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# PM Modi Speaks to Saudi King, Two Leaders Exchange Views on Global Challenges Following Covid-19

## With eye on China, India, France & Australia hold first joint talks on Indo-Pacific

New Delhi (Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephonic conversation on Wednesday with King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia and the two leaders exchanged views on the global challenges following the COVID-19 pandemic. The Prime Minister's Office said Modi expressed his appreciation for the leadership provided by Saudi Arabia during its ongoing presidency of the G20 grouping.

The two leaders agreed that the initiatives about the important role

His Majesty @KingSalman about the important role

bilateral ties in recent years.



He also expressed "special thanks" to King Salman for the support provided to Indian expatriates by the Saudi authorities during the

taken at the level of the G20 had helped in promoting a coordinated response to the pandemic.

being played by the G20 under the Saudi Presidency, including against COVID-19. We also reviewed the tremendous growth in our

— Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) September 9, 2020  
They also discussed the main priorities presently on the agenda of the G20, it said. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations between India and Saudi Arabia, and committed to further strengthening cooperation in all areas, the PMO said.

Modi conveyed his warm wishes for the good health and well-being of King Salman, other members of the royal family of Saudi Arabia and all citizens of the kingdom.

New Delhi (Gns). India, Australia and France on Wednesday held talks for the first time under a trilateral framework with focus on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, a region that has been witnessing increasing Chinese military assertiveness.



The virtual meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, secretary-general in French ministry for Europe and foreign affairs Francois Delattre and secretary in Australian department of foreign affairs Frances Adamson.

The dialogue was on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

It said the "outcome-oriented" meeting was held with the objective of building on the strong bilateral ties that the three countries share with each other and synergise their respective strengths to ensure a peaceful, secure, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific Region.

The MEA said the three sides agreed to hold the dialogue on an annual basis. It said the three sides discussed economic and geo-strategic challenges and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and domestic responses to the crisis.

"The three countries also had an exchange on the priorities, challenges and trends in regional and global multilateral institutions, including the best ways to strengthen and reform multilateralism," the MEA said.

The MEA said cooperation on marine global commons and potential areas for practical partnership at the trilateral and regional level were also discussed, including through regional organisations such as ASEAN, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Commission.

The 10-nation ASEAN is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region. India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners. The IORA is a regional forum with a focus on enhancing maritime and economic cooperation.

The members of the bloc include India, Australia, Bangladesh, Iran, Kenya, Comoros, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia and South Africa.

### SC seeks Centre's reply on plea for opening of places of worship

New Delhi (Gns). The Supreme Court asked the Centre on Wednesday to respond to a plea seeking opening of all religious places for worship across the country which have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

video conferencing. The trust, a Religious Research Institute, filed the plea through lawyer

ness" of all by opening of temples, mosques, churches and gurdwaras with necessary precautionary con-

1.0", had allowed opening of religious places outside the containment zones from June 8.



A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde issued the notice to the Ministry of Home Affairs on the plea of Ahmedabad-based "Gitarth Ganga Trust" seeking opening of the places of worship in the country.

Surjendu Sankar Das said that it wanted to ensure "spiritual happi-

ditions in place. It said the MHA, in its May 30 order on "Unlock

Government," the plea said. It said the question which deserved considera-

tion was whether and to what extent the states may set limits on numbers of worshippers participants, when no comparable limitations are imposed on activities like "manufacturing, retail merchandising or liquor stores".

### Aiming 5 crore additional jobs in MSME sector in five years: Gadkari

New Delhi (Gns). Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said the government is aiming to create 5 crore additional jobs in the MSME sector in five years.

contribution to the GDP from about 30 per cent to 50

per cent, and in exports



The Minister for MSME and Road Transport and Highways reiterated that he aims to enhance MSMEs' per cent, and in exports

The sector presently employs about 11 crore people.

The minister also called for broadbased support for innovations and entrepreneurship so that bonafide new talent also gets a chance to grow.

### Delhi reports highest-ever daily spike of 4,039 Covid-19 cases, tally tops 2 lakh

New Delhi (Gns). Despite a sharp surge in COVID-19 cases in the national capital, which reported the highest single-day spike till date with 4,039 fresh cases on Wednesday, the Delhi government has ruled out possibility of another lockdown, with Health Minister Satyendar Jain asserting that the economy 'cannot be kept shut for eternity' as livelihoods of millions depend on it.

In the first nine days of the month, Delhi has registered 26,417 fresh coronavirus cases, as the city breached the two lakh-mark on Wednesday with over 4,638 deaths due to COVID-19 so far.

an interview when asked if there could be another phase of lockdown in the

ices in a calibrated manner. Many feel that resumption of metro services may lead

more alert and exhibit greater responsibility in public. If you don't wear a mask, not just metro, you can contract the infection anywhere".

manner has begun from June onwards.

caseload in the national capital in the past one week or so, including, reopening of economic activities and complacency among people in adhering to norms such as wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Agreeing with experts, Jain said, 'however, authorities have penalised such violators and a good quantum of fine has been imposed on them in the last several days, which should serve as a deterrence to others, who are displaying laidback attitude towards the pandemic situation.' 'I want to repeat again. The number of new cases has been rising, also because we have increased the testing exponentially. People should not panic but be



The minister also asserted that 'extreme caution and not panic' should be the response of the city, and people should exhibit greater alertness and responsibility in public places to deal with this health crisis.

Amidst an atmosphere of anxiety due to the massive surge in Delhi, especially after the coronavirus cases were steadily declining in August, Jain said, 'this is once in a century pandemic after the Spanish Flu of 1918. And, people will have to learn to live with COVID-19 as it is not going away so soon.' 'Also, one can't keep everything (economy) shut for eternity, as the livelihoods of millions depend on it,' the Delhi health minister told PTI in

city given the current scenario.

to further spike in the coronavirus infections.

Asserting that 'there is no need to panic', Jain said, 'like, I have said, we have to learn to live with COVID. Earlier, it was believed that the virus will die out in summers or it will taper off in the monsoon. It is still there. It seems it will continue for a fairly long time.' While the Delhi Metro was closed since March 22, a nationwide lockdown was imposed by the Centre from March 25, pushing people to stay indoors and halting commercial activities. The unlocking of economic activities in a phased

The Punjab government recently said that all existing restrictions imposed to combat COVID-19, including weekend lockdown, will be in place in most of the municipal towns of the state till the end of September.

Medical experts have already flagged multiple reasons that could have contributed to increasing

Gadkari also said risk-taking ability in innovations and finding new solutions need to be promoted and those making bonafide mistakes in the process need to be protected, the MSME Ministry said in a release.

He also felt that performance audit of schemes related to agriculture and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes will help in better targeting of the schemes.

Addressing a virtual meet, Gadkari applauded the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE Atal New India Challenge initiative of government think tank Niti Aayog.

He also called for encouraging use of new technology in finding solutions to the problems being faced in different areas and ensuring value addition.

### India trials of COVID-19 vaccine going on, says Serum Institute

New Delhi (Gns). Serum Institute of India (SII) on Wednesday said it is continuing with the trials of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine candidate in India.

manufacturing partnership with AstraZeneca to produce and supply 1 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. It is doing the clinical trials of the potential

statement: "We can't comment much on the UK trials, but they have been paused for further review and they hope to restart soon."

It further said: "As far as Indian trials are concerned, it is continuing and we have faced no issues at all".

Last month, the Drug Controller General of India had granted permission to the Pune-based SII to conduct Phase-II and -III human clinical trials of the coronavirus vaccine candidate developed by Oxford University and British-Swedish pharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca.



The statement came after AstraZeneca announced that late-stage studies of the COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by the Oxford University are on temporary hold as a UK participant had an adverse reaction to it.

Commenting on the recent reports on AstraZeneca halting the trials in the UK, SII said in a

### 'AAP, BJP good only at publicity': Priyanka Gandhi at election rally in Delhi

New Delhi (Gns). Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing them of splurging money on publicity to hide their lack of work.

Priyanka claimed that it was under the leadership

Delhi had developed. "Sheila Dikshit built

the Metro," she said.

and development are major issues that the AAP and the BJP have not addressed.



of late Sheila Dikshit that

Delhi's roads, flyovers and

Congress leader said jobs

"Youngsters are desperate for jobs. Unemployment and development are huge problems which no one is addressing. Voters should introspect on who works for them. If development and employment have not been addressed, use your vote wisely," Priyanka said.

The Congress which ruled Delhi for 15 years from 1998 to 2013 under Sheila Dikshit has been out of power in the national capital since 2013. In the 2015 assembly elections, the grand old party drew a blank as AAP romped home with 67 of the 70

**Editorial**

**Metro travail**

The decision to resume the Metro service in Kolkata ~ from north to south ~ from 14 September is reassuring on the face of it. The manner of resumption does not inspire optimism, however. As the lifeline of urban transportation, commuters had been inconvenienced since the last week of March, when Phase One of the nationwide lockdown was announced. Having said that, it must be acknowledged that the Metro is poised to follow a very complex praxis, if the upshot of last Friday's meeting between the Metro authorities and the West Bengal government is any indication. Not to put too fine a point on it, this mode of travel ~ Kolkata's proud boast since 1984 ~ could be rendered inconvenient in the extreme. To begin with, the move to scrap the tokens for travel is seemingly rational considering the spread of the coronavirus contagion. Less easily comprehended, however, is the decision to make the smart card and the e-pass mandatory to enter the platform. In other words, ingress and egress will be driven by technology in a city where a limited percentage of commuters are conversant with the Smartphone and computer ~ essential prerequisites both for the e-pass and the smart card. Small wonder that commuters have by and large resented the fresh modalities. The e-pass is a new embroidery and the majority of commuters are strangers to this. Just as every student doesn't boast a computer for online learning ~ the flavour of the season ~ neither does every commuter claim access to one. The e-pass will be available only through an App or by accessing the Metro website. But both Nabanna and Metro Bhavan are being presumptuous when they insist that the exact time of the train one wishes to avail must be specified to make the e-pass available. The short point must be that office-goers, in the main, cannot be definite about time of departure from their workplaces, let alone the precise time they will board. The pass will be issued to the commuter depending upon how many people are at that time-slot in the station, on the platform, and inside the rakes. A mode of public transport can scarcely be operated on the premise of conclusion to premise. Introduction of the e-pass calls for more serious reflection than has been manifest thus far. While the fear that the virus might spread in crowded coaches is dangerously real, yet little or no effort has been initiated to make the coaches safe and secure for travel. It is one thing to delay and advance the timings of the first and last service, even to reduce the frequency of trains, quite another to restrict the number of passengers at the turnstile gate. This is easier contemplated than accomplished. The trains were suffocatingly overcrowded during peak hours. The "new normal" in the season of the pandemic is as unprecedented as it is daunting. Till the end of March, Kolkata's Metro had attracted passengers. Let us wait and see if that is so in September.

**Life in a bubble: Bio-bubbles represent an entirely new challenge for players and organisers**

IPL, Indian cricket's blockbuster, will start in Abu Dhabi next week. The tournament, which will run on till November, has been held abroad earlier. But this edition is different. The requirements of a bio-bubble pose an entirely new challenge for both players and organisers. Professional sport restarted a few months ago. The essential condition to begin again in the midst of a pandemic is the creation of bio-bubbles, a ring-fenced space for players and organisers to minimise the chance of infection. The flip side is that spectators have been kept out of stadia. With a few months of experience behind us, it can be safely said that bio-bubbles are a good thing. They allow the resumption of a semblance of normal life and symbolise human desire to find a way around obstacles. Given the complications involved in drawing together athletes from different countries to conduct sport, bio-bubbles have also emerged as a promising business opportunity for technology companies. The challenges

arise from the high costs involved in creating bubbles for weeks at a stretch and the pressure on every-



one within the bubble to be disciplined about protocols. It's not easy. Two young footballers from England had to be sent back from the ongoing UEFA Nations League when they breached the bubble to meet up with lady friends. Despite precautions, it's been impossible to keep out the virus. IPL dealt with it even before the start of the tournament. In the US Open, the top seeded women's doubles team had to be disqualified merely because a member was in contact with a player who tested positive. It was unfortunate for the players. But holding the tournament is better than letting the pandemic totally upend the sports calendar. Hopefully, India will soon host sports tournaments. In a bubble, of course. (Gns).

**India-China row: Situation remains tense in Ladakh**

Kalyan Ray, The India-China face-off situation in eastern Ladakh continues to be very tense a day after 45 years of silence at the Line of Actual Control was shattered by gunshots, as Chinese People's Liberation Army made one more attempt to engage with the Indian troops near Finger 4 on the northern bank of Pangong Tso.

In the Chushul sector in the southern banks of the lake, Indian troops dominate the heights but the PLA soldiers are in an aggressive stand-off at a distance of 100-200 metre between the men from the two sides. With no reservation on firing now, the situation is even more volatile. China's PLA carrying spears approach Indian post at LAC Multiple television chan-

nels reported Wednesday that the India-China face-off could take any trajectory

not the local commanders, who had been controlling the situation,

Commander level talk, but the date and venue are yet to be finalized. Five such talks have happened so far without any result. Sources said India strengthened its defences on the south bank of Pangong Tso including the heights near Rezang La and Renchen La. Some of the areas have been cordoned off with barbed

wires and the PLA has been warned about the consequences if such fencing are breached. On the north bank of the 135 km long V-shaped lake,

Indian troops have occupied a few higher points themselves above the PLA troops who occupy the lower heights of the ridge-line. The Chinese soldiers made an attempt on Tuesday to come close to the Indian positions and provoke the troops near the Finger-4 on the north bank. The efforts, however, didn't succeed because of a strong Indian build-up. The Army headquarters has asked the field commanders to ensure that no Chinese transgression takes place. The forces have also been told to go by the rule books while guarding the territory. The two countries have amassed thousands of troops, heavy artillery, tanks and firepower on both sides of the disputed boundary as a part of the build-up. China terms Indian Army's action on Pangong Tso south bank 'grave military provocation' The Indian Army on Tuesday said Chinese troops attempted to close in on an Indian position near the southern bank of Pangong lake on the evening of September 7 and fired shots in the air. But a day before, the PLA alleged that Indian troops crossed the LAC and 'outrageously fired' warning shots near the Pangong lake. Last week Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met his Chinese counterpart Gen Wei Fenghe in Moscow, but the first ever meeting between the two Defence Ministers since the crisis broke out in eastern Ladakh in May failed to break the deadlock. (Gns).



but hadn't reached the threshold of war, quoting an unnamed government official. The official said it was the Chinese leadership and

A four-hour-long Brigade Commander level meeting took place at Chushul, but it failed to end the impasse. The two sides agreed to hold a Corps

Commander level talk, but the date and venue are yet to be finalized. Five such talks have happened so far without any result. Sources said India strengthened its defences on the south bank of Pangong Tso including the heights near Rezang La and Renchen La. Some of the areas have been cordoned off with barbed

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**Trials of Oxford University's COVID-19 vaccine 'paused', what now?**

Trials have stopped for the vaccine that was touted to be the frontrunner in the global race to combat coronavirus. In spite of being at the front of the race, trials for the vaccine being developed by AstraZeneca with Oxford University were put on hold.

The decision was taken after one of the participants showed serious and adverse reactions during the trials. When the trails were put on hold, they were being held in the US and UK. The participant suffering from the unexplained illness is expected to recover.

The story was first reported by health news website - Stat News

"Standard review process triggered a pause to vaccination to allow review of safety data," Stat News quoted AstraZeneca spokesperson as saying. In May, the US had ordered 300 million doses

of the potential vaccine. Earlier this week, Australia announced that it had placed an order for 3.8 million doses with AstraZeneca.

The vaccine race has become highly political. Russian President Vladimir Putin had tested the Sputnik-V on his daughter. It is the vaccine for which there is no trial data available. Then there is China, where Sinovac is injecting its employees and their families with a potential vaccine. Again, it is a vaccine the world knows very little about.

Amidst all these covert trials, the transparency of one vaccine maker comes as a pleasant surprise.

There are still some companies that are not succumbing to political pressure to win the vaccine race. There are still some firms upholding the safety protocols even when politi-

cal leaders advocate bypassing the critical stages of the trial.

Just yesterday, nine vaccine makers vowed not to cut corners on testing. AstraZeneca was one of the signatories

Others include Bio-N-Tech, Pfizer, Novovax, Sanofi, Glaxo-Smithkline, Johnson & Johnson and Merck

Reacting to paused trials, Australia's Deputy Chief Medical Officer Nick Coatsworth said that the news was a testimony to safety and transparency.

"The fact that we're hearing about it and I'm talking about it, is testimony to the safety and the transparency. Both of which are such critical principles as we continue the race towards an effective COVID-19 vaccine," he said. British Health Minister Matt Hancock echoed the



sentiment.

"Well obviously I'd rather this went completely smoothly. However, we're absolutely clear that safety comes first with the vaccine so there's been a pause while they investigate an

incident," he said.

These reactions are not surprising as Australia and UK both have stakes in a potential vaccine. The paused trial is a setback, no matter what British authorities tell you.

The world is in a dire need of a vaccine. The Wuhan virus has already taken 9,00,000 lives but the world needs a vaccine that can save lives, not take more. (Gns).

**Reduce Gap Between Rich and Poor, Taking Care of World is Taking Care of Ourselves: Dalai Lama**

Nobel laureate Dalai Lama on Wednesday called for reducing the gap between the rich and poor, saying it is important to realise that taking care of the world is actually taking care of ourselves. Addressing the third Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit on the Fair Share for Children, the Dalai Lama said children are the future.

The Laureates and Leaders for Children is a coalition for ensuring child rights which is led by Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi. "The future is in our hands so the children are the main human beings who will take care of the world. Taking care of the world is actually taking care of yourselves," he said.

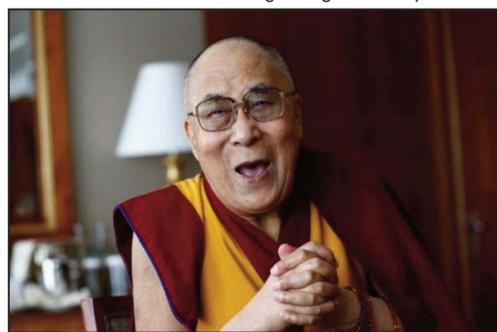
"Children are our future. We have to think of humanity and poor people who need help, and we need to make efforts on how to

reduce the gap between poor and rich," he said. Apart from the Dalai Lama, the summit also saw participation from Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, UNICEF executive director Henrietta Fore, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus among others.

About the impact of COVID-19 on children, Lofven said this pandemic has put them in a more vulnerable situation in all parts of the world and in all sections of the society. "Children are at an increased risk of physical, psychological and sexual abuse," he said. He called for policies to ensure that respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of the child are at the very core of the decision making.

"We must put human rights, democracy and rule of law at the core of our COVID-19 response. We

must acknowledge the political role of children and young people in decision-making. Their voices are crucial in achieving a sustainable, peaceful and democratic future. I am a



firm believer in international cooperation. I want to see an increase in our coordinated efforts so that we can ensure a fair, sustainable and democratic recovery from this pandemic," he

has exposed the fault lines of development in every country that continue to separate the haves and have nots," she said. "Lockdowns are putting children at risk of child

labour and child marriage and the pandemic has thrown over one billion children out of school but it is also showing us what we can do when we join forces to support children," she said. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO, said children and adolescents are among the ones most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. "In many countries immunization programmes and services have been partially or completely suspended, putting millions at risk and resulting in increase in child mortality and morbidity. "The pandemic also threatens food security and nutrition of millions of children around the world. Due to school closure, some 368 million children have missed out on school meals. The increased hunger resulting from the

pandemic could lead to the deaths of an estimated 10,000 children every month so what can we do about it," he said.

Firstly, he said there is a need to ensure availability and access to essential services, including for immunization, nutrition, breastfeeding, mental health and social support. "The countries that chose to reopen schools must do so by following guidance on how to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 while avoiding stigmatising those who may have been exposed to the virus. Countries must make every effort to ensure that children remain safe from abuse and maltreatment. We cannot continue to fail our young global citizens. The post-COVID recovery must have our children at the central focus; they are the most vital resource," he added. (Gns).

**Sony announces the launch of High Power Party Speakers with Karaoke**

Sony India today introduced four exciting new models to its high-power party speaker range with the MHC-V83D, MHC-V73D, MHC-V43D and MHC-V13, expanding choices for party lovers as well as families who prefer one-box styled systems with a smaller footprint and portable design. Packed with stunning sound and experiential party lights, these party speakers are set to unleash the inner pop star in you and make every moment at a party memorable.

High-Power party speakers features key upgrades for better power and

height expansion of sound but also a wider range, reaching the whole dance-

further and wider, pleasing guests with great sound wherever they are.



From left to right: MHC-V83D, MHC-V73D, MHC-V43D, and MHC-V13

1. Experience even more powerful sound with the all-new omnidirectional sound

improved sound quality, such as the High-efficiency Tweeter that uses horn tweeters and High-efficiency Midrange that uses mid-horn speakers. It introduces not just greater

floor. The Omnidirectional Party Sound is a result of combining the front and rear tweeters, the midrange, a woofer and JET BASS BOOSTER, enabling music to reach

stronger bass while also improving clarity.

**US-China war headed for digital decoupling**

The effort of the Trump administration last month to restrict Huawei's access to US-designed chips is yet another salvo fired in the US-China tech war. It threatens to compromise the company's business of selling smartphones and telecommunication gear.

For more than a decade, Huawei has been in the crosshairs of the US government and has been considered a threat to privacy and national security.

In December 2018, Canadian authorities arrested Huawei's Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, on an American request, for allegedly breaching sanctions against Iran. The Trump administration banned the company from participating in laying down 5G networks in the US.

The Trump administration also mounted a high-profile, high-stakes, diplomatic pressure campaign in an attempt to stop its allies such as the UK, Australia, Canada, Japan, Germany, India, etc. from allowing Huawei to build their 5G networks. The US has repeatedly contended at every diplomatic forum that Huawei is a Chinese state-controlled company and allowing it in next-generation wireless telecommunication networks is a folly.

While Australia and Japan banned Huawei from their 5G networks, other countries refused or were reluctant to follow suit for a number of reasons. First, they believed that the threats emanating from allowing Huawei in 5G networks can be mitigated by keeping Huawei telecommunication equipment in a 'periphery

network' and excluding it from their 'core networks'.

Second, the equipment provided by Huawei is cheaper than its competitors like Nokia and Ericsson.

The other reason was that in many countries including the UK, Huawei was part of their 4G telecommunication network. So, banning it from the next-generation network services would involve a huge cost in removing Huawei from existing wireless networks, which would also delay the roll-out of 5G networks.

Then in May 2019, when the US and China failed to finalize a trade deal agreed at the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires in December 2018, the Trump administration reimposed suspended tariffs and banned US companies including Qualcomm, Google, and Micron from selling chips and software to Huawei.

The move marked a

major escalation because Chinese tech companies are dependent on US-designed chips and US chip companies' major source of profit comes from selling chips to companies like Huawei.

The US chip companies found a legal workaround enabling them to continue selling chips to Huawei. The situation was a win-win for all. On the one hand, the US government could curb Huawei semiconductor development ambitions, and at the same time, the US chip companies could continue to generate profits. But Huawei survived although its ambition of self-reliance in semiconductors was undermined. The Trump administration had also increased its pressure tactics on allies to force them to jettison Huawei from their next-generation telecommunication plans. (Gns).

# 3 MORE SPECIAL TRAINS TO RUN FROM WESTERN RLY BETWEEN AHMED-ABAD-KHURDA ROAD, GANDHIDHAM-KHURDA ROAD & OKHA-KHURDA ROAD

Mumbai. Ministry of Railways had announced to run 40 additional pairs of special trains for the convenience of passengers w.e.f. 12th September, 2020. In continuation to this, 3 more pairs of special trains will be operated from Western Rly from Gujarat to Odisha. These trains will be made operational from 12th Sept, 2020 onwards, as per their nominated days, till further notice.

According to a press release issued by Shri Sumit Thakur- Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Rly, from the 3 pairs of special trains to be operated from WR are Ahmedabad- Khurda Road, Gandhidham- Khurda Road and Okha- Khurda Road. Details of the trains are as

under :-

**Train No 02844/ 02843 Ahmedabad - Khurda Road Jn. Superfast Special Train (4 days in a week)**

Train No 02844 Ahmedabad - Khurda Road Jn Special train will leave from Ahmedabad on every Monday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday at 18.40 hrs w.e.f 14th Sept, 2020 & will reach Khurda Road Jn. on the third day at 07.45 hrs. Similarly, Train No 02843 Khurda Road Jn. - Ahmedabad Special train will leave from Khurda Road Jn. on every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday w.e.f. 12th Sept, 2020 at 18.40 hrs. & will reach Ahmedabad on the third day at 07.25 hrs. The train will halt at Anand,

## Booking of these special trains to start from

Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Malkapur, Nandura, Akola, Badnera, Wardha, Nagpur, Bhandara Rd, Gondia, Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon, Durg, Bhilaipower House, Raipur, Mahasamund, Bagbahara, Khariar Rd, Kantabanji, Titlagarh, Kesinga, Rayagada, Vizianagram, Srikakulam Rd and Brahmapur stations in both directions. The train comprises of AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and Second class seating coaches.

**Train No 02973/02974 Gandhidham - Khurda Road Jn. Superfast Weekly Special Train**

Train No 02973 Khurda Road Jn. - Gandhidham Special train



Road Jn. Special train will leave from Gandhidham on every Wednesday at 23.00 hrs w.e.f 16th Sept, 2020 & will reach Khurda Road Jn. on every Friday at 17.35 hrs. Similarly, in the return direction, Train No 02974

will leave Khurda Road Jn. on every Saturday w.e.f 19th Sept, 2020 at 11.40 hrs & will reach Gandhidham every Monday at 06.40 hrs. The train will halt at Viramgam, Ahmedabad, Anand,

Bhusaval, Malkapur, Akola, Badnera, Wardha, Nagpur, Gondia, Durg, Raipur, Mahasamund, Kantabanji, Titlagarh, Kesinga, Rayagada, Vizianagram, Srikakulam Road and Brahmapur stations in both

directions. The train comprises of Ac 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and second class seating coaches.

**Train No 08402/01 Okha - Khurda Road Jn. Weekly Special Train**

Train No 08402 Okha - Khurda Road Jn Special train will leave from Okha on every Wednesday at 08.30 hrs w.e.f 16th Sept, 2020 & will reach Khurda Road Jn. on every Friday at 08.55 hrs. Similarly, Train No 08401 Khurda Road Jn. - Okha Special train will leave Khurda Road Jn. on every Sunday w.e.f 13th Sept, 2020 at 10.40 hrs & will reach Okha on every Tuesday at 13.50 hrs. The train will halt at Dwarka, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Surendra Nagar,

Viramgam, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Malkapur, Sagganon, Akola, Badnera, Wardha, Chandrapur, Balharshah, Sirpur Kaghaz Nagar, Manchiryal, Ramagundam, Warangal, Vijaywada, Elluru, Rajahmundry, Ankapalli, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagram, Srikakulam Rd and Brahmapur stations in both directions. The train comprises of AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and second class seating coaches.

These trains will run as fully reserved trains. The booking of Train No 02844, 02973 & 08402 will open from 10th September, 2020 at nominated PRS counters and on IRCTC website.

## Delhi set to receive Kisan Rail

### South India's First "Kisan Rail" flagged off from Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh) to Adarsh Nagar (New Delhi)

Agriculture produce needs best possible distribution and returns. Indian farmers have proved that they would never be deterred by any calamity or challenge. Kisan Rail will ensure that agro products reach from one corner to another corner of the country"- Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Government of India

"Indian Railways is committed to the facilitation of marketing the farmer's produce"- Shri Suresh C. Angadi, Minister of State for Railways

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Rural Development and

Panchayat Raj Government of India and Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh flagged off the Inaugural Run of Anantapur - New Delhi Kisan Rail through Video Link today i.e. 9th September, 2020

The Program was presided over by Shri Suresh C. Angadi, Minister of State for Railways, Government of India New Delhi, 9th September 2020

South India's First "Kisan Rail" was flagged off from Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh) to Adarsh Nagar (New Delhi) today i.e. 9th September, 2020.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that, it is the first Kisan Rail from South India connecting to

National capital for the benefit of the farmers. It is a great



efit of the farmers. It was the guidance and inspiration by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji that Indian Railways have started Kisan Rail with a motive to encourage the villages

and farmers. "It is a great deterrent by any calamity or challenge. Kisan Rail will ensure that agro products reach from one corner to another corner of the country".

Shri Suresh C. Angadi stated that Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision and the pronouncement made in the budget materialized in introduction of Kisan Rail with the aim of doubling the income of farmers. As "lifeline of the nation Indian Railways is committed to the facilitation of marketing the farmer's produce". He also said that electrification of railway lines has been taken up in a big way in the state of Andhra Pradesh and its benefits will be enjoyed by the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Shri Narendra Singh

Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Government of India and Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh flagged off the Inaugural Run of Anantapur - New Delhi Kisan Rail.

The Program was presided over by Shri Suresh C. Angadi, Minister of State for Railways, Government of India.

The first Kisan Rail of South India:

The newly introduced Kisan Rail starts from Anantapur Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh and reaches Adarsh Nagar Station, New Delhi.

The rake is loaded with 14 parcel vans

- 04 vans load meant for Nagpur and another 10 Vans load for Adarsh Nagar - totalling 332 tonnes.

The inaugural Kisan Rail loaded with Tomato, Bananas, Sweet Orange, Papaya, Muskmelons and Mangoes.

The train provides fast transport connectivity between Anantapur to New Delhi with the distance of 2150 Km being covered in approximately 40 hours.

Anantapur is fast becoming the Fruit Bowl of Andhra Pradesh.

More than 80% of the 58 lakh MT of fruits & vegetables in the district is marketed out of the state, particularly to the north Indian States of Delhi, UP, Punjab and Haryana among others.

Earlier this was being transported by roadways which was not only time taking but also leading to reduction in price realisation of the farmers due to enroute damages.

Transportation by railway provides a safe, reliable and fast transportation which will aid in better price realisation for the farmers and thereby helping in better incomes for the farmers and traders.

The Railway team at Guntakal (particularly the newly set up Business Development Unit) along with the cooperation of the District Administration and State Government Officials have played a crucial role in making the farmers/traders aware of the benefits in loading by railroads, which led to today's inaugural rail.

## 'Uddhav thackeray, tujhe kya lagta hai': Kangana slams Maha CM

Mumbai (Gns). Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, who has been locked in a bitter war of words with Shiv Sena and Maharashtra government, has posted a video message slamming Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray after the BMC demolished parts of her home in Mumbai.

"Uddhav Thackeray, tujhe kya lagta hai? (what do you think?) That you colluded along with the film mafia, demolished my home and took revenge on me? My home was demolished today, your arrogance will crumble tomorrow," Kangana Ranaut said.

"This is the wheel of time, remember, it never

stays the same," warned the 33-year-old actor, hours after Mumbai's civic body BMC demolished what it called illegal alterations at her office in Pali Hills.

The Bombay High Court

BMC had on Tuesday given a 24-hour ultimatum to the actor directing her to produce permission for the building construction.

BMC notice says that Kangana has failed to pro-

duce permission and that the municipal body has turned down her request for 7 days time. It further states that the structure will

be demolished at the 'risk, cost and consequence' of Kangana Ranaut.

"I am never wrong and my enemies prove again and again this is why my Mumbai is POK now #deathofdemocracy Slightly smiling face," she tweeted, ahead of her arrival in Mumbai. Her other tweet read, "Pakistan."

Kangana has courted a controversy with her recent comments about the Mumbai Police and Maharashtra. In response to a remark by Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut where he asked her not to come back to the city after she claimed she felt unsafe in the city, Kangana had compared Mumbai with PoK.



## Air quality not a class issue, but mass issue: Tharoor

New Delhi (Gns). Air quality is not a class issue but a mass issue and politicians should not ignore it like the poor are the biggest victims of smog and air pollution, senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said on Wednesday.

Tharoor said despite the magnitude of the "crisis" of toxic air, he was shocked to find limited involvement on the issue.

"The issue of air quality in some ways is like our concerns about foreign policy. I have always said there is no BJP foreign policy or Congress foreign policy, there is only Indian policy.

"Similarly with air quality, our political differences on the subject must end with the beginning of stratosphere," the former Union minister said at a webinar hosted by Air Quality Asia. In a bid to move beyond

the Delhi-centric perspective on clean air, Air Quality Asia (AQA) and Tharoor were in conversation with



Chhattisgarh health minister T S Singh Deo, Chhattisgarh's Environment minister Mohammed Akbar and other senior MLAs from the state on piloting state-level committees to address the issue of bad air quality.

"The fact is that air quality is not an election issue.

In fact, public health has not been an election issue. In the US, the prime concern for 41 per cent of the

security were among the things that voters understand.

Air quality is seen as an upper-class luxury that the poor can't afford, but that is not true as the poor are the biggest victims of it, Tharoor asserted.

The rising levels of smog and poor air quality affect the poor more as those with financial resources will turn to short term remedies like air purifiers, he said.

"It is the poor that have no choice as their lives are dominated by the need for a daily wage and basic necessities of sustenance. For them, the air around them can really affect their lives and they have to endure it," Tharoor said. "I must say that the argument that the political class can afford to ignore air quality because it does not affect the poor who are the major-

voters in the mid-term elections was healthcare. In India, neither public health generally nor healthcare specifically has won or lost an election for any Indian politician," the Lok Sabha MP said.

He said issues like jobs, poverty eradication, financial growth and food

## Sushant Singh Rajput's death case: Rhea Chakraborty moves court again to seek bail

Mumbai (Gns). Actress Rhea Chakraborty, arrested by the NCB in a drugs case linked to her boyfriend and actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, on Wednesday moved a bail plea before a sessions court in Mumbai. This is her second attempt to seek release after a magistrate court on Tuesday refused to grant her bail.

Explained: What is physiological autopsy and why will CBI use it in Sushant Singh case

Rhea Chakraborty moves court again to seek bail

In the fresh plea, filed by her lawyer Satish Maneshinde, the 28-year-old actress claimed to be "innocent". "She has not committed any crime whatsoever and has been falsely implicated in the case," said the plea. The court will hear the bail application on Thursday.

Sushant Singh Rajput case: Rhea Chakraborty, accused No 10, taken to Byculla jail from NCB office

Chakraborty was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Tuesday after three days of questioning by the agency. Shortly after her arrest, she was sent in judicial custody till September 22 by a local court. On Wednesday, she was shifted from the anti-drug agency's office in south Mumbai to the Byculla jail here.

Sushant Death Case: Rhea Chakraborty taken to Byculla jail in Mumbai|Oneindia News

Meanwhile the other accused arrested by the NCB, including the

actress's brother Showik Chakraborty, Rajput's house manager Samuel Miranda, his personal staff member Dipesh Sawant,

Chakraborty and Sawant have applied for bail and their pleas will also be heard on Thursday, he said.

The NCB on Tuesday



and suspected drug peddlers Zaid Vilatra and Abdel Basit Parihar, were sent in 14-day judicial custody by the sessions court, special public prosecutor Atul Sarpande said. Showik

said it did not want Rhea Chakraborty's custody as it had already questioned her for three days. After producing her before the additional chief judicial magistrate through video link on

Tuesday, the NCB told the court that she was confronted with all other accused, including Showik Chakraborty, during her interrogation and facts in their statements were verified.

The agency claimed that the actress disclosed her involvement in procurement of drugs for Rajput and related financial transactions and also her instructions to co-accused Miranda, Sawant and Showik Chakraborty.

"Therefore, it is clear from her statement that Rhea is an active member of the drug syndicate connected with drug supplies," the agency said. The sections of the NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act invoked against her include 8(c) (sale, possession or manufacture of banned drugs) and 20 (b)(ii) (possession or use of

small quantity of banned drugs), as per her lawyers. Rajput (34) was found hanging in his flat in suburban Bandra on June 14.

Rhea loved drug addict with mental issues: Lawyer

Various angles surrounding his death are being probed by the NCB, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The NCB is probing the drug angle in the case under criminal sections of the NDPS Act, after the ED shared with it a report following the cloning of two mobile phones of Rhea Chakraborty. The actress was recently interrogated by a CBI probe team her as she is the main accused in the abatement of suicide case filed by Rajput's father, and also questioned by the ED in a money laundering case. She has denied all the allegations.

## Uttarakhand CM asks forest department to give jobs to 10,000 people

Shimla (Gns). Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Wednesday said many people who have returned to Uttarakhand due to the Covid-19 pandemic need jobs and asked the forest department to

employ at least 10,000 of them.

Citing the example of the Electricity department which has provided 10,000 jobs for setting up solar plants in rural areas, Rawat said the forest department too should provide employment to at least 10,000 people.

The chief minister was addressing a meeting of Uttarakhand Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) here.

Rawat said such measures are necessary to give employment to the people who have returned to their homes under the pressure of circumstances induced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Both our villages and our forests will benefit from this," he said at the meeting attended by state Forest Minister Harak Singh Rawat, Forest Secretary Anand Bardhan and Head of the Forest Force Jairaj.

During the meeting, Rawat acknowledged the effectiveness of solar fencing for the protection of forests from wild animals but said awareness needs to be created among villagers on how to protect the solar fences.

The chief minister suggested an amount of Rs 20000 can be given to schools and colleges on the occasion of Himalaya Diwas for creating awareness among people for environment and forest

# Chief Minister e-dedicate 200-bed Covid Hospital, Radio Therapy Centre at Cancer Institute, and other events at Rajkot, Dy Chief Minister presided

Gandhinagar, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani today e-dedicated from here with Deputy Chief Minister Nitinbhai Patel presiding over the function yet another modern 200-bed Covid Hospital with latest facilities and a Radio therapy centre at the Saurashtra Cancer Care and Research Institute, besides other events, at Rajkot.

Mr. Rupani also e-launched the state's first Covid Autopsy Centre at the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, a Training Programme on Post-Covid Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation for the Physiotherapy Colleges and modern Linear Accelerator and CT Simulator Machines at the Saurashtra Cancer Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rupani said that with the e-launch of the four projects, the people of Gujarat got access to the latest research and inventions related to the global pandemic novel coronavirus COVID-19.

He said that Gujarat's doctors have succeeded to a great extent in the fight against coronavirus, having established the state as a role model at the national level for the treatment and control.

Giving details of the Government's achievements, he said the recovery rate is 82 per cent while the death rate has come down from 7 per cent to 2.9 per cent and positive rate from 10 per cent to 3.5

per cent.

He said that raising a 200-bed modern hospital dedicated to Covid in a week in the Rajkot city should be great relief for the citizens. He exuded confidence that Super Specialty Hospital and AIIMS would be commissioned at Rajkot before 2020. Rajkot being at the centre of Saurashtra, he said, the government is also concerned about providing best medical facilities

- Gujarat role model for latest Covid treatment and control: Vijay Rupani
- Rajkot becomes medical hub, people needn't go to metro cities for treatment of serious diseases like cancer: Nitinbhai Patel

for complicated diseases like cancer in the entire Saurashtra region in consultation with senior officers and discussion with local administration.

Mr. Rupani said the Covid Autopsy Centre at Rajkot, the second of its kind in India, to study the

effect of the virus in human bodies and isolation should be another milestone in research in

ing Linear Accelerator and CT Simulator to ensure the patients of the region need not go to Ahmedabad and

medical research of the virus with the permission of the relatives of the deceased who were detected to have coronavirus. It may save many more lives later.

Principal Secretary for Health Jayanti Ravi said it was because of the far-sightedness of the Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Deputy Chief Minister Nitinbhai Patel at the latest medical equipment and gadgets installed at the dedicated Covid Hospital and Cancer Hospital at Rajkot.

Those present on the occasion included Member of Parliament Mohanbhai Kundalia, Municipal Board Chairman Dhansukhbhai Bhandari, Deputy Mayor Ashwinbhai Molia, leader

of the ruling party Dalsukhbhai Jagani, Standing Committee Chairman Udaybhai Kangad, prominent citizen Nitinbhai Bharadwaj and Kamleshbhai Mirani, Police Commissioner Manoj Agrawal, Nodal Officer Rahul Gupta, Health Commissioner J.D. Desai, PGVCL Managing Director Shweta Teotia, Municipal Commissioner Udit Agrawal, DDO Anil Ranavasia, DRDO Director J.K. Patel, Medical College Dean Gauraviben Dhruv and doctors.

District Collector welcomed the guests and Cancer Hospital's Medical Superintendent Anjana Trivedi proposed a vote of thanks.

the field.

Deputy Chief Minister Nitinbhai Patel said that new modern medical facilities being set up at Rajkot as a medical hub, including

metros now and then. Cancer treatment is free here.

Mr. Patel said the Autopsy Centre would prove useful in study and



## Ministers Mr. Jawaharbhair Chavda & Mr. Vasantbhai Ahir e-launches renovation & up-gradation projects worth Rs. 6 Crore

Gandhinagar, With a view to attract the tourists to Gujarat, Mr. Jawaharbhair Chavda, Tourism and Fishery Minister, Government of Gujarat, and Mr. Vasantbhai Ahir, Minister of State for Tourism and Welfare of Socially & Economically Backward Classes, have made E-launching of renovation and up-gradation works of 'D-type', 'C-Type' and Surya Cottages, at a cost of Rs. 3.67 Crore, of Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL), at Saputara Hill-Station in Dang district, today.

Besides this, the duo also dedicated to the people the newly built amenities for the people, at a cost of Rs. 2.22 crore, at Aambapani (Amaniya) at Vyra in Tapi district.

At Saputara, the renovation and up-gradation works at a cost of Rs. 3.67 Crore have been launched with an

idea to provide better amenities to the tourists as the spot is located in amid the 'Sahiyadri' mountain ranges and abundance natural resources. Besides this, for the development of Aambapani, it has been declared as 'Eco Tourism Site'.

Under the competent leadership of Gujarat Chief Minister Mr. Vijay Rupani, the state government is determined to make all-round growth in every field. And, vertical rise of tourism industry in Gujarat and constant, phenomenal increase in arrival of tourists in Gujarat are evident of that. While the completion of the developmental project at Aambapani included Tree-Houses, Gazebos, Food Court, Kitchen, Drinking Water, Children Playing Area, Boating Deck, Main Gate, Landscapes, Seating Arrangements, Lightings, Pavements and other

amenities. The renovation and up-gradation project at Saputara included strengthening of infrastructure, landscaping, and seating arrangements.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Chavda said that "The nature's blessings in the form of gifting Saputara with Gira Waterfalls, Botanical Garden, Don Hills, Shabri Dham, and dense

forests filled abundance natural resources are making this place a 'Heaven'; as a result, these attributes attract the tourists to this place. In addition to these, the concrete measures taken by the state government to promote tribal arts and craft works have assisted in generating sustainable income resources for the tribal people. I am confident

that the renovation and up-gradation works would increase the amenities for the arriving tourists and would also assist in building a strong infrastructure."

At e-inauguration and e-stone laying occasion, Mr. Ahir said that "For the development of tourist spots of South Gujarat, which are filled with abundance natural resources and beauty, the state government has taken several concrete measures. The development of infrastructural facilities

for the tourists has always been a priority for the state government and therefore it has always allotted a sufficient fund for the purpose. I am confident that the beautiful and attractive tourist spots of South Gujarat will witness a constant growth in arrival of the tourists; ultimately leading to growth in employment generation and economical development.

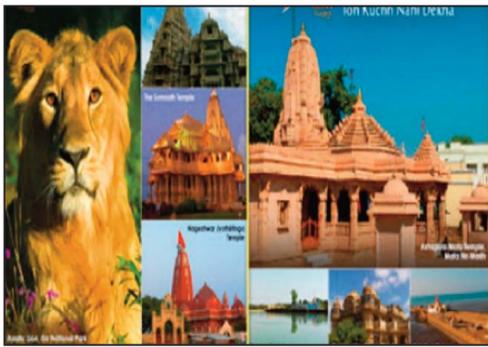
It should be noted that the state government has been allotting more funds

every years in its budget for developing renovation, development of infrastructure and amenities at tourists and religious places of Gujarat; it is giving attractive fruits to the locals. Gujarat has built a strong local economic system. The arrival of the tourists has generated ample direct and indirect employment opportunities for the local youths.

Over the last one decade, thanks to the efforts in developing infrastructural amenities and aggressive

marketing campaign for tourist spots with identifying their plus points, Gujarat has managed to become one of the top tourist destinations in India. This is evidenced by the number of prestigious national and international awards and the increasing number of tourists each year.

On the occasion Secretary (Tourism), TCGL MD, Tapi Collector, Officials of Forest Department and District officials were present.



## CM to introduce Gujarat Amendment Bill-2020 for important amendments in The Registration Act-1908

Gandhinagar, Chief Minister of the state Mr. Vijay Rupani will introduce the Gujarat Amendment Bill 7/2020 in the upcoming session of the Legislative Assembly to introduce necessary amendments in The Registration Act-1908. The purpose of the amendments are to make document registration simple, transparent and efficient.

A citizen in Gujarat can now upload and register his/her documents online without seeking the help of a lawyer or a document writer. An online draft will be made available to the citizens for the same. This will save the fees that citizens were required to pay for getting their documents written. It will also save time that was lost in such processes.

Earlier, the land mafias used to take away owner-

ship of land by producing fake Power of Attorney documents. The Chief Minister has also introduced an amendment wherein the person who registers for a certain piece of land will have to submit necessary proofs claiming the ownership right. For agricultural land, he/she will be required to produce 7/12 document and a property card in case it is a City Survey Land.

The amendments have been made for the sale, lease, or transfer of land of either the state government or central government, or Central-State Ventures.

The authorised person will be required to present an approval from the concerned officer while registering online.

The CM has introduced three new sections in The Registration Act-1908. All

those who engage in pressuring people for registering documents online or engage in fraud, misuse Power of Attorney, or engage in registration by providing false information will face a prison term of 7 years or a fine equal to the market price of the concerned land or both.

The price of lands in Gujarat have constantly increased due to an overall growth in the socio-economic and agricultural sector in the state. This increased the possibility of illegal grabbing lands of farmers, citizens or those belonging to the state government through threats, fraud, producing counterfeit documents etc.

The amendments introduced by the Chief Minister will curb all such activities and make the process transparent and put a leash on such elements.

## Assam: OIL engineer dies of electrocution at Baghjan gas well site

Guwahati (Gns). Oil India Limited official said. Oil India Limited also tweeted, "Arnab Kishore

Workers at gas well of Oil India Limited at Baghjan, Tinsukia district, Assam. (File photo: PTI)

An electrical engineer of Oil India Limited (OIL) was died of electrocution at the Baghjan oil field in Assam's Tinsukia district on Wednesday.

The engineer, identified as Arnab Kishore, was working at the company's damaged gas well when the incident took place. The engineer was also engaged in the works to douse the fire at Baghjan oil field.

OIL spokesperson Tridiv Hazarika said that Arnab was testing an electrical wire connected to a generator to supply power for welding purpose in the blowout well site.

"He suddenly fell down and lost consciousness while he was working with some equipment at the site. He was rushed to Assam Medical College and Hospital, Dibrugarh, but doctors declared him dead," Tridiv Hazarika said.

"The reasons of the death will be known after post-mortem. This is a very tragic incident and has created a pall of gloom in OIL. A Team from OIL is carrying out an inspection at the well site to find out possible reasons for this accident," the

declared dead.

— Oil India Limited (@OilIndiaLimited) September 9, 2020

With this, the total number of persons losing their lives in the worst industrial disaster of Assam has gone up to three.

The well number 5 at Bordoloi, a dynamic young electrical engineer of OIL while working with some equipment at Baghjan Blowout well site, suddenly fell down and lost consciousness. He was provided emergency health care by doctor at site and was taken to AMC where he was declared dead.

Arnab Kishore Bordoloi, a dynamic young electrical engineer of OIL while working with some equipment at Baghjan Blowout well site, suddenly fell down and lost consciousness. He was provided

ed emergency health care by doctor at site and was taken to AMC where he was

Baghjan has been spewing gas uncontrollably since May 27 and it caught fire on

June 9, killing two of OIL's firefighters at the site.

On July 22, three experts from Singaporean firm Alert Disaster Control, which was asked to assist OIL and ONGC experts for putting out the inferno, received burn injuries while they were removing a spool



## Nirav Modi's Mental Health, Indian Prisons in Focus at UK Extradition Case

New Delhi (Gns). Nirav Modi's fragile mental health and the prison conditions in India were once again in focus during the fugitive diamond merchant's ongoing extradition hearing related to the Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam case at a UK court here on Wednesday. The third day of the five-day hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court, presided over by Justice Samuel Goozee, was devoted to the defence laying out further arguments against a prima facie case of fraud and money laundering against Modi, who observed the court proceedings via live videolink from Wandsworth Prison in London.

The 49-year-old jeweller seemed particularly inanimate through most part of the day, with the judge at one point pausing the hearing to check if the video link had frozen and asked Modi to keep moving from time to

time so the court can be sure he is still connected to the proceedings.

Modi's defence team, led by barrister Clare Montgomery, raised further issues around the conditions at Barrack 12 at Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai, where he is to be lodged on being extradited, claiming it is covered in its entirety in a blue metallic cover since it housed a terrorist in 2007. This makes the barrack incredibly hot, with other problems such as damp, dust, insects and rodents, she quoted testimony as saying. Besides fears related to a COVID-19 outbreak earlier in the year, references were also made to a medical expert's addendum report which highlighted much more serious concerns around Modi's mental health.

UK-based prisons expert Dr Alan Mitchell, who has previously given witness statements in the extradition case of former Kingfisher Airlines boss Vijay Mallya, and the medical expert are among a set of defence wit-

nesses scheduled to give live evidence in court over these issues later this week. They will be cross-examined by Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) barrister Helen Malcolm, who is arguing on behalf of the Indian government.

During Wednesday's hearing, Modi's defence team also claimed their client had been the subject of a trial by media and would not receive a fair trial in India.

Thipsay's testimony questions whether the statements provided by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) meet the statutory requirements under Indian law and raises doubts over whether certain alleged actions, such as the destruction of mobile phones, amount to disappearance of evidence. Modi is subject to two sets of criminal proceedings, the first brought by the CBI relating to a large-scale fraud said to have been committed upon PNB and the ED case, relating to the laundering of the proceeds of that fraud. A further extradition request was made in February this year of two

ten statement was briefly presented in court to highlight assertions against the admissibility of certain evidence presented by the government of India.

Thipsay's testimony questions whether the statements provided by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) meet the statutory requirements under Indian law and raises doubts over whether certain alleged actions, such as the destruction of mobile phones, amount to disappearance of evidence. Modi is subject to two sets of criminal proceedings, the first brought by the CBI relating to a large-scale fraud said to have been committed upon PNB and the ED case, relating to the laundering of the proceeds of that fraud. A further extradition request was made in February this year of two

additional offences of evidence and intimidating a witness.

The CPS must establish a prima facie case against Modi to allow the judge to rule that he has a case to answer before the Indian courts. If the judge finds in favour of the Indian government, the issue will go back to UK Home Secretary Priti Patel to formally certify his requirements to India to stand trial. A ruling in the case is not expected before the end of this year or early next year, as a final submissions hearing has been tentatively scheduled for December 1. The charges against the diamond merchant centre around his firms Diamonds R Us, Solar Exports and Stellar Diamonds making fraudulent use of a credit facility offered by PNB, known as letters of undertaking (LoUs), which resulted in a fraud amounting to nearly USD 2 billion.

was escorted to its berth by the Nigerian navy. The incident took place in a stretch of the Gulf of Guinea that has a notorious reputation for piracy. According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), 77 seafarers worldwide were taken hostage or kidnapped for ransom in the first half of 2020.

The Gulf of Guinea accounted for 90 per cent of abductions.

with the kidnappers, Radings said, describing the situation as worrisome.

Following the attack, the 4,800-tonne ship and 16 other crew who were unharmed, arrived safely in Lagos, where the vessel was escorted to its berth by the Nigerian navy.

The incident took place in a stretch of the Gulf of Guinea that has a notorious reputation for piracy. According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), 77 seafarers worldwide were taken hostage or kidnapped for ransom in the first half of 2020.

The Gulf of Guinea accounted for 90 per cent of abductions.

