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Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

\*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 335  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

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12 SPORT

## Talks inconclusive, farmers adamant on laws' repeal

Unions reject Centre's proposal to set up committee to look into farmers' issues; another round of discussion tomorrow

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing farmers' agitation shows no signs of an early end as the farmers' unions on Tuesday rejected the Centre's proposal to set up a committee to look into issues raised by them against the new farm laws and threatened to intensify their protests if their demand for a repeal of the new farm legislations are not met.

With the two separate meetings between the agitating organisations and the Centre, represented by three Union Ministers, ending without any resolution, the Government has called for another round of discussion on Thursday, December 3.

"The meeting was good and we have decided that the talks will be held on 3rd December. We wanted a small group to be constituted but farmers' leaders wanted that the talks should be held with everyone, we do not have problem with it," Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said after the meeting with 35 unions at Vigyan Bhawan. He along with Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and MoS Commerce Som Parkash held the talks with the farmers' representatives.

"We appeal to the farmers to suspend the protests and come for the talks. However, this decision depends on farmers' unions and farmers," he said. Tomar had suggested the formation of a committee comprising farmers' and Government representatives besides agricultural experts to discuss the farm laws but it was summarily rejected by the unions.

Later, the Ministers met with farmers' leaders from Haryana, UP, and Uttarakhand, at Krishi Bhawan. "We told leaders to form a smaller group



Farmers gather at the Singhu border during their ongoing Delhi Chalo protest against Centre's new farm laws in New Delhi on Tuesday  
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

and discuss the act clause by clause. The Government has no objection over any discussion," Tomar said.

"The farmer's organisations rejected the Government's proposal to form a committee to look into the issues related to the new farm laws," said Roopsingh Sanha, member of Bharat Kisan Union.

"Tomorrow, there will be an important meeting of the leaders of the farmers' organisation, in which today's meeting with the Government will be reviewed," said Wark Singh, leader of All India Kisan Sabha. The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) said in a statement that the talks remained inconclusive and the Government's proposal was not acceptable to farmers' unions.

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## Capital roads clogged as police limit movement at entry points

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Even as thousands of farmers staged protests peacefully at Tigri and Singhu borders of the Haryana-Delhi borders amid heavy security deployment at all entry points to the national Capital for the sixth consecutive day, serpentine queues of vehicles clogged the roads in parts of Delhi on Tuesday.

The closure of borders also resulted in heavy traffic on other alternate routes between Delhi and Haryana as Delhi Police kept the Singhu and Tikri borders with Haryana closed for traffic and heightened checking at other places in view of the ongoing farmers' protest.

Meanwhile, students from



Delhi on Tuesday put up posters and pictures at Singhu Border to highlight the plight of farmers across the country and create awareness on a range of issues.

The closure of borders has also resulted in heavy traffic on

other alternate routes between Delhi and Haryana. "Singhu border is still closed from both sides. Please take alternate route. Traffic has been diverted from Mukarba Chowk & GTK road. Traffic is very very heavy. Please avoid outer ring road from Signature Bridge to Rohini & vice versa, GTK road, NH 44 & Singhu border," the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

"Tikri border is closed for any Traffic Movement. Badusarai and Jhatikara borders are open only for two wheeler traffic. Available open Borders to Haryana are Jharoda, Dhansa, Daurala, Kapashera, Rajokri NH 8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahera," it said in another tweet.

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## India slams Canadian PM's 'ill informed' support call

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking strong exception to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and other leaders' comments regarding the ongoing agitation by farmers, India on Tuesday termed the remarks as "unwarranted" and "ill informed." It also asserted that the stir is an internal matter of the country.

Making this assertion here, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "We have seen some ill-informed comments by Canadian leaders relating to farmers in India. Such comments are unwarranted, especially when pertaining to the internal affairs of a democratically country."

In a stern message, New Delhi said, "It is also best that diplomatic conversations are not misrepresented for political purposes."

The rebuttal came a day after Trudeau in a video posted on his Twitter account said, "The situation is concerning and we are all very worried about family and friends and I know that is a reality for many of you. Let me remind you, Canada will always be there to defend the right of peaceful protest."

He also said, "We believe in importance of dialogue and that is why we have reached out through multiple means directly to Indian authorities to highlight our concerns."

He made these remarks while addressing the Indian community in Canada during an online event on Monday to mark the 551st birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

Continued on Page 2

New Delhi asserts farmers' stir is an internal matter of India, terms Trudeau's remarks as 'unwarranted' protest.

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## Delhi notifies 1 farm law, to examine two

New Delhi: The Delhi Government has notified one of the three Central farm laws and is examining the remaining two, officials said on Tuesday.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 was notified on November 23, said a senior Delhi Government official.

"The remaining two laws are under examination by the development department of the Delhi Government," he said.

The ruling AAP said the notification allows farmers to sell their crop anywhere, including outside mandis. Selling of fruits and vegetables was already de-regulated in Delhi many years ago; now this holds for grains too, it said.



A farmer holds a flag, with a picture of Shaheed Bhagat Singh printed on it as they stage a protest at Singhu border on Tuesday

PTI

## BILKIS DADI TURNED AWAY FROM SINGHU BORDER PROTEST SITE

New Delhi: Bilkis Dadi, the octogenarian who was the face of the months-long anti-citizenship law protest at Shaheen Bagh in the national capital and featured in the Time magazine, was on Tuesday stopped by Delhi Police personnel at the Singhu Border where thousands of farmers have been demonstrating against the Centre's new farm laws, officials said.

## BJP ally in Haryana suggests written assurance on MSP

Chandigarh: The BJP's ruling coalition partner in Haryana, the Jannayak Janata Party, on Tuesday suggested the Centre should give a written assurance to farmers that the minimum support price system will continue. The remark by JJP chief Ajay Chautala comes on the day independent MLA Sombir Sangwan withdrew support to the BJP Government.

## BSF went 200m inside Pak to unearth infiltration tunnel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian security forces recently went almost 200 metres inside Pakistan to unearth a tunnel which was used by terrorists to infiltrate the Indian territory in Jammu & Kashmir. "Security forces went inside Pakistan for almost 200 metres, the starting point of the tunnel, used by the terrorists eliminated last week by Indian security forces," a top official claimed.

A 150-metre long underground tunnel estimated to have been used by terrorists for infiltrating inside Jammu & Kashmir was detected near International Border in Jammu & Kashmir's Samba sector on November 22.



The security forces had then recovered mobile phones from the possession of terrorists killed by them which

helped the forces to unearth the tunnel.

For his part, addressing the troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) during its 56th raising day event here, junior Home Minister Nityanand Rai on Tuesday said the recovery of tunnels and drones along the India-Pakistan border is a proof of the hostility of the neighbouring country towards India.

The Minister said there is an atmosphere of "uncertainty" along this border as ceasefire violations are often carried out by the other side.

"These activities are done by our neighbour to aid infiltration and smuggling of arms and drugs along the India-Pakistan border," he said.

Rai praised the force for

## Recovery of tunnels and drones along border is a proof of Pak hostility: Rai

securing the borders despite harsh terrain and bad weather.

He officiated as the chief guest after Union Home Minister Amit Shah skipped the event due to some "important official work", officials said.

The parade event started after over two hours' delay at a BSF camp in south-west Delhi's Chhawla area.

The 2.65 lakh personnel strong BSF was raised this day in 1965. It is primarily tasked to secure the frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The BSF is the world's largest border guarding force deployed along 6386.36 km of International Border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Continued on Page 2

## Air quality 'very poor' in Delhi, Noida, G'gram; 'severe' in Gzb

National Capital's air quality to sink to 'severe' today

STAFF REPORTER/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/NOIDA

Delhi's air quality remained "very poor" on Tuesday and is predicted to turn "severe" this week due to unfavorable meteorological conditions.

While, in the NCR cities, the air quality plunged to "severe" level in Ghaziabad, while it remained 'very poor' across Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad and Gurugram, according to data provided by a Government agency on Tuesday.

The presence of pollutants



Noida, 387 in Noida, 335 in Faridabad and 311 in Gurgaon, according to CPCB's Sameer app.

According to the index, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

The maximum wind speed in Delhi was 8 kmph on Tuesday and is expected to be 10 kmph on Wednesday, the IMD said. The minimum temperature was 8.1 degrees Celsius on Tuesday and the maximum 27.2 degrees Celsius, it said. Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion.

## CAPSULE

**48.62% TURNOUT IN 2ND PHASE OF J&K DDC POLLS**  
Srinagar: The second phase of the District Development Council (DDC) polls on Tuesday passed off peacefully with over 48 percent voter turnout, three percent less than the first phase of polling, across J&K.

**URMILA MATONDKAR JOINS SHIV SENA**  
Mumbai: Bollywood actor-turned-politician Urmila Matondkar, who unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections on a Congress ticket, joined the Shiv Sena on Tuesday.

**BRAHMOS' NAVAL VERSION SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED**  
New Delhi: A naval version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired from a stealth destroyer of the Indian Navy in the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday as part of a series of trials of the weapon, officials said.

**MUSLIM MAN CONVERTS BEFORE MARRYING HINDU**  
Yamunanagar: A Muslim man, who converted to Hinduism before marrying a Hindu woman, and his wife are under police protection here.

## SC rejects Chanda Kochhar's appeal against sacking as ICICI Bank CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected Chanda Kochhar's appeal against the Bombay High Court order which had dismissed her plea against her termination as the managing director and CEO of ICICI Bank, saying the issue falls within the realm of a private bank and employee.

"Sorry, we are not inclined to interfere with the HC order," a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said.

The SC was hearing Kochhar's appeal against the March 5 order of the high court which had dismissed her plea against termination as MD and CEO of ICICI Bank.

Continued on Page 2

## Need to vaccinate entire population may not arise: Centre

'Covid transmission chain will break if a critical mass of people gets doses'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said the need to vaccinate the entire population to combat Covid-19 may not arise "if we're able to vaccinate a critical mass of people and break virus transmission."

"Vaccination would depend on the efficacy of the vaccine and our purpose is to break the chain of Covid transmission," ICMR DG Balram Bhargava said even as Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan asserted that the Government never spoke of vaccinating the entire country.

The health officials were addressing a Press conference here.

"I just want to make this clear that the Government has never spoken about vaccinating the entire country. It's important that we discuss such scientific issues, based on factual information only," said the Health Secretary on being asked how much time it will take to vaccinate the entire country.

On Monday, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said the Central Government plans to provide coronavirus vaccines to around 25-30 crore people by July-August next year.

"In the first 3-4 months of next year, there is a possibility that we will be able to provide vaccine to the people of the country. By July-August, we have a plan to provide vaccine to around 25-30 crore people

and we are preparing accordingly," Vardhan had said.

Sources said as per suggestions by the Centre, the

## Covid +ve posters treat patients as untouchables: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Thursday once signage or posters are pasted outside the homes of Covid-19 patients, the people affected are treated as "untouchables". However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said "its guidelines do not contain any instructions regarding affixing of posters or other signage outside the residences of Covid positive patients."

States/UTs are in the midst of submitting the database of different groups, particularly, doctors, nurses, paramedical

## Delhi records 4,006 cases, 86 deaths; positivity rate down

New Delhi: Delhi recorded 4,006 fresh Covid-19 cases on Tuesday, taking the infection tally in the national Capital to over 5.74 lakh, while 86 new fatalities pushed the toll from the disease to 9,260, authorities said. These fresh cases came out of the 58,456 tests conducted on Monday, including 30,297 RT-PCR tests, while the positivity rate stood at 6.85 per cent, according to the latest bulletin by the Delhi Health Department.

staff and those above 60 years who would receive Covid-19 vaccine on a priority basis

Continued on Page 2

## Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL  
CASES: 94,95,661  
DEATHS: 1,38,090  
RECOVERED: 89,26,950  
ACTIVE: 4,28,390



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	18,28,826	47,246	16,91,412
Karnataka	8,86,227	11,792	8,50,707
Andhra Pradesh	8,68,749	6,996	8,54,326
Tamil Nadu	7,83,319	11,722	7,60,617
Kerala	6,08,358	2,271	5,44,864
Delhi	5,74,380	9,260	5,33,351
Uttar Pradesh	5,43,888	7,761	5,12,028
West Bengal	4,86,799	8,476	4,54,102
Odisha	3,19,103	1,797	3,12,734
Telangana	2,70,318	1,461	2,59,230
Rajasthan	2,70,410	2,331	2,40,105
Chhattisgarh	2,39,215	2,892	2,16,990
Bihar	2,36,098	1,268	2,29,365
Haryana	2,35,997	2,456	2,15,797
Assam	2,12,776	981	2,08,393
Gujarat	2,11,257	4,004	1,92,468

# Farmers' protest: BJP ally in Haryana suggests giving written assurance on MSP

**Chandigarh:** The BJP's ruling coalition partner in Haryana, the Jannayak Janata Party, on Tuesday suggested that the Centre should give a written assurance to farmers that the minimum support price system will continue.

The remark by JJP president Ajay Chautala comes on the day independent MLA Sombir Sangwan withdrew support to the BJP-led government in the state, also expressing support for the farmers against the new farm laws.

The farmer unions say the three agri-marketing laws enacted by the BJP-led government at the Centre in September will lead to the dismantling of the MSP system.

While the Centre has said the MSP system will continue, many protesting farmers are seeking an assurance "in writing,"

if not a repeal of the new laws. Some are suggesting an amendment to the laws, adding the assurance.

Chautala said the assurance on the MSP has been repeatedly made by the Centre, including by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.

"So what is the harm in adding and writing that line," the former MP told reporters in Sirsa, shortly before the talks between farmers and the Centre began in Delhi.

"The Centre has invited farmers for talks and we want that there should be a solution to this at the earliest. We have requested those in the government that a solution to the farmers' problems should be found," Ajay Singh Chautala said. **PTI**

# India recorded largest reductions in malaria cases in South-East Asia between 2000-2019: WHO

**United Nations:** India made "impressive gains" in the global fight against malaria, recording the largest reduction in cases in South-East Asia from 20 million in 2000 to about 5.6 million last year, according to the World Health Organisation.

The World Malaria Report 2020, released on Monday, said that in 2019, malaria cases globally numbered about 229 million, an annual estimate that has remained virtually unchanged over the last four years. Last year, the disease claimed about 409,000 lives, compared to 411,000 in 2018.

"Countries in South-East Asia made particularly strong progress, with reductions in cases and deaths of 73 per cent and 74 per cent, respectively. India contributed to the largest drop in cases region-wide - from approximately 20 million to about 6 million," WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in the report's forward.

The report said that the WHO South-East Asia Region accounted for about 3 per cent of the burden of malaria cases globally.

Malaria cases reduced by 73 per cent in the region, from 23 million in 2000 to about 6.3 million in 2019.

The WHO noted the "impressive gains" made by India in the fight against malaria, with reductions in cases and deaths of 18 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, over the last two years.

India also recorded a decrease in the number of deaths from malaria between 2000 and 2019.

Malaria deaths in India declined from about 29,500 in 2000 to about 7,700 last year, the report said. **PTI**

# Muslim man converts before marrying a Hindu, couple under Haryana Police protection

**Yamunanagar (Har):** A Muslim man, who converted to Hinduism before marrying a Hindu woman, and his wife are under police protection here following the intervention of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij had last week said the state government has set up a three-member committee to draft a law against 'love jihad', a term used by BJP leaders to describe religious conversions in the guise of marriage.

The 21-year-old man, who has also changed his name, married the 19-year-old woman on November 9 as per Hindu rituals, Yamunanagar Superintendent of Police, Kamaldeep Goyal said on Tuesday.

The couple had approached the high court stating that they feared a threat to their lives and personal liberty from the girl's family, while further submitting that opposition to their marriage was a serious abuse of their rights provided under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The police later lodged the duo in a protection home here for several days, while acting on the high court's directive to evaluate the threat perception and provide them security.

The police also met the girl's family and tried to convince them that the two were legally wedded and they should allow them to live together as per their wish, the SP said. **PTI**

# Gurugram: 267 fined for flouting pollution norms, ₹57L collected

**Gurugram:** Financial Penalty of over Rs 57 lakh was imposed on 267 violators from October 15 to November 30 by the teams deployed to monitor implementation of measures to combat pollution in Gurugram under the Under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The GRAP had come into force from October 15.

These include Rs 1.30 lakh penalty imposed on 13 violators in case of burning of garbage, Rs 5.75 lakh on 23 violators of C&D dumping, Rs 85 thousand on 17 violators of spreading of garbage and non-compliance of environmental regulations in construction activities.

A total of 195 violators faced fines amounting to Rs 48.75 lakh who were involved in dust blowing and Rs 25 imposed on violators ferrying construction material without cover. A team of Municipal Corporation, Gurugram visited multiple locations in the city after several complaints were received from these places by the residents. **SR**

# Maha sees 4,930 new cases

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

On a day when the Covid-19 deaths plummeted to a single digit for the first time in more than eight months since the outbreak of the pandemic, the infections rose to 4,930 and the deaths climbed to 95 in Maharashtra.

A day after the infections dropped to 3,837 and the number of deaths came down marginally to 80 in the state, the infections went up by 1093 and deaths rose by 15 in the state on Tuesday.

With 4930 new infections, the total infected cases jumped from 18,23,3896 to 18,28,826 till date. Similarly, with 95 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Maharashtra climbed from 47,151 to 47,246 in the state.

In a development that brought cheers to the health authorities in the metropolis, the Covid-19 toll went up by mere 9 deaths for the first time since March 31 when 7 deaths had been recorded, to trigger a rise in the total deaths from 10,884 to 10,893.

However, the daily tally of new infections in Mumbai rose by 724, taking the infected cases from 283,467 to 284,191.

As 6290 more people were discharged from various hospitals the number of people dis-

# Capital roads clogged as police limit movement at entry points

**From Page 1**

More protesters converged near the borders of the national Capital as the stir by farmers against the agril laws appeared to intensify, prompting the Delhi Police to enhance security and place concrete barriers at all entry points from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

The farmers remained at the Chilla border where police have been deployed on both the Delhi as well as Noida side in huge numbers, prohibiting the protestors from proceeding towards the national Capital.

In view of the closure of the road, the traffic police of Delhi and Noida have advised commuters to take alternative routes. "Chilla border that links Delhi to UP through Noida has been closed.

Those drivers who want to go to Noida can take U-turn from under the Ghazipur-Akshardham flyover and also through Sarai Kale Khan," the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted. Its Noida counterpart also took to Twitter to caution commuters. "The Chilla border has been closed due to the ongoing protest by farmers. Commuters can take alternative Kalindi Kunj or DND routes to go to their destination," it stated.

# Woman set afire by neighbours in UP, 5 booked

**Bhadohi (UP):** A 21-year-old woman was set afire allegedly by her neighbours in a village here, police said Tuesday.

Five people barged into the house of the victim on the night of October 23 and set her afire by sprinkling kerosene on her and fled after locking the room, the police said.

On hearing the cries of the woman, the locals took her to a hospital where she is undergoing treatment, Station House Officer K K Singh said, adding that she has suffered 50 per cent burn injuries.

The accused would visit the victim in the hospital and threaten her with dire consequences if she reported the matter to anyone, the police said, adding that the woman confided in her father when he arrived here on November 27 from Mumbai where he works.

An FIR has been lodged against the accused and efforts are on to nab them, Singh said.

The woman's condition is stable, Singh said, adding that an investigation is on. **PTI**



A pair of lionesses play inside their enclosure at Lucknow zoo on Tuesday **PTI**

# India slams Canadian ...

**From Page 1**

Trudeau said he would be remiss if he did not recognise the "news coming out of India about the protest by farmers. The situation is concerning and we are all very worried about family and friends and I know that is a reality for many of you." Trudeau is the first world leader to comment on the farmers' protests.

"We believe in the importance of dialogue and that's why, we've reached out to multiple means, directly to the India authorities to highlight our concerns. This is a moment for all of us to pull together," the Canadian leader in a video posted by the World Sikh Organisation.

# Man sentenced to 15 years in jail for raping minor cousin

**Mumbai:** A special Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act court here on Tuesday sentenced a 22-year-old man to 15 years of imprisonment for repeatedly raping his minor cousin.

Special POCSO judge S J Gharat found the accused guilty of the offence registered under IPC section 376 (rape).

According to the prosecution, the accused sexually assaulted his 15-year-old cousin on several occasions between December 2016 and March 2017, in the absence of her family.

The matter came to light after the victim became pregnant as a result of the assault and was admitted to a hospital, where she gave birth to a still-born child, the prosecution said. **PTI**

# BSF went 200...

**From Page 1**

BSF Director General Rakesh Asthana assured the nation's borders will be kept secure and impregnable. Asthana also delved in the BSF's achievements, new initiatives and preparations to deal with future challenges.

At the event, Rai also flagged off the Infinity Ride 2020 of Aditya Mehta Foundation being supported by 28 'Divyangians' of BSF and Aditya Mehta Foundation that began with DG BSF flagging it off from Srinagar on November 19 which will culminate in Kanyakumari on January 1, 2021.

# Talks inconclusive, farmers...

**From Page 1**

It further said protests will now intensify across the country until their demands are met.

The Government side gave a detailed presentation on the minimum support price, agriculture produce marketing committee Act and other provisions of the three farm laws and tried to convince them that these laws are not against the farmers. The farmers, however, remained adamant on their demand that the Government should abolish the legislations.

The Government reasoned that a high-level committee must be formed to look into the issues and wanted the farmer representatives to further consider the proposal. Sources said the Ministers were of the view that it was difficult to reach a decision while interacting with such large groups and therefore they suggested meeting with a smaller group, but the farmer leaders were firm that they would meet collectively only. The unions also know that

# Need to ...

**From Page 1**

The States have also been asked to set up a task force under the chairmanship of State Chief Secretary on the same lines as National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration (NEGVA) at the Centre so that they can take up the task of vaccinating priority groups as soon as the vaccine is ready for use.

The official said the States have also been asked to take stock of cold chain and refrigerated vans available in their respective States for universal immunisation programme so that the same can be used for Covid-19 vaccine administration.

The Centre has also written to all States and Union Territories to identify such people to utilise them during the mass Covid-19 vaccination drive. Among a list of categories who would qualify as potential vaccinators and will be trained accordingly are MBBS doctors, BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) doctors, staff nurses (those who have BSc Nursing), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives of different grades, pharmacists, those students who are interning during their MBBS course, and also BDS (dentists) interns.

# SC rejects...

**From Page 1**

The high court had accepted the bank's contention that Kochhar's plea was not maintainable as the dispute was contractual and concerns a private body.

During the arguments before the apex court, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Kochhar, said the high court had dismissed her plea on the grounds of maintainability.

"I (Kochhar) was the MD of ICICI bank but bank recalled my earlier resignation and converted it into termination," he said, adding, "This was wrong as it was against the norms." Rohatgi said that Kochhar's resignation was changed into termination and there was no prior approval. "The RBI was under obligation. You can-

not convert resignation into termination. There is no question of termination as there was no previous approval as per the clause," he said.

The bench observed, "As far as we understand, it is the RBI who can raise issue with the bank. You were in service with a private bank. RBI has to deal with the bank saying that no approval was taken." Rohatgi said for certain class of employees, prior approval is needed. "You show us a judgement which says that you have a role, then your writ petition will be maintainable," the bench told Rohatgi. After Rohatgi referred to some judgements, the bench said, "RBI has given post-facto approval. You are saying there was no prior approval. You are saying that it is not the proper manner. Your whole grievance is against the private bank. There cannot be grievance with RBI."

To this, Rohatgi said, "No. My whole grievance is against the RBI". He said if the RBI had not granted approval then Kochhar's termination would have been nullified. "What about my (Kochhar's) reputation," Rohatgi argued.

The bench observed, "You can claim damages if your reputation is tarnished and if it was wrong." Rohatgi said, "everything cannot be damages" and RBI can be asked to explain its approval as RBI has no jurisdiction to give post-facto approval. Kochhar was terminated from the ICICI Bank months after she had voluntarily left the second largest private sector lender.

The former banker had moved the Bombay High Court on November 30, 2019, challenging the "termination" of her employment by the ICICI Bank. She had contended before the high court that the

bank also denied her remuneration and clawed back all the bonuses and stock options between April 2009 and March 2018, for her alleged role in granting out of turn loans to the Videocon Group which purportedly benefited her husband Deepak Kochhar.

Her counsel had earlier argued in the high court that her termination came months after the bank approved her voluntary resignation on October 5, 2018 and therefore, the termination is "illegal, untenable and unsustainable in law".

The ICICI Bank had then filed an affidavit, contending the reliefs in the petition are not maintainable and it deserves to be dismissed as ICICI is a private bank and is administered under the Companies Act, not the state or its agency.

On November 20, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had assured the apex court that

**पुलिस तकनीकी सेवाएँ मुख्यालय उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ**

बिना तल, टावर-4, पुलिस मुख्यालय, अमर सहोदर थर, गोमती नगर विस्तार, लखनऊ-226002. e-mail: tsbq@up.nic.in

Lat. No.: TS-49/2020 **Re E-Tender Notice** Date: November 2020

Online E-bids of the following instrument for Forensic Science Laboratory, U.P are invited from eligible and registered Firms/Manufacturers/Authorized dealers by Inspector General of Police, Fire Service HQ, UP Police Lucknow. This Re-tender is in continuation of E-tender No. TS-49/2020.

Tender No.	Name of the Instrument	Qty.	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Cost with 18% GST (in Rs.)	Period of Work	
1	TS-49/2020	Mobile Firing Rest Table	03	120,500/-	21300/-	According to Conditions

Bid documents are available on the website <http://e-tender.up.nic.in>, <http://eprocure.gov.in> and <http://uppolice.gov.in> from 03-12-2020 to 14-12-2020. E-Bids can be uploaded up to 14-12-2020 at 12.00 noon. Technical bids will be opened on 14-12-2020 at 14.00 Hrs.

All information regarding E-Tender are available on website <http://e-tender.up.nic.in>, <http://eprocure.gov.in> and <http://uppolice.gov.in>.

(Vijay Prakash) Inspector General of Police Fire Service HQ, UP, Lucknow (Chairman-Purchase Committee)

कलकत्ता-157423, दिनांक-30.11.2020, विज्ञापन संख्याएँ: www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध हैं।

**कार्यालय: प्राचार्य, पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय, शासकीय कला एवं वाणिज्य (अग्रणी) महाविद्यालय सागर म.प्र.**

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**निविदा का प्रारूप**

कार्यालय: प्राचार्य, पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय, शासकीय कला एवं वाणिज्य (अग्रणी) महाविद्यालय सागर (म.प्र.)

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**निविदा विज्ञापन**

विश्व बैंक पोषित उच्च शिक्षा गुणवत्ता उन्नयन परियोजना के तहत शासकीय महाविद्यालय मालथीन, जिला- सागर में प्रयोगशाला उपकरण क्रय किये जाने हेतु निविदा विज्ञापन आह्वानित की जाती है। इच्छुक निविदाकर्ता GeM पोर्टल पर आवश्यक निविदा देखी जा सकती है। निविदा के नियम एवं शर्तें इच्छुक प्रदायकर्ता GeM पोर्टल पर देख सकते हैं एवं निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं। उपरोक्त क्रय प्रक्रिया मध्यप्रदेश भंडार क्रय नियम 2015 के अनुसार की जायेगी।

आयुक्त उच्च शिक्षा विभाग द्वारा स्वीकृत एवं प्राप्त बजट के अनुसार ही सामग्री क्रय की जायेगी।

S. No.	Instrument	Quantity	Bid No	Bid Start Date	Bid End Date	Extended Date
1	Voltmeter- Analog	02	GEM/2020/B/878674	26.11.20	-	17.12.20
2	Volumetric Weighing Machine	02	GEM/2020/B/878642	26.11.20	17.12.20	
3	Network Theorem Kit For Educational Purpose (Scheuring Bridge)	01	GEM/2020/B/878603	26.11.20	17.12.20	
4	Network Theorem Kit For Educational Purpose (Fiber Optics)	01	GEM/2020/B/878590	26.11.20	17.12.20	
5	Electrical Moisture Meters For Food Grains	03	GEM/2020/B/878569	26.11.20	17.12.20	
6	Network Theorem Kit For Educational Purpose	01	GEM/2020/B/878559	26.11.20	17.12.20	
7	Thickness Measuring Gauge	02	GEM/2020/B/878553	26.11.20	17.12.20	
8	Single Ang Dual Beam IR Sensor	02	GEM/2020/B/875625	26.11.20	17.12.20	
9	Network Theorem Kit For Educational Purpose (Newton Ring)	02	GEM/2020/B/875563	26.11.20	17.12.20	
10	Network Theorem Kit For Educational Purpose	01	GEM/2020/B/875539	26.11.20	17.12.20	
11	High Vacuum Suction Machine For Medical Purposes	01	GEM/2020/B/875518	26.11.20	17.12.20	
12	Network Theorem Kit For Educational Purpose	01	GEM/2020/B/875496	26.11.20	17.12.20	
13	Table Top Autoclave	01	GEM/2020/B/875404	26.11.20	17.12.20	
14	Magnetic Stirrer	01	GEM/2020/B/875381	26.11.20	17.12.20	
15	Water Baths	01	GEM/2020/B/875364	26.11.20	17.12.20	
16	CO2 Digesting Unit	02	GEM/2020/B/875249	26.11.20	17.12.20	
17	BOD Incubator	02	GEM/2020/B/874384	26.11.20	17.12.20	
18	Rotary Microtome	01	GEM/2020/B/874376	26.11.20	17.12.20	
19	Hot Air Oven	01	GEM/2020/B/874370	26.11.20	17.12.20	
20	Domestic Refrigerators	01	GEM/2020/B/874359	26.11.20	17.12.20	
21	Portable Fire Extinguishers BS EN Standard Based	01	GEM/2020/B/874349	26.11.20	17.12.20	
22	Microscopes- Pathological And Research (Monocular Microscopes)	01	GEM/2020/B/874316	26.11.20	17.12.20	
23	Microscopes- Pathological And Research (Binocular Microscopes)	02	GEM/2020/B/874293	26.11.20	17.12.20	
24	Compound- Trinocular-Bino- Microscopes	07	GEM/2020/B/893781	26.11.20	17.12.20	
25	Spectrophotometer	01	GEM/2020/B/893795	26.11.20	17.12.20	
26	Stop Watch	05	GEM/2020/B/893807	26.11.20	17.12.20	
27	Moisture Meter	03	GEM/2020/B/893811	26.11.20	17.12.20	
28	PH Meter	03	GEM/2020/B/893827	26.11.20	17.12.20	
29	Dissolved Oxygen Meter	02	GEM/2020/B/893855	26.11.20	17.12.20	
30	Medical Centrifuge	01	GEM/2020/B/893863	26.11.20	17.12.20	
31	Digital Conductivity Meter	02	GEM/2020/B/893867	26.11.20	17.12.20	
32	Domestic Refrigerators	01	GEM/2020/B/893872	26.11.20	17.12.20	
33	Portable Fire Extinguishers BS EN Standard Based	02	GEM/2020/B/893895	26.11.20	17.12.20	
34	Storage Rack For Chemicals	03	GEM/2020/B/893900	26.11.20	17.12.20	

**प्राचार्य शास. कला एवं वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय सागर (म.प्र.)**

**G-15970/20 जब तक कोरोना ही दवाई नहीं, तब तक हिलाने नहीं।**

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FARMERS PROTEST

# CITY GOVT NOTIFIES 1 OF 3 CENTRE'S FARM LAWS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has notified one of the three Central farm laws and is examining the remaining two, officials said on Tuesday.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 was notified on November 23, said a senior Delhi Government official.

"The remaining two laws are under examination by the development department of the Delhi Government," he said.

The ruling AAP said the notification allows farmers to sell their crop anywhere, including outside mandis. Selling of fruits and vegetables was already deregulated in Delhi many years ago; now this holds for grains too, it said.

The party has openly supported the farmers demands to scrap the laws. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had also demanded withdrawing of the laws in a protest by AAP at Jantar Mantar last month.

Officials said vegetables and fruits were deregulated in 2014 enabling trading beyond agricultural produce marketing



Farmers gather at the Singhu border during their ongoing Delhi Chalo protest against Centre's new farm laws, in New Delhi on Tuesday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

committee managed mandis. The notified law adds food-grains and poultry to the list, they said.

Opposition BJP and Congress attacked the AAP for its support to farmers agitation while notifying the farm law.

"The notification exposes duplicacy of AAP and the Kejriwal government. They want to share the benefits of the new farm laws while misguiding the farmers," charged BJP MP and former Delhi unit president Manoj Tiwari.

The AAP hit back at the

BJP over the issue saying it was trying to divert attention of people from the nationwide protest by the farmers.

"BJP is clueless about how to handle the nationwide protest by farmers and is therefore hopelessly trying to divert attention of the public," it said in a statement.

The mandis have not been dismantled and they are continuing. Farmers demand is that they should get MSP (minimum support price) whether inside or outside mandis which AAP supports, added the statement.

## AAP workers, MLA detained at CP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Volunteers of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s student unit CYSS and Youth Wing on Tuesday held a protest by creating a human chain at Connaught Place in support of farmers protesting against the agriculture Bills.

The Delhi Police detained party volunteers and MLA Jarnail Singh. MLA and Punjab in-charge Jarnail Singh said the Prime Minister does not have even two minutes to listen to the demands of the protesting farmers.

"Union Home Minister Amit Shah can campaign for election at Hyderabad but he does not have time to meet farmers sitting at the Delhi borders," he said.

Hundreds of AAP's volunteers carried banners and raised slogans against these black laws and appealed the BJP Government to immediately roll back these laws.

"These three bills passed by the central government are absolutely anti-farmer. The



Police detain AAP leaders and student activists as they protest against new farm laws at Connaught Place in New Delhi on Tuesday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

AAP opposes these bills. The AAP supports the demands of those farmers who are protesting from across the country on the border of Delhi. The motive behind this peaceful protest was to appeal to the central government to listen to the farmers," he said.

"Today, a dictatorial government is running this country under the leadership of the BJP, which is suppressing and crushing the voices of farmers, soldiers, youth, students, poor, dalits and opposition parties. India is a democratic country and the Constitution gives every citizen the right to

protest," he said.

"The farmers of the country are also fighting for their rights but instead of listening to the farmers, the BJP's Government is torturing them. The farmers have faced lathi-charge, tear gas and water cannons used by the Police under the BJP government. The AAP will stand shoulder to shoulder with the farmers in their protest. Till the time this fascist BJP government does not withdraw these laws, the protest will continue. From the Parliament to the streets the AAP has been opposing these bills from the first day," he said.

## Bhim Army chief, Patkar, Pappu join farmers' stir at Delhi-Ghaziapur border

ASHOK NIRWAN ■ GHAZIABAD

Bhim Army chief Chandrashekar Azad, along with social activist Medha Patkar and Bihar Member of Parliament, Pappu Yadav on Tuesday extended his support to farmers and joined their protest at Delhi-Ghaziapur border (UP Gate) on Tuesday.

The trio met Rakesh Tikait, president of the Indian Farmers Union and said that they should stand shoulder to shoulder in this fight of farmers.

"The farmers have been fighting for their rights in this cold. These laws should be withdrawn immediately. We extend our full support to our farmers. We are with them in this fight," said Bhim Army chief.

The Delhi Police has barricaded the way for the farmers to enter and proceed to Delhi by planting barricading.

The farmers have built a temporary tent and dining kitchen to stay at the UP gate. Farmers from western Uttar Pradesh districts of Muzaffarnagar, Bijnor, Meerut, Hapur, Amroha and Uttarakhand are also coming on daily basis to join the protest.

Due to the peasant movement, prices of vegetables and fruits have also started going up. Rakesh Tikait, president of the Indian Farmers Union, told that the talks of farmer leaders in Delhi are going on with the central government.

"If no solution is found from this conversation, the farmers will stop supplying fruits and vegetables besides milk and milk in vegetable markets of Delhi," said Tikait.

Even as farmers of Punjab and Haryana continued to rally at Singhu and Tikari border entry points, scores of Uttar Pradesh farmers gathered at Ghaziapur on the Delhi-Ghaziapur border on Sunday morning in their bid to enter the national Capital. Earlier in the day, farmer unions decided to attend a meeting with the Centre as protesters continued their agitation at Delhi border points against the Government's new farm laws.



Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Monday invited leaders of farmer unions for talks on Tuesday, instead of December 3, citing the COVID-19 pandemic and cold. But the meeting turned out to be of any conclusion and farmers said that they will continue their protest.

Thousands of farmers stayed put at various Delhi border points for the sixth consecutive day on Tuesday protesting against the new farm laws, which they fear will dismantle the minimum support price system and corporatise farming.

## Huge traffic congestion at Delhi-Ggm border

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In order to maintain law and order in the wake of farmers' Delhi Chalo march protest against the three farm related Bills passed by the Central Government, the Delhi Police again on Tuesday morning intensified vehicle checking at Delhi-Gurugram border on the National Highway-48 which resulted in massive traffic congestion.

The huge traffic congestion witnessed on the border and around 2 km long queue of vehicles were seen during rush hours.

Commuters mostly office goers were stuck in the jam. The Delhi Police on Tuesday put up barricades on the border and only two lanes were open for the traffic entering the national capital.

Also, in view of Nuh and Rajasthan farmer's who have extended their support to protesting farmers. Multiple traffic blocks built up through the day on many roads leading



to Delhi as the Haryana Police took strict measures to prevent the protesting farmers from entering the national Capital.

The Gurugram police especially beefed up security at Bilaspur Chowk, Panchgaon Chowk, Gurugram-Taurau check-point, Gurugram-Nuh border and on the Delhi-Gurugram border at Sirhaul.

The traffic movement was also slow at these points as Gurugram Police personnel

marched towards Delhi, breaching barricades and faced water cannons to mark their presence in Delhi.

The Gurugram Police are already on high alert amid farmers' protests. Personnel have already been deployed at all the connecting borders of the district.

Rapid Action Force and extra police personnel have been reserved to face any untoward situation on the border locations, said Subhash Boken, spokesperson of the Gurugram police.

Meanwhile, police sources claimed that the Delhi police had received inputs about a number of farmers from Rajasthan who could be entering the national Capital through NH-48, following which both the States' police alerted their personnel.

"There was no such impact reported in Gurugram. Security has been beefed since November 26 and strict vigil maintained in all seven border areas," he added.

## Cops stop Shaheen Bagh dadi from taking part in stir

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Bilkis Dadi, the octogenarian who was the face of the months-long anti-citizenship law protest in the national Capital and featured in the Time magazine, was on Tuesday stopped by the Delhi Police personnel at the Singhu Border where thousands of farmers have been demonstrating against the centre's new farm laws, officials said.

Bilkis, popularly known as the Shaheen Bagh Dadi, had expressed her willingness to join the farmers' protest at the Delhi-Haryana border at Singhu.

Soon after she reached the border point to extend her support to the agitating farmers, she was stopped by Delhi Police personnel at the border. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said, "She is a senior citizen and due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we stopped her at the Singhu Border and requested her to return for her own safety and betterment."

"To avoid any kind of any inconvenience to her, she was escorted by the police team to her home in southeast Delhi," he said.



82-year-old Bilkis Dadi returns after being denied permission to join farmers protesting at Singhu border in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

## Capital sees 4K fresh Covid cases, 86 fatalities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital on Tuesday recorded 4,006 fresh Covid-19 cases while 86 new fatalities pushed the toll from the disease to 9,260.

According to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi Health Department, a total of 58,456 Covid-19 tests conducted the previous day, including 30,297 RT-PCR tests, while the positivity rate stood at 6.85 per cent.

As per the bulletin, the active Covid-19 case count stood at 31,769 in Delhi on Tuesday, it said. The bulletin said the total number of novel coronavirus cases has climbed to 5,74,380 in the national Capital.

The number of Covid-19 containment zones in Delhi rose to 5669. The bulletin said of the total number of 18,688 beds in Covid-19 hospitals, 10,911 are vacant.

The Delhi Government on

Monday capped the price of RT-PCR test at Rs 800 from the existing rate of Rs 2,400 in the private hospitals.

According to an order issued by the health department, private laboratories have been asked to charge Rs 800 for testing "samples collected by government teams and collected from collection sites by private sector labs as requisitioned by districts and hospitals".

## HC asks AAP Govt about protocol for disposal of used corona test kits

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Tuesday asked the AAP Government as to what guidelines or protocols were in place for disposal of used Covid-19 testing kits and whether they were being followed by the hospitals, clinics and doctors under its jurisdiction.

A bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan asked the Delhi Government's additional standing counsel Sanjoy Ghose and advocate Naman Jain to find out the guidelines or protocols in place, the authority which issued them and whether they were being implemented.

"Come with instructions," the bench said to the Delhi government counsels and listed the matter for hearing on December 3.

The direction came on a PIL by a lawyer alleging improper disposal of used swabs from Rapid Antigen testing for Covid-19 at the office of the District Magistrate (South East Delhi) at Lajpat Nagar.

The petitioner, Pankaj Mehta, has alleged that used swabs were being "thrown out in public" and "tests were being carried out over a pile of used swabs for Covid-19" at the DM's office.

"Upon complaining about the risk of widespread infection and the irregularity behind disposing off the swabs in this manner, the concerned doctor at the counter said that the swabs are of negative patients and thus it is safe to stand over them and get yourself tested,"

- The direction came on a PIL by a lawyer alleging improper disposal of used swabs from Rapid Antigen testing for Covid-19 at the office of the District Magistrate (South East Delhi) at Lajpat Nagar
- Petitioner, Pankaj Mehta, has alleged that used swabs were being "thrown out in public" and "tests were being carried out over a pile of used swabs for Covid-19" at the DM's office
- The claims and allegations were refuted by Ghose who said he was informed that the swabs being referred to in the plea were unused or defective

Mehta has claimed in his plea. The claims and allegations were refuted by Ghose who said he was informed that the swabs being referred to in the plea were unused or defective.

Ghose also said he will nevertheless take instructions on the correct position and inform the court.

During the hearing, the court was also told by the Delhi government counsels that there are guidelines issued by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) with regard to disposal of medical waste.

## Plastic Lao — Mask Pao launched by NDMC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) launched a 'Plastic Lao — Mask Pao' campaign on Tuesday at Charkha Museum in Connaught Place. The campaign also highlights the role of the public in the waste value chain to move towards responsibility driven society by encouraging segregation of plastic waste.

The initiative was launched in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) where citizens can come and deposit their plastic waste in exchange for masks.

The campaign was inaugurated by Vijay Kumar Dev, Chief Secretary of Delhi in the presence of Dharmendra, Chairperson of NDMC, Dr B M Mishra, Secretary of NDMC and Prabhjot Sodhi, head-circular economy of UNDP.

Dev applauded the initiative, saying that this is a unique campaign to encourage the Covid-19 appropriate behaviour and also to curb pollution simultaneously. The Chief Secretary further highlighted the need of wearing a mask, hand sanitization and social distancing to safeguard the public from covid infections. He also emphasized to be cautious while attending marriage functions.

As part of the campaign, a mini collection centre has been set up in the premises of Charkha Museum, Connaught Place to promote responsible use of plastic and its disposal. The visitors are encouraged to bring waste plastic products and exchange the same for reusable cloth masks, and also take a pledge (#Pledge4Change) to become responsible citizens



Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Dev launches an initiative of plastic lao, mask pao at Charkha museum in New Delhi on Tuesday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

for a sustainable future, a senior official said.

The mini collection centre will be operative on all days from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm with a whole range of community engagement activities including participation of schools, colleges and commercial estab-

lishments, he added.

The campaign's goal is to ensure around five tonnes of plastic waste is recovered from our streets by responsibly recycling with better economic and social outcomes for safai sevaks and better environmental outcomes for Delhi, he said.

## Positivity rate falls by margin of nearly 55%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain Tuesday said the Covid-19 positivity rate in the national Capital has fallen by a margin of nearly 55 per cent since early November and it should reduce further in the next two weeks.

Jain said the labs taking samples are being operated at their full capacity, hence there are some delays in test outcomes and this matter was being taken up with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

"Delhi is optimally utilising both private and government labs but there is a need for additional support as promised by the Central Government. The death rate was 1.61 per cent owing to pollution levels due to stubble burning which was also a major contributor to the declining health of citizens. The rate of RT-PCR tests has been reduced to Rs 800, while collection of samples from home will cost Rs 1,200. It has been promised by the Central Government to provide addi-

tional support for testing to ensure that there is no delay in the availability of reports since Delhi is optimally utilising both private and government labs," he added.

Jain said there were 3,726 new cases in Delhi on Monday. The positivity rate was down to 7.35 from 15.26 per cent. There has been a 55 per cent decrease in the rate since November 7, 2020.

Commenting on the death rate, he said, "We have to see the moving average and not take into consideration the daily statistics. At present, 1.61 per cent is the death ratio.

During winters, pollution levels in Delhi due to the stubble burning in neighbouring States was the reason behind the declining health of citizens, he said, due to that very reason we saw an increase in hospital admissions. However, we anticipate that in 2-3 weeks, it will get better.

Responding to the query surrounding the delay in reports of RT-PCR test, Jain said "The capacity of labs is full. We issued strict orders

yesterday to ensure that the turnaround period is 24 hours. When they conduct tests equivalent to their capacity, it results in a delay. We will be taking up this issue with ICMR and the Central Government to suggest that if labs conduct 10% less tests than their total capacity, it will result in a higher turnaround rate. Delhi is optimally utilising both private and government labs but there is need for additional support in terms of labs as promised by Central Government to ensure that the reports are issued within 24 hours," he said.

"The Central Government should take immediate actions on the legitimate concerns of the farmers. They are the backbone of our country and deserve to be heard. People have left their homes and travelled kilometres together only to get their voices heard, are entitled to a fair chance to express their concerns. The farmers are the backbone of our nation and the Central Government should take immediate actions on their concerns," he added.

# Oxford case doesn't necessitate halting of vaccine trials: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The initial findings into the 'adverse event' allegedly suffered by an Oxford Covid-19 vaccine trial participant in Chennai did not necessitate halting of the trials, the Centre on Tuesday said even as Serum Institute of India (SII) on Tuesday asserted that the Covishield vaccine will not be released for mass use unless it is proven immunogenic and safe.

"It is the role of the drug regulator to ascertain or refute any causal link between the event and the intervention," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a press briefing here on allegation of the 'adverse event' in a SII trial. He added that it will not affect vaccine timelines in any way.

A 40-year-old man who was a volunteer in the third phase of the 'Covishield' vaccine trial in Chennai has alleged serious side effects, including a virtual neurological breakdown and impairment of cognitive functions. He has sought Rs 5 crore compensation in a legal notice to Serum Institute and others, besides seeking a halt to the trial.

However, the SII rejected the charges as "malicious and misconceived" and said it will seek damages in excess of Rs

100 crore. The company said the serious adverse event (SAE) that happened to the volunteer, though unfortunate, was in no way induced by the vaccine and asserted that the Covishield vaccine will not be released for mass use unless it is proven immunogenic and safe.

While replying to a query from reporters here at the presser, ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava said adverse events occur with drugs or vaccines or any other health intervention.

"If any adverse event warrants hospitalisation then it is called a serious adverse event. It is the role of the drug regulator, after collating all the data, to ascertain or refute whether there is a causal link between the event and intervention. That causal link whether it has to be ascertained or refuted has to be done by the DCGI and all the papers in connection to the five parameters have been submitted to him accordingly for review," he said. It is done purely on a scientific basis and the assessment is done with very objectively-based criteria and initial causality assessment findings did not necessitate stoppage of these trials, he added.

Bhushan added that he does not want to comment on specifics of the case as the matter was in court. "But it is seen

that most of the discourse on adverse events in the media suffers from inadequate information and facts.

"Whenever a clinical trial starts the subjects are required to sign a prior informed consent form. This is a global practice which happens across countries," he explained.

Prior consent form tells the subject about the possible adverse events that may happen in case one decides to participate in a clinical trial, Bhushan said, adding that if one understands the implications of the prior informed consent then the form is signed by the subject.

Without the signature, a subject cannot participate in a clinical trial, he said.

"Secondly, these trials of vaccines or medicines are multi-site and multi centric; they are conducted in multiple hospitals and multiple states. And at each site there is an institutional ethics committee which is independent of the vaccine manufacturer or the government," Bhushan said.

He said that whenever in the course of a trial any adverse event happens, this ethics committee takes note of it and within a period of 30 days gives a report to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) about the event.

The DCGI investigates if

## Cases per million in India lowest in world

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as India's overall Covid-19 tally stood at 94,62,809 on Tuesday and the fatality toll touched 1,37,621, the Government claimed that among all the big nations in world, cases per million in the country at 211 cases/million are the lowest. Last seven days trends shows that European nations are witnessing a surge in Covid-19 cases, said Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary.

Talking to reporters here he said that currently, there are 4,35,603 active cases, whereas 88,89,585 patients have been cured and discharged so far.

"The recovery rate stands at 93.94 per cent, and the fatality rate is 1.45 per cent," he said asserting that the timely steps initiated by the Government are delivering positive results.

According to the data available from the Union Health Ministry, Maharashtra continued to be the worst-hit state with 18,23,896 cases till date.

There is one to one relation between the vaccine and the

adverse event and then they permit it to go to another

stage, he said. At present, SII vaccine trials

are in phase 3 after all investigations, and Bharat Biotech clinical trials is also in phase 3 after all investigation.

There are 91,623 active cases and 47,151 Covid-19 deaths.

According to the Ministry, over 70 per cent of the daily new cases are contributed by eight States and UT, i.e. Maharashtra, Delhi, Kerala, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Chhattisgarh. While some States (Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh etc) have witnessed a decline in the active caseload in the past 24 hours, others such as Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Assam and Goa have reported an addition to their caseload.

The overall number of global coronavirus cases has surpassed the 63 million mark, while the deaths have surged to more than 1.46 million, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 1,35,36,216 and 2,67,987 respectively, according to the global data. India comes in second place in terms of cases.

## Covid +ve posters treat patients as untouchables, says SC; Centre says no guideline for signage

New Delhi: The Supreme

Court Thursday said that once posters are pasted outside the homes of Covid-19 patients, these people are treated as "untouchables", reflecting a different "ground reality".

The Centre informed the apex court that although it has not prescribed this rule, the practice has nothing to do with 'stigmatising' Covid-19 patients as it is aimed at protecting other people.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah said that the ground reality is "something different" and as once such posters are pasted at their homes, they are treated as untouchables.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said that some states on their own are pursuing this practice to prevent the spread of the virus.

Mehta said the Centre has filed its reply to the plea in pursuance of the top court's direction, he said.

The apex court on November 5 had asked the Centre to consider issuing nationwide guidelines to do away with practice of pasting posters outside the homes of Covid-19 patients. Let the counter filed by Union come on record we will take it up on Thursday," the bench said.

The bench had observed that when the Delhi government has agreed in the high court not to paste posters, why cannot the Centre come up with guidelines dealing with the matter for the entire country?

On November 3, the AAP government had told the Delhi High Court that it has instructed all its officials not to paste

posters outside homes of Covid-19 positive persons or those in home isolation; and the ones pasted have been ordered to be removed.

The government had told the high court that its officials have also not been allowed to share details of Covid-19 positive persons with their neighbours, resident welfare associations or Whatsapp groups.

Kalra, in his plea before the high court, had contended that freely circulating to Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and on Whatsapp groups, the names of persons who tested positive for COVID-19 was "leading to stigmatisation and drawing of unnecessary attention".

The petition had stated that COVID-19 positive persons "ought to be given privacy to cope with and recover from the illness in peace and away from prying eyes".

"Rather, they are being made the centre of public attention...", it had said. PTI

## Difference erupts among farmers

After KMSC refused to attend meeting called by Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Differences erupted among farmers unions as some of them did attend the meeting called by the Centre on Tuesday. Punjab-based farmers' body Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC) on Tuesday refused to participate in a meeting demanding that representatives of all farmer unions be invited for talks. The KMSC is one of the 32 Punjab farmers' bodies invited for talks with the Centre. KMSC has demanded that several farmers' bodies have not been invited and moreover the Prime Minister Modi is not holding this meeting.

Of the 36 farmer union leaders, 30 hail from Punjab and remaining six owe allegiance to Sanyukt Kisan Morcha and other farmer organisations from Haryana and other places.

KMSC general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher said

## BJP condemns Canadian PM's remarks on farmers' protest, calls it interference

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader and former Sparty General Secretary Ram Madhav Tuesday asked Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 'locus standi' in expressing concerns over the farmers' protests in India and accused him of interfering in India's sovereign matters.

Canada has a huge Sikh population and had in the past a Sikh politician holding the key post of Defence Minister.

In a statement, the Canadian Prime Minister has expressed concern over the farmers' agitation on the outskirts of the Delhi borders, mostly spearheaded by Sikh

farm leaders. Trudeau is the first world leader to speak out on the farmers' protests in India. He had also said he had reached out to Indian authorities over the issue. "What is his locus standi? Isn't it tantamount to interference in India's sovereign matters?", Madhav tweeted while sharing a news article on Trudeau's comments over the protests, which have intensified over the past few days.

Madhav had earlier on Monday shared an article about the farmers' protests, headlined, 'Is Khalistan the reason for farmers' march to Delhi?'

Farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, are holding protests at the Singhu, Tikri, and Ghazipur borders of the national capital against the new farm laws passed by the Modi government and demanding legal guarantee for the continuation of the Minimum Support Price for their farm produce.

A day before BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya had linked farmers agitation with 'Khalistani & Maoist'. He had also lashed out at the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for, on the one hand, implementing new farm laws in his state while at the same time backing agitating farmers demanding their annulment.

"CRPF being the largest paramilitary force is the sentinel of the Union (of India) with regard to Internal Security. The main Khaki in uniform which is worn by CRPF personnel is very common with all the State/Union Territory police and paramilitary forces. Besides Khaki uniform is also being worn by postal delivery man as well as delivery boys of LPG supplier which somehow degrades our quality/action," reads a CRPF circular regarding DG's address to the officers and jawans on the issue

It further said, "In order to make the CRPF more unique

with the uniform and to give a separate identity, a new uniform other than Khaki should be introduced which is the need of the hour."

Keeping in view the pattern of uniform/dress of other police forces of the world, the issue regarding change in Khaki uniform presently worn by all CRPF officer and personnel since its inception is being examined at the Directorate level, officials said, adding new pattern other than Khaki uniform may be introduced to make the Force more unique, different in identify and to

give special focus on the identity of the force at par with Army, Navy and Air Force. The issue of change in character of the uniform being a policy matter which involves the pride of the entire CRPF, suggestions from all formations have been sought, they added.

## CRPF planning to change Khaki uniform

To look unique, give separate identity to largest paramilitary force

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The CRPF is mulling over changing the Khaki uniform of the 3.25 lakh strong paramilitary to impart a unique identity and be at par with the defence forces.

Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force AP Maheshwari on Tuesday addressed all the formations of the Force online seeking comments on changing the khaki uniform to reflect the unique character of the world's biggest paramilitary.

"CRPF being the largest paramilitary force is the sentinel of the Union (of India) with regard to Internal Security. The main Khaki in uniform which is worn by CRPF personnel is very common with all the State/Union Territory police and paramilitary forces. Besides Khaki uniform is also being worn by postal delivery man as well as delivery boys of LPG supplier which somehow degrades our quality/action," reads a CRPF circular regarding DG's address to the officers and jawans on the issue

It further said, "In order to make the CRPF more unique



## EC okays ETPBS's overseas extension

Wants Govt to make necessary amendments at earliest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To extend electronically transmitted postal ballot system (ETPBS) facility to overseas voters, the Election Commission (EC) has approached the Law Ministry to permit Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to cast their votes, so far available to service voters, to eligible overseas Indian voters. As of now, overseas Indians are free to cast their votes in constituencies they are registered. This regulation is seen as restrictive as only a few thousand Indians living overseas have registered as voters, the maximum being from Kerala and Punjab.

In a letter to the legislative secretary in the law ministry on November 27, the EC said with the successful execution of ETPBS in case of service voters, it is now "confident" that the facility can also be extended to the overseas electors. For overseas electors, the EC has said the voter will have to intimate the returning officer that he or she wants to use a postal ballot. The returning officer will then electronically transmit the ballot paper to the voter by means specified by the EC. The Commission requested the government to make necessary amendments at the earliest "which will go a long way in not only facilitating exercise of right of overseas electors but also further boosting the image of the country internationally".



nically and administratively ready to extend this facility in general elections to legislative assemblies of Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry," the EC said. Elections in these state are due sometime in April-June next year.

It said the poll panel has been receiving several representations from Indian diaspora residing abroad to facilitate voting through postal ballots since such overseas electors are not in a position to be present in their polling area as travelling to India for this purpose is a costly affair and otherwise also, they cannot leave the country of their residence owing to specific compulsions of employment, education or other engagements. "Due to protocols associated with COVID-19, problem further gets compounded," the letter to the law ministry said. The poll body observed that Section 62

of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 envisages the right to vote for every citizen registered in the electoral roll who is not subject to disqualification for voting.

"Therefore, it is necessary to explore all avenues to enable exercise of a franchise by all eligible electors," it said.

According to rough estimates, there are about one crore Indians settled abroad, of whom about 60-70 lakh could be of eligible voting age. They could hold considerable sway in election results, especially in states such as Punjab, Gujarat and Kerala, where a number of expats hail from. Under ETPBS, postal ballot is sent electronically to a service voter. The service voter downloads it and uses a specific envelope to return it to the returning officer of his constituency. The postal ballot should reach the returning officer by 8.00 am on the day of the counting.

Counting of votes begin with counting of postal ballots at 8.00 am.

Personnel of armed forces posted outside their constituencies in forward areas, personnel of central armed police forces posted in outside their constituencies state police personnel posted on poll duty, embassy staff are considered as service voters. The EC has suggested amending the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to extend ETPBS for overseas electors. The rules were amended in October, 2016 to allow service voters use ETPBS.

In 2018, the government tried to grant proxy voting rights to overseas electors through an amendment to the Representation of the People Act 1951. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha and was awaiting Rajya Sabha's approval when it lapsed with the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.

## Navy successfully test-fires Brahmos

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sustaining the momentum of Operational readiness in the backdrop of the tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India on Tuesday successfully test fired a naval version of the Brahmos missile. This test is part of a series of tests carried out using various missiles in the past three months to ramp up preparedness.

The latest test of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile was conducted in the Bay of Bengal in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In the past few days, the Army and the IAF had conducted validation trials of the missile. In fact, the Navy had also tested the missile capable of hitting a target at 400 km in the Arabian Sea six weeks ago.

Brahmos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms. Sources said the test-firing of the missile on Tuesday was 'successful'.

The anti-ship version of the missile was launched by INS Ranvijay striking the target ship at maximum range with pinpoint accuracy in the Bay of Bengal at nine am. The target was a de-commissioned ship and the missile destroyed it after performing extremely complex manoeuvres, they said.

The Brahmos as a prime strike weapon will ensure the



warship's invincibility by engaging naval surface targets at long ranges, thus affirming the destroyer as one of the several lethal platform of Indian Navy fitted with the weapon system.

The armed forces have already inducted the 290-km range land and warship-based versions of the missile which travels at a speed of three times the speed of sound at more than Mach 2.8.

On November 24, the Indian Army had "successfully" test-fired the surface-to-surface Brahmos missile. The range of the new land attack version of the missile was extended to 400 km from the original 290 km.

India has already deployed a sizeable number of the original Brahmos missiles and other key assets in several strategic locations along the

LAC in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.

In the last two-and-half months, India has test-fired a number of missiles including an anti-radiation missile named Rudram-1 which is planned to be inducted into service by 2022.

The IAF on October 30 test-fired the air launched version of the Brahmos from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal. The IAF is also integrating the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile on over 40 Sukhoi fighter jets which is aimed at bolstering overall combat capability of the force.

The Brahmos missile provides the IAF a much-desired capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night and in all weather conditions.

## SC unhappy over shirtless man who appeared on video conferencing link

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday expressed displeasure when a shirtless man was seen on the video-conferencing link during the hearing of a matter.

"Even after seven-eight months of video conferencing hearings, these things are happening," said a bench comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Hemant Gupta.

"This is not done," the bench observed, after the shirtless man was visible on the screen during the hearing.

This is not the first time such untoward incident has happened in the apex court during hearings being conducted through video-conferencing.

The top court, which has restricted its functioning amid the COVID-19 pandemic, is presently hearing matters through video-conferencing.

On October 26, a similar incident had happened before a bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud when an advocate was seen on the screen while he was shirtless.

"I do not like to be hard to anyone but you are on screen. You have to be careful," Justice Chandrachud had observed.

In June, a lawyer had appeared in a virtual hearing in the apex court while lying on bed and donning a T-shirt, drawing displeasure of the judge who observed that "minimum court etiquette" should be followed given the public nature of hearings.

# Unstable father hacks to death 4 kids in Bihar

Siwan (Bihar): In a fit of rage, a man allegedly hacked to death his three sons and a daughter here besides critically injuring another girl child and his wife whom he had attacked with the same axe, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place late Monday night in Bhagwanpur police station area of the district where the accused Awadhesh Chaudhary, said to be "mentally unstable", picked up a quarrel with his family members at their residence in Balaha Ali Gardanpur locality.

Sub Divisional Police Officer, Sadar, Siwan, Jitendra Pandey said, "Chaudhary picked up an axe and began attacking his wife and children.

His eldest daughter Jyoti Kumar (18) and sons Abhishek Kumar (14), Bhola Kumar (12) and Mukesh Kumar (10) died on the spot.

"His younger daughter Anjali Kumari, aged 14 years,

**The incident took place late Monday night in Bhagwanpur police station area of the district where the accused Awadhesh Chaudhary, said to be "mentally unstable", picked up a quarrel with his family members at their residence in Balaha Ali Gardanpur locality**

and wife Rita Devi, sustained serious injuries and both have been rushed to PMCH hospital in Patna for treatment."

Pandey said that the accused, in his confessional statement, claimed to have "dialled up the district magistrate and superintendent of police" after his rage subsided and he was overcome by guilt but "nobody picked up the phone".

Meanwhile, the house has been sealed and forensic experts have been summoned from Muzaffarpur for further investigation, the SDPO said. **PTI**

## PM should take lead in resolving impasse with farmers: Raj CM

**Jaipur:** Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi must take the lead in resolving the impasse with farmers.

He said the Centre's invitation to farmer unions for talks is a step in the right direction, but taken too late.

"There is growing concern not only in the country but in other countries as well, where a sizable number of Persons of Indian Origin live, regarding protest of farmers in India. PM Modi ji must take the lead to resolve this impasse. Farmers' genuine demands must be met," Gehlot tweeted. The Centre on Tuesday offered to set up a committee to look into issues raised by farmers protesting against new farm laws, but it was rejected by representatives of 35 agitating organisations during their marathon meeting with three union ministers that ended without any resolution.

The meeting remained inconclusive and the government has called for another round of discussions on Thursday, December 3, union leaders said. **PTI**

## BSF officer martyred in J&K

**Jammu:** A Border Security Force (BSF) officer, hailing from Manipur, was martyred in ceasefire violation by the Pakistan Army along the line of control in Rajouri district on Tuesday.



The officer identified as Sub Inspector Paotinsat Guite attained martyrdom while he was retaliating enemy fire in the forward area Tuesday morning.

In a statement BSF spokesman said, "Pakistan army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation in the Rajouri sector in which one BSF officer attained martyrdom while retaliating enemy fire. His act of bravery saved lives of many of his colleagues, BSF spokesman said remembering his dedication towards his duty.

IG BSF Jammu, N S Jamwal while paying homage to the brave heart said, "Martyred Sub Inspector P Guite was a gallant and sincere borderman. The nation will always remain indebted to him for his supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty."

He said, the Border Security Force has retaliated strongly and effectively on Pakistan Army posts. BSF salutes the braveheart on BSF Raising Day. **PNS**

## Actress Urmila Matondkar joins Sena, says she was Hindu by janma & karma

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Bollywood actress Urmila Matondkar on Tuesday added a glamour quotient to the ruling Shiv Sena in Maharashtra on Tuesday, as she joined the party by saying that she was a "Marathi mulgi (girl)", that she was a Hindu by "birth", "dharma as well as karma", that she was a "people-made" star and she would like to be "people-made" leader.

A month after chief minister Uddhav Thackeray recommended to Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari to nominate her as one of the 12 members in the Maharashtra Legislative Council, a "grateful" Matondkar joined the Shiv Sena in the presence of Uddhav, his wife Rashmi, minister-son Aditya Thackeray and a host of Sena leader at the Thackerays' Bandra residence "Matoshri". Rashmi Thackeray tied the yesteryear actress "Shiv-Bandhan", a symbolic gesture marking her entry to the Shiv Sena.

"Ahead my decision to join the Shiv Sena, the chief minister called me that keeping the traditions of Maharashtra, he had decided to recommend me for nomination to the Council to enhance the cultural and social standards of the Upper House. I consider myself lucky that chief minister Uddhav Thackeray considered me for this honour", 46-year-old Matondkar said, as she joined the Shiv Sena.

A media-savvy Matondkar made all the right noises, as she said: "I am a Mulgi coming from a Marathi family. I am a Hindu by 'janma' (birth) and I am Hindu by 'Dharma' (religion) and 'Karma' (deed).. Being secular does not mean that you hate another religion.. I have tremendous respect for the late Balasaheb Thackeray. Shiv Sena is a 'Hindutva' party. Hindutva implies it is all-inclusive, without any discrimination. I don't need to speak how much I believe in 'Hindutva', it's a personal matter," Matondkar said.

Matondkar -- who quit the Congress in September last year (less than five months after she joined the party) after she contested unsuccessfully the Lok Sabha elections later from Mumbai north constituency -- said: "I still have deep respect for (Congress President) Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi... I have contested the elections from Mumbai North but I lost. In my resignation letter, I had specified the reasons for quitting the Congress"

"Let me make it clear that though I quit the Congress, I never left politics... I am a Marathi and once I have taken a step, there is no going back."

Matondkar, who had crossed swords with controversial actress Kangana Ranaut for the latter's comment likening Mumbai to PoK and said she would "never tolerate any defamatory remark" about the metropolis, had an indirect dig at Kangana when

she said: "I am a people-made star, not a media-made star... I am +sure I would like to be a 'people-made' leader".

Matondkar heaped praise on Uddhav and the Maha Vikas Aghadi government for doing tremendous work in fighting the Coronavirus crisis and also dealing with the natural calamities. "While in the Shiv Sena, I will work like a Shiv Sainik," she said.

Throwing herlot with Bollywood which is flak from various quarters for its links with the drug mafia, Matondkar said: "Bollywood needs to stand up and speak. People like us can and will help. It's not just the stars who make Bollywood... there's huge investment of crores of rupees there."

Apart from Uddhav, his wife Rashmi and son Aditya, the others who were present when she joined the Shiv Sena were Sena Ministers Subhash Desai, MPs Anil Desai and Priyanka Chaturvedi, Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar and the Siddhi Vinayak Temple Trust Chairman and Marathi actor Aadesh Bandekar.

After she joined the Sena, Matondkar bowed with folded hands and paid her respects before a wall-portrait of late and founder of Shiv Sena Bal Thackeray and his wife Meenatai Thackeray, at Thackerays' residence 'Matoshri'. Urmila's nomination to the State Legislative Council from the Governor's quota has become a mere formality.

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

Recruitment agency M/s Prominent Human Resource Services (Prop. Balkeshwar Tripathi) D-240, 1st Floor, Gali No. 10, CR Road LAXMINAGAR 110092, registration certificate number B1299/DEL/PER/100/5/9666/2019 has been permanently closed his recruitment business from today 02/12/2020.

### WESTERN RAILWAY

#### E-TENDER FOR ROB & LHS CONSTRUCTION

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Ratlam (MP) invites offer through E-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in under Two packet system for the following tender. **Tender No.:** RTM/DYCE (C) ROB/8 (141 & 177). **Name of work:** Construction of 2 lane Road Over Bridges at km: 341106-07 in lieu of L-xing no. 177, near Jaora station, between Jaora-Dhodhar section and at km: 275/1-2 in lieu of L-xing no. 141, near Pipila station between Malharaghar-Mandsaur section and construction of Limited Height Subway using air pushing method below retaining girders, near Jaora station, between Jaora-Dhodhar section of Ratlam Division, Western Railway. **Completion Period:** 08 months **NIT Cost:** ₹ 14,89,93,046.72/- **EMD:** ₹ 8,95,000/- **Bid submission closing date:** 30.12.2020 at 15:00 Hrs. **Bid opening date:** 30.12.2020 at 15:30 hrs. **Instruction to the tenders:** (1) Only E-offers submitted online through E-tender portal will be considered. Please note that printed offers will not be entertained. (2) The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available only in electronic format on our website www.ireps.gov.in. **e-cess**  
Like us on: **facebook.com/WesternRly**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Arvi Parkash "Seller" claims to be owner and in possession of Flat no. 78, Bk 6, 4th Floor in HOPECO, at Plot No. GH-6, Sec-15H, Gurgaon, Haryana (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Transfer Deed for 50% share Doc. No. 987 dt 05.05.2017 SR Wazirabad & Sale Deed for 50% share Doc. No. 3173 dt 17.11.2020 SR GGN both Executed by Chandler Parkash in favor of Arvi Parkash & Original Transfer Deed for 50% share of the said property Doc. No. 987 dt 05.05.2017 has been Misplaced by Arvi Parkash & missing report of the same has been issued by Haryana Police Civil Lines Gurgaon & Said Arvi Parkash has agreed to sell the said property to Ragini Singh & Said Ragini Singh has agreed create mortgage of the said Property in favour of our clients, Sd/- Bank Ltd, Gurugram Branch. All persons/institutions having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever or in possession of the misplaced document, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 15 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned & our client shall proceed with the discharge of loan against the said property & subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

**Vishal Diwan (Advocate)**  
For Diwan and Company LLP Advocates and Solicitors  
H-20 (II/5F), NRI Complex, N. D-19, M-1, 9813399999

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**BEFORE THE HONBLE SUB DIVISIONAL OFFICER SHIRDI AREA SHIRDI.**  
Delay Application No. 24/2020.  
Vithal Narayan Katore R/At: Nimgaon-Korahale, Ta.Rahata, District, Ahmednagar.....Applicant

**V/S**  
1. Balasaheb Narayan Katore Deceased through his heirs 1A. Padmabai Balasaheb Katore 1B. Ramesh Balasaheb Katore, 1C. Mangesh Alias Vijay Balasaheb Katore R/At. Vijayanagar, Nimgaonwadi, Tal. Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar. 2. Dattatraya Shankarrao Gondkar 3. Anupama Mangesh Gujrathi 4. Chandrashekar Rangraath Gujrathi 5. Dhaval Kanthulchi Shaha 6. Pralibha Rajendra Jagtap No. 2 to 6 R/At. Shirdi, Ta.Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar. 7. Ms. Sai Vatikha Developers through Partner 7A. Gulshankumar Megan 7B. Jagdishkumar Megan No. 7A & 7B R/At. B/632, 2nd Floor, Jankapuri Main Nazalgarh Road, New Delhi-110058. 8. Rambhaskar Ladharam Natar R/At. 8/2, Rungnagar, Gate No. 4, Delhi-110007. 9. Rajinsheth Puranchand Shet R/At. 98, Cross Road, Santragar, Burar, Delhi-110084.....Respondents.

By this notice it is informed that, Circle Officer Shirdi has notified the Mutation Entry No. 1818 on 28/01/1996, Mutation Entry No. 3066 on 07/07/2005, Mutation Entry No. 4089 on 13/03/2009, Mutation Entry No. 4089 on 07/06/2010 and Mutation Entry No. 4673 on 28/12/2011 against that an appeal file in the present office. In relation to hearing of this appeal Date - 15/12/2020 at 11.00 am o'clock at Tahsil Office, Rahata is fixed. The above mentioned date and time is fixed for your appearance. Take a notice that in default of your appearance on the day mention above the appeal will be heard and determined in your absence. This notice of Delay Application is given under my hand and the seal of court.

Sd/-  
02/12/2020 **SEAL** Sub-Divisional Officer Shirdi Area Shirdi

## 2nd phase J&K DDC polls peaceful with 48% turnout

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

The second phase of the District Development Council (DDC) polls Tuesday passed off peacefully with over 48 percent voter turnout, three percent less than the first phase of polling, across Jammu and Kashmir.

The enthusiasm among the voters to strengthen grassroots democracy remained the same especially across the frontier districts. In Kashmir, North Kashmir district of Kupwara recorded over 58 percent voter turnout while Poonch districts in Jammu region recorded the highest voter turnout of over 75 percent.

According to the office of the State Election Commission, "an overall 48.62 percent of voters exercised their right to franchise across 2142 polling

stations amid tight security arrangements." A total number of 321 candidates were in the fray for 43 DDC seats, 25 in Kashmir and 18 in Jammu region.

According to the State Election Commission, "Kashmir division reported 33.34 percent voter turnout while Jammu region recorded 65.54 percent voter turnout".

In remote areas, centurions were escorted to the polling booth by their loved ones while few newly wedded couples were also seen waiting for their turn to cast their votes before heading home after the marriage ceremony. Around 46 percent women electorate participated in the polls while 54 percent males voted across 20 districts of J&K.

In South Kashmir,

Pulwama recorded 8.67 percent voter turnout, Anantnag reported 16.09 percent and Shopian 17.28 percent voter turnout, the figures released by the state election commission revealed. Srinagar district recorded 33.78 percent voter turnout while Jammu district recorded 70 percent voter turnout.

On the other hand, the frontier districts of Kupwara in Kashmir valley recorded 58.69 voter turnout while Rajouri and Poonch districts in Jammu division recorded a higher voter turnout of 75 percent and 60 percent respectively. The hilly districts of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban recorded over 60 percent turnout while the bordering districts of Samba and Kathua reported 66.38 percent and 60.10 percent voter turnout.

## 2 booked under anti-conversion law in Muzaffarnagar

**Muzaffarnagar (UP):** Two people have been booked under the new anti-conversion law in this district, police said on Tuesday.

Akshay tyagi, a resident of Pura village, alleged that Nadeem and Salman were forcing his wife to convert her religion and marry Nadeem, they said.

An FIR was registered against Nadeem and Salman under the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, and IPC section 504 (intent to provoke breach of peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) on Monday, SSP Abhishek Yadav said.

This is the first case under the anti-conversion law in the district.

The complainant, working as a contractor in a factory in Saharanpur district, said the

accused had also threatened him with dire consequences if he went ahead with the complaint against them.

Tyagi said he came back to his native Pura village along with his wife to escape from the accused, but they continued to harass the couple.

Under the new anti-conversion law, a marriage will be declared "null and void" if the conversion of a woman is solely for that purpose, and those wishing to change their religion after marriage need to apply to the district magistrate.

The ordinance punishes religious conversion through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means. **PTI**

## Low voter turnout for GHMC polls

**Hyderabad:** As usual, Hyderabadis did not turn up for voting for GHMC elections on Tuesday.

The GHMC elections might have caught nation-wide attention with high-voltage campaign by national leaders for the past two weeks, but it failed to bring Hyderabadis to the polling booths to cast their votes.

An abysmally low of less than 40 per cent polling was recorded on Tuesday.

This is worst when compared with 45.25% recorded in 2016 GHMC polls, which itself was low. Almost all the polling booths were a deserted look since 7 am when the polling to elect corporators for 150 wards in GHMC had commenced until 6 pm when the polling ended. Few videos of election staff in polling booths taking a nap as there were no voters have become viral on social media exposing the pathetic situation.

Shockingly, liquor shops witnessed more rush than polling booths after 6 pm, when they were reopened after a gap of 48 hours due to election code.

The city voters seem to have lived up to the expectations that they ignore voting, irrespective of whatever elec-

tions are held.

The track record of city voters prove beyond doubt that they lack interest to cast votes, be it municipal corporation or Assembly or Lok Sabha polls.

As per the data available with the Election Commission, during 2016 GHMC polls, overall poll percentage was 45.29. Of the total 74,24,096 electors then, only 33,62,688 cast their vote. Similarly, a poor percentage of polling was recorded in the 2014 general elections as well as assembly elections held in 2018.

In general elections to Lok Sabha and assembly elections held in 2014, the voting percentage was about 53 percent in Hyderabad.

In the 2018 Assembly polls, this dropped to 50.86 percent in Hyderabad. In Lok Sabha elections held in April 2019, Hyderabad constituency recorded a mere 44.75 per cent while it was 46.26 per cent in Secunderabad. The overall turnout in Hyderabad district comprising these two constituencies was 45.51 per cent.

Hyderabadis are not just making a mockery of democracy by ignoring to vote, they are even wasting a huge amount of public money being spent by the government for conducting elections. **PNS**

## Didi calls BJP garbage of lies, wants info on PM Cares fund

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

In a retaliatory attack on the BJP for raising questions on improper distribution of relief money to the Amphan cyclone victims and other corrupt practices, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday wanted to know about the fate of the amount collected in the name of Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM Cares Fund).

Launching a scathing attack on the Centre she said the term BJP implied "garbage of lies." The saffron outfit was always questioning about "minor irregularities" in distribution of Amphan relief but "when their case comes they keep mum... let me ask them as to what is the fate of the PM Cares Fund... How much have you received in that Fund and how much have you spent from that... you only gave some ventilators for pandemic and are making tall claims... here you are spreading garbage of lies about minor irregularities in Amphan relief which were later rectified... where- as you gave only Rs 1,000 crore for Amphan relief," the Chief Minister said.

Attacking the Centre's "dic-

## Alleging corruption, Bengal Guv wants GTA audit

**Kolkata:** There was more irritation in the relationship between Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and the Bengal Government with the former on Tuesday demanding immediate audit of the Gorkhaland Territorial Authority's finances. The GTA is presently run by the pro-Mamata Banerjee group of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha.

"When I came to know about large scale corruption in the GTA I enquired about things there and came to know that no audit has been done there. I think audit is a must

and has to be done immediately and I can assure the people that I will get this audit done... I will make sure that the audit takes place and accountability is fixed," the Governor who ended is one month sojourn of Darjeeling said before taking a train to Kolkata. "Audits are done to find out if Governments funds are used properly for the people and being utilized for what they are meant for. It is done to see that there is no corruption. After 2017 the GRA has become a government department," he said adding Darjeeling Hills

were sitting on a powder keg and disturbance could start any time. "Disturbance is waiting to happen in Hills as people are dissatisfied," he said.

GTA is presently being run by Benoy Tamang the rebel group leader of the GJM which was originally led by Bimal Gurung before he was removed from the post following a tiff with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Subsequently he went underground with a number of charges following him. Between 2017 and 2020 he remained a BJP supporter but

he reappeared after three years last month, broke ties with the saffron outfit and reiterated his support for Trinamool Congress.

Even as the political circles linked Governor's demand for audit of GTA finances to Gurung's quitting the BJP fold and to force him once again to join the saffron brigade TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar demanded Dhankhar's removal saying "he should have conducted himself like a head of the family but he is behaving like a BJP agent which is why we want his removal from the post." **PNS**

## Street children fall prey to AIDS and chronic sexual diseases in Aligarh

**Aligarh:** Child abuse of street children is indeed widespread in western Uttar Pradesh including lock city of Aligarh. These street children mostly belonging to Bihar and Bengal who generally stay at railway platform, bus stand, hospital premises and road sides are sexually harassed in Aligarh by the powerful persons of these area and miscreants.

This type of sex trade is being carried out by the street children either at the instance of their poor parents who also wonder here and there to earn the means of their livelihood or by the organized gang for earning money. As a result the most of such street children who are innocent, minor girls suffer from chronic sexual diseases, like HIV and like syphilis, gonorrhoea, pelvic infection, genital

warts etc. In Aligarh 42 percent street children living in the slums and 58 percent on street. Not only this 36 percent street children found chronic sexual disease and HIV. 46 percent female street children are found with chronic sex disease. In bad company these children become addicted to drinking, consuming opium and drug and smoking.

To meet the expenses of this addiction these children come in the sex trade. These children even their mothers are also found working as a sex workers to earn their livelihood. A survey by Ministry for Women and Child Development and LATA NGO reveals that one out of every two street children in lock city of Aligarh and brass city Moradabad faces sexual abuse. **PNS**

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age: 60 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'2", Built: Thin, Face: Long, was wearing Red & Blue Check Shirt and Grey Pant, was found dead at Footpath under Shadara Flyover, Near U-Turn, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.** In this regard a **DD No. 36A U/S 174 CrPC, dated 24.11.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

**SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi**  
**DP/763/N/2020 Ph.: 011-23968730, 8750870123**

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an Unidentified person, **Namedly : Unknown S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 55 years, Height : 5'7", Complexion : Shallow, Face : Round, Built : Thin, Wearing : Black colour shirt and black colour coat, liner chocolate colour pant has been found dead at in front of BSES**

office near Kuda Khatta, JLN Marg Patri, Delhi on 26.11.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 40A Dated 26.11.2020 has been lodged at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

**SHO : P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi Central Distt., Delhi**  
**DP/521/CD/2020 Tel. No. 011-23370928, 23378474, 23232294**

### Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SSA/Esst/Print/REP/2021/453/2020/3087 Date : 01.12.2020  
Mission Director, Aom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses having Web Offset Machine/ Sheet Offset Machine for printing and supply of REP materials.  
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves. The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Aom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/ Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule

Sd/-Executive Director, SSA, Assam Kahilipara, Guwahati-19  
Jansanyog No. CF/3001/20

## Talks at last

The farmers have managed to keep politicians at bay from their movement, fought on their own and forced an agenda on the Govt



The farmers have made their point about their anxieties over the new farm laws enacted by the Modi Government and forced the latter into negotiations. And they want a result and no further confabulations with committees that may just dilute their cause. To that extent they have been successful but shouldn't let the situation drift endlessly and egoistically. Hopefully, the Government will at least spell out the details of the new laws, which are broadly in the domain of interpretation at the moment, where the devil is in the detail and which are largely gestational. We must give it to the farmers that they have forced the need for clarity and a point by

point analysis of consequences though their dramatic agitprops may not have been endorsed by all. Yet without them, they wouldn't have got the high table. It is also an opportunity for the Government to justify its farm liberalisation agenda, its long-term, reformist impact and rid itself of the charges of selling out to corporations. Politically, the ruling BJP had not expected to be cornered like this by a movement spearheaded by a majority of farmers' organisations, which kept their agitation largely apolitical. In fact, this is probably the first of its kind dissent movement that has shunned politicians, though the latter have tried to latch on to it, considering the agricultural community forms 60 per cent of the voting population. Activists, sportspersons and celebrities from across the spectrum, too, have thrown their weight behind it but the momentum of the past few months, the strategy to waylay the Government with civil disruptions and refusal to budge from core issues without reassurance have been the result of farmers' unions banding together. The Government may claim that the new farm laws will help farmers with open markets, pick-ups from farm gate, better prices and partnerships with food majors, particularly elevating the lot of smaller cultivators. But the farmers fear free market forces will deprive them of guaranteed minimum prices for their produce and reduce the level-playing field of Government *mandis*. Besides, smaller farmers that the laws intend to rescue could be exploited and browbeaten by large corporations. And while the Prime Minister may assure that both the old and new models could work together, farmers are not entirely wrong in anticipating that the swamp of corporatisation could decimate the parallel, protected market. The examples of contract farming failing in the sugarcane sector, with farmers still chasing their dues, and PepsiCo suing farmers in Gujarat are difficult to ignore. Considering the food bowl in North India is mostly affected by the MSP issue, given its reliance on cash crops of wheat and paddy, the Government has realised that it cannot get away by passing the blame of the agitation on the Opposition or the Left liberals.

Particularly, when its own allies are attacking it over the new laws and its key partner in Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), has already walked out. The BJP may not need its allies anymore, given its own numerical strength in Parliament, but with more of them threatening to leave the fold, it runs the risk of being labelled an absolutist that shuns the morality of a coalition dharna or refuses to answer tough questions. The farmers' issue has undoubtedly also given a reason for the BJP's allies to make themselves heard and not be taken for granted. The latest to insist upon a clarity on MSP is Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), which is partnering the Manohar Lal Khattar Government in Haryana and whose leader Dushyant Chautala is the Deputy Chief Minister. His father and senior leader Ajay Chautala said the BJP should be accommodative of farmers' interests than running roughshod over them. At the same time, an independent MLA, Somvir Sangwan, pulled out of the State's ruling coalition. And in Rajasthan, Nagaur MP and leader of the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP), Hanuman Beniwal, said he would reconsider his party's support to the Centre if the new laws are not withdrawn. Parties like the JJP are caught between a rock and a hard place. Dushyant Chautala, particularly, draws his strength from the youth and farmers and knows that he can deliver by being part of governance. It is for this reason that he cannot walk out of the coalition. Yet the new laws hurt his constituency the most. Should the JJP withdraw on moral grounds, the BJP can run the Haryana Government with Independents and even attempt to break the JJP. Anyway Dushyant's post-poll alliance with the BJP, despite campaigning against it during the polls, was an unhappy deal intended purely to have a say in Government. The Haryana elections are still some four years away but the party is using the farmers' agitation to step up its rhetoric and test popular response. If the controversy over the farm laws is resolved, it can always claim it forced the issue on its alliance partner. If not, it can always claim that it had taken a high moral ground by joining issue with the farmers. Perhaps that's the reason why Ajay Chautala, and not Dushyant, is taking an activist position. Unlike the SAD, which cannot appear anti-farmer with the Punjab Assembly elections in 2022, the JJP has time to weigh the pros and cons. At the moment, its core base of Jats and farmers is angry. But should the laws yield rich dividends eventually, JJP would be strengthened. The BJP could turn this around to its advantage by at least assuring the farmers of some protection against price fluctuations, if not yield on the MSP considering that runs counter to the privatisation implicit in the new laws. It can also put out its own narrative of how liberalisation would hurt incomes of richer, well-connected farmers as well as affect State Government revenues, which is why politicians in Punjab are protesting so loudly compared to marginal farmers in other States. But in the end, it has to do this through a consultative, not a confrontationalist, approach. It doesn't harm to give a listen. It doesn't weaken authority either.

## Women in power

While women have held key positions in the US before, Joe Biden is going for increased representation



While the United States (US) is heading for the 250th anniversary of its independence from the colonial British Empire, it has taken that nation an incredibly long time to elect a woman to a very high office. It has had women in incredibly powerful positions before — Nancy Pelosi, for example, is the Speaker of the US House of Representatives and there have been three Secretaries of State in Madeline Albright, Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton. Yet until Kamala Harris won with Biden, none of these positions were directly elected. In that regard, the US is far behind most other large democracies such as India and the UK, where

the people have voted in women to power. Perhaps that's the reason why Biden has announced an all-woman communications team, named Janet Yellen as nominee to lead the Treasury and Neera Tanden as nominee for the Office of Management and Budget. If anything, he is normalising the gender parity discourse.

As many have predicted, given Biden's advanced age, he may go for a single term and this tenure might well be a chance for Kamala Harris to audition for the top job after Donald Trump spectacularly beat Hillary Clinton in the 2016 elections. It remains to be seen if and when the US will vote a woman to the top job. But Biden's appointments are clearly a vote of confidence in women, who make up half the population. There should be more women in top political roles across the world and leaders like New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern are a great inspiration for demonstrating muscularity of purpose while being empathetic. However, the fact of the matter remains that the world is still rather patriarchal and women are rarely a voting 'bloc' anywhere in the world. It is tragic that a woman has to prove her worth to lead a nation in a man's world despite the dramatic success of leaders like Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi and Margaret Thatcher, all of whom led their nations into war and won. Can Biden's nominees change that perception of women? That remains to be seen. After all, Biden still has over 50 days before he takes the oath of office.

# LAC deadlock continues

Modi has been tricked by the Chinese and misled by his civilian advisors into letting the guard down and creating a deficit of capability



ASHOK K MEHTA

The 870-km Line of Actual Control (LAC) in East Ladakh is now in a state of stalemate after China gobbled up Indian territory. The prospects of any disengagement by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) are receding even as Beijing has reportedly created a model village intruding into Bhutanese territory near the disputed Doklam plateau. Last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was the Government's senior-most Minister at the prestigious *Hindustan Times* Leadership Summit that was held virtually this year. What a disappointment he was! During the Q&A, he kept dodging the questions with vague answers on the state of play along the LAC that was tantamount to suppressing information on the Chinese aggression. To his credit though, he did pledge that the Modi Government will not allow an inch of land to be grabbed or let the ground situation change unilaterally when both have become fait accompli.

On whether Rafale was a game changer, he skipped the question, saying that he would let experts answer it, though he did travel to France to do a "shastra puja" while inducting it into the IAF. In sharp contrast, while dealing with Pakistan, he was a tiger. That, in brief, is India's tragic two-front predicament — fragile and unsustainable, given the absence of a strategic vision that has been compounded by the economic downturn.

In mid-October, the Chinese had made a conditional proposal for a limited disengagement from north and south banks of Pangong Lake, asking India to vacate Chushul heights on Kailash range first in exchange of their withdrawal from the Fingers area. Apparently, India either rejected it or sought clarification, considering the strategic utility attached to the Kailash range. During the ninth round of integrated civil military dialogue, there was no word from China as India is keen that PLA returns to its original pre-MA positions. That clearly is not happening. China watchers have reported that PLA commanders have had a rethink on the Pangong Lake — a specific disengagement proposal, which reflects a perceived PLA weakness, following the Special Frontier Force's occupation of commanding heights overlooking



PLA assets. Further, PLA border guards and military, who are not properly acclimatised and accustomed to occupying posts on the LAC and on heights opposite the Kailash range, are likely to confront severe "winterisation woes." The strategic advantage gained by India through the pre-emptive commando action in August is well established. The Chinese feel that they can live with it as they know India will not exploit the military advantage. Still, the Indian Army's vast experience in Siachen, Kargil and other high altitude posts gives it an advantage over the PLA. Both sides are substantially deployed on the LAC for the first time and will face extreme weather problems.

According to high-resolution satellite maps from MAXAR Technologies, hardened ammunition bunkers have been constructed 2 km from Sinche-la Pass on the Bhutan-China border, which are connected to an all-weather-road that stretches 5 km across the Doklam plateau. A village named Pangdon has come up 2 km inside Bhutan, which is connected to a 9 km track adjacent to Doklam on territory that Bhutan claims. A September 2020 study by STRATFOR, the world's leading intelligence and geo-political platform, says that after the Doklam crisis in 2017,

when China was forced by Indian troops to stop constructing a road on the disputed land, it was compelled to double its military infrastructure, including helipads and air bases. After the Doklam standoff was defused, the Chinese merely suspended road construction for a few months and later resumed building the road towards Jampheri Ridge in Bhutan but not on the disputed India-China-Bhutan juncture that India had blocked. The study says that the PLA military activity is camouflaged by creating civilian projects near LAC, which can double up for military use and these areas are off limits for the local population. This latest intrusion is near Torsa river on Doklam plateau, which is an Indian red line.

The Bhutanese Ambassador to India, Vetsop Namgyel, said: "There is no Chinese village inside Bhutan. Satellite images show some settlement near the standoff point, Doklam. The village is not on the Bhutanese side." A Government source said that we would come in only when the PLA intrudes and leaves Bhutan to handle civilian intrusions. The Chinese Government television network producer Shen Shiwel was the first to show the village but later removed it. The Chinese have mastered the art of keeping military intrusions

disguised as civil settlements and have done it in Nepal as well. The Indian Army's gateway Doklam post must keep an eagle eye as it will be the first responder if the PLA crosses the red line again. Clearly, the Chinese are creating new pressure points on the LAC as India starts demonstrating its options in hand, which it can enlarge and militarise as part of the progress in Indo-Pacific strategy, especially in the Indian Ocean Region. As India is seriously outmatched along its northern borders and the LAC, it is working on enhancing its maritime deterrence focussed on China's Malacca dilemma. Every day, six to seven giant Chinese tankers sail through the Indian Ocean carrying 10 million barrels of oil. The challenge for India is in making the Chinese feel the heat of their Malacca dilemma through a countervailing strategy, through which escalation can be managed.

Despite the Government's whitewash of PLA intrusions, some lessons, not new, are evident: Bolstering early warning and surveillance of PLA activities with real time intelligence from US, now that the four foundational agreements have been signed. This will stop our forces from "being surprised." We must monitor Chinese behaviour as distinct from their military activities and occupy commanding heights pre-emptively. Galwan was not held and had it been occupied, it would have provided an additional bargaining chip. Counter intrusions should be swiftly executed as was done in 2013 at Chumar to offset the Depsang encroachment. The Chinese are firmly ensconced at Depsang again and are refusing to budge. Last month, President Xi Jinping asked the PLA to be battle-ready. This month, he urged the PLA to transition from battle readiness to winning the war. India's self-inflicted LAC injuries are being camouflaged by a Government blessed with an overwhelming political mandate but it still won't allow the LAC issue to be discussed in Parliament freely. Nehru, the former Prime Minister that this Government trashes, led a flourishing debate in Parliament on the Aksai Chin hara-kiri. Modi is one of the most charismatic and performance-proof Prime Ministers India has had. He too has been tricked by the Chinese and misled by his civilian advisors into letting the guard down and creating capability deficit by painting a no-war setting.

(The author is a former Major-General of the Indian Army and commentator and a columnist on defence and security issues)

## SOUNDBITE

The situation (pertaining to Indian farmers' protest) is concerning... Canada will always be there to defend the rights of peaceful protesters.

Canadian Prime Minister —Justin Trudeau



The Gujarat Govt slashes the rates of RT-PCR tests for COVID-19 in private laboratories, effective from today itself.

Gujarat Chief Minister —Vijay Rupani



He (my father) is a wife-beater and an abusive, depraved man. We finally decided to act against him and this stunt is a reaction to that.

Student activist —Shehla Rashid



Average daily positivity rate last week was 3.72%. Among all the big nations in the world, cases per million in India (at 211 cases/mn) are the lowest.

Secretary, Health Ministry —Rajesh Bhushan



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Opportunist leaders

Sir — The ongoing agitation against new agricultural laws exposes the self-interest of those in power and also those in the Opposition. It is beyond understanding why the Government allowed the gathering of a large number of agitators in the National Capital Region while people were not allowed (and rightly, too) to enjoy their religious and cultural festivals like Ramila and Chhat Puja. Should a congregation be allowed in the middle of a raging pandemic?

It is significant to note that the agitation is mostly limited to farmers from Punjab reportedly because middlemen in other parts of the country are mainly politicians from the same State. Moreover, if some corporate groups get advantage of the new laws, then, of course, there has to be a code of ethics binding them. New laws can, in fact, create a healthier situation in the agricultural market in the long run, similar to the dairy market where companies like Amul and Mother Dairy have benefitted many in the trade.

The Central Government should present a study-based analysis to convince farmers and

### Tours over governance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his right hand man Amit Shah have had a great success in diverting the nation's attention from real issues like the ongoing farmers' agitation. Right before a scheduled protest or agitation against their policies, they go on random tours, which turn out to be massive crowd pullers, owing to the former's popularity.

The important question, in the current scenario, is why our Prime Minister had to visit the Serum Institute to check on the progress in the development of vaccine against COVID-19. Did he have any tips for the scientists, who are considered to be domain experts? Are there doubts about their expertise? And this comes at a time when farmers of neighbouring States in North India have been consistently protesting to have their demands met.

On the other hand, Shah decided to go canvassing for the municipal corporation elections in Greater Hyderabad. Doesn't that denude the stature of a Home Minister? Normally, this makes better fodder for most electronic media organisations, which have proven to be



unworthy of being called the fourth pillar of democracy. The Government must take care of basic problems rather than channeling all its energy into interactive entertainment that doesn't do any good for the country and only helps leaders and their party become more popular and stay in the headlines.

Navneet Sethi Dhuri

assuage their fears and anxieties. And should welcome dialogue rather than allowing a mounted spectacle to make headlines.

Madhu Agrawal Delhi

### Selectors' fault

Sir — The decision to omit opener Rohit Sharma from the cricket tour in Australia has

proven unwise as bowlers anyway seem to be out of form. His absence has definitely affected the team's performance.

India's bowling has been a matter of grave concern since Australia set a huge target in two consecutive One Day International (ODI) matches. While the team's trumpcard, Jasprit Bumrah, is not in his rhythm, Yuzvendra Chahal,

who has an outstanding record on Australian soil, also seems to be out of form.

The Australian team must be expecting a clean sweep after wrapping up the ODI series and, therefore, the "Men In Blue" ought to play with absolute determination in Canberra to secure their pride.

Tushar Anand Patna

### Trust deficit

Sir — While farmers continue to protest against the new Acts, there appears to be a significant trust deficit between their representatives and the Central Government. The law isn't radical but promises to boost agricultural markets. Most States have headed in the direction of liberalisation over the last few years through legislative changes. Therefore, there is no going back.

The Government has promised that MSP will continue. But there is more that can be done. MSP is a great idea for bringing stability in the income of farmers. The Centre should come up with a concrete proposal to mitigate farmers' anxieties. Also, the farmers have to understand that flirting with extreme identity issues, when the demand is largely economic, undermines their cause.

The Government must reach out to them sensitively and assure them that their income will be protected. The situation is not as intractable yet.

N Sadhasiva Reddy Bengaluru

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

**FIRST COLUMN**

## How do we bridge this gap?

India has the highest gender digital divide with only 21 per cent of women being mobile internet users, while the number stood at 42 per cent for men



ARCHANA DATTA

The recent suicide of a girl from a reputed women's college in Delhi created a stir. A student of B.Sc Mathematics (H), Aishwarya Reddy was distraught over the lack of a stable home internet connection, a functioning mobile phone and a laptop. While reaching out to an actor for financial help, Reddy rued, "Due to online classes, it became extremely important to study...on a laptop. There is no way to buy a laptop as our family is completely in debt." Earlier, a students' union survey in her college found that 30 per cent of the students did not have a laptop and 40 per cent lacked a proper internet connection. A scholarship management portal that interviewed 10,000 students aged 12-28 years across India, from families with an annual income below ₹7 lakh, reported that only 17 per cent had access to a laptop, four per cent to a tablet and for the rest 79 per cent, smartphones were the primary mode for online learning. A poor internet connection was the biggest challenge for 57 per cent. Meera Desai, Professor, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, says, "About 30 per cent students are facing issues in terms of owning or using a device. Plus there are mobile data issues." According to a media report, only eight per cent of all households, with members between five and 24 years, have both, a computer and an internet connection. As the pandemic struck, the World Bank warned about a learning crisis, "long-term losses in human capital and diminished economic opportunities." The UNESCO voiced concerns about the adverse impact on human rights of over 60 per cent of the world's students. To keep the education system running, the world moved on to a digital mode but this brought to the surface many long-standing issues with regard to access and affordability. In the case of India, the "pandemic arrived before it got on board the information superhighway, which became a vivid marker of the digital divide as only a third of the population managed to avail the facilities of online learning," says Meeta Sengupta, an educationist and Salzburg Fellow. India already has a huge digital divide with only 23.8 per cent households having access to the internet. While in urban areas it is 42 per cent, in rural areas it dips to 14.9 per cent.

With prolonged school closure, India, with a network of 1.5 million schools and an estimated 320 million learners, is struggling with e-learning. A NCERT study says that at least "27 per cent of students lack access to smartphones or laptops to attend online classes...and teachers were also found wanting in skills for online teaching." A study by the Azim Premji Foundation on the public school system in 26 districts in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Uttarakhand, too, disclosed the frustration of teachers with the digital method of learning because of the "impossibility in establishing any emotional connect with children or making any meaningful assessment of their learning outcomes." Sengupta fears that "since our education system puts so much pressure on pace and limits opportunities by age, those left behind would never be able to catch up...lack of empathy in times of crisis would hurt the poorest students the most." India already had 32 million out-of-school children before the pandemic. Unfortunately, the draft education policy, while encouraging e-learning platforms, is silent on the issues of equity or quality.

The gender digital divide (GDD) has been further amplified by digitalisation of education, says UNESCO. India has the highest GDD with only 21 per cent of women being mobile internet users, while the number stood at 42 per cent for men. A recent ground situation analysis from 10 Government schools in Patna and Muzaffarpur districts in Bihar found that more boys (36 per cent) than girls (28 per cent) have access to smartphones. In the case of girls whose families had phones, the device was almost always with a male member and they couldn't use it either for online classes or for receiving calls from the school mentor. While a study among 3,000 marginalised families in Uttar Pradesh (UP), Bihar, Assam, Telangana and Delhi says that 70 per cent didn't have enough food and "through the pandemic had negative impacts on schoolgoing boys and girls, yet the latter faced an additional impact and long-term consequences. About 37 per cent of the girls were uncertain about their return to school." Rahul Goswami, CEO and co-founder, Lakshya Jeevan Jagriti, a Delhi-based NGO, which works among slum dwellers, laments that, "whatever gains had been made through the counselling of underprivileged families for educating their daughters, have come to naught. Even though online classes are going on, many girls have been forced out of the system due to the lack of devices, connectivity or emotional support." More often, girl students are pushed into care work. "This was the case during the pandemic, too. As their studies are still not considered a priority, resources are always gendered and patriarchy-controlled," laments Desai. "Institutions and the power structures of the State failed to take responsibility of the students' distress. The education sector has not even been recognised as an essential service," she adds.

Undoubtedly, Reddy's untimely death has exposed a huge systemic gap which failed to notice the digital deprivation, economic and emotional vulnerabilities of students, especially girls. Now, many educational institutions and alumni associations are coming up with plans for financial support and scholarships. Under 'Digital India', a plan is also afoot to give free laptops, PCs, mobiles to four crore students by 2025-26. Let us hope that Reddy's tragic story is not repeated in 'Digital India', which is based on the motto of "power to empower."  
 (The writer is a retired IIS officer, and a media educator)

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

THE NEWS ABOUT THE FARMERS' STIR IN INDIA IS CONCERNING. CANADA WILL ALWAYS BE THERE TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF PEACEFUL PROTEST.

—CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU



DEAR JUSTIN TRUDEAU, TOUCHED BY YOUR CONCERN BUT INDIA'S INTERNAL ISSUE IS NOT FODDER FOR ANOTHER NATION'S POLITICS.

—SHIV SENA LEADER PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI

# HEIs have their task cut out

They need to develop agility, resilience and flexibility to cater to diverse educational needs of the student community and other stakeholders and to remain frontrunners in quality education



BALVINDER SHUKLA

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak and the resultant lockdowns, the entire education sector collapsed across the globe. The future was uncertain for all, particularly for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), as there was lack of preparedness among educators, students, academic administrators and policy makers alike. Are the students going to lose a year was the question bothering most educationists, parents and the scholars themselves. To respond to the unprecedented situation, the entire sector needed to unlearn and relearn its pedagogy. Hence, the HEIs were forced to explore new teaching methodologies, including remote and online education.

This was a major challenge given the fact that the Indian higher education sector engages approximately 14.16 lakh teachers in 51,649 institutions, both public and private, and caters to almost 3.74 crore students. Each year, about 91 lakh students pass out from colleges and universities across the country. Therefore, the lockdown posed a tremendous challenge for the HEIs as they had to deal with students' emotional, physical and financial difficulties on one side and grapple with decreasing enrolment numbers, funding problems and the training of faculties to cope with the new online teaching methods and so on, on the other side.

Given the socio-economic challenges thrown up by the pandemic, if this uncertainty continues for one more quarter, it will result in short and long-term consequences for the entire education sector. HEIs with strong brand values, a good academic leadership and governance, better stakeholder engagement and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure did well during these tough times as they could overcome the challenges posed by the lockdown by shifting to remote teaching-learning. By using online platforms and ICT technologies, they ensured that there was no academic loss to students.

Many private institutions and universities are looking forward to an enriched intellectual opportunity from this crisis and are prepared to address any adversity. However, at the same time there are some State-funded HEIs and a few private participants who are still facing difficulties in ensuring delivery and learning outcomes for their students.

Academicians and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) students are worried about missing out practical and critical problem-solving skills. Even though instructors are being trained by most HEIs to develop high-tech ways of simulating field and laboratory experiences, for many institutions, it is not possible to do so due to geographical disadvantages and financial barriers.

Though Government educational portals are providing support and universities are coming up with models to address such issues, the digital divide, economic inequality, inclusiveness and non-affordability are some issues that need to be addressed on a war footing.

Another major challenge that all HEIs faced was to assess the mental health of final year students who graduated in this academic year. They were not sure whether they would get suitable job offers commensurate with their qualifications. This problem is compounded by the fact that most of the companies have withdrawn placement offers due to the struggling economy.

Plus, another trend impacting HEIs is the preference of students to attend institutions, colleges and universities on the criteria of location. They are not going by the repute of HEIs and are



“THE HEIs AND THEIR FACULTY NEED TO THINK DIFFERENTLY AND EMBRACE ICT FOR ALL OPERATIONS, STARTING FROM ADMISSIONS, TEACHING-LEARNING, ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM AND E-CONTENT, E-RESOURCES (VIRTUAL LABS AND LEARNING RESOURCES), INDUSTRY INTERACTION, STUDENT INTERACTION AND SUPPORT, STUDENT PROGRESSION AND SUPPORT, ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND GOVERNANCE”

more keen to avoid COVID-19 hotspots. Plus, because of the job losses and salary cuts faced by their families, students are opting for HEIs that don't charge too much fee. This decentralisation of HEIs and preference for local institutions will increase in future as parents will prefer to settle for lesser-known local institutions with the hope that they would switch over to another better-known/branded institution for award of degree under the Academic Credit Bank and Credit Transfer Provision of the National Education Policy 2020.

The enrolment depression has also increased due to remote learning as many students changed their minds and decided to defer their higher education plans for this academic year. The most common reasons include doubts about the quality of remote teaching, lack of rich on-campus experience and the costs, which are being perceived as too high for an online experience.

Due to the economic difficulties faced by their parents, a vast majority of students expected tuition fee discounts, but as that did not materialise, it ultimately led to lower enrolments in the current academic session in many of the HEIs. The enrolment has also been affected due to shifting of academic calendars of institutions, which is providing less time to first-time students of higher education for understanding academic philosophy, culture, systems and processes, resulting in loss of learning opportunities.

During the pandemic, the HEIs faced many challenges of student support remotely. They struggled to fulfill the educational requirement of students through effective and remote teaching-learning and assessment practices; improve teaching practices at the university level in the context of the development and integration of digital

technologies; nurture and enable the development of learners as active and responsible citizens, critical thinkers, problem solvers, equipped for life-long learning.

They also faced challenges of enabling online internships, project works and placements; encouraging and promoting scholarly activities of students and faculty members; effective engagement of students, faculty and staff members.

Internationalisation of studies was another problem as worldwide travel was closed due to the pandemic. Generating revenues/funds, maintaining cash flows for sustainable development and meeting the regular expenditure was another area of concern. The degree of impact of the challenges naturally varied for public-funded HEIs and private-funded ones.

Due to the severe downturn, the Government announced several stimulus packages to boost the economy. Though the Government is making every effort to provide all necessary assistance, it needs to work quickly for the holistic development of education to create a resurgent India. It is imperative that the Government brings out a comprehensive National Education Policy 2020 on a blended mode of education. The sooner its implementation happens, the better for all the stakeholders of higher education.

In times of crisis, apart from the initiatives of the Government, steps should be taken at the institutional level as well. Institutions are required to provide emotional and health support to their stakeholders so that they do not face any depression or distress. The stakeholders in turn should guide students and boost their morale. Stakeholders should keep in constant touch with their students and motivate them to opt for self-employment, provide informa-

tion about various start-up schemes implemented by State Governments and the Centre.

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) has undertaken a great initiative to produce a "COVID-19 Response Tool Kit" for Indian HEIs, which has been developed to help build institutional resilience for academic planning and continuity. This can be used as a reference document and checklist by education institutions to enable a more effective and planned reopening and to ensure that critical institutional aspects are addressed and necessary measures are considered to maintain academic continuity.

Every challenge throws up a new opportunity. Higher education has many possibilities and challenges, too, during this COVID era. While each level of education faces its unique challenges, it is the higher education segment that may end up, by necessity, triggering a learning revolution. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the education system forever. It has set a "new normal."

The HEIs and their faculty need to think differently and embrace ICT for all operations starting from admissions, teaching-learning, assessment, curriculum and E-content, E-resources (virtual labs and learning resources), industry interaction, internationalisation, student interaction and support, student progression and support, alumni engagement, communication and governance.

Therefore, HEIs need to develop agility, resilience and flexibility to cater to diverse educational needs of the student community and other stakeholders and to remain frontrunners in quality higher education.

(The writer is Vice-Chancellor Professor, Entrepreneurship, Leadership and IT, Amity University)

# Animal farming to blame for antibiotic apocalypse

With a huge unregulated livestock sector, India's antibiotic use in animals is estimated to increase by 82 per cent by 2030



VARDA MEHROTRA

In his 1945 Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Alexander Fleming, the developer of Penicillin, had warned, "The time may come when Penicillin (would) be bought by anyone in the shops. There is the danger that the ignorant man may easily underdose himself and by exposing his microbes to non-lethal quantities of the drug, make them resistant."

Before we started using antibiotics in the 1940s, a lot of things had the possibility of turning fatal: Right from giving birth, to getting a small scratch,

from undergoing a surgery to sexually transmitted infections. Antibiotics helped us stop infections caused by bacteria. But in less than eight decades, humanity is faced with what Fleming described as antibiotic or antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared AMR as one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity and "the biggest threat to modern medicine." By 2050, AMR will take more than 10 million lives and the cumulative cost to the global economy will be \$100 trillion, says a study titled 'Antimicrobial resistance in the environment: The Indian scenario' published in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research* in 2019.

Antimicrobials (including antibiotics and antivirals) are medicines used for treatment and prevention of infections in humans and animals. AMR occurs when the bacteria and viruses mutate over time and no longer

respond to the medicines, thus, making them ineffective in treatment of the disease. This kills more people than cancer and road accidents combined. The big question is, what is contributing to such a high rate of antibiotic resistance deaths? We may find answers in a sector that uses more antibiotics than any other industry, and that is animal farming.

**Animal Farming and AMR:** India is the fourth-largest consumer of antibiotics in animal farming, according to a report by the Centre for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy. With a huge unregulated livestock sector, India's antibiotic use in animals is estimated to increase by 82 per cent by 2030. With a rapid growth and demand for dairy, meat and poultry, the Indian livestock industry continues to turn towards antimicrobial agents for increased production. Studies published in the *Veterinary World* have found antibiotic-resistant bacteria in

cow and buffalo milk samples taken from across India. Additionally, shrimp exports from India (which is the second-largest fish producing country globally) are banned in four countries, and the European Union continues to hold its concern over the use of antibiotics in Indian shrimps.

Animals farmed for consumption are raised in cramped and unhygienic conditions, needing excessive antibiotics to prevent and/or treat infections arising out of their living conditions. As antibiotics are regularly used to prevent infections, the bacteria infecting these animals develop a resistance to the drug and are capable of reproduction. Antibiotics are also routinely administered to "fatten up" the animals before slaughter.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimates that by 2030 the amount of antimicrobials used in farmed animals will be 1,05,596 tonnes

or 9,57,95,079 kg. According to 'Global Trends in Antimicrobial Use in Food Animals', published in *PNAS*, one kg of beef uses 45 mg of antimicrobials and one kg of chicken uses 148 mg of antimicrobials.

Researchers from ETH Zurich, Free University of Brussels, and the Princeton Environmental Institute suggest that countries like India should restrict the use of antibiotics in farm animals.

Another source of AMR could be linked to livestock discard. A study from Netherlands says that more than one-third of the samples collected from pig and cattle faeces contained more than one antibiotic or its residue. Given improper disposal of animal waste and overcrowded shelters, one can speculate that the situation in India would be worse. In other words, animal farming is making us sick.

**Battling AMR by going plant-based:** The most effective way to

counter antibiotic resistance through farmed animals is to go plant-based. People can include more vegetables, whole grains, nuts, seeds, beans and legumes in their diet.

For those who find it challenging to give up meat, there are several plant-based meat substitutes available in the market that have great taste and texture like tofu, tempeh, seitan and textured vegetable protein, mushrooms, jackfruit, eggplant, beans, and cauliflower.

By going plant-based, people are also sparing an animal's life and the cruelty they undergo at the slaughter house. Moreover, shifting to a plant-based diet helps reduce the risk of developing any chronic or degenerative disease that can put people at an additional risk during the current or future pandemic.

(The writer is the Executive Director of the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations)



FOREIGN EYE



## TWO DIFFERENT ATTITUDES

India's business media derides farm subsidies, which most countries give their farmers, as a drain on resources. The financial largesse the tycoons get is called business incentive. This mismatch in the State's approach to the two groups has been a trigger for the peasant uprisings.  
 (Dawn editorial)

# CPC asserts its 'absolute leadership' over military

Beijing: China's ruling Communist Party has reinforced its "absolute leadership" over the country's two million-strong force, asserting that the PLA should function strictly under the party's command, as Beijing plans to build a fully modern military on par with the US by 2027.

The two million-strong People's Liberation Army (PLA), the world's largest, functions as an arm of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in the one-party state, unlike other militaries of the world which function under their respective governments.

"The military should abide by the fundamental principle of absolute Party leadership over the armed forces," said the Politburo of the CPC headed by President Xi Jinping which met here on Monday to review regulations on the political work in the armed forces.

A statement quoted by the

state-run Xinhua news agency issued after the meeting highlighted the role of amending regulations on political work in the armed forces, noting that it could strengthen the party's leadership over the military-political work and promote the full implementation of the strategy of enhancing the military's political loyalty in the new era.

Such measures would help ensure the armed forces are always under the absolute party leadership and always capable of effectively fulfilling designated missions in the new era, thus contributing to the cause of delivering the party's goal of building a strong military and building a world-class military in all respects, the statement said.

Since taking over power in 2012, Xi - who has emerged as the most powerful leader after Mao Zedong, heading the party, military and the presi-

dency - has been constantly highlighting that the PLA should function under the absolute leadership of the CPC.

He carried out the biggest shakeup of the military in the last five years through his anti-corruption drive in which over 50 top Generals of the PLA including two Vice-Chairmen of the Central Military Commission (CMC) were taken down, enabling Xi to reinforce his leadership firmly over the military and the party.

Xi, 67, heads the CMC, the overall high command of the PLA and he is the only party leader and the civilian in its ranks. He has the prospect of a life-long tenure in power as two five-year term rule for the President has been removed by the national legislature in 2018.

Besides completely restructuring the PLA from top to bottom, Xi had also downsized its strength by shredding three lakh troops. **PTI**

# Biden gets access to President's Daily Brief

Wilmington: Joe Biden on Monday got his first look as president-elect at the President's Daily Brief, a top secret summary of US intelligence and world events — a document former first lady Michelle Obama has called "The Death, Destruction, and Horrible Things Book."

Biden has already had eyes on different iterations of the so-called PDB, which is tailored to the way each president likes to absorb information.

More than a decade ago, Biden read President George W. Bush's PDB during Biden's transition into the vice presidency.

After that, he read President Barack Obama's PDB for eight years.

Now, after a four-year break, he's reading President Donald Trump's PDB.

"The briefers almost certainly will be asking Biden what he prefers in terms of format and style," said David Priess, author of "The President's Book of Secrets," a history of the PDB.

"At a minimum, they're



seeing what seems to resonate most with him so that when they make the book his book, they can tailor it to him."

Obama's PDB was a 10- to 15-page document tucked in a leather binder, which he found waiting for him on the breakfast table.

Later in his presidency, he liked reading the ultra-secret intelligence brief on a secured iPad.

"Michelle called it 'The Death, Destruction, and Horrible Things Book,'" Obama wrote in his recently released book, "A Promised Land."

"On a given day, I might read about terrorist cells in Somalia or unrest in Iraq or the fact that the Chinese or Russians were developing new weapons systems," Obama wrote.

"Nearly always, there was mention of potential terrorist plots, no matter how vague, thinly sourced, or unactionable — a form of due diligence on the part of the intelligence community, meant to avoid the kind of second-guessing that had transpired after 9/11." **AP**

## ARIZONA, WISCONSIN CERTIFY BIDEN AS WINNER

Washington: Two battleground states of Arizona and Wisconsin on Monday formally certified Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden as the winner.

Incumbent Donald Trump had won both the states in 2016.

In Wisconsin, Biden won by 20,700 votes against Trump, who has refused to concede the election results so far. He alleges that there were

massive voters' fraud and electoral malpractice.

Certifying the result, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers said, "Today, I carried out my duty to certify the November 3rd election, and as required by state and federal law, I've signed the Certificate of Ascertainment for the slate of electors for President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris." **PTI**

## Trump's controversial coronavirus adviser resigns

Washington: US President Donald Trump's controversial special adviser on the coronavirus, Dr. Scott Atlas, has resigned.

During his four months in the role, Atlas, who had no formal experience in public health or infectious diseases, questioned the need for masks and other measures to control the pandemic that has killed over 268,000 people in America.

While questioning the usefulness of masks he was against lockdowns and promoted the idea of herd immunity.

The 65-year-old the Stanford University neuro-radiologist resigned on Monday at the end of his 130-day temporary assignment, according to US media reports.

Atlas tweeted a photo of his resignation letter on Monday. In the letter, he said his "advice

was always focused on minimising all the harms from both the pandemic and the structural policies themselves, especially to the working class and the poor." "I sincerely wish the new team all the best as they guide the nation through these trying, polarised times," he wrote, apparently referring to President-elect Joe Biden's incoming coronavirus team. **PTI**

# Iran's Parliament advances bill to stop nuclear inspections

Tehran: Iran's Parliament on Tuesday advanced a bill that would end UN inspections of its nuclear facilities and require the government to boost its uranium enrichment if European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal do not provide relief from oil and banking sanctions.

The vote to debate the bill, which would need to pass through several other stages before becoming law, was a show of defiance after the killing of a prominent Iranian nuclear scientist last month.

The official IRNA news agency said 251 lawmakers in the 290-seat chamber voted in favor, after which many began

chanting "Death to America!" and "Death to Israel!"

The bill would give European countries three months to ease sanctions on Iran's key oil and gas sector, and to restore its access to the international banking system. The US imposed crippling sanctions on Iran after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear agreement, triggering a series of escalations between the two sides.

The bill would have authorities resume enriching uranium to 20%, which is below the threshold needed for nuclear weapons but higher than that required for civilian applications. **AP**

## 76 Franciscan nuns test positive at monastery in Germany

Berlin: Seventy-six Catholic nuns have tested positive for Covid-19 after an outbreak at a Franciscan convent in north-western Germany, church authorities said Tuesday.

Another 85 nuns received negative test results at the monastery in Thuine, not far from the Dutch border, the convent's Mother Superior told The Associated Press.

"We are grateful that so far nobody is in the hospital," Sister Maria Cordis Reiker said.

Local health authorities put the entire monastery under quarantine late last week after the first cases of coronavirus were discovered there. Most Catholic nuns in Germany are elderly women because convents have had difficulties for decades recruiting young women for their cause. **AP**

## AZERBAIJAN FULLY RECLAIMS LANDS AROUND NAGORNO-KARABAKH



An Azerbaijani man holds a national flag riding a horse as he celebrates the transfer of the Lachin region to Azerbaijan's control, as part of a peace deal that required Armenian forces to cede the Azerbaijani territories they held outside Nagorno-Karabakh, in Aghjabadi, Azerbaijan on Tuesday. **AP**

## Lanka's highest court rejects petitions from Muslims against Covid-19 cremations

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed petitions filed by members of the Muslim community against the government's regulation that makes cremations manda-

tory for Covid-related deaths.

Some 12 petitioners had challenged the official gazette issued in April, claiming it impinged on the fundamental rights of the island nation's 9

per cent Muslim minority.

When the pandemic broke out in the country, the Ministry of Health revised its guidelines on March 31, ordering cremations only for persons who succumbed to or were suspected to have died of Covid-19. The guidelines were issued after a Muslim, who tested Covid positive, passed away. **PTI**

## UN: Food has run out for nearly 100,000 refugees in Ethiopia

Nairobi: The United Nations says food has now run out for the nearly 100,000 refugees from Eritrea who have been sheltering in camps in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region, which has been cut off from the world for nearly a month amid fighting.

"Concerns are growing by the hour," UN Refugee spokesman Babar Baloch told reporters in Geneva on Tuesday.

"The camps will have now run out of food supplies — making hunger and malnutrition a real danger, a warning we have been issuing since the conflict began nearly a month ago. We are also alarmed at unconfirmed reports of attacks, abductions and forced recruitment at the refugee camps."

Wednesday marks a month

since Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced that fighting had erupted in the Tigray region between federal forces and regional ones, as each government now regards the other as illegitimate due to a dispute over holding elections during the pandemic.

Communications and transport links to the Tigray region of 6 million people have been severed, and the UN and others have pleaded for access to deliver badly needed food, medicines and other supplies. Abiy, last year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, has rejected the idea of dialogue with the Tigray regional leaders, who are on the run but say they continue to fight even after Abiy over the weekend declared victory in the deadly conflict. **AP**

## Afghan Gov't airstrikes kill 2 children: Officials

AP ■ DE-HAJI (AFGHANISTAN) There has been a sharp rise in violence this year and a surge of attacks by the Taliban against Afghanistan's beleaguered security forces since the start of peace talks in September, in addition to deadly attacks last month claimed by Islamic State militants.

Ghazni's provincial council chief, Nesar Ahmad Faqiri, said Tuesday that Afghan military helicopters were attempting to target Taliban militants in the village, and hit the children by mistake. He said the insurgents were able to escape the village after the airstrikes.

Afghan Government helicopters killed two children, ages 10 and 12, and left at least two children wounded and two others missing after bombing a village in the eastern Ghazni province, officials and local witnesses said on Tuesday.

The fighting comes as Afghan government representatives and the Taliban are holding face-to-face talks in Qatar for the first time, in an effort to end the country's decades-long war.

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

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

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

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earned Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Sandeep Sahota (Borrower), Palak Sahota (Co-Borrower), Sands Infosystems Pvt Ltd (Co-Borrower) LBNOD00002115448	Unit No. 302, Second Floor, Block C, JNC Princess Park, Ahinsa Khand II, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad And/ Or Flat No C-302, Second Floor, JNC Princess Park, Khasra No. 526/3, And 519, Village Mohiuddinpur Kanawani, Pargana Loni, Tehsil Dadri, Gautam Budh Nagar Area: 1800 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 96,19,562/- (as on November 21, 2020.)	Rs. 70,00,000/- Rs. 7,00,000/-	December 21, 2020 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	January 01, 2021 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **December 31, 2020 before 05:00 P.M.** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder (s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005, and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **December 31, 2020 before 05:00 P.M.** with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005 on or before **December 31, 2020 before 05:00 P.M.** Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 932730494 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4)

Date: December 02, 2020  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**Addendum No. 01- Invitation for Bids (IFB)**

Contract No. and Title: Procurement of Civil Works:- Country: INDIA, ADB Loan No.3073, Completion of balance work of Improvement and Up gradation of road section of Udaipur to Melaghar (TR02) (Tranche-2 road in the State of Tripura)(ADB Loan No.3073).

The number of the Invitation for Bid:- 04/PD(SE-III)/ADB/ R/2020-21.

SI No.	Section & Clauses No.	Original Clause	Amended clause
1.	IFB	Bid document Purchased Date: -1ST 10:30 AM on 4th November 2020 to 1ST 11.00 A.M. on 3rd December 2020	Bid document Purchased Date: -1ST 10:30 AM on 4th November 2020 to 1ST 11.00 A.M. on 14th December 2020
2.	IFB & ITB 22.1	Deadline for submission of Bid: IST at 1.00 PM on 3rd December 2020	Deadline for submission of Bid: 1ST at 1.00PM on 14th December 2020
3.	IFB & ITB 25.1	Bid Opening Date: IST at 1.00PM on 3rd December 2020	Bid Opening Date: 1ST 1.00 PM on 14th December 2020

All other terms and conditions remained unchanged.

For and on behalf of Governor of Tripura  
Sd/-  
(Er. Madhab Lai Bank)  
Project Director(ADB Project)  
Tripura  
ICA/C-2274/2020-2021

**Around the Globe**

Taipei: Zhou Xiaoxuan's says her prestigious internship with Chinese state TV soured after a popular host forcibly kissed her. Outraged, Zhou took the previously taboo step of filing a lawsuit in 2018, joining the global #MeToo movement against sexual harassment.

RIO DE JANEIRO: Dozens of criminals armed with assault rifles invaded a city in southern Brazil overnight and took control of the streets as they launched an assault against a local bank branch.

Jakarta: Indonesian authorities are closely monitoring several volcanoes after sensors picked up increased activity in recent weeks, prompting the evacuation of thousands of people.

**UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY**

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown**, was found dead at back side of Sant Parmanand Hospital, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 16.11.2020 in the area of P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 57A U/s 174 Cr.PC, dated 16.11.2020** at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age: Approx 50 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: White colour shirt only.** If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO  
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi  
DP/756/N/2020 Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय गण्डार, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान  
जल भवन, 'बी' ब्लॉक, नेहरू कॉलोनी, देहरादून

पत्रांक : 602 / ई-निविदा / 2020-21 दिनांक : 01.12.2020

उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय गण्डार, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा, टू-बिड सिस्टम (एक-बीड की विधि एवं ऑनलाइन बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा सं.	कार्य विवरण	प्रारंभिक धनराशि	निविदा प्रपत्र वापस लेने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा द्वारा प्रपत्र वापस लेने की तिथि एवं समय	एक-बीड की विधि एवं ऑनलाइन बिड की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा प्रपत्र वापस लेने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा प्रपत्र वापस लेने की तिथि एवं समय
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	वारिक दर अनुभव पर, ISI marked, Malleable galvanized iron fittings & specials conforming to IS: 1879:1987 revised as IS: 1879:2010 for water works purpose की आपूर्ति।	1,52,000.00	04.12.2020 from 11:00 a.m.	18.12.2020 upto 5:00 p.m.	19.12.2020 at 11:00 a.m.	90 days	07.12.2020 at 11:00 a.m.
अर्हता:-	Only manufacturers of ISI marked Malleable galvanized iron fittings & specials having BIS license for IS: 1879:1987 revised as IS: 1879:2010 are allowed to take part in this tender.						
12	वारिक दर अनुभव पर, Self Closing Taps (Aluminium Alloy)/Self Closing Taps push button type/C.I. Bib cock for water works purpose and G.I. Nipple made from G.I. Pipe Medium class conforming to IS: 1239 (part-1)/2004 or its latest amendment(s) की आपूर्ति।	27,000.00	04.12.2020 from 11:00 a.m.	18.12.2020 upto 5:00 p.m.	19.12.2020 at 11:00 a.m.	90 days	07.12.2020 at 11:00 a.m.
अर्हता:-	Only ISO certified manufacturers of Self Closing Taps (Aluminium Alloy)/push button type/C.I. Bib cock and G.I. Nipple are allowed to take part in this tender.						
15	वारिक दर अनुभव पर, ISI marked H.D.P.E. Pipe material grade P.E. 63 for Pressure rating 6 Kg/cm <sup>2</sup> and 10 Kg/cm <sup>2</sup> , conforming to IS specification: 4984-2016 or its latest amendment(s) की आपूर्ति।	30,000.00	04.12.2020 from 11:00 a.m.	18.12.2020 upto 5:00 p.m.	19.12.2020 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days	07.12.2020 at 11:00 a.m.
अर्हता:-	Only manufacturers of RCC Platform and Drain are allowed to take part in this tender.						
22	वारिक दर अनुभव पर, ISI marked H.D.P.E. Pipe material grade P.E. 63 for Pressure rating 6 Kg/cm <sup>2</sup> and 10 Kg/cm <sup>2</sup> , conforming to IS specification: 4984-2016 or its latest amendment(s) की आपूर्ति।	1,02,000.00	04.12.2020 from 11:00 a.m.	18.12.2020 upto 5:00 p.m.	19.12.2020 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days	07.12.2020 at 11:00 a.m.
अर्हता:-	Only manufacturers of ISI marked H.D.P.E. Pipe having BIS license for IS: 4984-2016 or its latest amendment(s) are allowed to take part in this tender.						

ई-निविदा से सम्बंधित समस्त जानकारीयों व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://uks.gov.in> पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

**Government of Maharashtra**  
Directorate of Industries  
Joint Director of Industries, Nashik Region, Nashik.

**Notice Inviting e-Tenders**

The Joint Director of Industries, Nashik Region, Government of Maharashtra invites e-tenders from reputed Manufacturers /Authorized distributors / Authorized dealers to participate in the competitive bidding for Plant & Machinery for Common Facility Centre of Sangamner Garments Foundation Sangamner Dist Ahmednagar. For detailed tender documents interested bidders should visit Maharashtra Governments website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

Tender should be submitted online and the deadline to submit the proposal is upto Date 14/12/2020 upto 5.00 pm. Tender will be published on Date 01/12/2020 from 11.00am.

Member Secretary,  
Purchase Committee,  
Sangamner Garments Foundation Sangamner Dist  
Ahmednagar.

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that one Lady Name: Shahzadi Khatoon, W/o: Mohd. Noshad R/o: Jhuggi Lal Qtr. Minto Road, Delhi Age: 35 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Orange Suit and Yellow Salwar with her daughter Name: Humara Age: 06 Years Height: 3', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin Wearing: Green T-Shirt and Green Pajama missing since 18.11.2020 from Minto road, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 65A, Dated 18.11.2020** has been lodged at P.S., Kamla Market, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady and her daughter but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing lady and her daughter please inform the undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail ID: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-23011334  
DP/516/CD/2020

SHO  
P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-23230623, 23233743

Sensex, Nifty gallop to closing highs on recovery hopes, vaccine boost

Mumbai: Equity benchmarks surged to lifetime closing highs on Tuesday as better-than-expected GDP data and progress on the COVID-19 vaccine front gave fresh impetus to investor bullishness. A strengthening rupee and persistent foreign capital inflows further boosted market sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed 505.72 points or 1.15 per cent to end at its fresh closing record of 44,655.44. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 140.10 points or 1.08 per cent to close at its all-time high of 13,109.05. Sun Pharma was the top performer in the Sensex pack, spurring 5.51 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, ONGC, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Auto. On the other hand, Kotak Bank, Nestle India, Titan, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank and NTPC were among the main laggards, shedding up to 1.40 per cent. Work equities perched near all-time highs as strong factory output figures from China bolstered expectations of a swift economic recovery. Meanwhile, Moderna Inc applied for emergency authorisation for its COVID-19 vaccine in the US after full results from a late-stage trial showed around 94 per cent effectiveness. "The markets started December trading on a strong footing raising the benchmark to a fresh high due to a good GDP data. The Manufacturing PMI released today showed a slight contraction in manufacturing activities compared to the previous month, though growth remained strong. "Markets across the globe

made a positive start to the month expecting an extension of November's record-breaking gains along with strong hopes of coronavirus vaccine. We believe that this optimism can sustain in the near term with a shift towards mid and small caps, led by lag effect," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. India's economy recovered faster than expected in the September quarter as a pick-up in manufacturing helped GDP clock a lower contraction of 7.5 per cent, official data showed after market hours on Friday. However, India's manufacturing sector activity lost momentum and fell to a three-month low in November amid slower increases in factory orders, exports and buying levels, a monthly survey said on Tuesday. GST collections posted growth for the third month in a row in November over the previous year's figures. Collections of tax on the sale of goods and rendering of services came in at ₹1,04,963 crore in November, the finance ministry said. The collections were higher than ₹1.03 lakh crore recorded in November 2019 but were ₹192 crore lower than October 2020 collections. Barring consumer durables, all BSE sectoral indices finished in the green, led by realty (3.49 per cent), telecom (2.52 per cent), tech (2.42 per cent) and IT (2.39 per cent). The broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices rose up to 0.94 per cent. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul ended with significant gains.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading mixed in early deals. The rupee strengthened 37 paise to close at 73.68 against the US dollar. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.10 per cent lower at USD 47.83 per barrel. PTI

Gold rises by ₹45, silver gains ₹407 New Delhi: Gold prices rose ₹45 to ₹48,273 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday on a positive global trend, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had closed at ₹48,228 per 10 gram on Monday. Silver prices also gained ₹407 to ₹59,380 per kg, compared with ₹58,973 per kg in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24 karat in Delhi were trading up by ₹45 in line with recovery in global gold prices despite rupee appreciation," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said. The spot rupee was trading around 4 paise stronger against the dollar during the day, he added. In the international market, gold and silver were trading higher at \$1,812 per ounce and \$23.34 per ounce, respectively. "Gold prices pared morning losses and traded up as investors weighed the vaccine progress and stimulus hopes as President-elect Joe Biden started White House transition. "Earlier, gold prices were trading under pressure after the US officials said that they plan to release 6.4 million COVID-19 vaccine doses nationwide in an initial distribution," Patel said. PTI

GST revenues cross trillion mark for 2nd straight month at over ₹1.04L cr in Nov

New Delhi: GST collections posted growth for the third month in a row in November over the previous year collections, in signs that the economy continues to reflate after a strict lockdown. Collections of tax on the sale of goods and rendering of services came in at ₹1,04,963 crore in November, the finance ministry said in a statement on Tuesday. The collections were higher than ₹1.03 lakh crore recorded in November 2019 but were ₹192 crore lower than October 2020 collections. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, which directly reflects the state of economic activity, had plummeted to a record low of ₹32,172 crore in April after the government imposed a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus. Subsequent easing of lockdown restrictions helped collections rise. The collections witnessed the first year-on-year growth in September and last month, it crossed the psychological ₹1 lakh crore-mark. November is the second straight month when GST revenues have topped ₹1 lakh crore. One lakh crore is one trillion. The year-on-year growth in GST collections in November stood at 1.4 per cent while in October and September, it was at 10 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively. "In line with the recent trend of recovery in the GST

revenues, the revenues for the month of November 2020 are 1.4 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. During the month, revenues from import of goods was 4.9 per cent higher and the revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are 0.5 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year," the ministry said in the statement. The gross GST revenues collected in the month of November 2020 were ₹1,04,963 crore, out of which central GST was ₹19,189 crore and state GST was ₹25,540 crore. IGST was ₹51,992 crore, including ₹22,078 crore collected on import of goods, and cess was ₹8,242 crore, including ₹809 crore collected on import of goods, the statement said. Last week, sources in the finance ministry said that GST officers have identified top 25,000 taxpayers who had filed GST returns in October but have not done so for November. Till November 28, 80 lakh GST returns were filed for that month. As per GST rules, for the supplies made in the month of October, the GSTR-3B returns were expected to be filed in a staggered manner by 20th, 22nd and 24th of November. Those having a turnover above ₹5 crore annually are expected to file their GSTR-3B by 20th of the month. PTI

The collections were higher than ₹1.03 lakh crore recorded in November 2019 but were ₹192 crore lower than October 2020 collections

Rupee soars 37 paise to end at 73.68 against USD

Mumbai: The rupee surged 37 paise to settle at 73.68 against the US dollar on Tuesday, buoyed by foreign fund inflows into domestic equities. Besides, positive developments on COVID-19 vaccine front, improved domestic macro-economic data and weakness of the American currency against key rivals also supported the rupee. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.93 against the US dollar and witnessed an intraday high of 73.44 and a low of 73.93. The local unit finally closed at 73.68 against the American currency, registering a rise of 37 paise over its previous close. On Friday, the rupee had settled 17 paise lower at 74.05 against the US dollar. Forex market was closed on Monday on account of Guru Nanak Jayanti. "Indian rupee appreciated on Tuesday on the back of weakness in dollar and rise in domestic markets. Market sentiments improved on optimism over positive developments in COVID-19 vaccine," said Saif Mukadam, Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. PTI

Gold rises by ₹45, silver gains ₹407

New Delhi: Gold prices rose ₹45 to ₹48,273 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday on a positive global trend, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had closed at ₹48,228 per 10 gram on Monday. Silver prices also gained ₹407 to ₹59,380 per kg, compared with ₹58,973 per kg in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24 karat in Delhi were trading up by ₹45 in line with recovery in global gold prices despite rupee appreciation," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said. The spot rupee was trading around 4 paise stronger against the dollar during the day, he added. In the international market, gold and silver were trading higher at \$1,812 per ounce and \$23.34 per ounce, respectively. "Gold prices pared morning losses and traded up as investors weighed the vaccine progress and stimulus hopes as President-elect Joe Biden started White House transition. "Earlier, gold prices were trading under pressure after the US officials said that they plan to release 6.4 million COVID-19 vaccine doses nationwide in an initial distribution," Patel said. PTI

India's manufacturing PMI slips to 3-month low in Nov

New Delhi: India's manufacturing sector activity lost momentum and fell to a three-month low in November amid slower increases in factory orders, exports and buying levels, a monthly survey said on Tuesday. The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 58.9 in October to a three-month low of 56.3 in November, indicating that the manufacturing sector growth remained strong, despite losing traction. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction. "The Indian manufacturing sector remained on the right path to recovery, with strong growth of new orders and output sustained during November," Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit, said. Lima further noted that "the softening of rates of expansion seen in the latest month does not represent a major setback, since these are down from over decade highs in October, a spike in COVID-19 cases and the possibility of associated restrictions could undermine the recovery." As per the survey, aggregate new orders rose at the slowest pace in three months. The companies indicated that sales growth was underpinned by resilient demand, though curbed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it added. "Companies noted that the pandemic was the key factor weighing on growth during November, with COVID-related uncertainty also restricting business confidence," Lima said. PTI

Corporate bond issuance up 25% to ₹4.4 lakh cr in first half of FY21: FinMin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI Total corporate bond issuances during the first half of the current fiscal rose by 25 per cent to ₹4.43 lakh crore despite economic contraction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an official statement said on Tuesday. During the same period last year, corporates had issued bonds worth ₹3.54 lakh crore. "COVID-19 has drastically affected the investment climate in all economies of the world, causing a sharp decline in the demand and supply equilibrium everywhere. India has been no exception to this unprecedented economic shock. "Yet, investment sentiment in the Indian economy has

been buoyed by the frequent and active intervention of the Government of India despite being hit by a world-wide pandemic," the finance ministry said. The Indian growth story continues to expand as is demonstrated by the trends in Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and corporate bond market flows that indicate and underline the beliefs of investors in the strength and resilience of Indian economy, it pointed out. FDI inflows into India during the second quarter of this fiscal stood at \$ 28.10 billion, out of which FDI equity inflows were \$23.44 billion or ₹1,74,793 crore.

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform to the general public at large that Ms. Preeti Singh D/o Sh. Om Prakash R/o L-11244/6, Gali No.6, Sangam Vihar, South Delhi, Delhi-110062 (hereinafter will be referred to as "my client"), who was Non-Active Director and shareholder of 24.95% of the M/s Welcome Earth Development (India) Limited, having its registered office at Village Islampur, Near Samvit Hospital, Gurugram, District Gurugram, Haryana. Being director my client was not having any relation or concern whether direct or indirect from the financial or non-financial works nor was having interference in the same. Other directors of the above company removed my client from the Directorship on 09.08.2018 and since then my client owe only 24.95% share of the company. On 20.12.2018, my client discussed to the Directors in regard to the Financial irregularities of the company's but of no avail and my client's suggestion were kept in abeyance, so, from 09.08.2018, all the transactions or activities in the name of my client will be illegal null and void and for such type of transactions, the involved person or institutions shall be liable on their own and for the aforesaid acts my client will have no responsibility whether direct or indirect. My client reserves all her rights to take appropriate legal action against the person(s), institution(s) or Director(s) or entity(ies) involved therein. D S Rajpoot Advocate Chamber No.322, Second Floor, Block-B, District Courts, Gurugram

Paytm waives charges on merchant transactions; to absorb MDR of ₹600 cr

New Delhi: Fintech major Paytm on Tuesday said it will waive all charges on merchant transactions, and enable its merchant partners to accept payments from Paytm wallet, UPI apps and RuPay cards at zero charges. Paytm will absorb ₹600 crore in MDR charges annually by banks and other charges to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) during the ongoing pandemic, according to a statement. This would help ensure that these merchants have adequate liquidity to expand their businesses, it added. "This initiative will benefit more than 17 million merchants on Paytm ecosystem

who use Paytm All-in-One QR, Paytm Soundbox and Paytm All-in-One Android POS to accept payments from their customers," the statement said. It added that merchants will also have the power to choose whether they want to receive payments directly into their bank accounts or into their Paytm wallet. The company has been promoting acceptance of payments through all methods, including Paytm Wallet, UPI, RuPay, NEFT and RTGS, and empowers merchants to accept unlimited payments Paytm All-in-One QR at zero charges, it added. "We are absorbing MDR to extend support to our mer-

chant partners to increase their overall liquidity to expand their businesses. "We believe waiving off these charges will benefit all MSMEs accepting Paytm All-in-One QR, Paytm Soundbox and Paytm All-in-One Android POS devices to collect payments directly into their bank accounts," Paytm Senior Vice-President Kumar Aditya said. This move would also encourage digital payments that would further strengthen the Digital India mission, he added. Paytm is also extending financial support to MSMEs and aims to disburse ₹1,000 crore in loans by March 2021. PTI

Power consumption growth slows to 4.7% in November

PTI ■ NEW DELHI India's power consumption growth rate slowed to 4.7 per cent at 98.37 billion units (BU) in November this year amid the onset of early winters especially in the Northern part of the country. In November 2019, electricity consumption in the country was recorded at 93.94 BU, as per government data. Power consumption had entered positive territory in September and recorded double-digit surge in October, showed the power ministry data. In September this year, power consumption recorded a growth of 4.4 per cent at 112.24 BU, compared to 107.51

BU in the same month last year. India's power consumption grew by nearly 12 per cent to 109.53 BU in October this year, as against 97.84 BU in the same month last year. According to experts, the onset of early winters especially in the Northern part of the country has affected power consumption. Economic activities are almost near normal due easing of lockdown, they said adding that growth in power consumption would continue in coming months. According to the weather reports, Delhi recorded the coldest November in the past 71 years. Similar situation was witnessed in other parts of the country where the minimum temperature dipped.

Diesel sales fall 7% in Nov, petrol sales up 5%

New Delhi: India's diesel sales fell 7 per cent year-on-year in November after rising for the first time in eight months in October, industry data showed on Tuesday. Sale of diesel, the most used fuel in the country, was, however, 8 per cent higher month-on-month. Diesel consumption in November was 6.23 million tonnes, down from 6.7 million tonnes in the same period a year ago. It was, however, higher than 5.7 million tonnes demand during October. The fall in consumption in November, after diesel sales had reached pre-Covid levels in September, shows the recovery is fragile, an industry official said. Petrol sales rose to 2.4 million tonnes from 2.28 million tonnes, while cooking gas (LPG) sales went up 4.5 per cent to 2.36 million tonnes. PTI

Shri Bijay Kumar Das takes over as NALCO Director

Bhubaneswar: Bijay Kumar Das, has taken over as the Director(Production) of the Navratna CPSE, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) with effect from 1st December 2020. Prior to the new assignment, Shri Das was serving in the Company as Executive Director (Projects) at Corporate Office, Bhubaneswar. Shri Das, a graduate in Mechanical Engineering from NIT, Rourkela (Formerly REC), began his career in NALCO as a Graduate Engineer Trainee in 1984. He was posted in the Company's Captive Power Plant in Angul since inception of the project, where he held different key positions before taking over the challenging assignment of Business Development of the Company.

MCG नगर निगम गुरुग्राम बनाएँ बेहतर गुरुग्राम नगर निगम गुरुग्राम के पत्रकार रिचार्ज में यूनिट आईडी नं० 262C9700197P41 पता 705, 7F, Abhas Apartment, Sector-56, Gurugram में है जो Brig.Dabir Singh Virk व Smt. Parminder Virk के नाम दर्द है। Brig. Dabir Singh Virk S/o Late Sh. Mohinder Singh की मृत्यु दिनांक 29.06.2019 के उत्तरांत वसीलनामा वसील नं० 643 दिनांक 24.06.2019 के अनुसार इस यूनिट की मालिक Smt. Parminder Virk W/o Late Brig.Dabir Singh Virk है। Brig.Dabir Singh Virk S/o Late Sh. Mohinder Singh की मृत्यु दिनांक 29.06.2019 के उत्तरांत Smt. Parminder Virk W/o Late Brig.Dabir Singh Virk ने वसीलनामा दिया है कि भवन यूनिट आईडी नं० 262C9700197P41 पता 705, 7F, Abhas Apartment, Sector-56, Gurugram में है कि वह Smt. Parminder Virk W/o Late Brig.Dabir Singh Virk S/o Late Sh. Mohinder Singh की मृत्यु दिनांक 29.06.2019 के उत्तरांत Smt. 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# FOR A HAPPY FUTURE

Many people consider career as a source for monetary gains. They look forward to a joyful life based on their package or profit. PRAVEEN PARAMESWAR tells you how one should look beyond this and find a meaningful and happy career

Career contentment and joy has a considerable role in making one happy. This forms the foundation of a peaceful and satisfactory life. This article shares with you six tips to plan a career for happiness.

### Change your perception towards career

Most of the people consider career only a source for monetary gains. They expect financial stability and to further live a luxurious life, but their career gets limited to just that — remuneration and financial numbers. They look forward to a joyful life based upon their package or profit, whereas reality lies far away from this. Nearly 30% of a person's life is spent on a career, forming a relevant part of our lives. Thus, it should not be just looked at from a way where it is getting restrained to profits or financial stability but also about professional contentment and lifelong joy that comes along with it. This change in

perception is the first step in the journey to a career for happiness.

**Make passion the profession**  
Passion refers to the activities a person engages in a continuous manner without boredom and tiredness. Most people would be having one or more such areas which have been pursued with sheer passion. If any of these areas can be transitioned to profession, they would not even feel that they work for a day. Rather enjoy the bliss of each moment.

### Map personality and intelligence alignment

Every career demands certain personality traits in people to become successful in it. If it is structured and logical approach for career as a 'banker', it is highly oriented towards relationship building for career as a 'sales person'. For a product designer it is visual intelligence and agricultural scientist it is naturalistic intelligence. Pursuing a career that is in line with the personality and intelligence ori-

**Achievement and success in career are important factors to find happiness in career. This is highly related to the knowledge and skill a person possesses to deliver his professional responsibilities**

entation makes our road easier to travel and take us to more happiness.

### Accommodate interests and comforts

Each of us have varied interests and levels of comfort. This may include a diversity of things such as working with people v/s work with machines, indoors v/s outdoors, involvement of travel in work v/s a stable location or non-involvement of travel, routine work v/s irregular work schedules and so on. It is always appreciable if we can accommodate our interests and comforts while planning a career.

### Keep updated on knowledge and skills

Achievement and success in career is a very important factor to find happiness in career. This is highly related to the knowledge and skill a person possesses to deliver his professional responsibilities. If one falls below par in these vital factors, they would be underperforming in work

which would lead to failure, dissatisfaction and unhappiness. In order to avoid such scenarios, it is important to keep well updated on knowledge and skills.

### Build strong relationship with colleagues

The Harvard Grant Study finds that the happiest people in this world are the ones who are most connected with others around them. Applying this concept to work, to be happy in work it becomes extremely important to be well connected with colleagues, customers and any other set of people who we work closely with. This would contribute to happiness in a larger manner.

Along with these it is also important to celebrate every small success we get in our career. Following the above would surely help any person to be happy and purposeful in their career.

The writer is Chief Executive Officer, Lifology

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**How is it that little children are so intelligent and men so stupid? It must be education that does it.**

— Alexandre Dumas

## SRM signs MoU with AuthorCafe



SRMIST's Deputy Registrar & Director of SRM IHM Dr Antony Ashok Kumar, AuthorCafe's Consultant Sales and Strategy Punit Dhandhanian & Senior VP (HR) Shubha Kasiviswasaran, SRMIST's Registrar Dr N Sethuraman, Pro VC (Eng & Tech) Dr C Muthamizhchelvan and Joint Director (Research) Dr SRS Prabaharan at the MoU signing

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur has signed an MoU with AuthorCafe India Pvt Ltd, a knowledge management platform for research content that facilitates academia in the creation, collaboration, review, dissemination, and administration of research content such as reports, theses, dissertations, and grant proposals.

AuthorCafe was represented by its President Dr Shanthi Krishnamoorthy, Senior Vice President (HR) Shubha Kasiviswasaran, Consultant Sales and Strategy Punit Dhandhanian and Product Manager Neelanjana Sinha. SRMIST was represented by Registrar Dr N Sethuraman, Pro Vice Chancellor (Engineering and Technology) Dr C Muthamizhchelvan, Deputy Registrar & Director of SRM Institute of Hotel Management Dr Antony Ashok Kumar, Joint Director (Research) Dr SRS Prabaharan among others.

This MoU will benefit SRMIST with the enhanced productivity of research writing through automated &

streamlined workflow; make Theses content searchable, discoverable, citable and showcase their institutional research output; and enable them to onboard/launch SRMIST's own journal.

Dr Prabaharan gave a brief introduction to AuthorCafe and how SRMIST would benefit from it.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Shanthi Krishnamoorthy said, "We are very excited to have been selected by SRMIST for implementation of our product to automate their academic content publishing program. SRM has been a pioneer in many fields and once again they have shown a path for making Indian research more impactful on the global stage."

Punit Dhandhanian said, "This is a Cloud-based research writing platform, accessed from anywhere on the Internet. We need our system to adapt to the writer and not the other way around."

Dr C Muthamizhchelvan said: "SRMIST is a comprehensive university. Our approach is interdisciplinary research and such tools will help our university in the long run."

In the last few decades, we have seen some notable changes in the digital marketing industry. Today, businesses have realised the crucial role of digital marketing towards the growth of their business. It has been helping them to increase their customer reach and improve overall efficiency. This is one of the sectors, which has been growing with every passing day, opening up a wider arena for professionals to gain valuable knowledge and make a place for themselves in the evolving market. Taking up professional digital marketing training can help an individual be on top of their game in this evolving industry.

Here are some of how a professional digital marketing training can help you.

### Every day is a learning experience

The digital marketing industry is highly dynamic in nature; therefore, professionals here need to stay up to date about the trends and other important changes. The industry's overall nature exposes an individual to various types of opportunities, situations, and problems, which ultimately can assist them tactfully manage every situation. The 360-degree approach of the digital sector makes it an opportunistic industry where you go on learning a lot about multiple aspects of a business with every passing day.

### Heightens skills and creativity

The digital industry is in dire need of professionals across various areas that digital enables like Creative, Media, Data & Insights and Technology. The integration of various skills can help achieve Digital Business goals. The exposure allows

## Train digitally

Taking up professional digital marketing training can help an individual be on top of their game in this evolving industry, says PRASAD SHEJALE



an individual to gain practical knowledge over a theoretical one. The digital marketing industry is highly skill-driven, therefore if you have the right skill set, you can build a fruitful career with multiple growth opportunities. Therefore, one must take the right type of digital marketing training to acquire the right skills.

### Varied career options

Digital Marketing is fluid in nature; hence, once you have an overview of the industry and its func-

tioning, you will have varied career options at your disposal. It allows an individual to pick his/her own areas of skills, which can help in personal as well as professional development. This is also a sector where one can shift from departments internally to gain newer skills and further grow in their professional journey.

### Well-paid jobs

This sector opens an opportunity for the individual to get his/her hands on high-end jobs. Attaining

professional digital marketing training can widen the scope of gaining such positions. One must also achieve the right amount of on-the-job experience to understand digital marketing's depth. While looking for such jobs, one must also keep up with their learning attitude and enrich their knowledge.

### Working time flexibility

One of the best aspects of the digital marketing industry is that it is internet-based, making it easily accessible from anywhere at any time. Therefore, the individual's location really doesn't matter as long as he/she has a good internet connection.

While all of the above are some great benefits to look at, there are many more ways in which this industry can play a crucial role in shaping you up into a professional. With its dynamic and evolving nature, this industry is full of opportunities. It will continue to benefit you as long as you keep up with its progress, go on learning and enhancing your skills and are up for taking up challenges and experiment with newer ways of doing things.

The writer is Founder & CEO, Logicserve Digital

## Make learning interactive

Teachers are able to keep the students engaged through interactive learning content and technology. This technique also helps drive student attention, says UMESH JOSHI

The educational ecosystem and the process of learning has become more dynamic now, that ever before. The growing advancement in the technology realms have redefined the classrooms. Technology enables students to learn at their own pace and learn with an understanding. It has made learning more interesting and teachers are able to keep the students engaged through interactive learning content and technology.

These techniques can help in driving the students' attention and makes them to go beyond the scope of imagination and actually visualise what they are learning. Hence, interactive learning content is a key ingredient for learning with an understanding.

### Engaging students to understand and learn through Interactive Learning Content

Interactive content can be games, simulations and GIFs, which allow students to experience various processes and visualise them which would otherwise not be possible to create in a classroom environment. Interactive content keeps the student actively engaged and focused by seeking inputs from the users every now and then. This continuous approach through user engagement leads to enhanced



activity in the brain which is needed for deeper learning and knowledge retention.

One can understand this through the example of taking a cab versus driving a car to reach a destination. It is easy to notice that the person who is actually driving would remember the route much better than the person who is simply looking outside the window while the driver is driving the cab. This is similar to watching a video without actually paying too much attention to it which leads to passive learning and would not be retained in the mind for a long time.

A framework for Interactive Learning Content is designed by combining a good pedagogical structure and a robust game design

to ensure that the learning process is as efficient as possible. This is achieved by setting the context so that learner has a clear understanding of the learning objective and expected outcome.

It includes various action points and levels of engagement that will help the students learn at their own pace and move from one topic to the next topic with an understanding of the topics which have already been covered. This approach will help them to not only learn their respective subjects but also help in improving their cognitive skills.

Interactive learning content undoubtedly makes the process of learning interesting and gives the teachers a chance to use technology tools that are at their disposal to integrate in their teaching process. Although interactive learning content and using technology is important, the importance and the role of tools and physical activities in learning are equally important. Furthermore, there is a pressing need to delineate the relationship between game-based learning and academic achievement in the context of educational assessment with clearly defined metrics.

The writer is Chief Product & Technology Officer, Educational Initiatives

## New book on Indian mythology

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Alfredo Covelli, an Italy based author today launched his new book *VahanaMasterclass* for children and Young Audience in the Indian market. Targeted towards readers' age (from eight to 12 years) the books will be illustrated and published by Scholastic India. Indian mythology and culture is very popular among other countries, they admire the way we worship our God and Goddesses. Our culture is simple yet powerful that people of any country feels connected with it.

The warmth and love of culture is so unique that it not only inspires our Indian authors but authors from other country to explore more about it. Alfredo had a keen

interest in our Indian culture and mythology which inspired him to write a story on Lord Ganesha for children.

The book narrates the story of the Ganesha looking for a new *vahana* to accompany him to all the great adventures around the cosmos.

Commenting on the book Covelli said: "I am excited to launch my first book in India. I always had a profound interest in the Indian culture and Hindu religion, which inspired me to write this book. *VahanaMasterclass* is my first book in English, the first for the Indian market, and the first for the children. The book is an epic adventure of four mice and their journey towards becoming Ganesha's next *vahana*."

## Mumbai varsity launches online course with upGrad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The upGrad, India's largest online higher education brand announces entry in vernacular higher education programme by partnering with Mumbai University thereby further strengthening its presence in the degree market.

The university is launching its two Master of Arts in PR & Communications and Journalism, in online & blended learning format, powered by upGrad. The programme content will be available in Hindi and Marathi along with English, a first time-ever for Mumbai university who hadn't yet gone dig-

ital with a Marathi-language programme.

What sets the programmes apart from their offline counterpart is that both programmes offer personalised learning tracks like Job Tracks, Self-Employment Track, and the Competitive Exam Track, that help learners understand their requirements and enrol for the learning track best suited for them, thus breaking the one-size-fits-all learning.

The learning modules will include live doubt-solving sessions, discussion forum, career coaching, and a 15-hour per week programme structure with live & recorded lec-

tures delivered by the industry leaders & faculty.

upGrad, in its strategic collaboration with Mumbai University, is committed to creating a world-class learning experience that will provide learners with the guidance of industry professionals, one-on-one personal development coaching, an opportunity to network with peers online, among others. With an aim to deliver an outcome-oriented learning experience, upGrad is also offering soft skills and aptitude coaching with interview preparation, resume building, personalised career advice and others," says Phalgun Kompalli, Co-founder, upGrad.

## AI-focused certificates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Fore School of Management invites applications from corporate executives, managers, researchers, graduate and post-graduate students, to its seven months Joint Online Certificate Course in Big Data Analytics for Business & Management.

The programme aims to develop competent and committed big data professionals and analysts who can contribute significantly to this

futuristic discipline expected to create ripples across industries and segments. The course officially commences from December 19, 2020.

This is a uniquely structured programme that helps students to learn and apply it in real-world settings. The course is project-oriented. All tools, data and platforms including Deep Learning system, Hadoop-ecosystem and Kafka-streaming technologies necessary for learning data-analytics are provided to the participants in advance.

Experts say that the reduction in duration of the CAT 2020 contributed to increased time pressure in the students' minds and played a big role in pushing up the perceived difficulty levels across sections



# CAT: A tough deal

The Common Admission Test (CAT), which is a national level MBA entrance exam, was successfully conducted by IIM Indore. It's estimated that a total of 2.28 lakhs applicants candidates will appear for the exam in all three slots. A total of 76 questions were asked.

There were three sections— Verbal & Reading Comprehension (VARC), Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR) and Quantitative Aptitude.

The overall difficulty level of the exam was moderate to tough, similar to last year. Out of the three sections, VARC was the toughest while QA and DILR were Moderate.

For slot one, DILR was moderate, the way it has been for the past. An important attribute of this section was this time there were two sets of six questions each which has never happened in the last five years.

VARC: There were a total of four sets of reading comprehension questions. Two sets of RC were of 4 questions each

and the other two sets of RC had five questions each. The overall level of this section was difficult.

**Quantitative Aptitude:** Around 17-18 questions were asked from Arithmetic and Algebra. The overall level of this section was moderate. There were eight Type in The Answer (TITA) questions out of the 26 questions asked in this section. No questions were asked from Permutation & Combination.

Slot two was difficult compared to the difficulty level of the exam held in slot one. The level of VARC was difficult. The DILR section was also difficult while the level of Quantitative Ability was moderate.

The VARC: Overall difficulty level of the section was difficult. There were a total of four sets of reading comprehension. Compared to last year, this section was tough. Two passages were moderate and two were difficult. Questions were not straightforward, they were inference based.

**Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning:** It was tough as compared to last year's paper. There were two sets of six questions each. Out of 24 questions, there were 18 MCQs and 6 TITA based questions.

**Quantitative Ability:** The majority of the questions were from Arithmetic and Algebra. The overall level of the section was moderate and tougher than last year. Around eight-10 questions were asked from Arithmetic, out of which five-six questions were of easy level. Algebra — there were around 10 questions in which three-four questions were of easy level. In QA, out of 26 questions, there were 18 MCQs and eight TITA based questions.

For slot three, the difficulty level and distribution of questions in slot three remained similar to slot one and two. In slot three, the level of VARC was difficult. The DILR section was also difficult while the level of QA was moderate.

The writer is Vijay Jha, President, Academics, Gradeup

On the whole, CAT 2020 can be said to have gone very smoothly, with students reporting a very positive experience from across the country. The COVID related processes also seem to have been managed very comprehensively with enough distancing between candidates.

Coming to the content of the exam, the three-hour to two-hour reduction in the duration of the exam did result in a reduction in the number of questions which gave all its AIMCATs with similar number of questions after the new pattern was announced in September.

**Difficulty level analysis**

The reduction in duration did contribute to increased time pressure in the students' minds and played a big role in pushing up the perceived difficulty levels across sections. To add to this, the sets/passages from LRDI and VARC themselves also were tougher compared to what was seen in the CATs of the recent past.

In VARC, the RC part saw more number of the tricky question types involving phrases like all...except and also double negatives. While the Para-formation questions were similar in difficulty level to earlier, it would not help to know that the difficulty level if these questions always remained high in the earlier years as well due to the questions being of non-MCQ type.

The odd-one-out questions were also tough, as was the case earlier. It may also be said that they were a tad on the tougher side this year. The para summary questions were a bit doable out of the VA part, and must have been attempted this year.

Though the number of sets in LRDI was only five, finding the doable sets in the LRDI section was a bigger challenge this year. Across slots, such sets would have been best left for the last. To add further trouble, the presence of non-MCQs in these sets pushed up the difficulty level even more.

The quant section was a relative relief in all the three slots, though it was a surprise this year with many more questions from Algebra which pushed the difficulty level up.

Numbers did seem to get a lower representation overall this year, while P&C was conspicuously absent. Geometry & Mensuration, Time & Distance, ERPV hogged the limelight this year. Concepts like logarithms, inequalities, functions and graphs, coordinate geometry were fairly represented.

The fewer number of questions available to select from did make the section tough compared to last year. The section had its share of tough questions, pushing the cutoff down.

The writer is Pradeep Pandey, Academic Head, TIME, Delhi

# Upskill with data science

Many professionals are taking online classes to upgrade skills due to increased competition, says VIVEK K SINGH

Classroom education is not feasible at the moment due to the ongoing pandemic. Being confined to homes one can still utilise this time to get the same quality of classroom learning experience in the field of Data Science.

Many working professionals are also opting for virtual training in order to support their abilities and re-expertise to be more skilled and competitive.

We have partnered with leading IT companies and announced a post-graduation programme in Data Science that aims at achieving par excellence in the field and for those who are looking to acquire new skills.



Vivek K Singh  
Co-founder and CEO, Careerera

It has a track record of training thousands of professionals successfully via classroom and online training.

The data science industry is growing at a healthy rate of 35.5 per cent CAGR. Experience world-class Data Science training by an industry leader on the most in-demand Data Science Skills. Gain hands-on exposure to key technologies including Python, Machine Learning, Data Visualization, SQL and Artificial Intelligence. Become an expert Data Science professional today.

Accelerate your career in Data Science with the exclusive Data Science Analytics Program.

The post-graduate programme in Data Science gives you wide coverage to main ideas and techniques from Python, Exploratory Data Analysis to Machine Learning, Deep Learning and more. Practical labs and assignment work bring these ideas to life with the best instructors and assistants to supervise you with the path.

- COURSE HIGHLIGHTS**
- 12 months online program
  - An unprecedented of 1:15 faculty to student ratio
  - Real-world case studies to build practical skills
  - Hands-on exposure to analytics tools & techniques such as Python, Tableau, SQL
  - Live lectures, online lab sessions including one-on-one interaction with career experts
  - Learn industry insights through multiple industry knowledge sessions
  - Closely monitored evaluation to keep pace with the changing Data Science landscape
  - Access to opportunities with leading companies
- HOW TO APPLY**
- Apply by filling a simple online application form
  - Online aptitude test
  - Screening call with faculty. Visit [www.careerera.com](http://www.careerera.com) to know more.

Traditionally, the logic for addressing the gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) has been from the lens of equality, inclusion and bridging the gender pay gap. It was also encouraged from a diversity perspective.

With the exponential growth of technology and digitisation, STEM fields today are driving research and innovation that impacts everyday lives. An underrepresentation of women within the field will drastically skew solutions to be inherently unequal.

Research has shown that women have been historically under-represented in clinical trials, leading to medical treatments having higher chances of being ineffective for women. This is also reflective of the proportion of time and

resources being spent on innovating and solving for issues affecting women in particular. A key example of this is the lack of an effective treatment plan for menstrual cramps, even in this day and age. More women in STEM driving research, innovation and technological advancement will help balance the biases that come from having homogeneous teams working on problem solving. Women driving research for women ensures solutions and innovations are mindful and responsive to the needs of women, and encourages keeping problems faced by women at the centre of innovation and research.

Unfortunately, STEM fields continue to be dominated by men. In a world dominated by technology and digitization, women

## MINDIT

constitute only 28.8 percent of STEM workers as a global average, while in India it is an abysmal 14 per cent. According to UNESCO, women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) are published less, paid less for their research and do not advance as far as men in their careers. Even the Nobel Prize, in its 120-year history, has only been awarded to 57 women, with Marie Curie being the only woman to have won this honor twice.

The findings of a 2017 UN report further highlights a number of barriers that contribute to an increasing gender gap in technology and innovation, which includes limited market awareness and investment in innovations that meet the needs of women, a gender-blind approach to innovation, underrepresentation and perceived high-risk, low-reward profile of investing in innovations for women and girls, particularly from marginalised groups.

Education can play a critical role in addressing this gap, as evidenced by the numerous programs to encourage more girls to pursue STEM fields by governments, industry and development organisations across the world.

However, in India, despite gains in access to education for girls, high dropout rates and a social tendency to steer girls towards stereotypical female occupations persists. In professional courses, only 40 per cent of students in Bachelors of Technology (B.Tech.) courses are women. This number drops to 34 per cent for Bachelor of Engineering courses.

These indicators stress the need for systemic changes that will help bring more women to the forefront of innovation in STEM fields. It calls for augmenting support for educational choices by providing increased access to opportunities and knowledge of possibilities, creating support networks, and creating policy environments to bring and sustain more women in STEM.

A research has found that parental attitudes to girls pursuing STEM education and careers, family income or assets and the presence or absence of boys in the same family heavily influenced the potential and application of girls in STEM careers. Another important enabler is the presence of more local and relatable women role models.

Enabling and encouraging girls in STEM requires targeted involvement and action from multiple stakeholders to create sustainable change. It is important for us to understand the need for more women in STEM and help build a more equitable and humane future where women stake an equal claim.

The writer is Aakash Sethi, CEO Quest Alliance



**The University of Sheffield, UK is delighted to offer 150 international Postgraduate Taught Merit Scholarships in 2021.**

Each scholarship is a competitive award worth 25% of the original tuition fee for a PG taught programme starting in September 2021. The scholarships are available to all new international students who meet the eligibility criteria. You must hold an offer to study at the university.

Results will be announced on Friday June 11, 2021.

**Eligibility:** Your programme must commence at the University of Sheffield in autumn 2021. You must receive an offer for a course studied in full at the University of Sheffield.

Masters programmes split between the University of Sheffield and a partner institution are not eligible to apply for a scholarship. For tuition fee purposes you must be self-funded and required to pay the overseas tuition fee. You must not be a sponsored student

To know more visit <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/fees-and-funding/scholarships/postgraduate/international-merit-postgraduate-scholarship>.

**WEBSITE UPDATION/MAINTENANCE (CMS) AT UNIVERSITY LIVING**  
Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332344](http://internshala.com/i/6332344)  
Deadline: December 10, 2020

**CONTENT WRITING AT YES U CAN SHINE**  
Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹14,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332345](http://internshala.com/i/6332345)  
Deadline: December 10, 2020

**PROOFREADING & CLIENT INTERACTION AT INTERNSHALA**  
Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹16,667 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332348](http://internshala.com/i/6332348)  
Deadline: December 8, 2020

**HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT VALEDA HERBAL**  
Location: Delhi, Noida  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332350](http://internshala.com/i/6332350)  
Application deadline: December 10, 2020

**TECHNICAL/SALES SUPPORT AT DBUZZ**  
Location: Lucknow  
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹9,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332351](http://internshala.com/i/6332351)  
Application deadline: December 9, 2020

**TEACHING (ROBOTICS) AT KIDI ROBOTICS**  
Location: Ranchi, Dhanbad, Kolkata  
Stipend: ₹6,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332353](http://internshala.com/i/6332353)  
Application deadline: December 5, 2020

**CIVIL ENGINEERING AT INVENT GRID INDIA**  
Location: Bhubaneswar  
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332354](http://internshala.com/i/6332354)  
Application deadline: December 9, 2020

## STUDY ABROAD

### Micro-internship for international students

It is important for students to develop employability skills and gain real-world industry experience, says BRETT BERQUIST

The University of Auckland launched a virtual micro-internship programme to support the future employability of international students both in New Zealand and those studying with the University from overseas.

With an aim to support students in developing their employability skills, this initiative will help students gain real-world industry experience with leading New Zealand organisations. Brett Berquist, Director International at The University of Auckland said: "This programme is just one of the many approaches we have taken to support our international students impacted by Covid-19. It provides an avenue for those who are still outside New Zealand to remain connected with their peers here and contribute to economic recovery. It's great to see our students bringing their skills and global perspectives to the project."

The micro-internship is a

three-week programme involving around 20 hours of work per week, designed to accelerate the professional growth of students. Interns will work in small teams to tackle a business challenge for an Auckland-based employer. The programme includes an online induction and briefing session to get to know the team and the project.

Students can access all resources virtually through an online platform where they can connect with their team, access and submit documents, receive feedback from mentors, and then present their findings to the Auckland clients. Some of the previous participating companies include Deloitte, Grant Thornton, WSP, KPMG, Auckland Transport, Anxiety Trust NZ, and smaller Auckland businesses including Devonport Chocolates and Auckland Sea Kayaks.

The phenomenal success of this pilot, delivered in partnership with Global Talent Solutions, has led the university to scale up further by extending this opportunity to 500 students over two new rounds of the programme. The second round will commence in February 2021.

## IN BRIEF

### 1-DAY DREAM INTERNSHIPS ON OFFER

Internshala, the internship and training platform has launched the second season of 1-Day Dream Internships. The initiative brings one-day internship opportunities with their dream companies like Decathlon, Jio Saavn, and Bhumi. The interested students can apply for the internships by December 2, 2020.

To apply to the internships, visit: <https://bit.ly/1dreamship>

Under this initiative, the selected interns will get an opportunity to experience the culture of their favorite brands. In addition to this, they stand an opportunity to earn an internship certificate, a stipend as high as ₹10,000.

On the launch of 1-day Dream Internship, the founder and CEO of Internshala, Sarvesh Agrawal said: "Internshala has been bringing meaningful internship experiences to the students of India since 2010. 1-day Dream Internship is another of our initiatives that aims to bring an exciting internship experience for the students packed in just one day."

Students who are selected for the internships under this initiative will get to virtually experience the culture of their dream companies, meet their team, and learn about the functioning of different team.

### GO-FOR-GOLD INITIATIVE

The Unacademy has announced the Go-For-Gold Initiative for school students participating in the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) 2021.

The Initiative was started by CodeChef in 2013 to bridge the gap in talent and train aspiring contestants for the IOI. As

part of the initiative, Unacademy will award a cash prize worth ₹15 lakh, along with a laptop and other rewards to any Indian student winning a gold medal at IOI 2021.

Anup Kalbala, CodeChef Business Head at Unacademy said: "We are extremely elated that Unacademy has decided

to carry forward our initiative. We aim to accelerate our efforts to create awareness about inculcating problem-solving and informatics in the school curriculum."

Last date to register is December 7. To register, visit: [https://learning.tcsionhub.in/exams/ico\\_2021/](https://learning.tcsionhub.in/exams/ico_2021/).

### INDIA FACT QUIZ 2020 CHAMPIONSHIP

The Delhi Technological University (DTU) engineering student makes it to top 4 national finalists of India Fact Quiz 2020 Championship. Aditya Maurya, the winner of the North zone final, is student of BTech in Mathematics and Computational Engineering from Delhi Technological University (DTU).

The regional final was conducted virtually via Zoom and aired on TV. The quiz was launched in February 2020 as India's first ever digitally gamified quiz on data and facts on India.

It was conceptualised with the objective of challenging and correcting the biases of India's youth around data and facts on India, in sectors like health, education, gender, climate, welfare and population.

The championship, targeting the age group between 17-25, is created as a launchpad to identify the brightest and most factual young minds of India. It was launched with an online quiz content with over 450,000 quizzers participating across India.

# India stare another whitewash

Virat's men need to lift bowling standards in order to avoid second consecutive ODI clean sweep

PTI ■ CANBERRA

Left chasing shadows in the first two games, a listless Indian team would most certainly tweak its bowling combination in order to avoid a second successive clean-sweep when it takes on Australia in the third and final ODI here at Manuka Oval on Wednesday.

A 0-3 defeat against Australia would be their second rout in consecutive ODI series having met the same fate in New Zealand earlier this year. "We are very much determined to go out there to win the next match and see that it's not a clean sweep," top-order batsman Shreyas Iyer said when asked what his team can do to stop Australia's first in 20 years.

"Our bowlers are really positive with their work ethic and we could see that during training, a few of the bowlers practising with certain plans," he added.

The first two games turned out to be run-fests in which Australia out-batted Virat Kohli's men and before they switch over to the T20 series, a win at the picturesque Manuka Oval could do their confidence a world of good.

Skipper Kohli has been the first to admit that they have been "outplayed" in the two games and it is expected that some corrective measures will be taken in order to get their campaign back on track.

Navdeep Saini, India's fastest bowler, like a lot of others on his first tour of Australia, has looked clueless.

Such has been his plight that Kohli was forced to bowl a half-fit (bowling wise) Hardik Pandya and



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even Mayanag Agarwal to complete Saini's spell after he gave away 70 runs in seven overs.

It could well be possible that one among Shardul Thakur, with an experience of 27 international games, or the 'yorker sensation' rookie left-arm-er Thangarasu Natarajan will be seen replacing Saini.

In case of Natarajan, it could be his international debut and a chance to test

himself in an inconsequential game before the start of the T20 series where he is sure to play a part.

It could well be a case of both Shardul and Natarajan being given a go in case Kohli decides to rest both Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, who need to remain fit and fresh for the big-ticket Test series.

Natarajan, with his clever variations and change of pace, could provide a different dimension, as the cutters might work well and a bit of swing may be on offer on a ground which is not exactly a closed concrete jungle and may aid a bit of swing.

Never had an Indian attack looked so out of sorts as it did in the two games — hit for 69 boundaries and 19 sixes.

Kohli said that switching of formats from T20 to ODIs can't be an

excuse for a team whose core has remained pretty much the same for a considerable period of time.

The bowlers have had no idea where to bowl to Steve Smith, who has decided to single-handedly torment the opposition with back-to-back 62-ball-hundreds.

Add to it, Glenn Maxwell's power-packed finishing at the end of the innings is giving them those extra 30 runs which are creating the difference from India's perspective as the margin of defeats of 66 and 51 respectively would suggest.

The Indian captain's hasty bowling changes, including a two-over opening spell to his main bowler Bumrah, had invited criticism from one of his staunchest critics Gautam Gambhir as well as Ashish Nehra.

If the pacers have had their share of woes, the spinners have only compounded worries with their inept performances.

Yuzvendra Chahal has been the most expensive bowler in the first two games with 160 runs conceded in 19 overs and just one wicket to show for his efforts.

Ravindra Jadeja, on the other hand, has looked flat despite a decent economy rate of 6.15. The result, wicketless in both games.

In case of batting, Kohli and Rahul looked in good touch during the second game but the inability of Rahul to rotate the strike during the second Powerplay was glaring.

Still, India can take solace from the fact that in both matches, the batting looked the part and maybe, a target of 335 to 340 could have been chased on both occasions.

## Finch throws weight behind struggling Starc

PTI ■ CANBERRA

Top pacer Mitchell Starc's patchy form is among the few worries for a rampaging Australia in the ongoing series but skipper Aaron Finch on Tuesday threw his weight behind the seasoned campaigner, saying there is no need to panic just yet.

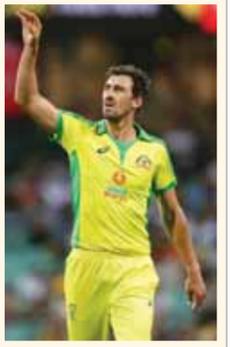
The left-arm seamer, who has an outstanding record with the new ball in white-ball cricket, has been far from his best in the ongoing series. In the two ODIs, Starc has managed to claim just one wicket while giving away 147 runs in 18 overs.

"He hasn't been at his very best, and you have to understand his standards are a lot higher than what you expect from most other people because of how dominant he's been over the last eight or nine years, especially in the white-ball formats," Finch said at the pre-match press conference.

"He'd love to be swinging the ball and getting it right early on, but the reality is when you're defending big totals and playing against good players, they're coming hard at you," he added.

With star pacer Pat Cummins rested for the final ODI, Finch said there will be discussions on how to use Starc.

"So, there'll be conversations today (Tuesday) about what we can do slightly different. Whether it's a tactical thing or when we're using him



through the innings.

"We'll chat about that today (Tuesday). But, definitely no panic stations here from my point of view," Finch said.

With star batsman David Warner ruled out of the final ODI and the series already in the bag, Finch hinted that the home side could experiment at the top.

"We haven't picked a team yet, but we've got a few options. Whether we go Wadey (Matthew Wade) in the side or Marnus comes up and opens the batting, Alex Carey has done a lot of it in the past.

"But the middle-order has been functioning really well over the last little while.

"That's the beauty of being two-nil up in the series, you can look to experiment if you want to do that or you can look to play the safe option," Finch said.

## Net bowler Porel sent back home after hamstring injury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Promising Bengal fast bowler Ishan Porel's saga of injuries continued as he has been sent back home from Australia after sustaining a hamstring injury during a net session.

"Ishan Porel has a hamstring injury and is already back in India for the past few days. It's a hamstring injury but the degree of it can only be assessed once he goes to the NCA for assessment," a senior BCCI source told PTI.

With Thangarasu Natarajan already in the main squad, India's pure net bowling options have been reduced to only one with Uttar Pradesh speedster Kartik Tyagi helping out the batsmen.

Originally, Porel, Tyagi, Natarajan

and Kamlesh Nagarkoti were named as net bowlers but the last one had to be pulled out even before the team left for Australia due to his frail body needing workload management.

Porel, who was with the Kings XI Punjab in the IPL, didn't get to play a game but his red ball performance in Ranji and Duleep Trophy along with impressive A tour of New Zealand last season prompted his selection as one of the four net bowlers.

"If it's a grade 1 tear, there is every chance that Porel will miss the Mushtaq Ali Trophy which is not great news for Bengal. We will now have to wait and see how his rehabilitation goes in Bengaluru. Hope he is not out for too long," the source added.

## Hamilton tests corona +ve

AFP ■ SAKHIR

World champion Lewis Hamilton has tested positive for coronavirus and will miss this weekend's Sakshir Grand Prix in Bahrain, Formula One's governing body FIA announced on Tuesday.

"In accordance with Covid-19 protocols and public health authority guidelines in Bahrain he (Hamilton) is now isolating," said an FIA statement.

"The procedures set out by the FIA and Formula 1 will ensure no wider impact on this weekend's event."

Hamilton, who on Sunday won the Bahrain Grand Prix, the first of back-to-back races in the Gulf state, has already secured a record-equaling seventh world championship this season.

## Marine vs Mourinho in FA Cup 3rd round

AFP ■ LONDON

Premier League leaders Tottenham were handed a trip to eighth-tier Marine in Monday's draw for the FA Cup third round.

Top-flight teams enter the competition at the third round stage and Tottenham were given a tie sure to capture the attention of football romantics.

Northern Premier League Division One side Marine became only the second club from the eighth tier to reach the third round after beating Havant and Waterlooville after extra time on Sunday.

Their reward is a visit from Jose Mourinho's men, who last won the FA Cup in 1991 and have not lifted a major trophy since the 2008 League Cup.

Marine boss Neil Young told the BBC: "It's an unbelievable draw. We will plan as best we can."

"Usually with Jose's teams, he puts pretty strong sides out. We have won seven games to get here and this is a great reward." FA Cup holders Arsenal face Newcastle at the Emirates Stadium and another all-Premier League tie sees Aston Villa against Liverpool at Villa Park.

Last season's beaten finalists Chelsea will play League Two side Morecambe at Stamford Bridge.

Manchester City, the 2019 winners, will host Birmingham, while Manchester United face Watford at Old Trafford.

## Warner's injury opportunity for others to claim Test opening slot: Langer

PTI ■ CANBERRA

A groin injury has ruled out David Warner out of at least the first Test against India and Australia coach Justin Langer says the temporarily vacant opening slot will go to the one who performs well for Australia A in the upcoming four games against the visitors.

The Australian cricket fraternity has been debating about Warner's opening partner in the Test series with a few backing the struggling Joe Burns to keep his place while others want the young William Pucovski to open.

However, the injury to Warner has changed the scenario and has created a situation where both Burns and Pucovski could open.

Langer said, it has taken "a bit of pressure off."

"No wonder I'm a bit more relaxed. We've won a few games and I don't have to worry about who we're going to pick for the Test side," Langer was quoted as saying by the Australian media on Tuesday.

Australia A will lock horns with India A from December 6 and against



senior Indian team on December 11 in Sydney before the Test series.

"I've said it so many times, the hardest part of the job is selecting the teams, but we've got an Australia A game starting in a few days and it'll be a good opportunity for those guys against the Indian A side to put their hand up."

"And then after that is

another Australia A game versus the actual Indian Test side at the SCG under lights with a pink ball," Langer said.

"We'll work out who's going to play in that game and certainly there's huge opportunities for people to put their hand up."

Talking about the enormous pain that Warner suffered after getting injured during the second ODI in Sydney, Langer said it was like receiving a gun shot.

"He's strained his abductor in his groins and they tell me it's a very painful injury. It looked like he got shot by a gun. He was in incredible pain in the changerooms after," he said.

"I'm not holding my breath that he'll be ready for the first Test match, but with that said he's the sort of elite professional who will be doing literally everything possible to be ready for it."

"We'll see what happens, but he's going to be a loss that's for sure."

Reports suggest that the kind of injury Warner has suffered, it would require about four weeks to heal and Warner may miss the first two Tests of the series.

## SINGLES

### 3 MORE PAK PLAYERS TEST +VE, TOTAL 10

CHRISTCHURCH: Three more members of the 54-member Pakistan squad in New Zealand have tested positive for Covid-19, taking the total number of infected cases to nine. An official source in the Pakistan Cricket Board said the New Zealand health authorities confirmed that three people have returned positive while one result is pending. "But the main thing is these three positive results are under investigation to find out whether they are historical cases or new infections," the source said. Former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed and pacer Mohammad Abbas are understood to be among the historical cases.

### FEDERER ANNOUNCES RETURN OF RF LOGO

LONDON: Tennis star Roger Federer made a rare appearance in 2020 as he announced the return of his 'RF' logo in a cheerful video posted on his social media account. The 39-year-old seemed to be in a good mood as he revealed the new RF caps, which also have the newer 'ROGER' logo at the back. The popular logo with his initials had remained with Nike, his old apparel sponsor, when the Swiss star switched to Japanese brand Uniqlo two years ago.

### BARCELONA RESTS MESSI AGAIN IN CL

BARCELONA: Barcelona will be without Lionel Messi, Marc-Andre ter Stegen and Philippe Coutinho for the Champions League match at Ferencvaros on Wednesday. The players will be rested by coach Ronald Koeman. Barcelona secured a spot in the last 16 after winning its first four matches in Group G. Messi had already been rested for the match against Dynamo Kyiv in the previous round.

### HOLDER JOINS SYDNEY SIXERS FOR BBL-10

SYDNEY: Sydney Sixers have signed West Indies Test captain Jason Holder on a three-game deal for the upcoming edition of the Big Bash League. Holder, who is currently in New Zealand preparing to lead the West Indies in a two-match Test series, will join the Sixers in Hobart later this month. The 29-year-old will be available for the Sixers for their December 20 clash with the Adelaide Strikers in Hobart, before moving to the Gold Coast with the men in magenta for a December 26 fixture against the Melbourne Stars and the December 29 match up with the Melbourne Renegades.

### BLACK CAPS ADD CONWAY AS WATLING COVER

HAMILTON: New Zealand have added Devon Conway in their squad as an injury cover for regular wicketkeeper-batsman BJ Watling, who has picked up a hamstring niggle ahead of the two-match Test series against West Indies team which begins Thursday at the Seddon Park. Watling picked up the injury in the opening round of the Ford Trophy, New Zealand Cricket informed on Tuesday.

### BACH ONLY CANDIDATE FOR IOA PRESIDENCY

LAUSANNE: IOA says Thomas Bach will have no opponents for his re-election as president in a vote scheduled in March. More than 100 IOC members were told Bach is the only candidate for the presidential poll at their meeting due to be staged in Athens. Bach is eligible for four more years in office after winning an eight-year term in 2013. His final term begins officially after the Tokyo Olympics close on Aug 8.

## Pak players scared of asking for break: Amir

KARACHI: Pakistan pacer

Mohammad Amir says players of the national team are scared of asking for a break even when they feel exhausted as they apprehend being dropped from the side altogether due to a "communication gap" with the team management.

Amir, who has retired from Test cricket to prolong his career in the shorter formats, said communication and understanding needs to be better between players and the management.

"The problem is that if a player musters the courage to say in Pakistan cricket that he wants

rest, he is dropped, so players are now scared about speaking about it with the management," he told the News One channel.

"There is a mindset in Pakistan cricket where players are scared of being dropped from the team. I think this communication gap should be removed between players and the management. If a player wants to take a break he should be happy to speak about it with the management and they should understand his point of view and give him a rest instead of dropping him from the team," he said.

PTI

## Fulham fix penalty woes to beat Foxes

LEICESTER: Fulham climbed out of the Premier League relegation zone on Monday after finally solving their penalty woes in a shock 2-1 win at Leicester, while West Ham rode their luck to move into fifth place with a dramatic 2-1 victory against Aston Villa.

Scott Parker's side won for just the second time in the league this season thanks to Ademola Lookman's 30th minute opener and Ivan Cavaleiro's penalty eight minutes later.

Fulham had missed three of their four previous penalties this term, but Cavaleiro held his nerve to convert from the spot for the crucial second goal. Harvey Barnes scored for Leicester in the 86th minute, but Fulham held on and move one point above the bottom three.

At the London Stadium, West Ham earned a third successive victory after Villa striker Ollie Watkins missed a late penalty and then saw a stoppage-time equaliser disallowed by VAR.

West Ham got off to the perfect start in the second minute when Angelo Ogbonna made an astute run to the far post and rose above Matt Targett to head a corner past Emiliano Martinez.

Villa drew level in the 25th minute when Jack Grealish ran at the West Ham defence before letting rip with a 20-yard drive that took a slight deflection on its way past Fabianski.

West Ham regained the lead in the 46th minute after an inspired substitution from David Moyes. Moyes sent on Said Benrahma at half-time and with his first touch the winger chipped in a cross to Jarrod Bowen, who glanced a deft header over Villa keeper Emiliano Martinez for his fourth goal of the season.

राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग

### जमाबंदी में करें सुधार, परिमार्जन पोर्टल है तैयार।

(विजिटिटाइज्ड जमाबंदी पंजी में अशुद्धियों के सुधार हेतु पोर्टल)

बिहार के जमाबंदी रैयतों के डिजिटिटाइज्ड जमाबंदी पंजी में अशुद्धियों के सुधार हेतु आवेदन करने की प्रक्रिया

1. <http://www.biharbhumi.bihar.gov.in/parimarjan/> को चोर्से।

2. दिए गए मोबाइल नं० पर प्राप्त OTP को भर कर verify OTP बटन को प्रेस करें। तदोपरान्त पत्राचार का पता भरें।

3. 'मू-विवरण' सेक्शन में आप जमाबंदी, जिससे सम्बन्धी शिकायत करनी है, का विवरण भरें।

4. सही सूचनाएँ भरने के बाद आप Submit बटन पर क्लिक करें।

5. आपकी शिकायत दर्ज हो जायेगी तथा आपको एक Acknowledgement No प्राप्त होगा।

6. 'अपनी शिकायत पोस्ट करें' पर क्लिक करें।

7. अपना व्यक्तिगत विवरण यथा नाम, ई-मेल, मोबाइल नं० इत्यादि भरें। 'send OTP' बटन पर क्लिक करें।

8. 'परिवाद का विवरण' सेक्शन में आप सम्बन्धित शिकायत के विषय को चुर्से।

9. शिकायत के विषय से सम्बन्धित विहित प्रपत्र में आप अपनी जमाबंदी की सही विवरणी भरें तथा सुझावे गए आवश्यक कागजात में से उपलब्ध दस्तावेज को संलग्न करें, सभी दस्तावेजों का एक पीडीएफ बनायें तथा 'Choose Document' से उसे अपलोड करें।

10. आप 'Track your Grievance' मेनु से अपने शिकायत की स्थिति जान सकते हैं।

PH-8994 (Rev/Nov/20 2020-21)