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'Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021' cleared by cabinet



NEW DELHI: The union cabinet on Wednesday cleared 'The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021' that will repeal the three contentious farm laws, as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19. The Bill will be introduced to repeal the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance, Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. The Lok Sabha Bulletin on Tuesday had already listed 'The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021'. PM Modi's announcement had come after more than a year-long farmers' agitation where they have been demanding the repeal of the three laws along with the legal backing for Minimum Support Price among other things. The Parliament had cleared the three farm bills last year but the Supreme Court had stayed them this January. **AGENCIES**

Lok Sabha bulletin lists Farm Laws Repeal Bill for Winter Session

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha bulletin on Tuesday listed 'The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021' to repeal the three contentious farm laws as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19. The Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021 will be introduced most likely on the first day of the Winter Session of the Parliament beginning November 29. "The Bill will be introduced to repeal the 'Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance, Farm Services Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020," the Lok Sabha bulletin said. While announcing the repeal of the three farm laws that the Parliament had passed last year, Modi had also said that the process to repeal the laws would be taken up in the Winter Session. Nearly a year-long farmers' agitation has been demanding the repeal of the three laws along with legal backing for minimum support price (MSP), among other things. The bulletin lists other bills, including one for regulation of crypto currency. But it does not feature any Bill related to MSP. The agitating farmers, under the aegis of Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), have already declared that their agitation will continue till MSP gets legal backing. **AGENCIES**

Bill to ban all cryptocurrencies to be tabled in Winter Session of Parliament (Ld)



NEW DELHI: The Union government will move a Bill which seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India in the Winter Session of Parliament starting November 29. It will be called 'The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021'. However, it allows for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its usage. The government's objective is "to create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India". The Bill has been listed for introduction, consideration and passing in the Lok Sabha. It is among 26 new Bills, which are to be introduced in the Parliament session beginning November 29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier said that all democratic countries need to work together on cryptocurrency and ensure that it does not end up in the wrong hands. Giving an example of the virtual currency. **AGENCIES**

PM to address Constitution Day event at Central Hall of Parliament

NEW DELHI: As a part of 'Constitution Day' celebrations this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the programmes being organised in Parliament and Vigyan Bhavan on November 26. In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said that the programme organized in Parliament will begin at 11 a.m. and will be held in the Central Hall. "Programme at the Central hall of Parliament will be addressed by the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and Lok Sabha Speaker. After the speech of the President, the nation will join him Live, in reading the preamble of the Constitution," it said. The President will also release the digital version of constituent assembly debates, digital version of calligraphed copy of Constitution of India and updated version of the Constitution of India that will include all amendments till date. The President will also inaugurate 'Online Quiz on Constitutional Democracy'. Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the two-day Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Supreme Court in the evening at Plenary Hall of Vigyan Bha-



van here. All judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of all high courts and senior-most puisne Judges, Solicitor General of India, and other members of the legal fraternity will be present on the occasion. The Prime Minister will also address the distinguished gathering. The nation will celebrate Constitution Day on November 26 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. The observation of Constitution Day started in 2015, based on the vision of Prime Minister Modi to give due recognition to the significance of this historic date. "The roots of this vision can also be traced back to the 'Samvidhan Gaurav Yatra' organised by then Gujarat Chief Minister Modi in 2010," the PMO said. **AGENCIES**

HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK

- 1 Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021' cleared by cabinet**
- 2 India-US Trade Policy Forum decides to up agri, non-agri goods and services trade**
- 3 Modern education utilitarian, not equipped to build students' character: CJ**

India-US Trade Policy Forum decides to up agri, non-agri goods and services trade



NEW DELHI: Reaffirming the commitment to take economic relationship between the two countries to a higher level, India and the US on Wednesday decided to activate the India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) working groups on agriculture, non-agriculture goods, services, investment, and intellectual property. This was decided in order to address issues of mutual concern of both side on a mutually beneficial manner at the 12th Ministerial-level meeting of the India-US TPF here with a view to advancing the goal, to "develop an ambitious, shared vision for the future of the trade relationship," as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden at their September 24, 2021, meeting. On the one hand, the two countries emphasised on collaboration and constructive engagement in various multilateral trade bodies, including the WTO, the G20 etc., for achieving a shared vision of a transparent, rules-based global trading system among market economies and democracies, while on the other, the two countries also focussed on tangible benefits to farmers and businesses of both countries by resolving outstanding market access issues through continuous engagement, a release from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said. The farm sector issues comprise agreement on market access facilitation for mangoes and pomegranates, pomegran-

Lalu asks Nitish to roll back liquor prohibition law in Bihar

PATNA: Following a series of raids on hotels and banquet halls to catch the liquor ban violators, RJD president Lalu Prasad on Monday asked chief minister Nitish Kumar to withdraw the liquor prohibition law. "I already told Nitish Kumar that liquor operations cannot stop in Bihar. Hundreds of deaths due to poisonous liquor are examples of it. Hence, it is better for him to roll back the law and avoid the loss of state revenue," Lalu Prasad said. "The state administration has completely failed to stop the operations of the liquor mafias. Nitish Kumar, on the other hand, is sending police into the rooms of women to search



for liquor," Lalu Prasad said. "In 2016, Nitish Kumar came to my house and said that he was going to ban liquor in the state. I told him that implementation of banning liquor in the state is not easy. Smuggling of liquor would increase in Bihar as adjoining Nepal, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are nearby states. Nitish Kumar had ignored my suggestions and implemented the law," Lalu Prasad said. When asked about Nitish Kumar's claim that all parties supported him during the implementation of the liquor ban, Lalu Prasad said that he and his party did not support the hundreds of deaths due to the liquor ban. We have not supported the home delivery of liquor. Why does anyone support him when he is taking the decision to send male cops into women's rooms, Lalu Prasad said. Meanwhile Nitish Kumar claimed that the people of Bihar are happy with these continuous raids of the police. **AGENCIES**

Govt approves proposal for GSAT-7C satellite for Air Force

NEW DELHI: The Defence Ministry on Tuesday approved the procurement of GSAT-7C satellite and ground hubs worth Rs 2,236 crore for the Indian Air Force for real-time connectivity of software defined radios. The complete design, development and launching of satellite will be in India, and it will enhance the ability of Armed Forces to communicate beyond the line of sight, the ministry said. The decision was taken during Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting held under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. During the meeting, it was accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for one Capital Acquisition proposal of Indian Air Force for its modernisation and operational needs amounting to Rs 2,236 crore under the category of 'Make in India'. The procurement proposal of Air Force was for GSAT-7C satellite and ground hubs for real-time connectivity of software defined radios (SDRs). Induction of GSAT-7C satellite and ground hubs for software defined radios (SDRs) will enhance the ability of Armed Forces to communicate among one another in all circumstances in a secure mode.



es in a secure mode. "SAT-7A is the latest addition to the GSAT series of geosynchronous communications satellites designed and manufactured by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It will enhance the Air Force's global operations and network-centric warfare capabilities. GSAT-7A spacecraft is configured on ISRO's standard I-2000 kg (I-2K) Bus. The satellite is built to provide communication capability to the users in Ku-band over the Indian region. ISRO had launched first GSAT-7A on December 19, 2018. At present, the satellite is placed in an orbit with a perigee (nearest point to earth) of 35,800 km and Apogee (farthest point to earth) of 36,092 km with 0.2 deg inclination which is very close to the its final orbit, the ISRO said. **AGENCIES**

Yogi-Modi pic - Hum Saath Saath Hain

LUCKNOW: A picture, it is said, speaks more than a thousand words and this one definitely does. The picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath walking side by side, with the Prime Minister's arms behind the Chief Minister, speaks volumes about the relationship the two



leaders share. Yogi Adityanath, who shared the photograph from his Twitter handle, wrote: "Hum nikal pade hain pran karke, apna tan-man arpan karke, zid hai ek surya ugana hai, amber se ooncha jana hai, ek Bharat naya banana hai (We have moved on with a promise to sacrifice our body and mind. We are determined to create a new sun and go further than the skies to build a new India)." The photograph is also a firm reply to those leaders who had tweeted a photograph of Yogi Adityanath walking alone on Purvanchal Expressway while the Prime Minister drives away in his convoy. **AGENCIES**

Modern education utilitarian, not equipped to build students' character: CJ

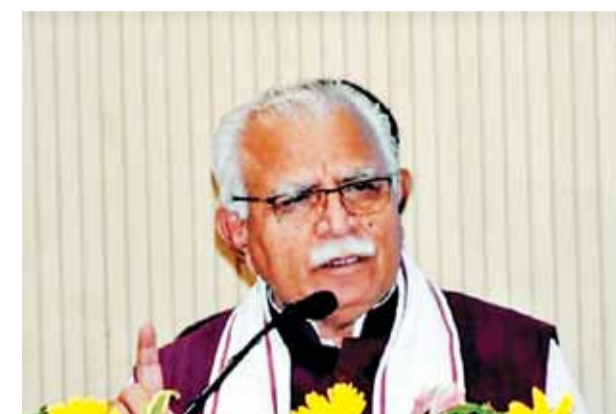
NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Monday said the modern education system tends to focus only on the 'utilitarian' function of education and it is not equipped to deal with the moral and spiritual function which builds the character of the students. Justice Ramana said this while delivering the 40th convocation address of the Andhra Pradesh-based Sri Sathya Sai Institute for Higher Learning. He said: "Unfortunately, the modern education system tends to focus only on the 'utilitarian' function of education. Such a system is not equipped to deal with the 'moral' or 'spiritual' function of education which builds the character of our students and allows them to develop a social consciousness and a sense of responsibility." He added that true education is the one which imbibes moral values and virtues of humility, discipline, selflessness, compassion, tolerance, forgiveness and mutual respect. "You will have to deal with people from different walks of life that may occasionally challenge you. But be tolerant. Hold onto certain core values as you walk through this journey of life, and experience all the richness it can offer you," said Justice Ramana. Lauding the university's founder Sathya Sai Baba, the Chief Justice said: "Education in



this prestigious Institution has inculcated both ethical and moral values in the students. He promoted a combination of 'worldly learning' and 'spiritual learning'. This philosophy radiates in

and empower people, communities, and societies." "Prema in action is service." There is no greater proponent of service, no greater mentor to follow, than Baba himself. Sathya Sai means love. Sathya Sai means service. Sathya Sai means sacrifice," he said. Hailing it as a one-of-a-kind university built around the concept of a modern gurukula, the Chief Justice said: "It is also a 'Gurukula' where the essence of Indian culture, values and lifestyle is inculcated in the students while at the institution. This ensures all-round development and mental fortitude." He said "Baba has showed us the righteous path. This is a concept embedded in our cultural ethos, of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam." Justice Ramana emphasised that the pandemic has exposed and highlighted the deep-rooted vulnerabilities and has increased the inequalities in society. He added: "In such times, self-less service is the need of the hour. I feel so encouraged by the fact that this idea of service is still strong in the hearts and minds of the people. This is evident when people came together, including the students of this institution, to provide relief to those in need. I congratulate all of you for rendering service to the needy." **AGENCIES**

18.5 crore revenue records digitised in Haryana



CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday said under the Digital India Mission of Prime Minister, a remarkable and historic step has been taken for the betterment of the people by digitizing the revenue records of the state. At the state-level and in all districts, 18.5 crore records have been scanned and digitized, which will be easily available at the click of a mouse. This will prove to be an important initiative for the government to elimi-

there was a possibility of records getting damaged, torn, go missing or get tampered with. The first modern revenue record room in the state was set up in Kaithal district as a pilot project on June 24, 2017, and after that on December 25, 2019, on the occasion of Good Governance Day, the Modern Revenue Record Room project was started for all districts.

These record rooms have been prepared in all districts ahead of time. He said the 75th Amrit Mahotsav is being celebrated all over the country and Haryana has further expanded e-governance services by digitizing the important revenue records. In future, important records related to other departments will also be digitized in the same manner. Further through the digitization of this record, the implementation of many schemes will also be accelerated and everything will become convenient for the public through this system. **AGENCIES**

inate corruption and bring more transparency in the system. After inaugurating the modern revenue record rooms in all 22 districts of the state through a virtual meeting at the camp office here, the Chief Minister was in direct dialogue with Cabinet ministers, public representatives and officials present in all districts. He said earlier it was a difficult task to maintain, preserve and find the old revenue records that were tied up in bundles. It also took a long time to find the records and

Kejriwal promises Rs 1,000 per month for women if AAP wins

CHANDIGARH: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday promised to transfer Rs 1,000 per month into the accounts of all women in Punjab, if Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is voted to power in the 2022 Assembly polls. In addition, the elderly women will get a hike of Rs 1,000 in the monthly old-age pension. Termining his Punjab counterpart Charanjit Channi, a "fake" Kejriwal, the Delhi Chief Minister said this was the world's biggest women empowerment programme.

"All women above 18 would get this benefit, which would go a long way in the economic uplift of women in society," Kejriwal, who is on a two-day visit to the state, announced at a public meeting in Moga town. If a family has three female members, then each will get Rs 1,000 every month, he

stated. About generating resources for this poll promise, the AAP national convener said money is not an issue for any government. "The AAP government, if elected to power in Punjab, would manage funds by snubbing all mafias, he said. Punjab has a bright future, Kejriwal said, provided that the state government has good intentions and the right approach to development.

This time the women will decide the course of the 2022 Assembly election in Punjab. Without naming Channi, who is trying to replicate the policies and programmes of AAP, he said, "Beware of a nakli Kejriwal. Don't go by his words. I keep all my promises made to the people." In 2017, AAP emerged as the second-largest party winning 20 seats in 117-member Legislative Assembly. **AGENCIES**

Plight of Punjab schools, teachers a misfortune: Kejriwal

CHANDIGARH: Aam Aadmi Party National Convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday termed the plight of government schools and teachers in Punjab as a misfortune. Kejriwal gave eight guarantees to teachers for comprehensive education reforms in Punjab and promised that these guarantees would be implemented on priority if the AAP government is formed in 2022. He also called upon all teachers to join the AAP's campaign to transform the state's government school education system like Delhi.

The eight guarantees include creating a 'good environment for education' in the state. He said just as a good atmosphere in education has been created in Delhi, a similar atmosphere would be created in Punjab under which a high standard of education would be provided. Through the second guarantee, Kejriwal promised to secure all types of raw, outsourced and contract teachers. He said



Singh and co in-charge Raghav Chadha were also present on the occasion. Recognising the importance of education and teachers for the development and uplift of society, the Delhi Chief Minister gave the first guarantee to create a 'good environment for education' in the state. He said just as a good atmosphere in education has been created in Delhi, a similar atmosphere would be created in Punjab under which a high standard of education would be provided.

Through the second guarantee, Kejriwal promised to secure all types of raw, outsourced and contract teachers. He said

most of the teachers in Punjab have been working for only Rs 10,000 per month for the last 18 years, which is a joke and unjust for a teacher.

Appealing to his Punjab counterpart Charanjit Singh Channi, Kejriwal said the two demands of the protesting teachers to fill the vacancies and make the contractual teachers permanent should be immediately accepted. "If the Channi government does not do so, then during my next visit to Punjab, I will go to the teachers' dharna and the demands of the teachers will be met on the formation of the AAP government," he said. **AGENCIES**

Punjab CM had connived with Badals: Amarinder



CHANDIGARH: Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday ridiculed present Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi for his frequent accusations that he had "connived with the Badals" and harmed Punjab's interests. He said it was the other way round, as it was Channi who had connived with and capitulated before the Badals to save his brother

in the Ludhiana City Centre case. "It is a classic case of pot calling the kettle black," Amarinder Singh said, adding, "It is not me, but Channi who had pledged his support and conscience to the Badals and harmed Punjab's interests. He said it was the other way round, as it was Channi who had connived with and capitulated before the Badals to save his brother

Responding to Channi's accusations, Amarinder Singh said, "Although I did not want to join the issue, his (Channi's) frequent false

accusations have forced me to reveal his capitulation before Sukhbir Singh Badal in 2007 to save his brother, who was an accused along with me in the Ludhiana City Centre case."

Amarinder Singh pointed out that he had put the Badals behind the bars in 2002 and in reprisal they had filed a false case against him, which he fought in the courts for 13 years, while Channi, who at that time was an Independent MLA, had tried to buy peace with them to save his brother and pledged his support to the Badals in the Vidhan Sabha.

"It is not me who had any understanding with the Badals, but you (Channi) who joined them to save your brother in the same case in which I was also an accused," he told Channi, adding that those living in glass houses should not throw stones at others. **AGENCIES**

115 acre 'Panchayat' land scam hanging since 4 years alleged due to bureaucracy shelter

SATISH HANDA
Ambala

The mystery of 115 acre 'Panchayat' land of value worth crores of rupees at village Kardhan adjoining Ambala Cantt is lying unsolved since past about four years even after investigation report submitted by then Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ambala in the month June 2016 indicating the names of several high profile influential persons as well as government bureaucrats involved in the fraud and no action was taken by the government or registered any case against them. Surprisingly, the related file of this case without any action against alleged accused and disclosing their names from one table to another for years now stated missing.

Not only this, Tehsil office at Ambala Cantt made nearly 24 registrations illegally out of the way on the basis of fake documents on this precious land and in spite of the fact Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij too intervened into vigilance report demanded action but no case has been registered against any one till date although ADC Ambala had named



several influential persons as well as government official involved in embezzlements, but no action was taken against anyone so far and even their identification has not been disclosed so far suspecting all alleged accuse being saved by higher authorities. Few years ago when the matter attracted headlines in newspapers, then Commissioner Ambala division Smt Neelum Kasni had demanded immediate action in this regard and then Health & Sports Minister Anil Vij also MLA Ambala Cantt directed local administration to take action against all accused involved in illegal activities in the case but to no result.

Haryana state has been famous for illegal practices in

registration of properties in Tehsil offices all over in the state frequently hitting headlines in media when government declared to take stern action against officers involved in irregularities and suspend them but no action was taken against those involved in embezzlements and corrupt activities. In spite of ADC Ambala had submitted report on June 30, 2016 disclosing the names of registration staff in Tehsil and persons got registered properties on the basis of fake documents but no action taken against alleged accused so far for the reasons best known to higher authorities claiming corruption-free, transparent government in the state.

Punjab CM fixes monthly cable TV rate at Rs 100

LUDHIANA: Declaring a war against the cable mafia, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Monday announced to fix the monthly rate of a cable TV connection at Rs 100 to eliminate cartelisation across the state. Addressing a public gathering here, Channi categorically said people are being unnecessarily harassed by the cable mafia by levying hefty charges which would not be tolerated anymore in future. Channi said all such businesses of transport and cable are owned by the Badal family and now the people need not to pay more than Rs 100 per month, adding strict action would be taken against those not adhering to the new rates. "If anyone harasses you, inform me," Channi said.

He also announced that all illegal bus permits would be revoked and in turn allotted to the unemployed



youth. The Chief Minister also announced that in the next 10 days, the services of all 'safai sewaks' working in the municipal councils and corporations would be regularised and there would be no condition of 10 years service, besides scrapping contract system for recruitment. He reiterated that the state government is fully committed for the welfare of the poor and ensuring holistic development of the state and its prosperity. **AGENCIES**

Panasonic unveils new IoT solution for Indian manufacturers



JHAJJAR (HARYANA): Consumer durable major Panasonic on Wednesday unveiled a new industrial IoT and smart factory solution in India to help domestic manufacturers digitise their production lines and factory floor operations. Called Miraito pro factory, the solution uses new-age technologies such as Cloud, IoT, analytics, mobile app to name a few, to manage end-to-end operations resulting in enhanced production efficiency, quality, identifying issues and reduced downtime. "Miraito pro factory is our smart manufacturing factory solution, which is for industry 4.0 that digitises a factory and give a lot of real-time insights of things happening at the factory," Manish Misra, Chief Technology Officer, Panasonic India Innovation Centre, told IANS. The platform, developed indigenously at the company's India Innovation Centre, is compatible with different types of machines, models and brands in the manufacturing space. "In our pilot projects, we have been seeing an increase of 8-15 per cent in manufacturing facility productivity. **AGENCIES**

Fraud in sale of government jobs in Haryana exposed

SATISH HANDA

Claims to have transparent and corruption-free government in Haryana state by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar faced severe set back over the recent incident of selling government jobs in the state. On the order of Shatrughit Kapoor Director General State Vigilance Bureau constituted a team to investigate the matter and succeeded in busting a racket involved in running a network for recruitments of government jobs in the state getting heavy amount of bribe. According to Sudhanshu Garg SP, vigilance police has already arrested three persons including prime accuse Anil Nagar an officer of HCS rank working as Deputy Secretary in Haryana Lok Sewa Aayog since past about four years, who was produced before duty magistrate and remanded to police custody for four days along with two others Ashwani Sharma originally hailing from Jhajjar district and Naveen Kumar both involved in this fraud. Police has started search for another alleged accuse involved in conspiracy Jasbir Singh owner of a software agency Safe Det E-Solutions Private Limited yet absconding and his mobile phone found switched off.

During police remand amount worth Rs 3.60 crore has already been recovered from alleged accused. Police also conducted raids at the office as well as residence of Anil Nagar and seized his laptop, printer, mobile phone and other documents. During search, raiding team also collected a

list of 24 persons suspected applied for the job of dental surgeon from whom bribe was collected. Information revealed, 60% amount of bribe being collected from applicants in advance and remaining 40% amount at the time of issuing appointment letter after tampering examination papers of applicants with the help of software agency. The investigation team also had a meeting with Alok Verma Chairman of the Haryana Lok Sewa Aayog.

During raid at the residence of Anil Nagar, vigilance team recovered currency notes for amount worth Rs 12.50 lakh and a land deed for purchase of a plot of value Rs 50 lakh, besides also recovered currency notes of value Rs 2.10 crore handed over to Ashwani Sharma by Anil Nagar during raid at the residence of Ashwani Sharma. Investigation revealed, Anil Nagar used to collect amount between Rs 25-30 lakh each from applicants for the post of Dental Surgeon examination held on September 26, 2021 through his companions. The racket had taken Rs 10 lakh each from applicants for the posts of staff nurse, B.L.D.A, ANM from nearly 150 applicants and Rs One crore each from the applicants for HCS examination held sometime ago. During police remand arrested accused disclosed that the amount collected from applicants was being distributed among all those involved in embezzlements by Anil Nagar who was taken to Gurugram and Rohtak during four days police remand where he had kept most of the documents.

38 HCS officers in Haryana facing threat to their employment

SATISH HANDA

As many as 38 Haryana Civil Services (HCS) officers joined duty in Haryana state government in 2016 after qualifying entrance examination and interview of HCS Allied Services conducted by Haryana Staff Selection Commission in 2004 when Chautala government was ruling in the state in which 102 applicants were selected but joining letter was issued to only 38 candidates after a period of 12 years due to alleged embezzlements in appointments when a vigilance committee was constituted to investigate irregularities while making appointments by the following Hooda government in the state.

Out of remaining candidates qualified in HCS Allied Services,

but failed to get joining letters when moved to the court, which directed ruling BJP government in Haryana state in 2016 to offer employment also to those qualified candidates found innocent by the vigilance committee comprising of IPS officers constituted by the state vigilance bureau and accordingly joining letters were issued to only 38 candidates out of total number of 102 candidates declared successful by Chief Secretary on the basis of vigilance committee report since changes were made illegally in several answer sheets during examination paper.

Meanwhile, 22 candidates declared successful in written test and interview failed to get joining letters challenged the decision by investigation team and moved a



writ in the court against government decision for issuing joining letters to only 38 candidates when they have been successful in written test as well as interview demanding either to cancel all appointments or issue them joining letters also.

Information reveals, since appointment of 38 HCS officers was

made when Chautala government was ruling in the state and action for vigilance investigation was taken when Hooda government was ruling in Haryana as such present Manohar government has taken decision not to involve their government in this controversy and challenge court's decision when

appointments were made at the time of Chautala government in 2004 and action to offer appointment to 38 candidates was taken by vigilance committee at the time when Hooda government was ruling in the state.

A few days ago, Haryana police busted a racket involved in selling government jobs and arrested three persons including mastermind in the racket Anil Nagar a permanent resident of Rohtak working as Deputy Secretary in Haryana Sewa Commission since past four years and recovered amount worth several crores collected towards bribe during police raid. Information also reveals mastermind in the racket Anil Nagar was also one among those 38 candidates received joining letter raising a question how a fresh candidate was offered such an important job in Haryana Sewa Commission.

MSME in Haryana to get business through E-commerce platform

SATISH HANDA
Ambala

During Micro, Small, Medium Enterprise (MSME) Conclave webinar held in the state, Deputy Chief Minister Haryana Dushyant Chautala also MSME in Haryana to get business through E-commerce platform holding the charge of industry and labour department in the state said that since past about a year state government is making efforts to provide global identification through E-commerce platform to products manufactured by MSME in the state and finalized agreement with E-commerce companies including Flip-kart, Amazon, Emway, Power-to-SME and Trade

India.com in past one year. Chautala said, with the help of on-line platform the products manufactured by these small industrial units will be available in national and international markets. Large number of owners of MSME units in Haryana state as well as Rajnish Kumar senior executives Flip-kart Group and Dr S.P. Sharma of PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry also spoke at his occasion on challenges to increase business through E-commerce and give identification to products manufactured by MSME in domestic as well as international markets. While addressing Chautala said, state government Haryana introducing several welfare schemes for



MSME units and in past about one year has given global structure to more than 200 firms in the state joining them with export houses through large firm enabling them guaranteed timely payment with assurance not to be involved in bank credit defaults,

besides providing training in shipping and packaging to these small scale manufacturing units and also providing employment opportunities to youths in the state. Dushyant Chautala said, during COVID-19 outbreak in the state efforts were made that units manufacturing essential commodity products and medicines were not closed during lock down declared by the government and export sale also continued during epidemic outbreak.

He said, industry clusters are being set up in every district across the state to cover 140 blocks under 'One Block One Product' scheme launched in the state some time ago aiming to boost small scale industry in the state. Chautala said, Hary-

ana Industry & Employment Policy-2020 was constituted to set up new industrial units in the state and create sources of employment.

He further added, state government is trying for hundred percent growth in export and invite investment in the state which will also bring benefit to small scale industry, moreover hundred percent increase in budget has been approved for MSME sector by the state government. He said, 90% subsidy is being provided to set up mini clusters having investment up to Rs two crore in every district, besides allotment of Panchayat land on lease to entrepreneurs willing to set up new industry in rural areas, Chautala said.

ALSO READ | DEVELOP TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE CHARGING TIME FOR EVS: PANDEY TO ARAI * P5 | PAYTM SHARES CONTINUE TO DECLINE FOR 2ND DAY; TUMBLE NEARLY 14 PER CENT * P5

Bombay HC commutes death punishment to life for 3 accused in Shakti Mills gang-rape case

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Thursday commuted to rigorous life imprisonment the death sentences awarded to three repeat offenders, who were convicted for the brutal gang-rape of a photo-journalist in the Shakti Mills Compound in 2013. A division bench of Justice S.S. Jadhav and Justice P.K. Chavan, while upholding the conviction, commuted the trial court's 2014 order of Principal Judge Shalini Phansalkar-Joshi, giving the death penalty to the accused trio -- Qasim Shaikh 'Bengali', 21, Salim Ansari, 28 and Vijay Jadhav, 19. The verdict came in appeals filed by the three convicts, who -- along with one Siraj Rehman Khan and an unidentified minor -- were tried for the August 22, 2013 gang-rape which shook the nation.

The judges ruled that the Constitutional court cannot award punishment based on public opinion and though it may be contrary to the majority view, the court followed the procedure. The three convicts who became the first in the country to be awarded under the amended Indian Penal Code Section 376 (E) providing for life term in jail or death for rape cases



or repeat offenders, in the wake of the Delhi Nirbhaya gang-rape case of December 2012 -- shall not be entitled to furlough or parole while serving their rigorous imprisonment for life.

The incident took place late that evening when the young woman photo-journalist, along with a male colleague, was on an assignment to the defunct Shakti Mills Compound. There, they were waylaid for the four young men and a minor boy, sparking a nationwide outrage, and the Mumbai Police managed to arrest all the accused within a week. Subsequently, an-

other victim, a 19-year old telephone operator also approached the police a month later to complain against the same five youngsters at the same venue on July 31, 2013, three weeks before the second incident. Both the victim women identified the accused, and the two cases were heard simultaneously and in March 2014, the Sessions Court Principal Judge Phansalkar-Joshi found the four adults guilty in each case, while two minors were tried by the Juvenile Justice Board.

Subsequently, the prosecution sought permission to invoke the IPC Section

376(E) against the convicts which was allowed, the court sentenced the trio of Shaikh, Ansari and Jadhav to death as it was "the rarest of rare cases", while one was awarded a life sentence. In the Bombay High Court, the public prosecutor Deepak Salvi, along with Sanil Salvi argued for the highest punishment since it was the 'rarest of rare cases' as their acts amounted to devastation of social trust, led to a fear psychosis due to the brutal, barbaric and diabolical nature of the crime, all the accused threatening to kill the victim, committing the violence brutal sexual assault involving anal and oral sex.

The Amicus Curiae, advocate Yug M. Choudhary, assisted by lawyer Payoshi Roy -- appointed for the accused -- argued against the death sentence saying the accused were not given any opportunity to defend or reform themselves. He explained how the accused were never exposed to any correctional influence, their socio-economic circumstance, no schooling, were used to a life of abject violence and did not deserve the death penalty especially when the maximum punishment for the offence was 20 years. **AGENCIES**

CM Yogi allocates Rs 3,301 crores for displaced persons in Jewar



LUCKNOW: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has allocated Rs 3,301 crore for the rehabilitation of people displaced due to the ongoing construction of the Jewar airport. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally lay the foundation stone of the much-awaited Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) in Jewar on Thursday. According to the government spokesman, nearly 7,224 affected families have been given Rs 403 crore for their rehabilitation due to displacement.

The beneficiaries include 2,368 people from Rohi, 2,659 from Dayanapur, 936 from Kishorpur, 613 from Ranhera, 573 from Parohi and 75 from Banwaris. In Jewar Bangar area, 3,003 displaced families have been allotted land at the rate of Rs 25,000 per square metre. Dubbed to be the biggest in Asia and the first net

zero emission airport of India, NIAL, estimated to come up at an estimated cost of Rs 29,560 crore, will be the fifth international airport in the state. UP already has three operational international airports: in Lucknow, Varanasi and Kushinagar. The state government has also fast-tracked construction of the Ayodhya airport.

The Noida airport will also be a logistics gateway, especially in northern India. People from all over north India will be able to export their products to international markets through the airport. It will be built and operated by Switzerland-based Zurich Airport International AG. In the first phase, scheduled to be completed by 2024, the airport will have the capacity to handle 12 million passengers per annum. It is projected to ease air traffic congestion at IGI International Airport in Delhi. **AGENCIES**

Goa dentists stage protest at Nadda function

PANAJI: In an "embarrassment" for Goa's ruling BJP, private dentists in the state staged a protest wearing black arm-bands, late on Wednesday, at a function chaired by party President J.P. Nadda, over a recent hike in bio-medical waste handling fees. Talking to reporters after staging the protest during the event at a city hotel, Dr. Anil D'Silva, a member of the Indian Dental Association, Goa, said that the recent hike was "unjustified" and the protest was intended to bring it to the notice of the government. "Injustice has been done to our fraternity with regards to the bio-medical waste handling fees hike along with several other issues. Dentists have been illogically placed in a category, which considers that we produce far more bio-medical waste than we actually do," he said.

D'Silva said that earlier, dentists were treated on par with general practitioners as far as bio-medical waste collection was concerned. "The new service provider, Biotech waste from Delhi has (recently) been awarded the contract and we were randomly slotted in a higher category. The change in category has led to a hefty increase in



our applicable fees, making us pay what is equivalent to a 10-bedded hospital," he said. "Average cost of biomedical waste collection in other states is Rs 600 per month. Goa is Rs 1,800 plus taxes," he added.

The sudden protest by the dentists came at a time when Chief Minister Pramod Sawant as well as top state BJP functionaries and government ministers, including Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, were present at the function, during which Nadda was scheduled to interact with medical professionals in the state. Reacting to the protest the Chief Minister's Office in a statement issued late on Wednesday said: "With respect to today's incident during the Doctors Interaction at Hotel Fidalgo, the CM assured to positively resolve the issues raised by the aggrieved, unfortunately for reasons unknown, the protest began after the assurance was given." **AGENCIES**

Unfair to blame Rahul for defection in Meghalaya Congress: BJP



NEW DELHI: Taking a dig at Rahul Gandhi over 12 Meghalaya Congress MLAs joining the Trinamool Congress, the BJP on Thursday said that it was unfair to blame him for the defection as 'age is still on his side'. In a major setback for the Congress, at least 12 of the 18 party MLAs led by former Chief Minister Mukul Sangma joined Trinamool Congress. Co-in-charge West Bengal BJP, Amit Malviya

said that he (Rahul Gandhi) didn't ask the MLAs to leave.

"It is unfair to blame Rahul Gandhi for the defection in Meghalaya. He didn't ask them to go. They just decided to leave. And what is the hullabaloo about? The next Assembly election is in 2023. The 12 legislators continue to sit in the opposition. Rahul still has age on his side," Malviya, also in-charge of

the BJP's national information and technology department, tweeted. Sources said that Sangma along with 11 other Congress MLAs joined the Trinamool late Wednesday night. Of the 12 Congress legislators, eight MLAs are from Garo Hills and four are from the Khasi Jaintia hills. With the latest political development, despite not winning any seat in 2018 Assembly elections to the 60-member Assembly, the Trinamool Congress thus became the main opposition party in the Meghalaya House.

Former Meghalaya Chief Minister Sangma was said to be upset over the appointment of Shillong Lok Sabha Member Vincent H. Pala as the state Congress chief in September. Sangma reportedly met Trinamool's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in Kolkata last month triggering speculation amid a reported rift within the Congress in the Northeastern state. Sangma had termed it as a courtesy meeting. **AGENCIES**

'Vaccine Vehicle' for door-to-door Covid vaccination launched in B'loru

BENGALURU: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the civic agency of Karnataka's capital, in association with the Care India Foundation launched a 'Vaccine Vehicle' special programme on Wednesday to carry out door-to-door Covid-19 vaccination. Around 80 vaccine two-wheelers and 16 mobile vaccination vans (cars) were flagged off by BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta on the day. Each zone will get eight two-wheelers and two mobile vaccination vans (cars) for block and lane level vaccination drive and every vehicle will have a data entry operator (verifier). In the city, till date a total of 1,36,99,018 doses have been administered, which includes 80,57,563 first dose (88 per cent) and 56,41,455 second dose (62 per cent).

All the Urban Primary Health Centres, within the Palike limits, have been administering vaccine along with camps set up at Yelahanka's Dr B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan and Malleshwaram Youngsters Kabbadi Playground are also administering the



vaccine as part of Bruhat Lasika Mela that has options of walk-in and drive-in vaccination.

To increase the vaccination furthermore in the city, block and lane level vaccination drive was taken up. In the city, wherever citizens have taken the first dose and not the second dose, they will be identified and vaccinated by calling them over the telephone and reminding them. To increase the vaccination numbers furthermore, in the respective assembly constituencies, health teams have been taking up the drive and visiting door-to-door to administer the vaccine to whoever has not been vaccinated. Till now, in around 70 wards, health teams have visited and a total of 35,000 people have been jabbed. **AGENCIES**

Calcutta HC stays CBI probe into SSC appointments

KOLKATA: In a major relief to the West Bengal government, a division bench of the Calcutta High Court granted interim stay on the CBI inquiry ordered by a single bench into the alleged irregularities in the appointment of Group-D workers by the School Service Commission (SSC) in aided and sponsored schools of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE).

The order passed by the division bench comprising Justices Harish Tandon and Rabindranath Samanta came after the state government moved the high court against the single bench order for a CBI inquiry into the matter. Staying the order of the single bench of Justice Abhjit Gangopadhyay for three weeks, the division bench directed the WBBSE and the state School Service Commission to submit the documents related to the appointments to the registrar general of the high court by the end of court hours. **AGENCIES**

Digvijaya Singh leads march to BJP MLA's house in political tug-of-war

BHOPAL: A political tug-of-war between former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh and BJP MLA Rameshwar Sharma escalated on Wednesday after a delegation led by the veteran Congress leader, holding posters with slogans 'mai gandhiwadi hun' (I am a follower of Gandhism), marched from Mahatma Gandhi's statue at Minto Hall in Bhopal to Sharma's residence in Hujur area in the state capital.

MLA Rameshwar Sharma on Tuesday in a viral video had threatened to smash the knees of Congressmen if they enter his area. After this, Digvijaya Singh announced to perform Ramdhun at Rameshwar Sharma's residence on Wednesday (Nov 24). As per plan, Digvijaya Singh along with his supporters marched towards Sharma's residence under heavy deployment of police, but they were stopped 200 metres away from Sharma's residence.

Shouting slogans - 'we are followers of Gandhism', Congress leaders sat at the police barricade and started chanting 'Gandhi Bhajan'. However, learning that Digvijaya Singh along with his supporters was at the police barricade, Sharma reached the spot and asked the police to allow them (Congress leaders) to come inside his residence where a 'kirtan sabha' was being organised. Sharma said that "I will leave no stone unturned to welcome the guests and will apologise to them (Congress leaders) if I am short of anything." However, after Singh left the venue, Sharma said "We were ready to welcome him (Digvijaya Singh) but he left for some other place." **AGENCIES**



Kashi temple to have statue of Ahilyabai Holkar

VARANASI: A statue of the Maratha queen, Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar, who got the Kashi Vishwanath temple reconstructed in 1777, will be installed at Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor that is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 13. The temple complex will also have statues of Aadi Shankaracharya, Bharat Mata and Lord Kartikeya.

According to Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal, "The process for restoration of idols of Goddess Parvati, Goddess Annapurna, Lord Ganesh, Lord Ha-

numan and Lord Satyanarayan in the KV temple premises has been started by installing prefabricated temples there. "Agrawal further said, "The process of installing statues of Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar, Adi Shankaracharya, Bharat Mata and Lord Kartikeya has also been started. The statue of Adi Shankaracharya will be installed at KV Dham's entry point near the ghat along the Ganga." The statue of Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar will be installed near the tourist facilitation centre, while Bharat Mata's statue will be mounted near Mandir Chowk. **AGENCIES**

President confers gallantry awards to Galwan Valley heroes

NEW DELHI: President Ram Nath Kovind conferred gallantry awards to the personnel of Armed Forces, including Galwan Valley heroes, those who fought off Chinese troops, and Indian Coast Guard during Defence Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Kovind conferred a Maha Vir Chakra (posthumous), a Kirti Chakra (posthumous), five Vir Chakras, including four posthumous and six Shaurya Chakras, including one posthumous for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty. The President also conferred 14 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, two Uttam Yudh Seva Medals



and 23 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals for distinguished service of exceptional order. Mahavir Chakra (posthumously) was conferred to Colonel Santosh Babu, who made supreme sacrifice in protecting India's sovereignty during the violent face-off with the Chinese troops in Eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley on June 15 last year. **AGENCIES**

Maha CM Uddhav Thackeray online cabinet meeting

DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray participated in the Cabinet meeting online H N Reliance hospital here where he had recently undergone medical treatment. Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar extended wishes to chief minister in the beginning on behalf of the Cabinet members.

Thackeray, while expressing his thanks to his Cabinet colleagues for cooperating during his hospitalization, said that he was after his surgery, he was undergoing physiotherapy under the guidance of doctors.

The Cabinet meeting discussed the Covid situation along with vaccination status in the state, agriculture situation and related issues. Minister for Transport Anil Parab informed the Cabinet about steps taken by state Government regarding the ongoing strike by State Transport workers.

The meeting also discussed the worsening situation in Europe in the wake of the Covid pandemic and highlighted the need for ensuring precautions in the state. It also expressed the need to complete vaccination as early as possible in the districts, where vaccination was less in addition to increasing the tests, besides also ways

and means to adhere to rules during the Covid threat.

The Chief Minister also offered condolences to the family of the forest guard Swati Dhumane, who was killed following a tiger attack in Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) area in Chandrapur. He also announced Rs 15 lakh to her family as assistance and assured that her husband would be inducted into the service of Forest Department.

The forest guard Mrs Swati Dhumane was on duty to conduct a survey for the tiger count at the Tadoba-Andhari project when she was killed in an attack by the tigress.

The Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and other ministers, placed wreaths at the Police Martyrs' Memorial in the premises of Commissioner of Police Mumbai on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on Mumbai on Friday (26 Nov).

A Police Platoon presented the Salami Shastra even as all dignitaries, police officers and family members of martyrs saluted the police martyrs. The Governor then met with the family members of police martyrs present on the occasion.

The Salutation Ceremony was organised by the Mumbai Police to pay tributes to the police officers, jawans and commandos of NSG who laid down



their lives during the terrorist attacks 13 years ago.

Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil, Minister of Environment and Protocol Aadiya Thackeray, Minister of State for Home Shambhu Raje Desai, Chief Secretary Sitaram Kunte, ACS Home Manu Kumar Shrivastava, DGP Sanjay Pande, Commissioner of Mumbai Police Hemant Nagrale, senior officers of State Police and retired police officers were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the State Election Commission and Gupshup Institute have made available the facility of voter registration and answers to all the related queries through 'Mahavoter Chatbot' at the click of a button, which was inaugurated by State Election Commissioner U. P. S. Madan.

Madan described the "Mahavoter" is a novel concept using BOT technology for

election awareness, with information about the voters and about polling, which the State Election Commission pioneered to implement idea in 2017 elections. The SEC is now introducing "Mahavoter 2", an expanded version of the voter registration process, while especially keeping in view the Special Summary Revision being implemented by the Election Commission of India till November 30, 2021.

Madan urged voters to take maximum advantage of this state-of-the-art facility till November 30, 2021.

Meanwhile, the Indian IT industry is focusing on hiring again. +UnearthInsight+ -- a metrics benchmarking and market intelligence firm -- highlighted its report on "IT Industry Q2 Insights & FY22 Forecast" with analysis on hiring, attrition, and technology evolution of India's IT

Industry.

The report estimated Gross employee addition of ~ 450,000 in the IT Services sector in H2FY22. With higher attrition in H2 of around 17 to 19%, the industry is expected to have a net employee addition of ~175,000 in H2FY22.

Gaurav Vasu, Founder and CEO, UnearthInsight said that the report unveiled insightful findings including the IT Industry's perceived "War on Talent" being real and becoming a rising concern for the industry.

Noting that its crucial for the industry to focus on Employee Value Proposition (EVP) even more aggressively to keep attrition in check, he said that one of the highlights of H1 is the way top IT firms have delivered Upskilling programs in completely digital format and have developed robust infrastructure to support such initiatives. On the hiring side, the industry is expected to see a sharp momentum with addition of around 12% more employees than H1 in the second half of the year, he said.

The report expects ~450,000 gross employee addition in the IT services sector in H2FY22 -- largely laterals/experienced -- with, however, freshers to be added so far in FY22 by 30+ IT Services firms, both domestic and multinational firms in India.

Indian technology firms are majorly focusing on upskilling programs both in India and global markets, where TCS leverages multiple learning tools on the ION learning platform and initiatives for reskilling its global workforce. About 90% of Infosys employees learn through LEX, a platform that helps them reskill and upskill to meet the evolving requirements of the organizations.

The Top 2 Indian IT players offer integrated learning platforms for different personas of employees. Other Tier I and Tier II firms like Wipro, HCL, Tech Mahindra, Mindtree, Mphasis are working towards to create a single interface for employees for learning, upskilling, reskilling and deployment.

UnearthInsight expects that H2FY22 attrition is expected to trend higher at 17% to 19% LTM, while FY23 likely to be around at 16% to 18% and the fresher addition across the next 2 quarters is likely to help IT Services firms control overall attrition in the industry. The rise in Industry attrition is largely driven by the supply-side challenges which are transient and are expected to normalize from FY23.

In H2FY22, the industry is expected to have an increase attrition of 17% to 19% and the rising trend is likely to remain the same for the next two quarters, while FY23 is expected to close at 16% to 18%.

Polls apart, GST rate revisions a move too smart

Since its launch in 2017, the GST regime has been criticised for far too many tax rates that were amenable to creating complications instead of simplifying taxation. The Government had hinted that rates could be reviewed once the system stabilised. After five years, the government has assessed it is about time to consider a reboot, partly because revenues are falling short of expectations, despite healthy monthly collections. Next month, a Group of Ministers set up by the GST Council is expected to propose changes, including merging slabs, with a road map for immediate, short- and medium-term changes. This mandate marked an expansion of its initially stated task of rationalising tax rates to bolster revenues. The Council continues to resolve genuine hardships this created for industry segments, but the constant tweaks have also altered the original revenue dynamics envisaged. The 18% tax rate, levied even on insurance premium payments, now accounts for the largest taxable turnover, as a National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) paper points out. Reducing the 18% rate or merging it with the 12% slab will thus entail revenue losses that would have to be offset by hikes in the lowest and/or highest rates. Sequencing the implementation of new rates and avoiding far-too-frequent rethinks would be critical to minimise disruptions and engender investor confidence. The Council must also urgently address data limitations flagged by the NIPFP. For several months this year, the government did not reveal returns filed by taxpayers even as it claimed GST collections reflect recovery and better compliance. Also, many GST rate cuts that triggered the current resource worries were aimed at pandering to regional considerations ahead of critical elections. With key State polls round the corner, the government's resolve to carry out a hard reset on GST rates may be tested.



MUKUL SANWAL HIGHLIGHTS THAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS TO FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE WELL-BEING

Climate justice is need of the hour

With current per capita emissions that are less than half the global average, India's pledge to reach 'net zero' emissions by 2070 has cemented India's credentials as a global leader. The emissions of all others who have pledged 'net zero' by 2050 are above the global average.

At COP26 in Glasgow (October 31-November 12, 2021), India successfully challenged the 40-year-old frame of global climate policy that pointed a finger at developing countries with the alternate frame of 'climate justice', that unsustainable lifestyles and wasteful consumption patterns are to blame. The political implication of the date 2070 is that the world should get to 'net-zero' by 2050. For that, the rich countries will need to do more and step up closer to their share of the carbon budget. India's stand also signals that it will not act under external pressure, as requiring equal treatment is the hallmark of a global power, and will have an impact on other issues.

The problem, as Gandhiji had also observed, is really western civilisation; it also accounts for the spate of criticism of India's open challenge in the plenary, and getting global agreement on a "just" transition to phase down, and not phase out, coal. The subject of oil was not touched, even as automobile emissions are the fastest growing emissions, because it is a defining feature of western civilisation. Coal is the most abundant energy source, essential for base load in electrification, and the production of steel and cement. Its use declines after the saturation level of infrastructure is reached. The irony of the host country pushing other nations to stop using coal — an energy resource which powered its own Industrial Revolution — was not lost on the poor countries who called out "carbon colonialism". That India and China working together forced the G7 to make a retraction has signalled the coming of a world order in which the G7 no longer sets the rules.

The Prime Minister's stand in the open-

ing plenary, pushing 'climate justice', and the Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav's constant reminder that the negotiating text is not balanced as there is little advance on financial and other support, gave courage to the others to also successfully question the negotiating frame which focused on emissions reduction. After 40 years there is more specific language on both finance and adaptation finally recognising that costs and near-term effects of climate change will hit the poorest countries hardest.

India will be investing

The debate has now shifted to the national level, with questions on the feasibility of the goal of 'net-zero' by 2070. Here again, most of the concerns mirror those raised in the West without appreciating the significance of 'climate justice'. Seeing the challenge in terms of the scale and the speed of the transformation of the energy system assumes that India will follow the pathway of western civilisation where the energy system and lifestyles that evolved over a century have to be transformed over the next 30 years. India is urbanising as it is industrialising, moving directly to electrification, renewable energy and electric vehicles, and a digital economy instead of a focus on the internal combustion engine. Most of the infrastructure required has still to be built and automobiles are yet to be bought. India will not be replacing current systems and will be making investments, not incurring costs.

West must cut consumption

There is sufficient evidence in the literature that the consumption of affluent households both determines and accelerates an increase of emissions of carbon dioxide. This is followed by socio-economic factors such as mobility and dwelling size. In the West, these drivers have overridden the beneficial effects of changes in technology reflected in the material footprint and



related greenhouse-gas emissions. Climate change has to be addressed by the West by reducing consumption, not just greening it.

For India, in parallel with the infrastructure and clean technology thrust, the focus on a decent living standard leads to behavioural change in the end-use service, such as mobility, shelter and nutrition — for change modifying wasteful trends. First, consumption patterns need to be 'shifted away from resource and carbon-intensive goods and services, e.g. mobility from cars and aircraft to buses and trains, and nutrition from animal and processed food to a seasonal plant-based diet'. Second, along with 'reducing demand, resource and carbon intensity of consumption has to decrease, e.g. expanding renewable energy, electrifying cars and public transport and increasing energy and material efficiency'.

Third, equally important, will be achieving a 'more equal distribution of wealth with a minimum level of prosperity and affordable energy use for all, e.g., housing and doing away with biomass for cooking. Indian civilisational values already lay stress on vegetarianism, frown on wastage; mobility-related consumption is not disproportionately increasing with income. National acceptance of a 'floor' as well as 'ceiling' of sustainable well-being is feasible.

The Government now needs to set up focused research groups for the conceptual frame of sustainable well-being. It should analyse the drivers of affluent over-consumption and circulate synthesis of the literature identifying reforms of the economic systems as well as studies that show how much energy we really need for a decent level of well-being.

The West has yet to come out with a clear strategy of how it will remain within the broad contours of its carbon budget. The political problems of a scaling-down of economic production and lifestyles will provide useful lessons. It is becoming difficult for the West to use international trade that is shifting manufacturing and the burden of emissions to developing countries with the rise of a digital economy. And increasing inequality and a rise of protectionism and trade barriers imposing new standards need to be anticipated. This knowledge is essential for national policy as well as the next round of climate negotiations.

After the Stockholm Declaration on the Global Environment, the Constitution was amended in 1976 to include Protection and Improvement of Environment as a fundamental duty. Under Article 253, Parliament has the power to make laws for implementing international treaties and agreements and can legislate on the preservation of the natural environment. Parliament used Article 253 to enact the Environment Protection Act to implement the decisions reached at the Stockholm Conference. The decisions at COP26 enable a new set of legislation around ecological limits, energy and land use, including the efficient distribution and use of electricity, urban design and a statistical system providing inputs for sustainable well-being.

Mukul Sanwal is a former civil servant, climate negotiator and Director in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Views are personal



C. SARAT CHANDRAN EXPLORES WHY AMUL'S SUCCESS COULD NOT BE REPLICATED FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Indian agriculture needs a Verghese Kurien

Many wish for legendary "Milk Man of India" Verghese Kurien's presence in our midst today as the conflict between the Central government and the farming community on the issue of the farm laws appears to be still unresolved. November 26, 2021 was also Kurien's 100th birth anniversary. Kurien's deep understanding of Indian farming and the trust he earned from the farming community could have helped to find a possible solution to the current crisis. His widely cited observation, that "India's place in the sun will come from the partnership between the wisdom of its rural people and the skill of its professionals", captures the essence of his life and mission.

There was a time when Kurien seemed to be an improbable architect of a rural revolution that would eventually transform the lives of millions of farmers in Gujarat. There were many who saw him as an outsider to that world. He hailed from distant Kerala, belonged to an upper middle-class Christian family, and was educated in a western university in a subject like metallurgy which is far removed from agriculture.

Yet, quietly and with self-confidence, Kurien won the farmers over with his professional integrity and his vision of a central role for farmers in India's journey of development. It is on that foundation that Kurien went on to design his idea of Amul as a co-operative, turned it over the years into a global brand, and later launched the White Revolution that would make India the largest milk producing nation in the



world. It was all a well-knit plan.

Central to Kurien's vision was the co-operative model of business development. He decided that Amul would grow and establish its identity neither as a public sector undertaking nor as a private corporate entity. The co-operative model, he felt, was in the best interests of Gujarat's milk producers.

Kurien had a deep distrust of India's bureaucracy. He saw it as a leftover of the colonial mindset and the product of a western lifestyle. Equally, he had reservations about the social objectives of the private sector. Much of the corporate sector, he felt, was led more by a profit motive than by public good. Kurien's fascination for the co-operative model was also influenced by Gandhian thinking on poverty alleviation

and social transformation. He viewed co-operatives as the closest embodiment of Mahatma Gandhi's powerful insight that "what the world needs is not mass production, but production by the masses".

Notwithstanding his reservations, it must be said to Kurien's credit that he saw a great deal — that he could borrow from the ideas and the practices of the corporate world. In areas such as innovations in marketing and management, branding and technology, the private sector excels and sets benchmarks for businesses across the world to follow and adopt.

At the same time, Amul was steadily emerging as a laboratory, developing significant innovations and evolving technologies of its own, and these have strengthened its competitive power against multinational corporations. Its biggest success came when under the leadership of H.M. Dalaya, a distinguished dairy engineer, Amul achieved a breakthrough in converting buffalo milk into skim milk powder and condensed milk. It was one single innovation that gave Amul a distinct competitive advantage and profoundly changed the lives of milk producers in Gujarat and beyond.

Two questions are central to evaluating Verghese Kurien's legacy and his contributions to India's growth story.

One, how has Amul performed in the years after its iconic founder left the world in 2012?

Second, how far has the cooperative movement in general met its professed objective of an economic transformation at the grass-roots level.

Amul has grown steadily on the strong foundation laid by its visionary leader, diversifying its product range and adding new ones. Amul continues to remain one of India's best-known food brands and is an inspiration to other dairy cooperatives such as Nandini in Karnataka, Avain in Tamil Nadu and Verka in Punjab.

Focus on digital revolution

Sadly, Amul's success has not been the catalyst for similar movements across other agricultural commodities in India. For millions of farmers, life is still a struggle for survival.

India's digital revolution has bypassed the agriculture sector. India talks about smart cities, not smart villages, nor even liveable villages. Farmers' suicides are not uncommon, weighing heavily on the nation's conscience.

The cooperative movement in India is in a state of flux. It has suffered due to lack of professional management, adequate finance and poor adoption of technology.

In the meantime, the pandemic has deepened the urban-rural divide. While the corporate sector is reaping billions on the crest of a stock market boom, incomes are drying in rural India and the nation seems to be facing a grave human tragedy. This is truly a moment to reflect on Verghese Kurien's remarkable legacy and the unfinished task he has left behind.

C. Sarat Chandran is Senior Fellow, London School of Economics. Views are personal

FIVE OBSERVATIONS

THE FARM BILL 2020

1 AIM OF GOVERNMENT: FARM BILL 2020
The Farm Bill was passed with a plan to reform the agriculture sector and bring better benefits to the farmers in terms of getting them good deals for their produce.

2 OBJECTION OF FARM BILL 2020
Many political parties and farmers of India are extensively opposing the Farm bill. Their outlook is otherwise and their version finds the farm Bill 2020 will impact the welfares of farmers.

3 WHY IS OPPOSITION TO FARM BILL 2020 SO STRONG? — CONS
The Farm Bill stands against India's soul of cooperative federalism and directly encroaches upon the functions of the State.

4 CHALLENGES TO FARM BILL 2020
Mistrust has been formed among farmers against the government due to the fact that the bill was passed without debates. Hence implementation of the Act will be a challenge to the government.

5 CONCLUSION: FARM BILL 2020
The Exclusion of middlemen benefits farmers only when they have a well-formed infrastructure like markets, arduous storage facilities, electricity supply, and a link to food processing companies who could compete to buy their produce.

LETTERBOX

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BOOKS: REVIEW

'UPA govt must have acted against Pak after 26/11'

Congress leader Manish Tewari has criticised the party-led UPA government for its response to the 26/11 Mumbai attack, suggesting India should have taken action against Pakistan since "restraint is not a sign of strength", remarks that put the opposition party in an awkward situation for the second time this month after Salman Khurshid's Hindutva criticism. As a row broke out on Tuesday over Tewari's views in his new book that India should have actioned a "kinetic response" in the days after the November 2008 Mumbai attack, the BJP hit out at the Congress and alleged that the UPA-I government put national security at stake by not responding strongly. "There comes a time when actions must speak louder than words," Tewari said.

As many as 166 people were killed in the coordinated attacks

carried out by 10 Pakistani terrorists at different places in the country's commercial capital.

Tewari, who was the national spokesperson at the time of the Mumbai attack, also faced criticism from within the Congress with party leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury saying the former union minister should have raised the matter when he was in the government. Tewari became a minister in the UPA-II government. UPA was in power for two consecutive five-year terms from 2004.

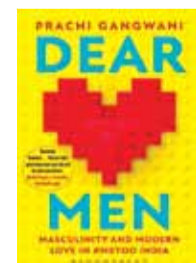
In his book, Tewari also hit out at the Modi government, alleging that the scrapping of the China-specific Mountain Strike Corps in 2018 is the "greatest disservice" that the BJP government did to India's national security.

In his book "10 Flashpoints: 20 years" that is set to be released on December 2, Tewari looks back at the security situations that have

For a state that has no compunctions in brutally slaughtering hundreds of innocent people, restraint is not a sign of strength; it is perceived as a symbol of weakness

impacted India in the last two decades. Tewari is a member of the 'Group of 23' leaders who had written to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi seeking organisational overhaul and elections for every post in the party.

"Happy to announce that my Fourth Book will be in the market shortly - '10 Flash Points; 20



"10 Flashpoints: 20 years"
By Manish Tewari
Rupa Publications
India
320 pages; Rs595

Years - National Security Situations that Impacted India'. The book objectively delves into every salient National Security Challenge India has faced in the past two decades," Tewari said in a tweet in the morning while announcing his book. He has in the book dissected the responses both in terms of success and failures and examined the tools and processes of Indian statecraft in terms of both diplomacy and intelligence.

"For a state that has no compunctions in brutally slaughtering hundreds of innocent people, restraint is not a sign of strength; it is perceived as a symbol of weakness," he said in his book. "There comes a time when actions must speak louder than words. 26/11 was one such time when it just should

have been done. It, therefore, is my considered opinion that India should have actioned a kinetic response in the days following India's 9/11," he added.

Sources close to Tewari said that what he meant by kinetic response was that India should have carried out targeted strikes against Pakistan and dismantled terror infrastructure after the Mumbai attack. The 13th anniversary of the 26/11 attack is to be observed on Friday. The Congress, however, did not respond officially to the remarks made in Tewari's book. Party's national spokesperson Pawan Khera said the book is not yet out and one cannot comment without reading it.

Congress' Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said it is strange that Tewari has woken up now on the 26/11 attack and that he should instead focus his criticism on China and what it was doing on Indian territory. "Sometimes, a book with controversies sells more. Today, when a controversy is raised, the book will be sold more and the BJP will become the salesman," Chowdhury claimed.

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NEWSBRIEF

CII to hold 20th edition of 'Connect 2021' on November 26 & 27

CHENNAI: The 20th edition of Confederation of Indian Industry's flagship event, Connect 2021, aimed at taking the state GDP to USD one trillion by 2030, would be held between November 26 and 27 here. Chief Minister M K Stalin will inaugurate the event on November 26 and the theme would be "Building a Sustainable Deep Tech N'ology Ecosystem", CII Tamil Nadu Chairman S Chandrakumar said. "Over the last two decades Connect as an event has resulted in various path breaking initiatives like the formation of technology corridors, Information and Communication technology, new developments in aero park and specialised technology parks", he told reporters. **AGENCIES**

Rosneft believes Indian market has long-term potential

NEW DELHI: Russian oil company Rosneft promotes a framework of integrated cooperation with Indian partners across the entire value chain, from the extraction of oil to the refining and distribution of oil products. Since 2016, Indian companies (ONGC Videsh Ltd., Oil India Limited, Indian Oil Corporation, and Bharat Petroresources) own 49.9 per cent of the JSC Vankorneft subsidiary. This Krasnoyarsk Territory-based enterprise is developing the Vankor oil and gas condensate field -- the largest field discovered and brought online in Russia in the last 25 years (extracted AB1+B2 reserves amount to 286 million tonnes of oil and condensate and 103 billion cubic metres of gas). **AGENCIES**

Airtel's prepaid tariff hike was 'much-needed' for telecom sector: CRISIL



NEW DELHI: The hike in prepaid tariff by telecom operator Bharti Airtel was a "much-needed step towards healing the profitability and the returns profile" of the telecom sector, CRISIL Ratings said on Monday. Airtel will raise prepaid tariff by around 20 per cent, which will come into effect from November 26.

As per the ratings agency, this revision in tariffs will

enable telecom companies to invest in 5G mobile services over the medium-term.

"Telecom isa capital-intensive sector, because it requires continuous technological upgradation. The key players had already invested Rs 5 lakh crore between fiscals 2017 and 2021 to roll out 4G services. Telcos would need to invest at least Rs 70,000 crore at the 5G spectrum auction likely to

HIGHLIGHTS

- 'TELECOM ISA CAPITAL-INTENSIVE SECTOR, BECAUSE IT REQUIRES CONTINUOUS TECHNOLOGICAL UPGRADATION. THE KEY PLAYERS HAD ALREADY INVESTED RS 5 LAKH CRORE BETWEEN FISCALS 2017 AND 2021 TO ROLL OUT 4G SERVICES'
- TELCOS WOULD NEED TO INVEST AT LEAST RS 70,000 CRORE AT THE 5G SPECTRUM AUCTION LIKELY TO BE HELD NEXT FISCAL IF THE BIDDING IS PRUDENT

be held next fiscal if the bidding is prudent," the ratings agency said.

Indian telecom operators, the rating agency claimed, have among the lowest 'average revenue per user' (ARPU) per month in the world and subdued return on capital investment, despite having second-highest average data traffic per user. Assuming other telcos follow suit on tariff hike coupled with the rising data consumption, the current hike should increase the sector's ARPU by 15-20

per cent to Rs 155-160 next fiscal from Rs 135 last fiscal, and the return on capital to 7 per cent, it added. "Given the high operating leverage of the sector, the current tariff hike will lift the sector's EBITDA by 40 per cent to more than Rs 1 lakh crore in fiscal 2023 as compared to fiscal 2021. The last industry-wide tariff hike in December 2019 had raised the sector's ARPU by 15 per cent and improved its EBITDA by 35 per cent to Rs 72,000 crore in fiscal 2021," it said. **AGENCIES**

Govt puts on sale MTNL, BSNL assets worth about Rs 970 crore

MUMBAI: The government has listed for sale real estate assets of state-run telecom firms MTNL and BSNL at a reserve price of around Rs 970 crore, according to documents uploaded on the DIPAM website. BSNL properties located in Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Bhavnagar and Kolkata have been posted for sale at a reserve price of around Rs 660 crore.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) website has listed MTNL assets located in Vasari Hill, Goregaon in Mumbai for sale at a reserve price



of around Rs 310 crore. MTNL's 20 flats located in Oshiwara have also been put up for sale as part of

the asset monetisation plan of the company. The flats include two units of 1-room set, 17 units of 1 bedroom hall and kitchen (BHK) and one unit of 2 BHK. Their reserve prices range from Rs 52.26 lakh to Rs 1.59 crore.

The e-auction for MTNL assets will take place on December 14. The asset monetisation is part of the Rs 69,000 crore revival scheme for MTNL and BSNL which was approved by the government in October 2019. Both the public sector firms were to identify and monetise assets worth Rs 37,500 crore by 2022. **AGENCIES**

NCLAT stays Competition Comm's Rs 200 cr penalty on Maruti Suzuki; asks co to deposit 10 pc amount in 3 weeks

NEW DELHI: Appellate tribunal NCLAT on Monday stayed the Rs 200 crore penalty imposed by the Competition Commission on Maruti Suzuki but directed the car maker to deposit 10 per cent of the total amount within three weeks. The amount has to be deposited with the Registrar of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). A three-member NCLAT Bench stayed the demand notice issued on October 27 to the car maker, subject to the condition of depositing 10 per cent of the penalty amount. Passing an order, the appellate tribunal has also directed to list the petition filed by Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) against the regulator "for admission" on December 15.

On August 23, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a penalty of Rs 200 crore on MSIL for restricting discounts offered by its dealers and directed the country's largest car maker to cease and desist from indulging in unfair business practices. The stay is "subject to



the payment of 10 per cent of the penalty amount imposed by the respondent, by way of fixed deposit receipt and in favour of Registrar, NCLAT within three weeks from the date of passing of this order", the tribunal said in the order. According to the CCI's order, MSIL was found indulging in anti-competitive conduct of Resale Price Maintenance (RPM) in the passenger vehicle segment by way of implementing discount control policy vis-a-vis dealers.

MSIL had an agreement with its dealers whereby the dealers were restrained from offering discounts to the customers beyond those prescribed by it. In other words, the company had a discount control policy and

dealers who wanted to offer additional discounts were required to compulsorily seek the company's prior approval, the regulator had said.

During the proceedings before the NCLAT, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for MSIL, questioned the "correctness, validity and legality" of the CCI order. He also submitted that the regulator has done a "serious error in passing" the impugned order by not defining relevant market and came to the wrong conclusion. Additional Solicitor General Balbir Singh, appearing for the CCI, said MSIL had imposed penalties on the dealers in respect of additional discounts offered by them. **AGENCIES**

USD 15 bn Reliance-Aramco deal off, cos re-evaluate



MUMBAI: After missing two self-imposed deadlines, billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd has shelved a proposed deal to sell a 20 per cent stake in its oil refinery and petrochemical business to Saudi Aramco for an asking of USD 15 billion as the Indian firm focuses on new energy business.

"Due to evolving nature of Reliance's business portfolio, Reliance and Saudi Aramco have mutually determined that it would be beneficial for both parties to re-evaluate the proposed investment in O2C business in light of the changed context," the Indian firm said late Friday, adding that it will continue to be

Saudi Aramco's "preferred partner" for investments in India's private sector. Ambani had in company's annual general meeting of shareholders in August 2019 announced talks to sell a 20 per cent in the oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business, which comprises its twin oil refineries in Jamnagar in Gujarat, petrochemical assets and 51 per cent stake in fuel retailing joint venture with BP, to the world's largest oil exporter.

At that time, he had announced the deal would close by March 2020. The deadline was missed and the company blamed pandemic controlling restrictions, imposed towards the end of March 2020, for hampering due diligence. **AGENCIES**

Curtain raisers for 'Invest Rajasthan 2022' in all districts



JAIPUR: A series of conclaves have been planned in each district ahead of "Invest Rajasthan 2022," the state government's international investment summit. The conclaves will extend small investors an opportunity to sign MoUs and LoIs with the government and shall act as a curtain raiser for the event.

According to officials, the first district conclave in the sequence will be held at Bhilwara on December 15. These district level investment conclaves will put micro and small investments on fast-track progress in the state. As part of these conclaves, officials concerned are reaching out to existing investors and investor groups to explore the expansion and new investment possibilities. The Rajasthanian diaspora is also being approached and are being assured of rapid progress of their proposals along with other strategic and policy advantages of investment in the state. An outlay of the expected MoUs and LoIs was presented by the DIC officials at a review meeting held in Jaipur on Monday. The DIC officials briefed on the preparations for the event and tabled the investment possibilities in their respective districts. Secretary Industries, GoR, Commissioner Industry and Commerce, Additional Commissioner Bureau of Investment and other senior department officials gave necessary directions to make the conclaves a success at every district. **AGENCIES**

Develop technology to reduce charging time for EVs: Pandey to ARAI

PUNE: The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) should develop technology to reduce the charging time for electric vehicles, Union Minister of Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey said on Saturday. He was speaking at a press conference here after an industry interaction meet organised by the Ministry of Heavy Industries in association with ARAI, SIAM and ACMA to share information about the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the automotive sector.

"The auto field contributes to about 14-15 per cent of GDP, which can go up to 25-30 per cent and can support the PM's vision for making India a USD 5 trillion economy." The sale of electric vehicles has increased drastically in the last few months



due to the various schemes and subsidies provided by the government," Pandey said. However, he also spoke about the challenges in EV adoption, including the time taken for charging vehicles.

"To overcome one of these problems related to charging, I am going to urge Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) to develop the technology that reduces the charging

time," the minister said. Since charging is the main concern when it comes to the use of EVs, the government has chosen 9 expressways where 6,000 charging stations have been sanctioned and about 3,000 shall be installed soon, he added.

"The Advanced Chemical Cell (ACC), which is the main component of the EV battery, is currently imported. About

30 per cent of the cost of the EV is the cost of battery itself. This can reduce if it is locally produced. "This is possible because about 70 per cent of the material used in the manufacturing of lithium-ion batteries is already available in India. With these newly introduced PLI schemes, the government is providing support up to Rs 362 crore per gigawatt in this sector of EVs," Pandey said.

He also highlighted the government's FAME I and II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) scheme, which has now been extended by another two years to March 31, 2024. "With the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, it will lead to an investment of Rs 42,500 crore and will further accelerate manufacturing of components and batteries in India. **AGENCIES**

Paytm shares continue to decline for 2nd day; tumble nearly 14 per cent

NEW DELHI: Shares of newly-listed One97 Communications, Paytm's parent company, continued to decline for the second day in a row on Monday, tumbling nearly 14 per cent. The counter continued to bear a deserted look as the stock declined 13.66 per cent to Rs 1,350.35 on BSE. On NSE, it tumbled 13.39 per cent to Rs 1,351.75. Shares of One97 Communications Ltd on Thursday made a weak market debut and tumbled over 27 per cent from the issue price of Rs 2,150.

According to market analysts, concerns over valuation weighed on the stock. Ant Group-backed Paytm's



Rs 18,300 crore IPO, India's biggest share sale, was oversubscribed 1.89 times earlier this month. This was greater than miner Coal India's Rs 15,000

crore offer a decade back. Incorporated in 2000, One97 Communications is India's leading digital ecosystem for consumers and merchants. **AGENCIES**

Sale of illegal items on Amazon continuing; police seized 48 kg marijuana in Visakhapatnam: CAIT

NEW DELHI: Even after being caught for selling over 20 kg marijuana by the Bhind police in Madhya Pradesh and for the sale of banned chemicals used in making the bomb used in the Pulwama terror attack, Amazon is continuing the illegal trade, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said. According to CAIT, after being tipped off by the Bhind police, the police in Visakhapatnam have recovered 48 kg marijuana from one of Amazon's partners. An FIR was registered in this connection on November 20 under the NDPS Act, 1985, CAIT claimed in a statement.

It is learnt that two Amazon delivery boys have also been



arrested by the Visakhapatnam police, CAIT said. Further, Madhya Pradesh police have also recovered another lot of 17 kg marijuana from Amazon and its partners for which an FIR has been registered at the Mehgoan police Station under the NDPS Act, 1985 and one person has been arrested. The CAIT has demanded the Visakhapatnam

police to register a case under Section 38 of NDPS Act as was done by the Bhind police. Terming Amazon as a 'Ganja Company', CAIT national President B.C. Bhartia and Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal have demanded that keeping in view the scale of illegality by Amazon, the government should immediately suspend Amazon's operations in India and arrest Amazon officials besides registering a case of treason against the company. Bhartia and Khandelwal urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their immediate direct intervention in the matter. CAIT has also urged Com-

merce Minister Piyush Goyal to immediately release the e-commerce rules, e-commerce policy and a new press note replacing press note No. 2 of the FDI policy, so that the conduct of the e-commerce companies in India could be regulated.

Bhartia and Khandelwal have urged the Centre to conduct an intensive and thorough probe into the business model of big e-commerce players, including Amazon, to ensure that no sale of prohibited items or anti-national activities are conducted on e-commerce portals and liability is fixed on marketplace entities involved in the sale of prohibited items directly or

indirectly. Bhartia and Khandelwal said that these illegal activities being conducted on Amazon e-commerce platform reflects the hollowness of e-commerce business in India in the absence of any specific rule or law, which is a sorry state of administrative system in India.

CAIT said that not only the role of the Centre and state governments is under question, but even the utter silence of all the political parties on this issue is also under scanner. It is highly regretted that no one has taken the issue seriously in spite of the fact that CAIT and other organisations have made some serious complaints, it said. **AGENCIES**

Adani Transmission wins three CII awards

NEW DELHI: Adani Transmission Limited (ATL), India's largest private sector power transmission and retail distribution company, has won three awards at the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) first ever Operational Sustainability Conference-cum-Competition. "These awards are an encouraging recognition of our commitment and our multi-pronged approach to greening the operations and improving the productivity and efficiency through a clear focus on sustainability", said Anil Sardana, MD & CEO, ATL.

"The significant improvement in our S&P Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) score combined with these awards from the CII demonstrates our ability



to combine corporate responsibilities and operational sustainability. The company is benchmarked with best-in-class practices and intends to emerge as a world-class integrated utility."

The CII's Operational Sustainability Competition was categorized into four chief sustainability pillars encompassing human, so-

cial, economic and environmental parameters. A wide variety of case studies from major industry participants were assessed by a panel of jury members. In the area of Economic Sustainability, ATL won two awards: the Platinum Award for Green Energy Adoption for its case study on auxiliary consumption and the Gold Award for its case study on Remote (Central) Operation with cluster-based maintenance. ATL also won the Silver Award for its case study on Greening of Substations in the area of Environmental Sustainability. ATL presented case studies on green energy adoption for auxiliary consumption and remote (central) operation with cluster-based maintenance. **AGENCIES**

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RBI announces draft scheme of amalgamation of PMC Bank with USFB

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday announced a draft scheme of amalgamation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank with the Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd (USFB), a New Delhi-based banking company. The draft scheme envisages takeover of assets and liabilities of PMC Bank, including deposits, by the USFB in terms of the provisions of the scheme giving a greater degree of protection to the depositors.



USFB is a brand new bank which commenced operations on November 1, 2021. The bank is being set up with capital of about Rs 1,100 crore as against regulatory requirement of Rs 200 crore for setting up a small finance bank under the guidelines for on-tap licensing of small finance bank in private sector dated December 5, 2019, with provision for further infusion of capital at a future date after amalgamation. This is expected to ensure solvency and continuity of the amalgamated entity.

As per the RBI approved scheme of amalgamation, equity warrants of Rs 1,900 crore were issued by the USFB on November 1 to the promoters to bring further capital. The warrants are to be exercised anytime within a total period of eight years. The RBI has invited suggestions and objections from

members, depositors and other creditors of transferor bank (PMC) and transferee bank (USFB), on the draft scheme till December 10, 2021. It will take a final view on amalgamation scheme thereafter.

Under the scheme, PMC depositors will get their full amount back over a period of

10 years. In the initial phase, the bank will pay the amount insured under DICGC of up to Rs 5 lakh to the depositors. Later, at the end of two years, USFB will pay up to Rs 50,000, and up to Rs 1 lakh at the end of three years, Rs 3 lakh at the end of four years, Rs 5.5 lakh at the end of five years and the full amount

will be paid after 10 years. The apex bank has said that the interest on any of the interest bearing deposits with the bank will not accrue after March 31, 2021. PMC Bank Limited was placed under All-Inclusive Directions under Sub-section (1) of Section 35-A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with effect from close of business on September 23, 2019 on account of fraud, which led to steep deterioration in the net-worth of the bank.

The directions were last extended vide a directive dated June 25, 2021 up to December 31, 2021. Given the financial condition of the PMC Bank and in the absence of proposals for capital infusion, the bank was not viable on its own. In that event, the only course of action could have been cancellation of its licence and taking it for liquidation, wherein, the depositors would have received payment up to the insurance ceiling of Rs 5 lakh. **AGENCIES**

Wish to make GIFT city a global financial gateway: Sitharaman



NEW DELHI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that the Centre wants to make GIFT-IFSC city in Gujarat a global financial gateway. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City is a business district in the state of Gujarat. Sitharaman led a delegation which included two Ministers of State for Finance and Secretaries from the Ministry

of Finance and Ministry of Corporate Affairs to GIFT City.

During her visit, she announced that Department of Economic Affairs has just last week approved three key proposals for International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) worth Rs 500 crore.

"The first was the proposal of Rs 200 crore for a Head Quarter Build-

ing for IFSCA which has Rs 100 crore as Grant in Aid and the remaining Rs 100 crore as loan from the government. The second was the proposal of Rs 269.05 crore for development of IT infrastructure of IFSCA and the third was the IFSCA FinTech Scheme of Rs 45.75 crore," an official communique said. Besides, the minister said that the bullion exchange is expected to "come into play soon" for which all the necessary infrastructure inclusive of safe vault facilities are built and are operational.

This bullion exchange, once launched, will be a big game changer for India, she added. In addition, she also urged the government of Gujarat to explore options to facilitate leading start-ups to operate outside the IFSC but within the GIFT City so that the ecosystem which is necessary for global financial hub can be created. **AGENCIES**

NEWS BRIEF

CAG to audit natural resources: Girish Chandra Murmu

BHUBANESWAR: The Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) will conduct the natural resources accounting (NRA) for a tighter scrutiny and accounting of mineral and energy resources of this country. CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said this while inaugurating the new office building for the Principal Accountant General (audit) here on Monday. Speaking at the function, Murmu said the nation is looking forward to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to make life better for the future generations. "We have started natural resource accounting because prudential optimisation of all the resources is now required versus the development," he said. **AGENCIES**

Equity indices extend losses: RIL, SBI in red

MUMBAI: The 30-scrip Sensitive Index (Sensex) on Monday opened on a negative note during the morning trade session. At 10 a.m. the S&P BSE Sensex of the BSE traded at 59,235 points, down 0.67 per cent. It opened at 59,710 points from the previous close of 59,636 points. Till now it touched a high of 59,778 points and a low of 59,125 points. On the other hand, the broader 50-scrip Nifty at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) opened at 17,796 points after closing at 17,764 on Thursday. On Friday, markets were closed on account of Guru Parab. It traded at 17,649 points, down 0.65 per cent during the early-morning trade session. Reliance Industries and State Bank of India stocks were in red in the early trade on Monday. **AGENCIES**

'Domestic gas production expected to get a boost'

NEW DELHI: India's domestic gas production is expected to get a boost from KG Basin, from Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL). "Domestic gas production would get a further boost, primarily from RIL and ONGC's assets in the KG Basin," the brokerage house said in a report. Besides, the MOFSL cited that after remaining stagnant at 70mmscmd for the past five years, domestic gas available for commercial consumption has risen. It rose to 80mmscmd in the past few months. "Since domestic gas availability would not suffice the demand of 220mmscmd projected in FY27E, import infrastructure would remain key to growth in gas consumption." "We expect India's available LNG capacity to rise to 66.5mtpa in the next 3-4 years from 42.5mtpa." **AGENCIES**

Bank officers' body to hold protest against govt's privatisation plan

KOLKATA: All India Bank Officers Confederation (AIBOC) on Monday said it will hold a protest programme against the government's move to privatise public sector banks (PSBs) in Delhi later this month during the winter session of Parliament. AIBOC general secretary Soumya Datta said the government is likely to introduce the bank privatisation Bill in the winter session of Parliament scheduled to commence from November 29. The government's move is not based on sound economic logic, but purely a political decision to hand over the banks to "crony capitalists", Datta claimed. Privatising the PSBs will hurt priority sectors of the economy and credit flow to self-help groups (SHGs), he asserted.

Around 70 per cent of the country's total deposits are with the PSBs, he said alleging that handing them over to private capital will put the common man's money deposited with these banks into jeopardy. To protest against this move of the government, AIBOC will start 'Bharat Yatra' on November

24, which will culminate at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on November 29, Datta said. He claimed that selling of PSBs to private bodies will lead to financial exclusion and not inclusion. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech had announced that the government will make strategic divestment in two PSBs this fiscal. **AGENCIES**

increased by 1.81 lakh (or over 13 per cent) as compared to the previous month of August 2021 when it was 13.60 lakh. The data reflects a growing trend in net payroll for the first six months of the current financial year except in May,

Finance ministry notifies 12 pc GST rate on MMF, yarn, fabrics from Jan 1; corrects duty anomaly

NEW DELHI: The finance ministry has notified uniform 12 per cent GST rate on manmade fibre (MMF), yarn, fabrics and apparel, thereby addressing the inverted tax structure in the MMF textile value chain. Currently, tax rate on MMF, MMF yarn and MMF fabrics is 18 per cent, 12 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively. The taxation of inputs at higher rates than finished products created build up of credits and cascading costs. It further led to accumulation of taxes at various stages of the MMF value chain and blockage of crucial working capital for the industry.

The GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state finance ministers, had in its previous meeting on September 17 decided that the inverted duty anomalies in the textile sector would be corrected from January 1, 2022. Giving effect to this decision, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on November 18 notified 12 per cent



GST rate for MMF, MMF yarn and MMF fabrics. Experts said though there is a provision in GST law to claim the unutilised Input Tax Credit (ITC) as a refund, there were other complications and resulted in more compliance burden.

The inverted tax structure caused an effective increase in the rate of taxation of the sector. The world textiles trade has been moving towards MMF but India was not able to take advantage

of the trend as its MMF segment was throttled by the inverted tax regime, they said, adding the correction in duty anomaly will help the segment grow and emerge as a big job provider. EY Tax Partner Bipin Sapra said the rate changes in the textile industry is the first of the changes promised by the GST Council with an aim to rectify inverted duty structure and bring an efficient tax structure for a given sector. **AGENCIES**

Unintended: IPO segment dries secondary market's liquidity

MUMBAI: A healthy pick-up in the IPO (initial public offering) segment in late 2021 has hampered the country's key secondary market indices, experts said. The slide in the secondary market has been purely and squarely attributed to the diversion of liquidity to the primary markets for IPOs. Lately, mega IPOs of brands such as Nykaa, Zomato, PolicyBazaar and that of Paytm have attracted huge investments from secondary to primary markets. In market parlance, the primary market is where securities are created. They are traded in the secondary market.

"We are seeing correction in the Indian market and some people believe that the correction could be because of the liquidity sucked by the primary market, as the IPO market is so hot for the last one month with large IPOs and record subscriptions. However, the main reason for correction in our market is relentless selling by FIIs," said Parth Nyati, Founder, Tradingo. "The major impact



of the busy primary market can be seen in the broader market, because we are seeing consolidation and correction in many midcap and smallcap counters while there was a strong rally in October in these pockets," Nyati added. As per the data furnished by Tradingo, funds worth Rs 2.35 lakh crore of HNIs (high networth individuals) or non-institutional investors were engaged in the primary market since the IPO of Nykaa.

Significantly, HNIs' funds are a key driver for a rally in the broader market. "Liquidity pulled out by IPOs is for a small period. As long as investors are making money on listing, they will bring liquidity from different sources." **AGENCIES**

Retail pulses inflation likely to stay under 5 pc in H2FY22: Ind-Ra



NEW DELHI: India's retail inflation for pulses is expected to be under 5 per cent during the second half of the current fiscal, India Ratings and Research said on Monday. As per the agency, this estimate is based on the high level of prices during the corresponding period of last fiscal and the measures taken by the Centre to meet the rising demand. India is one of the major consumers, producers and importers of pulses. Besides, the agency cited that the demand-supply mismatch had led to high inflation in pulses in the country.

"The Covid-19 pandemic aggravated the demand-supply gap as households increased their consumption of pulses to shift towards healthy eating habits and build immunity. As a result, retail pulses inflation increased to 16.4 per cent in FY21 from 9.9 per cent in FY20," the ratings agency said. Notably, WPI inflation saw a decline during the same period to 11.6 per cent from 15.9 per cent,

suggesting a higher mark-up by retailers or hoarding or both. "The retail inflation in pulses remained in double digits in FY21. This was despite a record production of 25.72 million tonnes on the back of higher minimum support prices and higher procurement by central and state agencies which incentivised farmers to grow more pulses," the agency added. To tame pulse inflation, the Centre had announced a string of measures, including a cut in import duties and imposition of stockholding limits for traders. Also, the Centre has extended the imports window for pulses till December 31, 2021, the ratings agency added. In addition, Ind-Ra expects the country's Kharif output for pulses to be around 9 million tonnes, which is lower than the first advance estimates of 9.45 million tonnes due to erratic monsoon this year with record excessive rains in September. The Kharif season accounts for over 40 per cent of India's overall production of pulses. **AGENCIES**

EPFO net adds 15.41 lakh subscribers in Sept

NEW DELHI: Retirement fund body EPFO net added 15.41 lakh subscribers in September 2021, reflecting a growing trend in net payroll additions post the second wave of the pandemic.

"The provisional payroll data of EPFO released today highlights that the EPFO has added around 15.41 lakh net subscribers during the month of September 2021," a statement by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) said on Saturday. For the month of September, the net subscriber addition has



increased by 1.81 lakh (or over 13 per cent) as compared to the previous month of August 2021 when it was 13.60 lakh. The data reflects a growing trend in net payroll for the first six months of the current financial year except in May,

when the nation was reeling under the second wave of COVID-19. Many states had imposed local lockdowns during the period which hit economic activities. The EPFO had net added 8,06,765 subscribers in April, which decreased to

5,62,216 in May this year. The net enrolments rose to 9,71,244 in June and further to 12,30,696 in July. The total net enrolments with the EPFO during first half of this fiscal (April to September 2021) stood at 64.72 lakh. The net new enrolments were 77.08 lakh in full fiscal 2020-21 and 78.58 lakh in 2019-20.

The EPFO stated that out of the total 15.41 lakh net subscribers added in September, around 8.95 lakh new members have been registered under the provisions of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 for the first time.

Around 6.46 lakh subscribers exited but rejoined EPFO by changing jobs within the establishments covered under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act (EPF & MP Act), 1952. These members opted to continue their membership with EPFO by transferring their funds instead of going for final withdrawal.

Age-wise comparison of payroll data shows that the age-group of 22-25 years registered the highest number of net enrolments at 4.12 lakh during September 2021. **AGENCIES**

14 cos approach govt to settle retrospective taxation cases: Revenue Secy

NEW DELHI: As many as 14 companies against whom retrospective tax demands were raised have approached the government to settle cases, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said. The government in August enacted a law to end all retrospective taxation imposed on indirect transfer of Indian assets. The rules under the law seek to withdraw tax demands made using a 2012 retrospective legislation to tax the indirect transfer of Indian assets and also refund the amount paid in these cases without any interest. Talking to PTI, Bajaj said of the 17 companies against whom retrospective tax demand was raised, barring three or four entities, all have given an undertaking to the government to resolve



the cases. "All of them have approached. There were 17 cases, out of which 3/4 had no trace. We had also sent the order in email, we never got a response. The remaining 14, barring 1 odd, who still has time to file, the remaining has filed... Cairn,

Earlyguard have come (for settlement)," he said. With regard to Vodafone, Bajaj said the UK-telecom company has time till month end to file for settlement. "For some the change (in tax laws) was made through the I-T Act, for some the change was made

through the Finance Act." The company for whom changes were made through Finance Act has time till end of the month to file for settlement, he added.

On October 1, the Finance Ministry had notified rules which prescribed that companies will have to withdraw any pending litigation or proceeding before any forum against the levy of the retrospective tax and also give an assurance that they won't pursue any further claims in the future. In addition, the companies and any other interested party were required to furnish an indemnity bond committing not to seek damage from the Indian government or its affiliates.

Later on October 13, the Ministry notified a fresh set of

rules to facilitate settlement of the retrospective tax dispute with British telecom giant Vodafone Plc. The 'Relaxation of Validation (Section 119 of the Finance Act, 2012) Rules, 2021', prescribed the forms and conditions for the declaration to be filed by the company for settling its case. Vodafone had 45 days to approach the government for a settlement. The case pertaining to Vodafone is different as taxes were sought from the company by validating an October 2010 order of the I-T department that sought Rs 11,218 crore in taxes from the British firm over its 2007 acquisition of Hutch-Essar through a deal in the Cayman Islands. **AGENCIES**

India to release strategic crude, join major oil consumers to tame high oil prices

NEW DELHI: India has decided to join the global alliance of major oil consuming countries by agreeing to release oil from its strategic oil reserve to address the supply constraint that has kept crude prices high. Accordingly, the country has agreed to release 5 million barrels of crude oil from its strategic petroleum reserves, a government statement said on Tuesday. India has built strategic petroleum reserves with a capacity to hold 5.33 million metric tonnes (MMT) or 38 million barrels of crude at three locations -- Vishakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur (TN). Over 12 per cent of crude stored in the strategic reserves will be released. The government has timed the release of oil from its strategic reserves in parallel and in consultation with other major global energy consumers, including the US, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

India strongly believes that the pricing of liquid hydrocarbons should be reasonable, responsible and be determined by market forces. India has repeatedly expressed concern at supply of oil being artificially adjusted below demand levels by the oil producing countries, leading to rising prices and negative attendant consequences, a government statement said, justifying the decision to tap strategic reserves. In a bid to control inflationary pressures, the government had reduced central excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10, respectively, on November 3, 2021. It was followed by reduction in VAT on fuel by many state governments. AGENCIES

India, ADB sign \$300 million loan to improve primary health care

NEW DELHI: India and the Asian Development Bank have signed a \$300 million loan to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas of 13 states that will benefit over 256 million urban dwellers including 51 million from slum areas. Interventions through the programme will promote increased utilisation of urban HWCs with provision of comprehensive primary health care packages including non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and community outreach services such as awareness raising activities on health care options, particularly for women.

The delivery and health information systems for primary health care will be upgraded through digital tools, quality assurance mechanisms, engagement and partnership with the private sector. "Ensuring equitable access to non-Covid-19 primary health care is critical amid challenges posed by the pandemic to India's health



system," said Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission. He said that the programme complements the government's efforts to bridge the health care gaps by strengthening institutional capacity, operation, and management of urban health and wellness centres at the central, state, and municipal levels.

Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance, Rajat Kumar Mishra signed the agreement from India's side for strengthening comprehensive primary healthcare and pandemic preparedness

in urban areas programme, while Takeo Konishi signed for ADB. Rajat Mishra said that the programme supports India's key health initiatives Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) and Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PM-ASBY), which has been renamed as Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) by expanding availability and access to quality primary health care services particularly for vulnerable populations in urban areas. AGENCIES

Petrol, diesel prices static as global oil situation under watch

NEW DELHI: Oil marketing companies have continued to provide relief to consumers from rising fuel prices post revision of duties by the central and state governments on Diwali eve. Accordingly, petrol and diesel prices remained static for the 20th consecutive day on Wednesday under the daily price revision mechanism followed by oil marketing companies. So, the pump price of petrol in Delhi, which fell to Rs 103.97 a litre at 6 a.m. on the Diwali day on November 4 from the previous day's level of Rs 110.04 a litre, remained at the same level on Wednesday. The diesel price also remained unchanged in the capital at Rs 86.67 a litre.

Even with lower fuel prices, petrol continues to be the most expensive in Delhi among all the NCR cities as the state government has not revised VAT on the petroleum products so far. In the financial capital Mumbai, petrol continues to be priced at Rs 109.98 a litre and diesel Rs 94.14 a litre. Prices also remained static on Wednesday in Kolkata where the price of petrol reduced by Rs 5.82 to Rs 104.67 per litre and that of diesel by Rs 11.77 to Rs



89.79 per litre in the first week of November. Petrol price in Chennai also remained at Rs 101.40 per litre and diesel Rs 91.43 per litre. Across the country as well, the price of the fuel largely remained unchanged on Wednesday, but the retail rates varied depending on the level of local taxes.

The global crude prices, which has touched a three-year high level of over \$85 a barrel on several occasions in the past one month, has softened a bit now to around \$82 a barrel. Rise in the US inventory and release of strategic oil by few countries has pushed down crude prices, but OPEC+ decision on only gradual increase in production in December could raise crude prices further. AGENCIES

Traders across the country stage protests against Amazon

NEW DELHI: In view of some scary incidents in the country's e-commerce business in the recent past, the US giant Amazon has facilitated the sale of -- marijuana illegally through its portal and banned chemicals in making bombs. And now the incident of selling poison through the e-commerce portal of Amazon has shocked the Country.

Making a strong protest against such activities of the Amazon, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Wednesday held protests in more than 1,200 cities in over 500 districts of different states of the country. The protesters demonstrated the anger and resentment of the trading community by holding dharna and demonstration and warned Amazon that either they should make their business model according to the law and rules, otherwise prepare to tie their sack bed from India. Now the violation of laws and rules in e-commerce business will not be tolerated, CAIT said, adding that if no concrete action is taken immediately in this matter, then the traders of the country will organise -- 'Bharat Vyapar Bandh' to raise their voice. The CAIT also said



that Amazon's love & affection towards the sale of marijuana is evident from the fact that it has asked the US government to legalise the sale of marijuana. CAIT has demanded that the business model of Amazon and other e-commerce companies should be investigated in a time-bound manner. While like the arrest of Aryan Khan in a drug case, the Amazon officials should also be arrested in the same way and a sedition case should be registered against Amazon for facilitating the sale of chemicals in the Pulwama attack.

CAIT has also said that since this issue has taken an inter-state shape, the Union Government should depute its agencies to investigate the case in a time-bound period and the guilty persons should be punished as per the law and till then the operations of Amazon portal should be kept suspended. AGENCIES

Goldman Sachs sees India's GDP at 9.1 pc, CPI at 5.8 pc for 2022

NEW DELHI: India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to rise to 9.1 per cent in calendar year 2022, as compared to an estimated 8 per cent in 2021, Goldman Sachs said on Tuesday. India's GDP contracted 7 per cent in 2020, Goldman Sachs said in a report titled 'Macro Outlook 2022'.

"We expect consumption to be an important contributor to growth in 2022, as the economy fully re-opens driven by a notable improvement in the virus situation and adequate progress on vaccination," the investment banker said. "We also expect



government capital spending to continue, see nascent signs of a private corporate capital expenditure recovery, and a revival in housing investment," it added.

Goldman Sachs forecast India's headline CPI (con-

sumer price inflation) to increase to 5.8 per cent in 2022 from an estimated 5.2 per cent in 2021.

The forecast is based on a possibility of an increase in core inflation, since manufacturers pass on input costs

to consumers as demand recovers with full economic re-opening.

Average oil prices, it added, are expected to rise YoY in 2022. "We expect the RBI to continue to exit the extraordinary monetary accommodation that has been in force since the beginning of the pandemic," the investment banker said. It expects the RBI to hike repo rates by 75 basis points in calendar year 2022 (repo rate hike in Q2, 2022) following normalisation of the policy corridor (i.e. reverse repo hike of 40 basis points by Q1 2022). AGENCIES

Traders up in arms against 12 pc GST on textiles, footwear

NEW DELHI: The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said that instead of simplifying and rationalising the GST tax structure, the GST Council has made it as "most complicated GST law in India over the world" and much against the GST structure shown to CAIT by the then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. CAIT National President B.C. Bhartia and Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said that in the cotton textile industry there was no inverted tax structure, then why fabric and other cotton textile goods were brought under the 12 per cent bracket.

Even in the man-made textile industry, at the stage of manufacturing garments, sarees and all types of made ups, there was no inverted tax issue. Without having any understanding of the stages of the textile industry such a harsh decision will be



a regressive step. The Central Government's notification to increase the rate of GST on basic items like textiles and footwear from 5 per cent to 12 per cent is being opposed all over the country, including Delhi, and the CAIT has decided to launch a mega agitation across the country against such arbitrariness. The agitation will be led by two important trade associations of cloth trade, namely Delhi Hindustani Mercantile Association and Federation of Surat Textile Association (FOSTA) under the umbrella

of CAIT. Apart from textiles and footwear, trade organisations of all types of trade, workers, employees associated with them will also participate in it.

Bhartia and Khandelwal said, "Roti, Kapda & Makaan are three basic things of life. Bread has already become very expensive due to high rise in prices, buying a house is beyond the reach of a common man and the cloth, which was accessible, has also been made expensive by the GST Council." After all, what kind of treatment is being done to the common man of the country. In this matter not only the Central Government but also the State Governments are completely guilty because these decisions have been taken unanimously in the GST Council and no one has opposed such an irrational decision," CAIT said. AGENCIES

Odisha approves eight investment projects worth Rs 1,872 crore



BHUBANESWAR: The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) of the Odisha government on Monday approved eight investment proposals of Rs 1872.11 crore that would generate employment opportunities for over 3,400 persons in the state, officials said. Principal Secretary of Industries, Hemant Kumar Sharma said that the approved proposals were mainly from sectors like food processing, agriculture, animal husbandry, petroleum products, steel, and downstream manufacturing. The authority headed by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Ma-

hapatra has approved Jindal Coke Limited's expansion proposal of Rs 470 crore. The company proposed to double its production from 0.425 million tonne per annum (MTPA) to 0.85 MTPA at its existing unit (coke and petroleum products plant) at Kalinga Nagar Industrial Complex in Jajpur.

The SLSWCA gave the nod to Shyam Metals and Energy Limited to set up a 0.108 MTPA Ferro Alloys plant (3x18 MVA) along with a 50 MW captive power plant and railway siding at an investment of Rs 328.75 crore to be set up at Kalinga Nagar. The proposal of

GV Mines Minerals and Metals Private Limited to lay a 9 km iron ore pipe conveying system of capacity 3 MTPA from Roida-II mines to Bolani Railway Siding at Barbil, at an investment of Rs 104.48 crore, was also approved by the Odisha government.

The panel has cleared 4 ethanol plant projects by Greentech Bioenergy Private Ltd. (Rs 250 crore), Bio Agro Energy Private Ltd. (Rs 228.55 crore), Indian Potash Limited (Rs 219 crore), and Energy Intro Private Limited (Rs 205 crore). Apart from contributing green and alternate energy, these ethanol

units will use locally sourced grains such as broken rice, maize and other starch-containing grains as basic raw materials, providing a substantial income to local farmers, an official said.

Besides, the state has also approved the proposal of Abis Exports (India) Private Limited to set up a mechanised hatchery unit at Baripada in Mayurbhanj district with an investment of Rs 66.33 crore. AGENCIES

After fall in early trade, equity indices close in green

MUMBAI: After a decline in early trade, India's key equity indices -- S&P BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 -- reversed the four-day losing streak and closed in the green on Tuesday. The barometer 30-scrip Sensex closed at 58,664.33 points, up by 198.44 points or 0.34 per cent. Similarly, the broader 50-scrip Nifty closed the day at 17,503.35 points, up by 86.80 points or 0.50 per cent. The top gainers of the session were Power Grid Corporation, JSW Steel, Coal India, NTPC and Adani Ports. As per the information available on the NSE website, stocks of these companies closed 4.02 per cent, 4.0 per cent, 3.95 per cent, 2.61 per cent and 2.23 per cent higher, respectively.

After losing a sizable portion of its market value during the past two trading sessions, One97 Communications-owned Paytm closed at Rs 1,489.80, up by 130.20 points or 9.58 per cent. On the other hand, shares of Asian Paints, Indusind Bank, Infosys, Axis Bank and Titan were the top losers during the session, NSE data showed. "Buying in late trades helped the market to recover from the intraday volatile sessions. AGENCIES

Singapore Airlines to resume India flight services from November 29

NEW DELHI: The Singapore Airlines (SIA) Group said on Tuesday that it will restart passenger services across its India network from November 29. The services mark the resumption of operations from India for the first time since March 2020. "Singapore Airlines will launch daily Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL) services from Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai on November 29, subject to regulatory approvals, providing eligible customers with quarantine-free entry into Singapore," the airline said in a statement.

"In addition, SIA will progressively operate non-VTL services from Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Kochi from November 29. Customers



on these flights must meet the entry requirements into Singapore, and will face prevailing health control measures, including seven-day quarantine in Singapore," it added.

Scot, SIA's low-cost subsidiary, will operate non-VTL services from Amritsar, Hyderabad and Tiruchirappalli. "To cel-

ebrate the occasion, Singapore Airlines will offer up to 50 per cent off on selected fares to Singapore from all SIA points across India. "Round trip fares start from Rs 13,100 (all inclusive), and the customers can avail this sale from November 23-30 for travel before December 31," the statement said. AGENCIES

Centre's infra push to drive mining and construction equipment sector: ICRA

NEW DELHI: The Centre's focus on building infrastructure is expected to drive demand for the mining and construction equipment sector in the calendar year 2021. ICRA Ratings said on Tuesday. The ratings agency expects the sector to grow at around 15-17 per cent in 2021, against its earlier estimate of 15-20 per cent. "Patchy monsoons, together with price increase, against a backdrop of stagnant equipment rental yields, have impacted customer sentiments and in turn the volume," said Mayank Agrawal, Sector Head and Assistant Vice-President, Corporate Sector Ratings. "While the volumes are expected to increase sequentially in Q3 and Q4 CY2021 compared to Q2 CY2021, they will remain



weaker compared to Q3 and Q4 CY2020," he added. Besides, ICRA's outlook on the sector remains 'stable' due to the Centre's infrastructure push and favourable growth prospects, he said.

"With expected easing of supply-side constraints and

continued infrastructure push, ICRA expects volume growth of 7-10 per cent during CY2022. Nevertheless, increasing cost of ownership, muted rentals or any slowdown in infrastructure activity poses downside risks to our estimates," Agarwal said. AGENCIES

Slump in tea prices may hurt India's overall industry: Tea Association

NEW DELHI: The recent dip in tea prices is expected to lead India's overall tea industry towards a "substantive crisis", the Tea Association of India said on Tuesday. "The price fetched is gradually decreasing as against the price attained in 2020. The prices have dwindled almost by Rs 15 in November 2021 vis-a-vis November 2020," the tea industry body said. TAI Secretary General P.K. Bhattacharjee said that around 28 per cent of tea is produced between October and mid-December, which is known as end season tea.

Parallely, rising labour wages is also a concern for the industry, said the association. "The wage rise for the decade (2011-2021) for West Bengal has been 201 per cent and the rise in Assam has been 186 per cent for the corresponding period," it added.



Notably, Assam and West Bengal account for almost 50 per cent of India's total tea production. The association also said that the input costs on

fertiliser and coal rose 9-15 per cent at a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate), whereas the increase in tea prices have shown a mere 3 per cent jump.

Separately, tea production for November in these two states is estimated to fall to 100 million kg, as against 124 million kg during the same

month last year, the association claimed. "The drop in crop can be attributed primarily to the weather conditions, where availability of sunshine during the daytime has reduced substantially with decreased temperature at night and occurrence of pests such as helopeltis, looper caterpillar, red spider etc.," it added. India is one of the major growers of the beverage, producing around 1,330 million kg of tea annually.

Meanwhile, the North Eastern Tea Association (NETA) has urged Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal in a memorandum to frame appropriate schemes for the tea industry for a period of at least three years, for both big growers and small growers, for the development of the industry. AGENCIES

Pop comes Dilli 6 on your table

LE MERIDIEN GURGAON BRINGS ALIVE FLAVOURS AND AROMAS OF OLD DELHI AT ITS FIRST POP-UP

CHHAVI BHATIA
New Delhi

Winters are any gastronome's delight, calories and widening girth notwithstanding. We eat hot, spicy, rich, sweet food unmindful as cold winds and dipping mercury absolve us of any guilt. Partial blame of this unrestrained excess goes to chefs too who sharpen their knives, bringing out the best to savour the biting cold. Chef Talat Mehmood Khan at Le Meridien, Gurgaon is in the line of fire for doing the same: bringing a decadently flavourful pop-up, Salaam-e-Dilli, to announce the arrival of the season. He brings the aromas, flavours and taste from gullies of Purani Dilli to fine dine sans its chaos, hustle bustle and traffic.

"The idea of going to Old Delhi during peak winters to enjoy the widespread Mughlai cuisine, so that the food doesn't make one sweat but warm, is what inspired us to have an outdoor restaurant," he says while giving a low-down on the menu spun with three decades of chef Khan's expertise in Mughlai cuisine and a childhood spent watching his grandmother cook. The menu has Mughlai regulars: kebabs, biryani and ghost nihari which has chef Khan's "special touch". Vegetarians can relish some exquisite authentic dishes Malai Paneer ki Seekh--velvety paneer reshmi seekh kebab marinated in sour



ON TILL MARCH
TIMINGS
6:30PM TO 10:30PM



dishes is lost. People have created their own recipes and spice blends because of which the dishes do not taste as they were originally," he says, adding that pork and beef were originally not used in their gastronomy; instead, goat, fowls, sheep, and venison as well as vegetarian-based dishes were heavily consumed.

The pop-up also has Ghosht and Subz Biryani cooked in dum for hours and chef's special Shami Kebab with a secret blend to satiate your palate. The menu also features a choice of traditional dessert Zaffrani Kheer, slow cooked for hours with a touch of saffron and an amalgamation of flavors like coconut and cardamom.



While chef Khan does not believe in tweaking age-old recipes to suit his sensibilities, he let his mother and grandmother influence who he is in the kitchen. "When it comes to authentic Mughlai food, copper utensils play a crucial part in enhancing the flavors. Copper utensils with silver lining were used by my grandma, which imparted tastes to the original recipe. She also instructed me to never use a pressure cooker and instead to let the food cook slowly and naturally in its own juices," he states.

cream infused with saffron and flavored with nutmeg, star anise and roasted in the oven in bamboo skewers. And all this is "authentic", bringing us to the big mystery on what constitutes authentic Mughlai food. "Mughlai cuisine originated in northern India--Uttar Pradesh and Delhi as well as among muhajir expats in Pakistan. The cuisine can also be found in certain regions of Bhopal and Hyderabad. With the variety of flavorful sauces and butter-based curries, Mughlai fare was most likely time-consuming and labor-intensive to prepare--almost as if it was meant to

make people desire more food because it can be so decadent," he says. Chef Khan further shares that Mughlai dishes are usually described as mild to medium-hot cream and nut-based gravies, rice dishes with a lot of nuts and dried fruits, and rich creamy desserts with spices like saffron, cinnamon, cardamom, cloves, and nutmeg. There are staples too but most of them, he rues are corrupt imitations of the original recipes. "Nihari and kebabs are a routine affair but the authenticity of these classic

POTPOURRI



Shahid Kapoor's 'JERSEY' poster smashes it out of the park!

Shahid Kapoor will be yet again seen in the Hindi remake of a Telugu film after 'Kabir Singh', this time Gowtam Tinnanuri's hugely popular 'Jersey'.

The poster of the film was recently revealed and it has got the audience excited with its backdrop of India's most loved sport of cricket. It features a shot of Shahid's character of a batsman as he greets the audience. The makers also made an announcement with regards to the trailer of the film which will be released on November 23. The film's producer Aman Gill spoke about the poster and trailer launch, as he said, "We all are very excited to be sharing the first poster of 'Jersey' today and trailer tomorrow with everyone. The last two years have been a long journey for all of us and the film, and we did not want to compromise anything for the audience along the way. We are eagerly looking forward to the audience responses on our posters and trailer in the coming days."

The film follows the story of an underdog and celebrates the human spirit. While the film features Shahid as the protagonist, it also stars his father and veteran actor Pan-kaj Kapur and also Mrunal Thakur, who was most recently seen in 'Dhamaka'. Produced by Aman Gill, Dil Raju and S Naga Vamsi and presented by Allu Aravind, the film features music by Sachet and Parampara and it is set to release theatrically on December 31. **AGENCIES**

257 Afghan media outlets shut since Taliban takeover

'WE URGE THAT THE LAW ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, AND MEDIA LAW, WHICH ARE NOT BEING USED NOW, BE AMENDED BASED ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MEDIA'

KABUL: Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, a total of 257 media outlets have been shut "due to financial challenges as well as restrictions", a media report said citing an NGO. NAI, the group which has been providing advocacy and support to the Afghan media industry since 2004, said on Tuesday said the closed outlets include print, radio and TV stations, TOLO News reported. According to NAI, over 70 per cent of Afghan media workers have become jobless or left the country after Kabul fell to the Taliban on August 15. Reports have also revealed that during the 100 days of Taliban rule, six reporters have lost their lives in various incidents including attacks by unknown armed men,



explosions, suicide and traffic incidents. Officials of the Taliban-led Islamic Emirate government have repeatedly said they are committed to protect media achievements and freedom of expression. But the Islamic Emirate's two lists of principles for media operation have raised concerns over restrictions, said the TOLO News report. "The recent statement, which has eight articles (from the Virtue and Vice ministry) has raised concerns. We hope the issue

is resolved in consultation with the media," the TOLO News report quoted Hujatullah Mujadedi, head of the Afghanistan Independent Journalists' Association, as saying. "We urge that the Law on Access to Information, and Media Law, which are not being used now, be amended based on the current situation and in consultation with the media," said Masroor Lutfi, media officer at Afghanistan National Journalists' Union. **AGENCIES**



Raveena Tandon unveils trailer of 'ARANYAK', talks about women in uniform

LONAVLA: She ruled the 1990s with her effortless performances and swept the audiences off their feet with her dance moves, now actress Raveena Tandon is all set to make her digital debut with Netflix's upcoming crime thriller 'Aranyak', where she will be seen playing a police officer. The series spotlights the hard-

ships and prejudices female officers face as they try to strike a balance between their work and personal lives. The over two-minute-long trailer was unveiled in Lonavla. Set in the dense forest, Raveena plays a local cop, who all her life waits for a "big case" and one fine day a news of a teenage

tourist's murder shakes her up and joins forces with her city-bred replacement Angad played by Parambrata Chatterjee to solve the case. As the two struggle to find the serial killing entity, a forgotten folklore is revived. The trailer also features Ashutosh Rana, Meghna Mali and Zakir Hus-

"It's something that I might not identify, because I might be one of those lucky ones who has had constant emotional support from my family - parents, husband, children, to go out there and do my best"

sain. The 47-year-old actress will be seen playing a "fierce" officer named Kasturi Dogra and says her "character in itself is so strong she would reach out to you anyhow." **AGENCIES**

Describing the characteristics of Kasturi, Raveena added: "She's a fiercely independent, super talented cop, who is waiting for an opportunity to excel in her life. She's surrounded by her male counterparts, wants to achieve something in her career and the way we women juggle our career, lives, emotional support that we get or don't get from home." The actress during the trailer launch of 'Aranyak' added: "Our priorities are our children, in-laws, family, that's what completely attracted me to her character. A lot of women can identify with that, especially our women in uniform." "It's so important to get that emotional support, that backing because the job that they do isn't only physically taxing but mentality taxing. There's so much pressure on them to try and excel." The actress does not identify with her character much and shared the reason why. She said: "It's something that I might not identify, because I might be one of those lucky ones who has had constant emotional support from my family - parents, husband, children, to go out there and do my best." "But there are so many women out there, so many Kasturi Dogras who aren't lucky enough to get that kind of emotional support. That's what makes the character so beautifully strong against all odds." 'Aranyak' will air from December 10 on Netflix. **AGENCIES**

Robin Uthappa : Pant needs a break to switch off from cricket

'MAYBE LACK OF CLARITY OR MENTAL FATIGUE, IT COULD BE JUST THAT AS WELL. HE IS A TOP-CLASS PLAYER AND IT'S A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE COMES BACK AND HITS THE BALL THE WAY WE KNOW HE CAN. I THINK HE DESERVES A BIT OF A BREAK TO JUST SWITCH OFF FROM CRICKET'

NEWDELHI: India's wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant struggled to score runs in the T20 series against New Zealand and that has raised many questions about his approach and temperament. Former India batsman Robin Uthappa is of the opinion that the long time spent inside multiple bio-bubbles might have taken a toll on the India wicketkeeper's mind and body. Uthappa suggested that Pant deserves a break from the game to get back the rhythm. "Rishabh has been on the road with the Indian team for a couple of years non-stop. He has made himself available to play anything and everything without complaining. To be constantly in a bubble saps you. I am



certain that also has an impact on the way he performs on the field," Uthappa said. "Maybe lack of clarity or mental fatigue, it could be just that as well. He is a top-class player and it's a matter of time before he comes back and hits the ball the way we know he can. I think he deserves a bit of a break to just switch off from cricket," Uthappa told ESPN Cricinfo. Earlier, former New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori also addressed Pant's problem, stating that if the Delhi youngster doesn't

get among runs, he may end up being replaced. "I will be surprised if they (team management) don't talk long and hard about what they expect from him. But the onus is on Pant to find that right tempo. The reality is, if he doesn't, they can look elsewhere. They have Ishan Kishan and KL can keep wickets as well in T20. They will give Pant the opportunity to find his rhythm, knowing that they can change pretty quickly as well," said Vettori. **AGENCIES**

Controversy erupts over Team India's new diet plan

NEW DELHI: Ahead of India's first Test against New Zealand in Kanpur on Thursday, a major off-the-field controversy has erupted over reports on cricket teams' new diet regime. As per reports, the national cricket board (BCCI) has banned beef and pork in any form in Team India's new diet regime. It has also been learned that the players are only allowed to consume meat in only 'halal' form. "According to the new dietary plan of the Indian cricket team, players aren't allowed to eat pork and beef in any form and variety in order to keep themselves fit and healthy. If anyone wants to have meat then it should be only in halal form," said a Sports Tak report. The report further said that the Indian cricket board has introduced a new diet plan in order to ensure the health and fitness of the players



ahead of the upcoming events. However, BCCI's decision has divided the netizens. While many are criticising the board's move, few are also happy. The "#BCCI_Promotes_Halal" is in the top trending list on Twitter and people are continuously expressing their opinions. While social media is abuzz with the issue, the BCCI hasn't issued any clarification on the whole matter till now. On the field, India, who registered a 3-0 whitewash over New Zealand in the recently concluded T20I series, are all set to face Kan' Williamson's side in the Test series, starting on Thursday in Kanpur. **AGENCIES**

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