OPINION 6

THE EVER-ALARMING

GROWTH OF CHINA

WORLD 8

SCRIBE JAILED FOR WUHAN

REPORTS 'CLOSE TO DEATH'

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR

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Pakistan role in Af Wankhede out, NCB pernicious: India

'Their NSA's decision not to attend meet unfortunate²

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India prepared to hold an important international meet on Afghanistan next week, it has termed Pakistan's decision not to attend it as "unfortunate" and said its role in Afghanistan is "pernicious."

This reaction on Friday came ahead of the National Security Advisers (NSA)-level meet on November 10 here to review the situation in Afghanistan. India has reached to all the neighbouring countries, including Pakistan, to attend the meet

However, Pakistan played spoilsport by declining the invitation. Its NSA Moeed Yusuf said he will not attend the meeting as there will be no representation of the Taliban.

Taking note of Pakistan's refusal, Government sources here on Friday described "Pakistan's comments against India as an unsuccessful



next week's meeting hosted by

India reflects the widespread

about situation in Afghanistan

and their desire to consult and

coordinate with each other.

India has an important role to

extended to China and

Pakistan too, and formal

responses are awaited.

However, Pakistan has indi-

cated through the media that it will not attend," they said.

There has been an over

whelming response to India's

invitation. Central Asian coun-

tries as well as Russia and

Iran, have confirmed partici-

pation (first time that all

Central Asian countries, not

just Afghanistan's immediate

neighbours, are participating in

this format), sources said.

"Invitations have been

play in this process.

concern of regional countries

attempt to deflect attention from its pernicious role in Afghanistan".

Sources also said Pakistan's decision is unfortunate, but not surprising. "It reflects its mindset of viewing Afghanistan as its protectorate. Pakistan has not attended previous meetings of this format," officials said.

India has extended invitation to several central Asian countries, including Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, besides Russia, Iran and China. Ajit Doval (NSA) will host the conclave. It will be held in offline mode.

Addressing a Press conference in Pakistan, when asked if he planned to visit India for the talks, the Pakistan NSA said, "I will not go. A spoiler cannot play the role of peacemaker."

Meanwhile, sources said the high-level participation in

September 2018 and December 2019. The third meeting in India could not be held earlier due to the ongoing corona pandemic, they said.

Justifying its role in Afghanistan, the Pakistani NSA also said in the Press conference on Tuesday, "It may be a luxury for the Western world sitting 10,000 miles away (to not bother about Afghanistan) but we do not have any option disengage Afghanistan.

Two earlier meetings in

this format were held in Iran in

Explaining Pakistan's support for the Taliban dispensation in Kabul, the NSA said the world needs to engage with them in order to prevent a humanitarian crisis.

"This is not a matter of the

Taliban or some other Government but of the ordinary Afghan (citizens) â⊠¦ We are the biggest victim of this (instability in Afghanistan) so when we talk about stability in Afghanistan then one (reason) is that it is the right of our Afghan brothers and sisters. But secondly, it is also necessary for our national security that there is stability in Afghanistan and continuous peace is established," Yusuf

SIT to probe drug case

Inder severe flak from var-U ious quarters for its lop-sided investigations in the midsea drug bust case involving Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan leading to the grant of bail to the accused, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday replaced its Mumbai Zonal team, headed by controversial IRS officer Sameer Wankhede, with a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising officers from Operations Branch of NCB headquarters to investigate the sensational case.

Stopping short of saying that it has removed Wankhede who is facing several serious charges ranging from bribery, forging his caste certificate to join IRS to enjoying "lavish lifestyle"— from the team investigating the mid-sea drug bust case, an apparently embarrassed NCB merely said that its Director General had "constituted" an SIT comprising officers from New Delhi to "take over" as many as six cases with national and international ramifications" from its Mumbai Zonal unit.

In a brief couched statement issued in the evening, Deputy Director-General (Ops) Sanjay Kumar Singh "A Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising officers from Operations branch of Narcotics Control Bureau



Zonal Director of NCB Mumbai Sameer Wankhede poses for a photo with media persons as he arrives at NCB office, in Mumbai on Friday

NCB) has been constituted by the Director General, NCB, to take over a total of 6 cases from the NCB Mumbai Zonal Unit, which have national and international ramifications?

"In order to conduct deeper investigations to find out forward and backward linkages, no officer has been removed from their present roles and they will continue to assist the Operation Branch investigation as required until any orders issued to the con-

functions across the country as a single integrated unit," Singh The appointment of an

SIT team comes in the wake of the NCB ordering vigilance probe into the "vigilance matters" relating to the ongoing investigations in the mid-sea

drug bust case and summoning of Wankhede to its headquarters in the capital last week for a meeting with the top bosses. The two events were a fallout of the allegations made through an affidavit by "panch witness" Prabhakar Ŕ Sail, including the charge of ₹8 crore extortion attempt, in the

mid-sea drug bust case. What has embarrassed most is the manner in which is the fact that Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh's son Aryan and two other accused -Arbaaz Merchant and $Munmun\ Dhamecha-were$ granted bail by the Bombay High Court on October 28, while a special NDPS court granted bail to two accused ahead of the high court granting bail to Aryan and two and two others and it granted bail to nine others on October 30.

Low pressure to form around Nov 9: Temp to dip after couple of days

Dry weather would prevail over the districts of the State till November 9

PNS BHUBANESWAR

A low-pressure area is likely to form over southeast Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood around November 9, said the Regional Office of the IMD here on Friday. As per the IMD, light to moderate rainfall is likely to occur in south coastal Odisha next week due to the low-pressure system.

Earlier, the weather office said that dry weather would prevail over the districts of the State till November 9 while shallow to moderate fog would occur at one or two places over Nayagarh and Kalahandi districts. The IMD also forecasted that there would be no large scale changes in the night temperature during the next two days across the

However, the mercury would gradually dip by 2 to 3 degree Celsius thereafter. Kenojhar was the coldest place in the State on Thursday with the mercury plummeting to 17.4 degree C while Sambalpur recorded the highest maximum temperature of 32.3 degree C.

The IMD had earlier forecast light to moderate rain or thundershower at one or two places in Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada and Nabarangpur on November 7 morning.

Allow airspace for **Srinagar flights** for people, India asks Islamabad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has asked Pakistan through diplomatic channels to grant overflight clearance to GoFirst's Srinagar to interest of the common people. Pakistan on Tuesday did not allow the Srinagar-Shariah flight to use its airspace, forcing it to take a longer route and fly over Gujarat to reach its destination in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The duration of the Srinagar-Sharjah flight has gone up by 45 minutes, increasing from three hours and 30 minutes to four hours and 15

The airline began direct flights between Srinagar and Sharjah city in the UAE from October 23.

Top sources said that the matter has been promptly raised through the diplomatic channels in the channels in t channels in this regard.

Modi: Take kids to sites linked to freedom struggle, ancient shrines

PM unveils Adi Shankaracharya's statue in Kedarnath. inaugurates works

PNS DEHRADUN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted citizens to take their children to visit historical sites linked to India's freedom struggle and also ancient shrines to give them a sense of the nation's heritage. Modi said this after unveiling the statue of Adi Shankaracharya at the reconof Adi structed Shankaracharya Samadhi in Kedarnath apart from unveiling the foundation stones for various works and inaugurating other works totaling ₹400 crore on Friday.

Addressing a gathering after offering special prayers and unveiling various works, Modi spoke in detail about



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Kedarnath Temple in Uttarakhand on Friday

Adi Shankaracharya, his life, works and teachings.

Stating that Kedarnath offers a unique glimpse of

India, he exhorted the people to visit historical sites related to India's freedom struggle and ancient shrines along with their children so that they are also aware of the nation's spiritual and cultural heritage

BJP slams Opp States for not slashing VAT on fuel

BJP-ruled States further cut petrol price by ₹8.7/L, diesel by ₹9.52

PNS NEW DELHI

Politics over oil prices flared-up on Friday as the BJP accused Opposition-ruled States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Delhi of not reducing VAT on petrol and diesel after the Central Government announced to a cut in excise duty with slashing of local sales tax (VAT) rates of fuel.

Petrol price has been further reduced by as much as ₹8.7 per litre and diesel by ₹9.52 in the BJP-ruled States and UTs — from Ladakh to

Puducherry.
Buckling under pressure, the Union Government had on Wednesday cut excise duty on

70 articles sent for tests in Mamita murder



petrol by ₹5 per litre and that on diesel by ₹10 a litre to give reprieve to consumers battered

by record-high retail fuel prices.

Taking on the "Jeb Katron se savdhan' jibe of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who accused the Modi Government of tax extortion, the BJP asked who is today proving to be "bigger jeb katra" and condemned what it called "vulture politics" of the Congress.

Addressing a Press conference here, national spokesman

why the Congress and Opposition-ruled States are not reducing VAT on petrol and diesel to give more relief to the common men as has been done by BJP-run States .

He said in Uttar Pradesh Uttarakhand it is ₹20.46 while in Maharashtra where, he said, under "maha vasooli aagadi Government" VAT on petrol is ₹31.19 and petrol is selling at

Attacking Congress-run Ashok Gehlot Government of Rajasthan and Congress president Sonia Gandhi, the BJP leader said petrol in Rajasthan's Ganganagar is selling at ₹121 and diesel at ₹112 per liter.

Bhatia demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative of reducing oil excise duty should be carried forward by all States by lowering VAT and criticised Gehlot for "not welcoming" excise cut

by the centre and seeking fur-ther cut on it".

Sidhu takes back his resignation

But sets condition to head Punjab Cong again: 'Will resume charge only when new AG is appointed'

PNS CHANDIGARH

Over a month after triggering political storm in Punjab by quitting as the State Congress president over the key appointments in the Charanjit Singh Channi led Government, Navjot Singh Sidhu on Friday finally withdrew his resignation, while at the same time declaring that he would rejoin the office only after the appointment of the State's new Advocate-General

Days after putting up a "united" show with Channi by visiting Kedarnath and later addressing the party meeting, Sidhu questioned his own



has done in 50 days on the State's two big issues — drugs and sacrilege.

Issuing an ultimatum to the CM, Sidhu said that he will step in the matter if the drugs ort is not made public. Mincing no word while making a direct attack on his

own party's Government, Sidhu said no interest or intention was shown in opening the STF's drug reports or to secure

justice in the sacrilege cases.

Daily Covid cases decline to 170 in State, 24 children among infected

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The State on Friday witnessed a significant decline in Covid-19 positive cases as 170 persons were found infected in 20 districts and the State pool. With this, the total tally ncreased to 10,42,943.

Among the newly-infected were 24 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years.

In the last 24 hours, 55,743 samples were tested and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.30 per cent. The active cases were 3,651Notably, the State had recorded 351 cases on Thursday. Of the 170 new cases, 98 were from quarantine

and 72 local contacts Khordha district recorded the day's highest 61 cases followed by Cuttack with 19 and Kendrapada and Baleswar 11 each. The districts which

recorded below-10 cases were

Sambalpur nine, Jajpur eight,

Jagatsinghpur seven, Sundargarh five, Bhadrak four, Balangir, Mayurbhanj, Subarnapur and Ganjam three each, Bargarh two and Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati and Puri one each.

Besides, 14 cases were reported from the State pool. Three more persons suc-

cumbed to the disease, taking the total death toll to 8,350 Khordha, Mayurbhanj and Nayagarh districts reported one death each. Four patients had lost their lives on Thursday in the State.

However, another 536 patients recovered on the day taking the total recoveries to 10 Capital Bhubaneswar on the day registered 59 new cases, pushing the total tally to 1,18,980. The active cases were 2,291. So far,

1,058 persons have succumbed to the disease in the city.
On the day, 190 persons recovered, increasing the total

recoveries to 1,15, 610.

case: Bizman says he sold tyres to Govinda PNS BALANGIR

BHAWANIPATNA

The Balangir police, expediting the probe into the murder of Kalahandi schoolteacher Mamita Meher, on Friday sent 70 seized articles in connection with the case have been sent to a forensic laboratory for tests.

The articles included five strands of hair, a pair of earrings, a towel, a jar and a knife which were recovered from the car of prime accused Govinda Sahu.

Besides, Govinda's nail, hair and blood samples were

sent to the laboratory for exam-Police have sent ashes,

bones and skin samples to the laboratory to establish the identity of the body remains that were recovered from a pit at the under-construction Mahaling stadium in Kalahandi on October 19.

Other items, including an airbag, ironware, wires, a gold chain, a silver anklet, burnt



tic sheets which were dug out from the pit have also been sent for examination.

establish Mamita's identity.

Sahu bought two tyres from him which were used to burn The DNA samples of Mamita's body on October 8 Mamita's father Suchandra Meher and mother Tulasi were His statement has been also sent to the laboratory for recorded by police under Section 161 of CrPC. DNA profiling which will be Agarwal said Govinda had told him over telephone for the used to match with the samples taken from the body remains to

two tyres and his driver Radehshyam Chandi came to In another development in the case, Mahaling-based his shop and took the tyres.

Delhi HC fines CRPF DG ₹20K for non-compliance of June 9 order

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has slapped a fine of ₹20,000 on CRPF Director General Kuldiep Singh in response to a contempt petition.

The court order came fol-

lowing non-compliance of its order passed on June 9 this year on a writ petition filed by a group serving CRPF officers aggrieved by the discriminatory provisions of promotion for medical officers and combatant officers

Through its order in June, the court had directed the CRPF chief to address the grievances of the combatant officers within 12 weeks. The petitioners were

aggrieved with the anomalies in the promotional entitle-ment of the medical cadre officers of the paramilitary who were getting a faster promotion than the combatant offi-

Hit by truck,

Banaharpali

PNS JHARSUGUDA

couple dies: Irate

locals block road

When people across the country were immersed in Diwali celebrations, tragic

struck a couple from Banaharpali area in Jharsuguda

Rama Krusha Saa and wife Sarita Saa from Sapali village under Banaharpali police limits

met with an accident. The cou-

ple was returning from

Katarbaga School where their

the couple had gone to the

school to meet their daughter

and give her sweets. While

returning home riding a motor-

cycle, the couple was hit by a

truck near Sahasabaga Chhak on

NH-49 at round 3 pm. The couple died on the spot.

The road mishap flared up

resentment among the locals

who detained the truck driver

and called the vehicle owner to

the spot. Subsequently, the locals blocked the NH while keeping

the bodies on the road. They demanded compensation for the family of the deceased.

On the occasion of Diwali,

daughter has been studying.

diesel by ₹3

hief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday announced reduction of VAT of Rs 3 on petrol and diesel. The announcement came a day after the Central Government reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10, respectively.

The new rates of petrol and

diesel would come into effect from Friday midnight.

In view of this reduction, the loss of VAT revenue to the State exchequer would be to the tune of Rs 1,400 crore per

This is in addition to loss in VAT collection @ Rs 1.6per litre on petrol and Rs 2.8 per litre on diesel, total amounting to Rs 700 crore, which the State is likely to incur in view of Excise Duty reduction by the

State exchequer on account of reduction in VAT is approximately Rs 2,000 crore. However, it would provide a major relief to the people of

With the decision, petrol and diesel prices in the State are likely to be one of the lowest in the country.

A day after the Central Government reduced Excise Duty on petrol and diesel, price of the fuels dipped in the State.Petrol was being sold at Rs 104.73 per litre in Bhubaneswar; similarly, the rate was Rs 105.51 in Cuttack.

Petrol prices had crossed Rs 110-mark in all districts of State, a couple of days ago.

The Centre on Wednesday announced slashing of Excise Duty cut on both petrol and diesel, thus bringing down

City's Sudhanya tops nat'l test for kids organised by Train Me Academy

Sudhanya Panigrahi (6), a student of UKG of Loyola School, Bhubaneswar, was announced as winner of Extempore competition, organised by the Train Me Academy (TMA), Ghaziabad, UP, a leading training and image consulting organisation promoted by a group of seasoned HR professionals

The event was graced by a panel of judges including Gunjan Ashish Goel (Educator) and Suchana Pattnaik (media professional and entrepreneur). Anjali Dutta, HR expert, international corporate trainer,

Around 23 grams of brown sugar worth over Rs one lakh was seized from one

Police arrested Nayak and

Sources said Nayak was

were striking a deal with him

appointed in the PWD office

after death of his father under

the rehabilitation scheme. But

while appointing him, the con-

cerned authority was well-

aware of his criminal

allotted to him is just 20 feet

from that of the PWD

Executive Engineer. Most of

the PWD Colony inhabitants knew about Nayak's involve-

ment in drugs peddling but were not revealing it out of fear

due to his previously-known criminal behaviour.

are permanent resident of

The Vigilance police on Friday caught Kailash Chandra Khuntia, ASI of Police

of the Naikanidihi police sta-

tion in Bhadrak district, red-

handed while accepting a bribe

the bribe from the complaint to

show him favour in a case reg-

istered with the police station.

taneous searches were con-

ducted on the rented residen-

tial house and office room of

Khuntia. Later, he was arrest-

ed forwarded to court.

Khuntia had demanded

Following the trap, simul-

Baleswar district.

Police ASI

held taking

bribe

of Rs 2,000.

PNS CUTTACK

Nayak's family members

Incidentally, the quarter

as drugs customers.

antecedents.

celebrity coach and motiva-tional Speaker, who is the founder and director of the

Train Me Academy, presided.
The other performers including Dhyan Saran, seven years old from Cochin (1st Runner Up) and Amogh Saxena (an extraordinary participant and brand ambassador child category of Train Me Academy) five years old from UP (2nd Runner Up) performed very well.

The other kids who were from various countries including Singapore, Japan and USA were judged at different time zones. Sudhanya is daughter of Bibhudatta Panigrahi and

Cong to Brown sugar seized from PWD staff: 4 arrested hearings PNS DHENKANAL

Kamal Lochan Nayak (23) working as a peon in the PWD The Congress on Friday announced that it would office here from his three others while the latter

chayat bodies.

The spirit of the Panchayati Raj system is nowhere to be seen in the State; only Government officials are running the system, Das said. Quit unfortunately, Gram Sabhas are not being organised to take decision, he added.

hold public in GPs

chayats to expose corruption and failure in implementation of the Government schemes.

The party also decided to release manifestos at district levels highlighting the problems at panchayats.

Besides, the party would petition to the State Election Commissioner regarding the irregularities and deliberate attempt of the ruling BJD in reserving seats for the threetier panchayat bodies. In a Press conference, party spokesperson Sudarsan Das alleged that the BID is responsible for the decreasing power and functioning of the pan-



Aditya Kumar Mohapatra (right) was administered oath of office as a Judge of the Orissa High Court by High Court Chief Justice Muralidhar (left) at conference hall of the

On November 3, President Ram Nath Kovind had Mohapatra as a judge of the

High Court.

With the fresh appointment, the number of judges in the Orissa High Court rose to 18.Last month, three new judges had been appointed to the High Court. The newlyappointed judges Mruganka ekhar Sahoo, Justice Radha Krishna Pattanaik and Justice Sashikanta Mishra had taken

Excitement in air as bears visit temple to savour Bhog



PNS BHUBANESWAR

 A^{t} a time when reports on human-animal conflicts have been coming in from dif-ferent places of Odisha in recent past, the bonding between devotees and bears at the Adishakti Chhuaari Mata Temple in Nuapada district has amused many.

Two bears have been visiting the Adishakti Chhuaari Mata Temple located in Salihaa reserve forest under Nuapada Sadar block twice daily, morning and evening, since the Navartari. Moreover, the two animals are eating coconut and banana offered to the

With a lot of excitement, devotees have been giving coconuts and bananas to the two bears on the premises of the temple.

A devotee said, "It seems the two bears have been coming to the Chhuaari Mata Temple to offer obeisance to the Goddess every day. After taking the bhog offered to the Goddess, the two bears feel blessed and return to forest."

Mohapatra sworn | Atal Tinkering Lab unveiled at BJEM II

The Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium School (BJEM II), Satyabhamapur, inaugurated its Atal Tinkering Lab with great fanfare on Monday.

Monday.

Minister of Science and Technology, Public Enterprises, Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disability Government Ashok Chandra Panda joined the event as chief guest.

Jayadev MLA Arabindha Dhali joined as guest of honour along with the other guests, including chairman of BJ Education Society Raghunath Mishra, vice-chairman Aswin Tiwari, manager Pratap Kumar Jena and principal Khyanika Das. The valedictory ceremony was inaugurated by the chief guest, Brahmananda Double Guinness world record

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Aday after the Centre Areduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs

10, respectively, the youth and student wings of ruling BJD decided to put off their agita-tion over fuel price hike for 10

Informing this, Biju Yuva

Janata Dal president Byomkesh

Ray said the party hopes that the Centre would slash prices

of LPG gas as well during these 10 days.

no option but to cut the excise

duty on petrol and diesel fol-

lowing mass protest by BJD. We

have put off the agitation for

next 10 days. But we will inten-

sify our stir and take to the

streets again, if the Centre

does not pay heed to our

demand of reduction in LPG

Centre, Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik has announced reduc-

tion in VAT of Rs 3 on petrol

He further said, "After the

prices," he cautioned.

"The Ćentre was left with



holder and Principal Scientist Institute of Water Management , Bhubaneswar Dr Pothula Srinivasa. Dr Aneeya Kumar Samantara, Post Doctorate fellow School of Chemical Sciences, National Institute of Science Education

joined as guest of honour.

This is a welcome

step though it

would result in a

total loss of

₹2,000 crore

to the State

exchequer.

and diesel with effect from

November 5. This is a wel-

coming step though it would

result in a total loss of Rs 2,000

crore to the State exchequer.

With the reduction, petrol and

diesel prices in the State are

likely to be one of the lowest in

Government reduced excise

duty on fuel, price of both

petrol and diesel dipped in Odisha on Thursday. While

petrol was sold at Rs 104.73 per

A day after the Central

the country.

of days ago.

BJD demands LPG price

slash: Gives Centre

10-day ultimatum

and Research Programme

ed with community training

and learning which was carried out by trainers from TECHB. Students from 10 different schools participated in the learning programme which led to project development and competitive Raseswari Nayak was felicitated as ATL Brand Ambassador of BJEMS-II.

₹27L brown sugar seized

in city: 2 held

PNS BHUBANESWAR

 $T^{
m he\ Commissionerate\ Police}_{(CP)\ on\ Thursday\ seized}$ brown sugar worth around Rs 27 lakh from Hi-tech Square under the Mancheswar police station here and arrested two persons in this connection.

A joint team of the Quick sections of the NDPS Act.

August 2021. While launching the drive, the CP had issued a dedicated

itre in the capital city of Bhubaneswar, the rate was Rs 105.51 in Cuttack. Petrol price had crossed Rs 110-mark in all districts of the State, a couple

Vehicular traffic on the NH-49 was disrupted due to the road blockade and senior police officials held talks to pacify them.

Action team and Mancheswar police conducted a raid and during search found 273 of the contraband in the possession of the two drug peddlers. The duo was arrested and forwarded to court under the relevant

So far, the Commissionerate police have seized 2.038 kg brown sugar and arrested 38 persons ever since its special anti-drug enforcement drive 'White Spider' was launched in

WhatsApp num-ber-7077798111 to receive information on illegal drug trading and peddlers from the

R&B Head Clerk held

taking bribe PNS CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Friday Caught Pranaya Kumar Pattnaik, Head Clerk in the office of Superintending Engineer, Roads and Buildings (R&B) Division-IV, Bhubaneswar, red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 3,500. Pattnaik had demanded the money from the complainant to clear his bill.

Following the trap, simultaneous searches were carried out on Pattnaik's residential Government quarter and office room. Later, he was arrested and forwarded to court.

Swarnima Vijay Mashal welcomed at Puri

The Swarnima Vijay Mashal, the candle march of Indian Army in memory of the 50 years of 1971 Indo-Pak War victory, was welcomed at the Blue Flag beach of Puri on Thursday morning by the district administration.

DFO P Ramswamy, ADM Subash Nathsharma and Sub-Collector Bahabtaran Sahu received the candle on behalf of the district administration. The candle march by the Indian Army initiated from October 20 in Odisha will continue till Sunday. In a ceremony at the Blue Flag breach, the district

felicitated some war veterans including retired Col Manas Ranjan Mohanty, Col PS Sekhayat, Col Debadutta Swain, Col EP Illiyas and Lt Col Rishi Wahi for their bravery and dedication to the

In memory of the Indo-



Bangladesh, art and oratory competitions among school students were held and top performers given awards.

Cultural programmes including Odisĥi and Gotipua dances, a sand sculpture resembling the Golden Jubilee year of war victory by Sudarshan Patnaik were held on the beach. Later, the candle march proceeded to the SCS Autonomous College, where it was accorded a warm welcome by the students and teachers.

Kharasrota: Fisher's half-eaten body found **PNS** ■ JAJPUR

Croc attack in

A half-eaten body of a 25-year-old fisherman by a saltwater crocodile was found in the Kharasrota river near Kaharaganda village under the Bari police station of Jajpur district on Friday. The deceased was identified as Somyaranjan Mallick whose mangled body was replete with crocodile bites.

Somyaranjan was dragged by a crocodile while he was fishing in the river on Wednesday afternoon near his village. He is the latest victim in a growing number of crocodile attacks in the riverside villages. The forest guards and fire brigade personnel, besides locals, launched a search on Wednesday evening after he was dragged away by a croco-dile in the presence of his younger brother Soubhagya Ranjan Mallick. Some locals found his mangled remains near the river bank on Friday. The crocodile had consumed major portions of the body.

'Bhitarkanika, a vast tract of forest and saltwater swamp, is the home of around 1,768 salt water crocodiles as per this year's reptile census. In the recent months, many crocodiles strayed from the park areas and entered in the rivers, creeks and other water bodies far away from the park," said Range officer of Jajpur Road Jyoti Ranjan Mohapatra.

However, he informed that the Forest Department would provide a compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the family members of the crocodile victim after due inquiry. "We do not think crocodiles are a risk to public safety if people keep out of the waters, but if people do enter the waters their safety cannot be guaranteed," he cautioned.

Violence on Hindus in B'desh a conspiracy: RSS to recruit cadres ahead of centenary year 2025



PNS BHUBANESWAR

 R^{SS} Pranta Sanghachalak, Odisha Purba, Samir Kumar Mohanty here said that an attempt has been made to create communal terror in Bangladesh on the basis of fake news as a part of planned attempt to decimate the Hindu society there.

He informed that a resolution has been passed in the Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal meeting of RSS held in Dharward, Karnataka on the October 28, 29 and 30 condemning attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh The resolution expressed anguish over the continuing brutal violence on the Hindu minorities there and the conspiracy of Jihadi organisations for the widespread Islamization of Bangladesh. It has been said in the resolution that the real purpose of repeated violence targeting Hindu society is the complete extermination of Hindus from Bangladesh, as a result of which the population of Hindus is decreasing continuously since the time of Partition. The population of Hindus in East Bengal during Partition was about 28% and it has now come down to about 8%, he told.

The Sangha expressed concern over the deep silence of the so-called Human rights watchdog organisations and UN organisations and called on the international community to come forward to condemn the violence and protect and defend Hindus, Buddhists and other minority communities of Bangladesh and also raise the

voice for their safety. Mohanty said after the relaxation of restrictions imposed in view of the Covid-19, the Sangh resumed its direct work upto 54,382 daily Sakhas running across the country including 1,302 Sakhas in Odisha. Sangha is also running several activities related to the development of villages (Grama Vikash), organic farming (Jaivik Krishi), bringing awareness about the essence of the family system (Parivar Prabodhan), preservation of Cows (Go-Surakshya), enviprotection ronment (Paryavaran Suraksha), and Social harmony (Samajik Samarasata).

The year 2025 is going to be the centenary year of Sangh. Hence there is a plan to engage full-time workers during this period for at least 2 years to take eargh work to all mandals. take sangh work to all mandals, he informed.

Swarnim Vijay Varsh: War veteran's kin felicitated

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The victory flame of the Swarnim Vijay Varsh was received at the 120 Infantry Battalion here on Friday by Battalion Honorary Lieutenant Mihr Kumar Mal.

The family of Lt Colphammed Serfuddin Mohammed Serfuddin Ahmed, who participated in the 1971 liberation of Bangladesh, was felicitated. Those felicitated were his daughter Flight Lieutenant Razia Ahmed, son-in-law Nasir Ahmed, son Major Shiraz Ahmed and daughter-in-law Urusa Mushkbar Ahmed.



Col Serfuddin Ahmed in 1965, during the conflict with Pakistan, had also played an active role in the victory of India. He was conferred with the meritorious Territorial Army Award in 1975 for his exemplary service towards the nation.

Mahila Cong announces State office-bearers: Also 33 dist presidents

PNS BHUBNAESWAR

 $T^{\text{he Odisha Pradesh Mahila}}_{\text{Congress}} \text{ on Friday announced a list of its new}$ State office-bearers and district presidents following the approval of All India Mahila Congress president Neeta D'Souza and OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik.

State president Bandita Parida said 70 frontline women leaders have been accommodated as State officebearers besides 22 members to the executive body and 15 senior leaders as special invi-

While Nirmala Mallick was appointed as treasurer, Moti Kaibarta, Rupadipta Mohapatra, Ayesa Banu, Kusum Pradhan, Swarupa Tripathy, Kanklata Mallick, Choudhurya Snehalata Ray, Charulata Sahu, Nirupama Das and Sabiat Dhir were selected as vice-presidents. Sriya Sambedana, Sabita

Apat, Reena Swain, MA Paraween, Muni Thappa, Sarojini Bamnka, Chaitali Patnaik, Biswakalyani Kar, Arnapurna Sahu, L Manika Prava and Deeptirani Pradhan were appointed as general sec-

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Baleswar DHH geriatric ward yet to function

Strong resentment is brewing among the senior citizens of the district as the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) doesn't have a geriatric ward for their treatment of old-age

Interestingly, although a separate building was constructed with an expenditure of Rs 67 lakh in the year 2017-18 for a geriatric ward, yet it is being used for CT scanning and MRI etc. Reports said after completion of the building in the DHH campus, it was told that those machines and equipment were required to be installed in the DHH as they

for getting a recognition for the hospital as a medical college. And before the visit of MCI team, two wards with 6 beds each were created in the medicine ward, earmarking them as geriatric wards. And it was told then that the senior citizens will be treated for several old age diseases, including neurological disorder, Parkinson, Alzheimer and dementia etc.

Further, for their treatment, a nodal officer in the rank of an Assistant Professor was appointed. Yet after the inspection of the MCI, the wards were abolished. Currently, neither the DHH has a special geriatric ward nor the building which was constructed for the purpose is used as

According to reports, the citizens which is around 10 per cent of total population. The senior citizens alleged that on account of non-availability of special wards, they were not getting proper focused treatment for which serious patients were meeting untimely deaths.

The authorities here, besides admitting that the DHH lacks a geriatric ward, said that the arrangements couldn't be made in place as things were yet to be streamlined. The hurdles came as the medical college hospital is also operative in the DHH campus. However, efforts are on to put a special ward which will be made available to them, they

Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR) in its 11th Foundation Day which was Launched by the non-prof-Atmashakti Trust and its

The 'Mo Chatashali' educa-tion initiative was awarded

for helping underprivileged

children in Odisha by the

Shramajeebee Mancha, the initiative has helped over 1 lakh children from across 17 districts of Odisha during the pandemic time which is mostly represented by tribals, Dalits and other marginalised com-

Educating 1L kids: OSCPCR

awards 'Mo Chatashali'

"Children from the rural areas in the State, during the lockdown, were mostly deprived of the State Government's online education platforms due to lack of digital access and for most of them, Chatashali was the only effort by parents, volunteer the forefront of education, executive trustee

source of learning for them. This recognition, I believe, is an outcome of a collective teachers and villagers which will encourage our team and Sangathan members to reach out to even more children in distress and help bring them to Atmashakti Trust, Ruchi Kashyap said after receiving the award.

Nuapada remote village youths form allies Mahila Shramajeebee

The youths of Kuimunda, a remote village in Patdarha plateau of Nuapada district, held a meeting on Tuesday in their village school premises to discuss about problems to address those in a comprehensive way through their active participation in development schemes and programmes.

District youth coordinator of Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), Nuapada and mediapersons of the district had been invited on the occasion. The youths displayed courage to share their problems and suggestions.

"We are located in a remote area; thus are neglected. No body listens to our grievances; we are therefore thankful to the NYK and the media for joining

us in this meeting," they said. NYK coordinator Asis Thakur and coordinator of District Youth Resource Center, Biswajit Panigrahi alongwith

Qalara, India's largest cross-border B2B platform for artisanal goods, backed by

Reliance, has set on motion a

plethora of initiatives to take

Indian artisanal products to

new global consumers across

Qalara platform, the tradition-

al Sabai grass placemats from

Mayurbhanj and Raghurajpur

Pattachitra serve-ware find

market in Hong Kong and

London, respectively. Several

other artisanal products from

Odisha including stone and

wood carved artefacts, hand

painted Ganjifa cards, palm leaf

engravings, Pattachitra and

tribal paintings etc. have also

the world.



the youth volunteers Iswar Majhi, Tikeswar and Anjali Sabar helped the youths to know in detail about registering a village youth club and how to get that affiliated to the NYK.

The youths named the club as Gandhiji Jubak Sangh.

The youths elected Ghanshyam Majhi as the president of the club, while Makaran Paharia was elected vice-president. The elders welcomed the formation of a youth organisation and said that youths' unity was essential in their area. District Press Club president Ajit Kumar Panda

and Tapan Dash were the key

speakers on the occasion.

Sabai grass mats now available in Hong Kong markets

across home decor, home tex-

tiles, fashion accessories, toys,

kitchen and dining, gifting,

outdoor, furniture and more,

from far and wide across India,

11 held for illegal fishing in G'matha: Equipment, catch and trawler seized

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPA-

n a mid-sea surveillance, the AGahirmatha Marine Sanctuary personnel on the wee hours of Thursday inter-Gahirmatha cepted a fishing vessel and arrested 11 fishermen for unauthorisedly catching fish at the 'No Fishing Zone,' informed Ranger Debashis Bhoi.

The seized fishing vessel "Maa Subhalaxmi" Dhamara-based. The Forest personnel also seized about 46 quintals of marine fish, 14 trawler nets, three VHF sets, one fish finder and other fishing equipment from the arrestees' possessions, informed

for buyers across the globe.

and Handicrafts Fair, IGHF,

now underway since October

28, Qalara is showcasing its

cross border B2B platform and

its immense potential as well as

benefits for Indian artisans

and artisanal goods dealers to

reach global consumers across

al Indian artisanal products

find markets across the globe,

including handloom-woven

kitchen towels from

Chinnamalai to Los Angeles,

Sabai grass placemats from

Mayurbhanj to Hongkong;

Raghrajpur's hand painted

Pattachitra serve-ware shipped

to stores in London; bone and

horn inlay art and craft from

Qalara has enabled sever-

At the Asia's largest Gifts

Ranger Bhoi.
The arrestees belonging to Talachua Marine police station under Kendrapada district were later produced before the JMFC Court of Rajnagar where they were remanded in jail custody after their bail pleas were rejected by court, informed the Ranger. This is the first seizure since the Forest and Marine Fishery Department imposed a ban on trawler fishing at the 'No Fishing Zone' in the ongoing turtle nesting sea

The fishing ban is in force from November 1 to May 31 next to protect the endangered turtles that come en masse for laying eggs at Gahirmatha.

in South Africa; Manipur's

Longpi all the way to Canadian

stores, Channapatna toys all the

way to Singapore, Saharanpur's

hand carved wooden decor to

Mauritius, Agra's handmade

soapstone burners shipped to

stores in the UK and Jaipur's

traditional jewellery shipped to

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micro, small and large manu-

facturers, artisans, producers,

and exporters on its platform,

Qalara has thousands of regis-

tered buyers from 50+ coun-

tries and has delivered B2B

shipments to 40+ countries in

https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1

With over 600 registered

USA and more.

less than a year.

On Diwali night kill youth in Jharsuguda

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

29-year-old youth, Jatish ASahu, died in a drunken brawl with his friends in Jharsuguda district on the Diwali night on Thursday.

Badmal police station in the alcohol at night. The situation turned violent when his friends, in a fit of rage, assaulted him brutally with liquor bot-tles and bricks before fleeing the spot.

Later, some local found Jatish in critical condition and called up police, who rushed to the spot and shifted Jatish to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) here. As his condition worsened, doctors referred him to the VIMSAR at Burla. However, he succumbed to the injuries before he could be shifted. Meanwhile, family of the deceased and drivers' association alleged that Jatish died due to medical negli-

"Jatish was conscious while being admitted to the DHH. But he later succumbed to gence and delay in arrival of ambulance for his shifting to Burla hospital. He is survived by wife and two kids. The administration should provide compensation for kin of the deceased," demanded the asso-

Meanwhile, police have begun a probe into the incident and detained three accused for interrogation.

drunken friends

Jatish, a truck driver of Kumbhari village under the district, had an altercation with his friends after consuming

To crack IIT, JEE, NEET exams S'garh admin introduces free coaching PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

Now, the meritorious students of the mining affected blocks of Sundargarh district will have the opportuni-ty to try their luck for all-India level entrance exams. The district administration will help them by offering free coaching for the same.

For the purpose, three centres have been established recently at Rourkela, Sundargarh and Rajgangpur to Rourkela, provide coaching facility to the students. A total of 400 candidates have been enrolled in the first batch of the specialised coaching.

The classes are being provided for national level entrance exams like engineering, medical, law, architecture, etc. Meritorious students from tribal, poor and underprivileged families can now fulfil their dream for a career through the programme. Eligible students from six

mining affected blocks like Koira, Kutra, Lahunipara, Kuarmunda, Rajgangpur and Hemgir have been selected on the basis of their marks. Classes are provided to standard 10 and 12 appearing and pass-out students, to crack entrances like IIT, JEE, NEET, NATA and CLAT etc.

The programme is financially supported by the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Sundargarh. Along with coaching, the students are provided accommodation, uniform and study materials free of cost.
"I am from the mining

affected Rajgangpur block. I aim to become an engineer. But there was no such facility to prepare for the same at Rajgangpur. I have registered myself at the coaching centre started by the district administration. Now I can study and fulfil my dream of cracking student taking coaching at the Sundargarh centre.

David Kerketta from Kuarmunda block dreams to become a doctor. "I want to study medical after cracking NEET. But I can't afford coaching for the same. I got the opportunity to study at the Rourkela coaching centre launched by the Government. I have got free study materials, uniform and other accessories," affirmed David.

Students from across the country flock Kota in Rajasthan for coaching with an aim to crack medical and engineering seats. Looking into the need, the Sundargarh district administration has partnered with experienced coaching organisations to conduct classes for the students across the district. As a response, the aspirants and their family members have shown keen interest in the programme. Modern classrooms, well

equipped library along with 24/7 internet are the key features at the centres. Further, the candidates are provided with books and reading materials. Biometric attendance is introduced to ensure students' participation in the programme. Under the

Development Programmes, apart from IIT JEE coaching, the district administration has introduced a number of programmes for the students and

To enhance the employability of educated youths, short term coaching initiative Sudakshya' is operational in the district. The candidates are being trained to crack exams and interviews in the sectors like banking and insurance, Armed Forces,

Odisha Police and Staff

Diwali: No crackers burst in B'pur slums as kids, youths aware of pollution effect

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA ■

Slum children and youths in Brahmapur celebrated a peaceful and noise -free Diwali on Thursday. They decorated their

houses with Rangoli, lights and candles and also used different fire crackers.

It may be mentioned here of the pollution created by fire crackers and so, refrained from using it. Besides, they were also made aware of the psychological effects of crackers' noise on

sections. Notably, the Odisha Government this year too had banned the sale and use of firecrackers across the State during the festive season to check air pollution which can aggra-

children and the vulnerable

vate health conditions of Covid-19patients. The teen club members

decorated the streets with colourful Rangolis and in the evening they lit up diyas and candles along with their parents, friends and people at the community. In Ainabandha Street and Dhobabandha huda Street of the city, the teen club members organised several

Teen club members such as Liza Das, Santi Das and Puja Das actively participated the event while from YSD (Youth for Social Development) Madhusmita Patra , Anita Patra ,Mahima Pradhan and Smurti Kumari Sahu joined the celebration and facilitated teen club members in their endeavour to celebrate a noise and pollution free safe Diwali.

Eco-friendly check dams can mitigate climate change effects



s much as 69% of land in A India falls under the category of dry lands, whose soil moisture needs to be increased by constructing water harvesting structures like check dams. Check dams not only improve the soil moisture and irrigation but also reduce the velocity of the flow thereby minimising the soil erosion in the channel and allow the sediment to set-

Check dams are considered as the most effective soil and water conservation structures throughout the world. Among all civil engineering structures, check dams are probably the most emblematic of torrent control works. Now due to the emerging threat of climate change, people, Governments, NGOs and other pro-mankind organisations and institutions have increasingly realised the envisioned advantages of check dams such as creation of irrigation potential, improvement of soil moisture, environmental improvement, agricultural production and mitigation of

hydraulic structures play as a useful medium for arresting soil erosion and flood in addition to creation of irrigation command ensuring food secu-

featured on Qalara platform,

expanding their reach to glob-

al consumers across the world.

75,000+ artisanal products

The platform showcases

Check dams structures have one primary usage- storing water for future use such as irrigation and other domestic needs. When water is stored however small may be the structure, the ground water (aquifer) gets recharged through percolation and seepage, creating microclimates which have significant role in the general climate and thus help mitigating the harmful effects of climate change.

Surface evaporation constantly takes place from the stored water in the stream. Evaporation causes cooling. Further due to construction of check dams, vegetation cover increases thereby increasing the evapotranspiration, which is the most important component of the hydrological cycle. Evapotranspiration plays an important role in the context of water-energy balance and irrigation as well as agricultural

It is claimed that an area having a good vegetation cover receives more rainfall than an area having no vegetation cover. Due to moist condition of the soil around the check dam and due to irrigated agriculture, the vegetation is better

flood. In both the theoretical around it and helps in moderand practical realms, these ating the climate. The healthy green foliage of the dense vegetation transpires huge amount of moisture into the atmosphere which evaporates and causes cooling which helps in mitigating climate changes.

> Poverty and unemployment are two major factors affecting climate change. A large part of the labour force is engaged in agriculture. The check dams, which provide employment and are helpful in combating the labour migration, thus contribute in mitigating the bad effects of climate change. Each of these "Structures" is an ecosystem by itself. It has its own biological diversity. Conservation of biodiversity ultimately may help in mitigating the harmful effects of climate changes in some way or, the other.

The roles played by the check dams cannot be overemphasized. Such resources have to be created, maintained and conserved through wise use.

In Odisha, the need for conservation of water in a stream has been seriously thought of, as a result of which construction of check dams has started. After success of the check dam construction, the Government of Odisha launched scheme Mukhyamantri Adibandha Tiari Yojana" and around 15,000 check dams have been constructed. In these check dams, the stored water has

been used for creation of additional irrigation potential, recharging the ground water table and to cater to the needs of the crops during dry spell which is rampant in Odisha. Construction of check dams has emerged as a boon for the farmers of the State. Minor

Irrigation Organisation of Water Resources Department, Odisha has taken a lead role in construction of check dams. At the beginning the farmers, being frustrated due to dry spell of rain, drought, flood etc., were reluctant for such structures. So, steps have been taken to infuse AIDCAS (Attention, Interest, Desire, Conviction, Action and Satisfaction) concept. First, a meeting among the villagers was conducted, wherein the villagers were apprised of the advantages of check dam construction. when the need of sustainable development process was instilled in the mind of the villagers, interest among the beneficiaries sprouted which later on converted into desire to have a Check Dam in the stream flow-

ing near the village or near the

cultivable land of the villagers.

Then the beneficiaries had

shown their conviction to have

and own a check dam struc-

ture. Upon such assurance, the

engineers geared up the action

and completed the construc-

tion of the Check Dam. Then

the most important aspect

"Satisfaction" had to be

achieved through mutual cooperation, conjunctive use of stored water and proper marketing strategy for the sale of their agro products. This innovative concept not only helped in constructing a huge number of check fams but also helped in improving the socioeconomic status of the stakeholders. Due to availability of water in the stream, labour migration has been lessened in the area and unemployment rate has reduced drastically.

CASE STUDY

There is a village called as "LADA" in Phiringia Block in Kandhamal district of Odisha. Kandhamal district comprises of one of the highest percentages of tribal population in the country. LADA village has only 16 (Sixteen) families who have marginal land holding and their main sources of livelihood is agriculture. But due to climate change

effects, during last five years, they encountered two cyclones and continuous dry spell of rain, due to which their income decreased beyond their imagination. This has forced the young male members to migrate to faraway places for augmenting the financial need of the family. With despair and frustration many villagers of LADA village have stopped cultivation. At this critical juncture, the field functionaries of

Minor Irrigation reached the

village and started collecting

the hydrological data of the nalla adjoining the village. Since the villagers were unaware of the advantages of the proposed scheme, they stopped the investigation and as they have suffered a lot in the past, opposed to any kind of intervention. Thus, it was decided to have the AIDCAS approach. Surprisingly the approach being a pro people approach, the villagers agreed to construct the check dam. A check dam of length 16m and height 0.6m was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 10,11,000. The cultivable lands of 16 families have been irrigated in addition to other domestic uses. Further, as intimated by the villagers after construction of the check dam the water level in the nearby dug wells increased by 2.5m to 4m on an average which has solved their drinking water needs. Now the cultivators are

raising paddy crops during kharif and onion, cabbage, potato, eggplant, tomato, chilly, mustard, brinjal, beans, pumpkin, bitter gourd, ladies' finger, flat been etc. are raised during Rabi season. They have started making profit and their kids are now going to school. Some of them also started additional income from the self-help group. Now they feel that they are in the mainstream of the society and hope ful of accomplishing their

INBRIEF

1 DIES. 1 HURT WHILE MAKING CRACKERS IN K'PADA **Kendrapada:** A person died and another sustained injuries following an explosion while they were preparing firecrackers at their illegal cracker manufacturing unit on the occasion of Diwali on Thursday evening. The mishap occurred at Juidaspur village under the Kendrapada Sadar police station. The deceased was identified as Krushna Chandra Nayak and the injured as Chinmaya Baral.

2 KILLED IN TRUCK-BIKE COLLISION IN PALLAHARA

Pallahara: Two youths were killed on the spot when their motorcycle had a collision with a truck at the Pallahara bypass on NH-149 under the Pallahara police station on Wednesday evening. The deceased were Janmeija Pradhan (26) of Kamparkella village and Akash Pradhan (25) of Nizigarh town. While they were coming towards Pallahara, the truck dashed their bike from the front and sped away from the spot.

BALLIGUDA HEAD CLERK HELD TAKING BRIBE

Cuttack: The Vigilance police on Wednesday caught Basanta Kumar Pani, Head Clerk in the office of PA, ITDA at Balliguda in Kandhamal district, red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs.6, 000. Pani had demanded the money from the complainant for release of security deposit amount in his favour. Following the trap, simultaneous searches were carried out at Pani's residential house and office room at Balliguda in the district. Later, the accused was arrested and forwarded to court.

DAS GETS HARIHAR RAM SEVARATNA AWARD Banpur: The Swami Harihar Ram Sevaratna Award 2021 was conferred

on renowed social worker Achyuta Das, Director, Agragami, for his contributions for innovative education, food security and development of tribals on the 19th death anniversary of Nehru Seva Sangh founder Swami Harihar Ram here on Tuesday by chief guest former Member, Board of Revenue Dr Aurobinda Behera. Sangh prasident Suresh Chandra Panda, Lokpal of Insurance, presided over the function. Chief speaker Pradeep Kumar Das and former Minister Dr Debendranath Mansingh also addressed the gathering.

JK PAPER GETS CSR TEAM AWARD

Rayagada: The JK Paper bagged the CSR Team Award 2021at the Odisha CSR Meet 2021 in Bhubaneswar recently organised by the Odisha CSR Forum. State Assembly Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro presented the award for the company's contribution in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Community Development Initiatives. Milan Lenka and HH Khamari received the award.

Govt scraps basic duty on crude palm, soyabean oil



The Government has cut the basic duty on Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean Oil and Crude Sunflower Oil from 2.5 percent to nil in a bid to rein in the continuous rise in the cooking oil prices since past one year. The Agri-cess on these Oils has been brought down from 20 percent to 7.5 percent for Crude Palm Oil and 5 percent for Crude Soyabean Oil and Crude

Sunflower Oil. Following the above reduction, the total duty is 7.5% for Crude Palm Oil and 5% for Crude Soyabean Oil and Sunflower Oil. According to Food Secretary Sudhansu Pandey, edible oil price in the major retail mar-kets across the country have declined by ₹5-20 per kg after various measures.

For instance, retail palm oil price in Delhi declined by ₹5 to ₹133/kg on November 3 from ₹139/kg, while it fell by ₹18 to ₹122/kg from ₹140/kg in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, while by ₹7 to ₹125/kg in

Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu from ₹132/kg in the said period, Pandey said. Even retail price of groundnut oil declined by -10/kg, while soyabean oil by ₹5-11/kg, and sunflower oil by ₹5-20/kg between October 31 and November 3, he added. Before reduction, the agri-

cultural infrastructure cess on all forms of crude edible oils was 20 percent. Post reduction, the effective duty on crude palm oil will be 8.25 percent, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil will be 5.5 percent each. Major edible Oils players including Adani Willmar and Ruchi industries have cut wholesale prices by ₹4-7 Per litre. Prices have been reduced to give relief to consumers during festival season. The other players that have reduced the wholesale prices of edible oils are Gemini Edibles & Fats India, Hyderabad, Modi Naturals, Delhi, Gokul Refoils and Solvent, Vijay Solvex, Gokul Agro Resources and

N.K Proteins. To control prices of edible oils, the Government has rationalised import duties on palm dence.

abean oil, futures trading in mustard oil on NCDEX has been suspended and stock limits have been imposed.

Domestic edible oil prices

have soared in tandem with the global prices which shot up due to reduced availability of edible oils for food use following diversion for biofuel in Indonesia, Brazil and other countries. The Government has taken a number of steps to ensure consumers get relief from high prices. We are happy to share the trend from 167 centres. Edible oil prices have declined quite significantly in the range of ₹5 and 20 per kg in the major retail markets across the country, Pandey said during a press briefing.

Despite international commodity prices being high, interventions have been taken by Central Government along with State Governments' pro active involvement have led to reduction in prices of edible oils. While the global edible oil prices have stabilised at higher levels in the last ten days, the reduction in import duty and other steps like imposition of stock limits to curb hoarding has helped cool down domestic prices, the secretary said.
Edible prices are higher

than year ago period but from October onwards, there was a declining trend. The Government is taking steps to improve the production of secondary edible oils, especially rice bran oil to reduce the import depen-

Won't extend free ration under PMGKAY after Nov 30: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The e Government has no proposal to extend distribution of free ration via the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Y o j a n a (PMGKAY)

November 30 in view of recovery in the economy and good disposal of foodgrains in the open market.

Since the economy is also reviving and our OMSS (open market sale scheme) disposal of foodgrains has also been exceptionally good this year. So, there is no proposal to extend PMGKAY, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said on Friday during a press briefing while responding to

Initially, the additional free benefit under the PMGKAY was provided for a period of three months (April-June 2020) to ameliorate distress caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, with the crisis continuing, the programme extended another five months (July-November 2020). After the onset of the second wave of the pandemic, the PMGKAY was once again rolled out for a period of two months (May-June 2021) and was further

extended for a period of five months (July-November

The PMGKAY was announced in March 2020 to ameliorate distress caused by Covid-19. Initially, the scheme was launched for the April-June 2020 period but later extended till November 30.

The Government has been selling rice and wheat to bulk consumers under the open market sale scheme (OMSS) policy to improve availability in the domestic market and check prices.

Under the PMGKAY, the Government supplies free ration to 80 crore ration card holders identified under the National Food Security Act

The free ration is given over and above the subsidised grains distributed to them via ration shops.

The Government has been giving rice and wheat to bulk consumers under the OMSS policy to improve availability in the domestic market and check prices.

Navy chiefs from 12 nations to discuss maritime issues

With the growing strategic importance of the Indian Ocean Region(IOR) and China's increased maritime presence there, navy chiefs of 12 countries of the region will review the entire gamut of maritime issues in a three-day conclave in Goa starting November 7.

It is the third edition of the Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa. The GMC is Indian Navy's Outreach Initiative providing a multinational platform to harness the collective wisdom of practitioners of maritime security and the academia towards garnering outcome oriented maritime thought, navy officials said here on Friday.

The GMC-21 will build upon the working level deliberations of the Goa Maritime Symposium-21 held earlier in May this year, as the Sherpa event for the Conclave.

The theme for this year's edition of GMC is Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies, which has been derived keeping in mind that necessity of 'winning everyday peace' in the maritime domain.

At the GMC-21, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh will host Chiefs of Navies from 12 Indian Ocean littorals, including Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius,



Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Defence Foreign Secretary and Secretary will deliver the Conclave Address and Keynote Address of the GMC-21.

With the IOR becoming the focus of the 21st century strategic landscape, the GMĆ aims to bring together regional stakeholders and deliberate on the collaborative implementation strategies in dealing with contemporary maritime security challenges.
The Conclave participants

would benefit from interactions with eminent speakers and subject matter experts over three sessions focusing on -Leveraging Collective Maritime Competencies to Counter Emerging Non-Traditional Threats, Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Maritime Law Enforcement and Imperatives for Mitigating Emerging Non Traditional Threats in areas beyond National Jurisdiction in

There would also be extensive deliberations in the domains of Hydrography and Maritime Information Sharing. The participating Chiefs would also dwell upon the significance of interoperability to effectively deal with emerging and future maritime security challenges in the Indian Ocean Region.

As part of the Conclave, visitors would also be afforded an opportunity to witness India's indigenous shipbuilding industry at the 'Make in India Exhibition' and the capabilities of Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) for Submarines at the Marmugao Port Trust,

Tripura police books 4 SC lawyers under UAPA



Tripura police have regis-Latered a case against four Supreme Court lawyers under the stringent UAPA and various sections of IPC for allegedly promoting communal disharmony with their social media posts about the recent violence targeting Muslims, a senior official said on Friday. The lawyers have also been served notices asking them to appear before police by November 10 for questioning, Superintendent of Police of West Tripura district Manik

A group of Supreme Court lawyers visited Tripura on Tuesday last and after their visit we noticed that several posts media expressing their dis-content regarding the recent communal incidents. Police has registered a case and wants to know if the posts were made by them or were fake posts, Das

The case was registered at West Agartala police station on November 3 under various sections of IPC including 153 (a) and (b) related to promoting disharmony, enmity or feelings of hatred between different groups on the grounds of religion, race etc, 469 (forgery), 504 (intentional insult, provocation), 120 (b) (criminal conspiracy), besides section 13 of the Únlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

If convicted under the tough UAPA, an offender may face imprisonment up to seven

The lawyers belong to different organisations including Lawyers for Democracy, National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO) and the PUCL.

Notices were served to Estesham Hashmi, lawyer of the Supreme Court of India, advocate Amit Srivastav, Coodinator of Lawyers for Democracy, NCHRO national secretary Ansar Indori and PUCL member Mukesh Kumar.

They were alleged to have claimed that the Muslim community was targeted, including women, and a mosque was vandalised.

The team demanded appropriate police action against the attackers, those who spread rumours and officials who remained inactive during attacks that occurred in the aftermath of violence against Hindus in Bangladesh during Durga Puja.

A mosque was vandalised and two shops were set ablaze at Chamtilla during the October 26 Vishva Hindu Parishad rally which was called to protest against the communal violence in neighbouring Bangladesh.

Three houses and a few shops, reportedly owned by Muslims, were also ransacked in nearby Rowa Bazar, North Tripura Superintendent of Police Bhanupada Chakraborty had said. The state government had on October 29 alleged that a group with vested interest from outside had hatched a conspiracy against the administration to create unrest in Tripura and malign its image by uploading fake photographs of a burning mosque on social

media after the October 26 inci-In a video message on Wednesday, DIG (Southern Range) G K Rao said, Some mischievous incidents are happening in the state since the last few days. There was some minor loss of property and some incidents of disturbance occurred. Tripura Police registered 11 cases including 4 in North Tripura, 3 in West Tripura, one in Gomati district and three cases in Sepahijala In the notice to district. the lawyers, police asked them to delete the social media posts and appear before the investi-

gators by November 10.

The Trinamool Congress, which is seeking to make a political foray into the state, approached the NHRC with a sample interpretable to be seeking to make a political foray into the state, approached the NHRC with a sample interpretable to the seeking to complaint about the incidents of violence. The human rights panel has

forwarded its complaint to Secretary Kumar Alok and Director General of Police V S Yadav, and asked them to submit an action taken report within four weeks.

In its complaint to the NHRC on October 28, the TMC alleged that despite reports of violence against people from the religious minority community, the state government didn't take proper action.

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb recently announced compensation for losses incurred by the victims of the violence.

BJP nat'l executive meets on Sunday as party gears up for 5 State polls

The robust revival

PTI ■ AGARTALA

The recent bypoll results, I which were a setback for the BJP in some states, have added new dimension to the party's national executive meeting on Sunday as its top brass is likely to cast a fresh look at its affairs in places like West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan while deliberating its strategy for the upcoming assembly polls. All important issues will be

up for deliberations, a BJP leader said of the meeting, adding the party is also likely to laud the central Government 19 pandemic, including the vaccination drive, and hail Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his development initiatives and successful foreign visits.

The robust revival in economic activities with the record GST collection last month following a slump due to the pandemic is also likely to come up for deliberation at the meeting. However, it is the

bypoll results in three Lok Sabha and 29 assembly seats spread across 13 states and a union territory that may weigh on the minds of the party leadership as it meets for the

in economic activities with the record GST collection last month following a slump due to the pandemic is also likely to come up for deliberation at the meeting

first time in a physical meeting following the pandemic's out-

Known for laying

great store by every popular verdict, however materially insignificant it may be in the broader context, the BJP leadership may review the party's affairs in West Bengal, where its fortunes have sliding since the high of the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, and Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan, two states where the Congress has put up an impressive performance.

The BJP is in power in Himachal and as such the Congress's complete sweep of the bypolls in a Lok Sabha and

three assembly seats there has caused concerns in the party.

The party has, however, registered a strong show in Assam, where it won all five seats with its ally, and Madhya Pradesh, where it won the lone Lok Sabha and two of the three assembly seats at stake.

A party leader said price rice may have been a factor and added that the Modi Government has done the course correction by slashing the petrol and diesel prices fol-lowed by the BJP-ruled states giving further relief to people by slashing the Value Added Tax on the fuel prices.

come handy for the BJP leaders in attacking the rivals when

Modi is likely to deliver the valedictory address at the national executive meeting in which he is expected to shape the party's stand on a variety of key issues and set the tone for its preparedness as it gears up for the assembly polls early next year in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand,

Punjab, Goa and Manipur. BJP president J P Nadda will deliver the inaugural address.

(minus 2.27 in men and minus

1.61 in women), Bulgaria

'Regulating blood insulin levels may help lower risk of getting Covid-19'

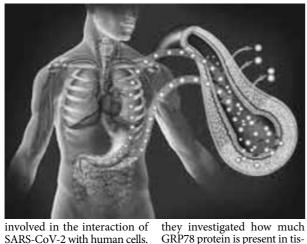
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $R^{\text{egulating blood insulin levels}} \\ \text{els may even help lower the}$ risk of getting Covid-19 researchers from Japan said after studying the movement of a protein called GRP78 that helps the Covid-19 causing virus to bind to and enter cells.

GRP78 is a protein that is found in adipose tissue (i.e., fat). Older, obese, and diabetic people are all more vulnerable to Covid-19 and, while the reasons for this are still not completely clear, the team from Osaka University sheds some light on this issue.

It was recently suggested that adipose tissue might be a major reservoir for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, said lead author of the study Jihoon Shin. Because of this, we wanted to investigate whether there is any link between the excess adipose tissue in older, obese, and diabetic patients and their vulnerability to Covid-19.

To do this, the researchers looked at GRP78, which has recently been suggested to be



The major method by which SARS-CoV-2 enters human cells is by a spike protein on the viral surface binding to a human cell-surface protein called angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2). Shin and colleagues discovered that the spike protein can also directly bind to GRP78, and that the presence of GRP78 increases the binding with ACE2. To get an idea of GRP78's involvement

in COVID-19 vulnerability

GRP78 protein is present in tissues from older, obese, and diabetic patients.

The results were very clear, explained senior author Iichiro Shimomura. GRP78 gene expression was highly upregulated in adipose tissue, and was elevated with increasing age, obesity, and diabetes. The study is published in

Diabetes. Aging, obesity, and diabetes are known to be associated with increased blood

insulin levels. Therefore, the group wondered whether insulin was involved in GRP78 expression. They found that exposing cells to insulin did induce expression of GRP78. Importantly, they discovered that treatment using widely prescribed anti-diabetic drugs that reduce insulin levels successfully reduce expression level of GRP78. They went a step further and showed that exercise and calorie restriction in a mouse-model also worked to reduce GRP78 levels in adipose tissue. Our findings suggest that

a high blood insulin level is an important risk factor that can predispose older, obese, and diabetic individuals to Covid-19 infection. As such, controlling blood insulin with pharmacological interventions or with environmental interventions, such as exercise, could help lower these patients' risk, said Shin.

Given the global impact of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the results from this study provide important insights into how to lower the risk of infection in these vulnerable patients. Reducing GRP78 expression by pharmacological or environmental interventions may improve outcomes in these patients, said

Over 28 million more years of life lost than expected in 2020 due to Covid-19'



Over 28 million more years of life were lost than expected in 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic, according to a study published in the BMJ.

The scientists came to this conclusion after analyzing the effects of the vector-borne crisis on life expectancy and premature mortality in 2020 in 37 upper-middle and high-income

Rate of excess premature deaths was found to be higher in men than women, said Di Nazrul Islam from the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford. However, the study did not include most countries from Asia, Africa, and Latin America due to a lack of data, and were

unable to take account of other

critically important factors,

such as socioeconomic status, regional disparities, and race or ethnicity

In 31 of 37 countries, more than 222 million years of life were lost in 2020, which is 28.1 million more than expected (17.3 million in men and 10.8

million in women). The highest decline in life expectancy (in years) was in Russia (minus 2.33 in men and minus 2.14 in women), the US

(minus 1.96 in men and minus 1.37 in women), Lithuania (minus 1.83 in men and minus 1.21 in women), Chile (minus 1.64 in men), and Spain (minus 1.11 in women). Only Taiwan, New Zealand, Denmark, Iceland,

Norway, and South Korea, had comparable or lower than expected years of life lost. This underscores the importance of successful viral

suppression and elimination policies, including targeted and population based public health policy interventions, the researchers wrote in the study. The team also compared

the observed life expectancy and years of life lost in 2020 with those that would be expected based on historical trends in 2005-19 in 37 uppermiddle and high-income coun-Overall, excess years of life

lost to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 were more than five times higher (2,510 per 100,000) than those associated with the seasonal influenza epidemic in 2015 (458 per 100,000), Islam said.

It was also relatively low in people younger than 65 years, except in Russia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, and the US where the excess years of life lost was more than 2,000 per 100,000.

Hooch death toll reaches 33 in Bihar

Nitish calls for fresh campaign against liquor

Patna/Bettiah/Gopalganj: The death toll in the latest hooch tragedy in Bihar climbed to 33 on Friday, while arrests were made and errant officials punished in connection with sale of illicit liquor, even as Chief Minister Nitish Kumar called for a fresh campaign to dissuade people from drinking alcohol in the dry State. However, officials in West

Champaran and Gopalganj districts claimed only 25 of the deaths could be confirmed as having been caused by con-

sumption of spurious liquor.
In West Champaran,
alleged hooch trader Ram
Prakash Ram (50), besides Dhani Lal Ram (40), Jhakkad Paswan (64) and Vikas Ram (25) died at a hospital.

All of them were residents of Dakshin Telhua village under the Nautan Police Station limits where local people had consumed liquor on the night preceding Diwali, the festival of lights.

According to Champaran

Range DIG Pranav Kumar Pravin, the four casualties have raised the death toll in West Champaran to 14, and seven people were undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College and Hospital in Bettiah town.

The hospital's superintendent Pramod Tiwari said, "Among those who have died, three were brought dead. Bodies are being handed over to bereaved family members after post mortem examina-Those undergoing treat-

ment included a 70-year-old person who lost his eyesight on Friday morning- a common side-effect of consumption of

The DIG said, "Two officials - Manish Sharma, the incharge of Nautan Police Station, and a village chowkidar- have been placed under suspension for their laxity. One of the alleged sellers has died, while another - Munna Ram - is absconding and a search has consumption of spurious



been launched to nab him.'

However, according to sources in the local administration, two others, who had died after consuming liquor, were cremated by their family members before word spread about the hooch tragedy. In Gopalganj, District Magistrate Nawal Kishore Chaudhary confirmed 17 deaths in the Mohammedpur Police Station area but asserted that only 11 of these could be blamed on

"Three persons – residents of a village under the Mohammadpur Police Station limits - had been cremated by family members before post

"Family members of another three deceased refused post-mortem claiming that deaths were on account of natural causes", he said. Superintendent of Police Anand Kumar said Ranjan Kumar, the in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station, and a chowkidar have been suspended, and three alleged sellers - Chhote Lal Sah, Jitendra Sah and Ram Pravesh Sah have been arrested. He also claimed that raids

conducted at various places in the area has led to recovery of 100 litres of spurious liquor. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, in Patna, vowed stern action against those found responsible for the tragic deaths but expressed dismay over people continuing to consume a "galat cheez" (wrong thing) during festivals. Replying to questions from reporters outside the assembly, where he went to attend swearing-in of two newly elected MLAs of his JD(U), the chief minister said, "I will conduct an in-depth review of the enforcement of prohibition in the state. But, it appears that we need another extensive campaign to spread awareness about the ill-effects of drink-

30 more people test +ve for Zika virus in Kanpur

Tally rises to 66

Kanpur: Thirty more people have tested positive for Zika virus here, taking the total number of those infected in the district to 66, including 9 IAF personnel, a senior official said on Friday.

Of those infected, 45 are men and 21 women, according to officials. The first case in Kanpur was reported on October 23 when an Indian Air Force (IAF) warrant officer tested positive for Zika virus.

"Thirty more people have tested positive for Zika virus in Kanpur," District Magistrate Vishak G Ayyar said. Among the 66 tested positive

for Zika virus, 9 are from IAF, the DM said.

Samples were collected from various pockets in the neighbouring areas of IAF station hangars and sent to the lab at King George's Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow for testing.
Thirty of them came back



positive for Zika virus, he said. Zika is a mosquito-borne virus and hence, getting rid of mosquitoes is the safe way out, he

To check the spread of the disease, health teams are undertaking sanitisation programmes including anti-larvae spraying and identifying fever patients, screening seriously ill people and pregnant

Health officials have been asked to step up surveillance and ensure door-to-door sampling and testing for Zika virus. not to panic regarding the sudden spurt in Zika virus cases," Ayyar said.

A high alert has been sounded in the periphery of hangars of the IAF station, another official said.

To check the spread of Zika virus, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the health department to ensure strict surveillance and to undertake frequent and extensive door-to-door sanitisation and fogging drives to prevent mosquito breeding. *PTI*

TMC's Subroto Mukherjee cremated with full State honour

SAUGAR SENGUPTA M KOLKATA

The body of Subroto Mukherjee, the veteran Trinamool Congress leader and Minister and one of the mentors of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was cremated with full State honour on Friday afternoon with Banerjee repeatedly telling that in her life "the festival of lights had never been filled with so much dark-

Mukherjee, 75 was admitted to the state-run SSKM Hospital following a major heart attack in late October. A stent was applied on him and was scheduled to be released on Friday morning, family sources said adding he suffered two successive attacks on Thursday evening and succumbed to his ailments past 9 pm.

While senior leaders cutting across party lines and a sea of humanity came to bid the final adieu to the departed leader, the Chief Minister was conspicuous by her absence in the crowd of mourners.

She earlier said "I will not go to see Subroto da in that state ... I do not have that strength to see him lying dead ... let him remain in the eyes

tragedies but not the one like this ... this has affected me per-

The last of Congress Young Turks from Bengal groomed by SS Ray the then Chief Minister, Mukherjee is often called one of the best Chief Ministers Bengal never had. "A close friend of PR Dasmunshi he was a favourite of former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and President Pranab

nine-time MLA Mukherjee and PR Dasmunshi had divided their political zones with the former preferring State politics leaving the central politics to the latter. Later Mukherjee joined the Trinamool Congress in 1999 while Dasmunshi remained in Congress. A former Kolkata Mayor he was an AIICC member for years

The leader whose career spanned more than 50 years still remained the youngest minister to have served in Bengal. He became the Information and Culture Minister and later Minister of State for Home in SS Ray's

was a favourite of former Chief today's politics.'

In fact Mukherjee was one of the Congress leaders who in 1984 impressed upon the top Congress leadership to field Mamata Banerjee against a iconic Somnath Chatterjee from Jadavpur parliamentary constituency.

The Jadavpur elections catapulted Banerjee to the politi-cal centre stage of Bengal and India after she defeated

"Despite we had a different ideological path and belief Subroto da was like a good friend ... he was like a grandfather of Bengal politics today ... and his death will leave a big void in the State politics," said BJP national vice president Dilip Ghosh.

His party colleague and State BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said "he was one of the best Chief Ministers Bengal never had ... the circle of his political career could have been completed had he been made the Chief Minister."

CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty said "Subroto da was not only Cabinet --- during the a politician ... he was a social person who mixed with the A leader who was loved by members of all the parties ... a



TN police file 2,000 cases for violation of SC directive on firecrackers

Chennai: About 2,000 cases have been registered by police across Tamil Nadu against those who violated the Supreme Court directives in respect of firecrackers, police sources said here on Friday.

The total number of cases registered across the State is approximately 2,000 and it includes violations in respect of the two-hour time slab fixed by the apex court to burst firecrackers on Deepavali.

The cases also include those against firecracker shops or units that sold or stored products by breaching 'specif-

against shops and other violators, they declined to elaborate, saying cases have been filed under appropriate provisions of

Deepavali was celebrated on November 4 this year and the Supreme Court had allowed bursting of firecrackers for two hours, from 6 AM to 7 AM and from 7 PM to 8

On October 29, the Supreme Court had said that celebration cannot be at the cost of others' health and clarified that while there is no total violation of other norms, police those fireworks which contain On Barium salts are prohibited. PTI

Tirupur entrepreneurs face uncertainty as cotton prices soar for the current price hike. "The onslaught on

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ TIRUPUR

Industrialists and entrepreneurs in Tirupur, the knitwear capital of India which is home to nearly 1,500 garments manufacturing companies, are suspecting that China is playing havoc with the cotton and cotton yarn, the main raw materials in the enterprises. We do have evidence which points to the

role of a foreign hand that is manipulating cotton prices in our market. The hike in cotton prices during the last two months is shocking and this is the handiwork of certain forces out to destabilise Indian economy," said Raja S Shanmugham. President, Tirupur Exporters He cautioned that if the price hike contin-

ues like this, the entrepreneurs would be left with no alternative other than downing the shutters. More than three lakh workers are employed by the TEA-run entrepreneurs. The profit generated out of TEA units is

too low as this is a labour intensive industry. We are struggling to stay afloat and competent in a volatile market. The price hike has no justification at this juncture," he said

Representatives of South India Mills

Association, another powerful industry body said that cotton prices have shot by more than 50 percent since the beginning of 2021. "Tamil Nadu accounts for 50 per cent of the cotton consumption. The steep hike in cotton prices (Minimum Support Price ₹5,726/- per quintal) is the highest rate in the recent past. The prices became volatile after we said that Tirupur would soon become a hub of cotton garments and

Śhanmugham said there was no justification

Previous Govts deliberately discouraged start-ups in J&K: Singh

Indian economy began immediately after Tirupur equipped itself with infrastructure to emerge as the sub-continent's fashion hub. The competitiveness enjoyed by informal clothes manufactured in the hub became an eyesore for our competitors," said the TEA president.

Though the TEA and SIMA wanted the public sector Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to intervene in the market so that prices could be stabilised, cotton farmers, traders and CCI officials were against the move. "CCI is meant for helping the cotton farmers to procure cotton when the price falls below the Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government. If the prices are rrigning above the MSP, it is a sign that the farmers are getting a small profit," said Chengal Reddy, advisor, Consortium of Indian Farmers Association (CIFA).

As on Thursday, cotton was being traded at Rs 7600 per quintal which is hardly Rs 500 or Rs Rs 600 more than the cost of production. "The cotton farmers are in dire straits as they are not getting quality seeds. The Government of India is not allowing us to switch over to GM Cotton which would have helped us to bring down the cost of production," said Reddy, a farming veteran.

An industry observer also agreed with Reddy and said that it was not advisable to keep on spoon-feeding the industrial units. "They should find a way out for themselves. The farmers are not making any huge kill out of the price hike. It is not practical to keep the traders away from the cotton market," he said.

Tirupur wore a pall of gloom during this crossed and stayed away from cotton

Students with grace marks can enrol in diploma courses Ahmedabad: The Gujarat

Government on Friday announced that Class 10 students who have passed with grace marks can seek admission for diploma courses at polytechnic institutes.

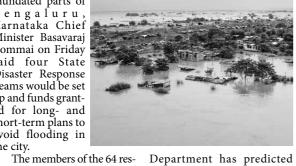
Notably, a rule framed by the State Education Department in 2016 had barred students passed with grace marks from seeking admission to polytechnic diploma courses in the state.

Speaking to reporters in Gandhinagar, state Education Minister Jitubhai Vaghani said the State Government has decided to do away with the rule from this year onwards to help such students pursue diploma courses. "Around 30,000 seats in various polytechnics are currently vacant, and an equal number of SSC students have passed with grace marks this year. To ensure that these students also get an opportunity to build their career, we have decided to allow them seek admission to diploma courses,' Vaghani said. The Class 10 board exams in Gujarat were cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and students were given mass promo-"We have also extended the date for accepting admission forms.

Students with grace marks were considered ineligible for diploma courses since 2016. Now, they will be considered eligible. I urge such students to take advantage of this announcement and fill the admission forms in time," the minister said. When asked about the reopening of primary schools for students from Classes 1 to 5, Vaghani said the final decision will be taken "very soon" after consulting experts. **PTI**

K'taka CM Bommai orders measures to prevent flooding

heavy downpour inundated parts of Bengaluru, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday said four State Disaster Response Teams would be set up and funds granted for long- and short-term plans to avoid flooding in



cue teams would also be increased by recruiting more people from the home guard and civil defence, the Chief Minister said adding that desilting of stormwater drains during summer would be taken up.

There is one Disaster Response Team in Bengaluru, which should be increased to four. The four teams will be raised with the help of State Disaster Response Fund and the Finance Department," Bommai said. Soon after returning from Hubballi, the Chief Minister convened an emergency meeting of the offi-

cials following flooding in many parts of the city.

Many areas were inundated due to torrential rain in the IT capital of the country on Thursday. Vehicles were stuck in the water in Chamarajpet, and neighbouring areas.

Water gushed into many

low-lying areas and trees came Noting that down crashing. the rainy season has extended this year, the Chief Minister the Meteorology

rainy weather in the next four or five days. Bommai said there are 64 rescue teams with 15 members each. The members would be increased to at least 30. Home guards and civil defence volunteers have to be added in these teams, he While reviewing the reasons behind flooding in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister said he came across the fact that there many clogged stormwater drains due to which water got stagnated. "The old retaining walls of the stormwater drains are giving way. The total length of the SWD in Bengaluru is 842 km and a 389km-long retaining wall has been built. We have taken up

Bommai said. He directed the officials to also report to him on a monthly basis about the reason behind flooding and progress made to achieve the long- and short-term measures to end

the construction of the rest of

the work under the Nagarotthana scheme,"

Srinagar: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday accused the previous governments of deliberately discouraging start-ups in Jammu & Kashmir so that the youth remains perpetually dependent on salaried Government jobs and continues to hang around the political masters of the day.

As a result, the region's immense potential for entrepreneurship and self-livelihood remained unexplored, Singh said while addressing an interactive meet of agricultural start-ups and farmers organised jointly by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) here.

This is for the first time in the last

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, concerted and technology-based effort has been made to promote the agriculture sector for young start-ups in the region, the Minister of State for PMO, science and technology, earth sciences, personnel, public grievances, pensions, and atomic energy and space said.

"Whereas in the past, farmers and agriculturists would largely depend upon the mood of climate and vagaries of nature for cultivation, in the last few years, new areas like lavender cultivation have been explored at a large scale both in the Kashmir valley and the areas around Gulmarg as well as the Jammu region in Doda and Reasi districts," he

Singh said no Government in any country of the world can ensure 100 per cent salaried government jobs to every youth, but a responsible government always plans to promote means of livelihood and this is precisely what the Modi Government is trying to seek. He said a sustained awareness cam-

paign needs to be launched among the youth and their parents to educate them that there are much more lucrative emoluments available through these self-livelihood and new start-up options and, therefore, they should not be led to waste their time and energy in protesting for Government salaried Singh said the farmer today is

actually an agricultural technocrat or an

agricultural start-up who has the option of making handsome profits using new technology and provisions introduced in the agricultural sector by the prime

minister. He said the Union Government through CSIR is providing all relevant financial and technical support for new modes of cultivation, multiple integrated farming and also hybrid farming which have the capacity to double farmers' income by 2022, as envisaged by the prime minister.

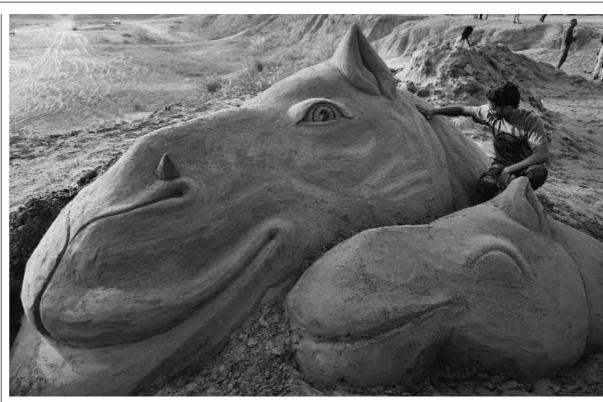
On the occasion, Singh also distributed farming kits to agriculturists drawn from all the 10 districts of Kashmir valley while the CSIR and SKUAST signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration. PTI

5 killed in car-bus collision in Mathura

Mathura: Five persons died and one person got injured in a headon collision between a private bus and a car on Yamuna Expressway here in the district on Friday, police said.

The incident took place about 60 kilometres away from Mathura at a place that comes under Naujheel Police Station, they said. The occupants of the car were going to Kanpur from Noida to invite a minister for a programme, police said. The deceased have been identified as Shiv Sagar Yadav, his mother Prem Lata, Gaurav Yadav, and Aryan, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Netra Pal Singh

The driver of the private bus, who also died in the incident, has been identified as Balwant Singh of Pathankot, he said. According to Singh, the incident occurred during the early hours of Friday morning, when driver of the Delhibound private bus lost its control and ran across the divider. **PTI**



Sand artist Ajay Rawat creates sand art of camel face ahead of international Pushkar Camel Fair in Pushkar on Rajasthan

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Absent Xi

Xi could be using COVID as an excuse not to travel as China faces criticism on several fronts

▲ Forld leaders are coming out of their pandemic bubbles, doing away with virtual conferences. One leader missing from the list is Chinese President Xi Jinping. He is not to be seen at any of the world's fora since January 2020, when the Coronavirus outbreak rattled the world and China shut itself up. Xi was missing from the G20 meeting in Italy and COP26 in Scotland. He missed the opportunity of a personal meeting with US President Joe Biden in Rome. The leaders are supposed to have a summit meeting sometime this year. It took a six-hour meeting in Zurich in early October between US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Chinese Politburo member Yang Jiechi to finalise the summit details. It is expected to be a virtual meeting as of now. He has not taken up an invitation to meet with any European leader either. Xi has not stepped out of China in over 650 days. His last foreign assignment



was a trip to Myanmar on January 17, 2020. It is not that Xi has abandoned international diplomacy. China's negotiations with the Taliban and its request to the world to recognise its Government have Xi's approval. He took conference calls with many leaders in this period, including Angela Merkel, the outgoing Chancellor of Germany, Emmanuel Macron, President of France and Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the UK. Xi sent foreign minister Wang Yi to Rome for the G20 meeting.

His globe-trotting image may have sagged because of him being bubble-bound but within

China he is quite busy implementing his "common prosperity" goal, ensuring that economic sectors with the largest private participation, like real estate, technology, private tuitions, fall in line with new State regulations. It is possible that Xi holds himself back at home because of the strict COVID-19 restrictions or uses them as an excuse not to travel when China is facing criticism on several fronts. It is equally possible that his absence from the world stage may signal China looking more inward. Certainly, other than the Taliban, most of the other issues China has tackled in the last year are internal. Is it an indication of a major shift in China's foreign and domestic policies? Or that Xi is unwilling to no longer cooperate at global fora on terms other than his own? Or is Xi preoccupied with internal politics and machinations of his critics as he prepares for the 20th Party Congress in 2022 for another five years as supreme leader? The absence of President Xi is felt nowhere more than in the context of China's race to challenge the global leadership of the US. It is ironic that Xi was travelling all over the world at a time when the US under Donald Trump was in an "America First" self-siege. As the world returns to interaction with vigour after a pandemic lull, it is Xi's turn to go into a shell.

Rashtrapati Bhavan engulfed in smog a day after Diwali

RANJAN DIMRI/ THE PIONEER

Stand clean

A couple of cases in Kerala tell the nation that vindictive politics is not the way to go

t's a classic case of the use of politics over ethics and morals. An IAS officer, known for his administrative acumen and with nearly a decade of service to complete before superannuation, is facing an uncertain future following three months of incarceration in a Thiruvananthapuram jail. A corporate liaison executive-turned-homemaker and seven young men imprisoned under the draconian UAPA and COFEPOSA laws on the charges of gold smuggling spent more than 14 months in jail. Though the special courts denied them bail, the Kerala High Court recently granted them conditional bail. The charges of anti-national activities slapped against them by the National Investigation Agency and Customs Department crumbled like a pack of cards as the court asked the prob-



ing agency for details that linked the "accused" to gold smuggling and unpatriotic acts. There was not an iota of evidence against the "suspects" and this led to the latter walking out of the jail. Moreover, the elite agencies failed to arrest those who are safely ensconced in their West Asian havens.

The gold smuggling case is seen as a ploy against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the CPI(M) in the 2021 Assembly election. All allegations of corruption and gold smuggling fizzled out and those who accused the Chief Minister of culpability in the LIFE MISSION project, a flagship programme of the Left

Democratic Front Government, bit the dust. While accusing Vijayan and his family for their role in the alleged smuggling, the BJP leaders forgot the fact that it was the Chief Minister himself who requested the Union Government to order a probe. The charges of gold smuggling got vapourised in thin air a la the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) spy case of the 1990s. Cherian Philip, the person who wrote the script of the Isro spy case to help his godfather become the Chief Minister himself went on record to tell the world that the case was manipulated. The country's elite space mission programmes suffered a setback as two top scientists were entrapped in the cheap political game. Philip, who had guarrelled with his godfathers in the Congress and joined the CPI(M), returned home the other day after spending 20 years as a privileged guest at AKG Centre, the party's State headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram. The Kerala experience is a lesson to those presiding over the Dilli Sultanate that Central agencies should not be unleashed upon enemies to settle political scores.

The ever-alarming growth of China



With its borders still not demarcated with India and its continued belligerent posture, India must be wary of China and face the challenge squarely

uch talked about the rise of China as an economic super power has been inviting attention for years now but it has been intimidating, too. The world opinion has veered around the fact that the attitude of the Communist regime in China, particularly towards most of its neighbours, has been pivoted around aggression and intimidation from the very beginning. In 1962, the first victim of its brazen policy of aggression was its immediate neighbour India. During subsequent years and decades, Vietnam and many other countries in or bordering South China Sea and East China China Sea fell prey to its aggressive attitude. Now after its rise as an economic superpower, it has been throwing around its weight without any regard for international law and rules. It has usurped the rights of its neighbors in the South China Sea and Pacific Ocean and has been illegally hindering free navigation rights of other nations too. This has only endangered the security of the world. The West has its own concerns about the intimidating rise of China. It is not communist ideolo-

gy, which is based on revolution, but its own attitude and policies which prompt China to adopt coercive and aggressive means against other countries to maintain and uphold its interests, in a case or two mostly based on mere perceptions. It has had no qualms even in befriending and turning Pakistan, the epicentre of terrorism, into an all weather friend just to achieve its nefarious aims against India. To harm Indian interests, it went to the extent of even supporting terrorism emanating from Pakistan. It continuously vetoed UN resolutions to declare terrorists from Pakistan as international terrorists. Though at a much later stage it had to bow before internation-

Although an atheist regime and avowedly against obscurantism. China is not averse even to come nearer to staunch fundamentalist and radical fallban regime in Afghanistan just for intimidation Taiwan has pecuniary

Fundamentalism and radicalism have been bedeviling the whole world and have caused much distress and wreaked havoc all over the world particularly in Afghanistan itself.

China needs to realise

that with the collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1993, Communism as a perceived panacea for all human sufferings has proved to be inadequate. Even the hybrid Communism practised in China for decades now has its own limitations. Freedom of spirit is an inalienable nonphysical aspect of human beings. But China has failed even to uphold it. With the return of Hong Kong to China, it was hoped that China would uphold this aspect of human personality not only in Hong Kong but allow it to prevail elsewhere also in the country. But forcible civil liberty curbs and other excesses in Hong Kong have even belied this hope. More serious and destabilising is the matter about Taiwan. Taiwan has clearly demonstrated that it cannot be part of the authoritarian and atheist regime of China. Despite armed threats and gains. avowed to defend its democ-



CHINA HAS EVERY RIGHT TO RISE TO THE TOP BUT NOT THROUGH AGGRESSION AND BY BREAKING INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ORDER. THIS IS BOUND TO **CREATE SECURITY** RISKS EVEN FOR THE **POWERFUL WEST**

ratic values and freedom of human spirit.

With its borders still not demarcated with India and its continued belligerent posture, India has to be wary about China and face the challenge posed by it squarely. Along with recalibrated economic development after the Coronavirus, India has to boost its self-reliance in every sphere. It has to encourage and enlarge the pool of developed skilled manpower. Apart from nourishing its democratic values, it has to strengthen its selfconfidence to meet the challenge. It should also widen its sphere of influence all over the world and broaden its trade interests. Moreover, apart from the geopolitical context of the challenge, it has to be prepared as usual to come up to the diplomatic challenges that may be thrust on it.

China has had a glorious past and is one of the most ancient civilisations still surviving and on the rise. Like all other countries, China has every right to rise to the top but not through aggression and by breaking international law and rules. This is bound to create security risks even for the powerful West. The producer. The views expressed announcement of the are personal.)

Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS) alliance is an ominous manifestation of this threat. With abundant sophisticated nuclear weapons and other armaments all around the world, this could even jeopardise survival of mankind.

The world we live in has changed beyond imagination and come so close that evolution of human civilisation has become a possibility. Despite so many contradictions, widespread uneven economic development and daunting cultural diversities, evolution of human civilisation can no longer be considered a utopia. But this could be possible only after the formation of a democratically constituted world parliament. By changing its attitude, China could aid the formation of such an institution which could ensure survival of mankind and evolution of human civilisation. No doubt evolution of such an institution could be brought nearer when all other countries subiect their actions to an ethical and moral compass.

(The writer is a former IIS officer, freelance journalist and

LETITERS TO THE EDITOR

DIWALI ALONE CAN'T BE BLAMED

Sir — Delhi's air quality has severely deteriorated after the Diwali festival, allegedly owing to the bursting of crackers in the Capital. However, there are more than 15 factors that contribute to air pollution. It has been proven in an IIT report on Delhi's air pollution that Diwali crackers contribute only about five per cent to air pollution. There are several other factors, both known and unknown, which contribute to pollution in the NCR. Delhi's air pollution is caused mainly by stubble burning. Add to it the innumerous vehicles that ply on the roads of Delhi. Vehicular pollution is also a major contributor. The dust and dirt caused by construction activities and even air conditioners contribute a major share in polluting the air.

Therefore, blaming Hindus for the alarming pollution levels during Diwali is untenable, since the festival is celebrated only once a year. A ban on stubble burning, checking emission from factories, curtailing vehicular and industrial emissions — activities which cause pollution throughout the year — will go a long way in solving the air pollution problem of the Capital as well as the

Sravana Ramachandran | Chennai

A FANCY KEDARNATH YATRA

Sir — Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kedarnath was more about himself than the reconstructed Shiv Temple or Adi Shankaracharva, whose statue was unveiled in honour of his exertions to revive Hinduism when Buddhism was embraced by more and more people and his commentaries on Hindu scriptures. We couldn't help noticing that the sole focus was on the VVIP pilgrim. We couldn't help thinking that no ordinary devotee could ever dream of the kind of treatment Prime Minister Narendra Modi, hailed as 'Rashtra Rishi' by his supporters, got in the temple precincts and sanctum sanctorum. Perhaps the fact that he is spearheading the revival of Hinduism automatically qualifies him for such a special treatment.

Not just a girl from India



inisha Umashankar, a class 10 student from Tiruvannamalai in northern Tamil Nadu, deserves accolades for her stirring speech on clean energy at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) held recently at Glasgow, which was attended by some eminent world leaders, including our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Intrepidly enough, she took them by surprise, saying, "young people

have every reason to be angry and frustrated at leaders who have made empty promises and failed to deliver." Incidentally, last year, Vinisha won the Children's Climate Prize conferred by the Children's Climate Foundation, Sweden, for designing an innovative and ecofriendly solar-powered mobile ironing cart, which will be an efficient and profitable alternative to the conventional heavy iron box, fuelled by charcoal.

She came up with the idea to use solar energy to heat up the irons. Over the span of six months in 2019, when she was just 12 years old, she designed a cart that had solar panels to power a steam iron. The young girl's achievement shows that India has enormous potential to lead the world in the area of scientific research. "It made me think about the amount of charcoal burnt every day and the damage it does to the environment," says Umashankar. We must learn to be thoughtful of our environment from this young girl.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

The visit was choreographed to the last detail for his cast as a larger-thanlife character. Even otherwise, on election-eve, PM Modi has been wanting to get into a temple, preferably a cave temple for televised solitary meditation to connect with the multitudes for whom religion is a centre of devotion, and woo them for favour in elections. Clearly, he cannot do without being bathed in religious symbolism.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

TSUNAMI: A SERIOUS KILLER

Sir —Tsunamis are usually rare but one of the most dangerous natural calamities. Over the last 100 years, 58 tsunamis have taken more than 2.6 lakh lives, or an average of 4,600 lives per disaster. Humanity suffered the deadliest tsunami in the Indian ocean in December 2004. It caused over 2.27 lakh deaths across 14 nations. It is worth mentioning that 80 per cent tsunamis take place in the Pacific ocean only. To educate and

inform people about tsunamis, November 5, 2021, is observed as the "World Tsunami Awareness Day".

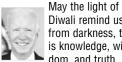
The day is observed to promotes the target of the 'Sendai Seven Campaign', which aims to sustainably enhance international cooperation with developing countries through adequate support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present framework by 2030. Decisions and resolutions adopted in June 2021 by the UN Ocean Decade (2021-2030) will provide the "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to improve tsunami detection and early warning systems. It is even more important that every person knows the tsunami's natural warning signs and immediately self-evacuates since the waves are infamous to attack spontaneously and dangerously.

Shruti Raikwar | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

I want to tell womer that I will fight for them, the Congress party will fight for

> Congress leader —Priyanka Gandhi



Diwali remind us that from darkness, there is knowledge, wisdom, and truth. From division, unity. From despair, hope.

> **US President** —Joe Biden

Wholehearted appreciation to the team for holding Soorvavanshi for more than a year to



It wasn't the World Cup we expected. It was a tough

competition, we should keep our

West Indies all-rounder —Dwavne Bravo

people did not burst firecrackers. But some people did it on purpose. The BJP made them do it.

A large number of



AAP leader —Gopal Rai

FIRST COLUMN ASEAN NATIONS AND THE CHINA FACTOR

India wants equitable inclusive development in the region without facing coercion from China

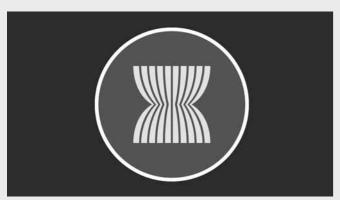


KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

rime Minister Narendra Modi wound up two high-ticket global events this week. The G20 summit in Rome followed by the COP26 climate change talks in Glasgow. In the last week of October, he was able to interact with his Southeast Asian counterparts, the region gaining increasing significance in India's Indo-Pacific strategy.

India has had lukewarm to cold ties with the ASEAN as a collective bloc of influence in the past. The reasons are varied, as India, in the pre-2014 period, was still trying to take a firm call on its Indo-Pacific strategy. This 'free, open, accessible, follower of international laws and conventions' Indo-Pacific region has been the central focus of many regional bloc and finds prominence in India's foreign policy now.

The QUAD alliance is all about keeping the Indo-Pacific region rulesbound. The equations between members of ASEAN and their outreach and alliances with other countries are now increasingly being dictated by the China factor. China is a close neighbor to many ASEAN nations that have maritime interests in the shared waters. China's economic and military might has silenced many voices within the bloc from coming out in full support of the emerging global consensus on Indo-Pacific strategy. Some have even bought the China rant on alliances like QUAD being



These narratives are detrimental to Indian interests specially, if it has to take a regional influencer's role. The Prime Minister was right when in his address to ASEAN he commented, "This special role of ASEAN, India's Act East Policy which is contained in our Security and Growth for All in the Region — 'SAGAR' — policy. India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and ASEAN's Outlook for the Indo-Pacific are the frameworks for our shared vision and mutual cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.". He clearly brought out the centrality of India's shared vision of equitable inclusive development in the region without facing coercion from China.

China has been a notorious actor in the region (read South China sea). This year, ASEAN statement mentioned pending issues in the South China sea region which many analysts have hailed as an important step. Perhaps, for the first time, the ASEAN leaders agreed to vocalise the need for rules-based order in the South China sea, something akin to UNC-LOS. Interestingly, India went through a laborious round of negotiations and consultations to get UNCLOS recognized by the elite security council of the UN, which was under its presidency during the period. In fact Prime Minister Modi chaired a debate on maritime security in the UNSC in August this year where the statement was adopted. Therefore, the reiteration coming from the ASEAN leadership for ensuring free maritime trade, settling disputes on high seas peacefully and preventing terrorism and drug trafficking via sea routes can be seen as the step in the right direction. This could be seen as early signs of ASEAN leadership's collective frustration with China.

India's strategic partner, the US, has also a key role in building up a consensus among the ASEAN leadership. The US can possibly request the other QUAD to use their past alliances with ASEAN to chart out a new course. It may be worth mentioning that besides India. Australia and Japan both have strategic alliance with ASEAN and have shared interests in the region.

One of the low hanging fruits could be sending away a bulk of the Covid vaccines planned under QUAD agreement to these ASEAN nations which currently may be heavily dependent on Chinese vaccines and the citizens would be greatly benefitted with a new dose of vaccines. Also, developing strategic bilateral ties with countries such as Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam could be the game changer for India.

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

Impact of greenhouse gases and deforestation



While natural gas plants are running, they need to purchase fuel and the price of fossil fuels does not reflect the cost of climate change in terms of greenhouse gas emissions

eople around the world are experiencing climate change and scientific evidence clearly indicates that the climate is changing and is likely to accelerate in the future. The effects of climate change such as heavier precipitation and longer dry spells are obvious; though advanced models are also inadequate in predicting regional impacts, which are important for the formulation of local adaptation programmes. Climate change will undoubtedly affect water, forests, and coastal areas along with the Himalayan ecosystem, which is most likely threatened by rising sea levels and migrations of species.

Greenhouse gas such as, carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O) are majorly responsible for climate change. Regardless of

where these greenhouse gases are emitted, they contribute to global warming.

India is the world's third largest producer of renewable energy and the third largest consumer of electricity in the world and presently 85 million people in India use electricity. As the country advances along with its population, per capita consumption of electricity is likely to rise sharply.

Would it be possible to generate all the electricity we need without emitting additional greenhouse gases?

India emits 83 per cent of greenhouse gases, a number that is likely to increase given the country's energy needs for development. India's population growth will intensify the demand for food, necessitating more urea and irrigation, and using the Haber-Bosch process to produce urea will exacerbate greenhouse gas emissions. Through amplifying the greenhouse effect of the planet, we are increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Therefore, it is necessary to switch to less CO2 intensive energy. Developed nations like the United States and Western Europe have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through appropriate measures and specific innovations because their research and development budgets are relatively large for this purpose. Obtaining carbon-free electricity will be a huge challenge for India because to achieve zero emissions, all of our electricity must come from non-emitting sources. Solar, ind, hydroelectric, biomass, and geot hermal power can provide energy without causing global warming. India depends on 74 per cent of fossil fuels to generate electricity.

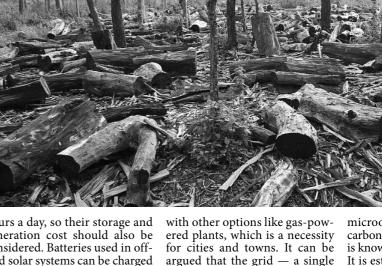
While natural gas plants are running, they need to purchase fuel and the price of fossil fuels does not reflect the cost of climate change in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. Solar and wind energy are intermittent energy sources. The maximum conversion capacity of solar energy is only 33 per cent. They cannot generate electricity 24



SOLAR POWER AND WIND ENERGY **GENERATION IS** TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON NATURAL CIRCUMSTANCES. **EVEN IN BRIGHT** SUNSHINE AND STRONG WINDS, **PRODUCTION** WILL ALWAYS BE LESS THAN THE INSTALLED CAPACITY DUE TO INTERMITTENT SHUTDOWNS **CAUSED BY MAINTENANCE**

(The writer is a former Indian Forest Service offi cer. The views expressed

are personal.



hours a day, so their storage and generation cost should also be considered. Batteries used in offgrid solar systems can be charged during the day and used during the night. It is a reasonable solution for using solar power throughout the day, but it is also quite expensive due to the costs associated with the battery and its life, which will determine how much it adds to the electricity bill and the public exchequer. Installing enough solar panels might be an option, but their effectiveness depends on the time of year. Solar power generation is significantly less in winter than in summer. Solar power and wind energy generation is totally dependent on natural circumstances. Even in bright sunshine and strong winds, production will always be less than the installed capacity due to intermittent shutdowns caused by maintenance. To collect as much sunlight as possible, we need a large number of solar panels that take up a lot of space, and some roofs are not big enough to accommodate them, so space is also an issue. Location is also increasingly important in solar energy. Our installation needs to be increased many times compared to the current one.

Even though nuclear power could be a solution, but it is risky and capital intensive.

The main reason why zerocarbon electricity is so expensive is intermittency. Because of this, the state is aiming to generate more renewable electricity by combining solar and wind power argued that the grid — a single connected network — is the solution, but in practice, this is not feasible, at least in the near

To use renewable energy more efficiently and generate carbonfree energy, we must invest more in research and development. Furthermore, issues such as widespread poverty alleviation, education, health, clean drinking water, water for sanitation and job creation require more money to be diverted to address these issues, which in turn can adversely affect investment in research and development. Even if we take into account the government's efforts towards clean energy, new innovations will be required to remove its impediments. Diffusion of innovations requires R&D expertise and also a long period of persuasion, decision-making, and implementation that will take a considerable amount of time. Conservation, afforestation and sustainable forestry practices are carbon emissions caused by also the most efficient and costeffective ways to combat carbon emissions.

Trees can absorb four tons of CO2 over the course of 40 years. A forest is considered a carbon sink if it absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it emits. Photosynthesis absorbs carbon from the atmosphere. It is then deposited in forest biomass (such as trunks, branches, roots and leaves), in dead organic matter (litter), and in soil and

microorganisms. This process of carbon absorption and deposition is known as carbon sequestration. It is estimated that in India, forest carbon sequestration was around +68 (MT C02 eq/yr) in 2005-2007 and about +203 (MT CO2 eq/yr) in 2008-2011, although no reliable data are available. Type of forest also determine the quantity of carbon it can sequester, such as a closed canopy forests produce less carbon sequestration, because they lack under story vegetation and grasslands. A typical forest would emit close to 22,000 pounds of oxygen but when forests are cut down, plants absorb less CO2 thus increasing the concentration of atmospheric CO2.

In all global climate negotia-

tions, developed countries have put pressure on developing countries (such as India and China) to reduce deforestation, but forests are either fragmented or degraded due to various development activities such as infrastructure, construction, mining, and urbanization. Therefore, to combat deforestation and forest degradation, steps must be taken to sequester and store carbon. COVID-19 is the most recent illustration of our unbalanced relationship with nature and if the current trend of development, deforestation, and sources of greenhouse gas emissions is allowed to increase, there will be a terrible result in the near future. Hence, deforestation must be controlled in order to avoid the adversity that accompanies it.

THE CENTRE'S DECISION WILL BRING DOWN PETROL AND DIESEL PRICES PER LITRE BY ₹5 AND ₹10, RESPECTIVELY. —UNION MINISTER **BHAGWAT KARAD**





IF THE PRICE HAS TO BE BROUGHT DOWN BY ₹50, THEN THE BJP MUST BE **DEFEATED COMPLETELY.** —SHIV SENA LEADER **SANJAY RAUT**

Africa: Stumbling towards disintegration

It would be a catastrophe if Nigeria and Ethiopia, containing a quarter of Africa's total population, were to be Balkanised, but that may be coming

Something is going wrong in Africa. Nigeria and Ethiopia, the two most populous countries on the continent, are both stumbling towards disintegration. There are now 54 sovereign African countries, which really ought to be enough, but in a few years there could be 60.

Ethiopia is closer to the brink, so close that it could actually go over this month. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's attempt to force the northern state of Tigray into obedience began well in late 2019, when federal government troops occupied it against only minor resistance, but the Tigrayans

were just biding their time. Tigrayans did most of the fighting in the 16-year war to overthrow the brutal Communist tyranny known



(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of

War'. The views expressed

are personal.)

as the Derg. They dominated the less cruel and more competent regime that followed in 1991-2018. And they withdrew from the government when Abiy tried to corral everyone into a non-ethnic, more or less democratic 'Prosperity Party' in 2019.

The military occupation of Tigray didn't last. The Tigray Defence Force (TDF) came down from the hills last June and cleared federal troops out of the state practically overnight. Then it pushed south into the neighbouring state of Amhara along Highway One, which links Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, with the only port accessible to the landlocked

country, Djibouti. In July, the TDF stopped



and about 400 km. from Addis Ababa, to await the great Ethiopian counter attack which didn't start until about 10 October. It takes time to organise tens of thousands of half-trained volunteers, which was about all Abiy had left after the June-Iulv debacle.

The battle raged for two weeks, with the attacks of Amhara militia and volunteers from elsewhere failing against the trained, experiat Weldia, still in Amhara state enced Tigrayan troops. About

troops broke and started fleeing south, although you probably didn't hear about that because Abiy began bombing the Tigrayan capital, Mekelle, to distract your attention.

The TDF has already captured Dessie and is advancing on Kombolcha, which is halfway from Mekelle to Addis Ababa. Will the Tigrayans actually go for Addis itself? It's not impossible. They're arrogant enough, and they may be strong enough.

Nigeria is not that close to the edge, but the signs are bad. The huge gap in income, education and simple literacy between the very poor Muslim north and the mostly Christian south is a major irritant. The desperate lack of flourishing, and the oil multi-pily, why should we expect the

a week ago the Ethiopian jobs for the young is destabilising even the south, as last year's failed youth rebellion clearly demonstrated.

In the north-east, the jihadist Boko Haram has become the local authority in some places, collecting taxes and digging wells. In the north-west, banditry is out of control, with dozens or even hundreds of school children being kidnapped for ransom almost every week. The region is awash with arms, and one gang recently shot down a military jet.

In the 'middle belt' of states, farmers and herders are often at war, and in the southeast Igbo secessionists are raising the call for an independent Biafra again. Along the coast piracy is

national Shell is offloading its onshore Nigerian oil assets in the face of insecurity, theft and sabotage.

"This is an exposure that doesn't fit with our risk appetite anymore," said Shell CEO Ben van Beurden, and most major investors, whether foreign or Nigerian, feel the same way. Nigeria, like Ethiopia, is full of clever, ambitious young people with the education and skills to transform the country if only it was politically stable, but that is asking for the moon.
It would be a catastrophe

if these two countries, containing a quarter of Africa's total population, were to be Balkanised, but that may be coming. If the Serbs and the Croats can't live together hapIgbo and the Hausa, or the Tigrayans and the Amharas, to do so?

The old Organisation of African Unity rule said the former colonial borders must never be changed, no matter how arbitrary they were, because otherwise there would be a generation of war and chaos. That's why for a long time there were fifty African states and no more, but recently the rule has begun to fray. Somaliland, Eritrea, South Sudan...who's next?

Will the dam burst if Ethiopia breaks up into three or four different countries? Nobody knows, but it would be preferable if we don't have to find out. Better the borders vou know than the borders you don't.

JAPAN AND GERMANY EXPAND MILITARY TIES

Kishi on Friday said Japan will step up military cooperation with Germany in the Indo-Pacific region as he welcomed a port call by the first German warship to visit Japan in about 20 years. The frigate Bayern is visiting Tokyo after two days of joint exercises with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force destroyer Samidare in the Pacific Ocean amid increasingly assertive

5 WORKERS KILLED IN FACTORY FIRE IN DHAKA

Dhaka: At least five workers died after a fire swept through a show factory in Old Dhaka on Friday. The workers at the factory in Old Dhaka's Showari Ghat died from suffocation, firefighters said, Dhaka *Tribune* reported. The bodies were recovered from the around floor of the multi-storey building. They were then sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, Chawkbazar police Officer-in-Charge Md Abdul Qaiyum

NAVY FIRES 2 OFFICERS OF SUBMARINE DAMAGED

Washington: The Navy said Thursday it fired the two senior officers of a nuclear-powered attack submarine that was damaged in an underwater collision last month in the South China Sea. A sailor who served as a senior enlisted adviser to the commander and the executive officer was also removed from his position.

CROATIA PLANS CURBS AS VIRUS SURGES

Zagreb: Croatian authorities wil limit gatherings and widen the use of Covid-19 passes to curb soaring infections after the numbers of infected people hit new records again on Friday. The country's crisis team said after a meeting that the new rules for gatherings will apply starting Saturday while the use of Covid passes will take more time to prepare. Like much of Central and Eastern Europe, Croatia has seen a huge rise in infections and hospitalizations in the past weeks due to low vaccination rates and relaxed virus rules

VATICAN CONFIRMS PAPAL TRIP TO GREECE

Vatican City: Pope Francis will travel to Greece and the eastern Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus on a five-day trip next month, the Vatican confirmed Friday. The pope will visit Larnaca, Cyprus, from Dec. 2-4, before traveling to Greece, with stops in Athens and on the island of Lesbos, from Dec. 4-6 The Vatican released no further details of the trip.

Scribe jailed for Wuhan reports 'close to death'

Acitizen journalist jailed for her coverage of China's initial response to Covid in Wuhan is close to death after going on hunger strike, her family said, prompting renewed calls from rights groups for her immediate

Zhang Zhan, 38, a former lawyer, travelled to Wuhan in February 2020 to report on the chaos at the pandemic's epicentre, questioning authorities' handling of the outbreak in her smartphone videos.

She was detained in May 2020 and sentenced in December to four years in jail for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" — a charge routinely used to suppress dissent.

She is now severely underweight and "may not live for much longer", her brother Zhang Ju wrote last week on a Twitter account verified by people close to the matter.

Zhang has been on a hunger strike and was force-fed through nasal tubes, her legal team, which did not have information on her current condition, told AFP earlier this year.

'She may not survive the coming cold winter," Zhang Ju wrote, adding that he had



"take care of herself".

"In her heart, it seems there is only God and her beliefs, with no care for any-

Zhang Ju's posts sparked fresh calls for his sister's release, with Amnesty International urging the Chinese government Thursday to "release her immediately so that she can end her hunger strike and receive the appropriate medical treatment she desperately needs".

Amnesty campaigner Gwen Lee said in a statement that Zhang's detention was a "shameful attack on human rights". Someone close to the citizen journalist, who declined to be named, told AFP the family had asked to meet Zhang more than three weeks ago at the Shanghai women's prison where she is being held but had not received a response.

AFP was unable to reach Zhang Ju while Zhang's mother declined to comment.

The Shanghai prison also offered no response when approached by AFP.

China's Foreign Ministry on Friday did not comment on Zhang's condition, but dismissed calls from rights groups for her release as "anti-China political manipulation."

UN rights body opens urgent session in wake of Sudan's coup

The UN's top human rights body is holding an urgent session about Sudan on Friday after a military coup there nearly two weeks ago, with Britain, the United States, Germany and Norway leading a push to commission an expert to monitor the situation.

The Human Rights
Council debate is taking place
while the United Nations still recognises the ambassador from the deposed Sudanese government as the country's official representative in Geneva, raising questions about how – or if – the military leadership in Khartoum will be represented during the ses-

The push for a human rights expert comes amid mounting international pressure on Sudan's top general, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the forces loyal to him who dissolved Sudan's transitional government and detained other government officials and political leaders in the Oct. 25

The actions of the Sudanese military are a betrayal of the Sudanese revolution, of the democratic transition. and of the hopes and aspirations of the Sudanese people," Simon Manley, Britain's ambassador in Geneva, said in

On Thursday, Sudan's state-run news agency

ordered the release of four **Government Ministers who** also were detained

reported that Burhan had

statement sent The Associated Press.

"Fundamentally, this is about respect for democracy and human rights."

"I hope that fellow council members will stand in solidarity with the brave people of Sudan today," Manley said.

The four Western countries resented a draft resolution on Wednesday, and the final lan-guage still was being worked out.

Human Rights Council spokesperson Rolando Gomez said a provision remained intact to create a "special rapportur" to monitor the situation in Sudan for one year.

The draft also called for the immediate return to a civilianled transitional government under Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who was among those detained in the coup.

He is now under house arrest but has been allowed to meet with UN

And international diplomats as part of mediation efforts. On Thursday, Sudan's state-run news agency reported that Burhan had ordered the release of four Government Ministers who also were detained. A defence lawyer for the

ministers said they had not yet

Russia gets partial win in \$50B case over bankrupt oil giant

AP ■ THE HAGUE

The Dutch Supreme Court ▲ on Friday handed Russia at least a temporary victory in an appeal of what's believed to be the world's largest award in an arbitration case after former shareholders of bankrupted Russian oil giant Yukos accused the Kremlin of taking down the company to silence its CEO, a fierce critic of President Vladimir Putin.

The decision further extends what already has been a yearslong legal battle between Russia and former Yukos shareholders. It quashed a lower court ruling, effectively setting aside a \$50 billion award made to the former shareholders in 2014 and sending the case to another court in Amsterdam to consider Russian claims that the shareholders committed fraud in the original arbitration hearings.

However, the highest Dutch court rejected the rest of Russia's arguments, a move welcomed by the former shareholders, who said in a statement that they "won on all substantive grounds of Russia's appeal."

The Russian prosecutor-general's office welcomed the ruling but said "it is regrettable" the high court didn't dismiss the award outright.

Suspected Islamic extremists kill 69 people in Niger

AP ■ NIAMEY, NIGER

uspected Islamic extremists Sambushed a self-defense brigade in western Niger, killing 69 people in the latest attack in the volatile border region near Mali, the Interior Ministry said.

The violence took place earlier this week near Banibangou, some 155 miles (250 kilometers) north of the capital, Niamey, the ministry said in a statement Thursday. The town's mayor was

among those killed in the Tuesday attack and 15 other members of the village defense group were wounded in the ambush, the statement said.

The local self-defense

groups have been helping Niger's military to fight extremists who have stepped up attacks on civilians this year blamed on Islamic State-linked

The resurgence of extremist violence began with a January attack on two villages that killed at least 100 people. The following month 237 more were killed in a series of attacks at the hands of armed gunmen riding motorcycles.

The mounting violence poses a strong threat to Niger's President Mohamed Bazoum. who was sworn into office in April only days after security forces thwarted an attempted military coup at the presidential palace.

Pfizer says Covid-19 pill cut hospital, death risk by 90%

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Pfizer Inc. Said Friday that its experimental antiviral pill for Covid-19 cut rates of hospitalization and death by near-90% in high-risk adults, as the drugmaker joins the race to bring the first easy-to-use medication against the coronavirus to the US market. Currently all Covid-19

treatments used in the US require an IV or injection. Competitor Merck's Covid-19 pill is already under review at the Food and Drug Administration after showing strong initial results, and on Thursday the United Kingdom became the first country to OK it.

Pfizer said it will ask the FDA and international regulators to authorize its pill as soon as possible, after independent

experts recommended halting the company's study based on the strength of its results. Once Pfizer applies, the FDA could make a decision within weeks

Researchers worldwide have been racing to find a pill against Covid-19 that can be taken at home to ease symptoms, speed recovery and reduce the crushing burden on hospitals and

Pfizer released preliminary results Friday of its study of 775 adults. Patients taking the company's drug along with another antiviral had an 89% reduction in their combined rate of hospitalization or death after a month, compared to patients taking a dummy pill. Fewer than 1% of patients taking the drug needed to be hospitalized and no one died. In the comparison group, 7% were hospitalized and there were seven "We were hoping that we

had something extraordinary, but it's rare that you see great drugs come through with almost 90% efficacy and 100% protection for death," said Dr. Mikael Dolsten, Pfizer's chief scientific officer, in an interview.

Study participants were unvaccinated, with mild-tomoderate Covid-19, and were considered high risk for hospitalization due to health probems like obesity, diabetes or heart disease. Treatment began within three to five days of initial symptoms, and lasted for

Pfizer reported few details on side effects but said rates of problems were similar between the groups at about 20%.

Thousands of intelligence officers refusing vaccine risk dismissal Office, which operates U.S.

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Thousands of intelligence I officers could soon face dismissal for failing to comply with the US Government's vaccine mandate, leading some Republican lawmakers to raise concerns about removing employees from agencies critical to national security.

Several intelligence agencies had at least 20% of their workforce unvaccinated as of late October, said US Rep. Chris Stewart, a Utah Republican who is a member of the House Intelligence Committee.

CIA Director William Burns disclosed publicly last week that 97% of the agency's officers have been vaccinated. The National Reconnaissance

Spy satellites, has more than 90% of its workforce vaccinat-But Stewart said some

agencies in the 18-member intelligence community had as much as 40% of their workforce unvaccinated. He cited information the administration has provided to the committee but not released publicly. He declined to identify the agencies because full information on vaccination rates was classified.

While many people will likely still get vaccinated before the administration's Nov. 22 deadline for civilian workers, resistance to the mandate could leave major agencies responsible for national security without some personnel.

बिहार सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता – सह–स्थानिक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली।

अल्पकालिन निविदा

दिनांक-05/11/2021

पत्र सं0-679 / स्था0अभि0, बिहार भवन एवं बिहार निवास चाणक्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली हेतु निम्निलखित कार्यों के लिए समुचित श्रेणी में बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों भवन निर्माताओं से बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग एफ–2 एकरारनामा में हाने वाले कार्यों के लिए मुहरबंद निविदाऐं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता परीमाण विपन्न के बिक्री की तिथि

- स्थानिक अभियन्ता, बिहार भवन, चाणक्यापुरी नई दिल्ली
- 25-11-2021 (कार्यालय अवधि तक) निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय 26-11-2021 (अपराहण 3:00 बजे तक)
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 26-11-2021 (अपराहण 3:00 बजे से 5:00 बजे तक) 1. स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाण्क्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली। परिमाण विपन्न निर्गत का स्थान
- 2. उपस्थानिक अभियन्ता, कार्यालय बिहार निवास चण्क्यापुरी नई दिल्ली। स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाण्क्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली।

प्राक्कलित अग्रधन बी0ओ0क्यू0 कार्य कार्य का नाम राशि राशि अवधि Repair painting and polishing work of Exterior surface at Bihar Bhawan for 50000/ 5000/ 750/ 2021 -22 50000/ 750/-Repair and painting work of 3rd floor all rooms at Bihar Bhawan for the year 250000/ 5000 750/-2021 -22 Repair and painting work of 4th floor all rooms at Bihar Bhawan for the year 750/ 50000/ 5000 2021 -22 Repair and painting work of common area and ground floor at Bihar Bhawa for the year 2021 -22 390000/-8000/ 750/-Repair and painting work of Boundary wall at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2021-22 250000/-5000/-750/-एक माह Repair, Painting and polishing work of C.M Shute at Bihar Bhawan for the 750/ 50000/ 5000 Repair, Painting and polishing work of C.J Shute and C.S shute at Bihar Bhawa 750/-250000/ 5000 for the year 2021-22 10 Repair and painting work of old wing outer surface at Bihar Bhawa 100000/ 8000/ 750/for the year 2021-22 एक मार 11 Painting and polishing work of Isl floor rooms at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22 360000/-7200/-750/-एक माह 12 Painting and polishing work of 2nd floor rooms at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-2 360000/-7200/-750/-एक माह 13 Painting and polishing work of 3rd floor rooms at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22 7200/-750/-360000/-एक माह ainting and polishing work of common area, stair case and corrido at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22 15 Repair and Painting work of Boundary wall at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22 700000/-14000/-1250/-एक माह 16 Repair painting and polishing work of Governor Shute at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021 -22 4000/-17 Repair painting and polishing work of C.M Shute at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22 200000/- 4000/-500/-एक माह 18 Repair and painting work in out house Building at Bihar Bhawar 7000/-750/-New Delhi for the year 2021-22

निविदा के साथ उद्यतन निबंधन आयकर प्रमाण-पत्र वाणिज्य कर प्रमाण-पत्र, चरित्र प्रमाण-पत्र, पैन कार्ड आदि की छाया प्रति जो राजपत्रित पदाधिकारी से अभिप्रमाणित हो संलग्न करना होगा। अग्रधन की राशि डाकघर के एन०ए०सी०/सावधि जमा के रूप में संलग्न की जानी है जो स्थानिक अभियन्ता चाण्क्यापुरी बिहार मवन

नई दिल्ली के नाम से निविदा प्रकाशन के तिथि के बाद के तिथि में विधिवत प्लेज्ड हो। निविदाकारों को भारतीय मानक विनिदेश के अनुसार कार्य हेतु अपेक्षित सामग्री की खुद व्यवस्था करना होगा।

10. बिना कारण बताए निविदा स्थिगित एवं रद्ध करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित होगा।

उक्त कार्य के संबंध में किसी प्रकार की जानकारी हेतु अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय से कार्यालय अवधि में सपंर्क कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता-सह-स्थानिक अभियन्त बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 40 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Wearing: Skv Blue Shirt & Army Printed Pant, Hairs: Black. He was laying at HRH footpath and brought to HRH where doctor declared brought dead vide MLC

no.3974/21. In this regard, DD No. 11-A dated 31.10.2021 has been lodged at PS Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so

Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.

P.S., Subzi Mandi, Delhi Ph.: 011-23823161 8750870126

DP/1653/N/2021

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Develo First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun

Ref. No. 2112 / I1-02(xix)/ITCO/URRDA/21 PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice- 13/2021-22

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhano invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Almora for 02 number of Packages with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 5.54 Crore including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to registe in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works), either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids. Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 12-11-202

For further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in.

Chief Engineer URRDA, Dehradun Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful

bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract. Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM

Iran says has enriched over 210 kg of uranium to 20%

Iran's atomic agency said Friday that its stockpile of 20 per cent enriched uranium has reached over 210 kilograms (463 pounds), the latest provocative move ahead of upcoming nuclear talks with the West.

In a report carried by semiofficial Tasnim and Fars news agencies, spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said the atomic agency had produced well beyond a 120 kilogram target for 20 per cent enriched ura-

nium set by parliament. Under the historic 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and the World Powers, Iran was not meant to enrich uranium above 3.67 percent. Enriched uraniused for nuclear weapons.

After months of delays, the European Union, Iran and the US announced on Wednesday that indirect talks

to resuscitate the deal would

resume on Nov. 29 in Vienna.

The nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, promises Iran economic incentives in exchange for limits on its nuclear program, and is meant to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb. Tehran insists its program is peaceful.

Kamalvandi also said that so far his agency has also produced 25 kilograms of 60 per cent enriched uranium, a level that only countries with nuclear weapons have the physical

unilaterally pulled out of the nuclear deal in 2018 under then-President Donald Trump, but Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia have tried to preserve the accord.

Tehran's strategy of deliberately violating the deal is seen as an attempt to put pressure particularly on Europe to provide it with incentives to offset crippling American sanctions re-imposed after the US pullout.

On Sept. 15, Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami said Tehran removed surveillance cameras belonging to the United Nation's nuclear watchdog because of unfulfilled commitments by other signatories of the nuclear deal.

Deadly week for

China vows no mercy for Taiwan 'Independence diehards'

AFP ■ BEIJING

hina vowed on Friday to ∠punish "diehard" Taiwan politicians, saying it would ban several from visiting the mainland, as tensions between Beijing and Taipei spiked to their highest level in years.

China claims Taiwan as its territory -- to be seized one day, by force if necessary -- and has intensified efforts in recent vears to isolate the self-ruled island on the international

On Friday, the Taiwan Affairs Office in Beijing warned that "the mainland will pursue criminal responsibility for Taiwan independence diehards in accordance with the law, to be effective for life".

brushed off the threat from The statement by spokes-Beijing, saying he "won't be woman Zhu Fenglian named

Taiwanese Premier Su Tseng-chang, parliament speaker Yu Shyi-kun and Foreign Minister Joseph Wu as among a minority of independence supporters.

Zhu said the politicians "have tried to instigate crossstrait confrontation, maliciously attacked and slandered the mainland... severely undermining cross-strait relations".

She added that Beijing has prohibited them and their family members from entering the mainland, Hong Kong or Macau. Their affiliates would also

be restricted from cooperating with mainland organisations and individuals, she said, without giving more details. Taiwan's Su on Friday

migrants on French coast: at least 3 killed **AP** ■ PARIS

Atrain struck and killed a migrant from Eritrea and at least two bodies were recovered from the sea and on a beach in what has been a particularly deadly week for migrants on the northern coast of France. Attempting treacherous crossings to Britain. Many hundreds of people,

setting off in a flotilla of boats, quickly ran into trouble in the waters between northern France and Britain. The waterway with changeable weather, cold seas and heavy maritime traffic is dangerous for the inflatables and other small boats that men, women and children squeeze into for attempted crossings.

Paytm, two other public issues to open next week

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hectic fundraising through IPOs will continue next week, with three firms --One97 Communications, owner of Paytm; Sapphire Foods India, which operates KFC and Pizza Hut outlets; and Latent View Analytics -- are set to launch their initial sharesales to collectively mop up about ₹ 21,000 crore.

This comes after five companies successfully concluded their public offerings (IPOs) this week.

Those five firms are -FSN E-Commerce Ventures, which runs online marketplace for beauty and wellness products Nykaa; Fino Payments Bank; Policybazaar parent entity PB Fintech; decorative aesthetics supplier SJS Enterprises; and microcrystalline cellulose maker Sigachi Industries.

The three-day IPOs of Paytm, Sapphire Foods India and Latent View Analytics are scheduled to open on November 8, November 9 and

November 10, respectively. So far in 2021, as many as

46 companies have floated their IPOs to raise ₹80,102 crore and market experts believe that the year should close with the ₹1-lakh crore primary market fundraising. Apart from these,

PowerGrid InvIT, the infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) sponsored by the Power Grid Corporation of India, mopped up ₹7,735 crore through its IPO, and Brookfield India Real Estate Trust raised ₹3,800 crore via its initial share-

The fundraising so far this year is way higher than Rs 26,611 crore collected by 15 companies through initial share-sales in the entire 2020.

Such impressive fundraising through IPOs was last seen in 2017 when firms mobilised Rs 67,147 crore through 36 initial share-sales. Digital firm One97 Communications, which operates under the Paytm brand name, is set to come out with its Rs 18,300-

crore IPO on November 8 The IPO comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 8,300 crore and Rs 10,000 crore from an offer for sale (OFS) by existing sharehold-

The company has fixed a price band of Rs 2,080-2,150 apiece, implying a valuation of around Rs 1.48 lakh crore.

The Rs 18,300-crore offer, if successful, will be the biggest in the country after Coal India's IPO in 2010, wherein the stateowned company had garnered Rs 15,200 crore.

"The biggest merit for Paytm's IPO would be that they have so much more diversified regulatory access under one roof.

"This focus on diversification means that none of their particular business books has depth, unlike other major players who focus more on specialising," Nikhil Kamath, cofounder of True Beacon and Zerodha, said.

On Wednesday, Paytm raised Rs 8,235 crore from anchor investors.

ing the climate change chal-

lenges.
"We welcome India's $T^{\text{he IMF has welcomed}}_{\text{India's announcement at}}$ announcement at the COP26 the COP26 summit on new tarof new targets to increase gets to increase reliance on reliance on renewables and renewables and reduce the carreduce the carbon intensity of bon intensity of its economy, its economy, including to adopt a net zero target by 2070," Rice including to adopt a net zero told reporters at a news conference on Thursday. Gerry Rice, Director,

"As you know, India is currently one of the world's largest emitters, still heavily reliant on coal for electricity generation. India's significant investment in renewables and

climate change adaptation policies suggest it is well positioned to take further steps to reach this new target," Rice said responding to a question.

IMF welcomes India's announcement at COP26 on renewables, net zero

'We are heartened by India's focus on achieving progress in the current decade given the urgent need for global mitigation action. And as with other countries, it will be important to follow through with specific actions to contain emissions over the current decade," he added.

At the COP26 summit in Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made signifi-

The Department of Telecom

has fixed December 2022 as

the deadline for internet service

providers to customise their

network as well as change

modem and routers at cus-

tomer premise for the services

as per the internet protocol

The DoT has set June 30,

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

address, IPv6.

the bold pledge of India becoming net zero by 2070.

Besides the net zero target, Modi also raised India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of achieving 450 giga watt nonfossil energy capacity to 500 giga watt by 2030.

"India will increase its non-

fossil energy capacity to 500 giga watt by 2030; India will fulfil 50 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable energy sources by 2030. Between now and 2030, India

DoT fixes Dec 2022 deadline for

transition to new IP addresses

will reduce its total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes and by 2030.

"India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45 per cent and achieve the target of net zero by 2070," the prime minister said, adding that these five elixirs will be an unprecedented contribution by

India towards climate action. He also asserted that India is the only country that is delivering in "letter and spirit" the commitments on tackling climate change under the Paris Agreement.

NCLT approves GAIL buying IL&FS's 26% stake in OTPC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

target by 2070.

Communication Department

at the International Monetary

Fund (IMF), said India's

actions may help catalyse

action in other emerging

economies as well in address-

The National Company Law Tribunal has approved State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd's acquisition of bankrupt Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services' 26 per cent stake in ONGC Tripura Power Company (OTPC), GAIL said on Friday.

OTPC is a special purpose vehicle between Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

(ONGC), IL&FS Group and Government of Tripura (GoT) for setting up of a 726.6 MW combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) thermal power plant at Palatana, Tripura.

ONGC holds 50 per cent interest in the company in the project that supplies electricity to the northeastern states. Tripura government holds 0.5 per cent while India Infrastructure Fund II holds the balance 23.5 per cent

2022, as the last date for Government organisation for complete transition to IPv6, according to an official note issued on November 2. "All new retail wireline customer connections provided by service providers after

native IPv6," the note said.

The IP addresses help in the note said. India now has identifying and connecting various devices and servers onto the internet.

The DoT had released the first and second roadmap to roll out IPv6 addresses in the country in 2010 and 2012 which can grant several trillions of unique internet addresses unlike the old regime of IPv4 which has a limit of 3 billion IP addresses. The growth in the number of devices connecting to the internet has fuelled demand for IPv6 addresses.

"The service providers shall endeavour to progressively replace/upgrade the CPEs (cus-December 31, 2022, shall be tomer premise equipment) which are not IPv6 ready and capable of carrying IPv6 traf-fic either on dual stack on are owned by service providers latest by December 31, 2022,"

around 50 per cent share in IPv6 addresses globally.

The transition to IPv6 even with a dual stack mode will help in growth of internet usage especially in the context of work from home as well IoT ecosystem and upcoming 5G services because of the requirement of an enormous IP address which is not available with IPv4. In addition, transition to IPv6 will enhance the network security because of built-in 'IPsec' feature in the verison 6," IPv6 Forum chairman Satya N Gupta said.

With proliferation of IPv6 addresses, India can create its own secure internet by setting up its own root servers for communication within countries geographical boundaries.

FinMin invites suggestions on taxation from industry, trade bodies

The Finance Ministry has **I** asked for suggestions on taxation from industries and trade bodies for Budget 2022-23, which is going to set the tone for growth of India's economy hit by the Covid-19 pan-

In a communication to trade and industry associations, the ministry invited suggestions for changes in the

duty structure, rates, and broadening of tax base on both direct and indirect taxes giving economic justification for the

Suggestions may be sent to the ministry by November 15, 2021, it said.

"Your suggestions and views may be supplemented and justified by relevant statistical information about production, prices, revenue implication of the changes suggested and any other information to support your proposal," it

said.

The request for correction of inverted duty structure, if any for a commodity, should necessarily be supported by value addition at each stage of manufacturing of the commodity, it said.

It would not be feasible to examine suggestions that are either not clearly explained or which are not supported by adequate justification or statistics, it said.

The Budget 2022-23 is expected to be presented in Parliament on February 1 next year. It will be the fourth budget of the Modi 2.0 government and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The budget for the next year is expected to address critical issues of demand generation, job creation and putting the economy on a sus-

Office of the Superintending Engineer

1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora

Validity

Time of

Completion

tained 8 per cent plus growth

path.
"As can be seen that the government policy with reference to direct taxes in the medium term is to phase out tax incentives, deduction and exemptions while simultaneously rationalising the rates of tax," the letter said.

Currently, more than 100 exempions and deductions of different nature are provided in

Dated: 02/11/2021

Contractor's

Category of

GOVT. OF BIHAR OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT ENGINEER, **BIHAR B BHAWAN, NEW DELHI**

No 678/ Dated 05/11/2021

Short Notice inviting Quotation

The reputed firms are requested to submit sealed quotation for following work in Bihar Bhawan, Bihar Niwas Chankyapuri, and Bihar Sadan, New Delhi for the year 2020-2021 Quotation will be submitted up to 26-11-2021 till 3:00 pm and opened on 26-11-2021 at 3:30 pm at the office of the Resident Engineer, Bihar Niwas Chankyapuri, New Delhi undersigned office has right to cancel quotation without any further information. Registration, GST, PAN No. and authorization of firm paper here enclosed. Details of items list can be obtained from the office of the Resident Engineer, Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi. The Earnest Money (NSC/Term Deposit) should be deposited 5% of total contract

S.No	e before issue of work order.			
1	Supply fitting and fixing Curtain and table runners at 3rd and 4th floor of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2021-22			
2	Supply of oil filled room heater at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2021-22			
3	Supply of Lamps and emergency light at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2021-22			
4	Renovation of 3rd and 4th floor Bathroom at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2021-22			
5	Renovation of R .C office Room No 203 at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2021-22			
6	Replacement of Sofa and chair upholstery at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2021-22			
7	Replacement of Bath rooms doors at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2021-22			
8	Supply fitting and fixing Curtain and table runners at 2nd and 3rd floor of Bihar Niwas for year 2021-22			
9	Supply of Lamps and emergency light at BiharNiwas for the year 2021-22			
10	Supply of Luggage rack and Coffee table at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22			
11	Renovation of Bathrooms of 2nd floor at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22			
12	Renovation of Bathrooms of 3rd floor at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22			
13	Window replacement at Governor Shute at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22			
14	Special Repair of 2 Nos lift at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22			
15	Replacement of Bathrooms doors at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22			
16	Replacement of Boom Barrier in and out gate at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22			
17	Renovation of Bihar Handy Craft kiosk at Bihar Niwas for the year 2021-22			
18	Supply fitting and fixing work of R.O plat at Bihar Sadan , New Delhi for the year 2021-2.			
19	Addition alteration work for common toilet at Bihar Sadan , New Delhi for the year 2021-22			
20	Addition alteration work for toilet at C.M suite and Governor suite at Bihar Sadan, New Delh for the year 2021-22			
21	S/F/F Roman blind / Curtain Room No 401 to 421 at Bihar Sadan, New Delhi for the year 2021-22			
22	S/F/F Roman blind / Curtain Room No 501 to 513 and three halls at Bihar Sadan, New Delh for the year 2021-22			
23	S/F/F Roman blind / Curtain Room No 601 to 617 and three halls at Bihar Sadan, New Delfor the year 2021-22			
24	S/F/F Sony Make TV 43" in Room No 401 to 421 and common area and corridor at Biha Sadan, New Delhi for the year 2021-22			
25	S/F/F Sony Make TV 43" in Room No 501 to 513 and common area and corridor at Bihar Sadan, New Delhi for the year 2021-22			
26	S/F/F Sony Make TV 43" in Room No 601 to 617 and common area and corridor at Bihar Sadar New Delhi for the year 2021-22			
27	S/F/F furnishing work of 2nd floor office for Room No 201 to 203 at Bihar Sadan, New Delf for the year 2021 -22			
28	S/I7F furnishing work of 2nd floor office for Room No 204 to 206 at Bihar Sadan, New Delh for the year 2021-22			
29	S/F/F furnishing work of 2nd floor office for Room No 207 to 209 at Bihar Sadan, New Delf for the year 2021-22			
30	S/F/F furnishing work of 2nd floor office for Room No 210 to 212 at Bihar Sadan, New Delfor the year 2021 -22			
31	S/F/F furnishing work of 2nd floor office for Room No 213 to 215 at Bihar Sadan, New Delh			

S/F/F furnishing work of 2nd floor office for Room No 216 to 218 at Bihar Sadan, New Delhi

S/F/F furnishing work of 2nd floor office for Room No 219 to 221 at Bihar Sadan, New Delhi

Executive Engineer-Cum-Resident Engineer

Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi

for the year 2021-22

for the year 2021-22

for the year 2021-22

Retail edible oil prices drop by ₹ 5-20/kg in major mkts: Food Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Edible oil prices in the major retail markets across the country have declined by ₹5-20 per kg after various measures, including an import duty cut, by the Government, Food Secretary Sudhansu Pandey said on Friday.

The official said that branded oil makers have also

Domestic edible oil prices have soared in tandem with the global prices which shot up due to reduced availability of edible oils for food use following diversion for biofuel in Indonesia, Brazil and other countries.

"The government has taken a number of steps to ensure consumers get relief from high prices. We are happy to share the trend from 167 centres. Edible oil prices have declined quite significantly in the range of Rs 5 and 20 per kg in the major retail markets across the country," Pandey

to Rs 133/kg on November 3 from Rs 139/kg, while it fell by Rs 18 to Rs 122/kg from Rs 140/kg in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, while by Rs 7 to Rs 125/kg in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu from Rs 132/kg in the said period, he said.

Even retail price of groundnut oil declined by Rs Rs 5-10/kg, while soyabean oil by Rs 5-11/kg, and sunflower oil by and November 3, he added.

The government monitors retail prices of six edible oils from 167 centres across the

In the case of mustard oil, the Secretary said, "we have not seen a significant reduction in prices," but the steps taken by the government including import duty rationalisation will have an impact on prices of

"We are going to see a southward trend in mustard oil prices too," he said, adding that ongoing sowing of mustard seed is better than last year" he

Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com Letter No.: 7927/ Nivida-01/2021 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering) E-TENDER NOTICE

Name of Work

Construction Division PWD

BM/SDBC work in Km.21 to 24

of Bageshwar- Girechhina -Someshwar- Dwarahat-

Vimandeshwar- Era- Ranikhet

Motor Road (SH-58) (Binta Someshwar- Girechhina Prabhag) C.M. Ghoshna No.

(Anticipation of Sanction)

467/2019.

5000.00

+ 18%

4.70 Lakh

The superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) in anticipation of Sanction on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 10/11/2021 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

Earnest

Money

Cost of

		Form	(Rupee in lakh)	Tender	Completion	Registration for tendering
1	Provincial Division PWD Ranikhet Damarikaran work from Jainal Dotiyal Main Road to Kunhil 6.00 Km. (Km 1 to Km 5) in Sult Constituency Distt. Almora Under CM Announcement No. 351/2019 in Financial year 2021-22.	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 3.40 Lakh	60 Days	15 Months	Category "B" & above (Road Works)
2	Construction Division PWD Ranikhet Improvement & Damarikaran work in Simaldhar to Sailapani Motor road at Block Bhikiyasen in Distt Almora Under C.M. Announcement No 383/2020 (Anticipation of Sanction)	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 3.88 Lakh	120 Days	15 Months	Class "B" & Higher in Road Work
3	Provincial Division PWD Almora Improvement & Damarikaran work of Harra- Shitalakhet Motor Road in State Sector at District Almora under C.M. Ghoshna 201/2021. (Km. 1.00 to 5.00) Length - 5.00 Km. (Anticipation of Sanction)	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 5.32 Lakh	120 Days	9 Months	Category "B" & above (Road Works)
4	Provincial Division PWD Almora Improvement & Damarikaran work of Harra- Shitalakhet Motor Road in State Sector at District Almora under C.M. Ghoshna 201/2021. (Km. 5.00 to 8.00) Length - 3.00 Km. (Anticipation of Sanction)	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 3.48 Lakh	120 Days	9 Months	Category "C" & above (Road Works)
5	Provincial Division PWD Almora Construction work of Govindpur to Dangikhola - Titarmuchhi - Querella Motor Road in District Almora under Someshwar Constituency in C.M. Ghoshna- 216/2021. (Length- 3.00 Km. + 18 Mtr. Span bridge) (Anticipation of Sanction)	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 3.08 Lakh	120 Days	9 Months	Category "C" & above (Road Works)
6	Provincial Division PWD Almora Improvement & Damarikaran work in Betaleshwar - Syalidhar Motor Road in Almora District under C.M. Ghoshna No. 777/2021. (Anticipation of Sanction)	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 2.80 Lakh	120 Days	9 Months	Category "B" & above (Road Works)
53	0 4 4 5 5 5 5	122	102	courses 1	2001	1922 N (905497)

120

Days

Months

Category "B"

& above

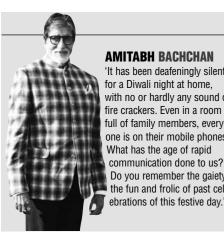
(Road Works)

mustard oil as well. said during a press briefing. For instance, retail palm oil price in Delhi declined by Rs 5 MONIND LIMITED Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulations 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 11th November, 2021 interalia, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Half year ended on 30" September, 2021. This intimation is also available on the website of the Company i.e. (www.monnetgroup.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange i.e. (www.bseindia.com) By order of the Board of Directors By order of the Board of Director

Dated : 05.11.2021	(Formerly, Monnet Industries Limited)							
Place : New Delhi	Priya Company Secretary							
	NAPELIEDU DALLWAY							
NORTHERN RAILWAY								
Tender Notice								
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)								
NIT No.	221-S/4/2/AMC/HRD-H	olmatro/SPARMV/DLI(2021)/ML-IV						
Name of work and its location	Holmatro Hydraulic Res Holmatro Hydraulic Cutt	I Maintenance Contract of one set scue Device (HRD) and one set of er, as per scope of work of Accident hi for the period of Five years from the						
Approx Cost of work	Rs. 22,40,000/- (Twenty Two Lakhs Forty Thousand Six Hundred only) plus GST as applicable							
Eligibility Criteria	OEM or authorized dealer	r/agent of M/s. Holmatro/Netherlands						
Completion period of work	Five year i.e. 60 months fr	om the date of execution of work						
Cost of tender doc	ument on cash/by post	Nil-						
Date and Time for and opening of ten	submission of tender ider	Upto 11.00 hrs on 01.12.2021 Opening of Tender at 11.00 hrs						
	s notice board location f tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in						
No. 221-S/4/2/AMC/HRD-Holmatro/SPARMV/DLI(2021)/ML-IV Dated: 05.11.2021 2544/2021								
	SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE							

MONIND LIMITED

Bollywood



AMITABH BACHCHAN 'It has been deafeningly silent for a Diwali night at home, with no or hardly any sound of fire crackers. Even in a room full of family members, everyone is on their mobile phones. What has the age of rapid communication done to us? Do you remember the gaiety the fun and frolic of past cel-



BHUMIKA CHAWLA

'Tere Naam was my debut in Bollywood and I had a very good experience. I remember we were shooting at the Birla temple and I was taking a little extra time to do the shot. Salman was extremely supportive and he was kind enough to tell everyone to not put any pressure on me and that I should do it the way I want.



SHORTCIRCUITS

'I finished shooting for Tryst With Destiny, the forthcoming show, in 2019, much before we began shooting for Paatal Lok. In both the shows, I play a cop, but with different shades to the character. I can't wait for you to finally watch Tryst With Destiny, where I play a cop who has a simple dream.



KATRINA KAIF

'Akshay Kumar and I have impeccable understanding, we have done over six films together. In Sooryavanshi, there is a scene where I had to slap him and would you be surprised if I tell you that we did not require any retakes for that shot? Just one shot was enough.

DWAYNE JOHNSON

'I think there should be a crossover between the Marvel and DC Universe. The other day, I was talking about this with my coactors in Red Notice, Ryan Reynolds and Gal Gadot, who play Deadpool and Wonder Woman in the Marvel Universe respectively. I think we can make it happen.



An extremely upbeat AFTAB SHIVDASANI, touted to play a pivotal role in Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story, tells CHRISTY VARGHESE that if you try to second-guess

TRULY A

ast month, Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story was in the news **L** for an intriguing promotional ploy. The trailer for the show, which is a prequel to last year's critically acclaimed Hostar special, Special Ops, was supposedly 'leaked' on Twitter by an account, named 'ByeHimmat', which called out the show's protagonist. It wasn't long before everyone jumped on the bandwagon and unknowingly did their bit in promoting the show before Hotstar officially released the trailer.

what will happen next in

are bound to be wrong

this espionage-thriller, you

Set to be a fitting precursor for *Special Ops*, ahead of the second season which will release next year, Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story features Kay Kay Menon playing the titular role of Himmat Singh, a member of the Research & Analysis Wing (RAW). The espionage-thriller, Special *Ops*, universe was conceptualised by Neeraj Pandey and has developed an immense following; receiving eight nominations at the Filmfare OTT Awards, winning two of them.

What's surprising is that the trail-Shivdasani, who is a familiar face in romantic and comedy flicks. When we read up on his appearance in the show, all we could find out was that he is set to appear in a very 'pivotal role' in the



and we connected with the veteran, who has been in the industry for over 22 years, to find out more about his role. Read on for excerpts of the inter-

show, all we could find out was that you would be playing a very pivotal role. Could you please be kind enough to elaborate?

All I can say is that you will see bound to be surprised.

before continuing) You know when you do a show like Special Ops, which with deals with the reclusive RAW, there is not a lot that we could share before the show is aired. When we do such a show, everything cannot be **Even after some extensive research** black and white. With respect to the show, I can only tell you

- expect the unexpected. With a show like this, you can never predict anything. The moment you feel that you know what is going on, you are

eight Filmfare OTT award nomina-



If I tell you what I am doing in the show, it will unfortunately take away the element of intrigue. I am afraid my hands are tied on this regard, all I can tell you is, once again, that I will be seen in a pivotal role. (chuckles heartily once again) Hard luck, though, if you were interviewing me for a comedy or a romantic film, I would have been talking minus any filters — such projects are so much more easier to promote. When it comes to show such as Special Ops, talking about the show is a different ballgame altogether because much of what the show depicts is 'classified information'. But rest assured, the show will speak for itself. It's got so many twists and turns and so much grey area that its very difficult to put your finger down on how things will

At this moment I would like to highlight that I am extremely grateful that Neeraj Pandey thought of me for something like this, because I wanted to work with him for a really long time.

☐The trailer shows you sporting a thick moustache, as opposed to vour usually clean-shaven appearance, and we have to say that it looks quite striking. Do you like it though?

I actually had it for the duration of the shoot and, quite frankly, I njoyed it.

İ have sported the moustache onscreen previously, in a movie called Setters, where I played a cop, but that back to my old ways now; it was good fun while it lasted, though.

□Last year Special Ops received

tions, winning the award in two categories. How many nominations will Special Ops 1.5 receive?

Such awards are never the end goal for us, the people behind the scenes. I mean, please don't get me wrong, I am quite glad that the show received the recognition it deserves, because I myself became a fan of the show after closely following it. And it comes as no surprise that it court ed immense critical acclaim.

□What were you up to during the

Well, we had a baby last year in July and it was a life-altering experience. That kept us busy and what was amazing was that we got to spend a lot of time together as a family. Regardless of the unfortunate context as to why we all were cooped up indoors, it was actually a blessing in

Not that we did not go through any difficulties, but my wife and I, we decided to look at things in a very positive light. And every since our daughter entered our lives, everything has changed. She is almost 15 months old and life, as we knew it, has changed. For me, it is all about familv and work now.

□Any future projects that you would like to shed light on?

There are a couple of scripts that I liked and I am working on, but I haven't signed them, hence I cannot really speak about them. I am quite superstitious, I do not like to talk I am afraid you would have to wait for the official announcement.

(Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story starts streaming on Disney+ Hotstar from November 12.)

In the memory of an enthusiastic entertainer

British stage and TV veteran Lionel Blair dies at 92, leaving behind some memorable appearances for the masses



 $E_{\text{taught himself to dance}}^{\text{ntertainer Lionel Blair, who}}$ by watching Fred Astaire movies and became a staple on British stage and television for decades, has died. He

Blair was born Lionel Henry Ogus in Montreal to Russian Jewish parents. The family moved to Britain when he was a toddler and settled in London, where he and his sister Joyce performed for people sheltering in subway stations during World War II bombing

He began his career as a teenage actor, but soon focused on dancing, taking the stage name Lionel Blair.

"I really wanted to be an actor," he said in 2014. "I was the breadwinner after my father died when we were quite young, and I got into a musical, became well-known and stayed in musicals. But really, I want to be in (soap opera) EastEnders."

He became close friends two performed a dance-off at a royal variety performance in 1961 at London's Prince of Wales Theatre.

He performed as a dancer,

worked as a choreographer for television shows and during the 1960s, 70s and 80s was an increasingly prominent presence on TV variety and game shows. He was a panelist on charades-based game show Give Us A Clue and a presenter on the UK version of Name

He made several film appearances, including, as a choreographer in The Beatles' 1964 caper A Hard Day's Night and in the 1986 musical Absolute Beginners.

He was an annual star of the hugely popular seasonal stage shows known as Christmas pantomimes, and also appeared in reality TV shows Celebrity Big Brother in 2014 and The Real Marigold Hotel in 2017.

Fellow entertainers remembered Blair as an irrepressible, upbeat presence both onstage and off.

His style was often called camp, but Blair revealed, "I prefer 'flamboyant', or 'enthuover-the-top."

Blair is survived by his wife Susan, three children and three grandchildren.

New beginnings

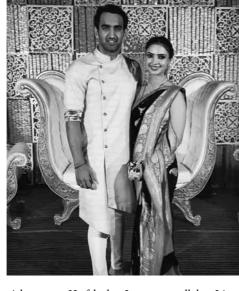
Kumkum Bhagya's POOJA BANERJEE reveals how she and husband Sandeep have started reading up on parenting, babies and more as they expect their first child in March. By Team Viva

7ee TV's popular fiction show, *Kumkum Bhagya* Las been an audience favourite courtesy its intriguing plot and the authentic portrayal of relatable characters like Abhi (Shabbir Áhluwalia), Pragya (Sriti Jha), Rhea (Pooja Banerjee), Aaliya (Reyhna Pandit), Tanu (Leena Jumani), Ranbir (Krishna Kaul) and Prachi (Mugdha Chapekar). While all the actors have been working round the clock to keep their viewers entertained, Pooja recently got some 'good news' of her own.

Pooja recently opened up about her pregnancy for the very first time and everyone has been over the moon after hearing this piece of news. The actor, who is six months pregnant, has been shooting for the show continuously and also mentions that she is happy to continue shooting till she feels fine. In fact, she came to know about her pregnancy on the sets of Kumkum Bhagya itself and ever since then, her team has been extremely supportive and has also made her feel at home.

Talking about her pregnancy, Pooja reveals, "Sandeep and I are really excited and happy to announce the arrival of a new member in our family. To be honest, we've wanted to start our family since a couple of years now, however, we never put a timeline on it. We always thought that whenever it has to happen, it will happen, and I guess we're going to be parents at the most perfect time! We are in a very happy space and I feel everything is falling in the right space. We are gearing up for the baby to come in and we've started reading up about pregnancy, babies and parenting as well. Both of us want to have a daughter, but we will be happy irrespective of whether it is a boy or a girl. I am sure he or she will be the most pampered child for sure."
Reminiscing the initial days when she found out

about her pregnancy, Pooja adds, "Kumkum Bhagya has been a blessing in disguise for me. I joined the show just after the first wave of Covid-19 and since then, it's been a joy working on the show. One fine day, I felt that something was not right and hence, I went for a blood test. Around 4 pm, during the shoot, I got the report stating that I was pregnant. I immediately called Sandeep and asked him to come



pick me up. He felt that I was not well, but I just didn't want to break the news over a phone call. When I finally revealed the news to him, he jumped

up and started dancing."
She goes on to add, "Initially, due to the fatigue and morning sickness, it did get taxing. In fact, I even approached the makers with an option to release me if it was getting difficult for them. However, they told me that they wanted me on the show and have been considerate and working around my requirements and comfort. I wish everybody would do that. Working women, who wish to go the family way, should be encouraged to do it."

While Pooja is prepared for her bundle of joy, her onscreen character Rhea is all set to plot several twists to separate Ranbir and Prachi. But will she be successful?

To know all this and more, tune in to Kumkum Bhagya every Monday to Friday at 9 pm, only on We finally caught America's favourite serial killer hiding out in upstate New York and the good news is that he hasn't killed anyone in a decade. The bad news is his knife skills are still top-notch. The lead actor Michael C Hall, who plays the troubled hero of the Dexter series, steps back into the role once again with the forthcoming season – Dexter: New Blood — ressurecting one of TV's darkest characters after almost a decade-long break and an ending

that many found unsatisfying.

Hall shares, "The fact that the ending of the series was both openended and unsatisfying was part of the motivation to come back and revisit the character; especially after all this time, to find out more definitively what happened to him".

The $\bar{l}a\bar{t}est$ series isn't just the ninth season of the show, but a departure. Dexter Morgan has shunned warm and bustling Miami for the fictional small town of Iron Lake, New York. The 10-episode series takes place over 17 days in the icy winter, as blood mixes with snow.

Dexter left a trail of corpses in Florida, but in New York, he has managed to keep his murderous impulse he calls it his dark passenger — in check for 10 years. With just 3,000 residents, his new town has few secrets. He's got a job at a fish and game outfitter, which provides access to guns and knives — and is even dating with the chief of police. They also perfectly line dance to a Blondie song at the

But this charade ends as the new twist comes in the face of his dead sister, played by Jennifer Carpenter, who haunts Dexter. Additionally, Harrison his long-lost son, now a moody teen with lots of questions about why he was abandoned by his dad — forces Dexter out of his comfort

"People are going to die. We all know that. I wanted to present Michael with a theme; and the theme, which is very dear to me, is fathers and sons," expresses showrunner and

Back with vengeance

After over eight years, the psychological-thriller, Dexter, is back with a new season. New Blood is here to test monstrous family bonds, says actor, musician and producer MICHAEL C HALL



executive producer Clyde Phillips. debate takes centre-stage, the The arrival of Dexter's son coincides with the bubbling out of his murderous impulses, notes Hall, as he explains, "A sort of door to his humanity, that he's shut, is opened, but you can't selectively open internal doors. They all open and everything starts to get out." Dexter is both fearful and

excited in addition to coming to grips with fatherhood and by the notion that his son also might have a dark passenger. Is his murderous streak genetic? Or does it have to do with both of them experiencing horrific events when they were infants?

He adds, "The lines remain blurred and the blacks and whites turn to gray. And that's a part of what the show always does, and where the show has always lived, I think.

While the nurture-versus-nature

series also delves into opioid abuse, bullying, school shootings and climate change. And it goes without saying that the show is underlined by its trademark dark humour. In one scene, Dexter butchers a body while the Christmas

song *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* is sung by a choir. "Sorry about the mess," he tells the victim, "I'm out of practice." Hawk-eyed fans will watch as Jack

Alcott, who plays Harrison, mimics many of Dexter's behaviors, like the way he eats his food aggressively or the similar ways they sleep or cross a room. Phillips shares, "It's all reminiscent. The question on everyone's mind is whether he has the essence of Dexter? Does he have the dark pas-

Dexter ran for eight seasons from 2006 to 2013, winning four Emmys

and a 2007 Peabody Award. The lead actor Hall also earned five straight Emmy nominations as the title character between 2008-2012.

Dexter: New Blood was shot ear-lier this year in northern Massachusetts over 119 days. They began in frigid February when, the temperature would drop from 20 degrees to two degrees, if the wind changed. All the snowy scenes were filmed first before spring arrived and the cast and crew had to act like it was cold, even when it wasn't anymore. Phillips laughs about one final scene which was shot on July 28 when the crew was in shorts and T-shirts and the cast was in overcoats, boots Phillips reveals, "It was a very

challenging and rewarding shoot, You stand there in a snowstorm, in knee-deep mud and you look at each other and you say, 'God, I love what I do for a living!"

Since the conclusion of the last season of Dexter, Hall has been on Broadway in The Realistic Joneses and Hedwig And The Angry Inch as well as in the film In The Shadow Of The Moon. He has also been making music with his band, Princess Goes to the Butterfly Museum, but Dexter still tempts.

'The fact that the show is as broadly appealing as it is would suggest that perhaps we all have some version of a dark passenger we contend with. Our experience of being human is at least a part about managing our darker impulses," concludes a thoughtful Hall.







VOICES OF CHANGE

The panel discussion, at the launch of NRAI Covid Impact Assessment report, elaborated on ways to revive the food and delivery industries post lockdown. By KHUSHBU KIRTI

hile I was aware this was one of the biggest events in the F&B industry, it was a panel discussion I didn't think I would be so thoroughly invested into. I was afraid it might get boring, but to face the reality of the worst pandemic affecting even the roots of our beloved industry was something one should really know.

After two years of interlude, NRAI (National Restaurant Association of India) announced the launch of the NRAI COVID Impact Assessment report at their first flagship event post lockdown. The Restaurant Roundtable held at Essex Farms on October 25, saw a strong panel of industry leaders including the moderator, food writer and television personality Kunal Vijayakar, corporate chef Manish Mehrotra, founder and CEO of FreshMenu, Rashmi Daga, CEO and MD of Impresario Entertainment & Hospitality Pvt Ltd, Riyaaz Amlani, and Zorawar Kalra, the MD & founder of Massive Restaurants Pvt Ltd. The panel of the eminent speakers discussed together the road to be chosen by food and delivery industries post-pandemic.

At the beginning of the elegant conference, Kabir Suri, the current president of NRAI and co-founder and director of Azure Hospitality, stated the reality and the alarming statistics. Amongst the worst hit industries by Covid-19 is the food services industry globally.

He noted, "In the financial year of 2021, Indian Food Services industry contracted severely leading to permanent closure of over 25 per cent of food business operators which resulted in job losses of nearly 24 lakh people. The Food Services industry employs approximately 73 lakh people and is one of the largest employment generators for the economy. The industry in India declined by 53 per cent and was estimated to be worth ₹ 2,00,762 crores, compared to ₹ 4,23,624 crores in the financial year of 2020. However, the industry is expected to recover and reach a size of ₹ 4,72,285 crores in the financial year of 2022."

"The people who are here are the ones who have survived," Amlani rumi-

During the presentation on the said report of Nitin Saluja, the founder of Chaayos, he expressed, "Looking at the report, you will realise that while we, as an industry, have thoroughly suffered and are now only struggling to come out. The government has also been equally impacted. The direct taxes or the GST funds that the government would get have also suffered a blow. The partner ecosystem has had a negative impact."

Overall, the biggest beneficiary is going to be a chained organised player. An organised retail business is one which



Panelists of restaurant roundtable: (L-R) Zorawar Kalra, Riyaaz Amlani, Chef Manish Mehrotra, Rashmi Daga and Kunal Vijayakar



Nitin Saluja, founder, Chaayos

is registered with GST, whereas a chained restaurant is defined as a restaurant

with three or more stores. He explained, "20 per cent com-

pounded annual growth rate of chained organised players as compared to a 13 per cent of organised standalone store players, versus a five per cent growth rate of



unorganised players."

Elaborating on the intense restructur-ing that the industry is going through, to adapt to the challenges hurled by Covid,

he highlighted the emerging trends in the report, saying, "There are certain trends that have emerged due to Covid. First and foremost is the overall shift of consumers

towards organised retail. Two, consumers making hygiene a priority. Which is a

making nygiene a priority. Which is a good thing, honestly. People care about cleanliness and hygiene."

"People are becoming more aware and conscious of what they are doing behind the kitchen, not just in front, which is a good thing," Mehrotra joined in

"The Covid protocols are being followed by the employees vigilantly and that has helped bring customers back, too," Amlani added.

Further, Saluja spoke of the delivery industry shooting from a 10 per cent rate to a 33 per cent hike, "Ordering in has become the norm now. It is now a thing for everyone. People prefer virtual brands. For some, it might be 100 per cent, depending on whether it is a cloud kitchen or not. However, overall revenue has increased to 33 per cent."

The report stated certain recommen-

dations for the government to aid the industry, of which the biggest is to allow tax credit. Second most vital request is to allow businesses to operate $24x^{\frac{1}{7}}$. It helps them grow faster.

"We, as a fraternity, need from the government — business support, demand stimulus and regulatory interventions. All the major economies ended up supporting the food services industry by giving some business support or overall stimulus. We ask for the same," Saluja conclud-

The panel also examined the difficulties faced by the industry as a whole. A question that was on my mind, also asked by the moderator Vijayakar, was that there were two sides of the story - "I've seen restaurants short of staff and chefs without jobs, because of the pandemic. Where is the truth in this?"

"Most of the workforce in the metropolitan cities come from outside and with the onset of the pandemic, everyone went back. Now, getting them back is a bigger task. Most of the companies have started re-hiring but have, at the same time, suffered losses that they haven't exactly been able to make up for. In some cases, the chefs don't want to return because of the fear after so much hardship that they faced," Mehrotra answered. Suri believed that 80 per cent of the

losses will be revived in the next two months and considered the report to be pivotal. He said, "the report is crucial for the industry to garner the necessary support and recognition from the Government and its agencies for providing a fillip for consistent and sustained He later thanked all the NRAI mem-

bers for their contribution to the research study leading to the formation of the

Be it your high school sweetheart, your work buddy, or your connection you out how to pop the big question is not always easy.

A couple, Aradhana and Vinay, that met on the dating app, Bumble, found each other on the women-first dating app when they both were looking for marriage. After dating for a year and half, Vinay carefully planned to pop the question and Aradhana got her dream proposal. While they were dating, every time Aradhana watched a proposal video, it would bring a smile to her face. Also, since both Aradhana and Vinay are extremely close to their families, "he thought of combining the two, and when our families were supposed to meet each other for the first time over dinner, he planned a surprise proposal for me! Everyone knew about it except me," exclaimed Aradhana.

Another pair, Madhura and Yatharth, had the most Yatharth, had the most adventurous proposal before they got married in June 2020. They were both scared of marriage and giant wheels. So, Madhura somehow found a giant wheel at a fair and persuaded Yatharth to get onto it with her. Just as it started spinning faster, Madhura took out the ring and proposed to him by telling him that, "I hate giant wheels, you hate giant wheels. I hate marriage, you hate marriage. But if I have to be on a giant wheel or in a marriage, I'll only do it with

You, too, can plan your grand proposal with the help of these tips, given by Aradhna:

♦Make it personal

what Observe partner likes and incorporate those elements into the proposal. It's fun when you tailor the proposal to what your partner likes and wants. Vinay had noticed me tearing up while watching a proposal video that I saw sometime back and when it was our time, he took inspiration from that video, it absolutely touched my heart.

A quick guide, ahead of the wedding season, on confessing your innermost feelings to your beloved. By Team Viva



♦The proposal is all about the couple and not just one partner

Make the proposal about the two of you and not just one person. Do add things to the proposal that both of you enjoy. Since both of us are big Game of Thrones fans, while proposing to me, Vinay added a reference to GOT which made it extra special.

♦If you are close to your families, involve them as well

Having your family present during this special moment of your life can mean a lot. My proposal was a surprise for me but Vinay involved both our families as we are a tight-knit bunch and they also got to



experience it. They were, thus, a part of our important moment which made them very happy.

♦Make sure someone is captur-

on to your kids one day.

ing the special moment on cam-This goes without saying. This is the only way to cherish the proposal forever and pass it

If you both love to travel and want the memory to be a private one, you can venture out on a weekend getaway to a beautiful location and do it

You can make a trip out of it

there. What's great is that if you tell the hotel management in advance about your proposal plans, they will help you in making your vision a reality.

Last but not the least, don't get too caught up in executing everything perfectly. While having the perfect proposal can be daunting, don't lose sight of the big picture. You've found your everlasting love and that's what you need to celebrate, so

The perfect proposal Enriching experiences

The AYUSHMANN-RAKUL starrer, *Doctor G*, set to release in cinemas in June next year, is a campus comedy. By TEAM VIVA

A fter announcing the release date of Badhaai Do last week, Junglee Pictures studio has now revealed the theatrical release date of their much anticipated film, Doctor G, starring Ayushmann Khurrana, Rakul Preet Singh and Shefali Shah on June 17, 2022. It will be interesting to see

Ayushmann portraying the role of a gynaecologist for the first time in the campus comedy drama, along-side Rakul and veteran actor Shefali Shah. After two successful collaborations Bareily Ki Barfi (2017) and Badhaai Ho (2018), both Ayushmann and Junglee Pictures

have collaborated yet again to score a hat-trick at the box office. Amrita Pandey of Junglee Pictures says, "The writers of the film — Sumit, Saurabh and Vishal

the new Bunty - a super

slick, a big city conman.

Saif expresses, "Siddhant is a star, no

question about that. For

someone so young to have

the screen presence that he has and the acting maturity that he exhibits, he is

definitely one of the most

exciting talents that the industry has chanced upon."

"We have to give credit to Zoya Akhtar for discovering him for *Gully Boy* and Adi for believing that he can be a quintes-

that he can be a quintes-

sential hero in the come-

dy genre which is one of

the toughest for any actor

Saif reveals that

to crack," he adds.



along with Anubhuti have created a fabulous script of Doctor G which Anubhuti has taken to the next level. We can't wait to bring it to the theatres next year.'

Anubhuti Kashyap, who is making her feature directorial debut with the movie, adds, "With the shoot of the film wrapped up, we are now gearing up to get the movie ready for theatres. I am really happy to have got the opportunity to work with Ayushmann, Rakul, Shefali, Junglee and the entire team of *Doctor G* who stood by me and that reflects on screen. by me and that reflects on screen. It has been an enriching experience. I am really excited to bring the movie to audiences.

Directed by Kashyap, *Doctor G* is a campus comedy drama, co-written by her, Sumit Saxena, Vishal Wagh and Saurabh Bharat.

$S_{ m role}^{ m aif}$ Ali Khan plays the original Passing the baton Bunty in the completely rebooted big-ticket family entertainer Bunty Aur Babli 2 and he is heaping SIDDHANT is one of the most exciting talents that the industry has chanced praise on the young Bollywood actor, Siddhant upon, says SAIF ALI KHAN. Chaturvedi, who is playing



Siddhant is natural in front "He is fantastic in Bunty of the camera and that he Aur Babli 2 and he lights was born to be an actor. up the screen with his

performance and persona every time he comes on screen. This film will showcase him as a masala Hindi film hero and from what I have seen of him, he thoroughly relishes being one.' Yash Raj Films' Bunty

Aur Babli 2, which is set to release worldwide on November 19, is a ribtickling comedy that will pit two sets of con artists, from different genera-tions, against each other as they show their mastery over disguises to outwit each other. It will also star Rani Mukerji as the OG Babli and debutant Sharvari as the new Babli — a hot, sassy, drop-dead gorgeous con-artist from a big city. Bunty Aur Babli 2 has been directed by Varun V Sharma, who has previously worked as an assistant director in YRF's biggest blockbusters like Sultan and Tiger Zinda Hai.

SHAMI, JADEJA ROLL OVER SCOTLAND FOR 85

ndia's seasoned bowlers made short work of the ■unheralded Scotland by bundling them out for just 85 in 17.4 overs in a Super 12 game of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Friday.

With one eye on the net run-rate, skipper Virat Kohli finally won a toss on his 33rd birthday and pacer Jasprit Bumrah (2/10), made the life of Scottish batters miserable during his first spell.

Bumrah Yuzvendra Chahal (65 scalps) to now become India's highest wicket-taker in shortest

Plucky left-handed opener George Munsey (24 off 19 balls) clipped Bumrah over square leg for a six and reverse swept Varun Chakravarthy for a boundary to signal positive intent but the gulf in class was always obvious.

Śkipper Kyle Coetzer (1) was pegged on the backfoot by a Bumrah yorker first up and then he bowled a slower one which beat the Scotsman all ends up.

A lethal Mohammed Shami (3/15) then sent back the dangerous looking Munsey,

Match 38 ICC T20 WORLD CUP 2021

Nov 6, 3:30 pm IST

West Indies

Sheikh Zayed Stadium,

Abu Dhabi

Lost

189/6 Highest Total 205/4

In T20 World Cup

Won

178/8 Highest Total 205/4

⁴he third and final Test

L between India and South

Africa in the upcoming Test

series between the two teams has

been moved to Cape Town from

Johannesburg, the CSA announced on Friday.

Johannesburg was sched-uled to host both the series-

opener (starting December 17)

and the third Test (January 3-7)

while Centurion is set to host the

Boxing Day Test from December

Africa (CSA) announced the

change in venue for the third Test

but did not specify the reason for

schedule change as the 3rd

However, Cricket South

"CSA has announced a key

KBK Sports Graphics

to Cape Town

Indo-SA test moved

2

3

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Australia vs

SCOTLAND'S PREVIOUS POOR SHOW AGAINST **EVEN WEAKER** TEAMS LIKE NAMIBIA AND **AFGHANISTAN** INDICATOR THAT THEY WOULDN'T DO ANY BETTER

who failed to clear mid-on. That was the end of Scotland batting's brief bright spot.

WAS AN

Jadeja (3/15), with his 'dartsaccuracy, removed Matthew Cross (2), Richie Berrington (0) and Michael Leask (21 off 12 balls) in quick succession to blow away the middle-order.

deliveries but occasionally bowled the ones that skid

Once Scotland were 44 for the better part of their spells.

Scoreboard

4 after 10 overs, there was no

looking back for the Indian

percentage bowling was enough to rattle the Scotland

batters, who didn't find too

many options to keep the

Scotland's previous poor show with willow against weak-

er teams like Namibia and

Afghanistan was an indicator

with less than 60 on the board,

the lower order was caught

balls) laboured along before being cleaned up by Shami as

Indians hardly had to bowl too

many effort balls to dismantle

Alasdair Evans was yorked by

a 90 mph thunderbolt by

evening in the office where

skipper Kohli wasn't bothered

whether there was a sixth

(1/29) and Varun Chakravarthy

(0/15) were also accurate for

bowler available or not.

It was one such happy

Ravichandran Ashwin

Save one where No. 10

between survival and attack.

Once half the side was out

Calum MacLeod (16 off 28

that they wouldn't do any bet-

scoreboard ticking.

ter against India.

the opposition.

Shami.

It was a game where even

bowlers.

NEW ZEALAND (BATTING) Glenn Phillips (39) James Neesham (35)

NAMIBIA (BOWLING) Bernard Scholtz 3 (15, 1wkt) Gerhard Erasmus 4 (22, 1wkt)

Kane Williamson (28) David Wiese 4 (40, 1wkt) Total 163 (4 wickets, 20 overs)

NAMIBIA (BATTING) Michael van Lingen (25) Zane Green (23)

NEW ZEALAND (BOWLING) Tim Southee 4 (15, 2wkt) Trent Boult 4 (20, 2wkt) James Neesham 1 (6, 1wkt)

SCOTLAND (BOWLING)

Total 86 (4wickets, 13.3 overs)

Scoreboard

Stephan Baard (21)

SCOTLAND (BATTING) INDIA (BOWLING) G. Munsey (24) R. Jadeja 4 (15, 3wkt)

M. Leask (21) M. Shami 3 (15, 3wkt) J. Bumrah 3.4 (10, 2wkt) C Macleod (16) 85 (0 wickets, 17.4 overs)

INDIA (BATTING) In progress.

pointstable

Group A Team Matches NRR **Points England** +3.183 8 Australia +1.0316 South Africa +0.7426 Sri Lanka 5 -0.2694 West Indies -1.558 Bangladesh -2.383

Group B Team NRR **Points** Matches Pakistan +1.0658 New Zealand +1.2776 Afghanistan +1.481India +0.0732 2 Namibia -1.851 Scotland -2.645

Wiese (16) only delayed the inevitable and experienced pacer Southee trapped the latter in front in the 15th over to dash the remaining opposition

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

attack to the cleaners and propelled New Zealand past 150 which looked unlikely at one stage. New Zealand were struggling at 87/4, but brutal hitting by Phillips and Neesham ensured that the Kiwis were back in the game.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER M.I.DIVISION GANJAM NO-I, BERHAMPUR **E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

Earlier, Phillips and

Neesham took the Namibian

Name of Work Civil Construction Works.

No of Work **Estimated Cost**

Erasmus (3) cheaply to put

tighten the screws on Namibia

Zane Green (23) and David

Varies from Rs 25.0 lakh to Rs 43.0 lakh 04 (Four) Calendar Month

Period of Completion From 11-11-2021 at 10.00 Hours to 20-11-2021 Date and Time of Sale and

receipt of Bid-document upto 17:00 Hours online

Date & time of opening of

Name & Address of the Officer inviting Tender.

OIPR-32104/11/0004/2122

Executive Engineer. M.I.Division Ganjam-I,

Berhampur.

22-11-2021 At 11.00 Hours

Further Details can be seen from the website: https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in.Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of can also be seen in the said website.

Executive Engineer, M.I. Divn. Ganjam-I, Berhampur

purpose of AGM.

ORISSA SPONGE IRON & STEEL LIMITED (Formerly Orissa Sponge Iron Limited) (An ISO 9001 & 14001 Certified Company)

CIN NO.: 1271020R1979PLC000819

REGISTERED OFFICE OSIL HOUSE, GANGADHAR MEHER MARG,KIITI BHUBANESWAR – 751 024, ODISHA:
TEL: 011-43742000, E-MAIL: corporate@orissasponge.com , WEBSITE: www.orissasponge.com

Notice of 41" Annual General Meeting, Book Closure and E-Voting Information Notice is hereby given that the 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company is scheduled to be held on Saturday, 27th November, 2021 at 3.00 P.M. through Video Conference ("VC")/ Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") to transact the business mentioned in the Notice convening the AGM.

The AGM will be held only through VC / OAVM in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and circulars dated April 08, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 05, 2020, June 15, 2020, September, 28, 2020, December 31, 2020, January 13, 2021 and June 23, 2021, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and SEBI Circular dated May 12, 2020 and January 15, 2021. Facility for appointment of proxy will not be available for the AGM. The instructions for joining the AGM electronically are provided in the Natice of the AGM.

In compliance with the relevant circulars, Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report 2020-21 has been sent only through

electronic mode on 2nd November, 2021 to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company or CDSL/ NSDL ("Depositories"). The said Notice and Annual Report are also available on the Company's website www.orissasponge.com. Members who have not registered their email addresses and in consequence the Annual Report including Notice of AGM and evoting instructions could not be serviced, may get their email address and mobile number registered with the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, Skyline Financial Services Private Limited (RTA) by sending an e-mail request to RTA at the email id info@skylinerta.com along with scanned copy of the signed request letter providing the email address, mobile number, self-attested PAN copy and Client Master copy in case of electronic folio and copy of share certificate in case of physical folio for

obtaining the Annual Report, Notice of AGM and the e-voting instructions.

National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) has authorized for conducting of the AGM electronically and for providing e-voting facility. The remote e-voting period will commence from 24th day, November, 2021 (9:00 a.m. IST) and ends on 26th day, voting facility. The remote e-voting period will commence from 24th day, November, 2021 (5:00 p.m. IST) and ends on 26th day, November, 2021 (5:00 p.m. IST). During this period the eligible shareholders of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module will be disabled for voting thereafter i.e. voting shall not be allowed beyond 5:00 p.m. on 26th November, 2021. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend/participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. The cut-off date for determining the eligibility of members for voting through remote e-voting and e-voting at the AGM is 19th November, 2021. Any person, who becomes a member of the Company after the dispatch of Notice and holding shares as on cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request to RTA id info@skylinerta.com to cast his/her vote. The detailed procedure for obtaining the login ID and password and exercising e-voting is provided in the Notice of AGM. In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 1800-222-990 or send a request to Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Manager, NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in or pallavid@nsdl.co.in or at telephone nos. +91 22 24994545 or Registrar and Transfer Agents viz., Skyline Financial Services Private Limited, New Delhi (Tel. No. +9111 40450193-97). The results of voting on the resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM. Shall be declared within 48 hours of conclusion of the AGM. The results declared along with the report of the Scrutinizer shall be placed on the website of the Company

AGM. The results declared along with the report of the Scrutinizer shall be placed on the website of the Company www.orissasponge.com and on the website of NSDL immediately after the declaration of result by the Chairman or a Director

Notice is further given pursuant to Section 91 of the Act read with Rule 10 of the Rules and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Saturday, 20th November, 2021 to Saturday, 27th November, 2021, (both days inclusive) for the For Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited

Ashish Saxen

Place: New Delhi Director DIN: 07269985 Date: 5th Nover

AGAINST INDIA

The dsciplined Ravindra

Jadeja varied the pace of his through the surface hurrying

New Zealand's big win over Namibia

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Match 39 ICC T20 WORLD CUP 2021

Nov 6, 7:30 pm IST

England vs South Africa

Sharjah Cricket Stadium

Lost

No Result

230/8 Highest Total 241/6

In T20 World Cup

Lost

ink

Series has been moved from the

Imperial Wanderers in

Johannesburg to Cape Town's Six

Gun Grill Newlands," CSA

selves for their maiden Test

series win in South Africa, hav-

ing beaten Australia in their

backvard twice in the last three

India will also play three ODIs

and four Twenty20 matches

beginning January 11.

India will be backing them-

On the tour of South Africa,

The tour will conclude with

Star

tweeted.

ICC

Rank

ICC

¬lenn Philips and Jimmy Neesham's Ggame changing partnership on a tricky surface helped New Zealand beat Namibia by 52 runs in a Super 12 game here on Friday and stay on course for a semifinal berth in the T20 World Cup.

Courtesy some late-hitting by Phillips (39 not out off 21 balls) and Neesham (35 not out off 23 balls), New Zealand posted 163 for four and then restricted the opposition to 111/7 to complete a convincing win. Tim Southee (2/15), Trent Boult (2/20),

Mitchell Santner (1/20), Ish Sodhi (1/22) and Jimmy Neesham (1/6) shared the wickets. The win also meant that Kiwis jumped to the second spot in the standings and now

have six points with a net run rate of +1.277. They play Afghanistan on Sunday in what could be a virtual quarterfinal.

Baard (21) and Michael van Lingen (25) conjured 47-runs for the opening wicket.



openers, first Neesham cleaned up Lingen left-arm orthodox bowler Santner castled Baard with Namibia slipping to 51/2.Leggie

in the eight over and then 29-year-old slow Sodhi removed rival skipper Gerhard

5.1 overs to also bolster their net

run-rate. They are now on top

of the group E table with eight

the bat for Delhi was left-

handed keeper-batter Anuj

Rawat, who hit three sixes and

three fours in his 35-ball-44.

The other contributor with

Date & Time of

opening of Bid

(Single cover)

20.11.2021 at 11.00

Executive Engineer

R.W. Division-II, Bhadrak

Chasing 164, Namibia openers Stephen

230/8 Highest Total 229/4

But New Zealand sent back both the

Nitish Rana smashes 25-ball-50

Nitish Rana smashed half a dozen sixes in his unbeaten 25-ball-50 to lead Delhi to a comfortable seven-wicket win over Chandigarh in a Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 group E encounter, here on Friday.

PTI ■ ROHTAK

Chasing a target of 145, Delhi knocked off the runs in just 17.2 overs as Rana with six

sixes and a boundary All-rounder Lalit Yadav's (23 not out off 13 balls) five fours made it difficult for unheralded Chandigarh bowl-

Rana, who plays for Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL,

and Yadav added 65 runs in just

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BHADRAK. ee_rwbdk2@yahoo.co.in "e" Procurement Notice for Road Works

Identification Online Tender 08/RWD-II / 2021-22 Dtd.01.11.2021 1. Name of the Work :- Road Work as per Annexure :- 27Nos

:- As Per Annexure

:- As Per Annexure

Availability of Tender on-line

: - The details are as follow

2. Total Number of Works :- 0.63 to 28.70 lakhs

- 3. Approximate Estimated Cost Class of Contractor
- 5. Period of Completion
- 6. Other detail:

- Procurement
- Officer

Division-II.

Executive Engineer, R.W.

Identificat on No. 10.11.2021 at 3.00 P.M.

clarification 17.11.2021 18.11.2021 up to 3.00 P.M up to 4.00 P.M

7. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in" 8. Any other changes / Corrigendum may be seen only in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in OIPR-25090/11/0012/2122

A- 577

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **DRAINAGE DIVISION JAGATSINGHPUR - 754103** e-Procurement Notice No SEDD JSPUR 02/2021-22 e-mail Id eeddjspur@gamail.com

GOVERMENT OF ODISHA

Name of work

Total No. of work Tender cost of the work Bid identification No

Date of Opening of financial Bid

Class of Contractor

Construction of Box Culvert on Panisalia D/C from RD 725 30M to 797 60M and 815 65M to 844 60M in back side of District Head Quarters Hospital Jagatsinghpur. 01 (One) of package Rs. 68.38.346.00 SEDD-JSPUR/JSP- 05/2021-22 10 (Ten) calender months
09.11.2021 from 11.30 Hours to 23.11.2021 upto 17.30 Hours
09.11.2021 from 11.30 Hours to 23.11.2021 upto 17.30 Hours
24.11.2021 at 11.30 Hours in the O/o the Superintending Engineer,

Last Date & Time of

Drainage Division, Jagatsinghpur 07.12.2021 at 11.30 House in the O/o the Superintending Engineer Drainage Division, Jagatsinghpur.

The bidders have to participate in on-line bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the Govt.web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Any addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the same website OIPR: 32378/11/0002/2122 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Drainage Division, Jagatsinghpur

Betway Test of the Freedom the fourth T20 on January 26. Anushka Sharma pens heartfelt note on Virat Kohli's birthday

the move

It's Indian skipper Virat Kohli's 33rd birthday and Anushka Sharma marked the occasion with an emotional note, praising her "amazing man" for his courage, honesty and guts of steel.Sharma said the sports star has the unmatched ability to bring himself out from "dark place". "No filter needed, for this

photo and the way you lead vour life. Your core is made of honesty and guts of steel. I know no one who can pick themselves up from a dark place like you can. "You grow better in every way because you hold on to

nothing in you as permanent and are fearless," Sharma wrote on Intagram alongside a photograph with Kohli. The celebrity couple have

always been particular about



she decided to share her feelings on Kohli's birthday because she wanted to tell the world how amazing her husband is. "I know we are not ones to talk to each other through

social media like this but sometimes I just want to scream and tell the world what an amazing man you are Fortunate are those who really truly know you. Thank you for making everything brighter and more beautiful Oh, and Happy Birthday cuteness!" she added.



12.

Availability of Tender on-line Receipt of bids in the Portal Date of Opening of Tecnical Bid Date of Lottery (if required)

Drainage Division, Jagatsinghpur, 30.11.2021 at 11.30 House in the O/o the Superintending Engineer

Superintending Engineer, Drainage Division, Jagatsinghpur. Tenders will be accepted if registered under CDMS portal only as per codal provision. Registration in any other manner will be cancelled.