the official said.

The post-mortem report came on Saturday which stated that she was manually strangled and there was no external injury mark. Later, her husband Singh was arrested the same day, police said.

They both were married for 20 years. The elder daughter of the couple studies in Pune. Singh's younger daughter and his parents were present in the house when the incident happened, however, they were at different rooms, police said.

Singh runs a car accessories shop in Kashmiri Gate, police added.

## Delhi HC closes criminal proceedings against online travel platform's owner in cheating case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court quashed a summoning order issued by a trial court here against the owner of an online travel platform in a cheating case by a consumer after he offered to make a voluntary deposit of ₹7.5 lakh towards lawyers' welfare funds and the parties arrived at a settlement.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri said that since the case was "purely commercial", no fruitful purpose would now be served by its continuation.

The complainant said he has arrived at the settlement with the owner out of his own free will, volition and without any force or coercion and has no objection if the ongoing proceedings are quashed.

The owner, without prejudice to his rights and contentions, expressed his desire to make a voluntary contribution to the tune of ₹7.50 lakh in view of the difficulties faced by the legal community in the time of the pandemic.

The court recorded that ₹4 lakh, ₹2.50 lakh and ₹1 lakh shall be deposited by the owner towards the New Delhi Bar Association Members Welfare

Fund, Delhi High Court Bar Association Pandemic Relief Fund and the Delhi High Court (Middle Income Group) Legal Aid Society, respectively.

"The transaction in the present case being purely commercial in nature, no fruitful purpose would be served by continuation of the proceedings. In view of the foregoing discussions, the impugned order dated 03.03.2020 is set aside, subject to the voluntary deposit of Rs 7,50,000 by the petitioner within a period of one week from today," the court said in its order dated September 21.

In the present case, the complainant, lawyer Tarun Rana had booked a holiday package with the travel website and was assured a stay at hotels ranked with four and/or five stars.

In the FIR, the complainant stated that he felt duped by the company as contrary to the promise, the stay was provided at substandard hotels for the most part of the vacation.

The owner had moved the high court after he was summoned by the trial court in spite of the Delhi Police's closure report that no vicarious liability could be imposed on him.

## Water supply to remain shut in E-Delhi for 16 hours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Residents of east Delhi were advised to store water in sufficient quantity as the water supply will be remain shut for 16 hours from 27th to 28th September.

During the shutdown period water tankers will be available on request at following Telephone Nos. Mandawali Water Emergency 22727812, Jagrati Water Emergency 22374834, 22374237, Loni Road Water Emergency 22816023, 22814651, Yamuna Vihar Water Emergency 22812683, 22812050, Toll free No. DJB 1916

Due to Shutdown of 700mm dia. Dallupura Main for 16 Hours from 10:00 am on 27th September to 02:00 am on 28 September for leakage repair work in 700mm dia Dallupura Main pipeline. The water supply of East Delhi area (i.e. Mandawali II UGR and Dallupura UGR and its adjoining areas) at the command of Bhagirathi WTP will not be available from 27/09/2021 (Evening Supply).

# Now, 'airgun surrender campaign' across India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a cue from Arunachal Pradesh, where the 'Airgun Surrender Abhiyan' has started delivering results with over 2,000 weapons given up voluntarily since its launch in March, the Centre has decided to roll out similar drive across the country with the help of retired forest workers and representatives of social organisations for wildlife conservation. Urging people not to hunt animals and birds, Union Minister of State for Environment Ashwin Kumar Choubey said that retired forest workers, representatives of social organisations among others will be roped in for the 'airgun surrender campaign' to be launched soon across the country.

He described Arunachal Government's campaign as an important initiative to save animals and birds from poaching and for their conservation. He said that it is giving very positive results and said that it will be started across the country and States will also be requested for this. The Minister was speaking at an event in Itanagar a few days ago where



some people from Arunachal Pradesh surrendered their air guns in front of the Union Minister. Hunting of wild animals is illegal in India though it is part of the culture of many tribal communities in the country.

Andhra Pradesh environment and forests minister Mama Natung, who masterminded the initiative, said "We want to raise awareness about conservation. Arunachal covers an area of 83,743 sq km, out of which 80% is covered with forests where we have some 500 species of birds and animals, perhaps many more undiscovered.

If we keep killing them, our forests will disappear," Natung said.

Choubey agreed and said, air guns do not require any license. "In such a situation, many people in our country hunt birds through air guns in every district and village. Due to this, the number of many birds is rapidly decreasing," he said.

The programme was launched on March 17 at Lumdung village in East Kameng district where 46 air guns were surrendered. In return, the person got a certificate of appreciation.

## CBI to include cyber fraud complaint by deceased seer to unearth demise conspiracy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI, which is probing the death of Mahant Narendra Giri, has decided to include a cyber fraud complaint lodged by the seer, as part of its wider investigation to unravel the possible conspiracy behind the demise of president of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad.

Giri, who headed the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, had on September 6 lodged an FIR with the Daraganj police, alleging that a fake Twitter account had been created in his name. The seer headed the ABAP, the largest body of Sadhus in the country, till he was found hanging by his disciples at Baghambari Mutt in Prayagraj on September 20.

Earlier, the 18-member special investigation team (SIT) constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government to probe Mahant's death was investigating the cyber fraud allegations before the CBI took over the case.

The agency will match the Mahant's signature and handwriting in the police complaint with those in the purported suicide note, recovered from his room.

The agency is likely to seek

the assistance of the Government Examiner of Questioned Documents, sources said.

The purported suicide note had mentioned that the seer was mentally disturbed and upset with one of his disciples.

The CBI team probing the death case has already retrieved the complaint lodged in connection with cyber fraud FIR registered at the Daraganj police station in Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh for further enquiry, they said.

The CBI had on Friday taken over the probe into the death of the Mahant following a notification from the Centre and subsequently dispatched a team of investigators to Prayagraj.

The UP police had registered a case under Indian Penal Code sections relating to abetment to suicide against one of his disciples Anand Giri who was nabbed from Haridwar and brought to Prayagraj for questioning.

Anand Giri was expelled from the Math earlier this year on charges of indiscipline. But he later apologised to the Mahant who forgave him and took him back into the Math.

## Modi, Cabinet Ministers, others wish Manmohan on his birthday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with his several Cabinet colleagues and other political leaders cutting across party lines, wished former PM Manmohan Singh on his 89th birthday on Sunday.

Modi, who arrived in Delhi after concluding a 3-day official visit to the United States, tweeted, "Birthday greetings to our former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh Ji. I pray for his long life and wonderful health."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, too, greeted the former Prime Minister on the occasion. "Warm wishes to former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh ji on his birthday. May he be blessed with good health and long life," the Defence Minister said.

Senior Congress leaders greeted the former PM with former party chief Rahul Gandhi saying he has a great understanding of issues facing the country and there is much to learn from him. Singh, a Rajya Sabha member and one of the Congress's top leaders,



turned 89 on Sunday.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former deputy CM Sachin Pilot, also wished the renowned economist. "Best wishes to former PM Dr Manmohan Singh ji on his birthday. Wishing him a long and healthy and happy life. We thank him for his leadership during the UPA," Gehlot said in his tweet.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also took to Twitter to wish birthday greetings Manmohan Singh. "I pray for your long and healthy life," tweeted Kejriwal, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor.

The Congress said Singh's unbridled commitment to

India's progress - right from the time of being the finance minister to the prime minister to even today - has benefited every Indian to a scale unimaginable.

In a Facebook post, Rahul Gandhi said, "Happy birthday to Dr Manmohan Singh ji. He is fearless and brilliant with a great understanding of the issues our country has been facing. There is much to learn from him." "I wish him good health and happiness," he said.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, senior leaders Sachin Pilot, Mukul Wasnik, Salman Khurshid, among others, wished Singh on his birthday.

## Cooperatives can help tackle climate change, says report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cooperatives—which have drawn attention worldwide for their resilience in adapting to a crisis like Covid-19 pandemic — can play an important role in protecting the environment, as well as mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, according to a global report.

Titled "cooperation for the transition to a green economy," the report holds importance for India too which recently created a new Ministry of Cooperation with an aim to strengthen cooperatives in the country on the one hand and on the other has taken various green steps to mitigate the impact of climate change.

"As businesses are driven by values, not profit, co-operatives act together to build a better world. Benefits of the model include long-term vision, preserving assets and indivisible reserves, encouraging value creation and delivering education, including on ecological matters," said the report about the cooperative movement made of over 3 million cooperatives with a total membership of approximately 1 billion people worldwide from all sectors and regions.

The paper has been co-produced with the involvement of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) global and regional offices in



the framework of the ICA-EU Partnership, known as Coops4dev.

"The vast scope of the cooperative movement means that it is particularly well placed to contribute to global challenges affecting our planet, the most urgent of which include climate change and environmental degradation," noted the report which includes a series of case studies on how co-ops in the energy, forestry, housing, transport and finance sectors have been contributing in green transition in the economy.

These are Certel, the oldest energy co-operative in Brazil, which provides affordable renewable energy, Hepburn Wind in Australia, and Toutenvélo, a French national network of worker co-ops that provide delivery services while replacing car and van deliveries with environmentally friendly bikes in urban centres, to name a few.

The report also looked at co-operative contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 7 on clean and renewable energy. However, this is not the first time that Cooperatives have been found to overcome challenges.

However, the report warns that, judging by the research, co-operatives hold great potential but "are not simply a silver bullet and it is important not to romanticise their role in the face of an issue as complex and serious as climate change".

Talking about the report, former Environment Secretary CK Mishra said no doubt, "India being a unique country should learn from global experiences but should do what is locally required and relevant. The essence of Cooperative movement is that it is interwoven with being environment friendly/ecologically conscious.

The main connection of cooperative movement in India with climate change is that it is an essential tool for poverty alleviation.

"Poverty impacts climate adversely as it creates adverse pressure on natural resources, which gets reduced if income levels are increased. Thus, cooperatives can contribute by reduction in poverty which will lead to saving of ecology."

India has committed to tackle climate change by 2030 by reducing 30-35% of our GDP's carbon emission, shifting 40% of power generation to renewables and creating 2.5 to 3 billion metric tonnes of new carbon sink.

Sundeep Nayak, MD National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) felt that the IPCC report on global warming should come as a warning signal. If we are to address the climate crisis, we need to adopt all that can mitigate it such as organic farming, recycling, sustainable development to name a few which are best done by the cooperatives.

For instance, he pointed out, the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) has been providing sustainable plant based fertilisers starting with bio-fertilisers and is also working to reduce energy consumption, undertaking alternative and renewable energy initiatives in their fertiliser plants.

Bruno Roelants, Director General, ICA said in the Foreword, "As the cooperative movement is based on meeting needs and has among its key principles that 'cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities', it is bound to focus increasingly on the existential environmental challenges the world is facing today. This study will substantially help promote this ongoing evolution."

## Modi gets warm welcome at Palam airport after his arrival from America



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Sunday given a warm welcome by BJP leaders, including party chief JP Nadda, after his arrival from the US at the Palam airport here.

Modi, who walked for nearly two kilometres meeting party workers and the people lined up along the road outside the airport, thanked them for welcoming him.

Lavishing praise on the prime minister upon his arrival in the country from the United States, Nadda hailed him as a "global leader" who has made India a "global player".

Citing Modi's meetings with US President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, besides his participation in the Quad meet and address at the UNGA, the BJP president said the prime minister put across strongly and frankly global issues and also India's views over threats like terrorism and expansionism.

Folk artistes from different states in their traditional cos-

**Folk artistes from different States in their traditional costumes greeted the Prime Minister playing different kinds of drums and musical instruments**

tumes greeted the Prime Minister playing different kinds of drums and musical instruments, Delhi BJP vice-president Virendra Sachdeva said.

Several senior BJP leaders, including party national general secretaries Arun Singh and Tarun Chugh, former Union Health minister Harsh Vardhan, Delhi unit president Adesh Gupta, MP Ramesh Bidhuri were among those who welcomed Modi at the airport.

The BJP workers gathered at the airport's technical area hours before the prime minister's arrival. A stage was also prepared for Modi to greet the people outside the airport.

## Nitish reiterates demand for caste census, says this is in nat'l interest



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday reiterated his demand for a caste census, saying it is in national interest and will facilitate development of the communities lagging in development.

Asked about the Centre's affidavit in the Supreme Court that virtually ruled out census on the caste lines, he told reporters that it was "absolutely not correct" but added that the matter was not directly related to the issue of caste census.

In the national capital to attend Home Minister Amit Shah's meeting with the chief ministers of naxal-affected states, the JD(U) leader also rejected arguments against caste census and asserted that the demand for it has been coming from not only Bihar but many states. Kumar said he will speak to members of different parties in Bihar over the issue to chart out their next course of action.

He had led an all-party delegation from the state to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in support of such a headcount across the country.

However, the Centre told

the Supreme Court on Thursday that caste census of backward classes is "administratively difficult and cumbersome" and excluding such information from the purview of Census is a "conscious policy decision".

In an affidavit filed in the apex court, the government has said that caste enumeration in Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 was fraught with mistakes and inaccuracies. Kumar asserted that caste census can be done by imparting appropriate training to people.

However, the Bihar chief minister, whose party's ties with the BJP have been uneven for some time, refused to be drawn into any political implications of the issue.

"Caste census is in the interest of the country. It will help the country's development," he said.

After the Centre's stand, many BJP leaders in Bihar have strongly defended the move and questioned the need for caste census.

The BJP has made it clear that its stand on the politically fraught issue can be different from those, including some of its allies, supporting the step.

As far as the BJP is concerned, it stands for "sab ka saath, sabka vikas", the party had said.

## Fully-vaccinated people who want to travel abroad to get CoWin vaccination certificate with DOB

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Come next week and people who have taken both doses of Covid-19 vaccines and want to travel abroad will have a CoWin vaccination certificate with their full date of birth.

At present, CoWin certificates mention the beneficiary's age based on the year of birth. The date will follow the "yyyy-mm-dd" (Year-Month-Day) format as per the World Health Organization (WHO) standards for international travellers. The new feature is likely to be available from next week.

The revised information on CoWin certificate comes amid the India-UK tussle over the vaccination status of Indians.

Dr RS Sharma, the CEO of National Health Authority (NHA) said, "As the world is slowly opening up for business and travel, we are working continuously to ensure that international travellers can



travel stress-free. This new feature and the format of date of birth will be in "yyyy-mm-dd" format as per the WHO standards for international travellers."

The United Kingdom has recently issued its new travel guidelines to include the Covishield vaccine in its updated list of approved Covid-19 vaccines. Following India's strong criticism over the UK's refusal to recognise Covishield, London has included the vaccine in its updated international travel advisory. However, Indian travellers vaccinated with two doses of Covishield would still have to undergo 10 days of quarantine in the UK.

## 7.9% children suffered from cancer between 2012-19: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Of the 6.10 lakh cancers reported between 2012-2019 under the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP), at least 7.9 per cent were found in children below 14 years, according to a report, "Clinicopathological Profile of Cancers in India: A Report of Hospital Based Cancer Registries, 2021" prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Leukaemia accounted for nearly half of all the childhood cancers in both genders in the 0-14 years age group (46.4 per cent in boys and 44.3 per cent in girls). The other common childhood cancer in boys was lymphoma (16.4 per cent), while in girls, it was malignant bone tumour (8.9 per cent), said the report.

It consolidates data collected during the period across 96 hospital-based cancer registries under the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP). The data pertains to

all diagnosed and treated cases of confirmed malignancies reported to these centres across the country.

The country registered 13,32,207 cases of cancer during 2012-19. Of these, 6,10,084 were included for analysis, based on the completeness and quality of data. Childhood cancers rank ninth as a leading cause of childhood diseases at the global level, accounting for 11.5 million of the Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).

In India, according to a recent NCRP report, the proportion of childhood cancers (0-19 years), relative to cancers in all age groups, was found to range from 1 per cent to 4.9 per cent. Delhi reported the highest age-adjusted incidence rate (AAR) of 203.1 per million in boys and 125.4 per million.

Among all the cancers, the highest proportion of distant metastasis at presentation was seen in patients with lung cancer (49.2 per cent males and 55.5 per cent females), followed by gall bladder cancer (40.9 per cent males and 45.7 per cent females) and prostate cancer (42.9 per cent). The data has come in September which is observed as childhood cancer awareness month worldwide.

Dr Nita Radhakrishnan, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatric Hematology Oncology at Post Graduate Institute of Child Health, Noida said that even though there have been several government schemes for cancer treatment, there are many who still are not able to avail any of these. "They either do not have necessary documents or are not aware of these schemes. Many stop treatment for the mere fact that there is no one back at home to support the family," she added.

## CSIR should re-invent itself for future challenges: V-P

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday advised the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to reinvent itself and turn futuristic while pursuing the science of the highest order.

Participating in the CSIR's 80th Foundation Day celebrations here, he said that he wanted CSIR laboratories and institutes to address challenges that require long-term scientific and technological solutions.

Citing climate change, drug resistance, pollution, epidemic and pandemic outbreaks, among the challenges that need the focus of the scientific community, Naidu said: "I want CSIR to bestow greater attention on agricultural research and come out with new innovations, techniques and solutions to address the problems faced by farmers."

Union Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh asked the CSIR and all the science departments to explore S&T



innovations needed in the next ten years to make India globally competitive, a Science and Technology Ministry release said.

As the nation is celebrating the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav, the combined strength of the CSIR, Department of Bio-Technology, Department of Science and Technology, and Ministry of Earth Sciences, along with other science ministries, can indeed transform the entire country in the next 25 years as the entire progress is going to remain heavily technology-dependant, he

said, adding, 25 years later, India should be a global leader ranging from defence to economics with strong scientific and technological inputs."

Lauding the 80-year successful journey of CSIR, he said that it is heartening to see the evolution of the CSIR from developing India's first indelible ink used in elections to providing Indian Standard Time using atomic clocks today.

From the development of Swaraj Tractor to the recent test flying of HANSA-NG is a testament to the growth of CSIR in the last eight decades, he added.

MURDER OF BJP LEADER WASEEM BARI

2 LeT ultras killed in encounter

PNS ■ JAMMU

Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists involved in the killing of a local BJP leader Waseem Bari and his family members were eliminated by the joint team of the security forces during fierce gunfight in Watrina village of Bandipora district on Sunday.

Bari along with his father and brother were shot dead last year in July inside his home in Bandipora.

The anti terrorist operation was launched in the general area of village Watrina late Saturday night on the receipt of pinpointed human intelligence about the presence of LeT terrorists in the area.

According to a police spokesman, "the first contact with the terrorists was established in the wee hours of Sunday after which the hiding terrorists were given repeated opportunities to surrender but they refused and fired indis-

criminally targeting security forces. In the ensuing gunfight two terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter". According to a police spokesman, the killed terrorists have been identified as Azad Ahmad Shah and Abid Rashid Dar @ Haqani. The killed terrorist Abid Rahid Dar was a Pakistani trained terrorist who had crossed over the Wagah Border in April 2018 and had infiltrated back in the year 2019.

As per police records, both the terrorists were involved in planning and executing terror attacks on security establishments and civilian killings. Moreover, terrorist Abid Rashid Dar was instrumental in recruiting the gullible youth into terror ranks of proscribed terror outfit LeT in North Kashmir.

Police spokesman said, both the killed terrorists along with foreign terrorists Usman



and Sajad @ Haider were involved in the killing of BJP leader Waseem Bari, his brother and father.

The involved foreign terrorists Usman and Sajad were already eliminated in an encounter at Kreeeri on 17/08/2020, while the other two local involved terrorists got killed in today's encounter.

Meanwhile, a special operations group of Jammu and Kashmir police Sunday arrested a Kashmir based terrorist affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of

Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba near the Jammu Railway station. The TRF terrorist was tasked to carry out an attack in the city. According to a police spokesman, "Sheikh Sunain Yousuf alias Raja alias Sultan, a resident of Gadapora village of south Kashmir's Shopian, was arrested and a pistol and seven rounds were recovered from him".

According to police the TRF terrorist was arrested in a dramatic sequence of events.

"During checking near railway station Jammu, a two-

wheeler driver dropped a pillion rider about 50-60 metres behind the check point and sped away". The police spokesman said, the suspected person, carrying a bag, started moving fast towards a nearby bylane but was chased by police and overpowered at some distance.

The search of the suspect led to the recovery of a pistol loaded with seven cartridges, the spokesman said, adding he was put under sustained questioning on the spot by officials of SOG Jammu which revealed that he is an active terrorist of TRF and had come to Jammu for a specific task.

However, he said the task was not yet conveyed to him by his handlers. He had come to Jammu on directions of handler Ahmed Khalid alias Hamza alias Haqparast, a Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) based active handler of the TRF outfit, the spokesman said.

Chidambaram lambasted by KPCC chief for comments against Pala Bishop

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Sunday lambasted Congress Working Committee member and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram for his comments on Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the Bishop of Pala who had alleged that Jihadis were resorting to drug peddling for wooing girls from the Catholic community.

Chidambaram, had alleged in his weekly column in an upcountry newspaper that while love and narcotics were real, to attach the word jihad to love and narcotics revealed warped thinking.

K Sudhakaran, KPCC president, while addressing the media on Sunday termed Chidambaram's comments as unwanted and out of place.

"We have a well organized Pradesh Congress Committee to look after the repercussions if any of the comments made by the Bishop. Outsiders need not aggravate the situation by making unwanted comments," said Sudhakaran, who is on a mission to smoothen the ruffled feathers arising out of the reported comments

made by Kerala Leader of the Opposition V D Satheeshan who had condemned the Bishop in the strongest of words.

The new KPCC chief had met all Christian and Muslim leaders in the State calling for restraint. Leaders of various Islamic outfits had expressed their anguish over the statement made by the Bishop while addressing a religious congregation in Kottayam district.

Chidambaram, who is the main ideological leader of the Congress party said in his article that the Hindu zealots and the Christians were targeting the Muslims. "There is no surprise in the Hindu radical right springing to the support of the Bishop of Pala. Both target the 'other', meaning the Muslims," he wrote.

Sudhakaran is trying to make a tight rope walking without offending the Christians and Muslims, the main vote bank of the Congress in Kerala. "We in Kerala are struggling to maintain the cordial ties between two prominent communities. Persons sitting in New Delhi are spreading ideas which have no relevance to Kerala," said a close associate of Sudhakaran.

UP: Carcass of tiger found in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

**Lakhimpur Khiri (UP):** A tiger was found dead in Mailani range of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve on Sunday, officials said.

It is estimated to be around two years old and the carcass was found alongside the Gola-Pilibhit road near Chhedipur village here, Field Director of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) Sanjay Kumar Pathak told PTI. All vital organs, including jaws and nails, were intact, he said, adding that there were some abrasion marks on the carcass.

"The circumstances indicate that the tigress died in a road accident or it could be due to fighting during the mating season," Pathak said.

He said the exact cause of the death could be ascertained after postmortem by a team of experts from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly.

The postmortem would be conducted according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) guidelines, the field director said.

Didi was going to communal meeting at Rome, says BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after Mamata Banerjee attacked the Narendra Modi Government for denying her the chance to "enhance" the "prestige" of India by taking part in the world peace conference in Rome the BJP hit back in equal measure saying the Bengal Chief Minister was going to attend a conference being organised by people whose only business was religious conversion.

Speaking at an election rally at Bhawanipore, Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari on Sunday said that the "Chief Minister is talking about denial of permission to visit Rome but she also owes an explanation regarding the acquiescence she gave to a programme that was being organized by the people whose only business is religious conversion taking advantage of people's poverty and helplessness."

The Chief Minister had earlier attacked the Prime Minister for being "jealous" towards her in denying her the permission to visit the global peace summit which was to be attended by Pope Francis, German Chancellor and Italian Prime Minister among others.

On Sunday too the Chief Minister raised the issue saying she was not going to Rome as a tourist but as person whose presence at the forum could have enhanced India's prestige.

"They earlier stopped me



West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC party candidate from Bhabanipour constituency, Mamata Banerjee (L) with party general secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee (R) during her election campaign for Assembly bypolls, in Kolkata on Sunday

from visiting Chicago ... they stopped me from going to China --- which however I did not mind on account of the recent diplomatic developments --- then they did not allow me to go to Cambridge ... I want to ask why ... why was I being stopped ... is there a political reason behind this..." Banerjee said asking the voters of Bhawanipore from where she is seeking a by-election to retain her Chief Ministerial chair.

"Last time in the Assembly elections we called for a Khela that ended with the defeat of the mischief mongers who swarmed Bengal like daily passengers to disturb its secular tranquil ... now the Khela will resume from Bhawanipore and end with the defeat of the BJP in the entire country ... this Khela will herald the downfall

of the BJP ... it will end only after the BJP is thrown out of India ... and we will make that happen ... so Bhawanipore which is my home ... where I have grown up has a great responsibility towards the nation," she said.

She reminded her defeat would only hasten the Talibanisation of India (apparently by the BJP). "We will not allow the Talibanisation of India ... we will not let Bengal to become UP, Assam and Tripura where the Opposition has no voice ... where the Opposition parties are harassed and persecuted," she said adding "the BJP would get a great boost if they won from Bhawanipore leading to imposition of draconian CAA and NRC regime ... whereby they will strike your names out of the electoral list."

Owaisi factor creates ripples among political parties in UP banking on Muslim votes

**Lucknow:** Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, which is going to contest next year's Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls on the promise of creating leadership among Muslims, has created unease in the political parties that so far considered the members of the minority community as their core "vote bank".

Different castes, including Jatavs, Yadavs, Rajbhars and Nishads, which constitute a relatively small part of the population of Uttar Pradesh, more or less have their own leadership, but Muslims, who account for more than 19 per cent of the people in the State, do not see any united leadership.

So the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by Owaisi, wants to end the "slavery" of Muslims in the hands of the Samajwadi Party (SP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Congress, which had been using them as their "vote bank", according to the leaders of the party.

There are 82 Assembly segments in the state where Muslim voters are in a position to make or mar the political fortunes of the candidates.

Buoyed by winning five seats in last year's Bihar polls from the Muslim-dominated Seemanchal region, which gave jitters to the RJJD and the Congress, Owaisi has already announced that his party will field candidates in 100 of the 403 seats in the Uttar Pradesh election expected to be held early next year.

The Hyderabad MP launched his poll campaign

from Ayodhya earlier this month and since then, has been addressing public meetings at different places.

AIMIM national spokesperson Syed Asim Waqar told PTI on Sunday that the main goal of the party is to create a political narrative and leadership among Muslims for the progress of the community and a better future.

"Even the so-called secular parties, which were getting the votes of the Muslims, never allowed a Muslim leadership to emerge. The report of the Sachar Committee has made out the condition in which the parties have pushed them to," he said. The opinions of experts differ on whether Muslims, after the rise of Hindutva politics, have become aware enough to create their own acceptable leadership.

The SP and the BSP have accused Owaisi of serving the interest of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) by trying to divide Muslim votes and dismissed any possibility of the AIMIM having any impact in the country's political heartland. Senior SP leader Abu Azmi discarded Owaisi as a "vote-katwa" (splitter of votes) who is acting on behalf of the BJP to damage the poll prospects of the Samajwadi Party.

State media coordinator of the Congress Lallan Kumar said Owaisi remembers Muslims only at the time of elections and claimed that the minority community has traditionally supported the grand old party.

PM clocks 20 meetings in his 65-hr stay in US



**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day trip to the United States was packed with meetings as he attended 20 of them during the around 65 hours he spent in the country, Government sources said on Sunday.

He also had four long meetings in flights with officials on the way to and back from the US, they added.

Sharing details, sources said Modi had two meetings in flight on Wednesday on the way to the US and three in the hotel upon his arrival.

On September 23, he had five meetings with as many CEOs followed by talks with US Vice President Kamala Harris and bilateral interactions with his Japanese and Australian counterparts Yoshihide Suga and Scott Morrison respectively. He also chaired three internal meetings.

He had a bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden the next day and then attended the Quad meet. Sources said Modi also held four internal meetings on September 24.

As Modi left the US for India on September 25, he held two meetings in the flight back, sources said.

The Prime Minister is known to keep a busy schedule on his overseas trips, packing his stay with important meetings.

REET exam held under tight security in Rajasthan 5 held in Bikaner for cheating

**Jaipur/Bikaner:** The Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET)-2021 was held amid tight security arrangements in the State on Sunday even as five people were arrested in Bikaner with slippers fitted with Bluetooth devices for allegedly attempting to cheat in the exam.

A total of 3,993 exam centres were set up across all 33 districts in the state. The exam which was conducted by the Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education was held in two shifts for which 16.51 lakh candidates were enrolled to take it up.

As a precautionary measure to check possible cheating in the exam, mobile internet services were suspended on Sunday in many districts, including Jaipur.

In Bikaner, five people were arrested after being found wearing specially designed slippers with Bluetooth devices meant to be used for cheating during the exam.

Seven others were also arrested from different places in connection with fraud in the REET exam.

Bikaner Superintendent of Police Priti Chandra said the five arrested people were wearing slippers in which the devices were fitted. Two of them, identified as Madan Lal and Trilokchand, are allegedly gang members who provided the slippers to candidates or their relatives while three were REET candidates.



Three accused nabbed for using a device in a slipper to cheat in the REET examination, in Bikaner on Sunday

"They were caught at a bus stand under Gangashahar police station area before the exam. During checking, the slippers and other devices were recovered. The main accused who is the gang leader is absconding while two members of the gang were arrested," she said.

She said the slippers were provided to candidates for ₹ 6 lakh.

The SP informed that based on the information of the gang members, police in other districts, including Sikar, Pratapgarh and Ajmer were alerted.

Elaborate security arrangements were made in view of the exam which was held on a large scale across the state. Arrangements were also made to check cheating and use of unfair means during the exam.

Made for mission life of 6 months, India's Mars probe completes 7 years in orbit

**Bengaluru:** India's Mars Orbiter spacecraft has completed seven years in its orbit, well beyond its designed mission life of six months.

"Indeed, a satisfying feeling," K Radhakrishnan who as the then Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) led the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) team told PTI on the milestone.

MOM is the maiden interplanetary mission of ISRO. Launched on November 5, 2013, the probe was successfully inserted into Martian orbit on September 24, 2014 in its first attempt.

MOM is primarily a technology demonstration venture and all the mission objectives were successfully met, according to officials of Bengaluru-headquartered India's national space agency.

The main lessons learnt were in

the field of design and realisation of systems and subsystems, launch for interplanetary mission, insertion into other planet's orbit, operation of the spacecraft and scientific instruments around Mars orbit, they said.

The lessons learnt have raised the confidence of ISRO scientists for taking up future interplanetary missions. ISRO has been continuously monitoring the spacecraft and its five scientific instruments, and officials said scientific analysis of the data being received from MOM spacecraft is in progress.

On the health of the spacecraft, M Annadurai, who was the Programme Director of MOM, said the spacecraft's "moving elements are facing some issues and some of the redundancies we have to switch over."

"The spacecraft's health is reasonably good considering that we are

in the seventh year," Annadurai told PTI. He expects the spacecraft to have a mission life of probably another one year.

On the reasons for the long mission life, Annadurai said ISRO had done corrections after learning lessons from the Chandrayaan-1 venture, in terms of reconfiguring the spacecraft and optimisation of fuel management, among others.

Noting that Earth remote-sensing satellites typically have a mission life of seven to nine years, he said it was a very satisfying moment that India could establish that around Mars also, a spacecraft can be in operation for such a long period.

On some criticism in some quarters that scientific output of the MOM was "low", Annadurai said it was more of a technology-demonstration mission.

Yogi announces ₹25 per quintal hike in sugarcane purchase price

**Lucknow:** In a major decision barely months ahead of the upcoming 2022 Assembly elections, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday announced a ₹25 per quintal hike in the purchase prices of sugarcane in the State.

The decision of the Yogi Adityanath government also assumes significance, as it came barely a day before the "Bharat Bandh" called by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha.

Addressing a meeting of farmers here organised by the BJP's Kisan Morcha, Adityanath said, "The Government has decided that the variety of sugarcane for which ₹325 per quintal was paid to farmers, that price has been increased to ₹350, which will be paid to farmers."

"The Government has also decided to increase the price of ordinary sugarcane variety, to ₹340 (per quintal) up from ₹315 (per quintal). The Government has also decided to the hike the value of the "anupyukt" (less yielding) variety of sugarcane by ₹25 per quintal."

Elaborating about the benefits,

Adityanath said that this will enable the sugarcane farmers to increase their income by 8 per cent, and will be a transformation in the lives of 45 lakh farmers.

He also said that 119 sugar mills will be operated, and they will be linked with ethanol. The new sugar season starts from next month. When contacted, UP's Sugarcane Development and Sugar Mills Minister Suresh Rana told PTI, "In Uttar Pradesh, there are three varieties of sugarcane --- early, ordinary and rejected. The early variety constitutes 97 per cent of the sugarcane cultivated (in the state), followed by 2.7 per cent of the ordinary variety and the rejected variety, which constitutes barely 0.3 per cent."

"The MSP (minimum support price) of the early variety has been increased from ₹325 per quintal to ₹ 350 per quintal. Similarly, the MSP of the ordinary variety has been increased to ₹340 per quintal from ₹315 per quintal. As far as the rejected variety is concerned, its MSP has been increased from ₹305 per quintal to ₹330 per quintal."



Artists perform during the second day of the monsoon festival at Patnitop on the outskirts of Jammu on Sunday

Covid-climate crisis leads to sharp rise in child marriages in Sundarbans

**New Delhi:** Shackled by poverty in a home that came under water when Cyclone Amphan barreled into her village and left penniless by the pandemic, the hapless mother married off her 15-year-old daughter - their story emblematic of the Covid-climate crisis in the Sundarbans that has seen a sharp rise in the number of child marriages.

It was May last year, recalled Rashmi Devi. With only a tent as cover for her seven-member family following the super cyclone and no money for food, the marriage proposal for her young daughter seemed like a godsend.

"We could barely manage one meal every day and the decision to get her married seemed

right at the time. In my mind I thought there will be one less mouth to feed and she will get more than just salt and rice to eat," the mother told PTI over the phone from Canning in the Sundarbans that falls in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district.

Sixteen months later, the decision doesn't seem so right. The family is still in dire straits and her son-in-law is behind bars on charges of dowry harassment. Rashmi's family is not the only one.

Communities in the ecologically fragile Sundarbans delta region are still reeling under the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change, say survivors and activists.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

# The influencer

Modi has had a good trip to the US, with markers among UNGA, Quad and magnates

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is back in India, having wound up his three-day visit to the US, after attending the first in-person Quad Summit, meeting other world leaders and addressing the UN General Assembly as its first speaker. It is in stark contrast to his earlier visits that were marked by hype, festivities and fanfare. This time round, the political dispensation in the US has changed from the much-friendly Trump Administration. Modi met US Vice-President Kamala Harris, Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga and the CEOs of five multinational companies. The Australian and Japanese PMs are in the US for the Quad Summit (A virtual Summit was held in March this year). This diplomatic and military arrangement is widely viewed as a response to increased Chinese economic and military power. Addressing the Summit, Modi said Quad would act as a “force for global good” and “will establish peace and prosperity in the world”, he added. The culmination of the visit was, of course, the Prime Minister’s speech at the UN General Assembly that was high on rhetoric but piercingly aimed at China and Pakistan. Modi also addressed the Afghanistan situation and, without naming Pakistan, cautioned it against using Afghanistan for fomenting trouble. Modi said “regressive mind-sets were giving terrorism a political meaning”; a statement that may be interpreted as “don’t use terrorism as a tool of diplomacy and changing the geopolitics of the region”. For good effect, he underlined the need to be alert against any country using Afghanistan’s vulnerability for “selfish interests”.

The context was that Pakistan PM Imran Khan had made direct and scathing attacks on India, insisting that the two nuclear powers have to “behave, else the consequences would be grave”. Modi, without naming either China or Pakistan, hinted that terrorism as a State policy was not a good idea and the countries should refrain from doing so. He also mentioned the accomplishment of the Indian presidency at the UN Security Council last month. Modi also referred to the issue of the “origins of the COVID virus” and the cancellation of the World Bank’s “Ease of Doing Business Index”, both of which have been laid at China’s door for a lack of transparency by the global institutions. He also emphasised the need for cooperation, saying he represented India as the “mother of all democracies”. Earlier, at a meeting with Kamala Harris, both sides emphasised safeguarding democratic values and upholding human rights in respective countries. Modi also offered condolences to the pandemic victims. Overall, it was a well-crafted speech and well delivered though his “*chaiwala*” reference is better avoided as it has become rather clichéd. Though Modi also had a meeting with President Joe Biden, it was more to do with protocol than anything else. The personal chemistry between them was clearly missing.



Goddess Durga's idols being readied ahead of the Durga Puja, in Hyderabad

# Evergreen

Dev is the quintessential romantic ever since he graced the screen, to this day and forever

The Peter Pan of Indian cinema may have faded away 10 years ago, but not before leaving an indelible imprint on the hearts, minds and romantic doctrines of millions. He kept in thrall at least three swooning generations, who swore by his charisma, never-say-die spirit and debonair style. The soigne star — part of the unsailable trioka comprising thespian Dilip Kumar and simpleton Raj Kapoor, who ruled the silver screen for over three decades — is best remembered for essaying Raju’s character in *Guide*. The 1965 movie, which was Dev’s first outing in colour and simultaneously shot in Hindi and English, was arguably a better show than even the much-hyped *Sholay*: The thinking masses adored it; it was much ahead of the times for addressing an issue like extramarital affair; and the one point that everyone claims worked for *Sholay* — that the characterisation was so good the audience still remembers each character — holds good for *Guide* too. After all, who doesn’t remember the voluble and exploitative Raju,

the beautiful Rosie, the jealous-repentant-revengeful Marco, Raju’s friend Gafoor and even the bit players? His magnetism was such that youngsters took to puffing on cigarettes after watching him lip-sync *Main zindagi ka saath nibhata chala gaya* (*Hum Dono*). The number was voted the “best inspirational film song” in a survey by one of the top two national dailies a few years back. Since the time Gregory Peck influenced his mannerisms to developing an inimitable style of his own, Dev had had many an infatuation. His first famous affair was with Suraiyya, who was elder to him, but her grandmother forbade the alliance. Suraiyya never got married. With his swaying walk and impeccable dressing sense, it was no surprise that girls swooned over him. The Mayor of Bombay had to issue an appeal against the star appearing in public wearing a black suit after a girl fainted and fell from a multi-storey in the melee to catch a glimpse of the star. Dev looked so dashing that even Madhubala had to be content with the No. 2 slot in terms of grabbing eyeballs in *Kala Paani* (1958). Dev didn’t just spend his life, he lived. And loved. As the penultimate scene of *Guide* shows, after all the excesses, it all boils down to: “*Na deen hai, na duniya, sirf main hoon .. Main hoon... Sirf main...*”. Long live, Dev saab!

# S Lanka looks at empty plates as hunger gnaws

From a carefree, merry-making and well-fed nation, our neighbour has run out of foreign exchange, having overborrowed from China

Since 1964, I have been in touch with Sri Lanka intermittently. At the time, I was told that the butter and ice-cream they ate came from New Zealand. Many vegetables were also imported, including from India. A few days ago, I read that Colombo has declared a national “food emergency”. What their people eat as a habitual diet will now be from ship to mouth. The country has run out of foreign exchange; its Government over-spent on development by borrowing from China, a greedy lender. The takeover of Hambantota port by the lender was a signal that what Sri Lanka could not pay back China in cash, it is having to fork out in kind, namely real estate at the cost of its sovereignty.

Two characteristics of the Singhala people I have noted are (One) they love life and enjoy themselves when the going is good. Two, they are a little suspicious of Indians, because of the Tamils. They fear that someday a situation may arise whereby India may take over Sri Lanka. Given identical lending terms by India and China, they would prefer the latter. The presumption is that the yellow giant is far away whereas India is next door along with its Tamils. The food emergency is the result of the focus on “today, tomorrow and the day after will take care of themselves”. Truly, Sri Lanka has good guns but no bread. Right after its independence, Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) has not insisted on growing its staple food on a sufficient scale. In the early days and for years, the country concentrated on tending its tea gardens, rubber and copra trees. The foreign exchange earnings were so plentiful that there used to be a picnic of imported goods. The first painful pinch was felt in 1964 when NM Pereira was the Finance Minister and he went to Parliament to pass very stringent laws. After working a whole career, on retirement, foreigners were henceforth allowed to remit only ₹75,000 for Indians and ₹2,50,000 for others. The discrimination was severe. Had the Indian High Commissioner not been very helpful, my father-in-



law could not get permission to remit a total of ₹1,50,000 after working in a British Company for 32 years, all in Sri Lanka. Such was the foreign exchange famine suddenly discovered.

Although I must confess, the management at New Delhi was no better. In 1990, the Indian treasury had run out of foreign exchange. In order not to fail commitments overseas, the Government sent many crates of gold to banks in London. Fortunately, in 1991, India was gifted with a decisive Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao who liberalised and globalised Indian economy. He thus brought about an economic revolution. A small country is vulnerable both economically as well as politically. Its Government must play very cautiously. Sri Lanka liberalised before India and recovered from the cave-in of 1964 that is described above. But any significant decline in foreign exchange earnings should be taken seriously. Otherwise, trouble can surround the economy before giving the Government a chance to draw in the reins. The picture of tea industry has been rather sad

A SMALL COUNTRY IS VULNERABLE BOTH ECONOMICALLY AS WELL AS POLITICALLY. ITS GOVERNMENT MUST PLAY VERY CAUTIOUSLY. SRI LANKA LIBERALISED BEFORE INDIA AND RECOVERED FROM THE CAVE-IN OF 1964

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A STRONG MESSAGE FROM THE UNGA

Sir — Calling India the mother of all democracies, PM Narendra Modi hails a clear message to the world that all those who want to tarnish India’s image by calling it an anti-secular State must watch their mouth. Also, the timely use of ‘Right to Reply’ by Indian diplomat Sneha Dubey to slam Pakistan for its attempt to propagate abhorrence against India on a global platform is equally commendable. India categorically highlighted strategic issues of geopolitics, inter-government, terrorism, UNSC Reforms, climate change and neighbours’ expansionism. India clearly messaged that it has no space for friendship with terror supporters. Pakistan, who has blamed India many times at the UN General Assembly, must introspect where it stands against India. We do not need to remind Pakistan that it still remains in the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Thus, for peaceful inter-regional relations with India, it should cooperate rather than blaming. Also, Prime Minister Modi must bring forward the view-point of India, and showcase a glimpse of what India’s geopolitics and diplomacy will be in the years to come. India is and will be firm against all those forces who spread scorn in society.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

### SNOOPING FOR NATIONAL SECURITY?

Sir — Pegasus is back in the news, thanks to the Supreme Court of India. It is claimed that this zero-click digital snooping spyware of the Israeli tech firm NSO Group, upon installation, follows the attacker’s command and controls servers to receive instructions and sends back the target’s private data, including passwords, contact lists, calendar events, text messages, and live voice calls. The attacker can control the phone’s camera and microphone as well. The spyware is designed to evade forensic analysis, avoid detection by antivirus software and can be deactivated and removed by the attacker. In short, the spyware is designed to invade people’s privacy.

## No more false claims



In a significant ruling, the Supreme Court has stated that caretakers/ servants of a specific property can no longer claim ownership in that property irrespective of their long possession. This shows that the ownership of the property does not pass on to them merely because they enjoyed staying there for a long time. Therefore, the property should be vacated upon being asked by the owner. In Karnataka, during the Devaraj

Urs regime as the Chief Minister, tiller of the land was made its owner through a legislative action. Because of this obnoxious law, many owners lost their properties. The order of a trial court and the High Court, which had refused to allow a plea of an owner for not proceeding on a suit filed by a caretaker seeking that he should not be vacated from the premises, has been set aside by the Supreme Court. The Bench, headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi, has come to the rescue of the owners who acquired the property with their hard-earned money. Had this judgment not come, and if the trial court order and High Court had come to stay, the plight of owners would have come to a sorry pass. The Supreme Court has observed that the trial court has committed a manifest error. This ruling in unambiguous terms has definitely come as a whiff of fresh air to the owners of the properties.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

It is comforting the Supreme Court viewed the statement of the Solicitor General, Tushar Mehta, in the court that “Filing (an affidavit) and making it a public discourse (whether the Indian Government uses Pegasus) is not possible as it will affect national security” as an attempt to stonewall the queries about the illegal invasion into citizens’ privacy using the bogey of national security. That certainly was not a eulogy to the precepts of democracy either. The Court’s decision to appoint a committee to probe the spyware scandal has come as a sigh of relief.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

### INEXPENSIVE OR CHEAP?

Sir — There is a flood of SMSes on mobile phones offering a complete package of so many blood-tests at just ₹599 or less, that too, with home sample collection facility. But these SMSes do not give details and addresses of laboratories where those blood-tests are conducted. Such messages are available on Facebook as well. Either such offers do not come from recognised

and Government-approved labs, or just some random pathological laboratories are looting the public. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should probe into the matter. Those offering such cheap packages should be directed to give details of their labs in the SMSes along with their website details. Any consumer who gives samples for tests should be given a unique ID and a changeable password whereby a complete record of his/her tests may be accessed from the website of the concerned laboratory. A reputed pathological laboratory of Delhi which also covers other cities has dual pricing for medical-tests. Charges for ordinary patients are much higher than those under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS). At least such dual pricing must not be allowed in health-services including for pathological and biochemical tests.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



PRAFULL GORADIA

rent Indo-Sri Lanka ties have improved. India may offer food grains, wheat, rice and all else available. And India may consider swap loans whose return would be in Sri Lanka rupees. India can buy only Sri Lanka goods with the returned money against the swap loan. Sri Lanka has described traditionally as the Emerald Isle. It is indeed a beautiful country with sea on its periphery.

People, especially from the Western world, find it irresistibly attractive. The beaches are out of this world and monuments of Buddhism are also engaging, whether Anirudh-apuram, Pollanaruha or Sigiria. The Emerald Isle also has a charisma which few other equally beautiful places have. Its infrastructure for the keen tourists is praiseworthy with its many five-star hotels, its transportation *et al*. (This is the first part of a series on India making multi-dimensional advancement across nations and spheres). (The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

## SOUND BITE

We need to scale up our banking. There is a need for at least four-five more SBI-sized banks.



—Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

We have a chance to stop climate change’s worst effects, but we have to act right now. We must pass our ‘Build Back Better’ Agenda.



—US President Joe Biden

Playing in overseas leagues gives you a lot of experience, especially in the T20 format. And, of course, you get to learn a lot.



—India batter Smriti Mandhana

You have to be blessed to be able to get a chance to make a film and that’s why I cling on to the studio.



—Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali

The BJP Government does not have a single logical reason for why it is against the caste-based census.



—RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav

FIRST COLUMN

TIGRAY: SPARTA IN AFRICA

Tigray's army has already covered about a third of the distance to Ethiopia's Capital



GWYNNE DYER

We have to deal with anyone who's still shooting," said Getachew Reda, spokesman for the Tigrayan forces, last month. "If it takes marching to Addis to silence the guns, we will." In fact, Tigray's army has already covered about a third of the distance to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, since it took back its own provincial capital, Mekelle, in late June.

The fighting has been bloody, for the Ethiopian army is much larger, but the Tigrayan army is more professional and determined. Not only has it liberated all of Tigray except the far west, but it has also seized around one-third of neighbouring Amhara.

Seven million Tigrayans defeating the army of a country of 110 million people may seem odd, but Ethiopia is a patchwork quilt of dif-



ferent ethnic groups, languages and religions that was held together in the past by a centralised monarchy or dictatorship backed by ruthless military force. Until quite recently, it was Tigray that provided that force.

The Tigrayans earned that job by being the most effective guerrilla force in the long struggle to overthrow the former Communist regime, the Derg. They parlayed that role into an ethnic dictatorship that lasted from 1991 until just a few years ago. But the other ethnic groups then united to instal a new prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, who started to dismantle that corrupt autocracy.

He did it, but the Tigrayan military elite withdrew to their own homeland and sulked. It was a well-armed sulk, for almost half the Ethiopian army was based in Tigray, and it consisted largely of ethnic Tigrayans. When it became clear that Abiy's project to destroy the old ethnic pecking order was not negotiable, they rebelled.

This was all pretty inevitable, but then the Ethiopian prime minister decided to invade Tigray and end the problem for good. The Tigrayan army pulled out of the province's cities for a while, and by last November Abiy Ahmed declared the war over. But the Tigrayan leaders were just mobilising their forces, and in June they counter-attacked. The Ethiopian forces broke and ran, and most of Tigray was liberated without a fight.

If it had stopped there, some sort of Ethiopian state would have survived, albeit with a semi-detached Tigray, but Abiy then made the serious mistake of resorting to a blockade to starve the Tigrayans out. By now many people in landlocked Tigray are close to famine, but their leaders have countered with an invasion of Amhara province.

They are now within striking distance of the roads that carry 95 per cent of the Ethiopia's import and export traffic between Addis Ababa and the port of Djibouti. Their success has also emboldened the Oromo Liberation Army, a rebel army seeking autonomy or even independence for Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, to make an alliance with the Tigrayans.

If Abiy makes a quick deal with the Tigrayans that ends the blockade and recognises their independence and borders, he may have enough troops and credibility left to suppress the Oromos and other ethnic insurgents who will soon come out into the open. If not, Ethiopia probably splinters, and it's Yugoslavia all over again.

And what would the Tigrayans do next? Some of them are confident enough to dream of invading Eritrea and taking down President Isaias Afwerki, who sent troops to help Abiy invade Tigray.

Some of the Tigrayan elite may even be speculating about uniting the two countries. After all, half the Eritrean population speaks the same Tigrinya language, and joining the two together would give Tigray access to the sea, which sometimes comes in handy.

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

# Does AUKUS cast a shadow over Quad?



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

With a vision of deterring China and ensuring free international waters, there should not be any doubt that AUKUS will cast a shadow over Quad

The decision to form AUKUS came two weeks of the US withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. It displays the geopolitical resolve that the US has to counter the Chinese threat in the Indo-Pacific region, which is increasing with each passing day. Many experts now think that AUKUS might strategically and tactically sideline Quad. That is not the case. The objectives, either stated explicitly or otherwise, are the same. Chinese expansionism has driven this new military alliance, but both Quad and AUKUS complement each other if seen strategically.

With India and Japan, there are essential constraints that make them more susceptible to the Chinese threat. Apart from the common factor of geographical proximity to China, both aspire to become permanent members of the UNSC. An upfront, direct military alignment against China might adversely affect those aspirations. Individually, India has also to deal with an unholy alliance of China, Pakistan, and the Taliban. Apart from this, it is concerned about Russia's shifting foreign policy priorities towards a Sino-Pak alliance. On the other hand, Japan faces issues such as the dependence on raw materials and food supplies and ageing workforce apart from its Article 9 clause that prohibits the re-armament of Tokyo.

The emerging arrangement seems to present before the world a ring of defence, paving the way for future multilateral alliances against Chinese expansionism. A very look at the map of the oceans will give us a common understanding that the South China Sea, Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean taken together are very difficult for either of the powers to defend by themselves. There have to be multiple security arrangements for a strong defence. In the present circumstances, if India and Japan decide to institutionalise a military alliance with the help of the US, Beijing might resort to increasing its aggressiveness either in the SCS or on the Indo-China border, a purpose which then might be self-defeating.

Thus, strategic manoeuvrability is probably a part of the solution. India and Japan together can possibly hold back China on account of their non-participation in any military bloc while simultaneously keeping up the ante against its hegemonic diplomacy. For this reason, India's joint battle commands need to be operationalised soon. The absence of any institutionalisation will also give time for both India and Japan to modernise their maritime assets. India, in particular, needs to speed up on the interoperability within its forces. France then plays an essential role for India and Japan, apart from other European countries, followed by Israel.

Concerning Japan, it has to gradually move beyond its circumstantial clause that led Tokyo to adopt a 'peace constitution'. From 'self-defence', it has to evolve a 'maritime defence' force to handle



BRITISH AND AMERICAN SUBMERSIBLES AND ANTI-SHIP MISSILES WOULD DETER CHINA FROM THREATENING NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. IN CASE OF SEVERE PROVOCATIONS, THE AUKUS CAN PROVIDE TACTICAL COVER-UP FOR ESSENTIAL SEA ROUTES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN APART FROM THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)



Beijing. The move might instigate some powers like South Korea to put forward their anti-Tokyo stance. However, time demands that those countries that are not compatible with each other bridge their strategic differences and work for a common cause, especially when they have a shared substantial threat and are covered under the US security umbrella. Thus, an expansionist China allows them to resolve their differences and work for a common goal.

British and American submersibles, anti-ship missiles and other striking capabilities would deter China from threatening the countries. In case of severe provocations and open hostilities, the second layer, the AUKUS, can be a deterrent and a defender at the same time by providing a tactical cover-up for essential sea routes in the Southern and Eastern Indian Ocean apart from the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. It then might try to divert attention to the Malacca Straits against India or Japan, but the Indian Navy would present a formidable force there, thus making its 'Malacca Dilemma' a reality. Additionally, the 'five eyes' intelligence sharing mechanism also increases the concerns for China.

Nevertheless, without any institutionalised alignment, it might be difficult for China to go in for the first move against a 'non-militarily aligned' country such as India and Japan and create more complexities. In case of severe threats and imminent attacks, the two might not hesitate to join AUKUS formally. Joint sea denial strategies then have an essential role to play in the upcoming multilateral security

arrangements. Thus, it would not be wrong to envision a consortium of powers guarding the entire Indo-Pacific region, with each player understanding its role and responsibilities well. It is for this reason that both India and Japan have together welcomed the new alliance AUKUS.

One can easily recall that in 2010, Yang Jiechi, China's then foreign minister, on his trip to the ASEAN summit in Hanoi, commented, "China is a big country, and you are small countries, and that is a fact". Today, the time is ripe to reverse the 'big fish-small fish' syndrome. China has reiterated that the Quad will find no support within the Asia Pacific countries. Beijing perhaps fears the expansion of Quad to include other democratic, "like-minded countries" such as Vietnam, the Philippines, South Korea, and Taiwan. All of them have coastlines and have been harassed by China for long. Other pertinent issues such as Chinese illegal fishing, climate change and natural disasters also underline the need for security overlaps with the other countries. Hence, Quad +4 can be envisioned. The small countries with the support of various extra-regional powers have to make formations via unwritten multilateral security arrangements.

The scope of an expanded Quad can include joint technical cooperation and military exercises to increase the interoperability of the forces between themselves and within their force to counter the military challenges before them. As states have security and economic convergences, an understanding can be built to 'strategi-

cally encircle' China and keep it guessing on multiple fronts. In essence, the Quad then remains the strategic linchpin of navigational freedoms marked by a "free, open, transparent and inclusive Indo-Pacific region" apart from focussing on other new and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence apart from climate change. India and Japan thus will have a more significant role from here onwards.

Developments in Afghanistan, China-Pakistan's unconditional support to Taliban and the shifting sands of alliances in the Asian region strongly indicate that the time for multilateral re-alignments and acknowledgement of the reality has arrived. AUKUS fulfills this purpose and consequently occupies the space of an "institutionalised security alliance" having a formalised treaty, ready for action either as a deterrent or more if the situation demands. The 'friendly' nuclear submarines will detect and intercept the Chinese nuclear submarines collecting essential data of the Indo-Pacific Ocean. In this direction, Quad and AUKUS are entirely complementary to each other. Having a joint shared vision of freedom of the high seas and a common challenge of deterring China, there should not be any doubt that AUKUS will cast a shadow over Quad. Apprehensions concerning this new approach should not be viewed from the prism of China. Instead, it should be taken as a part of comprehensive diplomacy not only for deterrence against China's compulsive 'cabbage policy' but also for the peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE **KHELA** (GAME) WILL START FROM BHOWANIPUR AND WILL FINISH AFTER WE WIN IN THE ENTIRE NATION.  
—BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER  
**MAMATA BANERJEE**



MANY WOMEN WERE RAPED AND MANY OF OUR ACTIVISTS WERE KILLED IN BENGAL. THIS IS WHAT THE TMC MEANS BY **KHELA HOBE**?  
—UNION MINISTER  
**SMRITI IRANI**

# Two sides of the cooperation argument

Considering the high stakes involved, the tussle to control the cooperative sector has become the core of politics in Gujarat and Maharashtra

The recent decision of the BJP Government to constitute a new Ministry of Cooperation under the charge of Union Home Minister Amit Shah had mixed reactions. It was hailed by Government supporters as "the new entity which would help cooperatives across states progress as a true people-based movement reaching the grassroots". On the other hand, the opposition camp termed it as a "sinister move to hijack the cooperative movement for political gains".

After formation of the Ministry, the first ambitious move was to come out with a national framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country but the Supreme Court on July 20 said that cooperatives is a



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

State subject and States have exclusive power to legislate on topics reserved for them. The SC upheld an eight-year-old Gujarat High Court verdict limiting the Centre's say in cooperative sector. This had put spanner in the path of the Government because if it wanted to create a "national framework", permission had to be sought from 28 States which include opposition-ruled ones.

Now, the onus of finding a way out is on Amit Shah who is not new to the field of cooperatives who started his political journey as the Chairman of Ahmedabad Cooperative Bank and later helped in turning around the Madhepura Mercantile Cooperative Bank. By 2016, he helped in edging out the Congress from all 33 cooperative banks in Gujarat.



The success of BJP in the politics of Gujarat passes through the route of dairy cooperatives. The dairies including Amul are a huge part of Gujarat's economy.

The opposition is apprehensive about the government's intention of exporting the "Gujarat model" of cooperatives to other states. This is apparent from the reaction of the former agriculture minister Sharad Pawar who conveyed his concern about the "formation of the coopera-

tion ministry and the amendment to the Banking Regulation Act" and calling it an encroachment in federalism and powers of the state.

It is pertinent at this stage to understand the significance and structure of cooperatives in the Indian context. The dairy cooperatives were initiated by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as grassroots organizations to harness the power of collective bargaining for a common goal. Later, with the pooled resources of farmers and other workers, the cooperatives found their way into agriculture, sugar, textiles and other sectors.

The financial clout of cooperative sector can be gauged from the fact that at present, the biggest beneficiaries of state funds and subsidies

are the cooperatives in the finance, sugar and dairy segments.

Considering the high stakes involved, the tussle to control the cooperative sector has become the core of politics in Gujarat and Maharashtra. With its strong network of around 225,000 cooperative bodies controlling sugar, dairy and finance, Maharashtra is the prime example. The Congress and NCP have controlled it for decades, and the BJP has been trying to break the monopoly. Incidentally, what the present Government is trying to do through the newly formed Ministry of Cooperation was opposed in 2013 by present Prime Minister and then Chief minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi. He challenged certain

provisions of the 97th constitutional amendment that empowered the Centre to design a framework for the cooperative sector. However, the way out of the impasse was crafted by the NDA-I government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee by passing a law in 2002 allowing multi-state cooperative societies (MSCS) to help cooperatives diversify and operate outside their home state.

Some experts in cooperative affairs find justification in the formation of a separate Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India monitoring on the grounds that in the absence of regulations, there have been allegations of scams in several cooperatives. Money was siphoned off to fund businesses of politicians, bureaucrats and cooperative leaders. The

Rs 6,500 crore Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank scam in 2019 is a case in point. Acting swiftly, in September last year, the government amended the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and gave the RBI powers to regulate operations of urban and multi-state cooperative banks. The RBI put a check on politicalisation of the cooperatives by debarbing the elected politicians from holding full-time positions as CEOs and Directors. The initiative of forming a national cooperative framework finds favour with the experts who feel that it has the potential of creating more entrepreneurial opportunities, get better value of their produce to the farmers and also reduce the exploitation of farmers by middlemen.

**GLOBE TROTTERING**

**HURRICANE SAM BECOMES CATEGORY 4 STORM**  
**Miami:** Far from land, Hurricane Sam strengthened into a Category 4 hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday. No coastal watches or warnings were in effect for Sam, which was about 990 miles (1,595 kilometers) east-southeast of the northern Leeward Islands in the Caribbean Sea on Saturday night.

**BILLIONAIRE WALTER SCOTT DIES AT 90**  
**Omaha (US):** Billionaire Walter Scott, the past top executive of Peter Kiewit Sons Inc construction firm who helped oversee Warren Buffett's conglomerate and donated to various causes, particularly construction projects around Omaha, has died. He was 90.

**AIRPORT REOPENS ROILED BY VOLCANO ERUPTION**  
**La Palma (Spain):** The airport on the Spanish island of La Palma reopened Sunday and authorities allowed some evacuated residents to collect belongings from their homes, as an erupting volcano continued to roar but lava flows remained slow. The island's government said there had been "no significant incidents" with the volcano since Saturday, when part of the crater collapsed and another river of lava emerged.

**ENVOYS VISIT POKHARA TO BOOST NEPAL TOURISM**  
**Kathmandu:** Envoys from 10 countries on Sunday visited Nepal's popular tourist hub Pokhara in Gandaki province on the invitation of the provincial government as part of its efforts to boost tourism in the Himalayan nation, following a drop in the coronavirus cases over the past few weeks.

## America has enough vax for boosters, kids' shots

AP ■ MADISON (US)

With more than 40 million doses of coronavirus vaccines available, US health authorities said they're confident there will be enough for both qualified older Americans seeking booster shots and the young children for whom initial vaccines are expected to be approved in the not-too-distant future.

The spike in demand — expected following last week's federal recommendation on booster shots — would be the first significant jump in months. More than 70 million Americans remain unvaccinated despite the enticement of lottery prizes, free food or gifts and pleas from exhausted health care workers as the average number of deaths per day climbed to more than 1,900 in recent weeks.

Federal and state health authorities said current supply and steady production of more doses can easily accommodate those seeking boosters or initial vaccination, avoiding a repeat of the frustratingly slow rollout of Covid-19 vaccines across the country early this year.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

To be known to all that I, Smt. Visha Single W/o. Sri Rajinder Mittal, Cont. 9891371534, EMail: sg.india@gmail.com, R/o & Prop No. Plot No. 88, Pocket-10, Sector-20, Rohini, Delhi, has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The documents like original Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, Perpetual Lease Deed, Bank Chalan issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 23/09/2021. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and can personally contact- Deputy Director (LAB/ Rohini) C - Block 3rd Floor Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi

**LOST & FOUND**

**NOTICE REGARDING LOST SHARE CERTIFICATES OF LARSEN & TOUBRO LTD., MUMBAI**

I, Rajan Mayor R/o D-2 Ansal Villas, Sattbari, New Delhi –110074, the registered holder of the shares of the above said company, hereby give notice that the share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares have been untraceable / lost by me and I have applied to the company for issuance of duplicate certificates. Any person having claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claims with the company within 15 days from this date, else the company will proceed to issue duplicate certificates and no further claim will be entertained by the company thereafter. The FIR with Delhi Police has been filed vide LR No:746566/2021 dated 25.09.2021.

**Folio No.:** 04099117

**Share Certificate Nos.:**198786 & 326216

**Distinctive Nos.:**140595188- 140595462

**574810629- 574811178**

**No. of shares:** 278 & 550

**Issued at New Delhi on 25th September 2021 by: Rajan Mayor**

# Russia says it is in sync with US, China, Pak on Taliban

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Russia, China, Pakistan and the United States are working together to ensure that Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers keep their promises, especially to form a genuinely representative Government and prevent extremism from spreading, Russia's Foreign Minister said on Saturday.

Sergey Lavrov said the four countries are in ongoing contact. He said representatives from Russia, China and Pakistan recently traveled to Qatar and then to Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, to engage with both the Taliban and representatives of "secular authorities" — former President Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, who headed the ousted government's negotiating council with the Taliban.

Lavrov said the interim government announced by the Taliban does not reflect "the whole gamut of Afghan society — ethno-religious and political forces — so we are engaging in contacts. They are ongoing."

The Taliban have promised an inclusive Government, a more moderate form of Islamic rule than when they last ruled the country from 1996 to 2001 including respecting women's rights, providing stability after 20 years of war, fighting ter-



Taliban fighters enjoy a boat ride in the Qargha dam, outskirts of Kabul

rorism and extremism and stopping militants from using their territory to launch attacks. But recent moves suggest they may be returning to more repressive policies, particularly toward women and girls.

"What's most important ... Is to ensure that the promises that they have proclaimed publicly to be kept," Lavrov said. "And for us, that is the top priority."

At a wide-ranging news conference and in his speech afterward at the UN General Assembly, Lavrov criticized the Biden administration including for its hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan.

He said the US and NATO

pullout "was carried out without any consideration of the consequences ... That there are many weapons left in Afghanistan."

It remains critical, he said, that such weapons aren't used for "destructive purposes."

Later, in his assembly speech, Lavrov accused the United States and its Western allies of "persistent attempts to diminish the UN's role in resolving the key problems of today or to sideline it or to make it a malleable tool for promoting someone's selfish interests."

As examples, Lavrov said Germany and France recently announced the creation of an

Alliance For Multilateralism "even though what kind of structure could be more multilateral than the United Nations?"

The United States is also sidestepping the UN, he said, pointing to the recent US announcement of a "Summit for Democracy" despite, Lavrov said, US President Joe Biden's pledge this week "that the US is not seeking a world divided into opposing blocs."

"It goes without saying that Washington is going to choose the participants by itself, thus hijacking the right to decide to what degree a country meets the standards of democracy," Lavrov said.

"Essentially, this initiative is quite in the spirit of a Cold War, as it declares a new ideological crusade against all dissenters."

Lavrov was asked for Russia's reaction to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' warning last week that the world could be plunged into a new Cold War potentially more dangerous than the lengthy one between the US and the former Soviet Union unless the United States and China repair their "totally dysfunctional" relationship.

He replied, "Of course, we see the tension tightening in relations between China and the United States."

## Turkey could buy more Russian missiles despite US warnings

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkey's president has said he would consider buying a second Russian missile system in defiance of strong objections by the United States.

In an interview with American broadcaster CBS News, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would have to decide its defence systems on its own.

Speaking to correspondent Margaret Brennan in New York this past week, Erdogan explained that Turkey wasn't given the option to buy American-made Patriot missiles and the US hadn't delivered F-35 stealth jets despite a payment of USD 1.4 billion. Erdogan's comments came in excerpts released in advance of the full interview being broadcast Sunday.

NATO member Turkey was kicked out of the F-35 programme and defence officials were sanctioned after it bought the Russian-made S-400 missile defence system. The US strongly objects to the use of Russian systems within NATO and says it poses a threat to the F-35s. Turkey maintains the S-400s could be used independently without being integrated into

## At UNGA, turmoil in Haiti, Ethiopia draws global concern

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The speeches may be scripted, but the UN General Assembly can sometimes be the only direct window into the regional challenges that command global concern.

On Saturday, world leaders were speaking on behalf of some of the most unstable and unsettling current conflicts.

That includes India's fight over the Kashmir region with bitter rival Pakistan, Haiti's domestic crises spilling into a migrant crisis at the US-Mexico border and questions about the Ethiopian government's role in reported starvation deaths in the Tigray region.

Haiti Prime Minister Ariel Henry didn't shy away from addressing his country's turmoil following a major earthquake and the assassination of its president, Jovenel Moise, in recent months — alluding to but not directly addressing reports that may implicate Henry himself in the murder.

"I want to reaffirm here, at this platform, my determination to do everything to find the collaborators, accomplices and sponsors of this odious crime. Nothing, absolutely nothing, no political maneuver, no media campaign, no distraction, could deter me from this objective: rendering justice for President Moise," Henry said in a prerecorded speech.

"It is a debt to his memory, his family and the Haitian



In this photo taken from video, Ariel Henry, Prime Minister of Haiti, remotely addresses the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in a pre-recorded message

people," Henry said. "The judicial inquest is going difficultly. It's a transnational crime. And for that, we formally solicit mutual legal assistance. It is a priority of my government for the entire nation. Because this crime cannot rest unpunished et those culpable, all those culpable must be punished."

The statement comes days after Henry fired his chief prosecutor, who had asked a judge to charge Henry in the slaying of Moise that has shocked the world and to bar the prime minister from leaving the country.

Haiti's troubles have moved beyond its borders, with thousands of migrants fleeing to the United States. This week, the Biden administration's special envoy to Haiti, Daniel Foote,

resigned in protest of "inhumane" large-scale US expulsions of Haitian migrants. Foote was appointed to the position only in July, following the assassination.

Henry pointedly said that inequalities and conflict drive migration. But he stopped short of directly criticizing Washington, whose treatment of Haitian asylum-seekers has prompted an outcry.

Human beings, fathers and mothers who have children, are always going to flee poverty and conflict," Henry said.

"Migration will continue as long as the planet has both wealthy areas, whilst most of the world's population lives in poverty, even extreme poverty, without any prospects of a better life." It was a flat-out denial for Ethiopia Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, who rejected humanitarian concerns over Tigray as part of a "twisted propaganda campaign" in the embattled corner of northern Ethiopia.

"The criminal enterprise and its enablers created and advertised horrific imagery of faked incidents. As if the real misery of our people is not enough, storylines are created to match not the facts but preconceived stereotypical attitudes," Mekonnen said.

Ethiopia has faced the pressure of global concern since the UN warned of famine in the conflict, calling it the world's worst hunger crisis in a decade.

## Taliban appoint Ghairat as new VC of Kabul varsity

**Around 70 teaching staff resign after Taliban sacks VC of Kabul University**

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Taliban regime has appointed an expert in making sticky/magnetic bombs Ashraf Ghairat as Vice Chancellor of Kabul University. After Ghairat's appointment, 70 faculty members have resigned from the University.

Ghairat, 45, is only a graduate and has close links with Pakistani covert agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and terror groups like Haqqani Network, Al Qaeda and Army of Mohammad among others. Earlier, VCs in different universities in Afghanistan, including in Kabul, used to have doctorates.

The move is aimed at converting the campus into a hub for radicalization of young minds as the Taliban has asserted that Ghairat has all the qualifications that are required for the top post at Kabul University.

The interim government in

Kabul already has listed terrorists from the Haqqani Network and Taliban. Such terrorists have been designated by both the United Nations and the United States.

Under the Doha pact with the Taliban, the US has committed itself to lifting the sanctions on all such leaders holding key positions in the current regime in Kabul.

The Haqqani Network as also the Taliban are projects of the Pakistani Army-ISI syndicate. The Haqqani Network has planted Ghairat as the VC as part of a conspiracy to convert the campus into a breeding ground for future global terrorists.

Ghairat has in the past trained hundreds of trainers for fabricating sticky or magnetic bombs and IEDs. He has also masterminded executions of sticky bomb blasts to kill scores of people opposed to the Haqqani Network or the Taliban.

The Kabul University attracts students from a number of countries in the region and radicalization of such youth will help expand the terror footprint in the entire region.

Founder President of

Afghanistan Republic Salvation Front and senior counter-terrorism expert of Afghan origin, Ajmal Sohail said, "The move is clearly aimed at revival of the global terrorist groups with renewed recruitment of young minds from university campuses like Kabul University."

By ramping up the terrorist cadres, the Taliban and its cohorts like the Haqqani Network and Al Qaeda aim at creation of a global caliphate, Sohail added.

Other counter-terrorism expert Dr Rituraj Mate said, "The Taliban is aiming at converting the Kabul University into a nursery of terrorism and radicalization for fueling global jihad. Appointing such a person from hardcore terrorist background is an ominous sign and agencies need to keep a watch on such developments to formulate suitable and timely counter measures."

Young minds are vulnerable to radicalization and inclined to take risks. Once radicalized and trained in making IEDs, the youths can be used for executing terrorist actions like blasts in their home country under the garb of jihad, Dr Mate added.

## BLA blast Pakistan founder Jinnah's statue

**New Delhi:** The Baloch Liberation Army has destroyed the statue of Pakistan founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah at the Marine Drive in Gwadar Port.

The Baloch Liberation Army has taken responsibility for the blast that destroyed the statue in standing position.

The blast was carried out after planting explosives on the statue and casualties, if any, could not be ascertained immediately. The move comes close on the heels of the Baloch insurgents attacking a Pakistani Rangers post in restive

Balochistan. The Baloch insurgents had on Thursday abducted 15 personnel of the Pak Rangers after the attack on the outpost. The Baloch Liberation Army is spearheading the Baloch insurgency in Balochistan and often targets Pakistani Army, Pak Rangers and police personnel deployed in the area.

The Balochs are also opposed to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a China-led infrastructure project under the Belt and Road Initiative.

PNS

## Panel OKs Dems' \$3.5T Bill, crunch time for Biden agenda

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Democrats pushed a \$3.5 trillion, 10-year Bill strengthening social safety net and climate programs through the House Budget Committee on Saturday, but one Democrat voted "no" illustrating the challenges party leaders face in winning the near unanimity they will need to push the sprawling package through Congress.

The Democratic-dominated panel, meeting virtually, approved the measure on a near party-line vote, 20-17.

Passage marked a necessary but minor checking of a procedural box for Democrats by edging it a step closer to debate by the full House.

Under budget rules, the committee was not allowed to significantly amend the 2,465-page measure, the product of 13 other House committees.

More important work has been happening in an opaque procession of mostly unannounced phone calls, meetings and other bargaining sessions among party leaders and rank-and-file lawmakers.

## South Korea urges North to restore hotlines for any talks

**Seoul:** South Korea on Sunday urged North Korea to restore dormant communication hotlines, a day after the North repeated an offer to open conditional talks.

The North might be seeking to extract concessions about two weeks after it raised tensions by carrying out its first missile tests in six months. North Korea has twice reached out to South Korea saying it's open to talks if conditions are met.

AP

## Israeli troops kill 5 Palestinian gunmen in arrest clashes

**Jerusalem:** Five Palestinian gunmen were killed in shootouts with Israeli security forces during a sweeping West Bank arrest operation cracking down on the Islamic militant group Hamas on Sunday.

It was the deadliest violence between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants in the occupied West Bank in recent weeks and came amid heightened tensions following this year's 11-day war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Health Ministry said two Palestinians were shot dead near the north-

ern West Bank city of Jenin and three others were killed in Biddu, north of Jerusalem.

The Israeli military said an officer and soldier suffered serious injuries during the arrest in Burqin, near Jenin, and were airlifted to a hospital for medical treatment.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement that Israeli security forces in the West Bank moved against Hamas operatives "that were about to execute terror attacks in the very immediate future."

AP

## 4 Pakistani security personnel killed, attack claimed by BLA

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

At least four security personnel were killed and two others injured in a blast targeting Pakistan's paramilitary forces in the country's restive Balochistan province, an official said on Sunday.

The outlawed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attack. A vehicle of the Frontier Corps (FC) was attacked in the Khosat area of Harnai district on Saturday, according to the

Dawn newspaper.

The FC soldiers were patrolling when their vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device, resulting in the death of four soldiers and injuries to two officers.

Security forces rushed the injured to nearby hospitals.

Balochistan has been witnessing a spate of low-level violence for years. On Friday, two security personnel were killed and five others injured in an attack in Awaran district of the province.

## 3 dead in Amtrak train derailment in Montana

**Joplin:** At least three people were killed Saturday afternoon when an Amtrak train that runs between Seattle and Chicago derailed in north-central Montana, toppling several cars onto their sides, authorities said.

The westbound Empire Builder train derailed about 4 p.m. near Joplin, a town of about 200, Amtrak spokesman Jason Abrams said in a statement. The accident scene is about 150 miles (241 kilometers) northeast of Helena and about 30 miles (48 km) from the border with Canada.

AP



In this photo provided by Kimberly Fossen people work at the scene of an Amtrak train derailment on Saturday

# India needs 4-5 ‘SBI size’ banks: FM

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India needs 4-5 "SBI size" banks to meet the growing needs of the economy and Nirmalya Sitharaman said on Sunday.

Addressing the 74th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), she said the industry needs to imagine how Indian banking has to be in the immediate and long-term future.

As far as the long-term future is concerned, she said it is going to be largely driven by digitised processes and there is a need for seamless and interconnected digital systems for a sustainable future for the Indian banking industry.

"Although I did say that in the amalgamation process, your systems have spoken to each other, there wasn't a problem of those amalgamating banks. And, I remember the banking secretary at that time, Rajiv Kumar, telling me that we have ensured that the amalgamating banks do have their systems in such a way that they can align with each other," she said.

Mega consolidation was announced in 2019 when Kumar was the financial services secretary but was implemented by his successor Debasish Panda effective April 2020.

As part of the mega consolidation exercise, Oriental

Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India were merged into Punjab National Bank; Syndicate Bank into Canara Bank; Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank into Union Bank of India; and Allahabad Bank into Indian Bank.

Following the consolidation, there are now seven large public sector banks and five smaller ones. There were as many as 27 public sector banks (PSBs) in 2017.

Kumar, now an Election Commissioner of India, was instrumental in laying a digital pipeline that was leveraged during the pandemic to transfer money into accounts of crores of the vulnerable and needy with a click of button.

The finance minister said banks, whether public or private sector, cannot work in digital silos and systems should be speaking to each other.

"So, I would think that's one of the areas in which you would give some more time and make sure that bridge crossed," she said.

Appreciating the efforts of bankers to carry out smooth consolidation exercise during the challenging time of the pandemic, the Finance Minister said it did not cause inconvenience to the customer and there was no aberration.

"Amalgamation, after all, is an important exercise even as important to the Indian Banks'

Association because of the way in which the economy is shifting to a different plane altogether, the way in which economy together with the industry is also looking at various different ways of adapting to a post-pandemic era..." she said.

Asserting that the driving force for the amalgamation was to build scale, Sitharaman said India needs a lot more banks and a lot of global size banks.

"India needs at least four different SBI size banks. So, one of the driving forces was for the amalgamation that we need to scale up banking.

"We need to scale up banking to meet the new changing and growing requirements but that was thought of even before the pandemic. Now, all the more reason why we would need four or five more SBIs in this country," she said.

Paying homage to bankers who lost their lives in the line of duty during the pandemic, the finance minister urged IBA to help and support the families of the deceased.

"I do pay my humble homage to those who have served, but also suffered because of the pandemic but unfortunately couldn't survive it. I am sure the IBA will do everything that it takes to support their families, and keep them spirited and morally sound because the loss is irreparable," she said.

## Many districts lack bank branches despite high economic activity: FM

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said despite the huge thrust on financial inclusion and high economic activity, there are districts in the country not having any banking presence at all.

She asked the lenders to get their act together and open either a full-fledged brick-and-mortar branch or an outpost rendering banking services, wondering how banking presence eludes even pockets which have high economic activity.

It can be noted that policymakers have been focusing on financial inclusion for over a decade and also had set a target of ensuring banking presence in every village with a population of over 2,000 people. A few years ago, the RBI had liberalised branch opening norms for banks.

"Even today, there are very many districts in which even big panchayats don't have a physical bank... There are very many districts in which not even one banking institution is

physically present," Sitharaman said, speaking at the 74th annual general meeting (AGM) of the industry lobby group Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

She exhorted the IBA members to digitally map all the districts to see the areas having low coverage for themselves and accordingly make provisions for either a physical branch or an outpost.

"You should be able to see the centres of economic activity. Be it a completely rural pocket but if the economic activity is strong there, wouldn't you think there should be some kind of presence?," she asked.

Making it clear that she is not against digitisation, which has paid tremendous cost benefits to lenders in terms of outreach, Sitharaman wondered how there can be parts of country which do not have even a single brick-and-mortar branch.

The minister cited the case of a highly persuasive lawmaker who has been making appeals for a bank branch in an area witnessing high agricultural-related trading.

## Leading indicators suggest eco on recovery path: Bhanumurthy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Eminent economist N R Bhanumurthy on Sunday said leading indicators are suggesting that the Indian economy is on recovery path and clearly moving out of the "dark clouds" brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bhanumurthy, currently Vice Chancellor of B R Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE), further said in terms of the extent of economic recovery, it could take may be one more year to even come back to pre-pandemic levels.

"Going by the recent trends in some of the leading indicators, there are clear positive signs and the Indian economy may be clearly moving out of the dark clouds covered by the pandemic," he told PTI in an interview.

Bhanumurthy pointed out that one leading indicator that could be considered is the robust Government revenue collections, higher than the budget estimates; it is something that suggests optimism in growth recovery in India.

According to the eminent economist, the Indian economic recovery is broad-based, although some components of services sector are still recovering largely due to severe sup-

ply-side disruptions. "But this could also be due to severe second pandemic wave that disrupted movement of economic agents."

The Indian economy grew by a record 20.1 per cent in the April-June quarter, helped by a very weak base of last year and a sharp rebound in the manufacturing and services sectors in spite of a devastating second wave of COVID-19.

India is now on track to achieving the world's fastest growth this year.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lowered the country's growth projection for the current financial year to 9.5 per cent from 10.5 per cent estimated earlier, while the World Bank has projected India's economy to grow at 8.3 per cent in 2021.

On the stock market boom at a time when economic growth has slowed down, Bhanumurthy said it is common to say that stock markets do not reflect the real economy.

"However, this time around, sustained surge in the stock indices do not suggest such disconnect," he said.

Bhanumurthy, however, added that one may see some corrections when large central banks in the world start tightening when the inflationary pressures build up and the same

could happen in India as well.

On recent calls for using the huge forex reserves for infrastructure development or recapitalisation of public sector banks, the economist said the reserves are largely hot money that are required to maintain stability in the forex market.

"In such conditions, using reserves for any specific purposes such as financing or recapitalisation of public sector banks could only end up in weakening external accounts," he observed.

Asked if high retail and wholesale inflation is a matter of concern, he said going by the recent trends in both Consumer Price Index and WPI inflation, there are diverging trends.

He said indeed continuously high WPI inflation is a worrying factor because it could have pass-through impact of CPI even with a long lag.

Stating that the Monetary Policy Committee indeed taking note of this issue, Bhanumurthy said, "Hopefully the committee would take necessary action to mitigate the inflationary pressure."

On the government's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) scheme, he said NMP is a very good policy measure to unshackle the unproductive public sector entities.

## Over 90% Indian business leaders feel pandemic pressed need to improve crisis mgmt capability: Study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 90 per cent of the Indian business leaders opined that the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to improve crisis management capabilities, says a survey by consultancy firm PwC India.

About 59 per cent of the Indian business admitted having adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, said the PwC's Global Crisis Survey 2021- India Insights.

The survey also revealed that over 80 per cent of India's business leaders have already invested in technology in the aftermath of the pandemic.

In India, it added, business leaders were substantially more confident than global leaders about their ability to evaluate the lessons of the pandemic and put them into action. "92 per cent of India organisations said they were 'confident' vs just 75 per cent of global leaders," the survey said.

The responses of India's business leaders were largely in line with the overall results of PwC's Global Crisis Survey 2021, showing only minor areas of significant divergence in views and insights.

About the survey, PwC said more than 2,800 business leaders around the world shared

company data and personal insights into the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the future of enterprise resilience.

"With 99 respondents representing Indian organisations, our report offers an analysis of how of how our business community is responding and how leaders are applying the lessons of this era to prepare for the next disruption," it said.

As per the survey, the top 5 priorities cited by business leaders going forward are, include accelerate transformations in organisational areas identified during the crisis (99 per cent); adapt strategy to respond nimbly to major interruptions and implement changes (96 per cent); and implement after-action review process to assess response to future incidents and crisis (89 per cent).

The other two are: Actively work on increasing resilience in the near future (86 per cent) and make changes to corporate strategy in response to the pandemic (51 per cent).

Puneet Garkhel, Partner and Leader, Forensics Services, PwC India, said that operations and supply chain, finance and liquidity, and workforce are the three areas in which Indian businesses experienced "significant" or "critical" impact owing to the pandemic.

## 1.71 cr workers from unorganised sector registered on e-Shram portal in a month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 1.71 crore workers from the unorganised sector have been registered on the e-Shram portal in the last one month since its launch on August 26, 2021.

"Completion of one month of launch of e-Shram portal marks with the registration of more than 1.71 crores workers from the unorganised sector and in unorganised employment," a Labour Ministry statement said.

As of September 25, the statement said, as many as 1,71,59,743 workers have registered on the portal.

The e-Shram portal was inaugurated on August 26, 2021 by the Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav. The portal is the first-ever national database of unorganised workers including migrant workers, construction workers, gig and platform workers.

It facilitates extending benefits of social sector schemes to the workers in the unorganised sector. The data shows that the drive has strengthened with the mobilisation of workers achieving a greater mile each week. In this first week, 13.55 lakh informal workers registered on the portal. Compared to the 2nd week with over 19.52 lakh registration, in the third and the fourth week, the enrolments gained exponentially.

In week 4, over 69.53 lakh workers registered on the e-Shram portal while it was 68.97 lakh in third week.

## Global trends to steer markets; stocks may face volatility amid rich valuations: Analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Equity markets would track global cues for further direction this week and may face volatility amid monthly derivatives expiry and rich valuations, analysts said.

The BSE Sensex made history on Friday by reaching the 60,000-mark for the first time ever. It took just eight months for the BSE benchmark to cover the journey from 50,000 in January this year to scale the unprecedented 60,000 mark for the first time on Friday. The Sensex has traversed from 1,000 points to the historic 60,000 level in a little over 31 years.

"The roaring bull market is continued in the Indian market with climbing all walls of worries where Sensex has crossed the new milestone of 60,000. We are in a classical bull market like the 2003-2007 phase where this bull run is likely to continue for the next 2-3 years," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart.

However, he put a word of caution after a parabolic move in last few days because short-term correction cannot be ruled out in coming days.

Sharing similar sentiments, Motilal Oswal, the MD & CEO of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited said, "Given rich valuations, one cannot ignore intermittent volatility - however we expect the positive momentum to continue on the back of improving economic activity and recovery in corporate earnings."

## Chip shortage delaying launches, makers taking measures to mitigate risks: CEAMA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The domestic appliances and consumer electronics industry, facing shortages in components such as semiconductors and chips, expects the situation not only to last through 2022 but also to stretch into 2023, said the Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA).

Several manufacturers, using chips as inputs, are now facing bottlenecks in their capacities and expect a delay in launches of new products, said the CEAMA.

Moreover, shortage of chips, coupled with rising resour products, has also offset the softening of prices happening in the sector after some of the commodities like resins and chemicals have shown price corrections, said CEAMA President Kamal Nandi.

"The industry might run short of controllers owing to shortages of semiconductors and other electronic components. Keeping in mind the surge in demand during festive, we have taken appropriate measures to mitigate the near-term risks," CEAMA President Kamal Nandi told PTI.

Companies are exploring a combination of technical levers (like design optimisation and value innovation), commercial levers (like hedging, dual sources and localisation), and process levers (like advance and joint planning with suppliers)

to mitigate the impact, he added.

Semiconductors and chips are used for manufacturing key components such as - micro controllers, optocoupler, power relay, switch, varistor, and connectors - for a range of appliances manufactured by the industry.

"It is a multifaceted issue with currently no sign of abating. With demand on the rise and supply likely to remain constrained, we expect this shortage to last through 2022 and into 2023," said Nandi.

Moreover, chips manufacturers are also ramping up production fees, which could give an upward push to prices in the future, he added.

However, he also added that the semiconductor industry is putting more capacity in place, but it will take time.

"It is going to take two or three years before we start to see the positive impacts of these steps," said Nandi, who is also business head and executive vice-president , Godrej Appliances.

The appliances price has already witnessing pressure on account of multiple macro-economic factors like increase in commodity prices, freight rates and material shortages.

## SpiceJet now introduces interim fixed pay system; some pilots flag continuing salary cuts

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Budget carrier SpiceJet, which had resorted to hourly-basis pay for pilots amid the pandemic, on Sunday, said it has introduced a new "interim fixed salary system" for captains and first officers.

The airline said not only will pilot salaries "increase significantly" under the new pay structure but those who fly more than the stipulated minimum hours will be paid overtime.

However, some pilots contested the assurance given by SpiceJet and claimed "stress" due to the continued reduction in their salaries implemented in April last year.

The pilots claimed that they were being paid a third or a half of their pre-Covid-19 salaries despite the company achieving an occupancy rate of over 85 per cent on passenger flights and being among the largest air cargo carriers during the pandemic.

The Gurgaon-headquartered airline said it had adopted a "block hour payment system" after the COVID-19 outbreak effective April 1, 2020, wherein pilots were paid based on the hourly flying rate without having to send anyone on 'leave without pay'.

"While many other airlines and organisations severed employee contracts during the pandemic, there was no retrenchment in SpiceJet," a Spicejet spokesperson told PTI.

"The migration to the block hour payment model was expected to be short-lived. However, the second wave of COVID-19 has delayed the implementation of our 'normal' salary structure," the spokesperson said.

An interim 'fixed salary system' effective September 1, 2021, has now been implemented to provide better pay-out, said Spicejet two days after it sent out an e-mail to all pilots announcing the change.

The objectives of the new system, it said, are having a pay structure that reflects fixed salary components and other relevant components.

It will also enable payment of a fixed minimum salary to all available pilots and those who fly more than the stipulated minimum hours will be paid overtime, it added.

"The company will be paying higher amount under the interim fixed salary system and this has been done keeping in mind the welfare of the greater pilot community," Spicejet said.

## Diesel price hiked again, no change in petrol rate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel price on Sunday was hiked by 25 paise per litre - the second increase in rates after the state-owned oil firms ended a three-week hiatus in rates following international oil prices surging to their highest since 2018.

Price of diesel was hiked to ₹ 89.07 per litre in Delhi and to ₹ 96.68 in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Petrol price was not changed. It costs ₹ 101.19 a litre in Delhi and ₹ 107.26 in Mumbai.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) had on September 24 resumed daily price revision, ending the pause in rates hit since September 5.

On September 24, diesel rates were hiked by 20 paise a litre. On that day too petrol price had remained unchanged.

Global benchmark Brent crude has risen to USD 77.50 a barrel as crude inventories shrunk from Europe to the US. Oil rates are up 2 per cent for the week and this is the fifth weekly gain.

## VIL CEO: Govt has no interest in acquiring any telecom company

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has given an option to telcos to pay back interest on dues through equity and also conveyed that it has no interest in acquiring any telecom company, a top official of debt-ridden Vodafone Idea has said.

Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) Managing Director and CEO Ravinder Takkar in an interview to PTI said it is clear that the Government wants the company to compete in the market and there should be at least three private service providers in the telecom sector.

"I have had many many interactions across various parts of the Government leading up to this announcement (telecom reforms). In all my conversations, it is absolutely clear that the Government has no interest in owning or acquiring or running any other telecom company," Takkar said.

The Government is already managing loss-making telecom firms BSNL and MTNL which are yet to post profit after a relief package of around Rs 69,000 crore granted to them in October 2019.

Some experts contended that the government may end up holding a "sizable" chunk.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Sangeeta De (Borrower), Sagorika De, Suranjan De (Co-Borrower) LBFDB00002417371, LBDEL00002417814	Flat No. T2/1601, 16th Floor, Sunworld Aista, GH 01/C, Sector 168, Noida, UP Area 3500Sq Ft.	Rs. 2,28,01,495.8/- (as on September 14, 2021)	Rs. 1,48,00, 000/- Rs. 14,80, 000/-	October 4, 2021 From 11:00AM to 02:00PM	October 27, 2021 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **October 26, 2021 before 05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **October 26, 2021 before 05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005** on or before **October 26, 2021 before 05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 9372730494** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**

Please note that Marketing agencies **1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

**Date: September 27, 2021**  
**Place: Delhi/NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED**  
Corporate Office: No.2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai- 600 001.  
Branch Office: 1st and 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi -110005  
Contact No: 09818468101

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE**  
Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of M/s Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrowers, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the possession, on **'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS', 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS' and 'WHATSOEVER IS THERE IS BASIS'**, Particulars of which are given below:-

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Total Loan Outstanding
Loan Account No. XH0EEDL00001462931 Borrower and Co-borrower names 1. ROHIT ROY & Rs. 2,35,58,798.90/- as on 10-04-2017 3. ROTHY BROTHERS ORGANIC AGRO(P) LTD 3. TATIANA ZUEVA All residing at: DC-302, DEL COURT JAYPEE GARDEN GREATER NOIDA, NOIDA- 201 309	10-05-2017 & Rs. 2,35,58,798.90/- as on 10-04-2017	Property admeasuring built up area 3250 sq.ft., bearing Apartment No. DC-3-302, Third Floor, Del court, Jaypee Greens, Block-G, Surajpur Kasma Road, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP.	Rs. 1,80,00,000/-	Rs. 18,00,000/-	Rs. 4,50,48,276.21/- (Rupees Four Crore Fifty Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Six and Twenty one paise only) as on 21.09.2021 the date of payment.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING AUCTION PROCESS**

1	Date of Auction	14th Oct 2021
2	Place of Submission of Bids and Place of Auction	1st and 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi -110005
3	Date of Inspection of Property	11th Oct 2021, 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM (In business Hours)
4	Last date for Submission of Bids	13th Oct 2021 before 5:00 PM

\* A bidder may, on his own choice, avail the facility in the auction by making application in prescribed format which is available along with the offer/tender document on the given office address mentioned hereunder. Sale is strictly subject to terms and conditions incorporated in this advertisement and the prescribed Bid / Tender Document. This notice is also to be treated as a 15 days' notice under Rule 8(5)(c) and 8 (8) of the Security Interest Enforcement, Rules, 2002,." (Rule 8 and 9)

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION**

- The property is sold on "As is where is basis" "As is What is Basis" and "Whatever Is There Is Basis".
- The Bidder is obliged to exercise full due diligence in all respects, including to inspect each of the details of the property mentioned above on the scheduled date & time.
- Submission of bids to M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited would be construed a deemed acceptance by the bidder that (i) he/she/it has exercised due diligence in all respects; (ii) is satisfied with all details/measurements of property; (iii) Acknowledges full knowledge of terms and conditions that govern the auction and (iv) Waives all his/her/its rights to make any contrary claims against company at any future date.
- The sale is subject to confirmation by the Authorised officer if the borrower/guarantor pays the entire outstanding amount in full before sale, no sale will be conducted.
- The Bidder shall remit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c, along with the bid form in a Sealed Cover addressed to The Authorized Officer, M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited up to **5:00 PM on 13.10.2021**. Please note that, in reference to successful bidder(s), EMD is adjustable against the sale consideration receivable by M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. Also, EMD is refundable to the unsuccessful bidder(s).
- The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his/her/its favour and the balance within 15 days by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c Number.
- In case the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on sale being knocked down in his/her/its favour and/or the balance amount, within 15 days the deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited without any prior intimation.
- The charges / fees payable for conveyance such as stamp duty, registration fee, maintenance charges electricity charges etc., shall be borne by the successful bidder. The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, property tax or any other dues to the Government or local body or any other authority in respect of the property under sale.
- The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn / postpone/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice or assigning any reason therefore.
- The Sale will only be in favour of successful bidder and not his/her nominee.
- This Notice is also to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general. The borrower has absolute right for the redemption of property till the confirmation of the sale Process.

M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited are not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on "As Is Where Is Basis", "As Is What is Basis" and "Whatever Is There Is Basis". For further details, contact the Authorised Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.

<b>Place: Delhi</b> <b>Date:- 27-Sep-2021</b>	<b>Sd/- Authorised Officer</b> <b>M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited</b>
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**Bollywood**  
'Jagjit Singh ji lives on in our hearts. I thank him for leaving behind such a melodious legacy.'  
—Sonu Nigam

# THE FALLEN ANGEL

We no longer are seeking validation from the West because we know where we stand, says ANANYA SENGUPTA in a candid conversation with KHUSHBU KIRTI



Friedrich Nietzsche had once said, “He who fights his own demons, must take care he doesn’t become one.” *Enigma* — *The Fallen Angel*, an award winning short-film, explores exactly this — the dark, hidden recesses of the mind. It revolves around the intermingled lives of Richa and Myra. Besides winning innumerable awards at festivals, the short film qualified for the Oscars and will be screened in November in LA.

Actress Ananya Sengupta recently won two consecutive international film awards for the category of ‘Best Actress’ and ‘Best Supporting Actress’ for her short-films *Enigma* — *The Fallen Angel* and *Silver Gandhi* at Port Blair International Film festival and Golden Sparrow International Film festival, respectively.

Read on for excerpts of the interview:

**■Your latest short film *Enigma- The Fallen Angel* has won widespread acclaim. Give us an overview of the film.**

Firstly, I’m so glad for the interview. I do not think I’ve achieved much to deserve this (laughs heartily). Previously, I was a model and I didn’t feel proud of myself for the same, because you’re doing what other people are telling you to do and it is not like you are exhibiting your talent in it. It didn’t seem consistent and I was not invested in it. Modelling is about posing, looking good and thin. You do not have much work. So, at the moment, I’m doing

a couple of short films, and Telugu films to showcase my acting skills. They were doing festival rounds and, luckily, one of my short-films has been spotted.

*Enigma- The Fallen Angel* has been made by a production called Dreamcatchers who are based in Pune. They are super passionate filmmakers. The trailer of the film itself looks so international because of the way that they have made it. So, this film is about a girl who has schizophrenia, hallucinates, and lives in her own world. She, then, returns to reality and realises that the world is still sad. It has a supernatural air to it and since the duration of the film is hardly 30 minutes, I’ll leave it to the audience to watch it. I am proud of the film and the journey and I see these things that I am doing right now as stepping stones to what I actually wish to achieve.

**■And what is it that you wish to achieve?**

My plan is to do mainstream cinema and movies. Being a newcomer, when you don’t have a back-up, and people always want to know what you’ve done. They want to cast you on the basis of your profile. I do not come from a film background, and so I cannot say I’m so-and-so’s daughter or sister. I have to speak through my work. I’m trying to garner content to show to the makers. So I want to become ‘already somebody’.

**■The film qualified for the Oscars screening at LA in November, which is probably the highest accomplishment for a film. According to you, why aren’t more people talking about it?**

Yes, I understand that not many people have recognised it but people are noticing it in the Marathi film industry. We have plans to take it



ahead with press releases and bytes soon. But, honestly, I have seen people get confused between nomination and qualification when it comes to Oscars. We have been qualified for the screening, which is a big deal in itself, and I’m hoping gradually more spectators will notice.

**■Films making a mark internationally, are we still looking for validation from the west?**

I think we are always trying to do that. I remember Aamir Khan trying hard for *Lagaan* to get that credit in the West but couldn’t exactly receive it. I remember Aishwarya Rai doing *Pink Panther*, but she couldn’t last long either. She is the absolute queen and we all love her but it still did not work. Others have attempted to send their films for Oscars, too. This may have certainly happened in the past, but I do not think we’re doing that anymore because I would like to believe we are now aware where we stand.

**■You won the best actress award, at Port Blair Film Festival, for this particular role. We’re excited to know about your character in the film. How did you relate with it?**

I am playing the role of the ‘mystery girl’ in *Enigma*. The film belongs to the supernatural genre so I’m not sure if the audience will relate to my character, unless you watch it twice. I’m not trying to be greedy here but I feel it’s just one of those films that you gotta watch twice to understand well.

**■What, according to you, is the USP of the short film? Why should more people watch it?**

I think everyone has a different perception and there would be numerous USPs when it comes to different opinions. Personally, I feel if a film clicks with you, it just does. That’s what I look for and appreciate when I watch cinema. For this one, particularly, the content is very different. It is dreamy and fantastical. It is, altogether, a different world.

**■You have a line-up of diverse films — a Marathi web-series called *Highdose* and a Telugu film called *Madras Gang*. Tell us about the films.**

I’m doing two Telugu films, one is *Madras Gang* and the second one is untitled. The former is a trilingual film (Telugu, Tamil and Hindi) and it is about groupism. Everyone wishes to become the ruler of the gang. It is based in Mumbai and also revolves around this Maharashtra girl from Dadar who has grown up in slums. There are cops and gangs involved. It is quite an interesting story. It is produced under the banner of SN Reddy and directed by Ajay Andrews, and features Ashmit Patel, Adhyayan Suman and Ranga Jinu.

In the untitled film, my role is opposite Naveen Chandra. The film is directed by Srinivasa Raju. They’re commercial mainstream films and I’m very excited for both.

**■You seem to play diverse roles in various languages. Is it difficult to shift from one to another, more so because of the language change?**

(Chuckles before proceeding) It is too difficult, it really is. I can learn Russian and Spanish but I cannot learn Tamil and Telugu, for the love of God! They are complicated but obviously, like we know, practise makes you perfect. With practise, I got better at it or, at least, I can say I could pull it off. People, surprisingly, loved my performance. I was super anxious since I did not know these languages but I’m glad it all worked out.

**■Can you tell us about your character in *Highdose*?**

Yes. *Highdose* is a web-series directed by Marathi director Dilip Vasudev and produced by Shonali films, and is supposed to be released this year. It is being shot at a very large scale.

I am playing the character of Revati, a free-spirited young girl. She is a kind-of drug-addict and is troubled due to her past troubles caused by her parents’ separation at a very young age.

## WEBBED



### EK THI BEGUM S2

Inspired by true events, the show reflects the story of Ashraf a.k.a Sapna. The loving wife of Zaheer, previously a confidant of Maqsood, the underworld don, but now arch-rival, Sapna vows revenge on Maqsood’s empire after he kills her husband. It releases on September 30 on MX Player.



### BINGO HELL

In the barrio of Oak Springs live a strong and stubborn group of elderly friends who refuse to be gentrified. However, their beloved bingo hall is about to be sold to a much more powerful force than money itself. It releases on October 1 on Amazon Prime Video.



### SHIDDAT

The passion that overcomes all senses or logic to do things that you wouldn’t usually imagine. To believe in something with all your heart and to possess the drive to achieve it — that’s *Shiddat*. It releases on October 1 on Disney+ Hotstar.

# Skincare essentials

Soft and happy skin is not out of your reach. You just need to be a little mindful, consistently



## SMILE

When we smile the blood flow gets better, and the skin receives more oxygen and nutrients. This can help you develop a healthier complexion. It also leaves you stress free making you look happy and radiant.

## H2O

With our bodies comprising of 70 per cent water, drinking sufficient amounts of water helps your skin look healthy and hydrated. Drinking adequate water flushes out toxins from our bodies, preventing acne and boosting the skin’s elasticity. After all, water is called the elixir of life.

## MOVE YOUR BODY

Along with cleansing and proper nutrition, another aspect which is important for happy skin is movement. When we move or burn calories, the body produces chemicals called endorphins. These endorphins interact with the receptors in the brain to trigger positive feelings and happy thoughts. This feeling of pure happiness and joy reflects on the skin, thus having the power to completely change your mood and keep you and your skin beaming.

—IANS

# Love yourself before you love others

ALINA MUSTAFINA believes that you have to achieve self-goals before being with someone and getting tagged as ‘couple goals’

Everyone knows that we all strive for the ‘perfect relationship’. And, for this, we seek inspiration from others, mostly celebrities and our near and dear ones. We will be lying if we haven’t heard ourselves or someone else say that they are ‘looking for the Chandler to my Monica’, or ‘Jake to my Amy’, or ‘Ted to my Robin’.

While it is normal to seek inspiration from external sources, it is equally important to understand the reality of our situation. Achieving the ‘couple goals’ status requires some effort, romance, and mutual respect from both you and your partner. Irrespective of whether you are single or in a relationship, one needs to set their own ground rules and expectations of why they are in a relationship or on a dating app. Laying these rules can define your dating life and help you understand the kind of relationship you seek, what qualities you desire in your potential partner and what could be a red flag for you.

To help those who might be feeling a little stuck on these questions, here are some key pointers that you should bear in mind before taking the leap of faith that dating is, online or offline:

**Don’t let one bad experience define you**

There is a popular Hindi metaphor that goes, ‘doodh ka jala hua chaach bhi

phuk phuk kar peeta hai’. While it means that one unpleasant experience will make you extremely cautious, in the context of the matter at hand, let us interpret it as-- a recent unpleasant experience in a romantic relationship makes you extra cautious in future relationships.

It is okay to be cautious of opening yourself to someone because of some past experiences. However, we should also understand that just because something happened in the past, it is not necessary that future pursuits will follow the same script. Rachel met Ross after Paolo (*F.R.I.E.N.D.S* reference). One should let this thought sink and commence their journey of love and dating with a positive affirmation.

### What am I doing here?

This is the pertinent question to ask before you make your bio on dating apps or start dating someone. Self-introspection should be the ideal way to explore your romantic life.

The first step is to take some time to reflect and honestly ask yourself what it is that you’re looking for. It doesn’t matter if you’re looking for a serious relationship or just want a Netflix and Chill partner. If you’re aware of, and understand, what you want, you won’t feel lost or confused about your love life.

### Effort never goes out of style



We may make numerous excuses for forgetting anniversaries, missing out on dates, or just not replying to texts. But every successful relationship is built on the small efforts you and your loved one puts in. It is easy to enjoy the label of being someone’s girlfriend/ boyfriend, but not many will do justice to it. Planning breakfast dates, watching movies together or bonding over your favourite activities is the best way to spend time with your significant other!

### Wired for life

When clouded with the fear of being judged or as issues pop up, we tend to shy away from standing for our core values. Undermining what you stand for, just for the sake of impressing someone isn’t right. A partner that believes and supports your moral values, even though they might disagree with them, is the one to always go for! If

your mental wiring is the same, you are more likely to be wired for life, together.

### Honesty is the best policy

Not all relationships will work out. Things might fizzle, you may lose interest or be unloved. All these things happen quite usually. But what is necessary is to address this and have the ‘we need to talk’-talk. It’s not fair to drag something that is hurting both you and your partner. Either speak your mind and see if things can be made better or maturely part ways. And even if you fall apart, there is always the chance to find a new love that will bring much more joy to your life.

Don’t forget that for a successful relationship, you need first to have a beautiful relationship with yourself!

(The author is the country manager of happn, an online dating app.)

## TRENDBLAZER



### NOMINATED FOR EMMY: SIDDIQUI

Actor **NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI**, who has been nominated for the ‘Best Actor’ category at the International Emmy Awards for his performance in *Serious Men*, says his character in the film is flawed.

He shares, “The film intricately depicts the raw frailties of Indian society while reflecting the diversity of our culture. I would say that while my character is flawed, it is one that stays with the audience. Hats off to the director, Sudhir Mishra, who did a splendid job.”

### fairtalk

HEMA MALINI



‘One fine day when we were shooting for *Andaz*, director Ramesh Sippy ji came over and told us that the song, *Zindagi Ek Safar Hai Suhana*, will be picturised on a motorbike. I wondered how will we pull it off and the first time I sat behind Rajesh Khanna ji on the bike, I asked whether he knew how to ride or not. As soon as the song played, he started jumping up and down while riding!’

### dailytalk

PALASH SEN



‘You can safely say that our new album, *Sale*, has been a work in progress for the past 17 years. One of the tracks featured in the album, *Kesariya*, was composed 17 years ago during a road trip with my brother Ayushmann Khurrana from Delhi to Shimla. The last entrant on the album was the title song, which was made just a little over two months ago.’

### BOND FOR THE LAST TIME: DANIEL CRAIG

Actor **DANIEL CRAIG**, who is stepping down from his role as Agent 007 after the release of *No Time To Die*, says his role as James Bond is ‘everything’ to him.

“Bond films don’t get made very often. Portraying the iconic role obviously was the biggest thing in my professional career and life, so it is a very emotional moment. While I am glad I am ending it on my terms, thanks to the producers, I will miss it,” he expresses.



# RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SPOTLIGHT

Villagers in remote areas of the country stared at a healthcare disaster during the pandemic, says RAJESH NIRMAL

Around 65.5 per cent of India's total population resides in rural areas. Tucked away in some of the remotest corners of the country, these areas are often characterised by poor development infrastructure. Unavailability of and inaccessibility to health-care services is the most crucial gap. In terms of accessing health-care benefits, there are certain barriers faced by the rural population, especially women. In current Covid times, these barriers have multiplied, making the lives of the rural populations even more challenging.

During the different phases of lockdown, people who can access smartphones, the internet, and correct information, could reach out to doctors for online consultation. On the other hand, more than half of the rural population continued to rely upon the medicines they identify only by their colour, mostly available at the local medical stores. "Almost everyone in our village depends on these locally available medicines. We have a habit of curing sickness without visiting any doctor. As the nearest government hospital is eight to 10 km away from our village, no one has time and other resources to be spent on hospital visits," shared 34-year-old Laalti Devi from Rampur Babuan village, Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh.

Laalti, whose husband migrates to the city in search of work, informed that in his absence, she looks after the family. "In such a scenario, if anyone from my house gets sick, we get medicine from the medical store and follow the instructions given by the pharmacist," she said. Visiting private hospitals is not an option for the rural poor who find it difficult to make ends meet.

During both the first and second wave, the majority of district hospitals were converted to Covid facilities, further limiting the access of villagers in



case of emergencies. According to Laalti, during the horrific waves of the pandemic, people feared even thinking about visiting the hospitals. They are still afraid that they will get infected with Covid if they will visit hospitals. They are also frightened that they may be forced to get vaccinated if they will visit the government health-care facilities.

Sharing her experience regarding obtaining medical treatment during the

pandemic, Laalti informed, "Last year, I had developed certain health complications. With my husband not around, I had no one to seek advice from. The fear of Covid was such that I decided to wait. After the lockdown was lifted and my husband managed to return, we went to the hospital for treatment. The infection, however, had spread because of the delay in treatment."

47-year-old Prabha Devi, another local resident of the village, had to

undergo uterus removal surgery. As the hospitals were full of Covid patients, she could not utilise the services of government hospitals. "I wanted my aunt to undergo surgery in the district hospital, but I was not capable of that kind of hustle. Due to Covid, people with other health complications were not being treated properly. Doctors were overwhelmed with the Covid cases," shared Sandeep, a relative of Prabha Devi.

"Taking all the factors into consideration, my family had decided that even if they had to take a loan or sell our fields, my treatment will be done at a private hospital because they could not put my life at stake," rued Prabha Devi.

Not every woman is lucky to have access to financial resources to get their illness treated. They keep suffering in silence. One of the reasons that prevent rural women from receiving institution-alised health-care is the unavailability of hospitals in their villages. This year, the Finance Minister has, however, allocated ₹ 64,185 crores towards strengthening health services in rural India. Besides, ₹ 35,000 crores have been set aside to tackle the pandemic, which is planned to be spent on primary, secondary, and tertiary health-care. Overall, there has been a 137 per cent increase in the national budget as compared to last year. It is, however, not only the infrastructure that needs to be strengthened.

The issue of health-literacy among the rural populations, especially women, also needs to be addressed as it impacts their ability to apprehend health information provided by frontline workers like ASHA. Due to poor health literacy, women feel reluctant to seek health-care as they fear communicating with healthcare providers. Additionally, low health literacy impacts the implementation of government initiatives.

Drawing upon the experiences of the villagers, especially women, it is quite clear that a strong health-care network must be established in rural areas. Using the budget allocated by the union government, the local administration should devise a special program where the doctors and medicines should be accessible to villagers, and a strong healthcare work-force should help address the health illiteracy gap in these rural areas.

—Charkha Features



## Moral paradigm

The development of morality can shape and save future generations, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

Lately, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC), and also other similar institutions, which are working for development have also veered round to the point that the notion of development would be faulty unless our focus is on the people because it is the people for whom all developmental efforts must be served.

However, looking from all the aspects, the plans, programmes, and parameters of development that are charted by various UN agencies and other similar institutions; it seems that they aim only or mainly at the economic development and physical and mental wellbeing of the people and, therefore, their major thrust now is the provision of basic necessities, such as water and food, employment, literacy, health-care, pollution-free environment, and so forth, to the developing or backward areas. Thus, even in this new paradigm, the development of proper attitudes and outlooks of the human individual is missing or has not been given the attention it deserves. Therefore, there seems to be some lack of realisation that, although all the aforementioned kinds of development are necessary, these are not enough to bring real and durable security and peace. If people have parochial, communal, selfish tendencies that give them a narrow sense of self-identity, and a sectional loyalty, based on ethnic, racial, communal, casteist, and national background, they will let loose the divisive forces and will commit violence and destructive acts thereby bringing to nought all hard efforts made for development. Also, we all see many signs of insecurity and restlessness even in highly developed countries, some of which are known as gun-running societies.

Now, if there is reasonable security and safety there, why do the citizens of that country, in such large numbers, require guns and pistols? Again, why does a high percentage of people have to go in for treatment at the hands of psychiatrists in these nations? Why do they drink so heavily or take sleeping pills? Why is there a lot of mental tension amidst affluence? Why is there a large number of cases of divorce, rape, child abuse, domestic violence, and drug addiction? Why is there a high incidence of corruption even in high places in these highly developed countries? Aren't the developed countries, with a high percentage of literacy and, at least, with some degree of economic security, worried about the crime increase and drug traffic? Why do so many people commit suicide or murders? Does all this not show that there may still be deep restlessness in society even when there is a high degree of development and economic security? Does this not lead us to conclude that the basic requirement or the essential accompaniment to all development and progress is the development of the proper attitudes, outlook, and mindset and the moral sense of the human individual?

Therefore, it is significant to include ethical consciousness in the development paradigm. Again, when we talk of sustainable development, we generally mean that our developmental processes should not degrade the physical environment and that we should be considerate and careful in using the non-renewable resources so that we leave enough for the coming generations. But, does the present high rate of population growth, alongside the Law of Entropy, leave enough scope for such a sustainable development? Again, have we ever re-examined our various methods to stabilise or reduce the population growth? Our debates are generally centred around abortion, contraceptives, and so on, but in these cases, we hardly think of reforming the beliefs, attitudes, and evil impulses of individuals and people through value education. This is really the crux of the whole problem of development. So, if we want to achieve our dream, we need to act now by coming together and developing a spirit of cooperation, a sense of responsibility, and sharing of mutual concerns. Remember, if we fail to act now, it will impoverish our current and future generations.



Stress has entered the dictionary of a commoner and almost everyone goes through it. Our minds have been wired in a way that we are always looking for stress. It is strange and you will notice that it does not feel significant or complete if you do not feel stressed about the job at hand. These can be pseudo stresses — self-created ones.

However, we cannot discount the fact that stress does exist, it is real and tedious for many to handle. Having said that, it needs to be dealt with in a manner that completely removes its roots from our minds, but the process and time of releasing and making oneself stress-free will undoubtedly be different for different individuals.

In the fast-paced and frantic world we live in, a lot is going on, and there is only so much a mind can articulate and make sense of at a time. This can leave us stressed, exhausted, and over-worked more often than we can imagine; emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually. But there are ways by which one can learn how to cope and rise above it.

Below are some quick methods that will aid your mental and spiritual healing, helping you cope with stress and reduce it — use them and notice the changes over time.

### ★Step back, take a helicopter view

Breathe, and just step back for a while. Look at your life from a broader perspective every now and then, notice the path and what are the important milestones and aspects of your life. This will help you eliminate the unwanted stresses you feel are important or consuming you. It just might not be of any importance in the bigger picture of your life.

### ★Identify the trigger/pattern

This is an essential thing one should do regularly, be aware

## Breaking the tension

MODMONK ANSHUL suggests 10 ultimate stress-management techniques everyone can apply in life



and mindful of your mental and emotional patterns. Notice what triggers you and how you react - emotionally and mentally. How do your thoughts change? Knowing your stressors can help you manage your stress. Identifying the things that cause stress in your life can help you avoid potentially stressful situations and how you react to them when you face them in the future.

### ★Correct your sleep clock

If you have not slept well or enough, you will be irritable, and every small thing can start affecting you and make you snap. Over time, you would have collected many such small experiences that will lead to a more significant issue, resulting in stress. Try going to bed by 10:30 pm and wake up by 6 am. It might sound very school-like, but it is the best for your mental, emotional and spiritual growth. Get the right room temperature, bed, pillow and blanket. It is essential to be comfortable; your mind is processing information and helping your body heal when you sleep.

### ★Body scanning

Practise the technique of 'body scanning'. This helps you release stress instantaneously. All you need to do is close your eyes and start noticing your body from the tip of your toes to the top of your head slowly. While you do this, you will notice any energy or part of your body that feels strained or uneasy. Breathe in and out through that part as you consciously release tension from

that area. The process will hardly take three to five minutes of your time.

### ★Sea salt and apple cider vinegar bath

This is miraculous. When you stress, even though it is your mind, your muscles get tightened and sore. The cells hold on to tension more than you mind. Sea salt in a tub (or a bucket) will help you pull the negativity out and release your muscle-stress. You can add essential oils and aromas, but make sure the water is a little warm.

### ★Eat clean food

Look what you are eating on an everyday basis — you are what you eat, and it is true. The energy in your food is running through your veins and makes you feel the same frequency the food was in before you ate it. So eat good, freshly cooked *satvic* wholesome meals, you can also announce gratitude towards it before you eat it to make it even more *satvic* and good for your body and eventually for your mind, reducing stress over some time.

### ★Practise mindfulness

We have been harping over the buzzword 'meditation' for a while now. Still, it is true that being in the state of meditation calms your nerves down not just spontaneously, but also for a long time. It will help you organise thoughts, feelings, and emotions and give you the capacity to deal with them constructively. Being mindful will help you be in the present moment, without comparison, helping you live the current moment to the fullest.

### ★Take a break

If you can currently take a small vacation to some scenic place where you can connect back with nature, perfect. Take

it! If you cannot, you can still take a break for a day or two just being mentally in a happy state, not worrying and taking some time off for yourself and enjoying the moment. Take a break to reconnect with yourself.

### ★Stretch it out

Exercise and workout at least thrice a week. It is not only necessary to maintain good health but also an extremely healthy way to manage stress. Pump up the adrenaline. You will feel happier and confident as a person, too.

### ★What's your hobby?

It is noted that when you do what you love, you get so immersed in it that it does the same work that meditation does for your mind and body. When you have a hobby and consciously cultivate and nurture it in daily life, it helps you express your feelings, channel your emotions and aids you in getting clarity of thought, all resulting in mental peace and calm. It can be as simple as solving jigsaw puzzles, painting, reading, lying down, and listening to music. If you do not have any hobbies, try getting one.

Use these tips to see the change in your being, not just mentally but spiritually, too. Remember the art of dealing and coping with the stresses of life is a lifestyle change and the healing journey is not a pill that you can gulp. Remind yourself that all the anxieties you have collected might not vanish away in a snap. But, be rest assured they will fade in time and have to, as long as you take small steps towards a happy and peaceful you.

Even a little progress is progress, after all.

(The author is a psychologist, spiritual coach and the founder of SoulSchool business.)

Your sacred space is where you can find yourself over and over again.  
—Joseph Campbell

### URBAN MILLENNIALS SKIPPING BREAKFAST

A special study, conducted in the age group of 18-50 years, across four cities, has shown that 44 per cent of the urban millennials skipped breakfast during Covid times.

Further, 64 per cent of urban millennial respondents were driven towards a healthy immune system.

The study pointed out that increased consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, including oats, emerged as the key trend during the pandemic.

Also, 71 per cent of urban millennials leaned towards fad diets, including keto, intermittent fasting, and weekly detox plan, to maintain their weights.

Vidhi Sharma, a consultant at Euromonitor International, said, "While millennials acknowledge the importance of breakfast and believe that it should have wholesome nutrition, they often tend to skip breakfast due to their work schedules or tend to just grab a quick snack in the morning. Popular fad diets are supporting this behaviour of skipping breakfast."



### NEW STUDY ON WOOLLY-NECKED STORKS

A study carried out by ornithologists indicates the woolly-necked storks prefer irrigation canals over wetlands.

They found a large breeding population in the Jhajjar and Rohtak districts of Haryana. These districts have witnessed agriculture for over a century, with the Western Yamuna canal network established before the era of the Mughals. Storks are large birds that have attracted enormous mythological and scientific attention over centuries.

"Our work on nesting woolly-necked storks published in a paper was conducted between 2016 and 2020 where we located 298 nests of this species, the largest data set in the world for this species," lead researcher K S Gopi Sundar, co-chair of the IUCN Stork, Ibis, and Spoonbill Specialist group, said.

He added that they entirely nested on either single trees in crop fields, or on the row of agroforestry trees planted along irrigation canals.



### IIT-G FIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

To address the environmental crisis caused by the marine oil spills, the researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G), have developed a highly porous and water repellent superhydrophobic cotton composite material that can selectively absorb oil from the oil-water mixture.

The material containing metal-organic framework (MOF) has great capability for selective separation of oil from oil-water mixtures, with the separation efficiency lying between 95 per cent and 98 per cent, irrespective of the chemical composition and density of the oil.

Explaining the motive of the research, Shyam P. Biswas, an associate professor at the department of Chemistry, IIT-G, who led the team of researchers, said, "We have grown our new MOF material on the surface of medical cotton, which is environment-friendly and cost-effective. Such low-cost material will reduce the production cost of the material for large-scale industrial synthesis for real applications, compared to the currently available materials in the market."



### AIR POLLUTION LEADS TO SELF-HARM

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

Researchers from the University of Manchester in

England and Aarhus University examined that 1.4 million kids are under the age of 10 in Denmark, and those exposed to a high level of nitrogen dioxide were more likely to self-harm in adulthood than their peers

"Our findings indicate that higher levels of air pollution exposure are linked with poor mental health outcomes," a lead author and a research fellow at Manchester University, Dr Pearl Mok, said.

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



### IIT-J: NEW WAYS TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur (IIT-J) have demonstrated for the first time that plant-based microbial fuel cells (MFCs) can generate power profitably from wastewater compared to algae-based systems.

The increasing generation of large amounts of domestic wastewater has necessitated the development of newer treatment methods that are energy efficient and scalable.

The researchers at the Environmental Biotechnology lab at IIT-J led by associate professor, department of Bioscience & Bioengineering, Dr Meenu Chhabra said, "A microbial fuel cell (MFC) is a device that uses microbes to convert organic matter in wastewater directly into electrical energy." In MFCs, live microbes act on the waste organic matter to release the electrons that are extracted with an external load, thereby generating power.





PTI ■ DUBAI

Glenn Maxwell justified his million dollar contract with an all-round performance before Harshal Patel took a hat-trick to ensure a thumping 54-run victory for Royal Challengers Bangalore over Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

Maxwell (56 off 37 balls and 2/23) produced one of his better efforts in the IPL while Harshal (4/17 in 3.1 overs), the current Purple Cap holder removed Hardik Pandya, Kieron Pollard and Rahul Chahar off successive deliveries to defend a target of 165 without breaking much sweat.

MI were all-out for 111 in 18.1 overs, losing 10 wickets for 54 runs after being 57 for no loss at one stage.

Skipper Virat Kohli won the 'Battle of Bosses' against his national team deputy Rohit Sharma as RCB with 12 points are back in the play-off contention while MI with three successive defeats are now in a real spot of bother at seventh spot in eight-team table.

Kohli would also happy with his second half-century and the form of his premier spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (3/11 in 4 overs).

Rohit teed off with three boundaries in a single over

# Harshal Patel takes hat-trick

RCB beat MI by 54 runs

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

from Kyle Jamieson. MI looked in complete control during the Powerplay as Quinton de Kock also got a few boundaries.

However it was Chahal, who removed de Kock and then Ishan Kishan's full-blooded shot was just about parried away by Rohit, who was hit on the left wrist trying to avoid a body blow.

That must have affected his concentration as he tried to hit a second six off Maxwell having hit one in the earlier over but this time was pouched by Devdutt Padikkal at the long-on boundary much to the delight of rival skipper Kohli.

Ishan Kishan (9 off 12 balls), who has barely managed 100 runs in nine IPL matches this season, would increase the worry of national selectors as he played an irresponsible hoick against the turn off Chahal and Krunal Pandya (5) then trying to break the logjam was bowled by Maxwell.

However, what disappointed the MI skipper most was how Surykumar Yadav (8) chased a wide yorker from Mohammed Siraj to give simple catch to short third man as MI slumped to 97 for 5 with recovery looking implausible.

Then Harshal got his hat-trick to finish off the proceedings in style.

Earlier, Maxwell finally

came good with an attacking 56 after skipper Kohli's second consecutive half-century, taking Royal Challengers Bangalore to a par-score of 165/6.

Kohli, who completed 10,000 runs in T20 cricket, scored 51 off 42 balls with three fours and three sixes but it was Maxwell who justified his expensive price tag with a 37-ball blitzkrieg before Jasprit Bumrah brought MI back in the game.

Maxwell's innings had six fours and three sixes as he showed true destructive potential with switch hits, lap shots and flicks during the final overs when he launched into MI pacers Adam Milne (1/48 in 4 overs) and Bumrah (3/26 in 4 overs) with utter disdain.

Such was the ferocity of

Maxwell's hits that even the normally calm MI skipper Rohit looked helpless before Bumrah removed both Maxwell and AB de villiers (11) off successive deliveries which at least helped them save 20 to 25 runs in the final two overs.

The normally dependable Devdutt Padikkal (0) had an off-day as Bumrah bowled a beauty which pitched on length and moved away taking the outside edge into Quinton de Kock's gloves.

Kohli found a confidant partner in Bharat (32 off 24 balls) as they quickly added 68 runs for the second wicket. Bharath for good measure swept Rahul Chahar against the turn for two sixes while Kohli also imperiously pulled Bumrah for a six over deep mid-wicket.

Dubai: India captain Virat Kohli on Sunday reached a coveted milestone of 10,000-run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise) during his side Royal Challengers Bangalore's IPL match against

Kohli goes past 10,000 runs in T20 cricket

Mumbai Indians here.

Playing in his 314 T20 match, Kohli pulled his India team-mate Jasprit Bumrah for a six to get the milestone in the fourth over after RCB were

sent in to bat.

Kohli, who is set to step down from RCB captaincy at the end of this season, had come into the match with 13 short of 10,000 runs.

The 32-year-old has played 298 innings before Sunday's match and has scored runs at an average of 41.61 with the help of five hundreds and 73 fifties. PTI

# Jadeja cameo helps CSK beat KKR by 2-wickets

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Ravindra Jadeja won a close match for Chennai Super Kings for the umpteenth time as his back-end pyrotechnics ensured a two-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in an Indian Premier League thriller here on Sunday.

Jadeja (22 off 8 balls) launched into pacer Prasidh Krishna, who bowled the 19th over, where the pacer lost his length completely under the Saurashtra all-rounder's onslaught with CSK reaching the target of 172 in exactly 20 overs.

Instead of bowling yorkers, Krishna repeatedly bowled length balls as Jadeja hit two sixes and two boundaries to make it a cakewalk in the final over. Krishna conceded 22 runs in the penultimate over to leave CSK with four runs to get in the final over.

But there was more drama in store as Sam Curran and Jadeja were snuffed out by Sunil Narine before Deepak Chahar ended the match with a single.

However, KKR skipper Eoin Morgan's captaincy left a lot to be desired as the decision to bring in Krishna in the 19th over would be debated. Morgan in his defence could sight Anre Russell's injury being the reason but Narine in the 19th over could have posed more challenge for a rampaging Jadeja.

The win also meant that CSK remained unbeaten after the IPL resumed and once again were back at the top in the pecking order, with 16 points. In pursuit of a challenging 172, CSK were down and out at 142/6 before Jadeja took the onus on himself.

KKR had posted 171/6, as they rode on late flourish by former skipper Dinesh Karthik and Nitish Rana after the foundation was laid by Rahul Tripathi (45).

CSK wasn't able to capitalise on the aggressive 74-run opening start given by Ruturaj Gaikwad (40 off 28 balls; 2 fours and 3 sixes) and South African Faf du Plessis (43; seven fours).

KKR pegged CSK by sending both the openers back in quick succession. CSK then suffered a middle-order collapse. Spinner Varun Chakravarthy had got KKR back into the game by dismissing Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Earlier, former skipper Dinesh Karthik's late cameo and Nitish Rana's steady long handle took Kolkata Knight Riders to a par-score of 171 against Chennai Super Kings in an Indian Premier League encounter on Sunday.

Seamer Shardul Thakur (2/20 in 4 overs) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/21 in 4 overs) performed impressively to keep KKR under leash till the 13th over when they were 93 for 4.

However, the last seven overs yielded 78 runs and KKR were able to put on a more than fighting score largely due to Sam Curran (0/56 in 4overs) leaking runs at the back end. Even Josh Hazlewood (2/40 in 4 overs) got a bit of stick helping KKR's cause.

The platform was laid by Rahul Tripathi (45 off 33), who hit four boundaries and one six but it was the CSK bowlers, who kept making inroads and did not allow the KKR batsmen to either free their arms or settle down.

Opting to bat, Kolkata lost opener Shubman Gill (9) in the first over after a horrible mix-up with Venkatesh Iyer.

One-down Tripathi and in-form

Venkatesh Iyer (18) tried to resurrect the innings but the southpaw was unable to convert his start after he nicked one to Mahendra Singh Dhoni off Thakur.

Tripathi, who fetched his first boundary, an imperious pull shot over mid-wicket, also got a 'life' after the ball on which he had nicked, was adjudged as a 'no-ball'. Off the very next one, he smashed his first maximum over deep extra cover.

Skipper Eoin Morgan (8) also fell cheaply as he holed to Du Plessis off Josh Hazlewood as KKR was in spot of bother at 70/3. Tripathi also fell in the 13th over, as he was cleaned up by left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja as KKR slipped to 89/4.

Then Andre Russell (20) took on Sam Curran in the 15th over, smacking two fours and a monstrous six, as KKR fetched 14 runs. But Shardul Thakur forced Russell to drag one back onto his stumps. Then it was the Rana and Karthik show that took them past 170.



IAN S ■ MACKAY

India finished the ODI leg of the multi-format series on a high with a brilliant two-wicket win — fashioned by a collective team effort — which ended Australia's unbeaten ODI streak of 26 matches on Sunday. However, Australia won the ODI series 2-1, with the multi-format series' scoreline reading 4-2.

The third and final ODI in Mackay went down to the wire but this time India held their

# India finish ODI series on a high

SNATCH 2-WICKET WIN VS AUSTRALIA

with just three balls to spare. Tall India pacer Jhulan Goswami hit the winning runs, lofting it straight for a four.

Chasing a target of 265, India showed poise and power in their response, with the opening pair of Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana putting on 59 for the first wicket. Negotiating

nerves as they sealed a thrilling two-wicket win



the new-ball partnership of Perry and McGrath, Mandhana fell to the off-spin of Gardner for 22 (25), with Annabel Sutherland taking a catch running back from mid-off.

Young Yastika Bhatia continued her fine start to international cricket, ticking things along with Verma, bringing up a 100-run stand in just 19 overs.

At 160/1 after 29 overs and needing just 105, India looked in

prime position, before a double blow swung the pendulum back once again. Verma fell to the left-arm orthodox spin of Sophie Molineux for 56, while wicket-keeper Richa Ghosh was dismissed an over later, with Sutherland taking her first wicket. Bhatia continued her press with captain Mithali Raj, with only a piece of inspired fielder ending her stay at the crease. Top-edging a short ball, Bhatia became Stella Campbell's first victim in international cricket, only after a diving catch from substitute fielder Molly Strano.

# Anand hopes one of talented Indian youngsters will become world champ in future

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Chess legend Viswanathan Anand on Sunday said the country has many immensely talented players at the junior level and one of them can "hopefully" become a world champion in future.

"There are many people with a lot of promise at junior level. R Praggnanandhaa, Nihal Sarin, D Gukesh, they're very good and motivated.



They have been travelling around playing tournaments, they have the

determination. Hopefully one of them cracks the code," Anand said.

He was responding to a question on who among the young Indians could go on to become a world champion in future.

The five-time world champion was participating in an online interaction 'Chat with Vishy - Viswanathan Anand' with the participants of the training programme he conducts.

# Sports Minister announces month-long nationwide Clean India Drive from Oct 1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Sunday announced a month-long nationwide Clean India Drive from October 1 to get rid of single use plastic and other waste.

Announcing this in a tweet, Thakur said: "Cleanliness is next to Godliness! As we celebrate AmritMahotsav of 75 years of Independence, I urge everybody to join Clean India Drive from 1st-31st October to realize dream of plastic free India."

Thakur said it will be the largest cleanliness drive in the world in which more than 75 lakh tonnes of waste, primarily plastic waste, from different parts of the country will be collected and further processed in a 'Waste to Wealth' model.



# Sania wins first title of 2021 season in Ostrava

PTI ■ OSTRAVA

Star Indian tennis player Sania Mirza won her first title of the season as she and her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang beat the pair of Kaitlyn Christian and Erin Routliffe in the women's doubles final of the Ostrava Open here on Sunday.

The second seeded Indo-Chinese duo defeated the third seeded pair of American

Christian and New Zealander Routliffe 6-3 6-2 in the summit clash in one hour and four minutes.

The 34-year-old Sania and Zhang had defeated the Japanese pair 6-2 7-5 in the semifinals of the WTA 500 event.

It was Sania's second final of the season, following a runner-up finish at the WTA 250 Cleveland event in the USA last month with Chirstina Mchale.

IAN S ■ BOSTON

Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer, who is recovering from a right-knee surgery he underwent last month, said on Sunday that it was a difficult process to decide whether to undergo a third right-knee surgery after having two last year. But following Wimbledon, where he was "really unhappy" with his performance in reaching the quarterfinals, Federer opted to go through with it.

Federer, who made a late decision to attend this year's Laver Cup in Boston -- a tournament held between teams from Europe

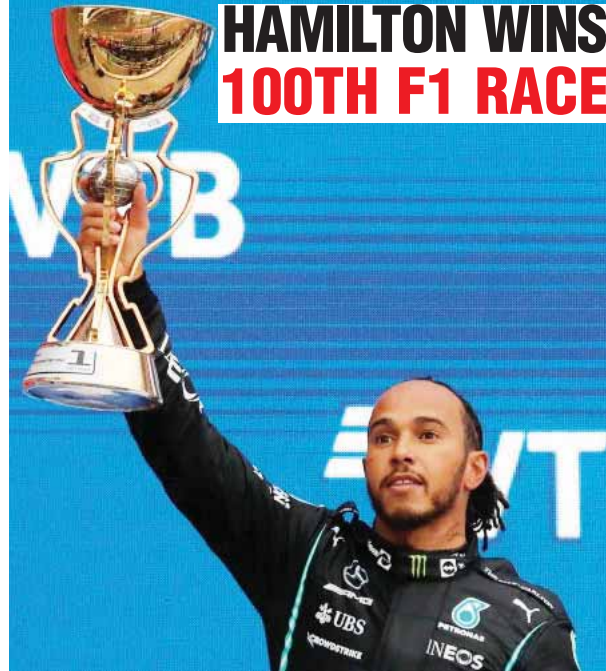
and the rest of the world — said on the sidelines of the event that the recovery and rehabilitation are "going to take me a few more months and then we'll see how things are at some point next year."

"The reception I've received, everybody is so upbeat that I'm here. They wish me all the best and they don't even see the crutches. They just want me to be good again and enjoy the weekend," Federer said in an interview for the event with former world No. 1 Jim Courier.

"I've seen some incredible tennis, some great matches and it's

been wonderful. I'm really happy I made the trip," the winner of 20 majors was quoted as saying by atptour.com.

On why he opted for a third surgery, the tennis ace said, "I was just nowhere near where I wanted to be to play at the top, top level. But I tried my best and at the end... too much is too much. Now I've just got to take it step by step," Federer said.



# To take lead over Verstappen

AP ■ SOCHI

Lewis Hamilton became the first Formula One driver to win 100 races with victory in the Russian Grand Prix on Sunday to retake the championship lead from Max Verstappen.

Hamilton dropped to seventh place when he was boxed in at the first corner but fought back and passed Lando Norris for the win when the McLaren driver stayed out on slick tires in late rain and slid off the track.

"It's taken a long time to get to 100 and at times, I wasn't sure it would come," Hamilton said. It was Hamilton's fifth win of the season and his first since the British Grand Prix in July.

"It's a magical moment," Hamilton said. "I could only have dreamed of still being here and having this opportunity to win these races and get to drive with such phenomenal talents this late in my career."

Hamilton turned Verstappen's five-point championship lead into a two-point lead of his own after the Dutch driver finished second after a dramatic drive from last on the grid. Carlos Sainz led the race

early on and finished third for Ferrari.

After his tough start, Hamilton started moving up with a tough overtake around the outside of Fernando Alonso, a duel with echoes of their season as teammates when Hamilton was a rookie in 2007.

Verstappen started last after a penalty for an engine change in his Red Bull but sliced through the field and had Hamilton in sight by the halfway stage.

Hamilton's Mercedes worked better on the hard tires in the second half of the race and Verstappen's charge seemed to have stalled when he was overtaken by the Alpine of Alonso and stuck in seventh.

But then the rain came and Verstappen switched to intermediate tires early, allowing him to claim an unexpected podium finish and limit the damage to his hopes of a first title.

"We didn't lose so many points today, so that's really, really good," Verstappen told his team over the radio. One key question for the rest of the season is whether Hamilton too will need to use an extra engine and take a penalty.