

OPINION 6

AGRICULTURE A BETTER
BET FOR EASTERN INDIA

WORLD 8

N KOREA SAYS HYPERSONIC
MISSILE MADE 1ST TEST FLIGHT

SPORT 12

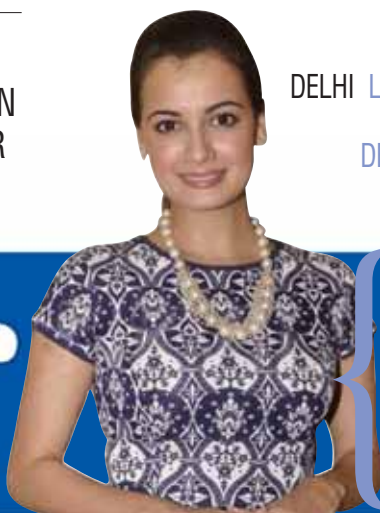
ROHIT MY CHOICE AS CAPTAIN
IN NEXT T20 WCs: GAVASKAR

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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Capt meets Shah, sets off speculation

But media adviser of Punjab ex-CM says he discussed farmers' agitation

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■
NEW DELHI

Amidst political turmoil in Apoll-bound Punjab, former Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Wednesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, setting off political speculation about his next course of action. Singh had an hour-long meeting with Shah, however, he refused to comment whether he would join the BJP.

The visit after his assertion on Tuesday that he would be meeting "any political leader" in the national Capital, came amid reports that Singh, 79, may be inclined to an offer to join the BJP or strike an alliance with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) after floating a regional outfit.

While both Singh and Shah did not comment on the purpose of the meeting, Singh's media adviser said that the former Punjab CM met the Home Minister to discuss the ongoing farmers' agitation against the three controversial farm laws.

"Met Union Home Minister @Amit Shah in Delhi. Discussed the prolonged farmers' agitation against #Farm Laws & urged him to resolve the crisis urgently with the repeal of the laws & guarantee Punjab in crop diversification," he tweeted.

The BJP is on a weak wick-



et in Punjab with an election battle in the border State. The saffron party is keen to woo the former Punjab Chief Minister after he was asked to step down in favour of new leadership. After his exit, Singh had said he was "humiliated" at the hands of the Congress high command.

Singh has been alleging that instability in Punjab may give Pakistan a handle to create disturbance in the border State. He has also accused his bête noire Navjot Singh Sidhu of being "close to (Pakistan Prime Minister) Imran Khan" and alleged that he is "dangerous" for the border State.

He also said he would "exercise his options when the time comes". Besides, alluding to Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra, he said they are "inexperienced".

Continued on Page 2

Sidhu sticks to his quit guns, Channi intensifies firefighting

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Day-long hectic efforts to placate sulking Navjot Singh Sidhu came to naught on Wednesday with the cricketer-turned-politician remaining adamant on his resignation from the Punjab Congress president's post. He made it clear that he would not compromise on his "principles" even if it meant sacrificing any posts.

On the other hand, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi reached out to Sidhu describing him as the "head of

the family" while inviting him for talks to resolve the issue. In fact, after holding back-to-back meetings with senior party leaders and also officials all day, Channi left for Patiala late in the evening.

Channi, while addressing the media earlier in the day, asserted that he was ready to roll back any move if it sends out a wrong message.

Sidhu, who finally breaks his silence after generating political tremors on Tuesday with his sudden resignation that were felt in New Delhi, repeatedly made clear his



intentions to all the leaders and party workers who met him that he was in no way going to backtrack on the issues raised by him and stand by his resignation.

Continued on Page 2

Who takes decisions? Sibal questions High Command

Azad writes to Sonia, seeks CWC meeting; party workers protest against Sibal's jibe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the turmoil in the Punjab Congress, voices of resentment against the role of the Central Congress leadership have once again grown loud. Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Kapil Sibal on Wednesday sharpened his attack on the party high command asking who is taking the decisions for the party.

Another senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has written to party president Sonia Gandhi demanding an immediate meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) to discuss the current state of affairs in the



Delhi Congress workers stage a protest against senior party leader Kapil Sibal outside his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

organisation.

The sharp criticism by Sibal did not go down well with a section of party workers who agitated in front of his residence with placards that read "Get well soon, Kapil Sibal".

Continued on Page 2

Punjab Police withdraws security cover of Capt's 20 close associates

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police on Wednesday withdrew the security of former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's 20 close associates, including retired IAS officer Suresh Kumar, Lieutenant General TS Shergill (retd), Raveen Thukral, Bharat Inder Singh Chahal, and the former Advocate-General Atul Nanda.

The order stated as the persons were no longer holding any official position, security personnel deployed with them would be withdrawn.

Continued on Page 2

25% Indians fully vaccinated against Covid, HP on top

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's national Covid-19 vaccination programme has achieved yet another milestone, with almost one in every four eligible Indians (24.8 per cent) having been fully vaccinated by the end of Tuesday, as per data available with the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday till around 7 am.

Another 43.5 per cent have been partly vaccinated. The milestone in coverage comes at a time when the number of active cases of Covid-19 in the country has dropped below the 3,00,000 mark for the first time in at least six months, data shows. Himachal Pradesh leads the country in vaccination coverage. The national programme was launched on January 16 this year.

India reported less than 20,000 daily new cases for the second successive day as 18,870 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours.

Impressed by the vaccination pace, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandviya tweeted, "Soaring high on #COVID19 vaccination! India administers 88 crore vaccines in a bid to strengthen our fight against the pandemic. This momentous feat is a celebration of the nation's determination."

As of Tuesday evening, India has administered 87.62 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine to 642.5 million people, making the country second only to China (1.1 billion people inoculated) in terms of the

Another 43.5% have been partly vaccinated



A beneficiary receives vaccine dose in New Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

number of people who have received at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

Continued on Page 2

Survey: 75% patients overcharged by hospitals

Mumbai: As many as 75 per cent of Covid-19 patients were overcharged by private hospitals, a survey carried out in Maharashtra has found. Nearly half of these patients died during treatment, said Dr Abahy Shukla of the Jan Aarogya Abhiyan, an umbrella group of activists working in the health-care sector.

"We surveyed the cases of 2,579 patients, spoke to their relatives and audited the hospital bills. Ninety-five per cent of them were admitted to private hospitals," he said.

PM Poshan mid-day meal to cover 11.80 cr children

Hot cooked food for Class 1 to 8 students

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the roll-out of the "PM POSHAN in Schools" scheme that will provide hot cooked meals to students of Classes 1 to 8 in Government and Government-aided schools across the country.

The existing mid-day meal scheme will be subsumed into the PM Poshan Shakti Nirman scheme with the addition of several new components in it, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said while briefing media.

"The scheme will cover about 11.80 crore children



studying in 11.20 lakh schools across the country," he said.

"The CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of 'National Scheme for PM POSHAN in Schools' for the five years, from 2021-22 to 2025-26, with a financial outlay of ₹54061.73 crore from the Central Government and ₹31,733.17 crore from the State

Governments and Union Territory administrations," the Government said in a statement.

The Central Government will also bear the additional cost of about ₹45,000 crore on food grains. "Therefore, the total scheme Budget will amount to ₹1,30,794.90 crore," the statement added.

Continued on Page 2

Schools for junior classes in Delhi could open post Diwali, final decision after fest: L-G

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following a marked improvement in the Covid-19 situation in the national Capital, schools for junior classes in Delhi could open after Diwali, said sources.

A decision regarding reopening of schools for Classes 6 to 8 in Delhi will be taken after the festival season, Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal said on Wednesday following a DDMA meeting here.

While the L-G did not mention the particular month for a decision on reopening schools for junior classes, sources present at the meeting said it could happen "post Diwali". "As suggested by the experts, it was decided to consider opening middle school classes 6-8, after the festive season," Bajjal, who chaired the



meeting, said in a tweet.

Continued on Page 2

Bengaluru school is Covid cluster as 60 Test Positive

Bengaluru: A residential school in Bengaluru has become a Covid-19 cluster after 60 of its nearly 500 students tested positive. Two were found to be symptomatic and the school has been shut till October 20.



A man tries to recover his bicycle that fell into a ditch in a street covered with rainwater during a downpour in Kolkata on Wednesday

AP

Resume flights to Kabul, Taliban Govt urges India

In first communication to India, Afghan Aviation Minister writes to DGCA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Taliban's Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has written to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) requesting the Indian Government to resume commercial flights to Kabul in Afghanistan. The letter was written by acting Minister for Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority Alhaj Hameedullah Akhonzada to DGCA chief Arun Kumar earlier this month.

This is the first official communication from the Taliban. The last commercial flight between India and Afghanistan was operated by Air India on the Kabul-New Delhi route on August 15, the day Kabul fell to the Taliban.

Officials said the letter is currently under review by the Ministry of External Affairs

and the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA). In the letter dated September 7, Akhonzada said, "You are well informed that recently the Kabul airport was damaged and made dysfunctional by American troops before their withdrawal. By technical assistance of our Qatar brother, the airport became operational once again and a NOTAM in this regard issued on September 6, 2021".

Akhonzada further stated that the intention of this letter is to keep the smooth passenger movement between the two countries based on the signed MoU and our national carriers (Ariana Afghan Airline & Kam Air) aimed to commence their scheduled flights. Therefore, Afghanistan Civil aviation authority requests you to facilitate their commercial flights".

According to reports, Akhonzada is one of the 14 members of the Cabinet who are listed under the UN Security Council's sanctions



regime. He had been the head of Ariana airlines during the first Taliban regime.

Last week, Taliban's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had announced that it is asking airlines to resume commercial flights to Kabul, saying the battered airport is now "fully operational" and promising "full cooperation" with carriers.

Currently, international flights in and out of Afghanistan are only being operated from Iran and Pakistan. Besides, there have

been special flights from the UAE, Qatar, Turkey and Ukraine.

Prior to the Taliban takeover, Air India and low-cost airline SpiceJet operated flights between Delhi and Kabul. These flights mainly flew medical tourists, students, and traders, while carrying spices and dry fruits as cargo.

India is yet to recognise the Taliban Government in Afghanistan amid growing concerns over the future of the country across the world.

EC rushes more troops for bypoll from where Didi testing her luck

35 companies of Central force to man Bhabanipur booths

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid reports that miscreants have infiltrated Bhabanipur in great numbers a day ahead of the high-voltage Assembly by-election, the Election Commission of India on Wednesday deployed additional 20 companies of Central forces to man Thursday's elections.

The ECI had earlier earmarked 15 companies of Central forces for the high-profile constituency from where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is contesting against main contender BJP and the CPI(M). The election is crucial for her as she was defeated in the April-May polls from Nandigram seat and has to win an Assembly seat within the



first week of November to continue on her post.

After EC decision to rush in more troops, Bhabanipur will witness an unprecedented 35 companies of CAPF manning the elections as against Jangipur and Shamsheergang constituencies in the border district of Murshidabad where 19 and 18 companies of paramilitary forces have been

deployed.

The EC decision to deploy additional companies came after the BJP leadership met the ECI officials and demanded strict implementation of electoral procedures in the wake of an alleged attack by Trinamool Congress supporters on party national vice president Dilip Ghosh a few days ago.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

'NO SAREE' RESTAURANT SHUT FOR LACK OF LICENCE

New Delhi: A restaurant that allegedly denied entry to a saree-clad woman here was issued a closure notice by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation for operating without a proper trade license, following which the owner said he has shut operations.

GULAB TO INTENSIFY INTO ANOTHER CYCLONE: IMD

New Delhi: The remnants of Cyclone Gulab are likely to enter the Arabian Sea on September 30 and intensify into a cyclonic storm a day later and then move towards Pakistan, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST: MEHBOOBA

Srinagar: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday claimed that she has been placed under house arrest as she had planned to visit Tral town in Pulwama district of Jammu & Kashmir.

IMD: Cyclone Gulab to intensify by Oct 1

New Delhi: The remnants of Cyclone Gulab are likely to enter the Arabian Sea on September 30 and intensify into a cyclonic storm a day later and then move towards Pakistan, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

Many areas in Gujarat are likely to receive rainfall due to the remnants of Cyclone Gulab.

The IMD said a low pressure area -- a remnant of Cyclone Gulab -- was formed over south Gujarat region and adjoining Gulf of Khambhat on Wednesday morning.

"It is very likely to move

west-northwestwards, emerge into northeast Arabian Sea and intensify into a depression by tomorrow (September 30).

"Then it is very likely to move further west-northwestwards and intensify into a cyclonic storm during the subsequent 24 hours (October 1). Thereafter, it is likely to continue to move west-northwestwards towards Pakistan Makran coasts, moving away from the Indian coast," the IMD said.

The IMD said light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy falls

at a few places and extremely heavy falls at isolated places are very likely over Saurashtra and Kutch in Gujarat.

Heavy to very heavy and extremely heavy falls at isolated places are likely over Gujarat region, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and heavy to very heavy falls at isolated places over north Konkan.

Light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy falls at isolated places are very likely over Saurashtra and Kutch and heavy falls at isolated places over Gujarat region and north Konkan, the IMD added. **PTI**

Woman alleges rape by four in T

Hyderabad: A woman has alleged that she was raped by four people after making her drink alcohol, police said on Wednesday.

Based on preliminary information, a police official said the incident happened in Nizamabad, about 175 km from here, late Tuesday.

The four on bikes offered to drop the woman at her house and took her to a building which was earlier a hospital where they made her drink the alcohol and allegedly sexually assaulted her, the police said. The woman was shifted to a health facility, the official said. **PTI**



Pindaanis perform 'tarpan' rituals at Falgu river for the salvation of their ancestors' souls during Pitru Paksha, in Gaya on Wednesday

PTI

J'khand man, woman paraded naked over extra-marital relationship, 6 held

Dumka (Jharkhand): A man and a woman have been stripped and paraded naked in a village in Jharkhand's Dumka district for allegedly indulging in an extra-marital relationship, police said on Wednesday.

Superintendent of Police Amber Lakra said that six people were arrested during the day over the incident that took place in Mayurnacha village in Muffasil police station area on Monday night.

The woman hails from Mayurnacha, while the man is from neighbouring Kulhadia village, and both worked together as daily wage labourers. **PTI**

25% Indians fully vaccinated against Covid, HP on top

From Page 1

Of these, 233.6 million people have received both doses of the vaccine, while another 408.9 million people have been partially vaccinated, said a statement of the Ministry.

Himachal Pradesh leads the country in not only overall coverage, but also the proportion of people fully vaccinated. The State's entire adult population has been vaccinated with at least one dose and nearly half (48.3 per cent) fully vaccinated.

Kerala is on the second spot with 92.1 per cent adults having received at least one dose and 40.3 per cent both jabs. Uttarakhand (91.1 per cent at least one dose and 38.2 per cent both doses), Gujarat (85.3 per cent and 38.1 per cent, respectively) and Delhi (79.1 per cent and 37.4 per cent) make up the top five states in the country.

More than 4.57 crore (4,57,98,120) balance and unutilised Covid vaccine doses are still available with the States/UTs to be administered, said the Minster.

EC rushes more ...

From Page 1

Apart from increasing the number of Central forces, the EC has also directed webcasting of polls in all the booths. In addition, Section 144 too has been clamped in Bhawanipore one of the upmarket areas of South Kolkata.

"There will be 17 quick response teams and hundred percent CCTV coverage...in addition, all the 287 booths will have micro-observers," said an EC official adding "the decision to upgrade security was taken

following a demand from the Opposition." Massive bandobast has been done for the Jangipur and Shamsheganj seats in Murshidabad bordering Bangladesh. Elections to these constituencies were countermanded early this year after the Congress and Left candidates died of corona.

While 19 companies of CAPF will man Jangipur which has 363 booths, 18 companies have been deployed at Shamsheganj with 329 booths. In total, more than 7.5 lakh voters would cast their votes in Wednesday's polls.

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2021_MPPGC_146827_1	Procurement of 14 Nos. 0.2 accuracy class 132 KV CVT as per enclosed Technical specification for 2x80 MW PHPS Totladoh	22,01,290.00 Inclusive GST@18%	55,000/-
Tender cost in Rs	Date & time for closing of online submission	Date & time for opening of tender.	
1000/-	25.10.2021 UP TO 15.00 hrs	28.10.2021 From 15.30 hrs onwards	

Detailed NIT and bidding documents are available on GoMP website www.mptenders.gov.in It may be downloaded. No hard copy of the tender documents will be provided.

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छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19,
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

// सर्व संबंधित की सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना, दिनांक 14/09/2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के अंतर्गत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स महामाया मिरलस (पार्टनर-श्रीमती सारुणा सिन्हा) ग्राम-दौर, तहसील-पानत, जिला-दुर्ग (छ.ग.) खसरा क्रमांक 867, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878 (पार्ट), 879 (पार्ट), 881, 882, 883, 884 (पार्ट), 887/1, 888/1 एवं 888/2, कुल क्षेत्रफल- 4.55 हेक्टेयर में चुना पत्थर (गोण खनिज) उद्खनन क्षमता- 49,950 टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर में आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/ सुझाव/ विचार/ टीका-टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 01.11.2021 को समय प्रातः 11:30 बजे, स्थल- शासकीय प्राथमिक एवं पूर्व माध्यमिक शाला, ग्राम- दौर, तहसील-पानत, जिला-दुर्ग (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:-

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

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितंबर 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु डाफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यालयक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (माफ्ट कॉपी) डाइरेक्ट, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, नोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (डब्ल्यू.सी.जेड) पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, ग्राउण्ड फ्लोर, ईस्ट विंग, न्यू सेक्टरिएट बिल्डिंग, सिविल लाईन, नागपुर (महाराष्ट्र), कलेक्टर कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला- दुर्ग, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, जिला-दुर्ग, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केंद्र, जिला- दुर्ग, सरपंच / सचिव ग्राम पंचायत- दौर, जिला-दुर्ग, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास, भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर में रखी गई है।

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

Who takes decisions?...

From Page 1

Youth Congress national president BV Srinivas took to Twitter and in a reply to Sibal's "who is the party president?" said, "Sunije Ji-Huzoor, the party president is the one who always ensured that you reach Parliament, who made you a minister when the party was in power, who made you a Rajya Sabha member when the party has been in the Opposition. And now when the time comes for struggle..."

Sources said Azad, a former Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha who currently leads the "Group of 23" leaders who have demanded organisational overhaul in the past, has sought internal discussions in the wake of exodus of its leaders.

At the same time, Lok Sabha MP from Punjab Manish Tewari stated that the kind of politics that was going on in his home State was unfortunate, and since it is a sensitive border State, Pakistan may try to fish in the troubled waters.

Addressing a Press conference, Sibal, who is part of the G-23 members (group of senior Congress leaders unhappy over the state of affairs in the party) also questioned the delay in the election of the party president, saying the party was in a situation where it should not be.

"In our party, there is no president. So we don't know who is taking these decisions. We know and yet we don't know", Sibal said, claiming to speak on behalf of the group of 23 leaders.

The G-23 leaders wrote a strongly worded letter to party president Sonia Gandhi last year, raising questions over the manner in which the party was being led. Party general secretary Ajay Maken rebutted Sibal saying, "Sonia Gandhi ji had ensured that Kapil Sibal becomes a Minister in the Union Cabinet despite not having organisational background. Everyone in the party is being heard. Want to tell Sibal and others that they shouldn't degrade the organisation that gave them an identity." Sibal said he and other G-23 leaders did not want to leave the party but strengthen it. "I am speaking in my personal capacity and on behalf of like-minded people who had written the letter last year. I stand here with a heavy hart. I am a part of a party that has a glorifying past. I can't see the situation it is at the moment," Sibal said.

Sibal's remarks came at a time when the Punjab Congress unit is in a fresh crisis after Navjot Singh Sidhu resigned as the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) chief on Tuesday. Sidhu's announcement came as a shock to the Congress central leadership, which oversaw a leadership change in the State in the last 10 days.

Sibal said the situation the party is in today is due to the fact that it is without a leader. "There is no president. The demand is growing to call CWC (Congress Working Committee) to have some dialogue", he said.

Sibal said he and the G-23 leaders were not among those who would leave the Congress to join other parties. "Ironically, those who were supposed to be close to the central leadership have left them," he said. "I would urge those leaders who left to come back because the Congress party is alone which can save the country," he added.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 46/2021
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) N.E. Railways Izatnagar (En) and on behalf of president of India inviting "OPEN" tender through on line (E-tendering) for the following work. **S.N:- 1, Description of works:-** Left Over work of construction of Limited height sub way at LC No 263 & 295 in the jurisdiction of SSEW/HTC under the sanctioned work of proposed construction of Limited Height Sub way (LHS) in place of 5 manned LC in the jurisdiction of ADEN/MRT. **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.7,20,55,548.79, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs. 0.00** Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **07 Months, S.N:- 2, Description of works:-** Civil work in MB(Ex)-RMR & RMU(Ex)-KGM section in connection with J- Moradabad - Ramnagar section. TBR of loop line (6.184 Kms) 2- Rampur - Kathgodam Section - TBR of loop line (9.06 Kms) 3- El relay room (extension of existing D.G. room) and conversion of Relay room to new ESM room on PF-01 at Kathgodam and Haldwani stn. , **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,12,22,241.57, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 3, Description of works:-** Construction of foundation and other civil work (Except Steel Structure) in connection with provision of Foot Over Bridge at Roshanpur & Pipalsana Station. (Under sanctioned work/Provision of FOB at GHJ, KTLJ, RDM, RHN, SKA, DRO, SWRT & PLS (B nos.) being high level platform at these stations), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.1,04,37,972.94, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 4, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Water Recycling Plant for Coaching depot at Lalkuan and Tanakpur station. (under sanctioned work Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 5, Description of works:-** Construction of Gate quarters, Cess Repair work, Construction of Rest room for track machine staff, Provision of Drain in station yards, Repair of Gate lodges & Road surface, Rail fencing, Toe wall at different locations and other miscellaneous works in Pilibhit - Shahjahanpur (Ex) section (Under Left over work of Gauge conversion in PBE- SZP section), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,29,46,455.79, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **08 Months, S.N:- 6, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Water Recycling Plant for Coaching Complex at Kathgodam station (Under sanctioned work-Design, supply, commissioning of Water treatment & Recycling plant (WRPS) including its operation and maintenance for 5 Year at KSJ, KGM & RMR coaching complex), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.1,17,01,117.93, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 7, Description of works:-** Construction of 3 Room set each at LC gate nos.13/C and 18/C between RMU - CHRU and GUB - BPZ station for S&T department (Under sanctioned work Provision of Interlocking at 10 Nos. level crossing gates at various section of Izzatnagar Division along with upgradation of infrastructure at these gates as per IRPW/M., **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.5,62,237.68, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00** Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **04 Months, S.N:- 8, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Water Recycling Plant for Coaching depot at Lalkuan and Tanakpur station. (under sanctioned work Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 9, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 10, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 11, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 12, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 13, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 14, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 15, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 16, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 17, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 18, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 19, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 20, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 21, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 22, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 23, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 24, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 25, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 26, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 27, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 28, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 29, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 30, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 31, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 32, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 33, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 34, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 35, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 36, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 37, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 38, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 39, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 40, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 41, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 42, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 43, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 44, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 45, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 46, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 47, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 48, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 49, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 50, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 51, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,008.82, **E.M.D Money (Rs.) :-** Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs.0.00**, Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **06 Months, S.N:- 52, Description of works:-** Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plants for Mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam, Lalkuan & Water Recycling Plant for Lalkuan & Tanakpur station.), **Approx. Value (Rs.) :-** Rs.2,31,63,

PLEA FOR VERDICT REMOVAL FROM NET
Delhi High Court asks
Google, Centre to reply

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Wednesday sought replies from the Centre, Google and India Kanoon on a plea seeking removal of a judgement and an order in connection with a seven-year-old FIR under 'Right to be Forgotten', and asked how far this rule can be stretched.

Justice Rekha Palli issued notices asking them to respond to the petition while listing the matter for further proceedings on December 1, when several similar petitions are also fixed for hearing.

The court orally observed that the 'right to be forgotten' depends on how far it has to be stretched.

"'Right to be forgotten' depends on how far it has to be stretched. Tomorrow, people who defraud the banks will

come and say 'please remove the judgment'. We have to balance the rights," it said.

The court was hearing a petition by one Sukhmeet Singh Anand seeking removal of a judgement and an order passed in 2015 and 2018 in connection with an FIR registered against him in 2014 by the Economic Offences Wing here. The FIR was registered against the petitioner and other persons in 2014 pursuant to a complaint by Samsung Gulf Electronic FZE, Dubai.

The plea, filed through advocate Tarun Rana, said merely by typing Singh's name on Google, the web page takes visitors directly to the links of the orders.

In August 2018, the petitioner had challenged the non-bailable warrants issued against him and the plea was dismissed by the high court.

Thereafter, he filed another plea seeking directions to the high court registry to block search engines from assessing the orders in the matter, which was also dismissed in May 2019.

The plea referred to an interim order passed by the high court in April this year, directing removal of the judgement from the search results regarding the petitioner in that case. It said the petitioner sent a notice to Kanoon Software Pvt Ltd to withdraw the orders from its system; however, it refused to remove the orders on the pretext of website policy.

The petitioner also sent notices to the Centre and Google to take necessary steps for removal of the two orders from being viewed through the web portal. Google also showed inability to do anything in this regard, it said.

Validity of all transport papers
extended till November-end

The Delhi Government is also planning to include around 88 Delhi University colleges in the licence making task, which will be open for college students as well

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Wednesday decided to extend the validity of all transport documents, including driving licence and permits till November 30. Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said the step has been taken in view of the problems being faced by the common people amid the pandemic and to reduce overcrowding at zonal offices.

The Transport Department will issue necessary orders regarding this extension soon, an official said.

The Delhi Government is also planning to include around 88 Delhi University colleges in the licence making task, which will be open for college students as well.

In a bid to make the whole system more efficient and read-



ily available, the Government has also come up with the DigiLocker platform or the mParivahan mobile app, after the installation of which car or two-wheeler owners will not have to carry their Driving License (DL) and Registration Certificate (RC) all the time. Instead, they can provide a soft copy of these documents to the Traffic Police or Transport Department.

Gahlot also convened a meeting with Transport Commissioner Ashish Kundra and other senior officials and instructed the officers to expedite the process of resolving the technical issues, pendencies and grievances related to Faceless Services.

He also asked them to ensure that the user experience of Transport Services be a pleasant one and should estab-

lish a benchmark in public service delivery in the entire country.

According to the Delhi Government, in the first phase of Faceless Services in February, the department has received 2,16,835 applications for vehicle-related services and 2,08,224 applications for Driving Licence-related services, until September 27. Out of which 92 per cent and 79.9 per cent of all applications under Driving Licence and vehicle related services respectively got approved. The number of applications for Learner's Licence from August 7 to September 28 is 57,755. As much as 78.7 per cent of candidates successfully received their Learner's Licence from the comfort of their homes itself, and 12,260 applicants are yet to attempt their tests.

HC seeks police stand on
bail plea in Jantar Mantar
hate speech case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Wednesday sought a response from Delhi Police on a bail application of an accused, arrested in a case concerning alleged communal sloganeering at an event at Jantar Mantar last month. Justice Mukta Gupta issued notice to the police on the bail plea by Sushil Kumar and sought a status report.

The judge posted the matter for the next hearing on October 26.

The accused, who is the chief of an organisation called 'Hindu Army', was arrested from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on August 20 and is in judicial custody since then.

On September 23, a trial court here had dismissed his bail application, saying that the investigation was at a crucial juncture and there was a strong possibility of him interfering in the investigation of the case and/or influencing and threatening the witnesses.

Additional sessions judge Anil Antil had stated that the video clip and transcript on record were "explicitly infested with communal overtures having the tendency to incite communal hatred, disharmony, and ill-will between other section of the community" and the accused "has not even specifically disputed his identity in the alleged clip."

Delhi Police had opposed the bail plea of Sushil Kumar on the ground that the video clips clearly showed that he was delivering the inflammatory speech at the event held on August 8

"The allegations are serious in nature, the offence alleged is also no less severe than the nature of the accusations," the trial court had stated.

Delhi police had opposed the bail plea of Sushil Kumar on the ground that the video clips clearly showed that he was delivering the allegedly inflammatory speech at the event held on August 8.

It was claimed that the objectionable slogans and hatred/inflammatory speeches were delivered by the applicant/accused against a particular community as part of a well-hatched conspiracy.

The accused had contended before the trial court that the video of the alleged incident was an "edited record" that was prepared to intentionally and deliberately book him.

Raj cop with
Delhi HC shoots
himself dead

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old constable of the Rajasthan Armed Constabulary deployed at the Delhi High Court allegedly shot himself with his service weapon on Wednesday. Police said that no suicide note has been recovered from the spot.

The deceased has been identified as Tinku Ram and he belonged to Kotkasim in Rajasthan's Alwar.

According to Deepak Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), New Delhi district, an information was received that a constable of Rajasthan Armed Constabulary deployed in High Court security has reportedly committed suicide by his service weapon.

"He was taken to a hospital where he was declared brought dead, he added.

According to police, the constable had joined duty at 9.30 am on Wednesday at gate no.3 of the court complex after returning from a leave.

Over 3 lakh fined for flouting
Covid norms: Delhi Police

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has issued over three lakh challans,

mostly for not wearing face masks, so far between April 19 and September 28 this year for violation of various Covid-19-



related guidelines, officials said on Wednesday.

According to the latest data shared by the Delhi Police, 3,00,692 challans have been issued for such violations since the announcement of lockdown in the national Capital on April 19.

The data showed that of the total challans so far, a maximum of 2,65,258 were issued for violation of the mask rule, followed by 29,982 for not adhering to social distancing norms and 2,365 for consumption of liquor, pan, gutkha, tobacco etc. Another 1,624 challans were issued for spitting and 1,463 for holding large public gatherings and congregations, the data stated.

The unlock process began in Delhi in a phased manner with the Government allowing construction and manufacturing activities from May 31.

In the following weeks, markets, malls, metro trains, restaurants and bars and many other activities were allowed by the city Government.



Farmers protest against alleged corruption in the Noida Authority on Wednesday

PTI

'MCG should take
action against IL&FS
on Mayor's orders'

Gurugram: The matter in which the construction and demolition (C&D) waste plant operator who had completely sublet its work to a third party in blatant violation of norms, has now reached the Union Minister Rao Inderjit.

The Minister said on Wednesday that if the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG), Mayor has written to the MCG officials for action against the company, then the officers should take strict action against the company.

Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh was present in Gurugram to lay the foundation stone for development works worth ₹36 crore within the Municipal Corporation boundaries.

While speaking to the media, Singh was told about the wrongdoing committed by the IL&FS company the concessionaire of C&D waste.

"The Mayor is the elected representative of the public, so the civic body officers should not ignore the orders given by the Mayor," Singh said.

Now after the matter reached the Union Minister Rao Inderjit, it is speculating that strict action will be taken on the company by the MCG

SDMC to roll
back hike in
property
tax rates

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has decided to roll back the hiked property tax rates for commercial rented establishments, educational institutions, banquet halls among others.

The decision to roll back tax hikes will benefit traders. A senior SDMC official said that it was decided to put the decision to hike property tax on hold for now.

As per the proposal tabled in the house meeting earlier, the tax on rented commercial properties was increased on the recommendations of the Municipal Valuation Committee-3 (MVC-3) which was implemented in April last year. The MVC-3 had recommended nearly doubling the property tax on rented commercial premises, telecom towers, vacant commercial lands, vacant industries, marriage halls, banquets, educational institutions, entertainment and recreation facilities. These recommendations were implemented in April 2020 but were approved in July 2020 with retrospective effect. A senior SDMC official said that the corporation will bear losses of Rs 70-80 crore per year with the decision to roll back the hike.

Govt staff, teachers,
bus drivers must be
vaccinated: Experts



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Government employees, teachers and bus drivers should be mandatorily vaccinated against Covid as they interact with multiple people on a daily basis, said experts at a DDMA meeting held here on Wednesday.

At the meeting, it was also decided to undertake a "targeted" and "intensified" vaccination drive through camps and mobile vans with ambulances to facilitate the elderly, differently-abled, indispensed and domestic helps, etc. For inoculation.

The meeting, which was held under the chairmanship of Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal, was attended by senior officials of the Delhi Government.

They discussed the Covid situation in Delhi, the vaccination programme and the reopening of schools for students of classes six to eight.

The experts stressed on a change in strategy in the vac-

cination programme to mandatorily cover all groups that are working in overcrowded settings.

They said Government servants, teachers and staff in schools and service providers like auto/taxi and bus drivers and delivery personnel should be mandatorily vaccinated against the virus, according to official sources.

The vaccination drive against Covid-19 had started across the country, including in Delhi, on January 16.

The total number of anti-coronavirus vaccine doses administered in Delhi had crossed the one crore-mark on July 31.

Nearly 1,215 Government vaccination centres are operational in the national capital, with the capacity of administering over 3.39 lakh doses.

Till 6.30 pm on Wednesday, 1,51,507 vaccine doses were administered, taking the total number of doses to 1,77,08,804. Of which, 57,16,014 were second doses.

Covid-19:
Delhi records
41 cases,
zero fatality

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital recorded 41 coronavirus cases with a positivity rate of 0.06 per cent and zero fatality due to the infection on Wednesday, according to a health bulletin issued by the city Government.

With the new cases, the overall infection tally in the city climbed to 14,38,821. Over 14.13 lakh patients have recovered from the disease, and the death toll stood at 25,087.

Delhi has recorded only five fatalities due to the infection in September so far.

Delhi recorded 34 Covid-19 cases and two deaths due to the infection on Tuesday, when the positivity rate stood at 0.05 per cent.

The national capital had recorded 32 Covid-19 cases with a positivity rate of 0.06 per cent and zero death due to the disease on Monday. There are currently 392 active Covid-19 cases in Delhi, up from 373 on Tuesday.



Police team poses
as MCD employees
to nab burglars



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi Police team posed as employees of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and arrested four men for their alleged involvement in a case of burglary in the national Capital.

The accused identified as Nitin (25), Anoop (24), Irfan (26) and Ashu (24) – committed a burglary on September 18 in a house in southeast Delhi's Kalkaji area. Apart from the burglars, another man – Bidesh Haldhar (28) – a Mehrauli-based jeweller – was nabbed for buying these stolen gold and silver ornaments from the accused. According to Esha Pandey, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, on September 18, a resident of Kalkaji lodged a complaint alleging that she left for office along with her husband in the morning and when she returned in the evening, she found the main door of her

house open and her jewels missing.

"The CCTV footage of the crime scene were analysed and four men were seen roaming recklessly carrying a poly bag on the day of the incident. They were seen carrying the complainant's stolen bag, the DCP said, adding CCTV footage of other cameras in the area showed the accused men taking an auto-rickshaw from Ravidas Marg. The auto-rickshaw driver was questioned. He told police that he had dropped them in Mehrauli. Later through sources, police found that the men had shifted to Ambedkar Colony, said the DCP. To trace and nab the suspects, a team from Kalkaji police station then posed themselves as MCD employees and checked the suspected houses in densely populated colony of Ambedkar Nagar and nabbed the first accused, Nitin. His arrest subsequently led to the arrest of his associates, said the DCP.

CRPF on reform mode to increase operational efficiency

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Amid changing security dynamic and enhanced threat from terrorism, the CRPF is in the process of reforming the organisational structure of the paramilitary on the lines of the Defence forces to inculcate cohesiveness and camaraderie in the ranks so as to maximise operational efficiency besides being optimally battle-prepared.

On the lines of the Defence forces, the young cadre officers of the CRPF would be required to spend one month, directly after passing out from the academy, with the men in their barracks so that they are able to understand each other.

“The Training Directorate of the CRPF is in the process of making guidelines for conduct of familiarisation training by the Directly Appointed Gazetted Officers (DAGOs) on joining their battalion on first posting after Passing Out Parade on the pattern of Army,” reads a communication from the Training Directorate to the CRPF Academy where the cadre officers are trained.

In Regimented Army Units like infantry, armoured units and artillery, the young officers in their first month of joining

◆ On the lines of the defence forces, the young cadre officers of the CRPF would be required to spend one month, directly after passing out from the academy, with the men in their barracks so that they are able to understand each other

◆ The Training Directorate of the CRPF is in the process of making guidelines for conduct of familiarisation training by the DAGOs on joining their battalion on first posting after Passing Out Parade on the pattern of Army

◆ In Regimented Army Units like infantry, armoured units and artillery, the young officers in their first month of joining their

units and barracks, use the same toilet, mess and same facilities are provided to the men



their units and barracks, use the same toilet, mess and same facilities are provided to the men. Each day, they perform duties of each rank right from Sepoy up to Senior JCOs (Junior Commissioned Officers).

After completion of one month, their written/practical test is conducted by the Unit Adjutant and Final interview is taken by Commandant. Only after their successful completion of one month familiarization training that their formal induction as an officer in the unit is done by dining in at the officers' mess, according to the

communication.

This training gives an officer practical experience and actual feel of each appointment from Sepoy to senior JCO. Also, his men come to know about the officers' traits. This also develops cohesiveness and camaraderie, it said.

“It is proposed to implement similar familiarization training for DAGOs also,” reads the order through which the Training Directorate has sought comments from the CRPF academy to finalise the proposed guidelines.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) created through

an Act of Parliament in 1949 is an armed force of the Union under the Union Home Ministry. However, the ethos and culture of CRPF got diluted in the last three decades due to excessive interaction with the civil administration and State authorities and continuous deployments in aid of the police, officials said.

Given the dynamic character of the evolving security scenario in the region, the CRPF being the lead Force under the Home Ministry, will have to cope with bigger challenges involving low intensity conflicts with high impact for

BSF will continue to thwart enemies' move: Naidu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JODHPUR

Vice President M Venkaiah on Wednesday said the emerging geopolitical situation in our neighbourhood is likely to pose new challenges to the border guarding forces and expressed confidence that the Border Security Force (BSF) will continue to thwart the nefarious designs of enemies of peace.

Sounding this note of caution while addressing BSF officers during his visit the BSF's Jodhpur Frontier Headquarters, he also said the use of drones for smuggling arms and drugs has become the latest challenge, he added.



“The way BSF has been securing the borders of the nation for the last 56 years is highly commendable,” Naidu said. Appreciating the comprehensive briefing given by Inspector General Pankaj Gooner along with his team of officers to him, Naidu said the BSF had many great achievements since it was raised on December one, 1965.

He said, the Force fought valiantly the 1971 war with

Pakistan in both Eastern and Western theatres and brought many decorations and laurels to the nation.

Referring to the inhospitable terrains in which the Force remains deployed ranging from sub-zero temperatures of Jammu and Kashmir to Thar deserts of Rajasthan where the temperature rises up to 55 degrees, Naidu observed that the Force has proved its capacity to curb insurgencies effectively in different parts of the country. “I am aware that at present, the Force is fighting Naxals in Chhattisgarh and Odisha,” he added.

Stating that the BSF has made many supreme sacrifices in the line of duty to preserve

the unity and integrity of the country, he said the force's vigilance at the borders and counter-action against the enemies and hostile elements reinforces the confidence among the border population and provides a sense of security to them.

The Vice President commended the BSF personnel for extending help to people in distress during natural disasters like earthquakes and floods.

He expressed his happiness that BSF personnel have been sensitizing people in border areas on the COVID-19 pandemic and providing necessary support to them under the Civic Action Program.

CBI report on use of toxic chemicals in firecrackers very serious: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the CBI report on use of toxic chemicals in manufacturing firecrackers is very serious and “prima facie” it appears that there has been violation of the court's orders on use of barium and labelling of fireworks.

The bench of Justices M R Shah and AS Bopanna said the CBI has found harmful chemicals such as barium salts in the seized items. The apex court noted that manufacturers such

as Hindustan Fireworks and Standard Fireworks purchased barium in huge quantities and used these chemicals in the fireworks.

“The CBI report states that various samples of firecrackers and raw materials were collected from manufacturing factories which were sent for chemical analysis. It has been found that in many firecrackers barium and barium salts have been found. “It has also been found that a huge quantity of barium/barium salts has been bought by manufacturers despite the ban imposed on the

chemical in 2019. It has also been found that labels of finished crackers have revealed they did not contain the chemical composition and year of manufacture,” the bench said.

The court had noted on March 3 last year that Standard Fireworks, Hindustan Fireworks, Vinayaga Fireworks Industries, Shree Mariamman Fireworks, Shree Suryakalaa Fireworks and Selva Vinayagar Fireworks were directed to show cause why they not be punished for contempt for violation of earlier orders for using the banned chemicals.

“Considering the report submitted by CBI, prima facie it appears that they violated this court and earlier orders on barium salts and orders on labelling of firecrackers,” the bench said.

However, it added that “to give one further opportunity to the manufacturers to put forward their case and give them a report of CBI... We direct the Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati to furnish a copy of enquiry report to respective counsels appearing for manufacturers by tomorrow. The copy of the report be also furnished to the counsel for the petitioner”.

The bench said it will be open for concerned manufacturers against whom allegations are made to file a counter affidavit and granted one more opportunity to the manufacturers to put forward their case with respect to the report of the Joint Director, CBI, Chennai. It also issued notices to the manufacturers of the firecrackers in the case. The next hearing is scheduled on October 6.

money, the bench said it can take place as arrears of land revenue. The top court had issued contempt notice to Daiya as to why he should not be proceeded against and sentenced for his endeavour to scandalise the court.

Daiya had told the bench that he did not have the resources to pay the costs imposed by the apex court and would approach the President of India with a mercy plea. The apex court was hearing an application filed by Daiya seeking recall of the apex court's 2017 judgement by which it had imposed costs of Rs 25 lakh on it for filing 64 PILs over the years without any success and “repeatedly misusing” the jurisdiction of the top court.



Court's power of contempt can't be taken away even by legislative enactment: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Observing that the court's power of contempt can't be taken away even by a legislative enactment, the Supreme Court on Wednesday held the chairperson of an NGO guilty of contempt for not depositing ₹25 lakh for “scandalising and browbeating” the court. “We are of the view that the contemnor is clearly guilty of contempt of court and his action to scandalise the court cannot be countenanced,” the top court said.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M M Sundresh said the chairperson of NGO, Suraz India Trust, Rajiv Daiya has been “throwing mud” at all and sundry including the court, administrative staff and the state government. “The power to punish for contempt is a constitutional power vested with this court which cannot be taken away even by a legislative enactment,” the court said.

The apex court issued notice to Daiya and directed him to be present on October 7 for hearing of the sentence. With regard to recovery of

₹13K cr OK'd for helicopters, ammunition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Sustaining the pace of modernisation, the Government on Wednesday approved acquisitions worth over ₹13,000 crores for buying helicopters, ammunition and rockets for the armed forces.

The nod was given for these procurements in a meet-

ing of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Moreover, out of the ₹13,165 crores proposed acquisitions, procurement worth ₹11,486 cr. (87%) is from the domestic sources, defence ministry officials said after the DAC meeting. They said key approvals include helicopters, guided ammunition and rock-

et ammunition.

Looking into the need of the Indian Army for an Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Squadron, to improve its integral lift capability ensuring its operational preparedness, the DAC accorded approval of procurement of 25 ALH Mark III helicopters from the public sector aerospace giant Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under Buy Indian-IDD at an approx. cost of ₹3,850 cr, in keeping with the continued thrust towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'

and 'Make in India'.

At present, the army has 90 ALH and 75 Rudra, weaponised ALH, helicopters in service which are indigenously designed and developed by the HAL in addition to around 160 older Cheetah and Chetak utility helicopters which are in need of urgent replacement.

Meanwhile, giving boost to indigenous design and development of ammunitions, the DAC accorded approval for procurement of Terminally Guided Munition (TGM)

under Buy (Indian-IDD) category at an approximate cost of ₹4,962 cr. from domestic sources. Other proposals worth ₹4,353 crores were also approved, they said.

In addition, the DAC also approved a few amendments to the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 as a part of business process re-engineering to ensure further ease of doing business for the industry as well as measures to enhance procurement efficiency and reducing timelines.

India, Australia sign 'Terms of Reference' for Navy-to-Navy talks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further strengthen the growing defence ties, India and Australia on Wednesday inked an agreement on the “Terms of Reference for the Conduct of Navy-to-Navy talks between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy.”

The signing ceremony was held virtually between Rear Admiral Jaswinder Singh and Rear Admiral Christopher Smith. It was consequent to the signing of Joint Guidance for the India - Australia Navy to Navy Relationship' document by the Chiefs of the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy on August 21 this year, navy officials said here on Wednesday.

The 'Joint Guidance' document sets forth the Navy to Navy Talks as the 'Principal' medium for the guiding the bilateral relationship. The bilateral defence relations between India and Australia have strengthened over the years.

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Mutual Logistics Support Agreement, conduct of trilateral Maritime Security Workshop and Australian Navy participation in Exercise MAL-ABAR are significant milestones which underline the role played by both Navies in bolstering this relationship in recent times. The document



would be pivotal in consolidating the shared commitment to promote peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Indo - Pacific region.

The inaugural Navy-to-Navy Talk with Australia was held in 2005. Since then, the two nations and Navies have continued to grow closer at all levels and with over a decade of bilateral talks, they remain more committed than ever to strengthen and deepen this important Navy to Navy relationship.

The document underpins the broad objective of deeper mutual understanding, trust and transparency, improved goodwill and understanding of each other's concerns and future directions, and provides detailed guidance for the conduct of the Talks. It also provides flexibility for implementation of separate agreements based on the specific outcomes of the Talks.

BJP terms Punjab crisis as 'clash of ambitions, colossal failure of Rahul'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday described the Punjab political turmoil and developments in the State Congress unit as a “clash of ambition” and said it reflected a “colossus failure” of former Congress president

Rahul Gandhi.

Addressing a Press conference here, BJP national spokesman Sambit Patra said on account of its gross mismanagement in Punjab the Opposition party has now started targeting journalists to divert the attention from the

ongoing power struggle in the State.

He said the “personal ambitions” are the cause of crisis in Congress as the key players there are only pushing their own agenda with no concern for peoples' suffering.

The colossal failure of Rahul, and the entire Congress high command came to the fore with the Punjab crisis, he said.

“The Congress, in order to divert the attention from the Punjab episode, has threatened journalists and media today and we have seen the consequences,” he said.

Patra said the party is in complete disarray which has also been pointed out by Congress insiders and leaders themselves.

BJP leader questioned Rahul in Kerala saying that he “does not believe in borders..” and wondered as to why Congressman Navjyot Singh Sidhu interacted with Pakistan leaders the way he did and why Kanhaiya Kumar, allegedly part of ‘tukde tukde gang,’ was admitted into the Congress. Patra expressed concern over the state of affairs in a sensitive border state.

Patra also asked the Editors Guild to take notice of the threat allegedly given by a sitting Chief Minister to a woman reporter.

Make labelling must for food industry: Experts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The society should come forward to persuade the Government to make front-of-pack-labelling (FOPL) warnings mandatory for the food industry to curtail rampant availability of high fat, salt and sugar foods which are taking a toll on the heart and overall health of the people, health experts said on Wednesday on the occasion of World Health Day.

FOPL is a nutrition labelling system where information about the nutrients and their quality is presented upfront on a food package in a simple manner and is a practice followed in most developed countries.

The doctors also advised

the youth to keep themselves off tobacco which is a cause of cancer too. “Because tobacco leads to a painful slow death,” Cardiacc Surgeon Dr Devi Shetty said adding, “Indians are three times more vulnerable to heart attacks than Europeans and Americans. We develop heart attacks at a much younger age. In India, it is the bread-winners of the family who are coming for a bypass graft. It is very sad to see an old father bringing his son for a bypass graft. Indians are developing heart attacks like an epidemic,” he said.

Dr Rohit Goel, Consultant, Interventional Cardiology, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, was of the opinion that besides tobacco, unchecked consumption of unhealthy food and sedentary

lifestyle besides absence of FOPL on unhealthy food products too are harmful for the heart, with youth as young as 40 years dying due to heart disease.

“Hence, FOPL warnings are the need of the hour. They should be made mandatory on an urgent basis for the food industry so that consumers have informed and healthy choices while purchasing packaged food,” said Dr Goel. It should be on the line of mandatory pictorial warnings on tobacco products which have brought significant changes in people's perception towards tobacco consumption, he added.

“Similarly, FOPL too can help cut down non-communicable diseases (NCD) burden which is increasing at an alarming rate in India,” Dr Goel said

at the Healthy Talks programme on the topic “Save your Heart from unhealthy packaged foods,” initiated by IGPP, a health platform.

Dr Goel cited examples of countries like Chile, Brazil, France and Israel which after adopting FOPL have succeeded in bringing down NCDs levels.

The genetic predisposition, high incidence of diabetes, higher stress level, sedentary lifestyle and obesity are the main reasons among others for such an alarming rise. The recent shift of modifiable risk factors towards increasing consumption of red meats, saturated fats and trans fats, junk food is also an important reason for this, said Dr Tarun Kumar, Professor of Cardiology, at RML Hospital.

WORLDHEARTDAY



The doctors said people must adopt a heart-healthy lifestyle where they consume fresh fruits and vegetables, engage in physical activity most days of the week, work towards

weight reduction and quit harmful habits while the Government, on its part, should expedite the process of making FOPL compulsory for the food industry.

Birds' threat to aircraft: IAF requests people not to dump eatables in open

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The IAF issued an advisory on Wednesday asking citizens to refrain from throwing eatables in the open as it attracts birds thereby posing a grave threat to aircraft. The IAF will conduct rehearsals from October one in the national capital region culminating in the fly past on October eight to mark the 89th Air Force day.

The main ceremony will be held at Air Force Station Hindan (Ghaziabad). Rehearsals for the display will commence from October one

wherein aircraft will be flying at low levels are Wazirpur bridge - Karwalnagar - Afjalpur - Hindan, Shamli - Jiwana - Chandinagar - Hindan, Hapur - Philkua - Ghaziabad - Hindan.

The flypast will include heritage aircraft, modern transport aircraft and frontline fighter aircraft.



Priyanka to kick off poll campaign from Varanasi

Lucknow: The Congress in Uttar Pradesh is expected to launch its poll campaign for the 2022 Assembly elections on October 9 with party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addressing a public rally in Varanasi.

Former Varanasi MP Rajesh Mishra confirmed that preparations for the rally have begun and added that the event was being organised to give a message of change to the people across the state.

The Congress has also decided to bet on young candidates for the 2022 Assembly elections and sources said that the party may give 60 per cent of its tickets to those in the age group of 30 to 40 years.

Priyanka, who is in Lucknow on a five-day visit, is said to have given her consent for this.

The Congress is inviting applications from prospective candidates till October 10.

"Focus on the youth and their issues is clear in various strategy, election, campaign and manifesto meetings. The leadership feels that this is the group which has suffered most at the hands



of the myopic vision of the BJP Government and, therefore, wants change. Putting up good candidates with whom the public can relate is a natural thought," a party functionary said.

Veterans in the party, however, believe that the Congress needs more than a formula for its revival in Uttar Pradesh.

"The party is still struggling to put things in an affirmative and clear perspective. The formula may not find many buyers in a highly caste and religion sensitive UP unlike Kerala where development and candidates are considered over traditional factors," said a party veteran.

Jobless youth body to protest against REET-2021 today

Jaipur: Youths affiliated with the Rajasthan Unemployed United Federation will hold a protest on Thursday against the alleged irregularities in the recently conducted teachers' eligibility test REET-2021.

The State Government had on Tuesday suspended an administrative service officer, two police service officers, 13 education department personnel and three other policemen for their alleged involvement in irregularities during the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers-2021 held on Sunday.

In Sawai Madhopur district, Wazirpur Sub-Divisional Officer Narendra Kumar Meena (RAS officer) and two RPS officers Narayan Tiwari and Rajul Meena were suspended.

The protesters said they will press the government for the termination of employees who were involved in the alleged irregularities. Rajasthan Unemployed United Federation state

president Upen Yadav told reporters several kinds of irregularities including a paper leak have and delayed arrival of papers at various examination centers have come to the fore.

He said the unemployed youths are angry due to the "large scale irregularities".

He termed the suspension of some officers and employees a damage control exercise.

The youths will protest at Shaheed Smarak on September 30 to demand the termination of employees and seize their properties, he said.

State BJP leaders, who have been demanding a CBI inquiry into the allegations have now demanded a judicial inquiry into the matter.

BJP chief spokesperson Ramlal Sharma said the State Government's decision to suspended officers and employees proves the allegations of irregularities are correct.

He said the State Government should order a judicial inquiry in the matter. **PTI**



A view of the Tapi river after its water level rose due to the release of water from Ukai Dam, in Surat on Wednesday

PTI

Maha's first Army museum to come up in Mumbai by Aug 15

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

First of its kind Army museum and a state-of-art war memorial are being set up in Mumbai to commemorate the glorious achievements of the Indian Army and to showcase the experiences of its bravery, prowess and restraint.

The Maharashtra Government plans to throw open a section of the museum by the 75th anniversary of India's Independence on August 15, 2022.

Presiding over a meeting of top Army personnel and senior bureaucrats held at his official residence "Varsha" in south Mumbai, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray directed to find a location for the project immediately and take steps to complete the development of the museum by the next Independence day. "We want a part of the Museum to be opened to the public by August 15, 2022," he said.

At the meeting, Indian Army's Lt. Gen. S. K. Parasher and Brig. Achalesh Shanker, BMC Commissioner I. S. Chahal, Urban Development Principal Secretary Bhushan Gagrani, CMO's Ashish Kumar Singh, Vikas Kharge and others were present.

The Chief Minister asked the state administration to set up an advisory and design committee with the participation of army officers to prepare a blueprint on the various aspects of the proposed army museum.

He said that the proposed museum should provide visitors a glimpse of the difficult terrains the soldiers work in the

border areas of the country, provide them a feel of how army bunkers look like, how soldiers survive in extreme weathers like minus zero degree in Siachen Glacier or the walking through scorching deserts with heavy weapons, and the dense jungles.

Among other things, the museum will highlight success stories of the heroism of the defence forces, the soldiers and officers from the state who participated and fought in various wars, display the weapons and ammunition, tanks, planes, boats, medals, uniforms and rank structure of the soldiers.

In addition, on display at the museum will be replicas of aircraft, boats, helicopters, tanks with historical information about Indian Independence, the photographs of top medal winners and their heroic exploits. There will also be an amphitheatre attached to the museum.

The chief minister said that there would be an activity area for the youth to get information and guidance on physical fitness, motivate them to join the armed forces, along with some basic practical courses.

"A system should be in place to provide a rich and wholesome experience to the visitors and tourists through comprehensive information on the overall strength of the Indian Army and the defence forces," the chief minister said.

Currently, Maharashtra has a full-fledged dedicated Cavalry Tank Museum in Ahmednagar in western Maharashtra.

One of its kind museums in Asia, this museum was established by the Armored Corps Centre and School in February 1994. It houses about 50 exhibits of vintage armoured fighting vehicles.

The oldest exhibit is the silver Ghost Rolls-Royce Armoured car (Indian Pattern). The older exhibits date to First World War vintage and served on the battlefields of Cambrian Somme and Flanders. A large number of vehicles are from the Second World War period.

Among the exhibits, there is a British Valentine while there are two Churchill Mk. VII infantry tanks, along with a Matilda II of similar type, an Imperial Japanese Type 95 Ha-Go light tank and a Type 97 Chi-Ha medium tank, a US Sherman Crab mine-flail tank, a British Centurion Mk. II main battle tank (MBT), a Nazi German Schwerer Panzerspähwagen light armoured car and Indian Vijayanta MBT.

Also on display is a British Archer tank destroyer (based on the Valentine tank), a Canadian Sexton self-propelled artillery tracked-vehicle, US M3 Stuart and M22 Locust light tanks, together with an American M3 Medium Tank and various armoured cars from different eras and periods of conflicts.

A Nazi German 88mm anti-aircraft/armour field-gun captured from German troops (possibly belonging to the 15th Panzer Division of the Afrika Korps), based on the divisional markings on the artillery-piece, is also on display at the museum.

Mayawati to select candidates through panel

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

After winding up a series of 'Prabuddh Varg Sammelan' to attract Brahmin voters ahead of the 2022 Assembly polls, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati has decided to adopt a different procedure for selecting candidates when the State goes to the hustings.

The process of finalising the candidates has been started on the basis of a panel of candidates received from the sector in-charges. The responsibility of announcing the names which have been stamped by the BSP supremo in the districts has been now entrusted to district chiefs and sector in-charges.

Traditionally the Bahujan Samaj Party has been declaring its candidate ahead of other parties for any election and sources said that efforts were underway to announce the maximum number of candidates by October 15.

The BSP chief believes that the candidate gets a full chance for election preparation by declaring their names well in advance. After sector in-charges sent the finalised panel of candidates, the names are being finalised. The list of candidates has also been handed over to other districts of the state and the sector in-charges have been given the responsibility to declare the names by holding a conference.

Mayawati has also made it clear that this time, criminals and leaders with tainted background will not be given tickets. Acting on this line, BSP state president Bhim Rajbhar has been fielded from Mau replacing sitting party legislator Mukhtar Ansari. Even



though the names of the candidates are being announced on the basis of the panel, if a tainted candidate is declared fraudulently, then his candidature be withdrawn and he will be replaced a suitable person before the election.

Sources said that BSP leaders who want to contest the elections in Uttar Pradesh will also have to share their experience of social media.

Not only this, what kind of work has been done in social media about party founder Kanshi Ram and Mayawati will also have to be narrated. Only after this, his or her candidature will be confirmed by the party.

The BSP chief has released the application form for aspiring leaders wherein each one has to clearly mention his/her activism in social media and work done on Kanshi Ram's mission. In the application form, an aspiring candidate has to mention how aware he or she is about the policies of the BSP and the policies of Dalit messiah Baba Saheb BR Ambedkar along with his political experience and background.

Previously not very keen on any kind of media platform, Mayawati, of late, has been constantly active on Twitter and on Facebook page. She is attacking the government by tweeting on every issue and keeping her party's perspective on every issue.



Devotees take part in a puja on the occasion of Jivitputrika Vrat in Varanasi on Wednesday

PTI

Army pays tributes to soldier martyred in Baramulla landslide

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

The General Officer Commanding of the Army's 15 Corps led all ranks on Wednesday in paying tributes to a soldier who died in a landslide in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

"The GoC, Chinara Corps and all ranks laid a wreath on the mortal remains of the braveheart, Naik Dharmendra Kumar Singh of the EME, posted with the Sikh Regiment, at the Chinara Corps War Memorial," a Defence spokesperson said here.

He said Singh was detailed for duty when a part of an operational track broke due to a small landslide and an Army truck fell off the edge down into a deep valley, leading to the soldier's death on the spot at Gugaldhar on Monday.

Singh (36), who had joined the Army in 2008, hailed from Bihar's Rohtas district. He is survived by his wife.

His mortal remains will be taken for the last rites to his native place, where he would be laid to rest with full military honours, the defence spokesperson said.

12 United Liberation of Bodoland cadres surrender in Assam

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

A total of 12 cadres of the newly-formed insurgent group, United Liberation of Bodoland (ULB), on Wednesday surrendered with a cache of arms in Assam, a senior police officer said.

The insurgents surrendered near the India-Bhutan border in Udalguri district and were brought to Dimakuchi police station for completing necessary formalities, Special Director General of Police-cum-IGP (BTAD) L R Bishnoi told *PTI*. "Among them, self-styled 'Kokrajhar district commander-in-chief' of ULB Pinjit is there. The cadres also deposited some arms," he said.

With this development, all members of the ULB have surrendered, Bishnoi said.]The police had earlier arrested 12 cadres of the outfit and two ULB insurgents had died in an encounter, Bishnoi added.

Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted, "Continuing our outreach to bring home youths from path of militancy, all the cadres of newly formed group United Liberation of Bodoland (ULB) have returned home today."

Police grill 'antique' dealer held for cheating in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Monson Mavunkal is the new 'star' in Kerala's landscape. A school dropout from Alappuzha district, Monson has literally taken Keralaites for a ride with his glib speech, cavalcade of swanky high-end imported cars and display of wealth.

The VIPs who fell for this fraudster who introduced himself as a collector of rare antique artefacts include two Ministers in the Pinarayi Vijayan Cabinet, KPCC chief K Sudhakaran, former chief of Kerala Police Loknath Behra, additional director general Manoj Abraham, MPs, MLAs and even superstars of the movie industry.

The crime branch sleuths who took him into custody have been grilling him for more details. Monson who cheated a group of people by defrauding them to the tune of ₹6 crore has been arrested early this week by the Crime Branch wing of Kerala Police, but not before pictures of Behra and Abraham sitting atop a

chair which the former had claimed as the royal chair of Tippu Sultan. Abraham was seen holding a sword which Monson portrayed as the favorite dagger used by Tippu. But sources in Police said that all antique materials in Monson's custody were either fake or counterfeit.

The confidence trickster went to the extent of claiming that he had in his collection the 'staff of Moses', the olive oil lamp used by Razoal, one of the prophets and the original of the rare paintings by classical painters.

The Government of Kerala even used a 350 old copper plaque with inscription stating that the holy shrine of Sabarimala was never a Hindu pilgrimage center in its affidavit to the Kerala High Court in connection with the case of women's entry in Sabarimala.

Visitors to his house in a suburb in Ernakulam were taken aback when they saw the artefacts adorning the cupboard in the high security drawing room.

He had in his collection

two of the thirty silver coins which were given to Judas in exchange for betraying Jesus Christ and many such things.

He defrauded many people in the State with the claim that ₹2,60,000 crore which was sent to him from abroad had been held back by the union finance ministry and he needed ₹10 crore to get the cash released.

Monson's social media page is full of pictures of him rubbing shoulders with the power and mighty of Kerala. K Sudhakaran, while speaking to reporters, said he knew Monson as a fitness expert and had sought his help to get rid of a medical disorder. Congress MP Haiby Eden has issued a stern warning to the media for publishing his pictures with Monson.

"This is a handiwork of the Chief Minister's Office to deliberately tarnish my reputation," said Sudhakaran.

The fraudster has friendship with many senior police officers who allegedly torpedoed all investigations ordered against him by the top brass.

Maha daily Covid deaths down to 49

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

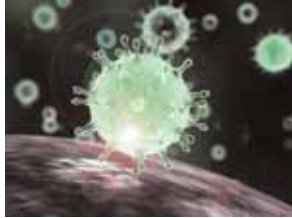
The daily Covid-19 deaths came to 49 and infections rose marginally to 3,187 in Maharashtra on Wednesday, even as 3,253 patients were discharged from various hospitals across the State after full recovery.

A day after the state logged Covid 19-triggered 60 deaths and 2,844 infections, the pandemic claimed 49 lives and left 3,187 others infected.

With 49 fresh deaths reported on Monday, the total number of deaths in the State increased from 1,38,962 to 1,39,011.

With 3,187 fresh cases, the total number of infections rose from 65,44,606 to 65,47,793.

As many as 3,253 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the State after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year increased from 63,65,277 to 63,68,530. The recovery rate in the state stood static at 97.26 per cent.



The total "active cases" in the state dropped marginally from 36,794 to 36,675. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 2.12 per cent.

Pune with 9,280 active cases emerged as the first in the state in terms of maximum number of "active cases" in the state, while Thane with 6,083 cases stood second in the state, followed by Ahmednagar (5,237), Mumbai (5,144) and Satara (2,038).

Of the 5,88,84,819 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 65,47,793 have tested positive (11.18 per cent) for Covid-19 until Wednesday.

Currently, 2,52,309 people are in home quarantine while 1,453 people are in institutional quarantine.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI 4 TH FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI-1100001			
OA NO 177/19 UNITED BANK OF INDIA		DATE:-03.09.2021	APPLICANT
M/S COMPACT LAMPS PVT. LTD. & ORS. To,	VERSUS		DEFENDANT
1. M/S COMPACT LAMPS PVT. LTD. 404, NAGARJUNA APARTMENT MAYUR KUNJ DELHI-96 ALSO AT PLOT NO. C-8 SECT-3, NOIDA DISTT. GAUTAM BU DH NAGAR UP-201301			
2. SHRI KAPIL GUPTA S/O KRISHAN KUMAR GUPTA R/O 404, NAGARJUNA APARTMENT MAYUR KUNJ DELHI-96 ALSO AT PLOT NO. C-8 SECT-3, NOIDA DISTT. GAUTAM BU DH NAGAR UP-201301			
3. SMT. SONIA GUPTA W/O SH. KAPIL GUPTA R/O 404, NAGARJUNA APARTMENT MAYUR KUNJ DELHI-96 ALSO AT PLOT NO. C-8 SECT-3, NOIDA DISTT. GAUTAM BU DH NAGAR UP-201301			
Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case of recovery of Rs.19,79,80,482.69/- (RUPEES NINETEEN CRORE SEVENTY NINE LAKH EIGHTY THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND PAISE SIXTY NINE ONLY) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 25.11.2021 At 10:30 A.M.			
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.			
Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through video conferencing and for that purpose:-			
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/software:			
(ii) "Meeting ID" and Password for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-/and Recovery Officer-III shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in			
(iii) In any exigency qua that Advocate/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748478.			
Given Under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this 8 th day of Sep.2021			
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL			
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR DRT-II, DELHI			

RPS International & Krish Shalimar Projects Pvt. Ltd. (formerly known as Krish Motels Pvt. Ltd.) Regd. Office: 202, 2nd Floor, Elegance Tower 8, Jasola, District Centre, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110017 Ph.: 9560734166 www.ibizatown.co.in	
PUBLIC NOTICE	
Whereas, RPS International in Collaboration with Krish Shalimar Projects Pvt. Ltd. (formerly known as Krish Motels Pvt. Ltd.) is in the process of undertaking of development of a Group Housing colony in Sector 39, Faridabad, Haryana over an area measuring 10.15 Acre in the revenue estate of Village Lakkarpur, in accordance with the provision of License No. 111 of 2011 dated 16.12.2011 granted by Director General, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh. And whereas, several individuals have made bookings/entered into purchase agreement for allotment of units (3 BHK flats and 4 BHK flats) in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees).	
And whereas, the earlier layout plan as approved at the time of grant of license for the said colony is now proposed to be revised with respect to the community building/ club & convenient shopping.	
And whereas, the office of Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of the layout plan with respect to the community building/ club & convenient shopping as a pre-condition for allowing such revision in the layout plan.	
Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said colony on the proposed revision in the layout plan of the said colony with respect to the community building/ club & convenient shopping. A copy of the earlier approved layout/ building plan bearing Memo No. ZP-778/JD/(DK)/2012/5490 dated 16/04/12 & the revised as built plans bearing drawing No. Ksppl/SP/19 dated 30 September 2019 showing the revision with respect to the community building/ club & convenient shopping, which are marked in red color are available for perusal on our website ibizatown.co.in. The said layout plans can also be perused at the office of undersigned at 202, 2nd Floor, Elegance Tower 8, Jasola, District Centre, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110017 as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner, Faridabad, Haryana.	
Any allottee having any objection on revised as built plan with respect to the community building/ club & convenient shopping, may file his/ her objection in the office of Senior Town Planner, Faridabad, Haryana within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the layout plan.	
Place: New Delhi Date: 30.09.2021	Rupali Arora Sr. AGM (CRM)

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Bang, bang

As the festive season draws closer, it's time to remind ourselves to keep off firecrackers

The festival season is upon us and the Supreme Court is engaged with what is becoming a seasonal hearing about a ban on firecrackers because they are dangerous pollutants. The court said on Tuesday that the manufacturers were violating the spirit of its 2018 judgment banning the use of toxic substances, like barium, in fireworks. Three years ago, the court allowed the manufacture of only green firecrackers or those with reduced emission. It banned the use of barium salt, which is used in the manufacture of most firecrackers. The court called its order an act to strike a balance between the right to public health and the right to occupation of the fireworks industry. The following year, the same court said: "We cannot give money or jobs or support people who will lose their jobs if we shut down firecrackers manufacturing units... We do not want to generate unemployment." This was at a hearing where the manufacturers pointed out two things. One, there was no consensus on the chemical composition of green crackers and, two, that the court should wait for a definitive study that firecrackers do pollute the atmosphere around Diwali. Last December, the National Green Tribunal clamped a total ban on the sale and use of all kinds of firecrackers in the country in view of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The relief was that the ban will be in force in places where the ambient air quality fell under the "poor" category.



In September, Delhi imposed a complete ban on storage, sale and use of all types of firecrackers and the traders were told to avoid stocking up. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee followed it up with an order extending the ban till January 1, 2022, to reduce winter smog and pollution levels. There seem to be as many orders on firecrackers as there are institutions. However, what is absent is a national firecracker policy that takes into account; (one), the pollution levels and the right to life, (two), the threat to firecracker employees and the right to occupation, and (three), the necessity of green crackers completely replacing the polluting fireworks. Instead, there is an unending blame game. If the production does not begin, at least eight lakh employees, mostly in Tamil Nadu, will starve. To the manufacturers, it means huge losses as the raw material remains unused. To the traders, it is about languishing stocks of firecrackers that cannot be sold. The court correctly observed on Tuesday that it cannot infringe upon the right to life of citizens "under the guise of employment of a few" while considering a ban on firecrackers. However, the court should consider that the challenge of tackling pollution and the demands of clean air dictate a ban on firecrackers and nothing less. The only debate is about rehabilitating the lakhs of people whose lives depend on the fireworks trade. This equation is yet to draw serious attention from the Government and the courts.

PICTALK



Vehicles stuck in traffic during repairs at the Auckland tunnel in Shimla

PTI

Flip, flop

Repeatedly putting self before party, Sidhu has single-handedly hurt the Punjab Congress

There are missiles. Then, there are misguided missiles. And then there are misguided missiles that torpedo their mother ship. Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu belongs to the last category. The maverick cricketer-turned-politician seems to have virtually filched infallible victory away from the Congress in just about five years of joining the grand old party, leaving it staring at an existential crisis like never before in Punjab. 'Here today, gone tomorrow' appears to be the reality for the Punjab Congress with the party high command backing, though not yet rewarding, dissenter Sidhu in his inexorable battle against former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh. Six months ago, the Captain appeared invincible. The party's open support to farmers, the SAD's feeble position brought about by incidents of sacrilege during its tenure, a disintegrated AAP and the sidelined BJP provided a perfect recipe for the Congress' electoral success. Amarinder's track record, too, was encouraging. The "Maharaja" annexed new constituencies for the party in the 2017 Assembly elections, bagging 77



of the 117 seats. He also engineered victory for the party in the 2019 Lok Sabha and local body polls. But the party structure has since crumbled the way of the cookie.

After failing to hoist himself to the Deputy CM's chair, Sidhu questioned Amarinder on his failure to act against the SAD leaders in drugs and sacrilege cases. But round one went to the Captain. Sidhu remained in political hibernation till the opening of the Kartarpur corridor unlocked new political opportunities. He unabashedly took credit before presenting himself as indispensable for the Congress. The central leadership, too, overlooked his boisterousness and tendency of bringing 'ghar ki baat' in public, perhaps because of Amarinder's frequent meetings with PM Narendra Modi. Though the Captain held the MLAs together by a fine thread, Sidhu managed to get himself appointed as the Punjab Congress president. The former cricketer created a parallel power centre and left the party divided. Just when things appeared to be settling down after Charanjit Singh Channi was anointed Punjab's first SC Chief Minister, Sidhu's tantrums restarted with the elections barely three months away. From *The Kapil Sharma Show* to the seat of the Punjab PCC president and then on to relinquishing that, too, Sidhu may be smiling along but it is a matter of serious conjecture if the Congress high command is feeling amused by his antics.

Agriculture a better bet for Eastern India



PRAFULL GORADIA

The Northeast is a zone of immense potential, which is yet to be fully tapped and would lead to India's economic development

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently suggested to the country's farmers 35 new and varied types of vegetations that are of high yield or high value, or both. Among the crops the Prime Minister has suggested for futuristic agricultural development are chickpea, wilt and sterility mosaic resistant pigeonpea, early maturing variety of soya bean, disease resistant varieties of rice, bio-fortified varieties of wheat, pearl millet, maize, quinoa, buckwheat, winged bean and faba bean, among others.

Apart from prospects for India's agricultural, this suggestion could just be the answer for a prosperous eastern India as well. In a recently published book, titled *Had Patel Been Prime Minister*, this author has delved into how Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, had he been the country's PM instead of Jawaharlal Nehru, would have treated the issue of India's economic development and particularly that of eastern India. Patel had novel ideas. He would have notionally treated eastern India distinctly for farming and agriculture. In his time, the 35 new crops suggested by our current Prime Minister might not have been known. Yet, the concept that there are plants that are drought resistant, inimical to pests or excessive rain or flooding was indeed known.

The thrust of this submission is to reiterate an important aspect of Sardar Patel's outlook. He was from a farmer's family and well acquainted with farmers' issues and problems. In fact, he organised and led the Bardoli Satyagraha as farmers' revolt against excessive taxes in the face of financial difficulties in 1928. The movement made Sardar Patel a national leader. Prior to his political career and role in the country's independence movement, Vallabhbhai was also a prominent lawyer in Ahmedabad and not unfamiliar with industry. Moreover, he was aware that to develop eastern India, agriculture was the key, not industry.

The Seven Sisters of northeastern India, as well as people of Assam, are also comfortable with farming. Uncannily, West Bengal, truly speaking, is also similar. Prior to Independence, most



industries in the State had been promoted by the British and very few by indigenous people. When the British disinvested after 1947, not a single enterprise was bought by any local entrepreneur save one, namely Jardine Henderson, which was invested in by one Gujarati from Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh). The rest went to entrepreneurs from Rajasthan.

Individuals may or may not realise it, but this was not desirable. The reason was that there was a divide whereby the locals felt that outsiders were the *maliks* (owners) while they had become workers. A few of them, from a *zamindari* background, ironically went on to become trade union leaders rather than entrepreneurs. This unfortunate divide, instead of promoting more and better industries, actually destroyed industry in West Bengal. A State from which in 1947 was the paradise of industries went on to become their graveyard by 1977.

Bihar and Jharkhand too, are primarily inclined towards farming. At the same time, most of the region is well fed with water, riverine or through rainfall. Shillong in Meghalaya, truly speaking, is also similar. Prior to Independence, most



SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL HAD NOVEL IDEAS. HAD HE BEEN THE COUNTRY'S PM INSTEAD OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, HE WOULD HAVE NOTIONALLY TREATED EASTERN INDIA DISTINCTLY FOR FARMING AND AGRICULTURE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEED A NEW FRAME OF MIND

Sir — One of the reasons why the modern concept of live-in relationships does not get social acceptance in India is that it poses challenges to the basic tenets of marriage. The Indian judiciary has often pointed out that such relationships are not illegal. On the other hand, courts have refrained from authenticating such relationships. The Rajasthan High Court recently pronounced a judgment that couples living in legal or illegal relationships cannot be refused protection granted under Article 21 of the Constitution. The court affirmed that the State cannot deny protection if one of the individuals is married to another person.

The court observed that public morality cannot be allowed to overshadow constitutional morality. It must be noted that the Punjab & Haryana High Court observed in May this year that live-in relationships are gradually getting social acceptance. Society has changed and people must think rationally and progressively. We must value individual freedom over societal constraints. Social changes are reflected in the judgments of courts. Hence, it is of paramount importance to imbibe the realities in the observations of courts. Modifications must be made in the marriage system by incorporating traditional and global practices.

Venu GS | Kollam

IT IS ADULTERATED, HONEY

Sir — The Supreme Court in April 2021 had sought comments of the Union and State Governments on reports of adulterated honey being marketed in India. Even the popular brands of renowned companies use a special type of sugar imported from China which is mixed with honey. The final product bypasses the quality tests as required by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) as per research done by the Centre for Science and Environment which further says that only three out of 70 samples of honey being marketed in India could pass internationally accepted by NMR spectroscopy test.

If the report is correct, then these

Chha gaye, guru!



What is going on in Punjab; it is far from value-based politics; it surrounds personalities and personal aggrandisement and not people and public service. There are no principles, policies or issues that concern the lives of people involved. But for the 'public interest' of the political developments verging on the farcical, we would have ignored them. Navjot Singh Sidhu's resignation as the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee has precipitated a crisis of sorts. He is aptly described as an 'unguided missile'; the only thing predictable about him is his unpredictability. He

brands are playing with the health of Indian people. Many diabetic people consume honey marketed under popular brands because honey is otherwise considered a safe sweetener for diabetic people. Instead of further time-consuming litigation proceedings, the FSSAI should adopt an internationally accepted NMR spectroscopy test for giving sales permission to honey manufacturers in India. Moreover, all honey packs under different brand names must have on their labels a copy of affidavit by some company executive wherein 100 per cent purity of the product may be guaranteed.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

NOT SO PRETTY A 'GULAB'

Sir — In the 22 years of the 21st century, Cyclone Gulab is only the third Bay of Bengal cyclone to make landfall in September, during the active monsoon season. However, barely hours after the remnant of Cyclone Gulab crossed the Odisha skies, the State is bracing for another low

is a man in a hurry; his hasty decisions reflect his impatience to become the CM.

His claim that it is not a personal battle seems debatable. For him, it is 'my way or the highway'. Sidhu could not replace Captain Amarinder Singh as the Chief Minister or become 'super Chief Minister' or 'de facto Chief Minister' with Charanjit Singh Channi in the saddle asserting his independence and authority. Sidhu was miffed that he could not get his supporters plum portfolios and prevent the re-induction of Rana Gurjit Singh as a Minister and the appointment of APS Deol as Advocate General. Till the Captain's ouster, it was captain versus Sidhu and now it looks Channi versus Sidhu. Channi is proving to be no pushover; he seems to hold on his own against the cricketer-turned-politician in the 'power play'. Being the Dalit face, Channi has emerged as an insurmountable hurdle for Sidhu to realise his ambition to become the CM.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

pressure which is likely to dump heavy rains in the State. Authorities have issued warnings to districts and asked fishermen to return from the sea. Cyclone Gulab, which made landfall in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha Sunday night, marked an aberration as far as the climate calendar goes.

Generally, the monsoon conditions are not favourable for cyclones to develop in the North Indian Ocean. This is because of the strong opposing winds in this region — the lower atmospheric winds are in one direction (southwesterly) and the upper atmospheric winds are in the other direction (northeasterly). This prevents a cyclone from developing vertically. Multiple factors, including "warmer ocean conditions", are now assisting cyclone formation during the onset (June-July) and withdrawal of monsoon (September), when the monsoon is not at its peak.

Gundu K Maniam | Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Bihar faces flood-like situations every year. So many announcements were made by the Govt, but no solutions have been found.

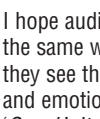


—RJD leader
Tejashwi Yadav



It is time to tackle meningitis globally once and for all by expanding tools like vaccines, research etc.

—WHO Director General
Tedros A Ghebreyesus



I hope audiences feel the same way when they see the action and emotion in 'Sanaa'. It will inhabit a new space in Indian cinema.



—Actor
Viduyt Jammwal



The team is confident. The team is quite excited. It's a different experience for us to play with the pink ball in a day-night game.

—India's Test skipper
Mithali Raj

Kamal ka phool has become jhoot ka phool. Their (the BJP's) claims are 100 per cent but the reality is zero.



—Samajwadi Party president
Akhilesh Yadav

FIRST COLUMN

HOW WOULD SCHOLZ FORM A COALITION?

After Merkel stepping down as the German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz looks like a shoo-in



prone for the job. So, when the Green leader also flamed out, the mantle of front-runner draped itself around the shoulders of a quite surprised Olaf Scholz. Olaf Scholz used to be known as ‘Scholzomat’ for his robotic delivery when speaking in public, or even the ‘grinning Smurf’ for his blue eyes and fixed smile. Then he had an “ideological detox” (his own words) that moved him well to the right in the Socialist Party. Thanks mostly to the under-performance of his opponents, he has emerged over the past four months as the odds-on favourite for the chancellorship. Now his aides call him ‘Lazarus’, and one of his own campaign ads says bluntly “er kann Kanzlerin”. That means “he can do the Chancellor’s job” — but ‘Kanzlerin’ is the feminine form of the word. He may never fill Mutti’s sensible shoes, but he will probably be the leader of the second-biggest Western democracy for the next four years, so what he does in office will have an impact on many things beyond Germany. German Governments are almost always coalitions, so the first question is: who does Scholz form a coalition with? The probable answer is the ‘traffic light coalition’, so called because the traditional colours of the three parties involved - the SPD, the Free Democrats and the Greens - are red, yellow and green. Such a Government would be centre-left, but not very far to the left because the pro-business Free Democrats would be a brake on that. Scholz intends to raise the minimum wage to 12 euros an hour (\$14), but promises no major redistribution of wealth. The traffic-light coalition would be committed to fighting climate change, but its internal dynamics would prevent it from doing anything drastic like shutting down coal-fired power stations or imposing speed limits on motorways. The Merkel status quo would largely survive the transfer of power. In other words, much commotion but not much change - which is, in fact, what almost everybody who isn’t German would prefer. Germany has been a rock of stability in a world where many previously predictable countries have been breaking loose from their moorings: Modi in India, Brexit in Britain, Bolsonaro in Brazil, Xi in China, Trump in the United States. Maybe Joe Biden can restore the United States to its traditional role as the guarantor of the status quo, but that remains to be seen - nor does everybody even want the status quo back. The tectonic plates will continue to shift, and nobody knows where we will all end up. But it is reassuring that Europe, the principal source of wars for the past four centuries, remains a stable and relatively contented island of peace and prosperity. It owes that, in large measure, to the sane and undramatic politics of Germany. (Gwynne Dyer’s new book is ‘The Shortest History of War’. The views expressed are personal.)

Setting a benchmark to promote Indian journals

If our scientists publish their contributions in our journals, the scientific community will naturally cite our journals and this will increase their visibility

One of the major issues highlighted in the published draft Science Technology Innovation Policy (STIP) 2020 is the promotion of Indian Journals. It recommends creation of a digital versions of Indian print journals to make them more accessible to the international scientific community. Promoting Indian Journals is an issue long due in Indian science. There was time when great Indian scientists used to publish their discoveries in local magazines or journals. Still, their work got wide publicity across the globe. Even the multi-disciplinary journal *Current Science* started in 1932 by stalwarts of Indian scientists like CV Raman, Birbal Sahni, Meghnad Saha, Martin



(The writer is a popular science author. The views expressed are personal.)

‘Khela hobe’ for whom in Punjab?

A general idea in the Punjab Congress is that it was Channi’s masterstroke to get rid of Sidhu by making certain appointments unpalatable to him

The resignation of Navjot Singh Sidhu from the post of Punjab Congress President was perhaps the culmination of an eventful month where all political developments took place in the fast forward mode, triggering not only surprise but also a sense of unscripted political discourse. “*Khela Hobe*” was the curt two-line reply of a senior Congress leader when asked about the latest developments in Punjab. The two words have become the standard vocabulary of politicians ever since Mamata Banerjee made a spectacular comeback in West Bengal despite the odds.

Of course, the game is on-of one-upmanship, political ambitions, fragile egos and what not. No one for sure knows what turn the political developments will take given the uncertainty on the ground which has affected not only the Congress workers and middle-level leaders but also the top echelons of party leadership in the State.

“*Khela Hobe*” now characterises Punjab more than West Bengal as the resignation of Sidhu has plunged the party into a crisis even as the newly installed Charanjit Singh Channi government was getting ready to fix things up and tidy up the loose ends of governance before the model code of conduct set in the State by the end of January 2022.

As Punjab is in a political tailspin following the two resignations — first by Captain Amarinder Singh as Chief Minister and then Sidhu — many in the Congress are saying that the grand old party is on a self-destruct mode and is deliberately sitting on the branch which is going to be axed. A gleeful Captain Amarinder, who was arm-twisted to resign due to intense lobbying of Sidhu with the Gandhi siblings, said, “I told you so...he is not a stable man and not fit for the border state of Punjab.”

So, what happens now in the State where elections are five months away? Before answering this, let us first come back to the forced resignation of Captain Amarinder. It was widely felt in the State Congress circles to be a “good move” and “good riddance” as the Maharaja of Patiala had lost touch with the ground realities, grassroots politics and the people. He was running the state with his loyal bureaucrats, unmindful of the fact that he was a Congress chief minister and there were MLAs, ministers and party functionaries around who needed attention.

For Congress, nothing could have been better at the end of an unimpressive four-and-a-half years of his regime than to remove him to beat the massive anti-incumbency that was already building up. Aam Aadmi Party was catching up with its image of being a street fighter and even though the Shiromani Akali Dal had a lot of ground to cover, its leaders were hopeful that with Captain Amarinder at



THOSE WHO HAVE WATCHED NAVJOT SIDHU’S POLITICAL TRAJECTORY OVER THE YEARS SAY THE RESIGNATION IN 72 DAYS OF BEING APPOINTED THE PCC CHIEF COULD MEAN THAT HE MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES IN THE STATE AND, GIVEN THE STATE OF PUNJAB POLITICS AT PRESENT, IT COULD BE THE AAM AADMI PARTY

(The writer is Senior Resident Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh. The views expressed are personal.)



the helm, it had a fighting chance. Remember, Punjab has never repeated a government for the last almost five decades, except in 2012 when the Akali Dal returned to power again. So, Amarinder never really had a chance to lead the party to victory.

On the face of it, making Charanjit Singh Channi the chief minister was a game changer-a move which has the potential to yield political dividends. While SAD, AAP and BJP were promising and talking of making a Dalit Deputy Chief Minister post-2022 elections in a state where they count for over 32 per cent of the population, Congress did it with the stroke of a pen. It also was aimed at taking the message across the political spectrum, in several other poll-bound states like Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, that Congress meant business in empowering this section.

Has Congress lost all the gains it made by appointing Channi after the dramatic and unexpected resignation of Sidhu? Loyal Congress workers are emphatic, “not really”. As Congress ministers, accompanied by Channi, took control of their departments after being sworn in, there was a sense that it was Channi’s “masterstroke” to get “rid” of Sidhu by making certain appointments unpalatable to him.

It is widely understood that there were sharp differences of opinion between Sidhu and Channi on the Cabinet berths, so much so in the end Channi alone went to New Delhi to get the list approved by the high command.

Sidhu apparently saw this as the assertion of Channi and perhaps felt that the chief minister had a sharp political mind of his own, was here to stay and not merely as a rubber stamp and he could not act as a “Super CM” as he intended. Of course, the new Cabinet has controversial faces and is not without blemishes but in the game of political one-upmanship, Channi had his say.

As Sidhu is looking at the chief ministerial chair post-Congress victory in the 2022 Assembly polls, appointments in the Cabinet, particularly of Home Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, was not to his liking. At one point, Randhawa, also a Jat Sikh like Sidhu, was in the race to become chief minister but due to fierce opposition by Sidhu, he lost the race and Channi was appointed. Now that Randhawa has the all-important Home portfolio and is also a Deputy CM, Sidhu apparently feels that he could come in his way of becoming a chief minister if Congress wins and forms the next government. Giving importance to Randhawa despite Sidhu’s opposition was of course a master stroke of Channi to needle Sidhu and sideline him in the decision making.

Also, in the last few days since Channi took over, he deliberately built an image of “people’s Chief Minister” by performing Bhangra on stage in a public function, giving shagun to married couples on the road, stopping at roadsides and enquiring about the problems of people, shunning security, etc.

Many in Punjab feel that if Channi’s image gets consolidated in the next few weeks, the Dalits vote en masse for Congress and the party wins, it would be almost impossible to change him and bring in Sidhu.

Realising the fast-changing political developments, “resignation” was the only possible weapon left for Sidhu to use to extract his pound of flesh. But what exactly will he ask for now, only Sidhu knows.

Those who have watched Sidhu’s political trajectory over the years say the resignation in 72 days of being appointed as PCC chief could mean that he might be looking for political alternatives in the state and given the state of Punjab politics at present, it could be AAP. Sidhu started with BJP in 2004 from Amritsar Lok Sabha and within 10 years in 2014, his relations with the saffron party soured when his “political guru” Arun Jaitley was fielded from Amritsar. Soon after, he joined Congress and built up a good rapport with the Gandhi siblings-Rahul and Priyanka.

If Sidhu stays put and refuses to take back his resignation, it will also be a big setback to Rahul and Priyanka who almost went by the script written by the cricketer-turned-politician for the removal of Captain Amarinder in their bid to write a new chapter of assertion of Congress high command. If Sidhu could fail his political guru Arun Jaitley, he can as well fail his friends in the grand old Congress party. He has done that.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

DELHI JOURNALISTS INFORM ME THAT BEFORE JOINING THE BJP, TAJINDER BAGGA HAD BEEN JAILED MANY TIMES FOR PETTY CRIMES. —BJP LEADER SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY



INSTEAD OF TWEETING, CALL UP THE MANDIR MARG SHO, TAKE DETAILS AND EXPOSE ME. GIVING YOU 48 HOURS, USKE BAAD MERI TURN. —BJP NATIONAL YOUTH WING SECRETARY TAJINDER PAL SINGH BAGGA

Foster, and SS Bhatnagar, is not getting enough attention from our present-day scientific community. The notion that scientific discoveries get attention only if published in western journals is not completely true. If the work is of very high quality, language is not a barrier. In pursuit of writing a paper in the format of a reputed western journal, we often forget the novelty and creativity in research. This badly affects innovation in our research. This culture should go away. Why cannot the western scientific community follow our procedure? We have to make them follow us, rather than we follow them. Researchers publish their results in foreign journals to increase visibility and respect. papers from their journals during the last 10 years. In the process few predatory journals also get cited in the web of science. If our scientists publish their great contributions in our journals, naturally, the scientific community will cite our journals in their work. This will in turn increase the visibility of our journals in the scientific community. If Indian journals should be promoted, government should make it mandatory to publish the research outputs coming from our public sector institutions, through government-funded projects, only in Indian journals. The practice of giving preference to aspirants having publications in foreign journals should be abolished. Most of the universities, of late, have made it mandatory to publish in web of science indexed journals, in the name of improving research quality. This creates unnecessary pressure among young scholars. Rather than focussing on productivity of their research work, they are looking at how to publish in high impact journals. This is one of the reasons for rise in scientific fraudulence in our community. The recent such case reported from our most reputed National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore is an ample proof of this. The universities should approve research work published in Indian journals, including journals in regional languages, without stressing its impact factor. This will encourage young researchers to publish in Indian journals. Similarly, the undue importance given to high-impact publications in recruiting processes should change. One should check the credibility and ability of the researchers rather than the publications. A researcher who works with a team of Nobel laureates will fetch more publication than with an ordinary research team, however meagre his/her contributions are. So, publication in a foreign journal cannot assure quality of a candidate. There are hundreds of researchers in our universities who are doing break-through works, but due to lack of exposure their work is not getting enough attention. The Government should think of developing our own Altmetrics tools to put a benchmark of our journals. The current system being followed among scientific circles is based on Clarivate Analytics, which follows the quality standards visualised by western journals. It cannot evaluate the works being published in one’s native languages in a fool proof manner. It is true that science is universal and there should not be any compartmentalisation. However, blindly following the standards and principles set by western journals won’t help in developing Indian Science. Journals are the mirror of scientific research through which we see our quality face. It’s high time we look through our own mirrors rather than someone else’s.

Centre to inject ₹4,400 cr in ECGC

CABINET OK'S ITS IPO LISTING

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved capital infusion of ₹ 4,400 crore in the state-owned Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) and its listing through an initial public offering.

The Government will inject ₹4,400 crore in the ECGC over a period of five years beginning 2021-22, said Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

He also said ₹500 crore infusion will be done immediately. The listing of ECGC is likely to happen next year. The minister also informed



that exports have totalled ₹ 185 billion till September 21, 2021 in the current fiscal.

The Cabinet also approved continuation of the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) scheme and infusion of ₹1,650 crore Grant-in-Aid over five years. Capital infusion in NEIA will help tap the huge potential of project exports in a focus market.ECGC was established to promote exports by providing credit insurance services to exporters against non-

payment risks by the overseas buyers due to commercial and political reasons. It also provides insurance covers to banks against risks in export credit lending to the exporter borrowers. Capital infusion in ECGC will enable it to expand its coverage to export-oriented industry particularly labour-intensive sectors. ECGC is a market leader with around 85 per cent market share in export credit insurance market in India.

India's external debt rises 2.1 pc to USD 570 billion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's external debt rose modestly by 2.1 per cent year-on-year to USD 570 billion as of March-end 2021, notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the Finance Ministry.

External debt to GDP ratio rose marginally to 21.1 per cent from 20.6 per cent as at end-March 2020.

Reserves to external debt ratio, however, increased to 101.2 per cent from 85.6 per cent during the same period, thereby consolidating the country's position as a net creditor to the world, as per the status report on India's external debt released by the Ministry.

The sovereign debt at USD 107.2 billion rose higher by 6.2 per cent over its level a year ago, mainly because of an increase in external assistance more than compensating the

fall in FPI investment in government securities (G-Secs), it said.

The augmented external assistance reflected larger disbursement of Covid-19 loans from multilateral agencies during 2020-21.

The non-sovereign debt, on the other hand, grew 1.2 per cent on a yearly basis to USD 462.8 billion.

Commercial borrowings, NRI deposits and short-term trade credit account for 95 per cent of the non-sovereign debt.

While NRI deposits grew 8.7 per cent to USD 141.9 billion, commercial

borrowings at USD 197.0 billion and short-term trade credit at USD 97.3 billion shrank by 0.4 per cent and 4.1 per cent, respectively. At March-end 2021, long-term debt (with original maturity of above one year) was at USD 468.9 billion, recording an

increase of USD 17.3 billion over the year-ago level.

US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt, with a share of 52.1 per cent as of March-end 2021, followed by Indian rupee (33.3 per cent), yen (5.8 per cent), SDR (4.4 per cent) and the euro (3.5 per cent). "Over the years, policy on external debt has enabled the private sector to access foreign debt in a calibrated manner. As at end-March 2021, the level of non-sovereign debt was more than four times that of sovereign debt, compared to half as at end-March 1991," it said.

Given its relative size, typically in a normal year, it is the relative rise in non-sovereign debt that influences the dynamics of India's external debt, thereby supplementing domestic savings to fund larger investments as the economy expands, it said.

India Inc's overseas borrowings jump to USD 2.84 bn in Aug

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian companies' external commercial borrowings surged manifold to over USD 2.84 billion in August 2021, the Reserve Bank data showed on Wednesday.

The domestic firms had raised USD 145.74 million from the overseas markets in August 2020.

Of the total funds raised during the month under review, USD 2.25 billion was through the automatic route of ECBs, while USD 600 million came in via the approval route.

Break-up wise, the government undertaking REC Ltd, which finances and promotes power projects in the country, was the only company to tap the automatic route, raising USD 600 million for on-lending.

Major borrowers in the automatic route include telecommunications company Summit Digitel Infrastructure

USD 500 million for refinancing of rupee loans; Hindustan Petroleum Corporation USD 450 million for modernisation purpose; Indiabulls Housing Finance USD 275 million for on-lending; FS India Solar Ventures USD 207.60 million for import of capital goods and Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) raised USD 200 million for on-lending.

Flextronics Technologies (India) raised USD 100 million for working capital requirement; rubber and plastics products manufacturer ATC Tires AP USD 96 million for a new project; and furniture manufacturer Uflex Ltd raised USD 51.77 million for import of capital goods and new project.

Wistron Infocomm Manufacturing (India) raised USD 45 million for refinancing of earlier ECB and IMPIS Educational Trust USD 40.44 million for infrastructure development.

BSES
BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SHORT TERM PURCHASE OF POWER FOR THE PERIOD 06th OCTOBER TO 30th NOVEMBER 2021
Tender No. Head (PMG)/BRPLeTender/ 2021-22/1076

In accordance with the guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power and directions issued by Hon'ble DEERC, BRPL has floated power procurement tender for up to 400 MW along with the General Terms and Conditions for purchase of power and same is available on e-Bidding portal www.mseconline.com www.Powermin.nic.in www.bsesdelhi.com. Bidders are requested to kindly visit above website and submit the competitive purchase offers on www.mseconline.com. Last date of bid submission is 04 th Oct'2021 up to 15:00 hrs and Opening of non financial technical Bids is 04 th Oct'2021 at 16:00 hrs

Address:- Head PMG, Head PMG - BSES Rajdhani power Ltd., BSES Rajdhani, 2nd floor, D-Block, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019 (Tel: 49209037, Fax: 011-49209454)

Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
Corporate Identification No.: U40190DL2001PLC11527
Telephone No.: +91 11 49207235 Fax No.: +91 11 49107888
Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Original Demand-cum-Allotment-Letter vide File No. L010(62)86/JM/NP dated 15.09.86, in respect of DDA built-up LIG Flat No.141-B, First Floor, Pocket-A, Satyam Enclave, Jilkhili, Delhi-110093 issued by D.D.A. in favour Sh. Sarender Kumar Chadda, belonging to Mrs. Poonam Gupta, W/o Mr. Shiv Kumar Gupta, presently residing at 21/12, Arjun Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, got lost/misplaced. N.C.R has been lodged vide LR No. 734197/2021, in Crime Branch, Delhi dated 23.09.2021. Whosoever finds the same within 15 days from the date of publication shall communicate to Mrs. Poonam Gupta, W/o Mr. Shiv Kumar Gupta, presently residing at 21/12, Arjun Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, through speed post. Contact nos. -9811057157

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Bhagwat Dayal and Sumita Aggarwal "Mortgagor" who claims to be owner and in possession of Second Floor of Property No. 73 in National Defence Workers CHBS Ltd at Shakti Vihar, Pitam Pura, N.D. (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Sale Deed executed by Subhash Chander Baidel 17.02.2021 Doc No. 10933 as per the Mortgage Original Conveyance Deed dated 07.10.1999 executed by PDI in favor of Subhash Chander in respect of the entire property, Doc. No. 5465 (hereinafter referred to as the "Document") pertaining to the entire property have been misplaced by the same within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which our client **UDFC First Bank Limited, Branch Rajendra Place, N.D.** shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof. Public Institutions are warned not to deal with the Document and any person receiving or dealing with the said Document would do so at their own risk and responsibility (including criminal liability) and our client shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person(s) on account of any such unauthorized dealing.

Vishal Dwivedi (Advocate)
For Diwan and Company, Advocates and Solicitors
House No. 2 (LGF), Noida Complex, Delhi-19, Sec-18/29/35/35/35

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., That Mrs. Rishi Nagar through its propo. Mr. Rishi Nagar is selling warehouse of Property (Industrial Plot Bearing No-58, (area measuring 416 sq. mtrs.) in Block -D, Sector-2, Situated at Noida, Dist. Gautam Buddha Nagar -U.P. (the said property) by virtue of mutation letter dated 02.09.2021, in the record of Noida Authority, after demise of its letter-bearer Mr. Suresh Kumar Gupta, who was the owner of the said property vide a Transfer deed dated 11.04.2006, registration No. 2141, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to M/s. Hase Technologies Pvt. Ltd. who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd., for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s on the ownership of Radha Govind Samiti or Society having its regd. No. 2993/1998, under Society Act, in respect of the said property its Sale/ Mortgage/Litigation and any kind of objections kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 11nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph. 011-4112527-28 kumarasociates.advocate@gmail.com

Times Leasing (India) Pvt. Ltd.
Regd. Office: 2 Community Centre, First Floor, Naraina Phase-I, New Delhi-110028.
Tel: 011-41410388
CIN: U74899DL1988PTC034431

PUBLIC NOTICE

Company has lost its original certificate of Registration as NBFC bearing No. 14.01392 issued by RBI. The FIR was lodged online with Delhi Police, vide LR No 733519/2021 dated 23/09/2021. If anyone finds the original certificate, then please send the same to the company at above referred address. Since the certificate may be misused by unscrupulous elements, the Public is warned not to make any transaction on the basis of the above certificate.

For Times Leasing (India) Pvt. Ltd.
Sd/-
Puja Mehta (Director)
DIN - 00286565

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that lost share certificates of Ritesh International Ltd., for 500 shares vide folio number P01284, cert nos 69212-69216, distinctive numbers 6410271-6410770 & 200 shares vide folio number folio no P00717, cert nos 68165-68166, distinctive number 6323211-6323410 favouring Poonam Sharma JT holder Ranjan Sharma, r/o B-102 Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024, have been lost by the holders.

BRIEFS

ADITYA BIRLA SUN LIFE AMC IPO SUBSCRIBED 56 PC ON DAY-1 OF OFFER
New Delhi: The initial public offer of Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited received 56 per cent the subscription on the first day on Wednesday. The initial share sale received bids for 1,54,80,400 shares against 2,77,99,200 shares on offer, according to data available with the NSE. The Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) category was fully subscribed (1.09 times) and non-institutional investors 14 per cent. The Initial Public Offer (IPO) is of 3,88,80,000 equity shares.The initial share-sale is entirely an offer for sale, wherein two promoters — Aditya Birla Capital and Sun Life (India) AMC Investments — will divest their stake in the asset management firm.The price range for the offer, which would conclude on October 1, is at ₹695-712 per share. Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC on Tuesday said it has collected ₹789 crore from anchor investors.

INDUSIND BANK ACQUIRES 4.79 PC STAKE IN MCLEOD RUSSEL
New Delhi: Private sector IndusInd Bank on Wednesday said it has acquired a 4.79 per cent stake in embattled tea plantation firm McLeod Russel India by invoking 50 lakh pledged shares of the company. "We wish to inform that the bank had yesterday, i.e., September 28, 2021, pursuant to invocation of pledge of shares, acquired 50,00,000 equity shares of McLeod Russel India Ltd," IndusInd Bank said in a regulatory filing. The acquisition of 50 lakh shares represents 4.79 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital of McLeod Russel. Held by Ichamati Investments Ltd, equity shares of McLeod Russel India Ltd (MRIL) were pledged with IndusInd Bank for securing the outstanding dues of the tea plantation company. "The bank has invoked the pledge held on these shares for recovery of its dues from MRIL," the lender said.

IRREGULARITIES IN DELHI PHARMACY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2021
Alliance of All Pharmacists (AAP) alleged irregularities in Delhi Pharmacy Council Elections 2021. Alliance of all pharmacist is an alliance of Pharmacists registered in Delhi Pharmacy Council whose members are contesting in Delhi Pharmacy Council elections. Panel Members of Alliance of All Pharmacists are Baldev Kumar, Ballot No. 3, Bhupendra Kumar, Ballot No. 4 Latheesh Tanwar, Ballot No. 13, Raj Narayan Gupta, Ballot No. 23 Sushel Singh, Ballot No. 30, Yudhishter Singh Yadav, Ballot No. 36

POSHAN MAAH: CELEBRATING WHOLESOME THALI
New Delhi: As India is celebrating the Poshan Maah (Nutrition Month) in September, Poultry Dhaba supported by US Soybean Export Council has showcased "Humari Protein Thali", a fine assortment of 28 delicious and wholesome regional Indian thalis from across India, to complement a balanced diet with adequate amounts of nutrients, especially proteins. The effort is to adapt to the sustainable-traditional food system which can potentially nourish everyone and include the right amount of protein to our daily diet.

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

**Geeta**

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Geeta, W/o Sh. Prince, R/o: Jhugi No. 2/219, New Rohtak Road, Sarai Basti, Sari Rohilla, Delhi has been reported kidnapped since 26.08.2021. In this regard FIR No. 557/2021 U/s 365 IPC, dated 20.09.2021 has been registered at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi.**

The description of kidnapped lady is as under:

Name: Geeta, Age: About 21 Year, Height: Approximately 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Lean & Thin, Eyes: Balck, Wearing: Yellow Colour Suit, Yellow Salwar and White Plastic Chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this kidnapped lady please inform P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in> Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station Sarai Rohilla, Delhi
DP/1531/N/2021 Ph: 011-23693611, 8750870133

SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN

**Vandana Saraswat**

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Vandana Saraswat W/o Mukesh Kumar Saraswat R/o Qtr. 187, Type-2, Mir Dard Lane Campus, New Delhi **Age : 32 years, Height : 5'2", Face : Round, Built : Medium, Complexion : Fair, wearing cream colour suit-salwar and brown colour slipper in feet, has been missing since 23.09.2021 from her house. In this regard DD No. 77-A dated 23.09.2021 has been lodged at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi.**

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph.: 011-23370999, 23370928
SHO : P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

DP/1011/CB/21

SEARCH FOR MISSING

**Neha Praveen**

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Neha Praveen D/o Mohd Imraan R/o H.No. MM-65, Kh. No. 71, Mandir Marg, Anupam Garden, New Delhi has been from the area of PS Neb Sarai, New Delhi. In this regard, FIR No. 352/21, dated 20.08.2021 has been registered at PS Neb Sarai, New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:

Name: Neha Praveen, Gender: Female, Age: 15 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue colour striped suit.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/Neb Sarai, New Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO
PS. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-29551597, 29551597
DP/674/SD/2021

SEARCH FOR WANTED PERSONS

**Sanjay Sharma**

General Public is hereby Informed that two persons (depicted in the photo) namely **Sanjay Sharma S/o Parmanand & Sunil Chauhan S/o Sanjeev Chauhan** are suspect in case FIR No. 305/2017 Dated 11.07.2017 U/s 420 IPC has been registered at PS Vikas Puri Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about these suspect persons may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

**Sunil Chauhan**

SHO
PS Vikas Puri, Delhi
Ph. 011-25551213
DP/563/WD/2021

Goyal refutes rumours of Govt reducing import duties on Chinese apples

New Delhi:Dismissing rumours about cheap Chinese apples coming into India, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said the Government has not reduced any duties and all imports take place in accordance with the WTO stipulations. "Some people are spreading falsehood that the government hasreduced duties on apples coming from China. This is a rumour without any basis. Government has not

Top 7 cities see 113% rise in housing sales in Q3 2021, new launches up 98%: Report

Mumbai:In Q3 2021, housing sales surged 113 per cent y-o-y across the top 7 cities - from approximately 29,520 units in Q3 2020 to nearly 62,800 units in Q3 2021, Anarock has said in its latest report.If this growth in sales, MMR or Mumbai metropolitan region for 33 per cent of the total sales, followed by NCR with a 16 per cent share.As per the report, increased sales also improved new launches as it rose in the top 7 cities by 98 per cent yearly - from approximately 32,530

units in Q3 2020 to approximately 64,560 units in Q3 2021. While MMR continued to see the highest number of new launches (of approximately 16,510 units) in the quarter, Hyderabad was close behind with a new supply infusion of approximately 14,690 units. Interestingly, the mid-segment (homes priced ₹40-80 lakh) and premium homes (priced b/w ₹80 lakh to ₹1.5 Cr) continue to dominate new supply with 41 per cent and 25 per cent shares, respectively.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., That Radha Govind Samiti a Society having its Regd. No. 32993/1998, under Society Act, is owner of Property bearing No. A/2, area measuring 75 sq. yds. Situated in the residential colony known as Shikhar Garden, New Delhi, by virtue of Gift Deed dated: 19.02.2019, Registration No. 3919, executed by Mrs. Santosh Aggarwal, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to Mr. Vijay Kumar Sethi & Mr. Jai Sethi who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd., for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s on the ownership of Radha Govind Samiti a Society having its regd. No. 32993/1998, under Society Act, in respect of the said property its Sale/ Mortgage/Litigation and any kind of objections kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 11nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph. 011-4112527-28 kumarasociates.advocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., That Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta & Mr. Satish Kumar Gupta are joint owners of Property bearing No. 1/31, area measuring 1047 sq. yds. Situated at: Northern City Extn. Scheme No. -2, Subzi Mandi, presently known as Roop Nagar Delhi, by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 06.04.2021, executed by Mrs. Santosh Aggarwal, Mrs. Saroj Gupta, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to someone who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd., for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s on the ownership of Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta & Mr. Satish Kumar Gupta in respect of the said property its Sale/ Mortgage, and any kind of objections kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 11nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph. 011-4112527-28 kumarasociates.advocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Seema Arora is owner of Unit bearing No. P14-28-5F, on Second floor, having super area measuring 1024 Sq.ft., Built on a Plot admeasuring 180 Sq. Yds. "Park Elite Floors" situated at Sector-75, in Parklands, Faridabad (Haryana); hereinafter referred to as "the said property", by virtue of Sale Deed dated 15.09.2016, Registration No. 2302, executed by Mr. Gopal Gureja, who was owner of the above property by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 19.08.2016, Registration No. 1989, has lost/misplaced Original Relinquishment deed dated 19.08.2016. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 11nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph. 011-4112527-28 kumarasociates.advocate@gmail.com

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number) (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kasturi Gini/ Jagabandhu Gini/ (09600001841 & QZDEL00005026137)	E-258-A, Second Floor Without Roof Right, Block-E, KH- No-749 Vill- Ghonda Gujran Kh, 3rd Pusta Jagieet Nagar Shahdara, Delhi/ September 27, 2021	December 03, 2020 Rs.14,33,318/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Naveen Kumar Narang & Rashmi Narang/ (2550000111 & QZPTU00005064377)	Prop. No- D-3, 3rd Floor, Block-D, Hazarapark, Khasra No- 10132, Shivpuri, Village, Khureji Khas, Shahdara, Delhi/ September 27, 2021	December 03, 2020 Rs.29,58,876/-	Delhi/ Ncr
3.	Sugandh Gupta & Rajani Gupta/ (9600001419 & QZDEL00005003393)	Plot No- 73, Third Floor With Root Right Block- B, Pocket- 3, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi / September 27, 2021	March 26, 2021 Rs. 31,57,051/-	Delhi/ Ncr
4.	Gurjeet Singh/ Sarbjeeet Kaur/ (19600043221 & QZGRN00005039364)	Ground Floor And First Floor Of Property No- WZ-33A, Out Of Khasra No- 9/15, Village Chaukhani In The Abadi Of Block- F Gali No-7, Sant Garg Extension Tilak Nagar New Delhi/ September 27, 2021	March 26, 2021 Rs. 15,47,798/-	Delhi/ Ncr

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

Date : September 30, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

MCC CELEBRATES AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

Dharam Pal (IAS), adviser to the administrator of Chandigarh, launched the placemaking implementation to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at New Park, Indra Colony, Sector 13, Manimajra, Chandigarh in the presence of Ravi Kant Sharma, the Mayor of Chandigarh, on September 28.

While Pal was the chief guest, Nitin Kumar Yadav (IAS), Home Secretary and Dr Vijay Namdeoao Zade (IAS), Finance Secretary of Chandigarh were guests of honour during the programme. Parveer Ranjan (IPS), the DGP of Chandigarh, Mandeep Singh Brar (IAS), the deputy commissioner, Anindita Mitra, MCC's commissioner, Arun Sood, BJP's state president in Chandigarh, Mahesh Inder Singh Siddhu, the senior deputy mayor, Vinod Aggarwal, the area councillor and other senior officers of MCC were also present during the occasion.

While addressing the gathering, Pal said that the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. He said that the occasion is an embodiment of all that is progressive about India's socio-cultural, political and economic identity. The official journey of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commenced



on March 12, 2021 and is a 75-week countdown to our 75th anniversary of Independence ending on August 14, 2023.

He further said that Chandigarh is celebrating the occasion from September 28 to

October 3, 2021 with various activities throughout the city. Under placemaking implementation where 22 cities of the country are participating to transform their underdeveloped areas, Chandigarh has envis-



aged to develop the New Park in Sector-13, Manimajra through continuous work spread over 75 hours, he added.

Ravi Kant Sharma, Chandigarh's Mayor said that he is proud to start the transformation of city spaces in Sector-13 Manimajra including placemaking of the new park. "Efforts are on to put together a light, quick and cheap intervention and anchor with events that educate and celebrate the spirit of freedom. Placemaking exercise is being undertaken as a multi-faceted approach to planning, design and management of public spaces," said the Mayor.

While sharing the developments to take place during the placemaking event, he elaborated that this new park in Pocket 8, Indra Colony will be an asset, and its potential will be realised with the intention of creating public spaces that promote peo-

ple's health, happiness and well-being. It will inspire people to reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community, strengthening the connection between people and the places they share. The park will be divided into various zones, like the art zone, fitness zone, elders zone and kids zone.

He further stated that various activities like yoga sessions, interactive games for children, live painting competition, kabaddi and tug of war, among others have been organised today and scheduled for the next two days for public engagement on the site. Apart from this, a dedicated toilet block for the facilitation of the users of the park is under construction and will be handed over to the public on September 30.

He also said that a corner has been developed with an herbal garden wherein various types of herbal plants are being planted which can be used by the local residents. The park has been revamped with newly painted gazebos, grills and pathways. The park has been dedicated to the citizens with a newly installed open gym, gymnastic/exercising equipment and various types of swings for children. He said that with these interventions, we foresee inspiration for the transformation of other such underdeveloped spaces in Chandigarh and make them sustainable.

Delhi Government introduces 'Deshbhakti Curriculum'

The 7th foundation day of the youth wing of the Aam Aadmi Party and the birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh was celebrated on September 28. AAP Delhi convenor, Gopal Rai, attended the foundation day organised at the party headquarters. During this, while addressing the people, Gopal Rai said that on the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh, the entire team of the youth wing of the Aam Aadmi Party is celebrating its foundation day. "On one hand, the Youth Wing is celebrating Foundation Day, while on the other hand, taking inspiration from Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has created history inside India. Delhi has become the first state in the country to inspire the children of Delhi to follow in the footsteps of revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, Chandrashekhar Azad, by starting implementation of the Deshbhakti Curriculum in schools."

He said that I am sure that this curriculum will prepare new Bhagat Singhs from the schools of Delhi and will produce a genera-



tion of youths who will have the spirit of sacrificing everything for their motherland.

He said that elections are an important part to express our voice but we have not entered politics just to become councillors, MLAs, MPs, chief ministers. "Before we become anything, first we have to do something for this country. When we take the name of Bhagat Singh, it seems that Bhagat Singh is the one who wields a pistol. But Bhagat Singh fired a pistol only once in his life. When Bhagat Singh threw a bomb in the assembly, threw it at an empty space so that no one would get hurt. When Bhagat Singh went to jail, he fasted for 63 days," he said.

Gopal Rai said that the youth wing of the Aam Aadmi Party is different from the youth wing of all parties. "Live for your family too, but when you have to choose any of these, then, first of all, you should choose the passion to live for the country. People of other parties also do politics and we also do politics. But they do politics of hate, we do politics of love. They do politics to get power for themselves and we do it to highlight the name and prestige of the country. The way to move towards Bhagat Singh's politics is to create us from within the youth wing. Remembering Bhagat Singh, we all need to work with a new idea and a new goal in this country."



Rajasthan CM calls for strengthening cooperatives

Rajasthan's Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot, has called for more cooperation from NABARD in giving impetus to the cooperative movement and strengthening cooperative institutions in the state. He has said that NABARD can play more vigorous and active participation in the projects related to the development of the state through cooperatives.

NABARD's chairman, Dr GR Chintala met Gehlot on September 27 at the CM's residence. During this, the CM said that the state government is making constant efforts to promote cooperative institutions in the state and for their financial empowerment. He asked the chairman of NABARD to cooperate in the expansion and computerisation of village service cooperative institutions in the state. At the same time, emphasising on the diversification of the work of village service cooperative societies, he talked about benefiting them under the schemes of NABARD to connect them with other innovative activities like agricultural processing and marketing etc.

The CM called upon NABARD to cooperate in providing market linkage at national and international level to the people associated with handicrafts and spice growers to get reasonable prices for their products.

During this, Gehlot also urged NABARD to increase the loan targets given for the development of infrastructure for the state from ₹1800 crores per annum to ₹10 thousand crores per annum. This will help the state government in better implementation of schemes related to roads, agriculture, animal husbandry and rural development.

Dr Chintala informed the Chief Minister about the financial support being done through the bank in the projects related to the development of rural infrastructure in the state. He said that NABARD would extend full cooperation for the development of the state.

VIT Vellore's 36th annual convocation held virtually

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore conducted its 36th annual convocation virtually on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. Prof Bhaskar Ramamurthi, the director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras took part in the convocation as chief guest and delivered the convocation address virtually.

In his speech, Prof Ramamurthi urged students to dive deep into at least some of the subjects, if not all, during their formal education and learn how to get



to the core of the concepts involved in them.

"To use a familiar Indian description, one should aim for *vidwath* in at least a few subjects. But how do we know which ones

to do this in, which subjects are likely to be useful in one's career? Well, one cannot know this, and the curious thing is, it does not matter. What the effort itself does, irrespective of the subject, is to teach one how to delve deep, how to know when one has understood the core underlying concepts well, and how to recognise when one is slowly but surely becoming a *vidwaan*," he said.

Delivering his address, the founder and chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Dr

G Viswanathan said that out of the eligible 14 crore youth in India, only 4 crore get the opportunity to go for higher education. Listing out the challenges in higher education, Dr Viswanathan said that shortage of teachers, low input for research, and inadequate industry linkages had made India lag behind other countries like Japan, China, South Korea.

A total of 7,569 undergraduate, postgraduate students, and research scholars graduated this year.



Satish Kumar Kashyup, the GM of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) inaugurates Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) at Kasturba Gandhi Hospital



SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRMMCH&RC), Kattankulathur in association with Quick Heal launches a mobile clinic. The unit was donated by Quick Heal Foundation to SRMMCH&RC through the Puthiya Thalaimurai Foundation.



Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh, AVSM, VSM took over as the Director General of National Cadet Corps. The General was commissioned in the Indian Army in 1987 and has had a distinguished career in the Parachute regiment.



LIC inks historic agreement with the Department of Posts

LIC of India and the Department of Posts, Government of India have etched an agreement for print to post solutions. The print to post solutions are provided by the Department of Posts, Government of India for printing and dispatch of the policy booklet issued under a life insurance policy. LIC of India is availing these solutions and an agreement to that effect was signed at the Headquarters of LIC in Mumbai on Monday, September 27, 2021, in the presence of high ranked officials of LIC of India and the Department of Posts.

Speaking on the occasion, LIC's chairperson congratulated the Department of Posts for entering this venture and said that product delivery is of utmost importance to LIC.

Roy, the deputy director general of the Postal Directorate at New Delhi, who spoke on the occasion, said that 'delivery on the day of receipt' is the working theme of India Post. He also highlighted the long and historical relationship between LIC of India and Department of Posts and that this venture would only go on to strengthen the relationship.

In his closing remarks, the MD of LIC, Mukesh Kumar Gupta, while congratulating the departments on this historic agreement said that the end-to-end solutions would provide the much needed fillip in the issue of policy documents with reduced TAT to enhance the customer experience.

World Tourism Day celebrations in Jammu

To mark the occasion, a rally was organised by the UT's authorities

To celebrate World Tourism Day, a bike rally from Jammu Tawi Golf Course to Basohli was organised by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, on September 27. The rally was flagged off by the Jammu's ADGP, Mukesh Singh (IPS) and the divisional commissioner of Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer (IAS) in the presence of the director of Tourism for Jammu, Vivekanand Rai (IRS).

Around 60 bikers participated in the bike rally which covered tourist destinations Surinsar, Mansar, Mahanpur, Basohli and Purthu Beach. The area from Surinsar to Basohli via Billawar is connected with numerous linked roads which offer a scenic and panoramic view of natural wonders.

The chief guest of the occasion, Singh, said that the rally will help in attracting tourists, especially adventure enthusi-



asts. The guest of honour on the occasion, Dr Langer, said, "The rally will help in building a positive image of the UT and bring Basohli in the limelight on the national forum owing to its glorious historical past, rich cultural heritage, unique monuments, miniature painting and for the natural beauty gifted by the bountiful nature."

Towards the end the participants were provided with certificates and safety helmets at Purthu Beach, Basohli.

Fire evacuation drill by Kolkata Metro

Metro Railway always gives top priority to the safety and security of the commuters. In order to check the preparedness of Metro staff to tackle any fire-related incident in the Metro, inside the tunnel, a passenger evacuation mock-drill was conducted in between Esplanade and Park Street metro stations on September 26.



Metromen were imparted training on how to take immediate necessary action

to rescue passengers in case of a fire in the running rake inside the tunnel.

The objective of this mock drill was to upgrade the evacuation skills as well as check alertness and preparedness of Metromen during such emergencies.

Senior officers and staff of different departments were present during this drill.

Quantum jump in BHEL's procurements via GeM

As part of Government of India's initiative towards enhanced transparency and ease of doing business, BHEL has been spearheading procurement of goods and services through the Government e-marketplace (GeM) portal, which is a unified public procurement portal for goods and services.

The company's procurement through GeM has crossed ₹1,500 Crore in the first six months of the current fiscal, as against ₹389 Crore in the entire 2020-21. The company was also ranked number one among top 20 PSUs for procurements from this portal dur-

ing the first quarter of the current year.

Significantly, BHEL is not only procuring goods and services through GeM, but is also registered as a 'seller' for various products on the platform and is receiving orders from the same.

Notably, the company is streamlining its procurement processes using data analytics, and ensuring substantial cost savings by scaling up procurement through GeM. The goal is to utilise data analytics through a single dashboard by every concerned BHEL employee.



32nd AGM of POWERGRID

The 32nd Annual General Meeting of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) was held on Friday, September 24, 2021 through video conferencing. CMD, K Sreekanth, addressed the stakeholders and apprised them of the latest developments and future plans of the organisation.

The virtual AGM was attended by the CMD, Seema Gupta, the director of Operations, V K Singh, the director of Personnel, Abhay Choudhary, the director of Projects, M Taj Mukarrum, the director of Finance, M N Venkatesan, independent director apart from government nominee, directors Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan and Dilip Nigam.

RCB defeats RR: Easy win



IANS ■ DUBAI

KS Bharat and Glenn Maxwell were the chief contributors in Royal Challengers Bangalore clinching

a seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in match 43 of IPL 2021 at Dubai International Stadium on Wednesday. The win increases Bangalore's points to 14 while retaining their third

place in the points table. Chasing 150, Bangalore were off to a flying start as Virat Kohli slammed Chris Morris for three boundaries in the opening over. Devdutt Padikkal

CHASING 150, BANGALORE WERE OFF TO A FLYING START AS VIRAT KOHLI SLAMMED CHRIS MORRIS FOR THREE BOUNDARIES IN THE OPENING OVER. DEVDUTT PADIKKAL CRUNCHED KARTIK TYAGI FOR TWO BOUNDARIES IN THE SECOND OVER BEFORE SLAMMING MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN FOR A BRACE OF BOUNDARIES IN THE NEXT OVER.

crunched Kartik Tyagi for two boundaries in the second over before slamming Mustafizur Rahman for a brace of boundaries in the next over. Bangalore were 48 for no loss in five overs before Padikkal, dropped at six, swung across the line, only for Rahman to disturb the stumps. In the next over, Kohli tried to sneak a run on a misfield by Riyan Parag at backward point. But a direct hit from Parag caught Kohli short of the crease at non-striker's end. Bharat and Maxwell stitched a stand of 69 runs for the third wicket. The duo smashed boundaries while rotating the strike, which kept the asking rate under check. Bharat was more impressive of the two, slog-sweeping Chris Morris for a big six before playing a gentle reverse sweep off Rahul Tewatia. Rahman broke the partnership in the 16th over as Bharat pulled straight to fine leg. After Bharat's dismissal, Maxwell whipped Morris for a six over mid-wicket followed by three fours, the last of which brought up his fifty in 30 balls. AB de Villiers finished off the chase with a sweep through square leg off Parag to seal an easy win for Bangalore. Brief Scores: Rajasthan Royals 149/9 in 20 overs (Evin Lewis 58, Yashasvi Jaiswal 31, Shahbaz Ahmed 2/10, Yuzvendra Chahal 2/18) lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore 153/3 in 17.1 overs (Glenn Maxwell 50 not out, KS Bharat 44, Mustafizur Rahman 2/20) by seven wickets.



India, Australia renew Test rivalry after 15 years

PTI ■ GOLD COAST

Having gained significantly in confidence with a fighting performance in one-dayers, the Indian women's cricket team would now go through a trial by fire when it make its day-night Test debut against Australia in the one-off game beginning here on Thursday. India and Australia last played a Test in 2006 with only Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami featuring in that game among the current players on both sides. With the third ODI held on Sunday and the following day being a rest day, the Mithali Raj-led squad has got only two practice sessions in the lead up to

the landmark Test. The visitors lost 1-2 in the shorter format series. The squad has very little idea about how the shiny pink ball will behave during the course of the game at the Metricon Stadium. Australia, who played their lone day-night Test in November 2017, also go into the game with limited practice but their potent pace attack will be looking forward to wreaking havoc at the greenish pitch here. India did well in their first Test outing in seven years, drawing against England in June, but the players and experts believe the skiddy pink-ball will pose a much tougher challenge for the visitors. "I would call it a trial by fire for the Indians. The

players have hardly played with red ball in the last three four years. Day-night Test is a completely different ball game and a much tougher challenge," said former India captain and BCCI Apex Council member Shantha Rangaswamy. "Though Australia have more Test experience than India of late, their players also haven't played a lot in the whites. Some of their key players are missing and India showed (in ODIs) that Australia are beatable," she added. Shantha, who led India to their maiden Test win in 1976, also lauded the BCCI for resuming Test cricket for women and hoped two-day red-ball cricket will be brought back to domestic cricket.

IPL points table

	M	P	NRR
CSK	10	16	+1.069
DC	11	16	+0.562
RCB	11	14	-0.200
KKR	11	10	+0.363
MI	11	10	-0.453
PBKS	11	8	-0.288
RR	11	8	-0.468
SRH	10	4	-0.501

Match: 44 IPL 2021 Sept 30 7:30 pm

Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Chennai Super Kings

Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Sharjah

Sunrisers Hyderabad

Total IPL matches played: 134

Won: 68 Lost: 66

Highest total: 231/2

Chennai Super Kings

Total IPL matches played: 189

Won: 114 Lost: 74

Highest total: 246/5 No results: 1

Head-to-Head in IPL

Matches played: 15

SRH Won: 4 CSK Won: 11

Highest total: 192/7 Highest total: 223/3

KKR Sports Graphics

DC captain Rishabh Pant breaks Sehwag's record



IANS ■ NEW DELHI

During their match against Kolkata Knight Riders in Sharjah, captain Rishabh Pant broke Virender Sehwag's record to achieve a milestone for the Delhi Capitals. On Tuesday, Pant scored 39 runs against KKR in their IPL game and while batting, he broke a record of former DC captain and legendary cricketer Sehwag. The former cricketer had for long been the highest run-getter for the franchise, having scored 2382 runs in 85 innings. Pant went past Sehwag and now leads the chart with

2390 runs in 75 innings. Former Delhi skipper Shreyas Iyer is in the third position with 2291 runs for the franchise in 82 innings. And veteran batsman, Shikhar Dhawan is currently fourth, having scored 1933 runs for the Capitals in just 58 innings at an average of 40.27. The Capitals' team management would hope that Dhawan, Iyer and Pant keep playing like this in the remaining matches of the IPL 2021 season and help the franchise clinch its maiden IPL trophy. Capitals just need to win one match to book their playoffs berth.

Rohit will be my choice for captaincy in next two T20 WCs: Gavaskar

IANS ■ MUMBAI

Former Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar believes Rohit Sharma should be India's captain in the next two T20 World Cups. He also said that he looks at KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant as his choice for vice-captain in the T20I format. "I think Rohit Sharma for the next two World Cups. You could say they (World Cups) are back-to-back, one starting in a month and another exactly a year from now. So clearly, yes, you don't want to change too many captains at this particular stage. Rohit Sharma would definitely be my choice for captaincy of the Indian team for both these T20 World Cups," said Gavaskar on 'Cricket Connected' show on Star Sports. Sharma is tipped to take over as India's new T20I captain after Virat Kohli steps down from the post after the men's T20 World Cup scheduled to take place in the UAE and Oman in October and



November. Sharma has won the IPL trophy for Mumbai Indians five times as a captain. In Indian colours, he captained the team to winning the 2018 Nidahas Trophy and Asia Cup. Gavaskar mentioned the names of Rahul and Pant for vice-captaincy, but spoke on a length about Pant's stint as a captain for Delhi Capitals in IPL 2021. "And then, I'm looking at KL Rahul for vice-captain. I would also keep Rishabh Pant in mind because he has been real-

Boxing great Manny Pacquiao announces retirement

AP ■ MANILA (PHILIPPINES)



It was Pacquiao's first fight in more than two years. "Thank you for changing my life, when my family was desperate, you gave us hope, you gave me the chance to fight my way out of poverty," Pacquiao said in the video. "Because of you, I was able to inspire people all over the world. Because of you I have been given the courage to change more lives. I will never forget what I have done and accomplished in my life that I can't imagine. I just heard the final bell. The boxing is over." Pacquiao had hinted at retirement recently. It also had been expected because he is setting his sights on a bigger political battlefield.

Boxing legend Manny Pacquiao is officially hanging up his gloves. The eight-division world champion and Philippines senator on Wednesday announced his retirement from the ring. "As I hang up my boxing gloves, I would like to thank the whole world, especially the Filipino people for supporting Manny Pacquiao. Goodbye boxing," the 42-year old said in a 14-minute video posted on his Facebook page. "It is difficult for me to accept that my time as a boxer is over. Today I am announcing my retirement." Pacquiao finished his 26-year, 72-fight career with 62 wins, eight losses and 39 draws. Of those 62 wins, 39 were by knockout and 23 by decision. He won 12 world titles. His retirement from boxing followed a disheartening defeat to Yordenis Ugas in Paradise, Nevada on Aug. 21. The younger Cuban boxer, who defected to the United States in 2010, beat Pacquiao by unanimous decision, retaining his WBA welterweight title.

World Chess Championship: India lose 1-3 to Russia

PTI ■ SITGES (SPAIN)

After two straight wins, India went down 1-3 to a formidable Russian team in a fourth Pool A match in the FIDE World Women's Team Chess Championship, here. India, which has qualified for the quarterfinals, will face France in the fifth and final preliminary match later on Wednesday. D Harika, the top Indian player, held Aleksandra Goryachkina to a draw as did Mary Ann Gomes against Polina Shuvalova but Tania Sachdev and R Vaishali suffered defeats as the team lost to Russia in the fourth round late on Tuesday. Earlier on Tuesday, the Indian women had beaten a strong Armenia 2.5-1.5 in the third round. Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni notched up the important wins to set up the victory over Armenia. Harika had settled for a draw against Elina Danielian while the talented, young Vaishali lost to Lilit Mkrtchian. In the India-Russia encounter, the higher rated Katernya Lagno and Alexandra Kosteniuk put it across Tania Sachdev and Vaishali to assert the Russian team's superiority. After drawing 2-2 with Azerbaijan in the opener, India had beaten Spain 2.5-1.5 in round two.

We need to have red-ball cricket back on domestic circuit: Mithali

PTI ■ GOLD COAST



India skipper Mithali Raj on Wednesday called for the return of red-ball cricket in women's domestic circuit if one-off Tests become a regular feature in their international assignments. Mithali, whose side has just got two practice sessions ahead of the historic day-night Test against Australia starting Thursday, wanted more preparation time but the COVID-hit scheduling did not allow that. India played their first Test in seven years in June

and the Australia Test is their first with pink-ball. "Clearly, if the girls need to do well in this format they have to have some sort of match experience in the domestic circuit. So, if this (Test) is going to be regular (feature) then probably we will have another addition to our domestic calendar of playing days format," said Mithali on the eve of the day-nighter.

Kuldeep Yadav undergoes successful knee surgery

MUMBAI: Indian left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav underwent a knee surgery on Wednesday for an injury that he sustained during the ongoing IPL in the UAE. Kuldeep posted the update on his official Twitter page. "Surgery was a success and the road to recovery has just begun. Thank you so much to everyone for your amazing support. The focus is now to complete my rehab well and be back on the pitch doing what I love as soon as possible," tweeted the 26-year-old. On September 27, PTI had reported that Kuldeep sustained a serious knee injury and was likely to miss most of the IPL campaign cut short.

The out-of-favour India international, who was with Kolkata Knight Riders, is expected to go through a long rehabilitation process before attempting a comeback to competitive cricket. "Yes, we got the information that Kuldeep sustained a nasty knee injury during a practice session in UAE. Apparently while fielding, he twisted his knee and it was really bad at that point," a senior BCCI official had revealed. "There was no chance that he could have taken any further part and was sent back to India."

SINGLES

SIMARJEET ADDED TO MI SQUAD AS ARJUN REPLACEMENT Defending champions Mumbai Indians have added Delhi pacer Simarjeet Singh to their squad for the ongoing IPL 2021 in the UAE. Singh comes into the Rohit Sharma-led squad as a replacement for injured left-arm Mumbai pacer Arjun Tendulkar. Mumbai Indians have added Simarjeet Singh as an injury replacement to Arjun Tendulkar for the remainder of their IPL 2021 season. The right arm medium fast bowler has started training with the team after completing the mandatory quarantine as per IPL guidelines, said a release by the franchise on Wednesday. Singh was among the five net bowlers for the Indian team's white-ball tour to Sri Lanka in July this year. With Krunal Pandya testing COVID-19 positive and eight team members deemed as close contacts in isolation, Singh along with other net bowlers was drafted into the squad for the last two T20Is.

I DIDN'T SUFFER HEART ATTACK: INZAMAM Pakistan's former Test captain Inzamam-ul-Haq has denied reports that he suffered a heart attack, saying that his cardiac issues were detected during a health check-up that he underwent due to an upset stomach. The 51-year-old, on his YouTube channel, said that he was overwhelmed to see the outpouring of support from people but asserted that he didn't suffer a heart attack. Inzamam, who played 120 Tests and 378 ODIs for Pakistan, was admitted to a private hospital on Monday night after complaining of breathing difficulty among other issues. "I saw reports saying I had suffered a heart attack. I did not. I went to my doctor for a routine check-up, who said they wanted to conduct an angiography. During angiography, they noted an artery of mine was blocked, so they inserted stents to alleviate that problem. "It was successful and easy, and I came back home after just 12 hours at the hospital. I feel fine," he said.

HAFAEZ OUT OF NATIONAL T20 AFTER CONTRACTING DENGUE Former Pakistan captain Muhammad Hafeez was on Wednesday ruled out of the ongoing National T20 Championship after contracting dengue and has also been rendered doubtful for upcoming T20 World Cup in the UAE. Hafeez, who will turn 41 next month, is now under treatment at his home in Lahore and it remains to be seen if he will gain fitness in time for the mega ICC event, starting October 17. Initially Hafeez had complained of food poisoning when he was staying at the team hotel in Rawalpindi for the first leg of the National championship but when his condition didn't improve he went to Lahore where he was diagnosed to have contracted dengue.

AUSTRALIA POSTPONE TEST AGAINST AFGHANISTAN Cricket Australia will formally announce indefinite postponement of the one-off Test against Afghanistan this week after making it clear that it won't engage with the South Asian nation if the ruling Taliban do not lift the ban on the women's game. According to the Australian Associated Press, Cricket Tasmania (CT) chief executive Dominic Baker told radio station Triple M that a formal announcement in this regard is expected soon. "It will be formally postponed indefinitely this week. Taliban has stated that women's cricket will not continue in the country."

WASIM KHAN RESIGNS AS PCB CEO In an expected development, Wasim Khan has resigned as the Chief Executive Officer of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The PCB in a short statement said that the Board of Governors would be meeting later Wednesday on call to consider the resignation. Wasim Khan was brought in as CEO by the former Chairman Ehsan Mani in early 2019. He was expected to complete his three-year contract until February next year but it was certain that he would not get extension. New PCB chief Ramiz Raja, like any other previous Chairman of the board, is expected to announce his new management very soon.

BCCI INVITES AFFILIATES FOR QUALIFIER 2, IPL FINAL The BCCI has invited the Presidents and the secretaries of its affiliated units to watch the Qualifier 2 and the summit clash of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in the UAE. BCCI secretary Jay Shah wrote to the officials that "this is an ideal time to catch up" as the domestic season is getting underway. "Let us meet in Sharjah for the Qualifier 2 and then again for the grand final in Dubai. We have chalked out an itinerary for you and my team will ensure you have an extremely pleasant stay," wrote Shah in the letter. The second phase of the IPL is approaching the business end with teams involved in a tight race for the Play-offs. The Qualifier is scheduled for October 13 while final will be played on October 15.

2022 QUEEN'S BATON RELAY TO BE IN INDIA The Queen's Baton Relay for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games will be in India for four days between January 12 and 15 during its international journey covering through 72 countries, the organising committee of the showpiece announced on Wednesday. The Relay will begin on October 7 at the Buckingham Palace, where Queen Elizabeth II will place her message to the Commonwealth into the Baton. It will travel for 269 days, spending between two and four days in each nation or territory, covering approximately 140,000 kilometres, having over 7,500 Baton-bearers. "The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay will visit all 72 nations and territories of the Commonwealth yet will travel almost half the distance than the previous Gold Coast Queen's Baton Relay in a bid to reduce the carbon footprint," the organisers stated.

AGENCIES