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PM invites American CEOs to India

IANS ■ WASHINGTON

In the first leg of his US visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met leading American CEOs in Washington.

He held one-on-one meetings with the CEOs of semiconductor and wireless technology manufacturer Qualcomm, software major Adobe, renewable energy firm First Solar, arms manufacturer General Atomics and investment management company Blackstone. The first meeting was held with Cristiano Amon, President and CEO, Qualcomm.

"President and CEO of @Qualcomm, @cristianoamon and PM @narendramodi had a productive interaction. PM Modi highlighted the vast opportunities India offers. Mr. Amon expressed keenness to work with India in areas such as 5G and other @DigitalIndia efforts," the PMO tweeted.

"We talked about 5G and acceleration of 5G. We talked about the incredible opportunity to advance the industry, as we think about the digital transformation enabled by 5G combined with the design in India," Amon said.

He said Qualcomm may look at India as it builds a resilient supply chain for semiconductors if necessary infrastructure are provided in the country.

Modi's meeting with Amon is significant as India is look-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received by the dignitaries, on his arrival in Washington DC on Thursday

PTI

ing at fast adoption of 5G technology in the country for which it is eyeing investment in this high technology area from credible partners who can provide safe and secure networks.

The San Diego-based company creates semiconductors, software and services related to wireless technology and is getting big into 5G technology with its range of pioneering products. It is expected that high-level meetings would pave the way for big investment in the new tech area that is required to help the country leapfrog to providing

its citizens with the next generation of networking services.

The PM also met Shantanu Narayen, Chairman, President and CEO, Adobe.

Indian diaspora has distinguished itself across the world, says Modi

Washington: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has commended the Indian Diaspora for distinguishing itself across the world, as he received an enthusiastic welcome from the community on his arrival here on a major visit to further

enhance Indo-US relations. Modi was warmly greeted by groups of Indian-Americans at the airport soon after his plane landed here on Wednesday and later at the hotel where he had an interaction with the members of the community.

US rules out India, Japan in AUKUS bloc

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has ruled out adding India or Japan to the new trilateral security partnership with Australia and Britain to meet the challenges of the 21st century in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

On September 15, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson jointly announced the formation of the trilateral security alliance AUKUS under which Australia would get a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

"The announcement of AUKUS last week was not meant to be an indication, and I think this is the message the President also sent to (French President Emmanuel) Macron, that there is no one else who will be involved in security in the Indo-Pacific," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference on Wednesday.

Psaki was responding to a question if countries like India

and Japan whose leaders would be in Washington this week for the first in-person Quad Summit would be made part of the new security alliance.

The Quad comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia. US President Joe Biden is hosting the first in-person Quad summit at the White House on September 24.

"On Friday... you'll have the Australians there (for the Quad summit). But then you also have India and Japan. Would you envision for them a similar kind of military role that you've now defined for with the Australians?" a journalist asked.

"AUKUS? What would it become? JAUKUS? JAIAUKUS?" Psaki said in lighter moments before giving answer to the question.

The trilateral security alliance AUKUS, seen as an effort to counter China in the Indo-Pacific, will allow the US and the UK to provide Australia with the technology to develop nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

SC to set up body to probe Pegasus row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a big blow to the Government, the Supreme Court on Thursday observed orally that it will set up a technical expert committee to enquire into the Pegasus snooping matter and pass an interim order next week.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana, which was to hear some other matter, addressed senior lawyer CU Singh, one of the counsels of the petitioners in Pegasus case, that the order will be pronounced next week.

"We wanted to pass an order this week," the CJI said, adding that it had to be deferred as some members of the technical committee, which the court had in mind, expressed "personal difficulties" in becoming part of it.

"That is why it is taking time to constitute the committee," the CJI said, adding, "We will be able to finalise the members of the technical expert team by next week and then pronounce our orders."

The CJI told Singh that he was conveying this to him as senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who had argued for senior journalists N Ram and Shashi

Court observes orally, order next week



Kumar, has not been seen in courts for the last few days. "I will inform Sibal," Singh told the bench which then proceeded with the hearing in other listed cases.

The SC's observations on constituting the committee a s s u m e significance in view of the Centre's statement that it would set up an expert panel on its own to look into the grievances of the alleged surveillance of certain eminent Indians by hacking their phones using Israeli firm NSO's spyware, Pegasus.

ED probes ₹21K cr Afghan heroin haul from Mundra port

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



from the open source and has sought the copy of the complaint filed by the DRI that unraveled the narcotic smuggling bid of the syndicate.

The drugs haul relates to the DRI seizing a staggering 2,988.21 kg Afghan heroin, worth ₹21,000 crore, from the Mundra port in the Kutch district of Gujarat on September 15.



Restoration work in progress at the Yaas cyclone effected Udaypur beach near Digha in Midnapore district on Thursday

PTI

Unique digital health ID soon to record your health info

Modi to launch PM Digital Health Mission on Sept 27

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will announce the nationwide rollout of Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission on September 27. Under this, a unique digital health ID will be provided to the people, which will store the details of a person's medical history like the hospitals where s/he has been treated.

All information related to the person's health will be recorded on this unique health card. This way, the patient will not have to carry the files everywhere. Seeing the unique health ID of the patient, the doctor will be able to know the health situation and continue further treatment, said an official from the Union Health Ministry here on Thursday.

"This card will also tell whether the holder receives benefits from Government schemes like Ayushman Bharat Yojana," he said.



The person's ID will be made using his mobile number and Aadhaar number. These two records will be used to create unique health cards. For this, the Government will create a health authority that will gather all the data of a person, he added.

The health authority will be allowed to raise the health records of the person whose health ID is to be made. Public hospitals, community health centre, health and wellness centre or healthcare provider,

which can be connected to the National Health Infrastructure registry, can make health ID.

The National Digital Health Mission is currently in its pilot phase across the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry.

According to the official, the mission is on track and the three basic platforms, health ID, doctor's registry, and the health facility registry have been made operational.

Vaccine at home for divyangs, says Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the Supreme Court asked the Centre to provide details of its policy framework and steps taken to prioritise Covid vaccination of persons with disability, the Modi Government on Friday announced "vaccination at home" for the disabled, "in line with Covid-19 SOPs".

"I am pleased to inform that an advisory has been issued to make arrangements for 'vaccination at home' for those who have disabilities or are differently challenged, in line with Covid SOPs," NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr VK Paul said, as the panel warned that the second wave is not over yet. Thirty-three districts in the country are now reporting over 10 per cent weekly positivity rate, while 23 are recording 5-10 per cent.

Under Covid guidelines for the upcoming festival season, mass gatherings has to be avoided in containment zones and in districts with over 5 per cent positivity rate, they said.

Auto hit Dhanbad judge on purpose, CBI informs HC

PNS ■ RANCHI

The CBI on Thursday informed the Jharkhand High Court Bench of Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan and Justice Sujeet Narayan Prasad that Uttam Anand, Additional District and Sessions Judge of Dhanbad, was deliberately hit by the auto rickshaw hence it was not the case of hit and run.

The CBI said that the judge suffered fatal injuries. CBI joint director Sharad Agrawal told the HC that the agency was investigating whether accused auto driver Lakhman Verma and Rahul Verma had hit the judge as a part of conspiracy on instruction of other persons.

In the previous hearing, the court had expressed displeasure over the CBI making no headway in the investigation and summoned the joint director to appear before the court in the next hearing.

During virtual hearing on Thursday, the court made an oral observation that murder of the judicial officer has lowered the morale of judicial officers. The HC pointed out that if the



murder case of a judicial official is not solved soon it will not be a good sign for the judicial system of the country since it was for the first time when a judge died in this way.

During the previous hearing the court had expressed displeasure that the CBI could not be able to investigate beyond two accused persons Lakhman Verma and Rahul Verma.

The accused are learnt to have told the CBI that they deliberately hit the judge on the morning of July 28 in Dhanbad when the judge was returning home after a morning walk.

The accused said in order to loot the person walking on the road they hit him. But they fled away after they saw some bikers approaching them.

Order for ₹7,523 crore desi Arjun tanks placed

Main battle tanks to be made in TN

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major boost to maintain combat readiness and self-reliance, the Government on Thursday placed an order for 118 Arjun Mk-1A main battle tanks (MBT) for the Indian Army. The deal is worth over ₹7,523 crore and the Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi, Tamil Nadu will manufacture the tanks.

The tanks are indigenously designed and manufactured by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Prime Minister Narendra Modi had handed over the upgraded Arjun tank in February this year to Army Chief General MM Naravane.

Giving details of the order, Defence Ministry officials said here on Thursday, it will provide further boost to the "Make in India" initiative in defence sector and is a big step towards achieving "Aatmanirbhar Bharat", envisioned by the Prime Minister.

The state-of-the-art MBT Mk-1A is a new variant of



Arjun Tank designed to enhance fire power, mobility and survivability. Infused with 72 new features and more indigenous content from the Mk-1 variant, the tank would ensure effortless mobility in all terrains, besides precise target engagement during day and night. The DRDO has incorporated numerous upgrades on Arjun MBT, the in-service main battle tank with the Indian Army, they said.

The Mk-1A is equipped with accurate and superior firepower, all-terrain mobility and an invincible multi-layered protection provided by an array of advanced technology systems. It can take on the enemy during day and night conditions and in both static and dynamic modes. By virtue of these capabilities, this indigenous MBT proves to be on a par with any contemporary in its class across the globe.

Bastar sees 20% fall in malaria cases

STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

Malaria cases have shown a 20 per cent fall in Chhattisgarh's sprawling Bastar region, where the mosquito-borne disease becomes a pest every monsoon.

Non-availability of healthcare centres in remote areas proves fatal and thousands of tribals come in the grip of malaria.

Now, because of the malaria elimination drive of the Chhattisgarh Government, Bastar has seen a whopping 20 per cent decrease in positive cases in 2021 as compared to 2020.

A four-phase anti-malaria



campaign was run in the region in which the positivity rate in the first phase was 2.1 percent, 1.26 percent in the second, 0.90 percent in the third and 0.99 percent now, an official statement said on Thursday.

Awareness programmes were run which included street

plays. Cleanliness drives were launched particularly in areas where there was accumulated water.

The Health Department teams crossed rivers and rivulets as well as hillocks to reach some of the affected areas located in remote zones.

Anirudh Tiwari takes over as new Chief Secy

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

In just about three days after the change of guard in Punjab, the party has been bringing major administrative changes in the government which has been facing the allegations of being run by the state's bureaucracy.

After Charanjit Singh Channi took over the state's reins on Monday, the Government has not only changed the state's Chief Secretary by appointing 1990-batch IAS officer Anirudh Tiwari in place of Vini Mahajan, but also several senior bureaucrats, top police officials, along with removing the Chief Minister's team of OSDs (officer on special duty). The state Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta is also expected to be replaced anytime now. Another DGP-level officer Siddharth Chattopadhyaya is among the frontrunners for the post along with VK Bhawra and Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota.

Besides, the Government will also be replacing the state's Vigilance Bureau chief BK Uppal, who is considered close to Capt Amarinder's aide Bharat Inder Singh Chahal. For the post, the name of Additional DGP Harpreet Singh Sidhu, who is currently heading the Special Task Force

against drugs, is being considered.

Besides, the appointment of a new Advocate-General is also on the cards. It has been learnt that the name of senior advocate DS Patwalia has been approved for the coveted post, which was earlier held by Capt Amarinder's confidant Atul Nanda. Notably, Nanda resigned as the state's top law officer soon after Capt Amarinder.

In the ongoing major reshuffles in the civil administration, Chief Minister Channi has appointed 1995-batch IAS officer Hussan Lal as his principal secretary and Rahul Tiwari as his chief principal secretary, replacing Capt Amarinder's blue-eyed officers — Tejveer Singh and Gursirat Kirpal Singh, respectively.

On the police administration side, the head of the three Police Commissionerates have been transferred. Naunihal Singh has been appointed Jalandhar's Commissioner of Police, Sukhchain Singh Gill Amritsar, Commissioner of Police, and Gurpreet Singh Bhullar is Ludhiana Commissioner of Police.

Only a day before, the



Government had replaced a set of one loyalist, the political appointees, with another at the districts level also.

Channi, during his maiden visit to Amritsar after becoming the Chief Minister on Wednesday, had ordered to replace Capt Amarinder's loyalist Dinesh Bassi, who did not enjoy good relations with Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, from the post of Amritsar Improvement Trust chairman with Sidhu's close aide, Damandeep Singh Uppal.

Besides, a close confidant of senior Congress leader Tript

Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Kasturi Lal Seth, is also back as the Batala Improvement Trust chairman few days after he was replaced with his bête noire and Rajya Sabha MP Partap Singh Bajwa's aide Pawan Kumar Panna. Tript Bajwa's another close aide Rajinder Singh has again been appointed Batala Marketing Committee chairman, who was also removed and replaced with Partap Bajwa's aide.

Nine IAS and two PCS officers were also transferred, including Capt Amarinder's chosen-one Girish Dayalan — the only Deputy

Commissioner to be transferred.

TIWARI SUPERSEDES FIVE OFFICERS

With the appointment of 1990-batch IAS officer Anirudh Tewari as Punjab's new Chief Secretary, he has superseded his five senior officers, including the outgoing Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan, who is of the 1987-batch.

All the five officers — Mahajan, Ravneet Kaur (1988 batch), Sanjay Kumar (1988), VK Janjua (1989), and Kirpa Shankar Saroj (1989) — have been made "special chief secretaries" to the Punjab Government.

Currently the Additional Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner (Development), Tewari is considered among the brightest officers in the State.

He is considered close to former Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal as he had served him as the Principal Secretary (Finance). It is believed that Manpreet has played a major role in his appointment as the state's administrative head.

Interestingly, Tewari has served on several key posts not only under the ruling Congress Government, but also during the previous SAD-BJP regime.

Eye on transparency, Haryana Govt to prepare action plan for deployment of manpower in its Depts

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

With a focus on transparency in engaging manpower and stopping exploitation of contractual employees in the state, Haryana Government has decided to prepare an action plan for deployment of the manpower against contractual posts and outsourced services for its Departments and other government undertakings.

Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited, which has been established recently by the State Government with an aim to stop the practice of hiring contractual employees through outsourcing and deploying manpower as per the demand of all the government entities, will prepare the said action plan. For this, the Nigam has begun the process to collect details of Group C and D posts and other contractual posts, outsourcing services and vacancies in various Departments in the state.

A letter has been sent by the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited to all Head of the Departments, Divisional Commissioners, Managing Directors / Chief Administrator/Chief Executive Officer of all Boards/Corporations/Nigams

and other government undertakings, Secretary of all Statutory entities, Registrars of all Universities, all Deputy Commissioners in this regard.

"A detailed action plan will be prepared by the Nigam for deployment of required manpower in government departments. Thus, all the Departments and other undertakings have been directed to send details of name of posts, number of all contractual employees (under part I and II of contractual/outsourcing policy) with their job role and name of contracting agency as well," said a senior officer of Haryana Government while talking to The Pioneer.

"Similarly, details of contractual posts and the number of contractual employees working against these posts and the details of part-time posts and number of all contractual employees working against these posts with their job roles have also been sought. The Departments and other government undertakings have also been directed to appoint a nodal officer in their respective organizations to facilitate the collection of this data and for liaising with the Nigam," the officer said.

Notably, the Haryana Cabinet had last month approved the establishment of

Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited to carry out the business of deployment of skilled, semi - skilled and other manpower in government departments and other organizations owned and controlled by the State Government for meeting their requirements.

The Nigam set up under the administrative control of the Haryana Skill Development and Industrial Training Department has been constituted in view of lack of transparency while engaging manpower at present; exploitation of contractual manpower by private contractors or service providers by way of delayed payment, non-payment, or less payment of salary and benefits, non-compliance of the provisions of Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and non-compliance of government's instructions on the reservation policy in deployment of manpower by private contractors or service providers.

Earlier this year, the State Government had also announced a common eligibility test for all group C and D posts doing away with the interview system to bring more transparency in the recruitment process. The rules in this regard were notified recently by the State Government.

ENDING VIP CULTURE

Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi curtails his security cover

Terms it 'sheer wastage of Government resources'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/KAPURTHALA

Punjab's new Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, in a clear contrast to his predecessor Capt Amarinder Singh who was 'Maharaja of Patiala', on Thursday set the wheels in motion to end the VIP culture in government functioning to facilitate the common masses. "I am a common man and brother of every Punjabi," he declared.

Announcing to curtail his security cover, Channi said: "I

am one of you and I don't need an army of 1000 security personnel to protect me from my own brethren."

The Chief Minister, during his address at IK Gujral Punjab Technical University, said that he was surprised to learn that after assuming charge of my office suddenly, I have 1000 security personnel to guard me.

Terming that it is "sheer wastage of government resources", he said: "This cannot be allowed as what harm my own Punjabis will do to me as I too am a common man like them...I have asked the Police to reduce my security overruling the rationale given by intelligence agencies regarding threat to my life."

The Chief Minister also quipped that he was surprised to learn that being the head of the State, he is also entitled for car as big as room for the comfortable travel. "However, what

peevd me is that Rs two crore was spent from tax payer's money to purchase this car...This luxury is unwarranted and undesirable as these funds could have been well utilised for the welfare of the public, especially those from weaker and underprivileged sections," he said.

The Chief Minister unequivocally said that he is votary of simple living and high thinking, so this VIP culture has to go at all cost.

"I am not fond of luxurious lifestyle, rather I am there to serve the Punjabis," he said adding that he has also asked the officers to ensure reduction in vehicles constituting his cavalcade.

Channi also said that he was not a VIP rather a normal Punjabi and anyone can call him anytime on his phone as he is available for serving the people 24X7.

Channi lays foundation stone of state-of-the-art Dr Ambedkar museum

PNS ■ KAPURTHALA

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Thursday said that the state-of-the-art museum, to be named after Bharat Ratna Baba Sahib Dr BR Ambedkar, will act as a beacon for perpetuating the glorious legacy of Baba sahib amongst our coming generations.

Channi, addressing the gathering after laying the foundation stone of Museum and handing over job letters to youth in a state-level Mega Job Fair at IK Gujral Punjab Technical University, the Chief Minister said that the State Government will spend Rs 150 crore on this prestigious project which will be a humble but befitting tribute to the iconic leader.

He said that this Museum will go a long way in perpetuating the life and philosophy of the great leader who played a great role in the welfare of the poorest of poor. Channi said that this project will be a unique amalgamation of facts in the subjects pertaining to the life,

work and philosophy of Dr Ambedkar.

Describing Dr Ambedkar as a great scholar, jurist, economist, social reformer, and a statesman, the Chief Minister said that he was one of the most towering personalities in the entire world history. "I am here just because Dr Ambedkar's philosophy which, coupled with hard work, has guided my destiny," he said.

Complementing the newly-employed youngsters, the Chief Minister said that it is good for them that they have got these jobs but this shall not be their final destination and they have to strive hard for achieving more success in future. Also soliciting youth's support to make Punjab a corruption-free state, Channi said that the State



Punjab Chief Minister breaks into Bhangra and grooves on the dhol beats along with the performers during an event to lay the foundation stone of a Baba Bhim Rao BR Ambedkar Museum and handing over job letters to the youth in a state-level Mega Job Fair at IK Gujral Punjab Technical University, Kapurthala

Government will adopt a zero tolerance policy towards corruption for which youth needs to play a proactive role.

"Education is the only key to uplift the living standard of weaker and underprivileged sections due to which the

Government is laying major thrust on strengthening education infrastructure in State," he said.

JJP announces to install biggest statue of Devi Lal on his birth anniversary on September 25

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Fighting a battle with Indian National Lok Dal for the legacy of former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal, Jannayak Janata Party has announced to install the biggest statue of the leader on the Delhi-Mumbai highway at village Hilalpur in Nuh district on September 25.

"The total height of the statue is 42 feet. The statue of former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal will be installed on his birth anniversary on September 25," said Jannayak Janata Party's princi-

pal general secretary Digvijay Singh Chautala while talking to the mediapersons here.

Digvijay, younger brother of Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said that programmes will also be organized on September 25 by the party at district, light and block level, where party officials and workers will remember Tau Devi Lal and will also do social work.

Notably, Ajay Chautala, who is INLD's chief OP Chautala's elder son had parted ways with the INLD in 2019 forming his own political outfit JJP.

Punjab Police to conduct exams on Sept 25, 26 to recruit 4,358 constables

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With over 4.71 lakh candidates expected to appear for the written examination for the posts of constable in District and Armed cadres, the Punjab Police is all set to facilitate seamless conduct of the examination process under this mammoth recruitment drive. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP)-cum-Central Recruitment Board for Constables' chairperson Gurpreet Kaur Deo said that admit cards have been issued to as many as 4,71,007 candidates, who have applied for 4,358 posts of

Constable in District and Armed cadres. The written test, to be held on September 25 and 26, is being conducted in two shifts including 10 am to 12 noon, and 3 pm to 5 pm, she added. "To ensure smooth and hassle-free conduct of examinations, 187 examination centres have been earmarked across the State and elaborate security arrangements have been made by the concerned districts," said ADGP Deo.

She said that the candidates, who will clear the written test will be called by the Board to appear for the physical trial and documents verification. To ensure that all exam-

inations are being held in an absolute fair and transparent manner, the Punjab Police has appointed a renowned IT consultancy firm to conduct these exams, said ADGP Deo, adding that the entrusted company has been ensuring stringent security measures for maintaining fairness and integrity of the written examination.

Although, 'Dos and Don'ts' regarding the written examinations are being widely circulated via official pages of Punjab Police on various social media platforms, said the ADGP reiterating that all candidates should reach their concerned Examination Centre well in time.

Centre lauds steps taken by Haryana for improving air quality

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday said that the state is fully geared up to handle the issue of agricultural crop residue burning and air pollution issues ahead of the winter season.

The Chief Minister was speaking during a high-level meeting chaired by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav to discuss the implementation of an action plan for improvement of air quality in NCR ahead of the approaching winter season, when the incidents of stubble burning tend to increase leading to dangerous rise in levels of air pollution.

The meeting which was held through video conferencing was attended by Ministers

and higher officials of various departments from Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Lauding the dedicated steps taken by Haryana for improving air quality, Bhupender Yadav said that the Haryana Government's decision to use bio-decomposer technology on one lakh acres of area is certainly a pivotal step for stubble burning management. He also appreciated the work done by State Government for switching industries to CNG and PNG. "Haryana Government has done remarkable work in the field of stubble management as a result of which decline has been seen in the number of stubble burning incidents in the state," Yadav said.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister urged the Centre Government for the

re-opening of formaldehyde industries in Yamunanagar. Urging the Union Minister, Khattar said that due to some objection, these industries were closed but then later the registration for their refunctoning was started but then again these units were closed due to court orders. "I urge the Centre to intervene in this matter so as to give some relief to the industrialists running these units," he said.

The Chief Minister while urging the Union Minister to expedite the work of laying CNG and PNG pipelines in the pending areas of the state said that because of the non-availability of these pipelines, many industries might shut down. At the places where the pipelines are available, switching the industrial units to CNG and PNG has already been done in a phased manner, he informed.

Haryana orders special girdawari to assess crop loss due to rainfall

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister JP Dalal on Thursday said that the State Government has directed the concerned Department to conduct special girdawari to assess the crop damage caused due to heavy rainfall in some parts of the State.

To compensate the farmers on time, the officials have been directed to complete the process of girdawari at the earliest, Dalal said while talking to the mediapersons here. He said that the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar

has issued directions to complete the process of girdawari at the earliest. The rainfall has damaged the crops in various parts of the State in the last 48 hours, he said.

Speaking about the Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana scheme approved by the state cabinet on Wednesday, Dalal said that it is the first scheme across the country which will provide insurance cover for horticulture crops in the state. The insurance scheme is currently applicable only for apple farmers in Himachal Pradesh, he added.

He said that 8 to 10 percent

of the area is under cultivation of horticulture crops in the State and earlier there was no insurance scheme for horticulture crops. A total of 21 vegetables, fruits and spice crops will be covered under the scheme. Sometimes, farmers growing horticulture crops have to bear huge financial losses due to various factors. This scheme will compensate the farmer who will suffer the crop damage caused due to sudden outbreak of crop diseases, insect-pests infestation, unseasonal rainfall, hailstorms, drought and frost etc., Dalal said.

SAD to hold protest march to Punjab CM residence on Sept 29

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Thursday decided to launch a vigorous agitation "to save the future of Punjab's two lakh farmers across 19 districts whose lands are being unjustly acquired for peanuts" by the Congress Government for various roads being constructed under the Bharat Mala project.

As a part of the same, the party has decided to hold a massive protest march from Mohali to the Chief Minister's residence in Chandigarh on September 29 to secure justice for the affected farmer families.

A party delegation will also meet the Punjab Governor on this issue on Friday and submit a memorandum to demand fair compensation for the affected farmers. The decisions were taken after the SAD's senior leadership, led by party president Sukhbir Singh Badal, met the representatives of the Punjab

Pradesh Road Kisan Sangharsh Committee, which has been spearheading the campaign to secure a fair compensation for the affected farmers, to understand the problems being faced by them. Briefing the SAD leadership, the Committee president Sukhdev Singh Dhillion said that the farmers had been short-changed by the Congress Government and were being offered ridiculously low awards averaging Rs 30 to Rs 70 lakh per acre for rural and urban land respectively. They demanded an enhanced compensation of Rs one crore per acre for rural land and Rs three to Rs five crore per acre for urban land being acquired for the road projects.

The Committee also highlighted how 25,000 acres of land were being acquired for the project but another 75,000 acres were rendered useless being small pockets which were left without access and irrigation facilities.

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The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken 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 Home Finance Company Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kheerodra Kumar Choudhary (Borrower), Choudhry Hemlata (Co-Borrower), LHRPR00001315486	Plot No 5 Ph No 20 Geekay Township Nr Raipur Bilaspur Highway Rnm Dharisiva Mouja Siltara. Khasra No 56277 Multi Story Block No 5 Raipur Chhattisgarh 492001 Bounded By- North: Road, South: Boundrywall, East: Seller Property, West: Land Of Sunil Kumar Jain./ Date of Possession- 20/09/2021	10-05-2021 Rs. 45,50,520/-	Raipur-B
2.	Dipendra Taori (Borrower), Preeti Taori (Co-Borrower), LHRPR00001346175	Na Mauja Kurud Phn 14 19 Part of Khasra No 555 2 Bhilai Bhilai 555 2 Durg- 491001 Chhattisgarh- 491001 Date of Possession- 21/09/2021	15-06-2021 Rs. 27,94,177/-	Raipur-B

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 24, 2021

Place: Raipur

Authorized Officer

ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

'Villagers must learn to coexist with elephants'

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Villagers in elephant-affected areas should learn to coexist with them and not disturb them on their usual routes, Chhattisgarh Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar said on Thursday.

Akbar briefed the media on his meeting with the Forest Department on checking the human-elephant conflict.

He said forest officials were told to take stern action against the villagers who intentionally come to the path of wild elephants despite being told not to do so. The action will now include their arrest, Akbar said.

"Soon the department is



"The officials have been instructed to take the matter of human-elephant conflict seriously and adapt coordinated efforts to stop them"

going to complete the work of radio collaring of wild ele-

phants. Under it 12 elephants of different herds will be earmarked," he said. He added that at present 266 wild elephants are roaming in the state in 14 herds.

"The officials have been instructed to take the matter of human-elephant conflict seriously and adapt coordinated efforts to stop them," he said.

Stress was given at the meeting to apprise the villagers how to prevent themselves from getting attacked by the elephants.

In order to avoid any retaliation by the villagers after elephant attacks, the department has taken steps to provide them timely compensation, the Minister added.

CM gives consent to implement RDS scheme

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday gave in-principle consent for implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector (RDS) scheme in the state. He sought additional time for payment of electricity subsidy.

He was attending a virtual meeting chaired by Union Power Minister Raj Kumar Singh, an official communication said.

He had a detailed discussion with the Minister regarding the implementation of the scheme in Chhattisgarh.



Energy Ministers from Bihar, Gujarat, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa and Daman and Diu also attended.

Baghel supported the demand of the states to extend the time-limit for payment of electricity subsidy.

Besides the development of new power infrastructure under the scheme, action will be taken to upgrade and strengthen the existing infrastructure.

Under the scheme, installation of smart meters for every consumer, except the agriculture consumers, will be

ensured.

The Central government has set December 31 as the deadline for submission of a detailed project report. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs 9,600 crores, which is targeted to be completed by March 2025.

Woman kills her toddler son

STAFF REPORTER ■
KORBA

Hassled by her two-year-old son's demand to be breast-fed, a woman in Chhattisgarh's Korba district killed her toddler by banging him on the floor of the house, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Wednesday in Sector 5, about 10 km from Korba town.

The police have detained the woman and questioned her, Korba Superintendent of Police Bhojraj Patel said. The child was rushed to a hospital with serious head injuries but was declared dead on arrival.

Chhattisgarh receives four National Awards



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh on Thursday received four national awards for its performance in Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and Dr. Khubchand Baghel Health Assistance Scheme.

Union Health Minister Mansukhbhai Mandaviya presented the awards to the state in Arogya Manthan 3.0 organized online to mark the third anniversary of Ayushman Bharat -Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in New

Delhi.

The awards were distributed in six categories by the National Health Authority, out of which Chhattisgarh scored in four categories.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo congratulated the Health Department for the excellent work, an official communication said.

Chhattisgarh has got the first place for registration of maximum number of Ayushman cards across the country through Choice Centres.

Chhattisgarh secured the top slot in the country in the registration of at least one member of each family in the state.

Sunil Kumar Kushwaha, Choice Centre Director of Kusmusa village of Bhaiyathan block of Surajpur district, came second in the country in terms of Ayushman card registration.

Giving priority to gender-equality in the state, 320,661 women were provided treatment through the scheme. Chhattisgarh ranks third in the country in it.

Collector orders probe into school accident

STAFF REPORTER ■
BEMETARA

Suspending the headmaster of the Government Primary School, the Bemetara district Collector in Chhattisgarh on

Thursday ordered a probe after plaster in the ceiling fell on students, causing minor injuries to six girls.

An officers' team has been set up to identify the dilapidated and repairable

school buildings in the district, Collector Vilas Sandeepan Bhoskar said in a statement.

The incident took place in village Runbod.

Appoint Liasoning Officer in all departments: NCBC



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Chairman Bhagwan Lal Sahni on

Thursday told the Chhattisgarh government to appoint a Liasoning Officer in each department to monitor that roster rules of reservations are followed.

Sahni, on a three-day tour of the state, met government officials

and demanded information about various schemes and reservation rules for the welfare of backward classes.

He praised the Chhattisgarh government for providing reservations to the backward classes in

three-tier panchayats as well as urban local bodies.

The Secretary of the Department, D.D. Singh, apprised Sahni about the general geographical and demographic details of the state and the steps taken by the Chhattisgarh government for the welfare of the backward classes.

The backward classes are given 14 percent reservations in admissions to academic institutions and in jobs as per the reservation rule in the state.

The NCBC Chairman was also told that for Class-III and Class-IV employees in the government, reservation is provided at district and divisional levels as per the population of backward classes in various areas.



Twenty-four Swalamban Groups in forest regions of Korba district have become self-reliant and are producing Kosa silk under the Tussar Scheme and Malbari Scheme of the Chhattisgarh government. Pioneer Photo

CM ensures school and house for two children

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Two children and their rickshaw driver-father were pleasantly surprised when officials in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district provided them not only school facilities for schooling but a house after their hut was damaged, rendering them homeless.

The action followed

instructions from Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who read about the plight of the family in a newspaper, an official communication said on Thursday.

Earlier in the day, the Bilaspur administration admitted Ganga Sahu, 8, and her brother Arun Sahu, 6, to the Swami Atmanand Government English Medium School at Lingiyadih.



Ganga Sahu was admitted in Class II and Arun Sahu in Class I. Bilaspur Collector

Saransh Mittar handed them uniforms, text books and other study material.

The administration also allocated them a house, built under the IRDP scheme in Rajkishore Nagar by the Municipal Corporation, to their father Ganesh Ram Sahu. The house is near the school.

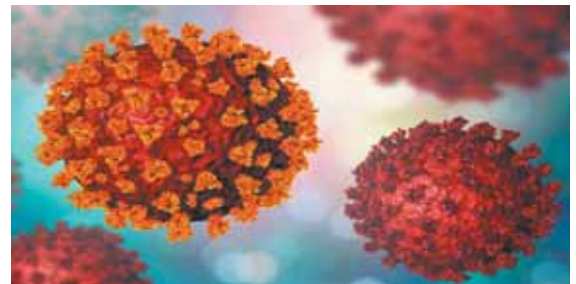
Their hut at Jhudapara, near a railway track in Bilaspur, was damaged. This rendered them homeless, affecting the education of the children.

No new Covid-19 case in 15 districts

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh reported no new Covid-19 positive case in 15 districts. Of the 29,119 samples tested across the state, only 26 were found positive.

The Health Department said no Covid case has been reported in Bemetara, Kabeerdham, Dhamtari, Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Mungeli, Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Sarguja, Korea, Surajpur, Balrampur-



Ramanujganj, Bastar, Dantewada, Sukma, Narayanpur and Bijapur districts.

Kabirdham and Surajpur do not have any

Covid-19 patient and there are no active cases. The number of active patients in the state is 300 and the average positivity rate in the state is 0.09 percent, it said.

Govt brings guidelines to help Covid survivors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With most of the Covid survivors facing long-term health issues, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday released guidelines on the treatment of sequelae of Covid-19 which will help in building the capacity of doctors, nurses, paramedics and community health workers across India to deal with long-term effects of the coronavirus infection.

The modules have been prepared to provide guidance to doctors and healthcare workers to deal with the issue of long-term effects of Covid-19, the Health Ministry said in a statement.

Mandaviya said that proactive and comprehensive treatment of Covid-19 is required to ensure minimum side effects and no negative effect of the treatment.

"We have witnessed the consequences of post-Covid effect in patients due to taking of higher doses of steroids like cases of Mucormycosis. It is important to take medicines, with less or negligible side



effects. If we are alert beforehand, it will be fruitful in tackling the future consequences of Covid," he said.

"The perceptions related to post-Covid that are perpetuating in our society like fears, mental health issues resulting due to Covid are important to be tackled. So, it's important to understand these post-Covid issues and resolve them," Mandaviya stated. Efforts have been made by the resource persons across the country for the management of these post-Covid-19 complications to prepare the sequelae modules. These are very specialised modules prepared keeping in mind various fields of healthcare professionals, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of State for

Health Bharati Pravin Pawar emphasised on the need to tackle mental health issues and to reach the last mile. This pandemic has put an unprecedented challenge on our health and healthcare system. Mental health care is a big challenge for a country with such a large population. We need to build our capacity to tackle this challenge of mental health," Pawar said.

If the frontline workers are equipped with proper knowledge and training, they can become a valuable resource in the fight against these post-Covid-19 challenges. "When we are trying to equip ourselves to fight against post-Covid consequences, it's also important to take these to the last mile. The training modules for mental

India logs 31,293 fresh Covid cases in 24 hours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With 31,923 new Covid cases in the last 24 hours — which is an increase of 18.4 per cent from a day ago — the country's total case-load now stands at 3,35,63,421. The top five states which have registered maximum cases are Kerala with 19,675 cases, followed by Maharashtra with 3,608 cases, Tamil Nadu with 1,682 cases, Andhra Pradesh with 1,365 cases and Mizoram with 1,294 cases. India reported 282 in the last 24 hours, taking the total death toll to 4,46,050.

Cautioning that the second Covid-19 wave is yet not over, the Government warned the people to avoid mass gatherings during festivities. Dr Balram Bhargava, Director

General of the Indian Council of Medical Research said, mass gatherings should be avoided in areas identified as containment zones and in districts reporting more than 5% case positivity.

Though India is showing a decline in new Covid-19 numbers, the surge isn't over, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan too reiterated at the Health Ministry press conference. "We have to continue adhering to norms. We have to ensure that people should take their vaccination."

The ministry recommended that relaxations and restrictions can be imposed based on weekly case positivity. The states have been asked to allow gatherings with advance permissions and lim-

ited people (as per the state's cap) to be allowed in districts with a positivity rate of 5% and below. "Kerala and Mizoram remain states of concern."

Dr Bhargava said that a detailed SOP has been issued by the centre to states and UTs regarding precautions to be taken during festive season. 33 districts in the country have over 10% test positivity rate, according to data presented by the ministry.

Weekly positivity rate is less than 3% for the 12th consecutive week, he said.

Six states and UTs - Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep have vaccinated 100% of their population with one dose.

UK-based company booked for cheating BOI of ₹192.48 cr



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked UK-based firm Molinare Limited and its Indian directors for cheating the Bank of India's London branch to the tune of ₹192.48 crore.

The agency also conducted searches at two locations in the national capital at the premises of the accused after registering a case on a complaint from Bank of India against the borrower company and others including Managing Director Prabodh Kumar Tewari, Directors/Guarantors Abhishek Tewari and Anand

Tewari and unknown public servants for causing an alleged loss of ₹192.48 crore to the public sector lender.

"The accused private company was said to have been engaged in activities relating to post production services in entertainment and media industry. It was alleged in the complaint that the said accused had cheated the Bank of India by submitting fabricated / inflated / bogus invoices without having any genuine business transactions for availing the loan funds and thereafter diverting the same, the CBI said in a statement.

PM CARES Fund not a Govt of India fund, Delhi HC informed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The PM CARES Fund is not a Government of India fund and the amount collected by it does not go to the Consolidated Fund of India, the Delhi High Court has been informed. An affidavit filed by an Under Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) who is discharging his functions in the PM Cares Trust on honorary basis, has said the trust functions with transparency and its funds are audited by an auditor -- a chartered accountant drawn from the panel prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

The affidavit was filed in response to a petition seeking a direction to declare the PM CARES Fund a 'State' under the Constitution to ensure transparency in its functioning. A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Amit Bansal has fixed the matter for further hearing on September 27.

"To ensure transparency, the audited report is put on the official website of the trust along with the details of utili-



sation of funds received by the trust," says the affidavit filed by Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, Under Secretary at the PMO. "I state that when the petitioner is claiming to be a public-spirited person and seeking to pray for various reliefs only for transparency, it does not matter whether PM Cares is a 'State' within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India," the officer said in the affidavit.

Irrespective of whether the trust is a 'State' or other authority within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution or whether it is a 'public authority' within the meaning of provisions of the Right to Information Act (RTI), it is not

permissible to disclose third party information, it added. It said that all donations received by the trust are received via online payments, cheques or Demand Drafts and the amount received is audited with the audited report and the expenditure of trust fund displayed on the website.

"The trust functions on the principles of transparency and public good in larger public interest like any other charitable trust and, therefore, cannot have any objection in uploading all its resolutions on its website to ensure transparency," it said, while reiterating that "the trust's fund is not a fund of Government of India and the amount does not go in the

Consolidated Fund of India." The officer said he is discharging his functions in the PM Cares Trust on honorary basis which is a charitable trust not created by or under the Constitution or by any law made by the Parliament or by any State legislature. "Despite being an officer of the Central government, I am permitted to discharge my functions in PM Care Trust on an honorary basis," he said.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Samyak Gangwal who has said that the PM CARES Fund is a 'State' as it was formed by the Prime Minister on March 27, 2020 to extend assistance to the citizens of India in the wake of the public health emergency -- the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. His counsel had told the court that if it is found that the PM CARES Fund is not 'State' under the Constitution, usage of the domain name 'gov', the Prime Minister's photograph, state emblem etc has to be stopped.

The petition said that the Trustees of the fund are the Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Home Minister and the Finance Minister and immediately after the formation of the fund, the Centre through its high government functionaries represented that the fund was set up and operated by the Government of India.

Govt committed to providing affordable healthcare facilities to citizens: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said it is the Government's commitment to ensure affordable healthcare for citizens.

"The importance of healthcare has been even more clearly understood in the year gone by. It is our commitment to ensure top quality and affordable healthcare for our citizens. Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY is key to realising this vision," he said.

The Prime Minister commented as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, also known as Ayushman Bharat scheme, completed three years which is also being described as the world's largest health scheme. The scheme provides health insurance of up to ₹5 lakh to the poor households.

Modi will also be launching nationwide rollout of Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission on Monday. Under this, a unique digital health ID will be provided to people which will contain all their health records, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.

Govt should mark Moplah rebellion as Malabar Hindu Genocide Day: RSS-affiliated think tank

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Moplah rebellion of 1921 against British and local landlords in Kerala's Malappuram has come under controversy with the RSS seeking to see it as against Hindus in the region. An RSS-affiliated think tank demanded on Wednesday that the Moplah Rebellion of 1921 be termed as a 'genocide and a memorial be set up'.

The Government should build a 'genocide memorial' to mark the 1921 Malabar killings that took place 100 years ago in Kerala's Malappuram and mark September 25 as the "Malabar Hindu Genocide Day", the all-India convenor of Prajna Pravah, J Nandakumar, was quoted as saying by News agency Press Trust of India (PTI).

He maintained that the Sangh had been opposing the recognition of the Malabar killings as part of an uprising against the British or landlords, he said it was "targeted killings of Hindus".

"Annie Besant and C Sankaran Nair, who was the president of the Indian



The Moplah rebellion of 1921 was an uprising by poor peasants

National Congress, called it a genocide. But after 1975, it was illegally deemed as part of the freedom struggle," Nandakumar was quoted as saying by agency.

He said the Kerala government has not considered their demand, but they are hopeful that the Centre will look into it.

The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) formed a three-member committee recently to study the Moplah Rebellion.

The panel reportedly recommended removal of sever-

al hundred names from the list of the victims.

The RSS-backed organisation will be organising an exhibition and a memorial programme for the victims in Delhi as well as in every block in Kerala on September 26.

A set of historians, most of them from the left, have studied The Moplah rebellion of 1921 was an uprising by poor peasants against 'crushing revenue burden' imposed against them by British and landlords, majority of them being Hindus.

The RSS is now wanting to study the 'rebellion' from not strictly as anti-colonial or anti-tax revolt by the peasants and favours a fresh assessment of the famous incident in the British era.

Centre, States step up efforts to prevent stubble fire for clean air

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the season of stubble burning sets in along with winters in the North, the Centre along with its several agencies and the five key agriculture States stepped up efforts to prevent any large-scale burning and avoid dangerous air quality. The central government on Thursday held a key meeting with Delhi and its neighbouring states of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan on the action plan to mitigate air pollution caused by stubble burning.

Discussions were held over implementation of action plans by states to mitigate pollution due to agriculture stubble burning, dust, construc-



tion and demolition waste, biomass burning and vehicular pollution, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said, briefing the media about the meeting.

The minister said coordination and synergy reflected in the action plan by each

state under the overall framework prepared by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

"Outcome of the action plan will significantly depend on the efficacy of the enforcement and implementation by the states," Yadav said. Tweeting about the meeting later, the minister said, "Chaired a meeting with Haryana CM Shri @mlkhat-tar ji and Environment Ministers and senior officials from neighbouring states on the preparedness and taking ahead the multi-pronged action plan on air quality. Addressed issues requiring inter-state & inter-ministerial coordination."

"It was heartening to note that the spirit with which the Commission for Air Quality Management was conceived is reflected in the action plan of states. The outcome of the action plan will significantly depend on the efficacy of the enforcement and implementation by states," he said.

Vaccination at home for Divyangs announced

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the Supreme Court asked the Centre to provide details of its policy framework and steps taken to prioritise Covid vaccination of persons with disability, the Modi Government on Friday announced 'vaccination at home' for the disabled, 'in line with Covid-19 SOPs'.

"I am pleased to inform that an advisory has been issued to make arrangements for 'vaccination at home' for those who have disabilities or are differently challenged, in line with Covid SOPs," NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr VK Paul said, as the panel warned that the second wave is not over yet.

In May this year, the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) had recommended the proposal by a Technical Expert Committee of the Union Ministry on the guidelines for Near to Home COVID Vaccination Centres (NHCVC) for elderly and differently-abled citizens.

The NHCVC for elderly and differently-abled citizens followed a community-based, flexible and people-centric approach, bringing the vaccination centres nearer to homes. The Technical Expert Committee's recommendations were aimed to ensure vaccination of senior citizens and differently-abled populations having limited mobility due to their physical condition. The recom-



mendations were in response to the need to increase access by bringing vaccination services closer to the community while maintaining all necessary precautions and safety measures.

In the Supreme Court on September 21, petitioner Evara Foundation, an NGO, argued before a bench of justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna that the IMA has recommended door-to-door vaccination of persons with disability but only Jharkhand and Kerala have implemented this. The bench issued notice to the Centre and sought its reply affidavit in two weeks.

The Government also warned the people to avoid mass gatherings during festivities. Dr Balram Bhargava, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research said, mass gatherings should be avoided in areas identified as containment zones and in districts reporting more than 5% case positivity.

The ministry recommended that relaxations and restrictions can be imposed based on weekly case positivity. The states have been asked to allow gatherings with advance permissions and limited people (as per the state's cap) to be allowed in districts with a positivity rate of 5% and below.

SC lauds Centre's stand of providing financial help to kin of Covid victims

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday appreciated the Centre's step to grant ex-gratia assistance to the kin of those who died due to Covid-19 saying it has to take judicial notice of the fact that what India has done, no other country has been able to do. "We are happy that something has been done to wipe the tears of many families," apex court bench of Justices M R Shah and A S Bopanna.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Centre said, "We cannot repair the loss of life but whatever the country could do for the families who have suffered, is being done."

The which took on record two affidavits filed by the Centre, said it will pass orders on October 4 with some directions, authorising the grievance redressal committees at district level to call for hospital records of the deceased, in case of any dispute over issuance of death certificate.

"We are happy that there will be some solace to the persons who have suffered. It will wipe the tears of many families. We must take judicial notice of the fact despite so many problems of population and overpopulation, something has been done. What India has done, no other country has been able to do," the bench said.

The top court was hearing a batch of pleas filed by advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal and some intervenors who lost their family members to COVID-19.

Cong's posting of Manmohan's pic to counter Modi's narrative sparks row on Twitter



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a photo from Air India One on his way to the US, talking about working on a long flight, the Congress posted a counter, featuring former PM Manmohan Singh.

Sharing images of the former PM addressing the media in-flight, the Congress quipped: "Some photographs are harder to copy. Former PM, Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing Press Conferences on board Air India One."

On Thursday morning, Modi's post showed him going through files on his flight to Washington, where he has a packed three-day schedule, including a Quad meeting and an address to the UN General Assembly.

"A long flight also means opportunities to go through



papers and some file work," the PM captioned it. Several BJP leaders shared the Prime Minister's tweet.

"Always in the service of the country without stopping, tirelessly," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, replied to the tweet, using #SevaSamarpan.

During the visit, Modi will participate in the first in-person Quad meeting, address the UN General Assembly and meet a number of top executives of major American companies.

The Congress's photo retort triggered a row on Twitter with the rival parties posting images and memes.

Army kills 3 ultras along LoC in Uri

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Coinciding with the three day long visit of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United States of America, the Indian Army early Thursday morning eliminated three heavily armed infiltrators along the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector of North Kashmir’s Baramulla district.

According to the Indian army, at least one of them was a Pakistani national while the identity of the two other infiltrators could not be established till the time of filing the report.

The Indian army also claimed the infiltration bid could not have taken place without the active connivance of the local Pakistan army commanders.

The Indian army has also recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition which included five AK rifles, seven pistols, one Revolver, 24 UBGL grenades, 38 Chinese grenades, 7 Pakistani grenades, 5 AK magazines, eatables, Indian and Pak currency etc.

Briefing media in Srinagar, Lt Gen DP Pandey, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Srinagar’s Chinar Corps (15



Corps) said, “a movement was observed in Hathlanga forest area for an infiltration bid. In a very short brief operation this attempt was eliminated by alert troops along the LoC. A similar attempt was made on (September) 18, which was foiled”.

The Commanding Officer of the Battalion which conducted the operation on ground zero told reporters via video conferencing, “We have been receiving various inputs about Pakistan’s attempt to carry out infiltration on LoC.

Necessary counter measures on the loc had been taken which included enhancing surveillance and carryout some precautionary deployment”. The Commanding said, “On September 23, during early hours at around 6.00 a.m our troops deployed on LoC spotted three individuals crossing over to our own side of the line of control followed by two more which were slightly behind. On being challenged there was a fire fight in which three terrorists were neutralised”.

Commenting on the prevailing security situation along the LoC, Lt-Gen DP Pandey said, “We have been appreciating this in the last few months that while the infiltration is not ongoing the launch pads were filled up and before the winter months there will be concentrated efforts to push in the terrorists before the snowfall stops the possible routes”.

“In the last few weeks we have been getting credible inputs of a lot of activities in the launch pad areas and plans to carry out infiltration, the man-

ifestation of which we saw first in Uri and second today morning”, Lt-Gen Pandey added.

Commenting on the role of Pakistan behind supporting the infiltration bid, Lt-Gen DP Pandey claimed, “It is just not possible that such a number of activities can take place without complicity or connivance of local Pak military commanders.

Either they have adopted the approach of ‘live and let live’ or definitely they are complicit in allowing such activities to enable infiltration of terrorist groups . So this is definitely a change in behaviour in about a month’s time”.

He said, the current level of peace and stability, the increase in tourist footfall, visits of large number of members of Parliament to nook and corner of the kashmir valley where they have interacted with every possible level of people of kashmiri is wrangling the elements across and the intent of sending small weapons in terms of pistols and grenades is to ensure you are arming so called ‘hybrid’ terrorists. He said, the youth who work or study during the day in the evening are given a task to carry out a hit.

My defeat means you lose me as CM: Didi to voters

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee once again staked her own imageasking for people’s support in the Bhawanipore Assembly by-electionseven as she told an audience from an election rally that if theywanted her to continue as their Chief Minister then they should comeout in hordes to vote for her.

“Do not think that Didi will win on her own ... even one vote matters ...even one vote is important for me to win this election ... if you do notvote I will not be able to continue as the Chief Minister ... someoneelse will then be sworn in ... so if you want me to continue you willhave to come out of your houses and vote for me,” Banerjee who lost toOpposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari in the April-May Assembly electionsrequiring her to contest the by-elections said.

“A person cannot remain a Chief Minister if one is not elected withinsix months ... And it is not ethical to contin-



ue on the post if onecannot get elected ... so I will request you all to come out and vote,”she said attacking the BJP for “trying to put spanners in the path ofdevelopment of Bengal.” Attacking the BJP Governments all over the country she said “look howthey are performing in UP ... the Government there suppressed coronadeaths and threw the bodies in the river and I had to fish the bodiesout in Malda and cremate them ... this is how the BJP works.”

Attacking the BJP-led Government in Tripura she said “they areattacking the TMC for imposing curbs but what is happening in Tripura... there they are not even allow-

ing Abhishek (Banerjee) to hold a rally... and in order to do so they have imposed Section 144 in that State

till Dipawali which means that they will not allow the Durga Puja and

Kali Puja to be celebrated in that State ... so much to remain inpower.”

On the farm movement she said that the central government was so“ruthless” that they were ignoring the farmers who were agitating nearDelhi for their rights. “The farmers are staging protests for the past8 months but this ruthless Government is not talking to them becausethey want to please their coporate bosses,” Banerjee said.

Political row as BJP worker booked for molestation

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Amid the ongoing war of words between the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government over the Sakinaka rape and murder incident, the BJP on Thursday found itself in an embarrassing situation on Thursday, as the Mumbai police booked one of its party workers who had allegedly molesting a woman in a municipal corporator’s office on Independence Day last year.

In a development that has given fresh ammunition to the ruling MVA to take on the principal Opposition party which is demanding convening of a special session of the State Legislature to discuss Sakinaka rape and murder incident, the Borivili police on Wednesday registered a First Information Report (FIR) in connection with an incident that allegedly took in the Vazira Naka office of the BJP Municipal Corporator Anjali Khedekar.

According to the complaint lodged by the victim woman with the Borivili police station, the accused -a local BJP civic ward leader - had promised to help her join the party, called her to corpotor Khedekar’s office and then allegedly molested her inside

the premises late on the evening of August 15,2020.

The victim woman told the police that after she went to the office, the accuse2d BJP workers downed the shutters, switched off the lights, molested her, by saying that she would have to compromise if she wanted to work in the party.

The victim woman said that she somehow managed to walk out of the corporator’s office. Five days later, she complained verbally to the local BJP MLA Sunil Rane.

When there was no response, the victim womanr gave a written complaint to the Mumbai North BJP MP Gopal Shetty. Both Rane and Shetty ignored her complaint

Finally, the victim woman approached the Borivali Police Station on Wednesday lodged a complaint with the Borivli police under section 354 (Assault or criminal force to woman with an intent to outrage her modesty - in other words modesty) Indian Penal Code (IPC). “We have not made any arrest so far,” Senior Police Inspector Sudhir Kalekar said on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Not surprisingly, the ruling Shiv Sena and Congress swiftly made an issue of the alleged incident and sought to “expose” the “double

speak” of the BJP and demanded action against the BJP worker who has been accused of outraging the modesty of a woman on the pretext of helping her join the party.

Reacting to the registration of an FIR against a BJP worker, Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar of the Shiv Sena said that she would meet the victim

woman and police officers dealing with the alleged molestation incident.

“Where are all those BJP leaders now? Why are they speaking up? We are now learning that after the incident, the victim woman had approached BJP MLAs and MPs of the BJP for help But, no one helped her,” Pednekar said.

DOMBIVLI RAPE CASE 23 held for gangrape of 15-year-old girl

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Dombivli police have arrested 23 youngsters and detained two minor boys for allegedly repeatedly gangraping a 15-year-old girl at various places for eight months. Those arrested and detained are among the 29 people booked in connection with the alleged gangrape of the girl at Thane.

The arrested people were on Thursday produced before a magistrate’s court in Thane which remanded them in police custody till September 29. Quoting the complaint by the victim, the police said that in January, the victim’s boyfriend

had indulged in forcible sex with her and video-graphed the act.

Later on, the accused boyfriend showed and shared the video with his friends who allegedly used the clip to blackmail and sexually assault the girl for over eight months.

The perpetrators, some of them said to be politically connected, compelled the girl to accompany them to various locations at Dombivli, other nearby towns like Rabale, Badlapur; Thane and also at a remote farmhouse, where they repeatedly raped her. The police got wind of the heinous incident through a tip-off received by them.

ATS grilling father-son duo in Bijnor over terror link; gun found

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The sleuths of the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) conducted raids at several houses in Bijnor and detained a father-son duo on the suspicion of their alleged links with subversive forces.

The ATS also reportedly recovered a pistol from the possession of the duo.

Sources said that acting on the inputs provided by the sleuths of the Army Intelligence, the ATS team conducted raids on Wednesday and picked up the father-son duo. Both are being interrogated by the ATS as well as members of both state and Central intelligence agencies.

To keep the operation ‘secret’ the local police have been kept away from the entire exercise.

The accused were identified as Parvez and his father Salmani, residents of village Noor Alipur. The initial probe has revealed that a few days back, Parvez’s brother Javed, who works at a barber saloon in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, was arrested by the

police for supplying arms to terrorists. Following his interrogation by the members of Army Intelligence, the inputs were shared with ATS after which the father-son duo was picked up for interrogation.

It may be mentioned here that last week, the officials of the special crime branch of Delhi Police and the sleuths of Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) had busted an ISI module by arresting half-a-dozen people and seizing an improvised explosive device (IED) from them.

On Wednesday also, the ATS claimed to have made a major breakthrough in the country’s “largest conversion racket” when they arrested Islamic scholar Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui from Meerut. According to the UP ATS, Siddiqui was arrested on charges of facilitating religious conversations. His name cropped up during the investigation into the Umar Gautam case. Umar Gautam was jailed in June after the Uttar Pradesh Police rounded him up for allegedly running a conversion racket.

10-day quarantine rule for those vaccinated in India is discriminatory: Govt tells UK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid controversy over Britain’s new rules to quarantine travelers from India who are vaccinated with two doses of Covishield because of vaccination” certification issues”, United Kingdom high commissioner to India Alex Ellis and National Health Authority chairman RS Sharma on Thursday discussed vaccine certification for Indian travellers .

The government has maintained the UK’s decision of 10-day quarantine for those vaccinated with Covishield is “discriminatory” and New Delhi do reserve the right to reciprocate in a similar manner.

Meanwhile, after the discussions here, Ellis said India and the UK held an “excellent” technical discussion on the issue of vaccine certification and neither side raised technical concerns with each other’s certification process. The discussions came a day after the UK government added India’s Covishield to its list of approved Covid-19 vaccines.

However, despite the inclusion of Covishield, Indian trav-

ellers are not exempt from the quarantine rules under the UK’s new international travel norms.

The talks between India and UK indicates that the UK may soon announce recognition to Covishield certificates which means Indian travellers will be exempted from the quarantine after arrival.

“Excellent technical discussions with @rssharma3 @AyushmanNHA. Neither side raised technical concerns with each other’s certification process.

An important step forward in our joint aim to facilitate travel and fully protect public health of UK and India,” Ellis tweeted on Thursday. His statement was welcomed by National Health Authority CEO Dr RS Sharma. “Echoing his excellency @AlexWellis’s views, this will be instrumental in resuming socio-economic activities between India and UK. We also look forward to deepening ties between @AyushmanNHA and @NHSX, as we collaborate to build a digital continuum of healthcare services”, Sharma said.

Petition challenging Asthana’s appointment as Delhi CP copy-paste of similar plea in SC: HC warns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday termed as “copy-paste” a petition filed before it challenging the appointment of IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner and warned the petitioner that such activity shall not be repeated in the future. The high court also expressed anguish that the lawyer for the petitioner was unable to explain the averments made in the petition. Noted lawyer Prashant Bhushan who first filed petition in Supreme Court alleged the petitioner Sadre Alam had “copy and pasted his petition and filed in High Court.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh said Alam’s petition is entirely copied, including full stop and comma, from Bhushan’s plea filed with similar prayers before the Supreme Court and added that if the petitioner wants to file something he shall do it independently.

“All these things you have copied from the memo of the senior advocate (referring to Bhushan). If you are copying, you do it 5 per cent and write 95 per cent of your own. Here, 97 to 99 per cent is copied even with all the full stops and commas. Don’t do this in the future we have tolerated it this time,” the bench said. To this, advocate BS Bagga, appearing for the petitioner, said “I don’t know from where these allegations have come from”.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was representing



the Centre, was also in agreement with Bhushan and had said this practice of copy-paste must be deprecated. During the day’s hearing, when Bagga started his argument on inter cadre transfer, the Chief Justice asked him what he meant by “super time scale”. The court repeatedly asked the same question which he was unable to explain and sought time to check and come back.

“We are asking you for the last time, we will dismiss the petition with costs. You have copied from his memo that is the problem. Without understanding, you are reading. Now we want an additional explanation. What is the super time scale”, the bench said.

While addressing Bhushan, the bench said, “you people are also distributing your copies everywhere.”

Don’t do this. He does not know what is super time scale is. You are doing it in good faith but it becomes a weapon. I have asked the question deliberately. What assistance we will get? This is how in the Delhi High Court we are getting the assistance” The counsel sought time and the court listed the matter for further hearing on September 27.

Naidu pushes for attendance at Standing Committee meetings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the reconstitution of the 24 Department-Related Standing Committees (DRSC), Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu has sent a detailed record of participation by the members in committee meetings over the past year to the political parties, calling them to nominate members only based on their participation and interest.

Only 16 members of the Rajya Sabha (out of 243 MPs) attended all the scheduled 361 meetings held in 2020.

Six of these 16 members are Chairpersons of their respective committees. Opposition parties have routinely slammed the

Government for bypassing Parliamentary scrutiny by not sending key legislations to Standing Committees.

On direction from Naidu, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat collated details on the participation by 243 members of the Rajya Sabha from 32 political parties, as well as Independents and nominated members, in 361 meetings of these Committees held in the period of September 2020-August 2021.

The report notes 115 other members clocked attendance of 50% or more. In all, 131 members, accounting for 54% of the House, reported attendance of 50% or more in the meetings of DRSCs. The attendance of about one third members of the

House has been below 30%. The data shows that the average attendance of 92 Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members of the Rajya Sabha in these meetings has been 56% while the same for 38 Congress members is 42%.

For the parties with 5 to 13 members, the average attendance of the YSR Congress has been 66%; the Biju Janata Dal is a close second at 62%. The attendance of Trinamool Congress MPs, who have been at the forefront of the protests by the Opposition on the Pegasus spyware and other issues, is only 24%. Janta Dal (United), though, has the lowest tally with just 16% attendance.

A lot needs to be done to boost UP’s economy

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A recent report on Uttar Pradesh’s economy released by State Planning Institute (Economic and Statistics Division) does not paint a rosy picture of the state and claims that the state’s economy has grown at less than 5 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in the last four-and-a-half years of the Yogi Raj. The survey report does not augur well as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had earlier set the target of taking Uttar Pradesh to a one-trillion-dollar economy in the next five years. At present, the nominal

GDP of the state for the year 2020-21 is Rs 17.05 lakh crore (US\$ 240 billion).

There is no denying the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the state’s economy as UP’s Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has shrunk by 5.9 per cent in 2020-2021. But the worrying sign is that the state’s economy grew at less than 5 per cent in the last four-and-half-year tenure of the Yogi Adityanath regime. The revised data released for 2018-19 (revised provisional), 2019-20 (revised quick) and 2020-21 (revised advance) also indicate that the economy of Uttar Pradesh grew at a lesser

rate than expected.

The revised estimates of the state’s income that the State Planning Institute (Economics and Statistics Division) released last week show a systemic decline in the health of the economy.

The GSDP growth in 2017-18 was 4.9 per cent. However in 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscals, it remained at about 4.3 per cent only. As per these estimates, the rate of economic growth was less than 5 per cent during 2017-20 and -5.9 per cent in the COVID-19 affected 2020-21.

The advance estimates for 2020-21 (released in March

Singapore investors willing to invest in UP, says Wong

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Singaporean High Commissioner in India, Simon Wong, said that there was a favourable environment for investment in Uttar Pradesh and a large number of Singapore investors were willing to invest in different projects of the state, including in the defence industrial corridor and MSME sector.

Wong expressed these views during his meeting with Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari in Lucknow on Thursday.

After the high-profile meeting, the chief secretary

said that due to the development of infrastructure facilities in Uttar Pradesh, it was being successful in attracting investors from across the world.

“Uttar Pradesh is providing an investor-friendly and fear-free environment. Besides, 21 new investment-friendly policies have been implemented in the state.

New expressways, including Purvanchal Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway, Gorakhpur Link Expressway, Ballia Link Expressway and Ganga Expressway, are being developed making commuting by roads easy and safe.

Skeletons of three girls recovered in Mirzapur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After the skeletons of three minor girls, reported missing for the last one month, were recovered from a forest in Harra area of Mirzapur, their mother mysteriously absconded.

The girls had left their home with their mother in Belahi village of Halia area a month back and were missing ever since.

The skeletons were sent for autopsy and forensic examination.

As per reports, some local shepherds spotted the skeletons in the jungles of Harra on Wednesday afternoon and alerted the father and brother of the victims who later reached there and identified them with the help of the clothes lying there.

The police were subsequently informed and the cops reached the spot and sent the skeletons for autopsy and forensic examination.

Efforts were now being made to trace the absconding mother.

During the preliminary probe, it surfaced that Devidas Kole of Belahi village had three sons and a daughter from his first wife Falguni who died a few years ago. Later, he married Sima, who had two daughters from her first marriage. After marriage, Sima’s daughters also started living with Kole’s family.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Breathing death

WHO's revised air quality levels are in tune with the times. India must implement these quickly

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has revised air quality levels for six pollutants, including the particulate matter (PM). Coming after 2005, they cut down the existing acceptable threshold limits by half, prodding countries like India to improve their air quality without losing time. Pollution in Indian cities is far above even the existing limits at present. The new rules render the situation worse. Of particular interest are the PM guidelines. The average PM 2.5 (respirable pollution particles) concentration cannot be higher than five micrograms per cubic metre. However, the existing level is 10. For PM10, the threshold is brought down from 20 to 15. The world organisation said the revision was necessary as pollution is growing in developing countries engaged in large-scale urbanisation and economic development. The guidelines are welcome and need to be implemented. Recent studies show air pollution is reducing life expectancy in Indian cities by six to 10 years. It is time for India to implement big-ticket anti-pollution reforms. A national pollution survey is called for, to assess the meteorological and geographical changes impacting polluting levels. In cities situated in valleys, emissions tend to stay longer, adding to pollution problems. In cities like Delhi with flat terrains, the meteorology impacts in dispersing air pollution. Studies of air movement over urban areas help authorities know about pollution patterns necessary for anti-pollution planning. In the time since 2005, Delhi, for example, grew from being a city to the

National Capital Region of Delhi, covering an area of over 55,000 square km.

Townships, satellite centres and industrial zones have come up with IT and industrial clusters. The population and number of vehicles have grown several times. Adding to the city's pollution is the new element of trans-boundary pollution with emissions originating outside the city by way of traffic from Gurgaon and Noida. Industries in the north-east and northwest sectors contribute to the problem. The expansion of Delhi has increased demand for energy from domestic, industrial and transport sectors. Air pollution emissions naturally increased along with those of sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. Over one-third of Delhi suffers from respiratory problems. The last time was 1998 when Delhi implemented low-emission reforms. The public transport vehicles switched to CNG and that alone made a difference. Hundreds of heavy industries were either shut down or relocated, their energy systems upgraded. India's national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), revised last in 2009, are up for another revision in 2022. The study being conducted for updating the standards should take into account the latest WHO thresholds. Common sense measures are also called for. Vote bank politics cannot encourage stubble burning by farmers in Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, motorists should be made to realise that apart from exhaust fumes, brake dust also causes pollution.

PICTALK



Clouds hover over the Old City area in Delhi

PTI

Marching on

The SC insists that females be given the chance in Nov itself to take the NDA entrance exam

The National Defence Academy (NDA), the cradle for grooming boys to become officers in the three Services since 1954, will for the first time welcome women cadets. The Supreme Court has prodded the Government to allow female candidates to appear for the NDA exam in November this year. The Government had told the apex court that women can take the examination in May next year. However, the court, saying women's hopes cannot be belied, ordered that they be allowed to take the test in November. Determined to have gender parity, the only tri-Services training institute in the world, the NDA, was engaged in creating suitable infrastructure for women cadets since early this year. While there is no issue with academic curriculum, the authorities are taking meticulous care in finalising the outdoor training and physical fitness parameters for the females. Physical training includes basic combat drills besides endurance, so far customised for only male cadets. Then there is the issue of fixing standards for

physical and medical criteria for females. The male candidates who clear the written exam and interview have to pass the medical test to become eligible for joining the NDA. The test also comprises specified weight and height.

Aiming to induct women cadets in a short time, the NDA is working overtime to fix these standards regarding outdoor training and medical exam. The effort is to ensure that training standards remain top class while formulating parameters for them. The Government had submitted in the apex court that any dilution of physical training and service subjects of firing, endurance, field craft and living off the land for women cadets would impact the battle worthiness of the armed forces. The three Services chiefs had visited the NDA in August to review the infra creation progress. With changing times, female officers are serving with distinction in various wings of the IAF, Navy and Army. In fact, at least four women IAF officers are currently undergoing the final stage of their fighter jet flying training. Similarly, women officers are flying helicopters and transport planes. The Navy has also allowed women to serve on warships when they are seaward-bound. It means they will sail like their male colleagues for months together. Of course, the Navy has created suitable living bunks and other related infrastructure on the warships.

US probing Pak's role in Afghanistan

Ever since it became a sovereign nation, Pakistan has been ostensibly 'helping' the US to actually further its own interests in the region



JL KOULL JALALI

The US is keenly looking into the role Pakistan played in Afghanistan after its war against Taliban and terrorism following the attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon on September 11, 2001. This was revealed by US Secretary of State Tony Blinken to angry US lawmakers who were protesting against Pakistan's "duplicitous" role in Afghanistan. Among others, Congressman Bill Keating, Chair, House Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee, said that apart from the ISI's strong ties with the Haqqani network, Pakistan created the Taliban and helped it regroup in 2010. He bemoaned that the Pakistan PM celebrated the Taliban's takeover of Kabul.

Pakistan started following a duplicitous policy towards the US soon after it came into existence in August 1947. In 1952, when the West was engaged in its efforts to contain Communism, Pakistan opted for the American bloc (and arms) purportedly to fight the expansion of Communism but actually to strengthen its muscle against India. Some years later, then Pakistan President Gen Ayub Khan said that the arms were "not to be kept wrapped". These were actually used against India in the 1965 and 1971 wars even though given only to fight the expansion of Communism, if the need arose.

The erstwhile Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979 had added to Pakistan's strategic importance. It exploited the development dexterously to continue its special relationship with the US despite clear signs of duplicity and formal breakup of the Soviet Union in 1993. The US had turned Pakistan into a ground for Mujahideen fighting against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and a conduit for arms and funds to equip them with weaponry. Pakistan diverted a part of these arms to perpetrate terror in Kashmir and to train, equip and indoctrinate Pashtun students from Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The radicalisation programme started under then Pakistan President Gen Zia-ul-Haq and was meant to address the ethnic divide because of which Pakistan had failed to



have full sway in Afghanistan. Apart from fomenting terror in Kashmir, Pakistan's main aim was to create Taliban Islamic Movement to acquire leverage in Afghanistan and to establish a commanding position, especially vis-a-vis India. But despite clear indications, the US appeared to connive with Pakistan's ulterior motives to foster its own geopolitical and other interests.

The Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989 and the US too faded from the scene after ensuring that Pakistan had established its influence on the Mujahideen. After Soviet withdrawal, a civil war ensued in Afghanistan. Interspersed by its army, Pakistan introduced the Taliban militia in this civil war in November 1994. After wreaking havoc on hapless Afghans, the militia gained power in September 1996. With Saudi fugitive Osama bin Laden already present there and declaring jihad against the West, Afghanistan turned into a bastion of terrorism. Pakistan, with calculated use of terrorism as a tool of its State policy, had already become the epicentre of terrorism. India continued to caution the world, both in the

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APART FROM FOMENTING TERROR IN KASHMIR, PAKISTAN'S MAIN AIM WAS TO CREATE THE TALIBAN ISLAMIC MOVEMENT TO ACQUIRE LEVERAGE IN AFGHANISTAN AND TO ESTABLISH A COMMANDING POSITION, ESPECIALLY VIS-A-VIS INDIA

UN and outside, about these dangers to world peace. In an article on October 2, 1999, titled "International Drive To Fight Terrorism", the writer criticised the narrow American approach towards the Pak-Taliban nexus but the US did not heed the warning. Obviously, the ground had been laid for the September 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Following the horrifying attacks, the US waged a war against the Taliban. The public opinion in Pakistan was that its Government shouldn't join this effort. When criticised for aligning with the West, then Pakistan President Gen Pervez Musharraf reportedly stated that had he not done so, America might have taken action against Pakistan, too. He was aware that their duplicity had begun to be noticed. The Taliban was soon removed from power. But, years later, Pakistan resumed helping the Taliban regroup. It turned into a haven for terror attacks on Afghanistan. Pakistan's duplicitous attitude prompted former US President Donald Trump to say in 2019: "The US has foolishly given Pakistan more than \$33 bn in aid over the last 15 years and they have given us

nothing but lies and deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools."

Obviously, now the inevitable has happened. Despite a positive sign or two, the Taliban's resurgence poses a serious threat to peace. Radicalisation has been the main factor behind the Taliban's rise. The challenge can be met by promotion of liberal Islam and Sufism. Though this section is a minuscule minority, Sufism has an eternal appeal and, with the passage of time and through encouragement, it can turn into a potential challenge to radicalism and extremism. As mentioned by this writer on October 8, 2016, in the article, "Islamic Radicalism and Sufi Islam", Russia, like India, too was hit hard by jihadi terrorism in Chechnya. But after dealing with the situation strongly, it encouraged liberal and Sufi Islam to root out the remnants of jihadi terrorism. If Russia could do it, the rest of the world can also do it. For survival and the betterment of mankind, the world powers must desist from turning terrorism into a geopolitical issue.

(The writer is a journalist, former IIS officer and producer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARMY 'BIRD' GOES DOWN

Sir — The fatal crash of a *Cheetah* helicopter has highlighted the urgency to focus on re-examining the safety of these helicopters, which are being operated by the Indian armed forces. These choppers need to be grounded immediately till a comprehensive safety audit is completed about airworthiness. Two young pilots from Army Aviation corps, Major Rohit Kumar (35) and Major Anuj Rajput (28) who lost their lives in this crash, were on training sorties and were extremely passionate about joining the armed forces and serving the nation.

The Hindustan Aeronautical Ltd (HAL) should go into an in-depth investigation to see if there is any design flaw in the *Cheetah* helicopter and take corrective measures. If this helicopter had crashed in a civilian area, casualties could have been way more. Therefore, any fault or technical glitch must be investigated at the earliest to avoid any such future crashes. It would be unjust to neglect the safety of those who protect us at all times. Major Kumar and Major Rajput were brave officers who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Tragically, they leave behind their grieving parents. The nation will always remain indebted to them. Our hearts go out to the family members of these young pilots.

Ramesh Jethwani | Bengaluru

NOT JUST ANOTHER SHEET OF CLOTH

Sir — Who believes that saree is not a smart outfit? A restaurant in the Capital seems to have a perverted view and pointed out that saree does not qualify as a smart dress and it is a lopsided view. In the fashion world, saree has assumed a prominent place with the womenfolk preferring the six-yard wonder as the best dress for all seasons. It is worth mentioning here that the women in Pakistan prefer sarees, too. By draping the saree around your body with a proper matching blouse, you get the feeling of security and the posh look.

The symbolism of saree goes a long way in developing the personality of a

'Narcotics jihad' busted



Now that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has exposed the falsehood of the claim of Pala Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt that there is the phenomenon of 'narcotics jihad' in the State, the Bishop should show the basic decency to admit to having made a mistake and withdraw his remark. The remark made by the Bishop of Syro-Malabar Church with an intent to malign a particular community was unworthy of a spiritual leader. It led us to have a down on him. The false narrative that Christian girls

are befriended and lured by Muslim men into marriage in order to rope them into religious wars should end here and now.

Women, irrespective of their religions, cannot be denied autonomy in their lives. They are entirely free to choose their partners; they don't need a Bishop's nod. Putting religion above humanity should be anathema to educated people in its true sense. The Vatican should take a serious note of the utterances of the likes of Pala Bishop to drive a wedge between religious communities and discipline them to watch their language and behave properly and responsibly in a multi-religious society in which people of different faiths live cheek by jowl. The laity or congregation must also raise their voice against Bishops who by word or deed do harm or hurt a sense of wider secular community and neighbourliness they all cherish and share.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

woman in the office as a professional. It is a wrap worth wearing with all glamour and style. There is nothing like a saree to make you look most elegant all the time. Saree not only has cultural significance in India but, over the years, has also been seen a touch of modern fashion. In recent times, actors like Vidya Balan are diehard saree lovers and their success on the big screen is counted based on the saree culture. The present generation go for pattu and chiffon of different colours and designs. Thus, by far, the saree is the most flexible garment available in the fashion world.

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

KOHLI LEFT ON A HIGH NOTE

Sir — Even if the team lifts the upcoming T20 World Cup at the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the crown of success will most probably be laid at the door of MS Dhoni. Ironically, Kohli had a stupendous success rate as captain in the shortest format of the game. He has led India to victory in the last five T20 series

though not a World Cup trophy as yet. At the same time, the presence of Dhoni at the T20 world cup can be a blessing in disguise for Kohli who can solely concentrate on batting, knowing well that the calming presence of Dhoni is more than enough for the team's prospects.

Kohli's record as the ODI captain is mixed, so is Test skipper's. But there is no denying that he has provided a new dimension to India's test match-winning ability abroad. The recent win in the truncated series against England is an example. Most international players enjoy captaining their sides in white ball cricket. Kohli is one captain who seems to relish guiding his men in the traditional form of cricket — the Tests. Therefore, it looks just a matter of time before the star batsman relinquishes the captain's responsibilities in one-day internationals, too.

Ganapathi Bhat | Nagpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

The need of the hour is to initiate actions that return the economy to a high-growth track and create gainful jobs by 2030.

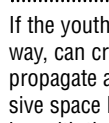


Vice-President — M Venkaiah Naidu



I express gratitude for the warm welcome Canada has shown Tibetan refugees since the time your (Justin Trudeau) late father was the Prime Minister.

Tibetan spiritual leader — Dalai Lama



If the youth, in any way, can create or propagate an inclusive space by working with the deaf community, please do.

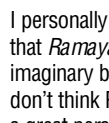


Actor — Ranveer Singh



Started off my time with a wonderful afternoon with @abhinav_bindra Sir and his family. Was able to introduce my medal to its elder sibling from Beijing.

Olympics gold medalist — Neeraj Chopra



I personally believe that *Ramayana* is an imaginary book and I don't think Rama was a great person or that he was alive.

Former Bihar Chief Minister — Jitan Ram Manjhi

FIRST COLUMN

QUAD SUMMIT AND MODI-BIDEN TALKS

India has a range of bilateral discussions lined up on current issues of interest



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The United States is hosting the first in-person summit of QUAD leaders in Washington and perhaps beginning of a new era of cooperation on what the White House termed as “demonstration of the priority of engaging in the Indo-Pacific, including through new multilateral configurations designed to focus on 21st century challenges”. The centrality is the realigning of the partners’ foreign policiesto Indo-Pacific coordination on shared targets. This roughly translates into keeping a sharp eye on Chinawhich is trying to defy international legal orders; therefore, a global consensus on the South China Sea is emerging. India’s focus during the QUAD summit will be tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and future cooperation, climate change issues,and an open Indo-Pacific region that allows equal and fair access for nations to prosper. During the first, virtual meeting of the QUAD leaders in March, 2021, a commitment of one billion vaccines by 2022 was made. The leaders may also talk about additional relief and assistance measures for poor countries as a goodwill



gesture. On the QUAD sidelines, a working group of senior representatives from member countries will focus on cyber security,secure supply chains infrastructure, and work towards finding a common language on emerging technologies including artificial intelligence. The global pandemic has ensured all digital economies around the globe, not to mention the QUAD members, need to find a common thread on defining paradigms for next-generation technology growth and collateral threats. The world industry facing acute shortage of semiconductor chips and other critical digital hardware components understand the importance of working with reliable trusted partners. United States, Australia, Japan and India are critical levers of the huge digital engine driving this technology towards a prosperity dream. One of the best outcomes from the QUAD summit could be for the leaders to come out with a paper on destinations and targets for this digital highway. This in itself could be one the key success stories for QUAD.

The last aspect on which most of the countries from the quadrilateral can make announcements would be on securing clean targets and achieving goals on climate change. The US envoy on climate John Kerry’s visitto India a few days back was a firm commitment towards achieving time bound targets. The US offered assistanceto India for quickly reaching its renewable energy targets of 450 GW by 2030. Currently India’s environment and climate change portfolio is held by ruling party heavy weight Bhupendra Yadav, who enjoys the blessings of the senior leadership. The only challenge for India on this green path could be about assuming more green responsibilities at international forums while trying to attract investments. That is where the will of the domestic government and the organizational skills of the current minister will come for test. Finally on the sidelines of QUAD, Prime Minister Modi and his external affairs minister will hold a whole range of bilateral talks on current issues of interest. The India-US discussions and theoutcome notes would the most watched as this would be first in-person meeting between the President of the US and the Indian Prime Minister. Narendra Modi shared a visible sense of bonhomie with Joe Biden’s predecessor Donald Trump. The same optics may not be repeated but Biden is unlikely to disappoint his counterpart. Afghanistan’s safety, security and upholding of human rights in central Asia would definitely feature as key topics during the bilateral. The hurried exit of the US from Afghanistan has placed many fringe players such as India in a spot in the Central Asian theatre. Every major player in the region including China, Russia and Iranis trying to recalibrate its position with regard to Afghanistan.

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

Role of cooperatives in Indian economy

The NCAER recently undertook a study on cooperative agro-processing and identification of institutional financial lacunae in the cooperative movement

The cooperative movement in India has regained focus after the Union Government recently created a Ministry of Cooperation to provide a separate administrative legal and policy framework for streamlining the cooperatives. The move is expected to cascade the movement down to the grassroots level for facilitating the growth of a people-based economic development model. It envisages an environment that would enable ‘sahkar se samridhhi’ (prosperity through cooperation) and promote ‘ease of doing business’ for cooperatives through various proactive measures, including the development of Multi-State Cooperatives (MSCs).

The genesis of the current movement can be traced to the enactment of the Cooperative Credit Societies Act by the British in 1904. Subsequently, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru gave it a fillip by integrating cooperatives into the Five-Year Plans. His vision of “convulsing India with the cooperative movement...to make it, broadly speaking, the basic activity of India, in every village as well as elsewhere, indeed to make the cooperative approach the common thinking of India” was a precursor for the establishment of cooperative societies especially in rural India, thus laying the foundation for the largest cooperative movement in the world.

The institution of cooperative marketing societies by the National Development Council (NDC), coupled with the passage of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act by the Parliament in 1984 enhanced the importance of the movement. By definition, therefore, cooperative societies were envisioned as a combined agglomerate of persons voluntarily coming together to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

It was anticipated that the cooperative movement would largely be concentrated in the agricultural sector, playing a significant role across operations spanning production, distribution, and consumption. Two of the most conspicuous success stories emerging from the implementation of this model were the White Revolutionand the Green Revolution. As per data from the National Dairy Development Board, in 2019-20, dairy cooperatives had procured 4.80 crore litres of milk from 1.7 crore members,while selling 3.7 crore litres of liquid milk per day. Farm sector experts point out that cooperatives have also positively impacted post-harvest processing, storage, transportation, trade, and input procurement for a range of activities in the agricultural sector.

The movement has reportedly fostered 5.03 lakh cooperatives, a membership of 210 million, and a network stretching through the entire breadth of rural India, while accounting for 46.31 per cent of the total agricultural creditand 23.5 per cent of the total fertiliser production across the country. These milestones have been achieved through the institution of 21 national-level, 361 State-level, and 2,572 district-level



THEREFORE, THE IMMEDIATE PRIORITY BEFORE THE NEW MINISTRY IS TO REVAMP THE NATIONWIDE COOPERATIVE STRATEGY TO ENSURE ACCESS TO COST-EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONAL SOURCES OF CREDIT, CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY FOR PRODUCERS, ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE

(Saurabh Bandyopadhyay is Fellow and Anupma Mehta is Editor at NCAER. The views expressed are personal.)



cooperative federations in the country. Hence, every sphere of national and local economic activity has literally been brought under the ambit of the cooperative movement.

But is the picture as rosy as these statistics apparently indicate? Rumbblings of discontent among farmers, in particular, and the farm sector, in general, suggest that the contribution of cooperatives to actual growth in the agricultural sector is significantly lower than expectations. Despite the need for substantial investments in the form of plant, machinery, tools, and equipment in farming, the outcomes reflect low capital and low productivity linkages, along with the need for augmenting an under-performing marketing infrastructure.

In order to identify the ground-level roadblocks and suggest measures to overcome them, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) recently undertook a study on cooperative agro-processing and identification of institutional financial lacunae in the cooperative movement with special attention on the role of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The NCAER study, covering 304 cooperative units in Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, and West Bengal, found that marginal and small farmers sell a major part of their agricultural commodities to private traders, which prevents them from reaping the profits of their produce even during a bumper harvest. Their small quantity transactions translate into meagre cooperative shares and weak bargaining power in the market. Lack of adequate storage facilities also compromises the processing of paddy, grains, and fruits and vegetables, which, in turn, adversely impacts the shelf life

of products and compromises employment outcomes. Further, the study showed a decadal decline in the share of agro-processing in the total value of the manufacturing output from 32.31 per cent in 2000-2001 to 22.9 per cent in 2011-12.

The NCAER estimations, based on analysis of the 70th Round unit-level data from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), also highlight the need for providing cooperative support for marketing penetration and storage to smallholders, who constituted 86 per cent of the total share of landholdings in 2015-16, according to the Tenth Agricultural Census. In this context, NCDC, which has been at the forefront of the cooperative movement in the country, can offer pivotal support to the agriculture sector through the development of sustainable supply chains linking farmers to processing centres and markets. Critical funding from NCDC towards cooperative sector schemes comprising fisheries, dairy and livestock, water conservation, micro irrigation, agricultural insurance and credit, among others, constitutedover 49 per cent of the cumulative lending for the period 2008-13. Yet the corporation is not being offered concessional finance under priority sector lending. Compelled to source its funds from the market, NCDC faces constraints in offering loans to cooperatives at competitive rates, which has a deterrent impact on post-harvest agricultural activities.

An assessment of the capacity utilisation of the surveyed units revealed that nearly 34 per cent of them were under-utilising their capacities in the range of 25 to 75 per cent, due to various reasons, such as inadequate supply of products for processing, shortage of skilled manpower, funds crunch, lack of demand, and non-availability of advanced machinery. In addition,

most States exhibit poor urban and rural representation of self-help groups and cooperatives in the sphere of foodgrain disbursement under the Public Distribution System (PDS) through the network of Fair Price Shops (FPS). Notwithstanding the policy for issuance of FPS licences to women’s self-help groups, village panchayats, urban local bodies, and cooperatives, the combined percentage of their FPS presence in India is merely about 26 per cent, with the rest going to private individual ownership.

It is obvious that despite its monumental potential, the cooperative model in the country is facing numerous policy hurdles. Since the administration of cooperatives has traditionally fallen under the purview of the respective State governments, the establishment of a Central Ministry to oversee their functioning may also have certain political repercussions and revive the national debate on collaborative federalism. The immediate priority before the new Ministry, therefore, is to revamp the nation-wide cooperative strategy to ensure access to cost-effective institutional sources of credit, capital equipment, and state-of-the-art technology for producers, especially in agriculture. Another vital mandate for it would be fulfilment of the fundamental objective of cooperativesof lifting the illiterate and unskilled workers out of poverty by providing them comprehensive infrastructural and marketing support for livelihood. There is no denying the fact that cooperatives have always signified viable solutions even in a failing market. It remains to be seen if the renewed political and economic focus on cooperatives can actually metamorphose into a truly people-based movement at the grassroots level, to usher in prosperity through people’s participation.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

CAST YOUR VOTE EVEN IF IT RAINS. IF YOU WANT TO SEE ME AS THE CHIEF MINISTER, YOU MUST VOTE FOR ME.

— WEST BENGAL CM MAMATA BANERJEE



A DEFEATED CHIEF MINISTER IS MAKING DESPERATE EFFORTS. SHE DID NOT LEARN FROM THE NANDIGRAM LESSON.

— BJP LEADER SUVENDU ADHIKARI

The misuse of law — a challenge to Indian judiciary

Public Interest Litigations have ensured against derailment of the rule of law and benefited the socially vulnerable sections

Efficient implementation of law is a pre-requisite for a stable and peaceful society and democracy is the torch bearer for a vibrant people-centric governance. The democratic fabric of a nation compliments the jurisprudence in ensuring the lawful governance. Over the years judicial activism through the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has ensured that the derailment of the rule of law is prevented and the socially vulnerable sections of the society have immensely benefited.

The PIL concept was introduced by Justice PN Bhagwati. It refers to litigation undertaken to secure public interest and created an opportunity of justice to socially-disadvantaged



VK BAHUGUNA

(The writer is Chairman of Centre for Resource Management and Environment. The views expressed are personal.)

groups and provided relaxation on the traditional rule of locus standi. Ever since its enunciation in 1980s, the judiciary has used it for the course correction of executive’s functions and several landmark judgements have provided reliefs to affected citizens.

However, in India of late a serious problem of misuse of law is cropping up and threatening the jurisprudence. This writer has been a witness to such misuse of law both by the common citizens as well as people in power. He has recently written a book "Quest for Civility-an insight into Indian Babudom" on the misuse of power by people in authority.

The trigger for this article



came from a newspaper report about challenging the appointment of Rakesh Asthana as the Delhi Police Commissioner under a PIL filed by a few non-government organizations opposed to the present dispensation at the Centre. Asthana has challenged it as misuse of law.

Now let us discuss it how his appointment was made and under what rule. The AllIndia Service officers IAS, IPS and IFS (forests) are recruited by the Union

Government and it is up to the sweet will of the government to utilize them anywhere in the country or abroad in public interest. They can be granted extension in service or transferred from one cadre to the other if need be, depending upon their service records and the opinion of the government.

Such action of the Central is absolutely within its power and cannot be challenged. The government will have its reasons for the appointment. Some officers may have their reasons to be disappointed with the decision. If affected officers had gone to the Central Administrative Tribunal it would have been justified and the case could have been decided on merit. However, how could an unaffected party challenge the power of the government? If the country allows such wastage of time on things based purely on ulterior motives or at the instigation of political leaders to regularly bring such matters in courts it would put the entire country’s administration as well as security to peril.

There are many other instances of misuse of powers, however, which need the attention of Supreme Court, High Courts and lower courts as well as legislatures. Crimes against women are attracting the attention of the judiciary with stringent provisions but surveys had shown that most of the provisions of section 354 of IPC and the Dowry Prevention Law (Section 498A/ 406 of

IPC) are the most misused provisions of law in India and yet no modifications seem to have been made in it. The provision, enacted to protect the dignity of a woman, has become a widely misused weapon by them and is used to harass and blackmail their husband and his family. Once an FIR is filed under 498A/406 (IPC) it becomes a tool in the hands of the police to harass the husband and all his relatives named in the FIR without even preliminary investigation.

According to a survey conducted by Fight against Misuse of Dowry law, 98 per cent of the cases filed under section 498A are false. One senior officer of Ladakh is facing a false dowry case and his father, a retired senior

officer of 71 years, is running from pillar to post. Similarly, section 354 is routinely used to harass men deliberately to settle property and other disputes. More than half of such cases ultimately prove false and no real punitive action is taken against the complainant.

The country needs to bring in a law to prevent misuse of law. If a case is dismissed, the complainant and others involved in the investigation and tendering of false witnesses must be punished. Only then the country’s judiciary as well as the police and other agencies would be spared such wastage of time and at the same time the law protecting citizens would be implemented well.

GLOBE TROTTER

7 DEAD AS BOAT CAPSIZES IN LAKE VICTORIA

Nairobi: A local official in Kenya says seven people are dead after their boat capsized in Lake Victoria.Homa Bay County Commissioner Moses Lilan says the seven bodies pulled from the lake after the accident include one of a child. Officials say four people are still missing.

ANCIENT CLAY TABLET GOING BACK TO IRAQ

Washington: A 3,500-year-old clay tablet discovered in the ruins of the library of an ancient Middle Eastern king, then looted from a museum 30 years ago, is finally headed back to Iraq.

LAVA RAISES FEARS OF DAMAGE ON ISLAND

Todoque: The advance of lava from a volcanic eruption in Spain's Canary Islands has slowed significantly, raising doubts Thursday about whether it will fan out across the land and destroy more homes instead of flowing into the sea.A giant river of lava slowed to four metres (13 feet) per hour after reaching a plain on Wednesday. On Monday, a day after the eruption on the island of La Palma, it was moving at 700 metres per hour.

Af power transition without negotiation, in non-inclusive manner: India at UN

New York: India on Thursday said that the transition of power in Afghanistan has been without negotiation and in a non-inclusive manner, raising questions on its acceptability.

India's Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Reenat Sandhu, speaking at the Community of Democracies 10th Ministerial Conference 'Democracy and Resilience: Shared Goals,' said it is important that the new government in Afghanistan is broad-based and inclusive, representing all sections of Afghan society, including women and minorities.

The Taliban took control of Kabul on August 15 and have put in place a hardline interim 33-member Cabinet that has no woman and includes UN-designated terrorists.

Over the past month, we have witnessed dramatic changes in Afghanistan. PTI

Taliban unlikely to participate in UNGA

Diplomats of ousted Govt still in office

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The Taliban, which now rule Afghanistan after overthrowing the elected Government of President Ashraf Ghani, are unlikely to represent their country at the high-level United Nations General Assembly session as representatives of the ousted dispensation still occupy the office at the UN, a Pakistani media report said on Thursday.

Afghanistan is scheduled to address the ongoing UN General Assembly session on September 27.



Afghan children collect water from a public water pump in Kabul on Thursday AP

On September 20, the Taliban-controlled Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, requesting him to participate in the 76th UNGA session in New York.

It was signed by Taliban leader Ameer Khan Muttaqi as the new Afghan Foreign Minister. A week ago on

September 15, Guterres had received a letter from the currently accredited Afghan ambassador, Ghulam Isaczi, stating that he and other members of his team, still occupying the Afghan mission at the United Nations, will represent Afghanistan in UNGA.

On Tuesday, they attended the UNGA session addressed by US President Joe Biden.

"They will continue to occupy the mission until the credentials committee takes a decision," a diplomatic source was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Afghan Taliban's new UN envoy urges recognition

Kabul: The Taliban's newly appointed envoy to the United Nations on Wednesday urged quick world recognition of Afghanistan's new rulers even as the World Health Organisation raised the alarm of an impending health care disaster in the war-racked country.

The humanitarian crisis is one of the many challenges the Taliban face since their takeover of Afghanistan last month, including renewed threats from the militant Islamic State group, which recently stepped up its attacks, targeting members of the Taliban in its stronghold in the country's east.

In an emergency measure, the UN aid coordinator Martin Griffiths released USD45 million in life-saving support Wednesday for Afghanistan from the world body's emergency fund. AP

Turabi: Strict punishment, executions will return

AP ■ KABUL

One of the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its harsh interpretation of Islamic law when they last ruled Afghanistan said the hard-line movement will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi dismissed outrage over the Taliban's executions in the past, which sometimes took place in front of crowds at a stadium, and he warned the world against interfering with Afghanistan's new rulers.

"Everyone criticized us for the punishments in the stadium, but we have never said anything about their laws and



Taliban leader Mullah Nooruddin Turabi poses for a photo in Kabul AP

their punishments," Turabi told The Associated Press, speaking in Kabul. "No one will tell us what our laws should be. We will follow Islam and we will make our laws on the Quran."

Since the Taliban overran Kabul on Aug. 15 and seized control of the country, Afghans and the world have been watching to see whether they will re-create their harsh rule of the late 1990s.

Tensions grow as US, allies deepen Indo-Pacific involvement

AP ■ BANGKOK

With increasingly strong talk in support of Taiwan, a new deal to supply Australia with nuclear submarines, and the launch of a European strategy for greater engagement in the Indo-Pacific, the US and its allies are becoming more assertive in their approach toward a rising China.

China has bristled at the moves, and the growing tensions between Beijing and Washington prompted UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the weekend to implore US President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to repair their "completely dysfunctional" relationship, warning they risk dividing the world. As the UN General Assembly opened on Tuesday, both leaders chose calming language, with Biden insisting "we are not seeking a new Cold

War or a world divided into rigid blocs," and Xi telling the forum that "China has never, and will never invade or bully others or seek hegemony."

But the underlying issues have not changed, with China building up its military outposts as it presses its maritime claims over critical sea lanes, and the US and its allies growing louder in their support of Taiwan, which China claims as part of its territory, and deepening military cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

On Friday, Biden hosts the leaders of Japan, India and Australia for an in-person Quadrilateral Security Dialogue for broad talks including the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change, but also how to keep the Indo-Pacific, a vast region spanning from India to Australia, "free and open," according to the White House.

It comes a week after the dramatic announcement that Australia would be dropping a contract for conventional French submarines in favour of an Anglo-American offer for nuclear-powered vessels, a bombshell that overshadowed the unveiling of the European Union's strategy to boost political and defense ties in the Indo-Pacific.

"One thing is certain, that everyone is pivoting toward the Indo-Pacific," said Garima Mohan, an Asia program fellow with the German Marshall Fund think tank. As partners pursue moves that play to their own strengths and needs, however, the past week has underscored the lack of coordination as a networked security strategy develops, she said.

"Not everyone has the same threat assessment of China," she said in a telephone interview from Berlin.

US envoy to Haiti resigns over migrant expulsions

AP ■ TAIPEI

Port-au-Prince: The Biden administration's special envoy to Haiti has resigned, protesting "inhumane" large-scale expulsions of Haitian migrants to their homeland wracked by civil strife and natural disaster, US officials said on Thursday.

Daniel Foote was appointed to the position only in July, following the assassination of Haiti's president. Even before the migrant expulsions from the small Texas border town of Del Rio, the career diplomat was known to be deeply frustrated with what he considered a lack of urgency in Washington and a glacial pace on efforts to improve conditions in Haiti. AP

China sends 19 fighter jets towards Taiwan in show of force

AP ■ TAIPEI

China sent 19 fighter jets toward Taiwan in a large display of force on Thursday, after the self-governing island announced its intention to join an 11-nation Pacific trade group that China has also applied to join.

Taiwan deployed air patrol forces in response to the Chinese jets and tracked them on their air defense systems, the island's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

Among the various jets, some of which flew in a long L-shaped path, were 12 J-16 and two J-11s, as well as bombers and an anti-submarine aircraft. China

has sent fighter jets toward Taiwan on an almost daily basis this past year. It stepped up its military harassment of the self-ruled island and has sent large displays of fighter jets after political events in which it views as interfering with its sovereignty.

Taiwan and China split during a civil war in 1949, but China continues to claim Taiwan as part of its territory. Beijing opposes Taiwan's involvement in international bodies. Taiwan announce Thursday that it applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, setting up another potential clash with Beijing.

Africa CDC slams UK's decision to subject some fully vaccinated travellers to quarantine

Lagos (Nigeria): The director of Africa CDC has criticised Britain's decision to subject some travellers who had been fully vaccinated to quarantine upon their arrival in England.

Dr John Nkengasong says the Africa CDC will call for a review of the policy that "doesn't speak to solidarity and cooperation" and are "the cornerstone" to defeat the pandemic. Britain had pledged to share 100 million vaccines with the rest of the world by June 2022, with 30 million doses to be sent

to various countries in 2021, including in Nigeria where it donated 1.2 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine in August.

But its new policy taking effect October 4 means some people who got those vaccines are still not recognized as fully vaccinated. That is because the UK government recognises those fully vaccinated against Covid-19 based on certain terms, including that travellers must have received a UK-authorised shot from an approved health body. AP

Highest stakes in repatriating displaced people from Myanmar: India

United Nations: As the only country sharing a long border with Bangladesh and Myanmar, India has one of the "highest stakes" in resolving the issue of repatriation of displaced persons from the Rakhine State of Myanmar, New Delhi's envoy here said.

Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Ambassador TS Tirumurti told the UN General Assembly High-Level Side Event 'Rohingya Crisis: Imperatives for a Sustainable Solution' that India commends the Government of Bangladesh for hosting a million displaced persons in its territory.

He voiced concern that the international community has been unable to help resolve the repatriation of displaced persons from the Rakhine State in an expeditious manner.

"It is important for us to recognise and understand the humanitarian burden that Bangladesh continues to bear and support the efforts it has undertaken to ensure the well-being of the displaced persons," Tirumurti said.

"It is indeed a matter of concern that the international community has been unable to help resolve this issue in an expeditious and sustainable manner," he said, adding that a collaborative and consensus-based approach is key to arriving at a meaningful outcome. PTI

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APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)				
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Capri Global Housing Finance Limited (CGHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CGHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.				
S. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(Loan Account No. UNHEPRD000019482 of our Aazpur Branch) Deepak Khanna (Borrower) Jyoti Khanna, CPK The Mentor Food Product Supplier Hotel Management & Science (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Plot area admeasuring 125 Sq Yds out of Kharsa Nos. 148/1/1, 2/1, 10, 12/1, 149/6/2, 125/11/2, 20, 21, 22/1 situated in the area of Village Parasram Colony, Tehsil & Distt Palwal, Haryana Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both.	21-06-2021 Rs. 18,47,703	18-09-2021
2.	(Loan Account No. LNHLPDR000002726 of our Pusradod Branch) Manjeet Singh (Borrower) Mandep Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Entire Third floor with roof Rights built up on Part of Plot No. 2 (Old), New Municipal No. 49, area admeasuring 115 Sq. Yds. Situated in the Old Lal Dora of Village Singerpur, now known as Singhal Paur, Delhi-110088. Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both.	21-06-2021 Rs. 31,92,016/-	18-09-2021
3.	(Loan Account No. LNCGHGURH0000000408 of our Gurgaon Branch) Riyaz Khan (Borrower) Manisha (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Property bearing No. 225, area admeasuring 75 Sq yds, Part of Kharsa No. 141 situated in old Lal Dora of Village Bijwasan, Delhi. Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both. Boundaries as Under:- EAST :- Property of Mr. Niasubuddin & Dalut Ram, West:- Property of Mr. Jeet Singh, North:- Rasta, South:- Open Space	21-06-2021 Rs. 17,94,467/-	18-09-2021
4.	(Loan Account No. LNCGHKKDH0000000172 of our Karkardooma Branch) Surender Chadha (Borrower) Vipin Chadha (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of House No. E-171-B, Second floor, Block-E, Govindpuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both.	21-06-2021 Rs. 8,54,552/-	18-09-2021
5.	(Loan Account No. LNCGHJHNH0000001442 of our Pusradod Branch) Sushila Devi (Borrower) Prashant Kumar (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of LHS, Rear Side Flat no. GF-04 MIG, Ground floor, Built up on Plot No. B-76, Kharsa No. 410, SLF Ved Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both.	21-06-2021 Rs. 24,30,971/-	18-09-2021
6.	(Loan Account No. LNHLAGR0000020629 of our Agra Branch) Brjesh Kumar (Borrower) Manjesh (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Part of Plot No. E-3, area admeasuring 41.69 Sq Yds, Kharsa No. 652 (Min), K.J.S. Dham, Jangjeet Nagar Phase-I, Tajganj Ward, Tehsil and District Agra, Uttar Pradesh Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both. Boundaries as Under:- EAST :- Other Property West:- Colony Road, North:- Other Property, South:- Other Property	21-06-2021 Rs. 6,67,120/-	18-09-2021
7.	(Loan Account No. LNHHEMR0000034746, LNHLMER0000033939 of our Meerut Branch) Rohit Gupta (Borrower) Pulkit P. Mohit Gupta, Jaimala Gupta (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Flat at Second floor Built up on Plot No. F-3, area admeasuring 136.34 Sq Yds, Kharsa No. 310, Situated at Saraswati Lok Colony, Phase-II, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both.	21-06-2021 Rs. 24,02,732/-	18-09-2021
8.	(Loan Account No. LNHLPDR000012608 of our Pusa Road Branch) Anand Kumar (Borrower) Maya Devi (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Entire Second floor of Property bearing No. 182 & 183, Pocket-10, Sector-21, Rohini, Delhi Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both.	24-06-2021 Rs. 32,60,244/-	18-09-2021
9.	(Loan Account No. LNHLMER000004237 of our Meerut Branch) Rekha Raj Kumar (Borrower) Raj Kumar (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Plot No. 73-A, area admeasuring 58.43 Sq yds. Kharsa No. 624/2 situated at Village Baral, Pratapur, Tehsil & District Meerut, Uttar Pradesh Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both. Boundaries as under:- East:- Other's Property, West:- 8 ft Gali North:- Other's Property, South:- Other's Property.	24-06-2021 Rs. 5,57,567	18-09-2021
Place : Delhi / NCR Date : 24-09-2021 Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For Capri Global Housing Finance Limited (CGHFL)				

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

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

S. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1.	05 / CGM / Sr. M.(E/M)-I/ ET/2021-22	Hire Charges for Innova, Honda City/ Ciaz, Swift Dzire/Etios	69.21

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **07.10.2021** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated **08.10.2021 at 11.00 AM**.

B) Re-Tender Work

S. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
2.	03 / CGM / Sr. M.(E/M)-II/ 2021-22/ET	Maintenance of Traffic Signal at Various Sectors in Noida. (Zone-I)	86.87

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **30.09.2021** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated **01.10.2021 at 11.00 AM**.

Chief General Manager, Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK
E-Tender Notice No.35 for 2021-22 (Online)**

Online E-Tenders in "B-1" Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State From Capable of P.W.Deptt. Registered / Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company / branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document.
Tender document download on our website <https://mabatenders.gov.in> in Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik. * Conditional Tender will not be accepted.
Note:- Above mentioned E-Tender Notice including Total I (One) (Costing from Rs. 500.00 Lacks) Works And details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below website.
1. www.mahapwd.com
2. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time	24.09.2021		to	18.10.2021	
	from	11:05		upto	17:00

* Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only.
* Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document
* All eligible/ interested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> before down loading tender documents and participate in e-tendering
* The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
Please Note this to all Registered / Unregistered Contractors.

sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Nashik

DGIPR-2065/21-22

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON
General public is here by informed that this person **Name: Ramlal Panthi, S/o Hemlal Panthi, R/o D-2/64, First Floor Andrews Ganj, New, Delhi, Age: 51 Years, Height: 5'3", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Injury Mark: Marks on Upper side of Right Hand, has been missing since 07.12.2009** from the area of P.S. Defence Colony, Delhi.
In this regard a DD No. 16A, dated 08.12.2009 has been lodged at P.S. Defence Colony, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.
Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Defence Colony, Delhi
Ph. 011-26253402, 8750870827
DP/696/SD/2021

Branch Office: ICICI Bank, Shal Tower New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s Stan Cars Pvt Ltd/ Mr Anil Kumar Malhotra/ Mr Raghav Malhotra/ Mr Prashant Malhotra/ Stan Auto Pvt Ltd/ Mrs Seema Malhotra/ Om Parkash Vij/ A/c No. 631960001476/ 010251006926/ 010260000397/ 631951000018	H No 542 Sector 15- A, Urban Estate, Faridabad/ September 21, 2021	June 24, 2021/ Rs. 12,80,87,904.80/	Delhi/ Ncr Punjab

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 24, 2021
Place : Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Market at fresh peak: Sensex zooms to 958 pts

Nifty tops 17,800

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex zoomed 958 points to end at a fresh lifetime high on Thursday, tracking gains in index majors Reliance Industries, HDFC twins and ICICI Bank amid a positive trend in global markets.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty soared 276.30 points or 1.57 per cent to its new closing peak of 17,822.95. It touched an intra-day record of 17,843.90.

After scaling a new peak of 59,957.25 during the day, the 30-share Sensex settled 958.03 points or 1.63 per cent up on an all-time high of 59,885.36.

Bajaj Finserv was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising over 4 per cent, followed by L&T, HDFC, Axis Bank, SBI, Reliance Industries and IndusInd Bank.

On the other hand, Dr Reddy's, ITC, Nestle and HUL were the laggards.

Domestic equities wit-

nessed sharp recovery with benchmarks Nifty and Sensex both recording fresh all-time highs, said Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Favourable FOMC meeting outcome and ease of concerns from possible default of Evergrande aided market rally. Financials and Reliance Industries have dominated market rally, followed by metals, IT and auto, he added.

US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said the Fed plans to announce as early as November that it will start to taper its monthly bond purchases, should the job market maintain its steady improvement.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai and Hong Kong ended with gains, while Seoul was in the red. Japanese market was closed for holidays.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in mid-session deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude slipped 0.12 per cent to USD 76.10 per barrel.

Mcap of BSE-listed firms touches all-time high of ₹ 261.73 lakh cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies reached an all-time high of ₹ 261.73 lakh crore on Thursday, helped by a massive rally in the equities where the benchmark Sensex zoomed 958 points to end at a fresh lifetime peak.

The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 958.03 points or 1.63 per cent to settle at its new closing peak of ₹ 59,885.36. During the day, it gained 3,162.92 points to touch an intra-day record high of ₹ 59,957.25.

Driven by the rally in the equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped Rs 3,16,778.1 crore to reach Rs 2,61,73,374.32 crore. "The market took the US Fed statement of starting tapering as soon as November in its stride. Encouraging news on Evergrande crisis also helped to clear some uncertainty on the global front. Indian markets have been on a roll and the rally today was symbolic of the prevailing strong sentiment locally on the back of reduction in covid cases and the strong vaccination numbers," Devang Mehta, Head of Equity Advisory at Centrum Broking, said.

On Wednesday, US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said the Fed plans to announce as early as November that it will start to taper its monthly bond purchases, should the job market maintain its steady improvement.

"Amidst a strong start, bulls showed no signs of weakness to soar higher boosted by strong global cues and broad-based buying led by realty, metal and banking stocks. Global markets tempered optimism despite a slightly hawkish tilt by the Fed Reserve intimating that the US Central Bank will begin reducing its asset purchases in November and conclude the tapering process around mid-2022," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Bajaj Finserv was the biggest gainer among the 30-share BSE benchmark frontline companies pack, gaining over 5 per cent, followed by L&T, HDFC, Axis Bank, SBI and Reliance Industries.

In contrast, Dr Reddy's, ITC, Nestle, HUL and Bharti Airtel were the laggards.

The BSE midcap and smallcap gained up to 1.28 per cent.

Reliance Industries mcap goes past ₹ 16 lakh cr mark in intra-day trade

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The market valuation of Reliance Industries Limited went past the ₹16 lakh crore mark in intra-day trade on Thursday following a rally in its share price.

The index heavyweight stock jumped 2.43 per cent to settle at ₹2,489.65 on the BSE. During the day, it gained 2.72 per cent to its record high of ₹2,496.95.

On the NSE, it rose by 2.36 per cent to settle at ₹2,488.10. In intra-day, the company's market valuation rose to ₹16,88,455 crore. At closing, its market capitalisation (m-cap) was at ₹15,78,299.46 crore.

RIL was the biggest contributor to the overall market rally on Thursday, where the 30-share BSE benchmark zoomed 958.03 points or 1.63 per cent to its new closing peak of ₹59,885.36.

Earlier on September 3, the market valuation of Reliance Industries Limited jumped to Rs 15 lakh crore.

On June 3 this year, Reliance Industries' market valuation crossed the Rs 14 lakh crore mark.

Shares of Reliance Industries have gained over 25 per cent so far this year.

Rupee rebounds 23 paise to close at 73.64 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee rebounded by 23 paise to close at 73.64 against the US dollar on Thursday following an improved risk appetite among investors triggered by positive global cues.

Investors globally took the US Fed statement of starting tapering as soon as November in their stride and encouraging news on China's Evergrande crisis also helped to clear some uncertainty on the global front, analysts said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened flat at 73.85 against the greenback. During the session, it witnessed an intra-day high of 73.61 and finally settled at 73.64.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.29 per cent to 93.19.

"The Indian rupee erased Wednesday's loss tracking cues from regional currencies and a surge in global equities after the US Federal Reserve's meeting. Globally risk is looking fairly balanced with two large events of the week FOMC and Evergrande chaos seem to be behind," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Digital cos' data hegemony may lead to 'attention economy', says Competition Comm chief

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Competition Commission Chief Ashok Kumar Gupta on Thursday flagged that data hegemony by some digital companies may lead to "attention economy" in which big tech players work to capture users' attention, build profiles of their choices and sell the profiles to advertisers.

The remarks from the Chairperson of the country's fair trade regulator assumes significance against the backdrop of concerns in certain quarters about the business ways of big tech entities and also some digital players coming under the lens of the watchdog.

While noting that rapid changes are happening in markets, which are increasingly shifting towards a digital platform-centric configuration, Gupta also pointed out that these platform markets are by their very nature "winner-takes-all or winner-takes-most".

"Network effects, access to large amounts of data, economies of scale and scope, induced behavioural biases among consumers etc., in digital markets, may heighten market concentration and result in the creation of impermeable entry barriers," he

said.

Addressing a conference on competition law organised by industry body Assocham, Gupta said that data hegemony by some digital companies may lead to an "attention economy".

In an "attention economy", big tech players work to capture users' attention, build profiles of their choices and habits, then sell those profiles to advertisers, he added.

"Moreover, since these digital platforms are the ones who make the rules about how different users would interact on their platform, it gives them an incentive to engage in conduct that may not only impede competition in the market but may also strengthen their incumbency advantage," Gupta said.

According to him, the regulator has a very important role in ensuring that these platforms remain neutral, offer a level playing field and allow enterprises, big and small, that access consumers through these platforms to compete on the basis of merits.

The Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) acknowledged that in these fast-evolving and dynamic markets, a regulator's task is much like hitting at moving targets.

E-commerce cos to log 23% rise in gross GMV at over \$9 bn this year: RedSeer

New Delhi: E-commerce platforms are expected to potentially clock over USD 9 billion gross GMV (Gross Merchandise Value) during the festive season this year as against USD 7.4 billion last year - a growth of 23 per cent, consulting firm RedSeer said on Thursday. For the full year, the overall online gross GMV is expected to touch \$49-52 billion, which is around 37 per cent higher than last year (USD 38.2 billion), primarily driven by strong consumer funnel expansion and the high adoption of online shopping post-Covid across the categories, RedSeer said in its eCommerce Festive Season Report.

NRIDA to explore smart solutions to improve rural road construction pace

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) is set to pilot smart solutions backed by digital innovations to modernise existing performance monitoring mechanisms and improve the service delivery capacity of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), which aims to expand India's rural road network by 125,000 km in its third phase by 2025. The envisaged solutions will introduce smart payments and micro services-based architecture. This move will help improve the pace of construction, reduce delays, prevent under-utilization of funds, avoid cost overruns, and strengthen the accountability of government officials and contractors.

Upper middle class to revive consumption cycle again soon: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With higher consumer confidence following the rise in vaccination levels and sitting on already-built-up-savings through the pandemic months, the top 20 per cent of upper-income consumers will help recover the near-term consumption demand, as per a report.

These consumers account for the bulk of the rural and urban demand.

While the economy fared the worst last year, contracting a record 7.3 per cent due to the pandemic, the problem with the economy had begun much earlier in FY16 when consumption demand began to disappear from the economy. The pandemic only added to the contraction.

Sign Language Day celebrated by ISLRTC

New Delhi: Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi, an autonomous body under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment celebrated 'Sign Language Day' on Thursday at Dr. Ambedkar

International Centre, New Delhi. Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar was the Chief Guest and Ministers of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Km. PratimaBhoumik and Shri A. Narayanswami were Guests of Honour.

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
E-TENDER No. 2021RSI8741TC

Director, Railways Stores (W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 1,45,532 Nos. Low Torque Grease Seal to RD50 Specification No. WD-63-Misc-2020 of Oct 2020 or latest amendments, if any for AAR Standard Upgraded Class 'E' (6" x 11") Cartridge Tapered Roller bearings used in freight stock.
2.0 The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.
3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.
4.0 Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 28.10.2021.

Director, Railway Stores (W)
Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi.
for and on behalf of the President of India.

2143/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number: U410PB2010SGC33813
Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact Number 9646118754)

Tender Enquiry No. 274/HPs/ED-I/S-413 Dated 21-09-2021
SEI Hydrel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala Invites E-Tender for Design, manufacture, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 4 sets of microprocessor based static excitation equipment along with accessories (including dismantling of existing panels, equipment, cables etc) for 4X15 MW Machine of Shanan Power House, PSPCL, Joginder Nagar, Distt. Mandi (HP).
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 24-09-2021 onwards.
NOTE: Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
RO No. 76155/12/458/2021/8166 C-346/21

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that person namely **Ramshankar Saket S/o Lt. Sh. Kemla Saket R/o VPO Sarai Unmulan Tehsil: Sirmour, Distt: Rewa** Madhya Pradesh has been missing from ISBT Kashmere Gate, Delhi since 07.01.2021 In this regard a **DD No. 61A Dated 22.01.2021** has been lodged at PS, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.
The description of missing person is as under:

Name : Ramshankar Saket, **Father's Name :** Lt. Sh. Kemla Saket, **Age :** 24 years, **Height :** 5'5", **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Shallow, **Built :** Thin, **Wearing:** Red Colour Jearsy, Jeans and white colour shoes in feet.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-23014046 (Direct)
23015229 & 23015218 Extn.-210
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/906/N/2021

SHO P.S., Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23968730

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Babita, D/o: Sh. Lakhan, R/o: B-1236, Gali No. 4, Sangam Vihar, Tigri, New Delhi, Age: 14 Years, Height: 4'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Mental Status: Mentally ill, Wearing: Orange Colour Suit and Green Colour Dupatta and Slipper** in feet has been missing/kidnapped from her house. In this regard **FIR No. 145/21, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 25.04.2021**, has been lodged at **P.S. Tigri, New Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/ kidnapped girl please inform the undersigned.

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/691/SD/2021

SHO P.S. Tigri, New Delhi
Ph.: 8375801422, 8750870834

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the work : "Allotment of 09 (Nine) nos. of Manual Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet plants". License Fees : Rs.2,35,85,958/- . Wharfage Fees : Rs.6,17,041/- . Last date & time of submission of bid : **Dt.06.10.2021 up to 15:00 hrs.** Date and time of opening (technical bid) : **Dt.06.10.2021 up to 16:00 hrs.** Refer our website for details : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>
Traffic Manager (I/c)
PPT/PR/111/21-22 Dt-23.09.21

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Daulat Singh D/o Sh. Aan Singh & Smt. Dhanno Devi W/o Sh. Daulat Singh both R/o C 460, New Seemapuri, Delhi-15, debarred the son Ghanvham & his wife Smt. Khatri from their all movable-immovable properties and severed all relations with them due to their disobedience and quarrelsome nature. My clients shall not be responsible for their any act whatsoever in future.
Mohit Bansal (Advocate)
Ch.No.F-303, Karkardooma Court Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Mr. Ashok Kumar S/o Sh. Pheru Singh and his wife Mrs. Usha both R/o H. No. 181, Shyam Gali No. 1, Moujpur, Delhi/110053 have debarred their son Rahul and his wife Divya from their all movable and immovable properties and also severed their relations from them due to their deplorable behaviour. If any person deals with them in future, my clients shall not be responsible for the same.
Jogesh Gupta (Advocate)
Ch. No. G-210, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
"It is to inform to the public at large that my client **Mrs. Priyanka Kumari**, approached Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. for a Home Loan against A Freehold Residential built-up Property bearing no. D-423, First Floor, Front Side, Without Roof Rights, admeasuring 60 Sq. Yards i.e. 50.166 Sq. Meter out of Kharsa No 13/13, situated in the revenue estate of Village Mirzapur Delhi State colony known as Mahvir Enclave, New Delhi - 110045 hereinafter referred to as 'the said property' which he owns vide **Sale Deed Dated 19.03.2019** executed by **Mrs Bimla Kumari W/o Mr Lal Babu** in favour of **Mrs Priyanka Kumari W/o Mr Satya Prakash** Duly Registered with SR IX, New Delhi Vide Doc. No. 2269, Vol No. 9931 BOOK NO-1, Page No.187-193, dated on 20-03-2019.
That this is a General publication made in favour of public if any person further having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.
Any use of the above-mentioned document will be considered illegal."

Prasoon Lata, Advocate
SG Associates
Basement C 78 Sector 2 Noida
0120-4554882, 7011172764

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



General public is here by informed that this female **Namely: Roopa, W/o Mahipal, R/o H. No. 123 Nanda Enclave, Najafgarh, New Delhi, Age: 30 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Hair: Black & Long, Wearing: Yellow Suit-Salwar, White Color Chunni and Jutti** in feet, has been missing since 09.07.2021 from the area of P.S. Baba Hari Das Nagar, New Delhi
In this regard a DD No. 92-A, dated 09.07.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Baba Hari Das Nagar, New Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far.
Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> PS. Baba Hari Das Nagar, New Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-25315302, 8750871028
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/381/DW/2021

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-T Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun.

Ref. No. 1651/II-02(xix)/ITCO/URRDA/21 Dated : 23-09-2021
PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice-07/2021-22
The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of **Almora, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh & Uttarkashi for 05 number of Packages** with estimated cost totaling to **Rs. 16.00 Crore** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent".
Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement : 25-09-2021.
Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.
The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with **CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works)**, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No Physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.
Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 01-10-2021 01:00 PM.
For further details please log on to www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in
Chief Engineer, URRDA, Dehradun.
* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

BON APPETITE

TANMAYA DAS finds that the fare at Dhansoo cafe in Gurgaon has interesting twists and riveting representations

The majority of millennials enjoy spending countless hours in a cosy, teeny-tiny café. I had an excellent reason to test the new Dhansoo café in Gurgaon because I had been travelling since the morning to explore the city. I'm sure it will be the next big thing for foodies as the place offers a wide range of delicacies with a *dhansoo* touch. The café was the nicest pick, thanks to its lovely lighting, and décor of gorgeous flora murals that complemented the vibe immensely, while the umbrella-shaped lighting added a romantic touch to the space. The wine glasses were hanging upside down in the mocktail section and the calm romantic music playing in the background flattered me. I could see families and friends gathering around to spend a wonderful time on the weekend. The place displayed a colourful array of Indian cuisine with intriguing names on the menu list. Despite the fact that the café was packed, I was able to secure a little table in the corner to escape the din. The exquisite décor of the café brought back memories of evenings that I used to spend with my friends. I decided to try a few Indian dishes



to break my train of thought about those lovely moments spent at my hometown. After a while, I was served with small *Podi idli*, along with refried kidney beans and smoked tomato chutney, I had a yearning for something spicy, and this dish satisfied that need. *Podi idli* presented with spicy tomato chutney gave a burning sensation, but the bland flavour of refried *rajma* balanced out the spicy taste. Being an ardent non-vegetarian, I do have a fascination for chicken kebabs too. I vividly recalled my college days when we ate chicken kebabs for almost a month before getting sick of them. However, the next item on my list was to try



Dhansoo corn seekh kebab, as the name suggested distinctiveness. The dish was presented with mint chutney and *varqui* paratha along with masala onion. As I took a bit of the *seekh* kebab with mint chutney, it tasted little savoury, appealing to my tastebuds to the fullest. A delightful mocktail with

detoxifying advantages of fresh kiwi and cucumber, along with jalapenos, mint springs, and coriander leaves was brought aside the corn *seekh* kebab. I sipped the drink carelessly, enjoying the combination of sweetness and tartness entirely throughout the meal. Nonetheless, some of my South

Indian acquaintances recommended that I must try *chettinad* paneer someday. While perusing the menu, I discovered *Chettinad pulled chicken*, which described the ingredients like a shredded chicken with *idiyapam* and gunpowder. It reminded me of my friend's suggestion and I ordered the dish right away. As I took a bite, I opted not to eat any more since it was extremely spicy and hot, which I was not aware of beforehand. Thankfully, *Kaala jadoo* came to the rescue and soothed my tastebuds immediately. The amazing combination of activated charcoal detox juice with sweet lime helped me to relax for a while with a chill sensation on my tongue. The corporate chef Ashish offered *Pallet clinger* that came on the house gracefully. I loved how the drink was presented in two miniature bottles with a small leaf marked on each of them, which gave it a cute appearance on the table. My taste buds were sweetened to the core by the lovely pink strawberry syrup and I happily finished the entire drink. Out of all dishes, my personal favourite was the *British paneer butter masala* (I always have a soft corner for paneer butter masala, honestly), which had a fantastic balanced flavour of all masalas. The creamy soft gravy had a sweet taste of tomato and butter, and the soft paneer was great and worth trying again. Finally, *Yaddon ki churri* was served with *kalakand* and *rabri* was the last dish for the day. The sweetness of *rabri* appealed to me, the pleasant taste mesmerised my soul. As I went out of the cafe, more people came in, and the place got busy and lively in the evening. All of the customers were greeted with a humble nod from the employees. I could see the staff preoccupied while serving the best cuisine to their customers, making them contented. The courteous workers greeted me with a sincere smile and insisted on seeing me again as I was leaving, it was indeed a pleasant evening.

Partying on the health bandwagon

JYOTI DABAS shares five secrets and tricks to socialising while sticking to your health goals



Do you feel your health goals derail every time you socialise with your relatives and friends? Worried that you might overeat or drink too much and fall off the bandwagon? Or do you cancel all your social invites so you don't lose your progress? Well, look no further, we have got you covered. Going out with friends, family or for social events no longer needs to be stressful, daunting or a full-of-guilt affair anymore. You can bake your cake and eat it too! All you have to do is keep the following five guidelines in mind which will help you stay on track:



light during the day for your night-out. On the contrary, arriving hungry to a party or a dinner will lead you to make poor food choices such as snacking on fried foods, peanuts, and so on. Instead, according to the 'quantified nutrition' methodology, spread the excess calories in a structured manner over the next three to four days.

●Remember the ½ and ¼ rule

While going out is fun and you should enjoy yourself and eat what you desire to, there is an easy way to ensure you do not overdo on calories. To begin with, make sure that you fill up half your plate with vegetables. These could be low calorie vegetables, which means those that are high in fibre or water content. Of course, you need a balanced meal, so add lean proteins such as chicken, fish, or paneer to fill quarter of your plate. And last but not least, fill the remainder of your plate with carbohydrates such as rice or lentils. This can be a good guideline if you want to have an overall low-calorie meal.

●Enjoy the occasion

It can be stressful to go out and keep worrying about your calorie intake and the food you are consuming. But remind yourself that you are outside to enjoy your food, so go have fun! Forget the food, strike a conversation with your friends, dance, play a game and simply enjoy the moment and the company you are in.

●Watch out for alcohol-based or carbonated/sugary drinks

Calories from alcohol, mixers and accompanying food can quickly add up. Ideally, alcohol is never advisable but for some, it is an inevitable part of enjoying the occasion. The best thing is to be aware and choose your drinks and mixers wisely. Cocktails can be the worst offenders while food that goes along with the drinks pile up the calories. There are some great alternatives including infused water or low calorie drinks that have negligible calories. Keep hydrated and enjoy your time out without fussing about ruining your progress.

●Everything in moderation is fine

Want to eat that burger, pizza or slice of cake? Go ahead! A few bites will not derail you from achieving your health goals. In fact, depriving yourself from food often leads to binge-sessions. You might end up consuming three-fold or four-fold of the calories in comparison to just a few bites. When you are eating your favourite high calorie food, make sure you slow down your eating — savor the taste, texture and make every bite last. Now all you have to do is ensure you balance the remainder of your meal with nutritious food items.

●Starving yourself before going out might not be a good idea

You could not be more wrong to think that you will adjust the calories by starving yourself or eating

You no longer have to be a hermit when it comes to accepting social invites. Needless to say, do not overdo it if you are serious about seeing progress. Keep these guidelines handy and remember to plan well in advance. You are now well equipped with the above tips which will allow you to have a fun and stress-free night-out.

(The author is the co-founder and CEO of Institute of Nutrition and Fitness Sciences (INFS).)

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) or Polycystic ovarian disease (PCOD) is a hormonal imbalance disorder. As per the results of a recent country-wide survey, close to 16 per cent women in the age-group of 20 to 29 years suffer from PCOS/PCOD. It is typically earmarked by irregular periods or by no menstruation at all. In this condition, women typically have multiple cysts in their ovaries that are caused by an overproduction of hormones called androgens. As a result, many are overweight and develop associated complications. Lifestyle changes and dietary modifications can play a major role in dealing with this hormonal disorder and in losing weight. If the symptoms are not controlled, the risk for heart disease, Endometrial cancer, Type 2 diabetes (T2D), and high blood pressure increases. It affects the woman's fertility and can cause complications during pregnancy. Many women with PCOS or PCOD have been able to manage their symptoms and

Battling with PCOS/PCOD

ROHIT SHELATKAR suggests superfoods to fight hormonal imbalance

reduce the risk of associated medical issues by modifying their diet and lifestyle choices. These simple lifestyle tweaks can improve your overall health while reducing the anxiety that can significantly impact one's ability to conceive.

Here are some superfoods for PCOS/PCOD women should include as a part of their diet:

●Leafy greens

Women must include at least one-two servings of nutritious leafy green vegetables in their diets. Not only are these healthy, but they are also rich in vitamin B. It is an important nutrient that supports fertility by regulating ovulation, insulin control, and regular



ising blood flow in the body. Hence, a high intake of vitamin B can help in managing the symptoms associated with PCOS.

●Omega-3

It is an important nutrient that can help in correcting hormonal imbalances. Certain fishes like salmon and sardine are rich in omega-3. It also helps to control stress levels and

reduce inflammation that may cause uncontrolled weight gain. If these fishes are not available, fish oil supplements can be taken. Vegetarians can opt for flax seeds or walnuts with yoghurt or smoothies.

●Legumes

These nutrient-dense chickpeas, beans, lentils, peas, and soybeans are loaded with fibre and protein with zero cholesterol. Legumes are beneficial for diabetes manage-

ment because of their low glycemic index, which leads to a low rise in blood sugar after consumption. Additionally, they are also rich in proteins and can be taken by themselves, as a side dish with salads, wraps, or tacos.

●Berries

Berries are extremely beneficial for patients with PCOS as they are filled with antioxidants that may help reduce oxidative stress. Berries contain polyphenols, which have been shown to help in the management of weight, diabetes, and indigestion. A mix of strawberries, blueberries can be consumed with yoghurt for additional benefits.

●Oats

These contain soluble and insoluble fibres that slow down the absorption of fat and sugars in the body. Oats also contain vitamin B which helps in increasing the production of progesterone hormone. The zinc in oats can benefit hair growth while reversing PCOS.

A healthy diet helps to reduce the risk or impact of heart disease. Women who follow a low-carbohydrate or a low-GI diet have improved insulin metabolism and lower cholesterol levels.

Weight loss or weight management will help to manage the side effects of PCOS. In addition, women with PCOS/PCOD must seek medical advice, especially if they are taking fertility supplements to compensate for the nutrients missing from their daily diet. Women dealing with PCOS/PCOD often find it challenging to keep stress at bay. But long-term stress can have a negative impact on hormones and fertility. However, there are multiple researches that show a link between high stress and infertility. High levels of stress trigger the release of the hormone, cortisol. To more effectively manage stress, affected women can practice meditation, exercise, yoga, or try counselling. (The author is a fitness expert and the VP at Vitabiotics.)

R E C I P E S



PEPPER CIGAR ROLL

WHAT YOU NEED

- Spring roll sheet: 3
- Red capsicum: 10 gm
- Green capsicum: 10 gm
- Yellow capsicum: 10 gm
- American corn: 5 gm
- Black pepper: 1 gm
- Broth powder: 2 gm
- Maggi seasoning: 1 gm
- Garlic: 10 gm

METHOD

- Take all the ingredients and toss them together.
- Use the sheets of spring roll and put the mixture into them. Roll and place them in a fryer.
- Lastly, serve with sweet chili mayo in shot glasses to make them look more appealing and presentable.

Courtesy: Corporate Chef Kapil at The Western Village

OATS IDLI

WHAT YOU NEED

- Oats/rolled oats: 1 ½
- Olive/groundnut oil: 3 tsp
- Mustard: 1 tsp
- Urad dal: ¼ tsp
- Chana dal: 1 tsp
- Cumin: ½ tsp
- Curry leaves: 2-3
- Ginger paste: ½ tsp
- Chilli (finely chopped): 2
- Carrot (grated): 1
- Turmeric: ¼ tsp
- Curd/yoghurt: ½ cup
- Water: 1 cup
- Coriander (finely chopped): 2 tbsp
- Salt: ¾ tsp
- Eno fruit salt: ½ tsp



JUNGLE FISH

WHAT YOU NEED

- Salmon: 200 gm
- Mushroom: 100 gm
- Asparagus: 25 gm
- Avocado: 20 gm
- Butter: 10 gm
- Salt
- Pepper
- Lemon
- Coriander
- Green chili
- Garlic

METHOD

- Take the salmon and wash the fillet pieces properly. Use a paper towel or clean kitchen towel to pat each fillet dry on the top and bottom to prevent them from sticking to the pan. Rub salt, pepper and lemon juice all over the fillet pieces.
- Place over medium-high heat and let the pan heat up for a couple minutes.
- Add and spread the butter



VARHADI RASSA FROM VIDARBHA

WHAT YOU NEED

- Carrots: 100 gm
- Beans: 100 gm
- Potatoes: 100 gm
- Cabbage: 150 gm
- Onions: 2
- Tomatoes (pureed): 2
- Coriander leaves: 1 handful
- Mint leaves: 1 handful
- Green chilly (chopped): 3
- Ginger garlic paste: 3 tsp
- Garam masala: 2 tsp
- Coriander powder: 1 tsp
- Red chilli powder: 2 tsp
- Turmeric powder: 1 tsp
- Mustard seeds: 1 tsp
- Cinnamon: 1 inch
- Bay leaf: 1
- Grated coconut: 6 tsp



- Godrej groundnut oil: 2 tbsp
- Salt as per taste

METHOD

- Dry-roast coconut and onion together and grind them to smooth paste with coriander and mint leaves.
- Heat oil and add mustard seeds,

bay leaf, and cinnamon stick.

- Add green chilli and mix well.
- Then, add ginger garlic paste and sauté for a minute.
- Further, add onion and coconut paste and saute till it is golden brown.
- Add fresh tomato puree and cook well.
- After that, add salt, turmeric and red chilli powder and coriander powder.
- Wash, clean and cut all the vegetables in small cubes and boil them separately.
- Add the above in the gravy. Mix it well and cook for 20 to 30 minutes.
- Add garam masala and water as per requirement. Bring it to a boil and garnish with coriander leaves.
- Serve hot with steamed rice.

Courtesy: Godrej Vikhroli Cucina

for thinner fillets.

- In the same pan put mushroom, asparagus and garlic. Add salt, pepper and lemon juice and fry it till it's properly cooked
- In a blender, make avocado sauce with coriander, green chili, garlic, lemon juice and salt.
- Put the vegetables and fish on a plate along with avocado sauce and enjoy.

Courtesy: Chirag Barjalya

RCB seek return to winning ways against resilient CSK

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore would look to shrug off the crushing defeat in the previous outing and get their mojo back when they take on Mahendra Singh Dhoni's resilient Chennai Super Kings in an Indian Premier League (IPL) match, here on Friday.

While RCB will look to start afresh, CSK got a confidence-boosting 20-run win against defending champions Mumbai Indians on Sunday night. It is imperative for RCB to improve upon their batting as they seek to keep their place in the top half of the points table. It will be important that the openers -- Devdutt Padikkal (217 runs) and skipper Virat Kohli (203 runs) -- provide a solid start. But the opening duo would also need support from the middle-order, which crumbled against Kolkata Knight Riders.

The likes of Glenn Maxwell (233 runs) and AB de Villiers (207 runs) will have to perform in unison against a strong CSK attack. Australian Maxwell did justify his high price tag during the first leg, becoming the side's top scorer. He would be raring to go once again as will the ever-reliant De Villiers.

CSK could have suffered the reversal in their tie against Mumbai had it not been for youngster Ruturaj Gaikwad's mature unbeaten knock of 88 off 58 balls.

The team's leading run-getter Faf du Plessis (320 runs), Moen



Ali were out for ducks while Ambati Rayudu was retired hurt on nought. Veterans Suresh Raina and Dhoni also failed to reach double digit scores and the side was reeling at 24 for 4. But Gaikwad was not ruffled and kept

his calm, steering the three-time champions to a respectable 156 for 6. He stitched crucial partnerships with all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Dwayne Bravo, who smashed 23 runs off eight deliveries, taking the team over the 150-run mark.

Defending a modest total, CSK showed immense resilience as the bowlers led by pacer Deepak Chahar and Dwayne Bravo handed the "Yellow Army" their sixth win of the season.

A win on Friday will take

them back to the top of the table. CSK will also have the option to choose young England all-rounder Sam Curran, who had been one of the breakout stars of last year's IPL, shining with both the bat and the ball.

I respect team's decision to let Pant stay as captain: Iyer

PTI ■ DUBAI

Shreyas Iyer says he relished captaining the Delhi Capitals in the IPL but completely respects the team management's decision to let Rishabh Pant stay as leader of the pack till the end of the 2021 season.

Iyer had led the Capitals to the summit clash of the 2020 season but he missed the first phase of this year's season due to a shoulder injury and the management asked Pant to captain the side.

The 26-year-old returned to the side before IPL's resumption after the COVID-19 forced break but the Capitals chose not to change the leader again, keeping Pant in the captain's chair.

The young Mumbai batsman, who hit a blistering 47 in team's win on Wednesday night, said he understands team's policy and has no complaints.

"When I was given the captaincy, I was in a different frame of mind and my decision-making and temperament level was very good and I benefited from it in the last two years," Iyer said at the post-match press conference.

"This is part of the decision-making from the franchise or whatever decision they took, I respect the fact and Rishabh is leading the side well from the start of the season and they thought that he should be continued till the season end and I completely respect the decision," he added.

The 26-year-old said he continues to enjoy the pressure situation as he thrives in such circumstances.



"And no drastic change has come that my focus has increased in batting. When I was captain, I like to soak in the pressure, when there is pressure, there are more challenges and, in such situations, I perform, that is my mind-set."

"Even today (Wednesday) when I went in, there was pressure to win the game. The wicket was playing uneven, so the mind-set is the same that being a main part of the team, you have to finish the match and whenever I play, my mindset is that I play till the last ball and see to it that I make the team win."

The aggressive batsman it is a "really good feeling" to contribute in team's win in his first match post comeback.

"I wouldn't say that I'm satisfied because the hunger has just gone up and the appetite keeps on increasing every match you play, so yeah, not satisfied or not contained," he said after DC demolished Sunrisers Hyderabad by eight wickets.

You have to be best on that day: Rohit on match against KKR



FIANS ■ ABU DHABI

Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma believes that T20 is a format in which one has to be at his best on the day. He added that the match against Kolkata Knight Riders in the Zayed Cricket Stadium on Thursday will not be a cakewalk for his team.

"I honestly don't believe in past records because T20 is game of/on that particular day what happens. It's a game of that. You have to be best on that day," said Sharma in a video posted by the franchise on social media. Mumbai vs Kolkata matchup in the IPL presents a very one-sided story. In 28 matches between the two teams, Mumbai, IPL winners for five times, have the dominant hand, winning 22 times against Kolkata, the two-time champions.

"They (KKR) are a good opposition. They play cricket really well as a team and they will be obviously coming off from some confidence after their last win. So, it's not going to be a cakewalk for us. I know we've had a very handy record against them. But it's important we turn up really well on that particular day and do the job," added Sharma.

Sharma missed Mumbai's first match of the UAE leg of IPL 2021, the 20-run defeat to Chennai Super Kings in Dubai on Sunday. Chasing 157, Mumbai were hurt by lack of partnerships by their batsmen. "When you are chasing a score like 157, you need to build those partnerships. Small partnerships and make sure that you are keeping yourself in the game as long as possible," observed Sharma.

The 34-year-old praised New Zealand pacer Adam Milne, who took two wickets for 21 runs in the match against Chennai. "Adam Milne, especially, is coming from a very good tournament in UK. He's a good bowler, bowls really fast. It's all about getting that confidence and he got the confidence in the first game. So, I just hope that he builds on it."

Sharma concluded by saying that the defending champions are capable of making a fightback in the tournament. "We just have to come back and comeback really strong and tick those small boxes. I think, if you look at the potential in this squad, we have got all bases covered."

Army Red withdraws from quarterfinal due to Covid

FIANS ■ KOLKATA

The Durand Cup quarter-final match between Army Red and FC Bengaluru United (FCBU), scheduled for Friday at the Kalyani stadium, has been called off after an Army Red player tested positive for Covid-19 virus on Thursday.

As the player had come into contact with other teammates during Thursday's training session, the Army Red squad decided to withdraw from the tournament as a result and



FCBU received a bye into the semi-finals.

All decisions have been taken, keeping in mind the health and safety of players and officials primarily and the continuity and success of the tournament, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of 130th Durand Cup informed in a release on Thursday.

It is learned that one player of Army Red tested positive in the mandatory Rapid Antigen Test conducted in the morning. He was asymptomatic while the

other players have tested negative.

The organising committee has decided to go ahead with other matches as they are being held at other venues and there has not been any contact between the players since the last Covid test which had come negative for the said player.

Meanwhile, the LOC has also decided to shift the quarter-final match between FC Goa and Delhi FC from the Mohun Bagan ground to the Kalyani Stadium because of heavy rains in Kolkata.

Odisha to host Men's Junior Hockey WC

FIANS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha will host the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) Men's Junior Hockey World Cup from November 24 to December 5 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced on Thursday.

Addressing a special event organised here for this purpose, Patnaik said that recently the Hockey India had approached the state government to support it for the Men's Junior Hockey World Cup, which is to be held in two months' time.

"It is a short notice for making arrangements for such an event, especially during the pandemic period. But since the country's prestige is at stake, we readily agreed to support," he



said. Stating that the junior India team had won the last hockey World Cup, he said, "As a defending champion, I am sure that our team will emerge victorious again on home turf." The Chief Minister further said that hockey has a special place in the minds of the people of Odisha and hockey players from the state have led the country in many international tournaments.

Paralympics bronze winner Sharad diagnosed with heart inflammation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tokyo Paralympics bronze medal-winning high jumper Sharad Kumar has been diagnosed with heart inflammation and has undergone a few more tests, reports of which are still awaited.

Kumar, who won a bronze in the T-42 high jump event in the Tokyo Paralympics on August 31, was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) after experiencing chest congestion last week.

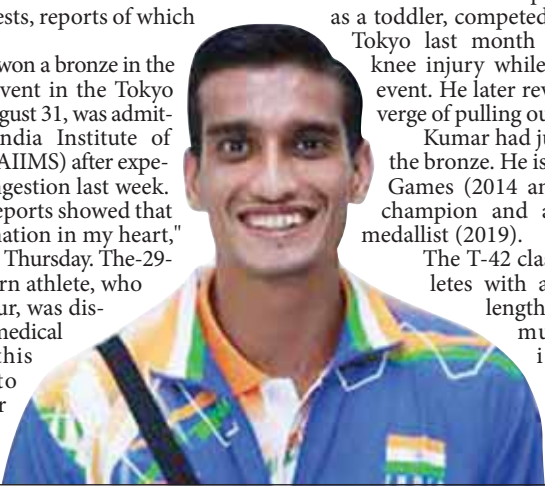
"The earlier reports showed that I have an inflammation in my heart," Kumar told PTI on Thursday. The 29-year-old Patna-born athlete, who stays in Chhatrapur, was discharged from the medical facility earlier this week but had to come back for some more tests.

"I have come

back here for more tests. Since I live just 10 minutes away, I had asked the hospital authorities to allow me to go home," he added.

Kumar, whose left leg was paralysed after he was administered a spurious polio vaccine as a toddler, competed in the T-42 final in Tokyo last month despite suffering a knee injury while training before his event. He later revealed he was on the verge of pulling out of the competition. Kumar had jumped 1.83m to win the bronze. He is a double Asian Para Games (2014 and 2018) high jump champion and also a world silver medalist (2019).

The T-42 classification is for athletes with a leg deficiency, leg length difference, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in the legs. The athletes compete in a standing position.



HC asks Centre to conduct inquiry into allegations against TT body

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday stayed the Table Tennis Federation of India's mandate on compulsory attendance at the National Coaching Camp in order to be selected for any upcoming international event and asked the Centre to conduct an inquiry into



Manika Batra's complaint against the sports body. Justice Rekha Palli further said that if warranted, the Union Sports Ministry may look into the affairs of the TTFI as well. Justice Palli was hearing a plea by Batra who was left out of the Indian contingent for the upcoming Asian Table Tennis Championships and has alleged that the national coach Soumyadeep Roy "pressurized" her to "throw away" an Olympic qualifier match in favour of one of his personal trainees.

The judge said the rule mandating compulsory attendance at the national camp has been enforced "at a point when there was a complaint pending against the national coach" and the same "does not inspire confidence". "They are overreaching the court. I will issue a notice of contempt. I pass an order and you appoint a new person. This is shocking... I am expressing my anguish," the judge stated. "I am of the view that the operation of the rule is required to the stayed till the next date of hearing. Respondent no. 2 (Sports Ministry)... is itself inclined to hold an inquiry into the serious allegations by the petitioner. There is no reason why respondent no 1 (federation) should continue with its rule," she ordered.

La Liga: Asensio, Benzema star as Real beat Mallorca 6-1

FIANS ■ MADRID

Marco Asensio scored a hat-trick and Karim Benzema struck a brace of goals as Real Madrid soared on their goal-scoring prowess to thrash Mallorca 6-1 and rose to the top of the table in the Spanish La Liga.

Asensio scored in the 24th, 29th, and 55th minute while Benzema struck in the third and 78th minute as Real Madrid produced another goal-fest for the Santiago Bernabeu faithful. Isco scored the sixth goal in the 82nd minute while Lee Kang-In got the

lone goal for Mallorca in the 25th minute.

The game was a lively affair and was played at a high intensity throughout. The Real got off to an electrifying start when Benzema latched onto a missed controlled ball by Gaya and fired it past goalkeeper Manolo Reina to net his seventh goal of the league campaign after with just three minutes on the clock. In the 7th minute, the hosts almost doubled their lead when Marco Asensio's in-swinging corner kick was cleared off the line by the defence.

The visiting goalkeeper Reina was once again beaten in the 229th minute. Rodrygo picked up the ball inside the box with his back to goal, turned, and crossed. The ball deflected off both Valjant and Reina falling kindly for Asensio who slammed in the rebound for his first goal of the evening.

Mallorca's response was immediate, as Lee Kang-In produced a fine piece of individual skills before curling the ball superbly past Thibaut Courtois.

Real took control after Mallorca reduced the margin.



The game was an end-to-end affair, Benzema linked up with Asensio after 29 minutes, his superb control and finish saw him dispatch the ball expertly past

Reina. The Balearic midfielder doubled his tally and could have made it three seven minutes later. Vinicius Jr. delivered to the far post, Benzema got on the end of it and headed towards the penalty spot where Valjant was on hand to clear Asensio's effort off the line as the team went for half-time with Real leading 3-1.

The intensity did not let up after the break and Real Madrid came close to the fourth goal on two separate occasions. Firstly, Benzema played the ball into the path of Vinicius Jr but his spectacular left-footed cut-back to his

marker in the 48th minute was kept out by Reina. Rodrygo then picked up the ball in his own half, raced past Battaglia, and delivered a perfect ball for Benzema to head home. However, the goal was ruled out by the referee after he spotted a foul by the striker.

Real could not be denied for long and the Los Blancos' fourth goal came in the 55th minute courtesy of a superb effort by Asensio, who received the ball on the edge of the area before firing in a left-footed shot that Reina could do nothing about.

Natarajan's positive COVID-19 test did not impact game: Bayliss

PTI ■ DUBAI

Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Trevor Bayliss has asserted that their pacer T Natarajan's positive COVID-19 result did not impact their performance against Delhi Capitals on Wednesday since all the players are used to last-minute setbacks.

The game went ahead after other members of SRH squad tested negative but Delhi Capitals cruised to an eight-wicket win with 13 balls to spare.

"I don't think that would have



affected the result of the match. They played way too well for us tonight. It was a little bit of an upset," Bayliss said at the post-match press conference.

"Natarajan was going to play, but these guys are professional players. Every now and then, there's an injury just before play and you have got to make a late replacement. So, I am sure all of the players are, in a way, used to that. But we hope Nattu (Natarajan) gets over it pretty quickly and we can move on," added Bayliss.

The Sunrisers Hyderabad coach said Delhi Capitals' world-class tall pacers used the wicket pretty well and deserve the credit for scripting their team's victory.

"Give Delhi the credit. They bowled particularly well. They have got some world-class bowlers and upfront some world-class very fast bowlers, so they had a good day. We didn't have such a good day and that's the game of cricket."

"Their bowlers upfront bowled exceedingly well. A lot of pace and used the wicket well with cutters, with the ball just holding in the wicket little bit and jumping up a little-bit, those tall fast bowlers took full advantage of it."

Women's European Championship cash doubles, vast gender gulf

AP ■ NYON

UEFA has doubled prize money for the Women's European Championship while maintaining vast disparities with the cash distributed for men's tournaments. The 16 teams in the women's competition next year will share 16 million euros (\$19 million), while 4.5 million euros (\$5 million) will go to clubs who release their players. The 24 teams at the men's European

Championship shared 371 million euros (\$435 million) in UEFA prize money this year, but clubs were also guaranteed at least 200 million euros (\$235 million) for the release of players. UEFA said it was "ensuring that more money than ever before is distributed across the women's game."

The Women's European Championship is being hosted by England next July after being delayed by a year due to the pandemic.