

## OPINION 6

S LANKA LOOKS AT EMPTY PLATES AS HUNGER GNAWS

## WORLD 8

TURKEY COULD BUY MORE RUSSIAN MISSILES DESPITE US WARNINGS

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JADEJA CAMEO HELPS CSK BEAT KKR BY 2-WICKETS

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# Yogi balances caste equation in Cabinet

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

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

There were 53 Ministers in



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

PTI

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

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

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

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

wave of the corona pandemic.

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

# A younger Cabinet takes shape in Punjab

Channi tries to  
infuse youth,  
caste balance  
in State Cong

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

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

Six days after he took over the party reins amid a changed political situation, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Sunday introduced his 15-member Council of Ministers, inducting seven new faces while retaining eight from the previous Cabinet.

However, the re-entry of Rana Gurjit Singh, who stepped down following his alleged involvement in a mining scam less a year after becoming the Minister in 2018, has attracted a lot of criticism, not only from rivals but from within the party also.

The new Cabinet, formed with the approval of the party high command, especially



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

PTI

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

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

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

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

# CJI for 50% quota for women in judiciary

Shout, demand, it's  
your right, Ramana  
tells women lawyers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



women judges, CJI Ramana said he has modified Karl Marx's quote "workers of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chain." "I say: Women of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chain."

The CJI said, "You all are laughing. Yes, I don't want you to cry but with anger, you have to shout and demand that we need 50 per cent reservation. It's not a small issue but an issue of thousands of years of suppression. It is high time we have 50 per cent representation of women in the judiciary. You are entitled (to it), it's a matter of right. It is not a matter of charity. It is unfortunate that some things are realised very late." He said he will be very happy whenever the goal will be realised.

"All my sisters and all of you have carved out exceptions for the people and women in society, and for that matter youngsters, whether male or female, are all waiting to see as role models. Your success stories will make them more impulsive and we expect more women will join the profession and we will achieve the goal of 50 per cent shortly," he said.

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

Indian envoy  
tells China not  
to shift goalposts

PTI ■ BEIJING



Besides being neighbours, India and China are also large and emerging economies and "it is not unusual to have differences and problems". Indian envoy to China Vikram Misri said while addressing the 4th High-level Track II Dialogue on China-India Relations held on September 23.

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

Besides Misri, China's

Ambassador to India Sun Weidong also participated in the meeting.

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

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

# Delegation meets Amit Shah, demands caste-based census

Move aimed  
at uplifting  
backward groups

PNS ■ RANCHI

An 11-member delegation from Jharkhand headed by chief minister Hemant Soren met union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday and submitted a memorandum demanding caste-based census.

Other than Chief Minister and BJP president, Jharkhand Congress president Rajesh Thakur, State minister Alamgir Alam, MLA and AJSU party president Suresh Mahato, minister and RJD MLA Satyanand Bhokta, MLA Vinod Singh of CPI (ML), Bhuvneshwar Mehta of CPI, Suresh Munda of CPM, MLA Arup Chatterjee from Marxist community centre and MLA Kamlesh Singh of NCP were a part of the delegation.

In the memorandum it was stated that caste-based census is now required and it is quite unfortunate as the central gov-



Chief Minister Hemant Soren along with members of all party delegation meets Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Sunday

Pioneer photo

ernment has refused to undertake any caste-based census. Leaders said that due to lack of caste-based census the people of backward communities have not been able to make the

expected progress since ages. In such a situation, if the caste census is not conducted then it will be difficult to ascertain how far OBC people have progressed educationally, socially, politically

and economically.

The caste data will help the government to draft a proper policy related to their betterment and upliftment of backward groups. It will also help

the government to decide budgetary allocation. It should be noted that 90 years ago, the caste census was done in the year 1931 and on the basis of that census the Mandal Commission had recommended reservation.

Members of the delegation said that 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' is the need of the hour and in doing so the roadmap for development will have to be chalked out. But such a roadmap is not possible without caste census. They said that only by conducting caste census the government can ascertain the sections of the society are getting their due share.

The delegation informed that the data of caste census will be helpful in providing reservation facilities to the people of backward classes. The data will help in better policy-making and implementation for the purpose of upliftment. Besides, the data will also help in understanding economic, social and educational inequalities and its resolution.

# Canada lifts 'pandemic' ban on flights from India

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Announcing the decision, Transport Canada on Saturday in a tweet said: "Beginning at 00:01 EDT on September 27, direct flights from India can land in Canada with additional public health measures in place." That time translates to 9:30 am IST.

"Travellers must have proof of a negative Covid-19 molecular test from the approved Genestrings Laboratory at the Delhi airport taken within 18 hours of the scheduled departure of their direct flight to Canada," it added.



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

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

# Over 1.20 lakh get vaccinated in State

Active Covid  
caseload down to 80

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand on Sunday vaccinated about 1.20 lakh residents against Covid-19 as at least 1,386 session sites remained operational across the state from morning to evening, data compiled by the health department highlighted.

As per provisional figures released by the National Health Mission (NHM), as many as 73,700 residents were administered the first dose of vaccine against Covid-19 on the day, while at least 46,961 residents got the second dose. More than 85,000 beneficiaries inoculated on the day fell in the age bracket of 18 years to 44 years.

Meanwhile, the active caseload of Covid-19 dropped to 80 in Jharkhand as the state reported five fresh cases of coronavirus infection against seven Covid recoveries, a separate bulletin from NHM stated.

At least four Covid recoveries against three cases of infection brought the active caseload in Ranchi down to 45,



A beneficiary receives Covid-19 vaccine at a vaccination centre in Ranchi on Sunday

Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

while at least 21 of 24 districts in the state did not report fresh Covid cases, the NHM stated in

its bulletin. Sahebganj and Jamtara reported one fresh case of SARS-CoV-2 infection each.



# Jubilee Park reopens for public after nearly 2 years



PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Sensing the importance of a long-pending demand of general public, Health Minister Banna Gupta opened the gate of Jubilee Park on Sunday evening. Gupta was accompanied by Jamshedpur Ashes office bearer Krishna Kumar and SDO Sandeep Meena. After opening the gate, the Minister himself along with his convoy and supporters inspected the entire Jubilee Park and directed the officials to make necessary arrangements.

Addressing the media on the occasion, Gupta said that Jamshedpur is the city of dreams of Tata, who always worked for giving priority to public facilities and convenience to the public interest first, but today some of the Tata group executives want to do business. He said respecting public sentiment, he himself has opened the gate today and has instructed the officials in strict words that the gate should never be closed in future and ensure the movement of all types of vehicles.

In response to the questions, he said that the district administration had continuously corresponded to the officials of the company to open it, if the company did not agree, then the government could have taken major action against the company, but the livelihood of many families is associated with the company. Legislature Saryu Roy had also objected to the closure of the Jubilee Park Road by Tata Steel ULSL, a Tata Steel subsidiary which looks after the

upkeep of Steel City. “The Jubilee Park Road is meant for facilitating smooth traffic. It is meant for the use of local residents. Why it is closed for such a long time, “questioned the legislator and objecting to any construction on that road that passes through the green lungs. The Jubilee Park Road that passes along the scenic Jayanti Sarovar was closed in March this year during the second wave of Covid. Though the State Government while relaxing

the lockdown restrictions last month had allowed re-opening of parks but Jubilee Park was yet to open for common visitors. State Health Minister Banna Gupta along with deputy commissioner of East Singhbhum Suraj Kumar and Jusco authorities had visited the park last month and had allowed entry of only morning and evening walkers. It was made mandatory for those entering the park to show their identity, preferably Aadhaar Card.

## Vaccination slows down in Palamu

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

The vaccination pace in Palamu has slowed down lately, pushing the district lower in terms of vaccination numbers when compared to the remaining 23 districts in Jharkhand, said sources. Sources said Palamu used to perform well even at times like the shortage of the doses of the vaccine but when over the last few months there is no crisis of vaccine doses its inoculation rate has dipped here considerably. Sources said Palamu’s poor vaccination coverage has been noticed when the country recorded 2.5 crores of vaccination only recently on the birth day of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the second dose coverage that is a matter of great worry here, said sources. The second dose coverage is 49 percent for people 60 years and above, said district epidemiologist Dr Anup Kr Singh. Singh said 54 per cent of people in the age group of 45 years to 59 years have received the second dose. It is 58 percent of second dose coverage for



people in the range of 18 to 44 years, said the epidemiologist. The first dose coverage of the vaccination is slightly up but it too needs to be improved, said sources. Sources said Palamu is trailing behind Ranchi, Bokaro and many other districts in terms of the vaccination coverage. Civil surgeon Palamu Anil Kumar said, “We need to step up our vaccination rate here.” He said he has directed the medical officers in charge of the 10 community health centres to speed up the vaccination. About other measures, the civil surgeon said he has set up four monitoring and inspecting teams each having three members whose task will be to visit at least 10 houses a day with the

local Sahiyas for getting unvaccinated people vaccinated. Mapping of resistant area, hard area to reach and vulnerable tribal pockets are to be prioritised for the vaccination, said the civil surgeon. A call for vaccination coming from elected representatives has to be completed with vaccination without fail, added the civil surgeon. Kumar, expressing hope, said, “We will catch up with other fast achieving vaccination districts in the state in a fortnight or so.” He said there will be review of every day vaccination work at his official residence from now onwards. On being asked as to how and why vaccination rate so fell in Palamu, the civil surgeon

without mincing word said some WhatsApp groups were circulating rumours regarding Covid-19 and vaccination. He warned that coronavirus mutates faster than one can imagine and takes people under its grip. Kumar said this illusion of the coronavirus that it is all gone and over is to be demolished first. The Civil surgeon said his another concern is post covid care. He said it is no less a challenge. There are many cured covid positive patients who now have other discomforts arising out of the post covid complication. He said this has to be taken care of with the same sensitivity as one has to do for the vaccination.

## ‘90-95% of e-waste generated is recycled by unorganised sector’

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), Jamshedpur organised the 9th Scientists & Science Teachers Conclave (SSTC) on a virtual platform. The programme was based on a theme ‘E-waste’ and the main objective of this online event was to create innovative content for teaching science to school students and also to encourage students to learn science with fun and creativity. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Mita Tarafder, chief scientist of CSIR-NML. In her address she briefly talked about the idea behind arranging this online event saying that it is a new concept of innovative learning. She requested the teachers to come forward and use this platform to share their experiences of innovative teaching. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. S K Sahu, Principal Scientist, MER Division of CSIR-NML on the topic “E-waste Recycling in



India”. As stated by him, e-waste disposal is an issue with the developing countries like India due to lack of knowledge for proper disposal of the e-waste and also due to absence of law to deal with e-waste management. He said that in India, 90-95% of the e-waste generated is recycled by unorganised sector who recover only the precious metals like gold, silver, aluminium, copper etc. and dispose of the rest in landfill which in turn gives rise to environmental pollution and various health issues. He elaborately discussed the major concerns associated with e-waste disposal and the possible ways

to tackle the issues. This was followed by a demonstration on collection of e-waste from laptop and computer by the team members of the CSIR Virtual Lab Team. Demonstrations were done jointly by Dr. Aniket Dutt and Deepak Dhibar of KRIT Division, CSIR-NML. The virtual event received very good response from the participants. The programme was attended by more than 40 teachers, students, scientists and professionals. Pragati Jha of KRIT Division, CSIR-NML proposed the vote of thanks and appreciated all organisers for conducting the event successfully.

## Traffic ban on Rly over bridge for repair works

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

The district administration has decided to hold traffic movement on the over four decades old railway overbridge connecting Bank more locality for three days to carry out repair works. The five decade old bridge that is over railway tracks connecting Chandrapura-Bokaro from Dhanbad is in a dilapidated condition and needs urgent repair for sustainability. According to a notification issued by the district administration, movement of all types of traffic from both the Bank More end and Gaya Bridge end would remain suspended from September 30 till October 4 morning during which repair works would be done. During this period, all traffic will be diverted to different routes of city. The administration has already diverted movement of heavy vehicles from an alternate route since September 3. Advocate-cum-social activist RP Choudhary who made several petitions for taking up repairs both with district administration and road construction department expressed satisfaction over decision.

## CII to hold maiden East Summit virtually

Brings together six countries  
PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

The first ever East India Summit 2021 is scheduled from September 28 till October 7. This is going to be a digital venture and will bring together a wide audience and participants from across the world. With the ferocity of the second Covid wave ebbing, alongside an increase in the pace of vaccination, the Indian economy seems to put the worst behind as leading indicators seems to suggest and set to consolidate the gains further as the country enters the festive quarter. The objective both for Government and the industry remains to achieve double digit growth. The CII theme for 2021-22 is ‘Building India for a New World: Competitiveness, Growth, Sustainability, Technology’, - which would essentially aim towards bringing the entire ecosystem work in partnership. CII in the

eastern region will be assimilating the national theme and dovetail it to focus on key growth areas that are critical for the growth in the region. Keeping this in mind, CII would be focusing on integrating the growth potential of the 5 States comprising Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal and channelize the strengths of the region towards “Building Eastern India” through integrating the 5 “I”s - Image, Innovation, Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusiveness. In the build up to the East India Summit, CII looked at the overall development of Eastern India, and focused on the North Eastern Region, as a major growth area for the nation. There has been an enormous traction and interest from the States of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura. To bring a Global focus in the East CII will work on building a new image — an image that would place it as a location for growth, industry connect, investment, ease-of-doing-business and connec-



tivity. We are looking to position the region by tackling the key parameters of creating awareness; centre/state relations and set in motion the business cycle for creating a strong ecosystem as the hub of future entrepreneurs. The brand building process would be undertaken through a stronger and effective media management through channels. The EAST INDIA SUM-

MIT is a major step towards this. The Summit will help in positioning the east and north east as the potential destination for investments and doing business in infrastructure. The EAST INDIA SUMMIT Creating a Sustainable Infrastructure Roadmap for East & North East India — Linking Global Investments with Special focus: Port, Railways, Aviation & Future

Mobility will focus on the opportunities available and the solutions that are on offer for enhancing cooperation in the critical areas like civil aviation including the development of cargo and MRO facilities; ports infrastructure development; railway linkages; future mobility and bring about a collaborative capacity for the federal economy of the East and the North Eastern States to blossom

Important countries such as Australia, France, Japan and the UK have agreed to be Country Partners for the initiative. Multilateral agencies like ADB, JAICA, AIIB, World Bank, USAID and various chambers of commerce and trade are also invited to be present at the Summit to understand the scope of infrastructure within the states in the East and the North East.

## Police clueless in Gopal Singh murder case

PNS ■ GARHWA

Police are yet to crack the murder of a 45-year-old quack Gopal Singh in front of his residence on Friday. “There is no breakthrough yet. We raided the house of the accused but found nothing,” SDPO Ranka Sudarshan Kumar Astique said on Sunday. Responding to this reporter’s queries, Astique said the Police are finding out the perpetrator’s hideout and they will be arrested soon. A land dispute is the main reason behind the murder of Gopal Singh, Astique added. Gopal was murdered in the broad day light near his house on Friday by his nephews at Harhe village under Ramkanda Police station because he was harvesting sesame crop on the disputed land.

ASTIQUE SAID THE POLICE ARE FINDING OUT THE PERPETRATOR’S HIDEOUT AND THEY WILL BE ARRESTED SOON. On the complaint of deceased’s son, police registered murder case against his nephews Sudama Singh, Shobnath Singh, Satyanand Singh, Jhaman Singh and his son Shivsagar Singh, all resident of Harhe. There was a land dispute going on for 20 years between the deceased and accused regarding 20 acres of land. According to sources, accused Shobhnath Singh is a popular figure and has been the Mukhiya candidate in the last panchayat elections. During this, he had got himself abducted by hatching a political conspiracy, so that the panchayat elections could be influenced.

## BSL felicitates ‘Best Employees of the Month’

RAHUL SHARMA ■ BOKARO

A programme was organised by the Personnel Department at the Human Resource Development Center with the aim of conferring the “Best Employees of the Month” award to the selected personnel for their exemplary performance and exceptional contribution in the field of performance during the month of June and July. ED (Material Management) VK Pandey, ED (Works) Atanu Bhowmik, ED (Personnel & Administration) Sameer Swarup, CGM Ic (Finance & Accounts) Suresh Rangani, Heads of Departments and Other senior officers and personnel selected for the award and their family members were present. All the Executive Directors and senior officers congratulated the employees who received the award and honored each employee with cash prizes and



certificates. The awardees include Sr. Operator/Operative (CO & BPP) Pankaj Kumar, Operator/Technician (Blast Furnace) Upendra Kumar, Sr. Operator/Operative (SMS-1) Utkarsh Reshab, Operative (HSM) Niyojan Prasad Choudhary, OCT (CRM-3) Rajesh Kumar, Operator/Technician (Electronics & Telecom) Sachin Kumar, OCT (I&A) Mukesh Kumar Pandey, Operator/Technician (Finance

& Accounts) Jitendra Kumar Singh, Sr. Operator/Operational (RMHP) Bharat Mahto, Tech/Fitter/Water Man (Blast Furnace) Amedkar Kumar, Sr. Operator/Operative (SMS-2 & CCS) Bhavendra Singh, OCT(HSM) Manoj Tudu, OCT(CRM-3) Manoj Kumar, Sr. Operator/Operative (General Maintenance-Maintenance) Arvind Kumar, Tech/Dispatcher Assistant (Traffic) Arvind Kumar Mahato, and Operator/Operative (C&IT) Sudhanshu Shekhar Jha.

Sharing information COC BSL M K Dhan said that with the aim of encouraging and felicitating steel workers for their excellent work done in the direction of improvement and innovation in methodologies, efforts to improve profitability, cost control, use of new technology, safety, automation and digitization etc. This scheme has been implemented under which every month such personnel are selected for the “BSL Best Employee of the Month” award.



Party workers of Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC), Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and RJD participate in a torch light procession on the eve of ‘Bharat Band’ to protest against the three farm laws by Centre, in Ranchi on Sunday

Vinay Murmu | Pioneer



# DEPLOYMENT OF SECURITY FORCES IN STATE

## SOREN ASKS SHAH TO ‘WRITE-OFF’ ₹10K CR BILL

Points out at abrupt discontinuation of schemes by Centre in some districts

**PNS ■ RANCHI**

Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Sunday requested the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to waive off an alleged debt of ₹10,000 crore on Jharkhand to be paid in exchange of the deployment of central security forces in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts of the tribal State.

Addressing a meeting of the chief ministers of LWE-hit states chaired by home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, Soren said that the demand for money in exchange of providing security forces to the states was “unbecoming” of the Centre as the states and the

Centre were unitedly fighting against the LWE menace.

“Following the ideology of cooperative federalism, the states and the Centre should jointly work against left wing extremism,” said Soren. “I have been informed that the Ministry of Home Affairs has raised a bill of ₹10,000 crore for providing Central security forces to Jharkhand. I would request the centre to write-off this bill and refrain from raising such bills in future as well,” he added.

Talking about the various schemes run by the Centre to combat LWE violence in the state, Soren said that while these schemes benefited the states in their fight against extremism, the abrupt discontinuation of such schemes proved to be a stumbling block in the state’s progress in eradication of left wing extremism.

“I do not know on what parameters the government



Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Union Minister Arjun Munda participate in a high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Chief Ministers of ten Naxal-hit States, in New Delhi on Sunday

decides to discontinue such schemes in some districts. But I would like to inform you all that a drop in LWE incidents does not necessarily mean the end of extremism in any particular area,” the CM said.

While Soren raised his objection to some of the decisions taken by the Centre, he also lauded the joint efforts of the central forces and Jharkhand police in curbing left wing extremism in the state.

Hardcore LWE rebels, Soren said, were restricted to four areas in the state – Parasnath Pahad, Budha Pahad, Saraikela-Khunti-Chaibasa tri-junction and some bordering areas of Jharkhand

and Bihar. He attributed this success to the intensive operations run by the central and State police forces.

“I am confident that if we continue our ongoing operations effectively, then we will succeed

in wiping out LWE rebels from their hideouts too,” he said.

Sharing State-specific LWE data with the home ministry, Soren highlighted that the number of LWE incidents in Jharkhand has dropped significantly from 196 in the year 2016 to 126 in 2020. The number of civil casualties reported in LWE incidents also dropped to 61 in 2016 to 28 in 2020, he added.

At least 715 LWE insurgents, including one special area committee member, one regional committee member and 12 zonal commanders, were arrested by the police and security forces in Jharkhand from 2016 to 2020, the Jharkhand CM said, appreciating the efforts of security forces. As many as 18 rebels were also neutralised during this period, he added.

The Chief Minister also sought the support of the Chhattisgarh Government in

conducting combing operations at one of the largest hideouts of the CPI (Maoist) in Jharkhand, Budha Pahad. Since a major portion of Budha Pahad fell in Chhattisgarh’s territory, the two States should make joint efforts in running anti-insurgency operations there, he said.

In a bid to cut the revenue sources of the LWE rebels, the Jharkhand Government has been running intensive operations for destruction of opium, which is said to be one of the major sources of revenue for the rebels, the CM said, adding that properties of rebel leaders worth several crores have also been seized in the State.

Soren opined that bringing in development in the LWE-hit areas was as important as bringing an end to extremism, for which the Government should focus on improving education and connectivity in the far-flung areas of the State.

## Around 50% voting on day 1 of FJCCI election

**PNS ■ RANCHI**

Voting for Jharkhand’s biggest trade body; Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FJCCI) started on Sunday. Voting will continue for the next two days till September 28.

During the three days of exercise starting Sunday around 3,480 members will elect 21 candidates out of 35 in the fray.

The first day of voting passed off peacefully with no untoward incident reported.

On the first day, the voting was for serial number 1 to 1400, however, out of total registered voters around fifty per exercised their franchise on the first day.

According to FJCCI, election committee chairman Lalit Kedia on the first day of election 789 voters whose serial number was from 1 to 1,400 voted.



FJCCI members arrive at the polling station to cast their vote for the FJCCI election at Chamber Bhawan in Ranchi on Sunday

to take their token number from the first floor, while voting was at the third, fourth and fifth floor of chamber bhawan.

The election is for choosing 21 members, these elected 21 candidates who form the executive panel, will thereafter choose seven office-bearers from themselves who would run the Chamber for next one year.

The office-bearers consist of the president, two vice presidents, one general secretary, two joint secretaries and a treasurer. They will choose the

successor of Praveen Jain Chhabra who is the present president of the Chamber.

Last year the election could not take place due to Covid 19 pandemic and a group of office bearers, nominated by the trading community, is at the helm of affairs at present.

Hectic backroom management was going on by the stakeholders namely Dheeraj Taneja, Dr Abhishek Ramadim, Kishore Mantri and others who are mobilising support.

As the election is held amidst pandemic, the FJCCI

had made some changes such as unlike previous years when voting was done on a single day. This time the voting will be held in three days.

The other changes, which have been introduced in the Chamber’s election this time is that candidates will not be allowed to campaign within 100 metre radius from the voting centre on the day of voting. No candidates will be allowed to put up banners and posters near the voting centre. The results will be declared on September 28.

## BAU, APEDA JOIN HANDS

### To make J’khand hub of export quality agri products

**MRITUNJAY KUMAR ■ RANCHI**

In a move to develop Jharkhand as a one of the best agricultural produce centres of the Country, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA) and agricultural think tank of the State Birs Agriculture University (BAU) on Sunday jointly organised a seminar on ‘Capacity Building Programme For Farmers’ under ‘Vanijya Utsav’ which is going on across the Country.

A huge number of farmers along with buyers were present to build Jharkhand as agricultural produce exporting hub during the brainstorming session. Various Scientists from BAU and officials from the government organisations like APEDA, Government of Jharkhand, Central Warehousing Corporation of India Limited were present during the brainstorming programme.

Speaking as Chief Guest, BAU Vice Chancellor, Onkar Nath Singh said that there is a huge potential for export of agricultural products from Jharkhand and neighbouring states. “By promoting the export of agricultural products, the income of the farmers will increase,” he added.

“Export can be promoted by identifying vegetables, fruits,



VC Birs Agriculture University (BAU) Onkar Nath Singh addresses farmers during ‘Vanijya Utsav’ programme at BAU in Ranchi on Sunday

honey and tasar products from the State. In this direction, the Agricultural University is ready to provide technical and human resource support. A transparent strategy of proper planning and management will have to be developed with the cooperation of State Government Departments, Agricultural Universities and agricultural stakeholders in the direction of export of agricultural products. To make farmers aware of the subject of export of agricultural products, expansion of the Farmers Producer Committee (FPC) and Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) through APEDA in the State is required,” said Singh.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, APEDA Regional Director, Sandeep

Saha said that the Government of India has nominated APEDA to promote the export of agricultural products at the state level, which is being taken forward with the participation of nodal agencies and Farmer Producer Organizations nominated by the States.

“This programme is being organized all over the Country on this day with the aim of providing fair prices to the farmers for agricultural products, evaluation of agricultural cost and promoting agricultural exports. About 80 Farmer Producer Organizations are trying in this direction in Ranchi and Hazaribagh districts of the State,” he added.

Special Secretary and Consultant Agriculture, Government of Jharkhand, Pradeep Hazari said that the

agriculture system of Jharkhand State is progressing with the help of FPOs, the State Government, Agricultural Universities, NABARD, SEAC, CWC and NGOs with the help of time. “The production of Basmati rice, wheat, maize, pulses, green vegetables and fruits is continuously increasing in the State. The State Government is also trying to make the farmers of the State self-reliant by promoting agricultural exports,” he added.

Experts in the program included Good Agriculture Practice in Dr. BK Jha of BAU, Dr. Pramod Rai, value addition and processing of agricultural products, District Horticulture Officer, Vikas Kumar gave their views on the agriculture marketing system and export prospects in the State.

## Lessons in tribal languages for primary school students from next year

### JEPC prepares new model

**PNS ■ RANCHI**

The School Education and Literacy Department has identified more than 5600 Government-run primary schools for introducing a new model of imparting lessons to students of Class 1 to Class 5 in tribal languages the next academic session onwards, officials said on Saturday.

Only those schools where a sizable number of students used tribal languages as their first language have been earmarked for this project, which is aimed at strengthening the foundation of such students, officials from the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC) said.

State coordinator for quality education, Abhinav Kumar said that Jharkhand has already introduced textbooks in tribal languages for such students and the new model of education will ensure effective utilization of these books. Once the students understand the basics in the language they were more comfortable with, the medium of education will gradually be changed to either Hindi or English, he added.

“The new model of educating a select group of students in tribal languages will help develop the interest of students in studies and make them understand their subjects better,” said Kumar. “We have books in Santhali, Mundari, Ho and Kuduk,” he added.



As per records with the education department, there are about 40,000 government schools in Jharkhand and more than 5 lakh students are enrolled in these schools.

While most of these schools impart lessons in Hindi, students in some tribal-dominated parts of the state were found to be more comfortable communicating in tribal languages. As per the 2011 Census, the tribal community formed at least 26.3 per cent of Jharkhand’s total population of 3.29 crore.

School dropout rate was also high in some of the tribal dominated areas of the state and lack of interest in studies due to poor understanding of subjects could be one of the reasons for students dropping out of school after primary

education, officials said.

Under the new model of education, the tribal language most commonly used in a particular area will be used as the medium of education in schools that fall under that area, officials said. For instance, Santhali language is commonly used in the Santhal Pargana region of Jharkhand, while Mundari is commonly spoken in Kolhan, which includes West Singhbhum and East Singhbhum districts.

Class 1 students, an official from JEPC said, would be taught the entire syllabi in the local language so that they understand the subjects. However, in class 2, only 60% of the syllabi would be covered in the local language and remaining 40% in English or Hindi, she added.

## Deori village draws Modi’s praise in ‘Mann Ki Baat’

### PM Modi mentions about village which is known at Aloe Vera village

**PNS ■ RANCHI**

Deori, a non-descript village 15 km from State Capital, was again in news today, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned about the village in his monthly ‘Mann Ki Baat’. The village which is known as aloe vera village has now started making its mark at the national international map.

Modi in his ‘Mann Ki Baat’ programme on Sunday, made a special mention about the village, how villagers led by village

head Manju Kachhap after getting training from Birs Agriculture University (BAU) have gone for aloe vera cultivation thereby increasing their income through cultivation of medicinal plants, and also making the society healthy. It is not for the first time that a village from Jharkhand has found place in PM’s ‘Mann Ki Baat’, earlier he had talked about Ara Keram (Ormanjhi block) village in Ranchi where villagers have taken a noble initiative in water conservation.

Modi appreciating the effort of villagers said that Manju Kachhap has converted the village into Aloe Vera village. After taking training from Birs



Agricultural University located in Ranchi, she started the cultivation of aloe vera in her village. She has a team of 40 women with her. All of them are cultivating aloe vera in several acres of land.

The PM added due to cultivation of medicinal plants, the villagers’ income had not decreased even during the Corona period, as several companies making sanitizers have

contacted them directly. These women have really set an example.

Modi who returned from US today after participating at the UN meet in his Mann Ki Baat aired at All India Radio said that he came to know about the village after one Satish Jee informed him about the village through letter.

Deori village which is around 15 km from Ranchi is a small village with a vast chunk of population engaged in agriculture. After coming in contact with the team of Birs Agriculture University, Manju Kachhap started cultivating Aloe Vera on her own land in the village. Slowly she earned

the trust of fellow villagers who too started cultivating this medicinal plant. Now in this village, pharmaceutical companies, traders are constantly contacting for aloe vera.

Kachhap said that in 2018 she contacted the team of scientists of BAU (Faculty of Forestry). Getting training from university, she took the initiative of aloe vera cultivation in her village. After seven days of training, he started cultivating aloe vera on his own 25 decimal land. Around 40 people from the village have received training from BAU. Now there are many families who have started showing interest by understanding the benefits of aloe vera cultivation.

## MLA urges people to follow PM’s ‘Mann Ki Baat’

**PNS ■ BOKARO**

Bokaro MLA Biranchi Narayan listened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Mann Ki Baat programme with public and workers in BJP Chas Nagar North Booth No. 396 of Bhojpur Colony.

After the programme, the Legislator said that everyone should watch and listen to this programme of PM so that every citizen can know that what is the action plan in the general interest of public.

Narayan added, referring to Mann Ki Naat programme that while celebrating festivals, people have to remember the appeal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi about another fight with Covid-19. “To win from this, we must wear masks, follow social distancing and



adhere to various other protocols of Covid-19,” he said.

During the programme, BJP District General Secretary Sanjay Tyagi, Panna Lal Kandu,

Leela Devi, Ritu Rani Singh, Nutan Srivastava, Harekrishna, Manraj Singh, Pappu Chaurasia and others were present.

## INBRIEF

**KARMYOGA FOUNDATION PLANTS 100 SAPPLINGS**

Karmayog India Foundation planted 100 saplings on Sunday in the campus of Drinking water & Sanitation Department near Kanke Dam in Ranchi. Fruit plants like mango, amla, papaya jackfruit and guava were planted. Other plants like Gulmohar, Peepal, Jakrandam, Karanj, Kadam etc were also planted during the drive. The staff of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department fully cooperated in planting the saplings and the work was completed in their guidance. The Departmental Chemist Vikash, Pump operator Ram, Electrician Sawan Oraon, Ravi, Guddu and Sawan remained present throughout the time during plantation. Dr Sangita Jha Secretary of the NGO, Sunita Lodha treasurer, Coordinator Dr Mamta Jha and P K Ambastha among others were present.



# Now, ‘airgun surrender campaign’ across India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The agency is likely to seek

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



turned 89 on Sunday.

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

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

The Congress said Singh’s unbridled commitment to

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

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

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

## Cooperatives can help tackle climate change, says report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Folk artistes from different states in their traditional cos-

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

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

However, the Centre told



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

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

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

“Caste census is in the interest of the country. It will help the country’s development,” he said.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



## MURDER OF BJP LEADER WASEEM BARI

# 2 LeT ultras killed in encounter

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

"During checking near railway station Jammu, a two-

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

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

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

## Chidambaram lambasted by KPCC chief for comments against Pala Bishop

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

K Sudhakaran, KPCC president, while addressing the media on Sunday termed Chidambaram's comments as unwanted and out of place. "We have a well organized Pradesh Congress Committee to look after the repercussions if any of the comments made by the Bishop. Outsiders need not aggravate the situation by making unwanted comments," said Sudhakaran, who is on a mission to smoothen the ruffled feathers arising out of the reported comments

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

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

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

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

## UP: Carcass of tiger found in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

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

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

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

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

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

## Didi was going to communal meeting at Rome, says BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

"They earlier stopped me



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hyderabad MP launched his poll campaign

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The main lessons learnt were in

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Yogi announces ₹25 per quintal hike in sugarcane purchase price

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

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

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

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

Elaborating about the benefits,

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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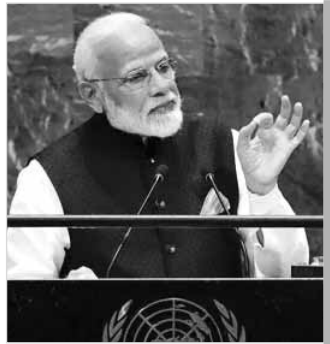
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PAPER WITH PASSION

## The influencer

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

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



Afghanistan’s vulnerability for “selfish interests”.

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

## PICTALK



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

AP

## Evergreen

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

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



the beautiful Rosie, the jealous-repentant-revengeful Marco, Raju’s friend Gafoor and even the bit players?

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

# S Lanka looks at empty plates as hunger gnaws



PRAFULL GORADIA

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

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

Two characteristics of the Singhala people I have noted are (One) they love life and enjoy themselves when the going is good. Two, they are a little suspicious of Indians, because of the Tamils. They fear that someday a situation may arise whereby India may take over Sri Lanka. Given identical lending terms by India and China, they would prefer the latter. The presumption is that the yellow giant is far away whereas India is next door along with its Tamils. The food emergency is the result of the focus on “today, tomorrow and the day after will take care of themselves”.

Truly, Sri Lanka has good guns but no bread. Right after its independence, Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) has not insisted on growing its staple food on a sufficient scale. In the early days and for years, the country concentrated on tending its tea gardens, rubber and copra trees. The foreign exchange earnings were so plentiful that there used to be a picnic of imported goods. The first painful pinch was felt in 1964 when NM Pereira was the Finance Minister and he went to Parliament to pass very stringent laws. After working a whole career, on retirement, foreigners were henceforth allowed to remit only ₹75,000 for Indians and ₹2,50,000 for others. The discrimination was severe. Had the Indian High Commissioner not been very helpful, my father-in-



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

Although I must confess, the management at New Delhi was no better. In 1990, the Indian treasury had run out of foreign exchange. In order not to fail commitments overseas, the Government sent many crates of gold to banks in London. Fortunately, in 1991, India was gifted with a decisive Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao who liberalised and globalised Indian economy. He thus brought about an economic revolution.

A small country is vulnerable both economically as well as politically. Its Government must play very cautiously. Sri Lanka liberalised before India and recovered from the cave-in of 1964 that is described above. But any significant decline in foreign exchange earnings should be taken seriously. Otherwise, trouble can surround the economy before giving the Government a chance to draw in the reins. The picture of tea industry has been rather sad

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A STRONG MESSAGE FROM THE UNGA

Sir — Calling India the mother of all democracies, PM Narendra Modi hails a clear message to the world that all those who want to tarnish India’s image by calling it an anti-secular State must watch their mouth. Also, the timely use of ‘Right to Reply’ by Indian diplomat Sneha Dubey to slam Pakistan for its attempt to propagate abhorrence against India on a global platform is equally commendable. India categorically highlighted strategic issues of geopolitics, inter-government, terrorism, UNSC Reforms, climate change and neighbours’ expansionism. India clearly messaged that it has no space for friendship with terror supporters.

Pakistan, who has blamed India many times at the UN General Assembly, must introspect where it stands against India. We do not need to remind Pakistan that it still remains in the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Thus, for peaceful inter-regional relations with India, it should cooperate rather than blaming. Also, Prime Minister Modi must bring forward the view-point of India, and showcase a glimpse of what India’s geopolitics and diplomacy will be in the years to come. India is and will be firm against all those forces who spread scorn in society.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

### SNOOPING FOR NATIONAL SECURITY?

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

## No more false claims



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

Urs regime as the Chief Minister, tiller of the land was made its owner through a legislative action. Because of this obnoxious law, many owners lost their properties.

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

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

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

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

### INEXPENSIVE OR CHEAP?

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

and Government-approved labs, or just some random pathological laboratories are looting the public. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should probe into the matter. Those offering such cheap packages should be directed to give details of their labs in the SMSes along with their website details.

Any consumer who gives samples for tests should be given a unique ID and a changeable password whereby a complete record of his/her tests may be accessed from the website of the concerned laboratory. A reputed pathological laboratory of Delhi which also covers other cities has dual pricing for medical-tests. Charges for ordinary patients are much higher than those under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS). At least such dual pricing must not be allowed in health-services including for pathological and biochemical tests.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

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

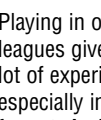


—Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman



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

—US President Joe Biden



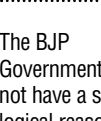
Playing in overseas leagues gives you a lot of experience, especially in the T20 format. And, of course, you get to learn a lot.

—India batter Smriti Mandhana



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

—Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali




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

—RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav



FIRST COLUMN

TIGRAY: SPARTA IN AFRICA



GWYNNE DYER

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

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

Seven million Tigrayans defeating the army of a country of 110 million people may seem odd, but Ethiopia is a patchwork quilt of different ethnic groups, languages and religions that was held together in the past by a centralised monarchy or dictatorship backed by ruthless military force. Until quite recently, it was Tigray that provided that force.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Does AUKUS cast a shadow over Quad?



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE *KHELA* (GAME) WILL START FROM BHOWANIPUR AND WILL FINISH AFTER WE WIN IN THE ENTIRE NATION.

—BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

MAMATA BANERJEE



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

—UNION MINISTER

SMRITI IRANI

# Two sides of the cooperation argument

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

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

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



BIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## GLOBE TROTTING

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

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

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

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

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

AP ■ MADISON (US)

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

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

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

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**Folio No.:** 04099117  
**Share Certificate Nos.:**198786 & 326216  
**Distinctive Nos.:**140595188- 140595462  
**574810629- 574811178**  
**No. of shares:** 278 & 550  
**Issued at New Delhi on 25th September 2021 by: Rajan Mayor**

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

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

He said the US and NATO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Turkey could buy more Russian missiles despite US warnings

AP ■ ISTANBUL

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

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

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

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

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

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Iceland elects Europe's first female-majority Parliament

AP ■ REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

Iceland has elected a female-majority parliament, a landmark for gender equality in the North Atlantic island nation, in a vote that saw centrist parties make the biggest gains.

After all votes were counted Sunday, female candidates held 33 seats in Iceland's 63-seat parliament, the Althing. The three parties in the outgoing coalition government led by Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir won a total of 37 seats in Saturday's vote, two more than in the last election, and appeared likely to continue in power.

The election makes Iceland the only country in Europe, and one of a handful in the world, with a majority of female lawmakers. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Rwanda leads the world with women making up 61% of its Chamber of Deputies, with Cuba, Nicaragua and Mexico narrowly over the 50% mark. Worldwide, the organization says just over a quarter of legislators are women.



"I cannot honestly say that there is a healthy process in Turkish-American relations," state-run Anadolu news agency quoted Erdogan as saying Thursday.

Erdogan also told Turkish media that Turkey would buy new missile defense systems if needed and that it was already developing its own.

The issue is one of several sticking points in Turkish-American relations that also include US support for Syrian Kurdish fighters who Turkey considers terrorists, and the continued US residency of a Muslim cleric accused of plotting the failed coup attempt against Erdogan's government in 2016. Erdogan is scheduled to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sept. 29.

# BLA blast Pakistan founder Jinnah's statue

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

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

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

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

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

PNS

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

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Dawn newspaper.

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

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

Security forces rushed the injured to nearby hospitals.

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

## 3 dead in Amtrak train derailment in Montana

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

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



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



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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India needs 4-5 "SBI size" banks to meet the growing needs of the economy and industry, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday.

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

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

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

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

As part of the mega consolidation exercise, Oriental

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Leading indicators suggest eco on recovery path: Bhanumurthy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

could happen in India as well.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

to mitigate the impact, he added.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date: September 27, 2021  
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE**

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

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

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING AUCTION PROCESS**

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

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

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION**

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

M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited are not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What is Basis' and 'Whatever is There is Basis'.

For further details, contact the Authorised Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.

Place: Delhi  
Date:- 27-Sep-2021

Sd/- Authorised Officer  
M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited







# RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SPOTLIGHT

Villagers in remote areas of the country stared at a healthcare disaster during the pandemic, says RAJESH NIRMAL

Around 65.5 per cent of India's total population resides in rural areas. Tucked away in some of the remotest corners of the country, these areas are often characterised by poor development infrastructure. Unavailability of and inaccessibility to health-care services is the most crucial gap. In terms of accessing health-care benefits, there are certain barriers faced by the rural population, especially women. In current Covid times, these barriers have multiplied, making the lives of the rural populations even more challenging.

During the different phases of lockdown, people who can access smartphones, the internet, and correct information, could reach out to doctors for online consultation. On the other hand, more than half of the rural population continued to rely upon the medicines they identify only by their colour, mostly available at the local medical stores. "Almost everyone in our village depends on these locally available medicines. We have a habit of curing sickness without visiting any doctor. As the nearest government hospital is eight to 10 km away from our village, no one has time and other resources to be spent on hospital visits," shared 34-year-old Laalti Devi from Rampur Babuan village, Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh.

Laalti, whose husband migrates to the city in search of work, informed that in his absence, she looks after the family. "In such a scenario, if anyone from my house gets sick, we get medicine from the medical store and follow the instructions given by the pharmacist," she said. Visiting private hospitals is not an option for the rural poor who find it difficult to make ends meet.

During both the first and second wave, the majority of district hospitals were converted to Covid facilities, further limiting the access of villagers in



case of emergencies. According to Laalti, during the horrific waves of the pandemic, people feared even thinking about visiting the hospitals. They are still afraid that they will get infected with Covid if they will visit hospitals. They are also frightened that they may be forced to get vaccinated if they will visit the government health-care facilities.

Sharing her experience regarding obtaining medical treatment during the

pandemic, Laalti informed, "Last year, I had developed certain health complications. With my husband not around, I had no one to seek advice from. The fear of Covid was such that I decided to wait. After the lockdown was lifted and my husband managed to return, we went to the hospital for treatment. The infection, however, had spread because of the delay in treatment."

47-year-old Prabha Devi, another local resident of the village, had to

undergo uterus removal surgery. As the hospitals were full of Covid patients, she could not utilise the services of government hospitals. "I wanted my aunt to undergo surgery in the district hospital, but I was not capable of that kind of hustle. Due to Covid, people with other health complications were not being treated properly. Doctors were overwhelmed with the Covid cases," shared Sandeep, a relative of Prabha Devi.

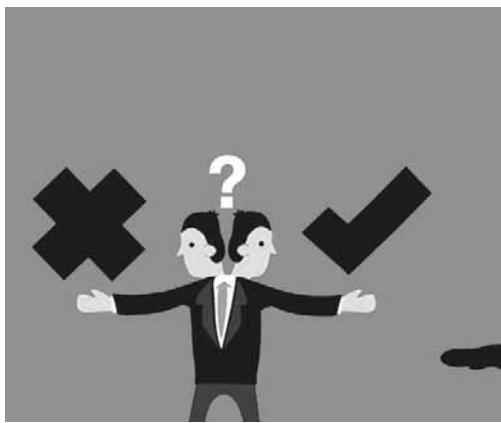
"Taking all the factors into consideration, my family had decided that even if they had to take a loan or sell our fields, my treatment will be done at a private hospital because they could not put my life at stake," rued Prabha Devi.

Not every woman is lucky to have access to financial resources to get their illness treated. They keep suffering in silence. One of the reasons that prevent rural women from receiving institutionalised health-care is the unavailability of hospitals in their villages. This year, the Finance Minister has, however, allocated ₹ 64,185 crores towards strengthening health services in rural India. Besides, ₹ 35,000 crores have been set aside to tackle the pandemic, which is planned to be spent on primary, secondary, and tertiary health-care. Overall, there has been a 137 per cent increase in the national budget as compared to last year. It is, however, not only the infrastructure that needs to be strengthened.

The issue of health-literacy among the rural populations, especially women, also needs to be addressed as it impacts their ability to apprehend health information provided by frontline workers like ASHA. Due to poor health literacy, women feel reluctant to seek health-care as they fear communicating with healthcare providers. Additionally, low health literacy impacts the implementation of government initiatives.

Drawing upon the experiences of the villagers, especially women, it is quite clear that a strong health-care network must be established in rural areas. Using the budget allocated by the union government, the local administration should devise a special program where the doctors and medicines should be accessible to villagers, and a strong healthcare work-force should help address the health illiteracy gap in these rural areas.

—Charkha Features



## Moral paradigm

The development of morality can shape and save future generations, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

Lately, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC), and also other similar institutions, which are working for development have also veered round to the point that the notion of development would be faulty unless our focus is on the people because it is the people for whom all developmental efforts must be served.

However, looking from all the aspects, the plans, programmes, and parameters of development that are charted by various UN agencies and other similar institutions; it seems that they aim only or mainly at the economic development and physical and mental wellbeing of the people and, therefore, their major thrust now is the provision of basic necessities, such as water and food, employment, literacy, health-care, pollution-free environment, and so forth, to the developing or backward areas. Thus, even in this new paradigm, the development of proper attitudes and outlooks of the human individual is missing or has not been given the attention it deserves. Therefore, there seems to be some lack of realisation that, although all the aforementioned kinds of development are necessary, these are not enough to bring real and durable security and peace. If people have parochial, communal, selfish tendencies that give them a narrow sense of self-identity, and a sectional loyalty, based on ethnic, racial, communal, casteist, and national background, they will let loose the divisive forces and will commit violence and destructive acts thereby bringing to nought all hard efforts made for development. Also, we all see many signs of insecurity and restlessness even in highly developed countries, some of which are known as gun-running societies.

Now, if there is reasonable security and safety there, why do the citizens of that country, in such large numbers, require guns and pistols? Again, why does a high percentage of people have to go in for treatment at the hands of psychiatrists in these nations? Why do they drink so heavily or take sleeping pills? Why is there a lot of mental tension amidst affluence? Why is there a large number of cases of divorce, rape, child abuse, domestic violence, and drug addiction? Why is there a high incidence of corruption even in high places in these highly developed countries? Aren't the developed countries, with a high percentage of literacy and, at least, with some degree of economic security, worried about the crime increase and drug traffic? Why do so many people commit suicide or murders? Does all this not show that there may still be deep restlessness in society even when there is a high degree of development and economic security? Does this not lead us to conclude that the basic requirement or the essential accompaniment to all development and progress is the development of the proper attitudes, outlook, and mindset and the moral sense of the human individual?

Therefore, it is significant to include ethical consciousness in the development paradigm. Again, when we talk of sustainable development, we generally mean that our developmental processes should not degrade the physical environment and that we should be considerate and careful in using the non-renewable resources so that we leave enough for the coming generations. But, does the present high rate of population growth, alongside the Law of Entropy, leave enough scope for such a sustainable development? Again, have we ever re-examined our various methods to stabilise or reduce the population growth? Our debates are generally centred around abortion, contraceptives, and so on, but in these cases, we hardly think of reforming the beliefs, attitudes, and evil impulses of individuals and people through value education. This is really the crux of the whole problem of development. So, if we want to achieve our dream, we need to act now by coming together and developing a spirit of cooperation, a sense of responsibility, and sharing of mutual concerns. Remember, if we fail to act now, it will impoverish our current and future generations.



Stress has entered the dictionary of a commoner and almost everyone goes through it. Our minds have been wired in a way that we are always looking for stress. It is strange and you will notice that it does not feel significant or complete if you do not feel stressed about the job at hand. These can be pseudo stresses — self-created ones.

However, we cannot discount the fact that stress does exist, it is real and tedious for many to handle. Having said that, it needs to be dealt with in a manner that completely removes its roots from our minds, but the process and time of releasing and making oneself stress-free will undoubtedly be different for different individuals.

In the fast-paced and frantic world we live in, a lot is going on, and there is only so much a mind can articulate and make sense of at a time. This can leave us stressed, exhausted, and overworked more often than we can imagine; emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually. But there are ways by which one can learn how to cope and rise above it.

Below are some quick methods that will aid your mental and spiritual healing, helping you cope with stress and reduce it — use them and notice the changes over time.

### ★Step back, take a helicopter view

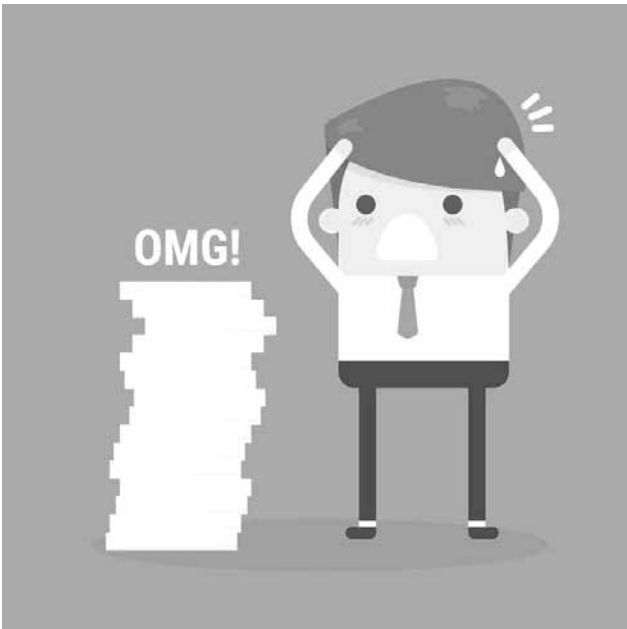
Breathe, and just step back for a while. Look at your life from a broader perspective every now and then, notice the path and what are the important milestones and aspects of your life. This will help you eliminate the unwanted stresses you feel are important or consuming you. It just might not be of any importance in the bigger picture of your life.

### ★Identify the trigger/pattern

This is an essential thing one should do regularly, be aware

## Breaking the tension

MODMONK ANSHUL suggests 10 ultimate stress-management techniques everyone can apply in life



and mindful of your mental and emotional patterns. Notice what triggers you and how you react - emotionally and mentally. How do your thoughts change? Knowing your stressors can help you manage your stress. Identifying the things that cause stress in your life can help you avoid potentially stressful situations and how you react to them when you face them in the future.

### ★Correct your sleep clock

If you have not slept well or enough, you will be irritable, and every small thing can start affecting you and make you snap. Over time, you would have collected many such small experiences that will lead to a more significant issue, resulting in stress. Try going to bed by 10:30 pm and wake up by 6 am. It might sound very school-like, but it is the best for your mental, emotional and spiritual growth. Get the right room temperature, bed, pillow and blanket. It is essential to be comfortable; your mind is processing information and helping your body heal when you sleep.

### ★Body scanning

Practise the technique of 'body scanning'. This helps you release stress instantaneously. All you need to do is close your eyes and start noticing your body from the tip of your toes to the top of your head slowly. While you do this, you will notice any energy or part of your body that feels strained or uneasy. Breathe in and out through that part as you consciously release tension from

that area. The process will hardly take three to five minutes of your time.

### ★Sea salt and apple cider vinegar bath

This is miraculous. When you stress, even though it is your mind, your muscles get tightened and sore. The cells hold on to tension more than you mind. Sea salt in a tub (or a bucket) will help you pull the negativity out and release your muscle-stress. You can add essential oils and aromas, but make sure the water is a little warm.

### ★Eat clean food

Look what you are eating on an everyday basis — you are what you eat, and it is true. The energy in your food is running through your veins and makes you feel the same frequency the food was in before you ate it. So eat good, freshly cooked *satvic* wholesome meals, you can also announce gratitude towards it before you eat it to make it even more *satvic* and good for your body and eventually for your mind, reducing stress over some time.

### ★Practise mindfulness

We have been harping over the buzzword 'meditation' for a while now. Still, it is true that being in the state of meditation calms your nerves down not just spontaneously, but also for a long time. It will help you organise thoughts, feelings, and emotions and give you the capacity to deal with them constructively. Being mindful will help you be in the present moment, without comparison, helping you live the current moment to the fullest.

### ★Take a break

If you can currently take a small vacation to some scenic place where you can connect back with nature, perfect. Take

it! If you cannot, you can still take a break for a day or two just being mentally in a happy state, not worrying and taking some time off for yourself and enjoying the moment. Take a break to reconnect with yourself.

### ★Stretch it out

Exercise and workout at least thrice a week. It is not only necessary to maintain good health but also an extremely healthy way to manage stress. Pump up the adrenaline. You will feel happier and confident as a person, too.

### ★What's your hobby?

It is noted that when you do what you love, you get so immersed in it that it does the same work that meditation does for your mind and body. When you have a hobby and consciously cultivate and nurture it in daily life, it helps you express your feelings, channel your emotions and aids you in getting clarity of thought, all resulting in mental peace and calm. It can be as simple as solving jigsaw puzzles, painting, reading, lying down, and listening to music. If you do not have any hobbies, try getting one.

Use these tips to see the change in your being, not just mentally but spiritually, too. Remember the art of dealing and coping with the stresses of life is a lifestyle change and the healing journey is not a pill that you can gulp. Remind yourself that all the anxieties you have collected might not vanish away in a snap. But, be rest assured they will fade in time and have to, as long as you take small steps towards a happy and peaceful you.

Even a little progress is progress, after all.

(The author is a psychologist, spiritual coach and the founder of SoulSchool business.)

“

Your sacred space is where you can find yourself over and over again.

—Joseph Campbell

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### URBAN MILLENNIALS SKIPPING BREAKFAST

A special study, conducted in the age group of 18-50 years, across four cities, has shown that 44 per cent of the urban millennials skipped breakfast during Covid times.

Further, 64 per cent of urban millennial respondents were driven towards a healthy immune system.

The study pointed out that increased consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, including oats, emerged as the key trend during the pandemic.

Also, 71 per cent of urban millennials leaned towards fad diets, including keto, intermittent fasting, and weekly detox plan, to maintain their weights.

Vidhi Sharma, a consultant at Euromonitor International, said, "While millennials acknowledge the importance of breakfast and believe that it should have wholesome nutrition, they often tend to skip breakfast due to their work schedules or tend to just grab a quick snack in the morning. Popular fad diets are supporting this behaviour of skipping breakfast."



### NEW STUDY ON WOOLLY-NECKED STORKS

A study carried out by ornithologists indicates the woolly-necked storks prefer irrigation canals over wetlands.

They found a large breeding population in the Jhajjar and Rohtak districts of Haryana. These districts have witnessed agriculture for over a century, with the Western Yamuna canal network established before the era of the Mughals. Storks are large birds that have attracted enormous mythological and scientific attention over centuries.

"Our work on nesting woolly-necked storks published in a paper was conducted between 2016 and 2020 where we located 298 nests of this species, the largest data set in the world for this species," lead researcher K S Gopi Sundar, co-chair of the IUCN Stork, Ibis, and Spoonbill Specialist group, said.

He added that they entirely nested on either single trees in crop fields, or on the row of agroforestry trees planted along irrigation canals.



### IIT-G FIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

To address the environmental crisis caused by the marine oil spills, the researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G), have developed a highly porous and water repellent superhydrophobic cotton composite material that can selectively absorb oil from the oil-water mixture.

The material containing metal-organic framework (MOF) has great capability for selective separation of oil from oil-water mixtures, with the separation efficiency lying between 95 per cent and 98 per cent, irrespective of the chemical composition and density of the oil.

Explaining the motive of the research, Shyam P. Biswas, an associate professor at the department of Chemistry, IIT-G, who led the team of researchers, said, "We have grown our new MOF material on the surface of medical cotton, which is environment-friendly and cost-effective. Such low-cost material will reduce the production cost of the material for large-scale industrial synthesis for real applications, compared to the currently available materials in the market."



### AIR POLLUTION LEADS TO SELF-HARM

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

Researchers from the University of Manchester in

England and Aarhus University examined that 1.4 million kids are under the age of 10 in Denmark, and those exposed to a high level of nitrogen dioxide were more likely to self-harm in adulthood than their peers

"Our findings indicate that higher levels of air pollution exposure are linked with poor mental health outcomes," a lead author and a research fellow at Manchester University, Dr Pearl Mok, said.

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



### IIT-J: NEW WAYS TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur (IIT-J) have demonstrated for the first time that plant-based microbial fuel cells (MFCs) can generate power profitably from wastewater compared to algae-based systems.

The increasing generation of large amounts of domestic wastewater has necessitated the development of newer treatment methods that are energy efficient and scalable.

The researchers at the Environmental Biotechnology lab at IIT-J led by associate professor, department of Bioscience & Bioengineering, Dr Meenu Chhabra said, "A microbial fuel cell (MFC) is a device that uses microbes to convert organic matter in wastewater directly into electrical energy." In MFCs, live microbes act on the waste organic matter to release the electrons that are extracted with an external load, thereby generating power.





# RCB post 165 against MI



Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli at the toss during match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians

**Dubai:** Glenn Maxwell finally came good with an attacking 56 after skipper Virat Kohli's second consecutive half-century, taking Royal Challengers Bangalore to a par-score of 165/6 against Mumbai Indians in the IPL here on Sunday.

Kohli, who completed 10,000 runs in T20 cricket, scored 51 off 42 balls with three fours and three sixes but it was Maxwell who justified his expensive price tag with a 37-ball blitzkrieg before

Jasprit Bumrah brought MI back in the game. Maxwell's innings had six fours and three sixes as he showed true destructive potential with switch hits, lap shots and flicks during the final overs when he launched into MI pacers Adam Milne (1/48 in 4 overs) and Bumrah (3/26 in 4 overs) with utter disdain. Such was the ferocity of Maxwell's hits that even the normally calm MI skipper Rohit Sharma looked helpless



Jasprit Bumrah of Mumbai Indians celebrates the wicket of Devdutt Padikkal of RCB

before Bumrah removed both Maxwell and AB de villiers (11) off successive deliveries which at least helped them save 20 to 25 runs in the final two overs.

At the onset, Kohli hit the very second ball of the match from Trent Boult (1/17 in 4 overs) for a six. It was an inswinger which the RCB skipper flicked and Rahul Chahar at deep mid-wicket got his palms but couldn't latch on to it. The normally dependable

Devdutt Padikkal (0) had an off-day as Bumrah bowled a beauty which pitched on length and moved away taking the outside edge into Quinton de Kock's gloves. Kohli found a confident partner in Bharat (32 off 24 balls) as they quickly added 68 runs for the second wicket. Bharath for good measure swept Rahul Chahar against the turn for two sixes while Kohli also imperiously pulled Bumrah for a six over deep mid-wicket.

**Dubai:** India captain Virat Kohli on Sunday reached a coveted milestone of 10,000-run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise) during his side Royal Challengers Bangalore's IPL match against

**Kohli goes past 10,000 runs in T20 cricket**

Mumbai Indians here. Playing in his 314 T20 match, Kohli pulled his India team-mate Jasprit Bumrah for a six to get the milestone in the fourth over after RCB were sent in to bat. Kohli, who is set to step down from RCB captaincy at the end of this season, had come into the match with 13 short of 10,000 runs.

The 32-year-old has played 298 innings before Sunday's match and has scored runs at an average of 41.61 with the help of five hundreds and 73 fifties.

## JADEJA CAMEO HELPS CSK BEAT KKR BY 2 WICKETS

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Ravindra Jadeja won a close match for Chennai Super Kings as his back-end pyrotechnics ensured a two-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in an Indian Premier League thriller here. Jadeja (22 off 8 balls) launched into pacer Prasidh Krishna, who bowled the 19th over, where the pacer lost his length completely under the Saurashtra all-rounder's onslaught with CSK reaching the target of 172 in exactly 20 overs.

Instead of bowling yorkers, Krishna bowled length balls as Jadeja hit two sixes and two boundaries to make it a cakewalk in the final over. Krishna conceded 22 runs in the penultimate over to leave CSK with four runs to get in the final over. But there was more drama in store as Sam Curran and Jadeja were snuffed out by Sunil Narine before Deepak Chahar ended the match with a single.

However, KKR skipper Eoin Morgan's captaincy left a lot to be desired as the decision to bring in Krishna in the 19th over would be debated. The win also meant that CSK remained unbeaten after the IPL resumed and once again were back at the top in the pecking order, with 16 points. In pursuit of a challenging 172, CSK were down and out at 142/6 before Jadeja took the onus on himself.

KKR had posted 171/6, as they rode on late flourish by former skipper Dinesh Karthik and Nitish Rana after the foundation was laid by Rahul Tripathi (45). CSK wasn't able to capitalise on the aggressive 74-run opening start given by Ruturaj Gaikwad (40 off 28 balls; 2 fours and 3 sixes) and South African Faf Du Plessis (43; seven fours).

KKR pegged CSK by sending both the openers back in quick succession. CSK then suffered a middle-

order collapse. Spinner Varun Chakravarthy had got KKR back by dismissing MS Dhoni.

Earlier, former skipper Dinesh Karthik's late cameo and Nitish Rana's steady long handle took Kolkata Knight Riders to 171 against CSK. Seamer Shardul Thakur (2/20 in 4 overs) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/21 in 4 overs) performed to keep KKR on leash till the 13th over (93/4).

However, the last seven overs yielded 78 runs and KKR were able to put on a more than fighting score largely due to Sam Curran (0/56 in 4overs) leaking runs at the back end. Even Josh Hazlewood (2/40 in 4 overs) got a bit of stick helping KKR's cause. The platform was laid by Rahul Tripathi (45 off 33), who hit four boundaries and one six but it was the CSK bowlers, who kept making inroads and did not allow the KKR batsmen to or settle down.

Kolkata lost opener Shubman Gill (9) in the first over after a horrible mix-up with Venkatesh Iyer. One-down Tripathi and in-form Venkatesh Iyer (18) tried to resurrect the innings but the southpaw was unable to convert his start after he nicked one to Mahendra Singh Dhoni off Thakur.

Tripathi, who fetched his first boundary, an imperious pull shot over mid-wicket, also got a 'life' after the ball on which he had nicked, was adjudged as a 'no-ball'. Off the very next one, he smashed his first maximum over deep extra cover.

Skipper Eoin Morgan (8) also fell cheaply as he holed to Du Plessis off Josh Hazlewood as KKR was in spot of bother at 70/3. Tripathi also fell in the 13th over, as he was cleaned up by left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja as KKR slipped to 89/4.

Then Andre Russell (20) took on Sam Curran in the 15th over, smacking two fours and a monstrous six, as KKR fetched 14 runs. But Shardul Thakur forced Russell to drag one back onto his stumps.

Then it was the Rana and Karthik show that took them past 170.



TEAM	PLD	NET RR	PTS
1 CSK	10	+1.069	16
2 DC	10	+0.711	16
3 RCB	9	-0.720	10
4 KKR	10	+0.322	8
5 PBKS	10	-0.271	8
6 MI	9	-0.310	8
7 RR	9	-0.319	8
8 SRH	9	-0.637	2

## After another defeat, SRH mulling bringing in Jason Roy

IAN S ■ SHARJAH

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) head coach Trevor Bayliss has said that England batsman Jason Roy could be in the playing XI in the next match against Rajasthan Royals on Monday after the team suffered its eighth defeat in IPL 2021 — this time against Punjab Kings by five runs on Saturday — to lose any hope of qualifying for the play-offs.

Australian opener David Warner was again dismissed cheaply even as

the dependable New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson too saw his woodwork being displaced by PBKS pace bowler Mohammed Shami for 1.

For long, there has been a discussion on whether Jason Roy — who replaced the injured Mitchell Marsh — should get a look-in ahead of Warner to turn the fortunes of SRH, and Bayliss said that it is something "that will be discussed in the team meeting".

"Yes. Obviously, he (Jason Roy) is our spare

overseas batter. I'm sure the management will get together and discuss to pick a team. So, I'm not going to select a team right now. We'll sleep on that and think about it and have a selection meeting on Sunday," Bayliss said.

Bayliss also said his batters were low on confidence. "Yeah, look I do not think that our batters are playing with confidence obviously. We have lost five games under 10 runs and most of them batting second. So, yeah, we made a lot of mistakes.



Massanjore Dam, Dumka



Baba Baidyanath Temple, Deoghar



Jonha Fall, Ranchi



Patratu Valley, Ranchi



Chandil Dam, Seraikela Kharsawan



Netarhat, Latehar



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