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INHERITORS
OF CULTURE

WORLD 8
THAI ACTIVISTS URGE UN TO HELP
REPEAL ROYAL DEFAMATION LAWS

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10 VIVACITY



Farmers threaten to halt India in tracks

Union leaders say blocking of railway tracks will not be limited to Haryana and Punjab but it will be done across country, reason that farm is a State subject so Central laws illegal

STAFF REPORTER/AGENCIES ■
NEW DELHI

The farmers who have been agitating for the past two weeks against the new agri laws on Thursday announced that they will block railway tracks if their demands are not met by the Government.

The farmers' unions, which held a meeting on Thursday, said they will soon announce a date for blocking tracks across the country.

Addressing reporters at the Delhi's Singhu border where they have been protesting for almost two weeks to demand a rollback of the agri laws, the farmers' unions also reiterated that they will intensify their agitation and start blocking all highways leading to the national Capital.

"We will block railway tracks if our demands are not met. We will decide on the date and announce it soon. The blocking of tracks will not be limited to Haryana and Punjab but it will be done across the country," farmers' leader Boota Singh said at the press conference.

"The Centre has admitted that laws have been made for traders. If agriculture is a State subject, the Centre does not have right to make laws on it," said Balbir Singh Rajewal, another leader.

Thousands of farmers have been protesting at various border points of Delhi for almost



Farmers hold sit-in at the UP side of the Ghazipur Border of Delhi to protest against the new farm laws on Thursday
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

two weeks seeking a repeal of the new agri laws, which they claim were aimed at benefiting corporates by weakening the "mandi" system and the minimum support price (MSP) regime for procurement of farm produce.

The Government had on Wednesday proposed to give a "written assurance" that the existing MSP regime for procurement will continue.

However, the farmers' unions rejected the proposal and said they would intensify their agitation until the Government accepts their demand for a complete repeal

of the three laws. The Government has also proposed to make necessary amendments on at least seven issues, including one to ally fees about the weakening of the "mandi" system.

"Five rounds of talks have already been held with the Government, but they remained inconclusive. So far, the Government has not sent us any invitation for another round of talks. If Government sends us proposal for a meeting, we will decide it in our meeting," another farmer leader Shiv Kumar Kakka told PTI.

Asked about solution to

ongoing standoff with the Government, Kakka said, "only God knows."

"We are facing a lot of difficulties due to cold weather and the Covid-19 pandemic, but despite this, we will continue our protest until our demands are met," Kakka also added.

Meanwhile, Chandigarh-based farmers' organisation AIKCC, not one of the 40 unions that are protesting at Delhi borders seeking repeal of the farm laws, on Thursday welcomed the Government's gesture to keep the dialogue open with farm leaders.

Govt has open mind, farmers should discuss proposals, says Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a fresh attempt to explain the Government's offers to farmers and try to allay their fears, the Government on Thursday invited them for talks with an open mind. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar also urged farmers to go through the proposal of amendments that the Government is planning to incorporate in the farm laws.

Replying to whether the Centre would consider a new bill on minimum support price (MSP), Tomar said it has got nothing to do with these laws.

"It was not proper to announce the next stage of agitation when talks were continuing. We gave our proposals to farmers after meeting them and therefore we urge them to consider those. If they want to discuss those proposals also, we are ready for that too. Any law cannot be entirely defective. I urge unions to set a date for discussion," said Tomar.

He was addressing a Press conference, along with his Cabinet colleague Piyush

Goyal. Tomar assured farmers that the new laws will not affect the APMC Act or MSP mechanism.

The Minister said the Government kept waiting for suggestions from farmers' leaders to address their concerns. "We sent a proposal to farmers. They wanted those laws to be repealed. We are of the stand that govt is ready for open-minded discussions on provisions they have an objection against. Laws don't affect APMCs or MSP. We tried to explain this to farmers," he said.

"The Government wanted to liberate the farmers of the shackles of mandi so that they could sell their produce anywhere, to anyone, at his own price, outside the purview of mandi," stated Tomar.

"It is being projected that the land of farmers will be occupied by industrialists. Contract farming has been going on for a long time in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka but there has never been such experience," Tomar said.

Continued on Page 2

Pawar may head UPA to shore up anti-BJP unity

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

In what could be a major political development in the Opposition camp, NCP chief Sharad Pawar might replace Congress president Sonia Gandhi as the new chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA).

Sources in a couple of constituents of the UPA confirmed that initial talks have already taken place in this regard and the move may have the endorsement of both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

The move comes at a time when both Sonia and Rahul are struggling to contain the infighting within the grand old party after the miserable performance of the Congress in the recently held Bihar Assembly elections and the Hyderabad Municipal polls.

With Sonia's health not permitting her to actively lead the Opposition against the BJP, and Rahul not acceptable as a leader to many Opposition stalwarts, the elevation of Pawar could be the first step towards creating a pan-India anti-BJP plank.

Pawar will have the mammoth task of reviving the moribund Opposition camp where the Congress has failed to play the lead role. In fact, after the Congress flop show in Bihar Rahul became the butt of jokes

and attacks both from leaders of the Opposition and the BJP. At the same time, a section of Congress leaders have been questioning the leadership of an "aloof" and "unwell" Sonia to lead the Opposition fight back against the BJP.

A senior AICC functionary said that Rahul is yet to agree to return as the Congress president and does not desire to succeed his mother as the UPA chairperson.

"In the given situation, there are chances that while Rahul Gandhi can continue to be the face of the UPA, Pawar, being the senior-most leader might become its chairperson. Sonia may continue as an adviser only," said the functionary.

"There is a need for a chairperson who is a veteran and astute politician, and who can negotiate with other parties. Pawar has the stature to hold talks with senior leaders like Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, and if required with leaders like Nitish Kumar," said a UPA leader.

The NCP and the Congress are part of the coalition of the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Agadi Government in Maharashtra. Pawar was the key man in stitching the alliance along with late Ahmed Patel, Congress' leader and a long-time adviser to Sonia.

Continued on Page 2

'New Parl building a Atmanirbhar Bharat sign'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament complex, saying the new building will be the witness of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Pujaris from Sringeri Math performed the rituals for the "Bhoomi Pujan" conducted by the Prime Minister, followed by prayers by all religious groups. Later the PM laid the foundation stone of the new building in the presence of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Harivansh. The messages of President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President Venkaiah Naidu were read out in the function.

The new Parliament building in 64,500 square metre will cost ₹971 crore and is estimated to be completed by 2022 and expected to conduct the session on 75th anniversary of Independence.

Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hardeep Singh Puri, Dharmendra Pradhan and many foreign envoys attended the function.

"This is a day of pride for over 130 crore Indians when we are witnessing this historic



Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone of the new Parliament building during a ceremony in New Delhi on Thursday
PTI

moment. The new Parliament building is an example of the co-existence of the new and the old. This is an effort to make changes within oneself in accordance with time and needs. The old building fulfilled the needs of the country, the new Parliament building will fulfill the country's aspirations. If the old Parliament House gave direction to post-Independence India, the new building would become a witness to the creation of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat,' said Modi.

Terming the current

Parliament building constructed 100 years ago as the beacon of democracy, the PM said it had fulfilled the needs of the country, and the new building will fulfill the country's aspirations and ambitions. Modi said the new Parliament complex will help the legislators as well as those who come to meet them. He said there were space constraints in the old building that has been taken care of in the new complex.

Continued on Page 2

Modi building a palace for himself: Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and other Opposition parties on Thursday questioned the timing and need for a new Parliament building amid the coronavirus pandemic and the farmers' protest.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala criticised the PM for the ceremony and "building a palace for himself" even as the farmers' protest entered its 16th day. In a separate tweet, he said

Parliament "is not mortar and stones", but it imbibes the Constitution and represents values like democracy, equality and compassion.

"What would a building built upon trampling of these values represent," Surjewala asked.

CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury took exception to Modi's speech at the foundation laying ceremony, where he spoke about values and culture of democracy.

Continued on Page 2

Nadda's convoy attacked in Bengal, BJP slams TMC rule

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■
DIAMOND HARBOUR

The saga of political violence in Bengal reached a new low with alleged Trinamool Congress members on Thursday attacking the convoy of BJP president JP Nadda and other senior saffron leaders, including Kailash Vijayvargiya, Mukul Roy and State party president Dilip Ghosh.

Nadda, who was riding a bulletproof vehicle, escaped unhurt. But Roy and some other local leaders received minor injuries, sources said adding one BJP man got a fractured forehead. The attack triggered widespread criticism with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who otherwise enjoys a good personal chemistry with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, raising serious concern over the falling law and situation of the State.

Reacting to the incident Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Bengal has descended into an era of tyranny, anarchy and darkness under the Trinamool rule. The manner in which political violence



Injured BJP national secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya receives treatment following an attack by alleged TMC activists on BJP national president JP Nadda's convoy at Sirakal near Diamond Harbour in South 24 Pargana on Thursday
PTI

has been institutionalised and brought to the extreme in West Bengal under TMC rule is sad and worrying."

The incident took place post noon when Nadda's vehicle was going past Sirakol More en route to the port town of Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas. When the convoy approached the junction hundreds of slogans shouting men carrying Trinamool flags pelted stones and full-sized bricks at the vehicles smashing the windows and windshields.

The TMC activists stopped

the BJP workers on motorbikes, threw them on the ground, and rained blows on them in front of the media men some of who intervened to rescue them.

Diamond Harbour falls in the Parliamentary constituency of Abhishek Banerjee, the nephew of the Chief Minister.

While one broken bottle pierced through the window of Ghosh's vehicle hitting one of his personal security staff, stones flying in from all sides smashed the windows of almost all the vehicles.

Continued on Page 2

BJP men attacked Sisodia residence, accuses AAP, BJP rejects allegation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Thursday claimed that the house of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was "attacked by BJP goons" but the Delhi BJP refuted the charge, saying their protest was peaceful.

The Delhi Police also said the allegations that the gate of the Deputy CM's residence was damaged or broken are "incorrect" and a case has been registered under appropriate sections in the matter.

The Delhi Commission for Women said it has set up an enquiry into the incident and has also sought response from the Delhi police.

The BJP workers earlier staged a protest near Sisodia's residence a day after its leaders lodged a police complaint alleging that there was a "conspiracy to kill" mayors and leaders of the party-led municipal corporations.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal condemned the alleged attack on Sisodia's residence and asked why is BJP getting so desperate by the day in Delhi.

CAPSULE

AIR QUALITY 'V POOR' IN GZB, NOIDA, FARIDABAD
Noida: The air quality improved in Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida and Faridabad but stayed in the "very poor" category while it was in the "poor" zone in Gurugram, according to a Government agency data on Thursday.

9 NEWBORNS DIE IN KOTA HOSPITAL
Jaipur: Nine newborns have died at a State-run hospital in Kota city of Rajasthan within a span of hours, officials said on Thursday.

Five of the babies, who were 1-4 days old, died during Wednesday night and four more on Thursday at the JK Lon Hospital, an official said. The health facility had hit national headlines in December last year over deaths of unusual number of infants.

In veiled attack on China, Rajnath calls for self-restraint at ASEAN summit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As logjam persisted at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday called for exercising self-restraint and avoid actions that may worsen situation.

He was speaking at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), a platform comprising 10-nation ASEAN and its eight dialogue partners, including India and China.

Rajnath's counterpart Weng Fei was also present. The two leaders held more than two-hour long one on one face to face talks two months ago on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Moscow. The two Ministers had then discussed ways to

defuse tension at the LAC. The latest note of caution by Rajnath came in the backdrop of aggressive military behavior of China in Ladakh, South China Sea and Indo-Pacific region.

Rajnath also said self-restraint has to be observed in the conduct of activities and avoiding actions that may further complicate the situation.

In his address, Rajnath talked about "the current regional environment with visible strains", and appreciated the central role of ASEAN-led forums, including ADMM-Plus in promoting dialogue and engagement towards a pluralistic, cooperative security order in Asia.

"As we enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities and avoiding

actions that may further complicate the situation, will go a long way in bringing sustained peace to the region," he said.

The Defence Minister also said the ability of the grouping to collectively respond to challenges based on the fundamentals of freedom, inclusivity and openness in the region will define its future.

"Threats to the rules based order, maritime security, cyber related crimes and terrorism, just to name a few, remain the challenges that we need to address as a forum," Rajnath said.

On the Indo-Pacific region, the Minister said an impetus has to be given to cultivate strategic trust and continuously promote ASEAN centrality in the regional architecture.

Continued on Page 2

Covid 3rd wave in Delhi on wane: Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 positivity rate in Delhi has been on decline and it has hovered around five per cent for the past seven days which is a sign of relief, said Minister of Health and Family Welfare Satyendar Jain. He said the third wave of Covid-19 pandemic is not over yet but it is "definitely on the wane".

Delhi recorded 2,463 new Covid-19 cases and 50 fatalities on Wednesday, the lowest number of deaths in a single day since November 1.

As the positivity rate slipped to 3.42 per cent, Jain had on Wednesday tweeted that it was heartening to see that the national capital is "emerging victorious" in the battle against the coronavirus. "Cases are falling, and death count in a day is lowest in the last 40 days. The situation has improved, and we can

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 97,83,292

DEATHS: 1,42,005

RECOVERED: 92,71,933

ACTIVE: 3,66,870



definitely say the third wave of the pandemic here is on the wane. It is not over, but on the wane," he said.

On plans of Covid-19 vac-

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	18,64,348	47,902	17,42,191
Karnataka	8,96,563	11,900	8,61,588
Andhra Pradesh	8,73,995	7,047	8,61,711
Tamil Nadu	7,94,020	11,836	7,71,693
Kerala	6,54,042	2,534	5,91,845
Delhi	6,01,150	9,874	5,72,523
Uttar Pradesh	5,59,499	7,987	5,30,854
West Bengal	5,10,951	8,867	4,78,434
Odisha	3,22,642	1,847	3,17,870
Rajasthan	2,87,219	2,500	2,65,689
Telangana	2,75,904	1,482	2,66,925
Chhattisgarh	2,52,638	3,054	2,30,238
Haryana	2,49,329	2,676	2,35,197
Bihar	2,41,534	1,307	2,34,940
Gujarat	2,24,081	4,135	2,06,226
Madhya Pradesh	2,18,574	3,366	2,01,987

ination, he said, healthcare workers and frontline staff will be administered the vaccine first, followed by the elderly and then others.

"If we have vaccine availability, we can vaccinate the entire population in a week's time, we have the preparations ready," he added.

Alternative routes to Haryana-UP face traffic snarls



Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait at Ghazipur Border in New Delhi on Thursday
Pioneer photo

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On the 15 day of farmer's protest at National Capital borders, the Delhi Police alerted commuters about the routes closed and advised using alternative routes for travelling towards Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Meanwhile, the alternate routes to Haryana and Uttar Pradesh also witnessed traffic snarls at several places. According to Delhi Traffic Police, Tikri, Singhu and Dhansa borders are still closed for traffic movement, while Jhatikara border is open only for two-wheelers and pedestrian movement. "Those travelling to Haryana can take Jharoda (only single carriageway), Daurala, Kapashera, Badusarai, Rajokri

NH-8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahera borders," stated Delhi Traffic Police in a tweet. "Singhu, Auchandi, Piau Maniyari & Mangesh pur borders are closed. NH 44 is closed. Please take alternate routes via Lampur, Safiabab, Saboli & Singhu school toll tax borders. Traffic has been diverted from Mukarba & GTK road. Pl avoid Outer Ring Rd, GTK road, NH 44." Additional Commissioner of Police, Traffic Outer Range tweeted. The closure of borders has also resulted in heavy traffic on alternative routes. On Wednesday, farmer leaders rejected a government proposal to amend the new agri laws, and announced they

would intensify their agitation by blocking the Jaipur-Delhi and the Delhi-Agra expressways by Saturday, and escalating it to a nationwide protest on December 14. This comes after the sixth round of talks between the government and farm union leaders, which was scheduled for Wednesday morning, was cancelled. The farmer leaders have been adamant on their demand to scrap the laws, which they say will lead to dismantling of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism and mandis that ensure earning. The government has been defending these laws, saying they will benefit the farmers in the long run and raise their incomes.

Nothing less than total repeal, won't budge, say farmers

STAFF REPORTER ■ GHAZIABAD

Rejecting Central Government's proposal, the farmers continued to protest at Ghazipur border (UP Gate). Farmers demanded, "Nothing less than total repeal of the three farm laws, passed by the Central Government in Parliament, is acceptable. They won't move until Centre withdraws these farm laws". Rakesh Tikait, the national spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union said

that there would be no compromise on withdrawal of the bill and we are sitting here at border and we will remain seated till any conclusion. Tikait said that the December 12 and 14 will be the deciding role of the farmers. "On December 12, all roads will be toll free and on December 14, dharna and demonstrations will be organized in the entire country as a protest," said Tikait. On Thursday afternoon, the farmers became furious when they came to know that the vehicle which had brought fruits for them has been stopped by the police and taken the driver into custody. The farmers blocked the road at UP Gate and raised slogans against the government. Seeing the seriousness of the situation, SP II Gyanendra Singh and Circle Officer (CO) Indrapuram, Anshu Jain reached the spot to calm down the situation. Later, the vehicle and its driver were also freed by the police. Also on Thursday, a delegation of lawyers of Tis Hazari Court, led by Bar Council President Anil Kumar Tomar, reached the farmers' dharna and met them. The advocates assured the farmers that they are in tune with their demands and would provide free legal aid to the farmers. "A panel of lawyers will be ready at all times for legal assistance," they said.

Security beefed up amid threats to block Delhi-Jaipur Expressway

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

After the farmers' unions on Wednesday rejected the Government's proposal to resolve their issues and threatened to cut off the national Capital by blocking the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway on December 12, the Gurugram Police on Thursday beefed up security at several traffic junctions, toll plaza and the border area. The farmer's unions on the other hand asserted that after blocking the Singhu, Tikri, Chilla and Ghazipur borders connecting Delhi to Chandigarh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh respectively, they will now block the Delhi-Jaipur highway that connects the national capital to Rajasthan via Haryana. The move will not only disrupt Delhi's supply chain, but will also put pressure on the busy Highway and commuters may face huge traffic congestion on December 12. As the farmers stir against centre new farms laws continued for the fifteenth consecutive day, the Gurugram Traffic Police have already issued a traffic advisory for crucial traffic points includes Kapriwas border, Bilaspur Chowk, Manesar Chowk, Kherki Daula Toll Plaza, Hero Honda Chowk, Rajiv Chowk, and Shankar

Chowk on the National Highway-48. "We have also enhanced our security arrangements at the border points in view of ongoing farmer's demonstrations. We have issued an advisory to all area concerned officials to take necessary precautionary measures in view of blocking the expressway and toll plaza," ACP (headquarters) Usha Kundu said. The police officials have been asked to intensify patrolling in all sensitive locations specially on border areas and Kherki Daula toll plaza so as to prevent any incident. "The police have already tightened up security and have made appropriate arrangements to prevent any untoward incident. Also, more

than 2,000 police personnels have been deployed in sensitive locations in the district. The Gurugram police also keep in touch with the adjoining districts and state's police to follow movement of the people," Kundu added. A large number of security personnel, including senior police officers, were deployed in all sensitive locations. Also, the concerned police officials of the Gurugram police are keeping visiting the border area and toll plaza to take stock of the preparations. "Amid farmer's calls to block the expressway and toll plaza the Gurugram police are already on high alert. The number of police forces including a rapid action force and extra force have been deputed to face any untoward situations across the district, the ACP said.



There are around 13,000 beds vacant, a number which is unmatched by any other Indian state. Delhi has the infrastructural ability for storage as well as application of the vaccine, and is just waiting for it to be made available, he said. Jain said there were 2463 new cases in Delhi on Tuesday and the positivity rate was 3.42 per cent. "Positivity rate has been constantly declining and has been below the five per cent mark since the past seven days, which is a sign of relief. There were 50 deaths yesterday, but from November 1 to present, this has been the lowest statistic. The positivity rate of RT-PCR test is looming around 6-6.5 per cent and overall positivity rate has come down to three per cent as compared to 15.26 per cent on November 7. The rate has seen a significant difference of 80 per cent," he said. "We can say that the third wave in Delhi is fading away, however it is not over yet. I sincerely thank all the frontline and health workers who have been rigorously active in the course of this pandemic, putting their lives at stake in order to provide service to the citizens. I request all Delhiites to continue taking all the necessary precautions in



Farmers at Ghazipur Border during protest against the new farm laws in New Delhi on Thursday
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

Covid positivity rate on decline, claims Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 positivity rate has continuously been on the decline and it has hovered around five per cent for the past seven days which is a sign of relief as it points to the fact that the effect of the third wave in Delhi is on perpetual decline, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Satyendar Jain said. The health minister said that the Positivity rate has seen a major difference of 80 per cent since November 7. He thanked the frontline and healthcare workers for their contribution to contain Coronavirus. At present,

order to successfully combat the third wave" said Jain. Responding to the query surrounding the death rate, the minister said, "Earlier, we saw a sudden increase in deaths because of the hazardous pollution levels in Delhi. Combined with the virus, a lot of people were indisposed. Still, a lot of people are admitted in the hospitals. This has a lagging effect meaning that we see changes after a gap of 2-3 weeks. Now that cases have decreased, the death rate too will eventually fall." Shedding light on the vacancy of beds in Delhi hospitals, Jain said, "Delhi has 18800

beds, out of which more than 13000 beds are vacant. This number remains unmatched by any other Indian state. However the situation of ICU beds, is under review" "More than two lakh registrations have come for the first trial of the Covid-19 vaccine in Delhi. The priority is healthcare and frontline workers. After which the focus will be on the old and subsequently moving to the entire population of Delhi. Delhi Government is fully capable of rolling out the vaccine to the entire population of Delhi. We are prepared with the storage facilities too," the minister said.

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CRPF sports officer accused of raping wrestler, booked

Chief sports officer denies charge

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has filed an First Information Report (FIR) on the complaint of a 30-year-old Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) wrestler, who has accused the paramilitary's Chief Sports Officer and Arjuna awardee Khajan Singh, and coach Surjit Singh of sexual harassment, rape and intimidation for over three years. Meanwhile, Khajan Singh, a DIG-rank officer in the force, has rubbished the allegations by the CRPF constable who has won several medals at national and international levels. The constable has also accused Khajan and Surjit of running a "sex scandal" in the force and alleged that they have "many accomplices". In the FIR registered at Baba Haridas police station on December 3, the complainant, who joined the force in 2010, alleged that the two sexually harassed female constables and later use them as their accomplice.

"They secretly took my nude photos while having bath. I was blackmailed through these photographs and they threatened that if I do not talk to them, they would circulate my photos and make it viral on the internet," stated the woman constable in her FIR. "They threatened me (constable) with making my photos viral on internet and used it for raping me continuously for over a period of three years. The two allegedly harassed her through show cause notices," as per FIR. The FIR also stated that in March 2014, the woman constable had filed a formal complaint with the CRPF Inspector General, but she was allegedly forced by the accused to withdraw it. It also stated that she had also written a letter to the National Commission of Women (NCW) chairperson seeking action against the two. In her complaint to the NCW chief, she had also sought protection for her life. However, the CRPF

spokesperson Moses Dhinakaran said that FIR of rape charges filed against Khajan Singh, DIG, by a constable woman. "CRPF has taken a serious note of the complaint and has already constituted an Internal Compliant Committee headed by an Inspector General level officer to conduct an enquiry," he said. "As far as FIR is concerned, the department will facilitate the investigation agency in all respects," he added. Khajan Singh was bestowed the Arjuna award in 1984. Hugely successful at the national level, Khajan held the 100m freestyle national record and also clinched multiple gold medals at the South Asian Games (then known as South Asian Federation Games) in 1984 and 1989. "As per the complaint received, we have registered a case and an investigation is underway. The statement of victim is yet to be taken because she is currently out of station," said Santosh Kumar Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka district.

Man kills self with kitchen knife after argument with his family

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old engineer allegedly committed suicide by self inflicted stab injury in his chest using a kitchen knife following an argument with his family. The incident took place on Wednesday night at Sunder Vihar area in Outer Delhi. The deceased has been identified as Udai Mehta, a resident of Sunder Vihar in Delhi. Police said that Mehta was an engineer by profession and was working from home amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. According to A Koan, the DCP, Outer district, the incident took place on Wednesday night and police were informed by a hospital authority that Mehta was brought dead with self inflicted stab injury in chest.

AAP making false allegation on ₹2,457 cr waiver to divert people's attention, says MCD

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Responding to the claim made by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday regarding waiving off a huge amount due on South Corporation, the North Corporation has clarified that the decision to waive off the Rs 2457 Crore was taken because both the corporations have the same commissioner, senior AAP leader Durgesh Pathak, who is in-charge of municipal Corporation said on Thursday. However, North Mayor Jai Prakash refuted the statement saying that no such decision was taken to waive off any amount. "The AAP is making false allegations to divert people's attention. We have been protesting against the Delhi Government demanding due of Rs 13000 Cr towards the corporations but the AAP in order to avoid the issue is making allegation after allegation to

confuse people," he said. AAP senior leader Durgesh Pathak further said "We received a letter from the North MCD as a clarification. In this clarification later the civic body has noted that the Commissioner of both the North MCD and the South MCD are same that is Gyanesh Bharti and the decision to waive of Rs 2457 crores was taken because both the MCDs have the same commissioner." Mayors of all three Municipal Corporations of Delhi (MCDs) and BJP councillors continued their protest on the fourth consecutive day demanding immediate release of Corporation's dues of Rs 13,000 Crore from the Delhi Government. South Corporation Mayor Anamika said that the entire functionality of Delhi Government deliberately not released outstanding amounts due towards the corporation.

AAP to protest against MCDs, apprise people of arbitrary tax hike

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Criticising the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) - ruled municipal Corporations for 'hiking' around 11 different taxes in Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday said that the party will apprise people about this "inhuman" act and organise a mass movement to protest against such "arbitrary" tax hike. However, a senior corporation official said that the decision to hike taxes has not been taken yet. "The proposal was tabled in the budget speech by Additional Commissioners and it will go through several rounds before being passed by the house," he said. In the last three days three MCDs under the BJP have presented their budgets and the move will devastate the citizens who are already broken due to the effect of the pandemic, senior AAP leader and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak on Thursday said, adding that from the property tax to the commercial house tax, residential house tax, charges for a trade license, factory license, health license are among the 11 different taxes hiked by the BJP ruled MCD. Pathak said that at one side the Kejriwal Government which has not increased a single tax in the last six years but doubled the budget and on the other side the BJP ruled MCD which has betrayed the people by arbitrary tax hikes. He said that the BJP has realised that their term in MCD is getting

over within a year. This is why they have planned to completely loot the MCD and destroy the system. "The Corporations have hiked the professional tax which means now the professionals will have to pay more for their professions. Now the people of Delhi will need to pay betterment tax. They have also increased the property transfer tax. If any person in Delhi wants to open a factory then the person will be needed to pay double money for the license of the factory. The rate of trade license along with health license was also hiked. The AAP leader said that the corporations also hiked commercial house tax, residential house tax and charge for cleaning garbage. "We completely oppose all these tax hikes and will protest and organise a mass movement against the corruption and proposed hike," he said.

Mastermind behind 'Hello Taxi' Ponzi scheme held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police has arrested the mastermind behind the 'Hello Taxi' Ponzi scheme through which he had duped more than 350 people to the tune of Rs 10 crores. Police said that a reward of Rs 50,000 was declared on information leading to his arrest. The accused has been identified as Surender Singh Bhati, a resident of Ghazipur, who was arrested after receiving specific inputs on December 9.



According to Dr O P Mishra, the Joint Commissioner of Police, EOW, one Dharmender, along with other victims, lodged a complaint against a company called SMP



Impex Private Limited (Hello Taxi) and its office bearers Saroj Mahapatra, Rajesh Mahto, Sunder Singh Bhati, Harish Bhati and the woman director for cheating by inducing them



to invest in their company Hello Taxi and promised to pay higher rate of interest up to 200 per cent on monthly basis. "But they neither paid the interest nor returned the money. There were more than

900 investors so far and their amount involved is around Rs 250 crore. During investigation, it was found that the directors of the company actively induced the victims to part with their money on the pretext of high returns by investing into Hello Taxi company," said the Joint CP. "The company accepted bookings from the investors without taking approval from the concerned authorities like RBI or SEBI. They initially paid returns to the investors to win their confidence, but later stopped the payments after col-

lecting huge amounts and escaped," he said. "The locations of the company also changed frequently to trap new victims. Initially, the company started its operation from Ghaziabad and after a couple of months, they shifted to Patparganj Industrial Area and Sector-16, Rohini," said the joint CP. "Police had earlier arrested Rajesh Mahto and Daisy Vijay Menon from Delhi and Goa. Another accused Saroj Mahapatra was arrested from Bhubaneswar, Odisha on December 3," said the Joint CP.



CRPF to re-skill its divyang warriors

Establishes world class centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Setting a noble precedent, the CRPF has established a world class centre to re-skill its Divyang warriors.

Never leave our men behind- CRPF's belief in this mantra is not just limited to battles, but the esprit de corps entails that CRPF does not leave its men behind in life too, the CRPF said in a statement here.

CRPF's National Centre For Divyang Empowerment (NCDE)- a centre to skill and re-skill the Divyang Warriors of the force who suffered disability while serving the nation was inaugurated by Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy.

The NCDE is located at

CRPF Group Centre Rangareddy, Telangana and is equipped with world class facilities attuned and customized to the needs of the Divyangs.

Established in proximity to Hyderabad, the Centre will empower Divyang Warriors of the force who suffered disability while serving the nation. While Divyang Warriors face extreme challenges physically and emotionally, their problems can be mitigated by providing them institutionalised help that will restore pride, self esteem, and confidence, the CRPF said.

The NCDE skills Divyang Warriors for national and international para sports events and then re-skills them with vocational and Information Technology courses so that they can contribute to the organisation with pride and dignity.

In addition to high-tech IT lab and sports paraphernalia, the Centre has a state-of-the-art gym, an ambiously pleasant lounge for relaxing and recuperating, sauna and steam treatment infrastructure, physiotherapy room, e-library, recreation zone and meditation space among others.

While the para sport training will prepare the Divyang Warriors for national and international sports competitions, they will also be skilled in the field of Information technology and vocational courses by prestigious institutions like IIT Hyderabad and BITS among others. This will enable them to serve the nation as Cyber Warriors.

Congratulating the Force for this noble initiative, the Minister in his address said that this centre is a salute to all the Bravehearts who have kept the

nation and its citizens before themselves and their families.

CRPF Director General Dr AP Maheshwari recounted how this initiative got further encouragement when the Union Home Ministry declared 2020 as "Manav Samvedana Varsh" for all CAPFs. The DG assured that the force will continue to work towards the welfare of Divyang Warriors.

The history of CRPF is replete with exemplary bravery and insurmountable courage displayed in its service to the nation. Numerous Bravehearts have made supreme sacrifice and many have suffered serious injuries to pay the price for this glory and success. An indebted nation and a proud force salutes its Bravehearts by providing the Divyang Warriors the appreciation, confidence, and support they need in the form of NCDE, it added.

Mins, BJP leaders condemn attack on Nadda

Say it's attack on democracy, seek action against culprits in WB

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP leaders and Union Ministers on Thursday condemned the attack on the party chief J P Nadda by alleged TMC supporters in West Bengal, saying it is an attack on democracy and the Mamata Banejee Government will have to answer to people for this sponsored violence.

They also demanded the strictest possible action against the "goons" who carried out the attack.

As the State gears up for the high-stake assembly polls in 2021, violence has dramatically escalated between the TMC and BJP workers with top leaders from both sides engaging in allegations and the counter allegations.

The alleged attack on Nadda is the latest of the violent incidents witnessed by the

State with BJP stepping up its efforts to put Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on the mat. Nadda, this week, inaugurated the new BJP election office in Kolkata and nine other offices in the state.

Deploring the assault on Nadda, senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said this attack is a reflection of the declining law and order in the state of West Bengal.

"The attack on the convoy of the BJP national president, should be thoroughly investigated and the responsibility of this incident should be fixed," Singh said in a series of tweets.

Taking note of the attack, Union Home Minister and former BJP president Amit Shah said the Bengal government will have to answer to the peace-loving people of the state for this sponsored

violence.

"Bengal has descended into an era of tyranny, anarchy and darkness under the Trinamool rule. The manner in which political violence has been institutionalized and brought to the extreme in West Bengal under TMC rule is sad and worrying," Shah also said in a series of tweets.

Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Piyush Goyal also deplored the attack in a press conference on farm laws dubbed it as an attack on democracy in West Bengal.

"Attack on our national president J P Nadda and senior party leader Kailash Vijayvargiya is a deplorable act. There is a complete breakdown of law and order in West Bengal," Tomar said.

Attacking the TMC-led government in the state for alleged assault on BJP chief,

Goyal said it is an attack on democracy and attempts have been made to muzzle democratic processes in the state. He demanded the strictest possible action against the "goons" behind the attack.

Nadda's convoy came under attack allegedly by the TMC supporters when he was on way to Diamond Harbour to address a meeting of party workers, resulting in injury to several leaders including the party general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya.

In a recent party reshuffle, Nadda while retaining Vijayvargiya as in-charge of the state had also appointed BJP IT Cell (social media) head Amit Malviya as the co-in-charge of the West Bengal, recognising the key role of social media in the high-voltage and competitive poll campaigning vis-vis the TMC.

Aged people living in isolation due to Covid at higher risk of dementia

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As the Covid-19 pandemic is putting many older adults' social lives on hold, restricting them within the four walls of house, health experts have cautioned that this is leaving them at a greater risk of loneliness which, in turn, has also been found to increase the chances of developing dementia by as much as 20 per cent. Dementia is incurable disease in which memory, thinking, communication and social abilities deteriorate over the period of time.

The doctors also warned that due to the aging population with which we are faced, dementia is an emerging pandemic in India.

"Evidence shows social isolation has many implications for older adults, including

depression, generalized anxiety disorders, decreased sleep, and functional impairment. In the long run, if the isolation continues chronically, say more than six months, it may accelerate cardiovascular and brain aging and dementia," said Dr Prasun Chatterjee, Associate Professor, Department of Geriatric Medicine, AIIMS, Delhi.

However, the families can take this opportunity to revive the age-old connections between the youth and older adults which can have win-win situation for both the generation, said Dr Chatterjee who has also penned a book 'Health and Wellbeing in Late Life' which dwells in detail about the old age-related problems including dementia and stroke, cancer to name a few and that



how they can be positively tackled through clinical and non-clinical means.

"During normal times, patients affected by dementia are very vulnerable people and are hugely dependent on family or professional caregivers in their everyday life.

"This Covid-19 pandemic

worsens their vulnerability directly, because of the virus' morbidity and mortality and, indirectly, because of the lack of social and healthcare support which they depend upon.

The double shock of dementia and Covid-19 pandemics has raised major concerns for people with demen-

tia but also their caregivers," a study published in Journal of Alzheimer's Disease Report too has raised concerns about the growing health risk among adults.

Dr Chatterjee suggests that older adults can be encouraged to use digital platforms which will improve their social interactions through intergenerational experience sharing.

He referred to a study which showed that older adults who provided internet-based tutoring to fifth-grade students became comfortable using computers, had improvements in mood, and had an enhanced quality of life from the interactions.

"It would prevent social isolation in the older adults and the youth would be enriched through social connection and

knowledge sharing with older friends," said Dr Chatterjee who through his NGO Healthy Aging India has been successfully implementing an intergenerational learning model in various states in the country.

According to health experts, as India's population ages, the number of people with dementia and Alzheimer's is set to rise to 7.6 million by 2030.

This figure is set to rise to 7.6 million in 2030, according to the Dementia in India Report 2020 published by the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI). Treatments — including cognitive retraining and medication in the early stages — can help slow the progression of the disorder, but can't cure it, it said.

CBI arrests postal superintendent in Midnapore for bribe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Superintendent of Post, Contai Division, Midnapore (East), West Bengal for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹1.3 lakh from the complainant.

Searches were conducted at the residence and office premises of the accused, at Midnapore (East) which led to recovery of about Rs.3.62 lakh in cash and incriminating documents, the agency said.

The accused Bikas Kanti Mishra was produced before the Court of Special Judge, CBI, Cases, Kolkata and was remanded to Judicial Custody till December 23.

order of the complainant who was on transfer, the agency said in a statement.

The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red handed while demanding and accepting the bribe of Rs 1.3 lakh from the complainant.

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Suggestion for holding JEE(Main) 4 times in '21 being studied

In February, March, April, May-2021

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Thursday said that the suggestion of JEE (Main) 2021 to be held four times in a year is being examined on a positive note and if implemented then such a pattern will begin in the end of February (thereafter in March, April & May-2021) for 3-4 days during each time.

The Education Minister said this while speaking about a host of issues during his virtual interaction with teachers, parents and students across the country on the upcoming

competitive and board exams. Nishank stated that in order to provide flexibility and reduce stress, engineering aspirants may have to appear one/two/ three/ four times in JEE (Main) 2021 for admission in the coming academic year.

The Minister stated that the exam will be held once in every month, beginning end of February. The candidate will have option to appear in one/all months. For ranking of candidate, his/her best performance will be considered, he informed.

In a question relating to syllabus and dates of NEET, the Minister clarified that the schedule for NEET (UG) 2021 is being finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and National Medical Commission (NMC). The same would be declared in

near future, he said. Nishank further said that the syllabus for JEE (Main 2021) will remain same as the previous year.

He also mentioned that competitive exams such as NEET and JEE were held successfully and safety of each and every student undertaking the exam was also ensured amidst the Covid pandemic. Speaking on the occasion, Nishank said that the students are the brand ambassadors of the National Education Policy-2020.

He also expressed happiness that a toll free tele-counselling facility for the students was started by the Ministry, providing counselling services to students in India and several countries abroad.

Informing about the Board Examinations of class 10th and class 12th, the Minister said

that the consultations with the stakeholders are in progress for deciding the dates of Board examinations and it will be announced soon based on the feedback from stakeholders.

During the interaction on the safety with students Reopening of Schools for the students appearing for boards, Pokhriyal said that the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education has already issued SOP/Guidelines for reopening of schools which deals with health and safety aspects for reopening schools and learning with physical/social distancing and the academic aspects related to the delivery of education.

Ministries are constantly in contact with states, he added.

SC to J&K HC: Decide pleas to review of Roshni Act verdict

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Jammu and Kashmir High Court to decide on December 21 the pleas seeking review of its verdict scrapping the Roshni Act which conferred proprietary rights to occupants of State land. A bench headed by Justice N V Ramana considered the oral assurance of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Jammu and Kashmir administration, that no coercive action will be taken against those petitioners who have approached the top court in the matter as they are not "land grabbers or unauthorised people".

The bench, also comprising justices Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose, said that it will hear in January last week the appeals filed before it challeng-

ing the October 9 verdict of the high court.

Mehta apprised the apex court that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has already filed a review petition in the high court and said that the authority is "not against bonafide and common people who are not land grabbers". The bench said that pendency of appeals before the apex court would not come in the way of the high court in deciding the review petitions pending there.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court had on October 9 declared the Roshni Act "illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable", and ordered a CBI probe into the allotment of land under this law.

The Roshni Act was enacted in 2001 with the twin objective of generating resources for financing power projects and

SC Bar Association resolves to condemn use of force against protesting farmers

New Delhi: The Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association has resolved to condemn the use of force and repressive measures against farmers protesting against the Centre's new agril laws. The SCBA committee has called upon all concerned to uphold and protect the constitutional right of all citizens to peaceful protest. "The Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association has been dismayed to read reports in the media about the use of brute force to break up peaceful protests, where citizens raise their voices against State actions which they believe denigrate their basic rights."

"The recent legislation on farm produce, which exclude the jurisdiction of civil courts, followed by use of force to prevent the farmers from holding non violent protests for their rights is a case in point. The farmers have sought to present their views on the legislations which in their opinion infringe their rights," the committee said in a release.

conferment of proprietary rights to the occupants of State land.

ED books 4 for money laundering in collective investment scheme fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested four accused persons for alleged money laundering in a case related to collective investment scheme fraud of over Rs 1100 crore by Chennai-based

firms. The ED had initiated investigation under PMLA against Disc Assets Lead India Limited, Chennai and others based on FIR registered by Economic Offence Wing, Tamil Nadu Police under various Indian Penal Code Sections relating to

cheating, criminal conspiracy and criminal breach of trust on the basis of a complaint received from the public.

Disc Assets Lead India Limited, Chennai collected money under various schemes, stating that the customers would pay a fixed amount

every month for a fixed period by the end of which they were promised lands. But the Company defaulted and no lands were allotted.

The SEBI had initiated inquiries against the Company, stating that they were doing business of collective investment scheme for which SEBI's permission was not taken. Then, the Company in order to circumvent these SEBI provi-



sions, started collecting money from the Customers through another Company styled as

Dal Marketing Solutions Limited.

The amount declared to be collected by the Company from the customers was Rs 1,137 crores. But lots of inconsistencies were found between the data submitted by the Directors and the data from the banks.

"Investigations under PMLA revealed that, the amounts collected have been diverted in the form of invest-

ment in various subsidiaries, royalty, donations, land advance, commission etc. to many entities in which their immediate family members /close relatives / employees of DISC were the key managerial personnel," the agency said in a statement.

Based on the investigations conducted so far, the four key persons were arrested. The arrested accused are

NM Umashankar, CMD of Disc Assets Lead India Limited, N Arunkumar alias N Arun, Director of Disc Assets, V Janarthanan, MD of Disc Assets Lead India and Saravanakumar, Director of Dal Marketing Solutions.

The arrested accused were produced before Sessions Court, Chennai and were remanded to judicial custody for 14 days.

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 क्रमांक/एफ.एस.एल./स्टोर्स/सीनि/पीएमएस/17-18/20 दिनांक 05.12.2020

// सीमित निविदा आमंत्रण की सूचना //

वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21 में पुलिस आधुनिकीकरण योजना 2017-18 के अंतर्गत तालिकानुसार उपकरणों का क्रय किया जाना है, जिन्के तकनीकी स्पेसिफिकेशन संलग्न है। निम्न शर्तों के अधीन दिनांक 21.12.2020 तक सीमित निविदा प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है:-

- प्रत्येक आयतम हेतु अलग-अलग सीमित निविदा प्रस्तुत करें।
- निविदा में सामग्री की बेसिक कोमत व जीएसटी की पृथक-पृथक उल्लेख करें। राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला डीएसएआईआर में Notification No. 45/2017 Central Tax (Rate), 47/2017 & 48/2017- Integrated Tax (Rate) Dated 14.11.2017 & Notification No. 51/96-Custom Dated 23 July 1996 के अंतर्गत रजिस्टर्ड है। अतः इसके अंतर्गत जीएसटी 5% ही देय होगा।
- सीमित निविदा हेतु दिये गये लिफाफे पर संदर्भ क्रमांक/एफ.एस.एल./स्टोर्स/सीनि/पीएमएस/17-18/ दिनांक 15.07.2020 व सामग्री का नाम लेख करें।
- वैलिडिटी कम से कम 180 दिवस देना अनिवार्य है।
- सामग्री का मेक/माडल, पम्फलेटस, ग्रेसर इत्यादि आवश्यक रूप से संलग्न करें।
- वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष का जीएसटी जमा करने का सर्टिफिकेट, यूजर लिस्ट तथा फर्म रजिस्ट्रेशन एवं फर्म की वित्तीय स्थिति की जानकारी की सत्यापित फोटोप्रति संलग्न करें।
- ईएमडी- निदेशक एफएसएल के नाम से बैंक ड्राफ्ट, बैंक गारंटी/एफडीआर (वैधता अवधि 06 माह) संलग्न करें।
- सामग्री की सप्लाई एफडीआर बेसिस पर की जायेगी।
- उपकरणों का भुगतान सामग्री के प्रदाय व समिति द्वारा वेरिफिकेशन/इन्स्टालेशन के पश्चात् किया जावेगा।
- देयकरणों के स्पेसिफिकेशन व टर्म एण्ड कंडीशन की जानकारी वेबसाईट www.mppolice.gov.in से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

List of Equipments			
S.No.	ITEM	QTY	Earnest Money Rs.
1	MICROWAVE OVEN	06	4200/-
2	WATERBATH	10	5000/-

निदेशक
 राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला,
 सगर म.प्र.

G-16282/20 जब तक कोरोना ही दवाई नहीं, तब तक हिलाई नहीं।

CPCB issues notices to Central, State Depts for not adhering to pollution control rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With no let-up in the pollution level in the national capital, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Thursday issued notices to over half-a-dozen Central and State Government Departments and agencies in NCR-Delhi region for not adhering to rules and regulations related to construction, demolition and disposal of debris.

The CPCB has also cautioned them "to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations relating to building construction, demolition/debris/waste and dust management, or else the building works will be stopped."

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar stressed on the need to bring together all agencies to tackle

pollution in Delhi area. "All agencies have to fight pollution in Delhi; only then the people of Delhi will get a little relief. I urge all agencies to ensure strict compliance with construction and demolition waste management rules and effective dust management."

He also said that pollution level in Delhi is much higher when compared to other metros like Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai and a few others which has similar number of vehicle and population because of its unique geographical location which results in suspended particles in the environment.

According to an official from the Ministry, a law was enacted by the Centre for the management of building and demolition waste four years ago.

There are also strict rules

for dust management at building sites to prevent pollution.

As many as 50 teams set up to prevent pollution in the National Capital Region found during checking that the rules pertaining to construction projects/works are not allegedly getting followed by several government institutions.

Authorities came across alleged violation of rules at construction sites of Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) projects at Delhi Gate, Moti Bagh, Mandi House, and Tilak Lane. Similarly, CPCB member-secretary Prashant Gargav issued notices pertaining to sites of Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation, Delhi Jal Board, DDA, CPWD, DMRC, NHAI and MTNL, and asked them to adhere to rules, said the official.

Diabetics in ozone polluted areas prone to lung fibrosis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People with pre-diabetes or diabetes who live in ozone-polluted areas may have an increased risk for developing interstitial lung disease, an irreversible disease also known as pulmonary fibrosis with a high mortality rate, says a study.

Given that India has a high number of diabetics at 77 million while polluted air including ozone has caused more roughly 1.6 million annual deaths in the country, these findings should concern the authorities in the backdrop of Covid-19 crisis. More so, as Covid-19 is a respiratory ailment lungs are the most commonly affected organ.

"Our findings are especially important today as we're in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, where we have great concern regarding the conver-

gence of health effects from air pollution and SARS-CoV-2 in susceptible populations like people with diabetes," said James Wagner, lead author and associate professor for the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation. The study is published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives.

Ozone - a gas often referred to as 'smog' - is known to exacerbate certain lung diseases, such as asthma and rhinitis, which are primarily upper airway diseases. However, this is for the first time, the researchers have suggested an association between high ozone concentrations and adverse health effects in the deep lung, which cause difficulty breathing due to lung restriction and stiffness.

Mamata visits farmers sit-in, raps BJP Govt

Kolkata: Expressing solidarity with the farmers' movement Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday came down heavily on the BJP Government for its "mischievous intentions" to rob the farmers, working class and poor to pay the rich. Demanding immediate withdrawal of the triple laws Banerjee alleged "after the new laws the food grains like rice and wheat, potato, onion, edible oil will go to the corporate godowns which are coming up at various places," adding the impact of the law might not be immediately felt ... but its signs will come to be realised during the summer when there will be shortage of eatables and the potato will sell for Rs 40 and onion will sell for Rs 80. She was speaking at a dharna site where the TMC had been protesting against the farm laws for the past three days. The pro-farmer programmes would be continued throughout the State till

December 21, she said. Saying that the Centre was showing false sympathy for the Bengal farmers she said how "the FCI purchased 71 lakh tons of rice from Telengana, 111 tons from Andhra Pradesh while they purchased only 71,000 tons from Bengal ... which shows that there concern for the people of Bengal is fake much like their claims and propaganda materials." Allowing that the Narendra Modi Government was planning to make India a dictatorial state she said "they are telling about one nation one man which is true to a presidential and not parliamentary rule ... they are breaking the federal structure of the state which can be seen from their sudden decisions ... like the ones during demonetisation, partial selling of the railway stocks, divesting of Air India, plans to sell BSNL and Coal India and merging of the prime Bengal bank with other banks

... but we will not let that happen as we will not let Citizenship Amendment Act and NRC take place in Bengal." The Government was acting in a dictatorial manner with merely 300 MPs she alleged saying "when Rajiv Gandhi came to power with 400 MPs he could also have done similar things, but he did not do so because he believed in democracy... this party (read BJP) is planning to do to India what Hitler, Mussolini did to their countries." Elsewhere the ruling TMC on Thursday rolled out a performance chart of the Government indicating that the party was going to polls on development issues. Booklets were released by the ministers in a programme where the government's department wise achievements and schemes have been shown. The booklets would be distributed in all the Assembly constituencies, Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said. PMS

TN CM against farmers' stir, says he fully endorse new agri laws

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI Edappadi Palaniswami, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu lambasted the agitation being staged in national capital New Delhi allegedly by farmers from Punjab and Haryana. Speaking to farmers in the Cauvery delta districts of Thiruvavur and Nagapattinam, he said he fully endorsed the Centre's new agricultural laws which were in response to the long pending demands of farmers in the country. The chief minister said that farmers in Punjab had been under the control of agents and middlemen since long. "Since the new laws have provisions to save the farmers from the exploitation of middlemen and agents, they have instigated the farmers to protest," said Palaniswami. He said the Opposition DMK which is demanding the repeal of the laws was playing to the gallery. "The DMK's election manifesto of 2016 assembly election had demanded the implementation of reforms which have been enacted by the Centre now. How can they make a vault face and ask for the

repeal of such laws," asked Palaniswami. "As a proud farmer, I know the sufferings of the agricultural community, caused by the inability to get adequate prices for the produce due to various reasons. I support the laws as they will protect agriculture and the interests of the farmers," said the chief minister who waded through paddy fields in Thiruvavur, fully and partially inundated due to heavy rains caused by Cyclones Nivar and Burevi. Interacting with the farmers who were affected by the cyclones, he assured that all of them would be suitably compensated once the survey by the department officials was completed. Palaniswami also welcomed Tuesday's Supreme Court verdict giving green signal for the 277.3 km lonh Chennai-Krishnagiri-Salem state-of-the-art National Highway project worth Rs 10,000 crore. A number of organisations had approached the apex court challenging the Government's move to go ahead with land acquisition for the eight-lane Greenfield Highway which would bring down the travel time by half.

5-yr-old Dalit girl raped in UP, two minors held

Jalaun (UP): A five-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly gang-raped by two minor boys in a village situated in Aata police circle area of Jalaun district in Uttar Pradesh, police said on Thursday. The girl was allegedly lured away while she was playing near her house and then gang-raped on Wednesday by the boys living in Sanghi village. The girl's father claimed that three boys were involved in the crime but the police said only two were involved. The police has registered a case against two minors and arrested them, said Additional Superintendent of Police Dr Avadhesh Singh. The girl was first rushed to a hospital for treatment but referred to the Jhansi Medical College since her condition was critical. IANS

UP: Minor thrown off terrace after failed rape attempt

IANS ■ RAMPUR (UP) A 15-year-old girl was allegedly thrown off the terrace of a building by a youth after a failed rape attempt, police said. The girl was rushed to the district hospital with multiple fractures, from where the doctors referred her to a trauma centre in a critical condition. The incident took place in Civil Lines on Tuesday night and the accused was arrested on Wednesday evening. Rampur Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Arun Kumar Singh said the accused, a resident of the Pahari Gate area under the Civil Lines police station, has been booked under several sections. These are: 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 325 (punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and appropriate sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

UP woman ends life by consuming sindoor

Bhadohi (Uttar Pradesh): 26-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide after consuming "sindoor" (vermillion) when her husband refused to take her along to Surat where he worked, police said. Station officer (SO) of Suryava police station, Pradeep Kumar, said, "Vikas Bind, a resident of Danpur village, married Saraswati Devi three years ago. Vikas used to work in Surat district of Gujarat and had come home during the lockdown. "Four days ago, he left for Surat. Saraswati wanted to accompany her husband, but Vikas insisted that she stayed at home and looked after their two-and-half-year-old child," said Kumar. The SO said Saraswati consumed 'sindoor' after Vikas left for Surat, but it was not clear how much of the substance she had consumed. "As Saraswati's condition deteriorated, she was admitted to a hospital where she died on Wednesday," the police officer said. IANS

J&K Police arrest terrorist associate

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested one terrorist associate linked to the proscribed terror outfit Jemaat Awantipora in south Kashmir on Thursday, officials said. The police said that the accused has been identified as Irshad Ahmad Reshi, a resident of Tral. "He was involved in providing logistic support and shelter to terrorists and aiding transportation of arms, ammunition and explosive materials in Tral and Awantipora areas," the police said. IANS

51.2% turnout in 5th phase of J&K DDC polls

Jammu: Barring a few incidents of violence both in Jammu and Kashmir divisions, the fifth phase of polling during District Development Council polls passed off peacefully with over 51 percent voter turnout on Thursday. Addressing a press conference in Jammu late Thursday evening State Election Commissioner KK Sharma said, "Jammu division recorded over 66 percent voter turnout while Kashmir region witnessed 33.57 percent voter turnout during the fifth phase of polling across 37 constituencies, 17 in Kashmir and 20 in Jammu region." The frontier districts of

Rajouri and Poonch recorded the highest voter turnout of 70 percent in Jammu region while Bandipora and Kupwara witnessed over 50 percent polling in Kashmir region followed by Budgam which witnessed over 45 percent polling. Referring to the sporadic incidents of violence reported from Anantnag and Rajouri, the SEC said, "FIRs were booked by the local police in both the cases to identify the miscreants involved in these incidents". He said, barring few incidents the polling process was completed peacefully across Jammu and Kashmir. In both the regions,

Centurions led from the front and walked on foot, with help from close family members, to cast their precious vote with an aim to strengthen the grass root democracy in J&K. Women and first timers also participated in large numbers and waited for their turn outside polling stations. The State Election Commissioner KK Sharma himself posted over half a dozen images of voters, including centurions from Ramban, Kathua, Baramulla and other district headquarters to motivate common voters to participate in the polling process. In Anantnag a few miscreants attempted to disrupt the

poll process and when media teams arrived on the scene the security personnel, deployed in the Sirigufwara area struggled to restore order and prevent chaotic scenes. In the melee few media persons alleged they were manhandled by one of the senior district police officers. Their camera equipment was also seized by the police team. In another incident workers belonging to two different political parties clashed outside a polling station in Rajouri. Some of the workers who were attacked by the workers of a regional party received injuries and rushed to a nearby hospital. PMS

Beef sales in Goa may dry up due to K'nataka's anti-cow slaughter Bill

Panaji: The new anti-cow slaughter bill passed in the Karnataka state Assembly on Wednesday is likely to paralyse beef sales in Goa, a state which is largely reliant on the southern state to fulfill its demand for live cattle or slaughtered beef. "The new law prohibits even the transport of cattle with a jail term. This will make it near impossible for us to bring live cattle to Goa for slaughter," Manna Bepari, president of Quraishi Meat Traders Association, said on Thursday. Majority of the beef sold in Goa is sourced from the neighbouring state of Karnataka, especially from the border district of Belga. On an average, Goa consumes nearly 25 tonnes of beef everyday, and the demand rises during the tourism season which stretches from October to March. The red meat is commonly consumed by tourists, as well as by the members of the minority communities in the state, which account for more than 30 per cent of the population. Over the last few years, supply of beef in Goa's meat stores has been inconsistent on account of erratic functioning of the state's only authorised abattoir, the Goa Meat Complex, which is allowed to slaughter cattle. Raids by cow vigilante groups on trucks transporting live cattle as well as slaughtered beef from Karnataka have also taken a toll on the easy availability of the red meat. IANS

UP's most wanted criminal Sandeep Chauhan arrested in Bharatpur

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH The most wanted criminal Sandeep Chauhan, resident of Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, has been arrested by Udyog Nagar police station in Bharatpur. Sandeep Chauhan is accused of many crimes in Uttar Pradesh. He had recently demanded a ransom of Rs 50 and 20 lakhs from two people in the estuary of Bharatpur. Bharatpur Deputy Superintendent of Police Satish Kumar Verma said that Sandeep Chauhan is a resident of Harduaganj in Aligarh, UP. He has been taken on police remand for two days. 3 days ago, it was reported that Sandeep Chauhan is staying on rent in a house while absconding. It was under siege led by police officer Chandra Prakash. To escape from the police, he jumped from the roof of the house and escaped from his car parked in the back, but the

police surrounded him and caught him. His leg was injured due to a jump. Seized nine mm caliber country-made pistols and nine live cartridges from his possession. Constable Girdhari Lal's leg was also injured while catching Sandeep Chauhan. District Superintendent of Police Amandeep Singh Kapoor said that more than 24 cases against Sandeep Chauhan have been registered in various police stations of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. On November 22, 2020, he, along with two of his associates, shot and killed Himanshu Jewelers owner Rohitash Verma in Narora, Bulandshahr. In September this year, in Jaipur, Arvind Singh was beaten and demanded a ransom of 20 lakhs. In the year 2012, he committed a robbery at SBI Bank in Purana Riche area of Bharatpur in which he was jailed in Saver Jail, Bharatpur for 8 years. Came out of jail in December 2019.

BOLLYWOOD-DRUG MAFIA NEXUS CASE

NCB arrests celebrity hair-stylist, drug peddler

Seizes 16 packets of cocaine
TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI Continuing its investigations into the Bollywood-drug mafia nexus case, the Narcotics Control Bureau on Thursday arrested a celebrity hair-stylist and a drug peddler along with 16 packets of cocaine. Identifying the arrested persons as hairstylist Suraj Godambe and the drug peddler Lalchandra Yadav, NCB's Zonal Director said that while Yadav - an autorickshaw driver - was the supplier, Godambe a popular makeup artist and hair stylist and has worked for some leading production houses - was the receiver. After a raid near "Meera Tower" at posh Oshiwara area Andheri in north-west Mumbai, the NCB sleuths seized 16 packets of cocaine (gross weight 17.6 grams) and drug proceeds amounting to Rs

56,000 and arrested Godambe and Yadav in connection with the seizure. "The duo was caught near Meera Tower in Oshiwara, Andheri (west) and succeeded in affecting the seizure of 16 packets of cocaine (gross weight 17.6 grams), along with auto-rickshaw and drug proceeds amounting Rs 56,000. Later, on opening the cocaine packets, the net weight of cocaine in all 16 packets was found to be 11 grams," an NCB release said. Both Godambe and Yadav were produced subsequently before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, which remanded them in NCB custody till December 16. The preliminary investigations have revealed that Yadav used to supply cocaine on behalf of a Nigerian syndicate. The arrests and seizure come on the heels of seizure of Malana Cream Hash worth around Rs. 2.50 crore and the

arrest of the supplier Jinendra Jain alias Rigel Mahakal in the early hours of Wednesday. While the arrest of Mahakal and seizure of Malana Cream Hash from him and another drug supplier had come after the revelation made during the custodial interrogation no Anuj Keshwani, one of the accused in the Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case, the latest arrest has been made in the Bollywood-drug mafia case. Informed NCB sources said that the agency had for the four months been keeping a close watch on the drug peddling that goes in the western suburbs of Bandra, Khar Juhu, Santacruz and Andheri where most prominent people from Bollywood and entertainment industry live. Godambe has been associated with many celebrities in Bollywood and television industry. Cocaine is believed to be most sought after drug among

the celebrities. The drug peddlers had a roaring business during the lockdown period when most celebrities have confined themselves to homes. The NCB has registered two drugs cases in the wake of the investigations launched by the CBI into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput in June this year upon the directive issued by the Supreme Court. While the first drug case relates to the actor's death, the case is the Bollywood-drug mafia nexus case. Sushant, it may be recalled, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his closed room of his duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai on June 14. More than 25 persons - including Sushant's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik - have been arrested and a large number of persons have been questioned in connection with a case reg-

istered by the NCB on August 28, two days after it registered a case suo moto. Subsequently, Rhea was granted conditional bail by the Bombay High Court in the Sushant death-related drug case on October 7, 2020. As part of the investigations into the second case, the NCB had earlier questioned Bollywood's prominent actresses Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh. In connection with the second case - described as a Bollywood-drug mafia nexus case, the NCB arrested Bharti Singh, her husband Harsh Limbachiya and film producer Firoz A. Nadiadwala's wife Shabana Saeed last month. Last month, the NCB also raided the residence of Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal, questioned him and his live-in partner Gabriella Demetriades and arrested his Australian-architect friend Paul Bartel.

4,470 new corona cases in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: As many as 4,470 more coronavirus cases were recorded in Kerala on Thursday after 52,769 samples were tested, taking the active cases to 59,517, Health Minister KK Shailaja said. She said 4,847 more patients have tested negative, taking the total recoveries to 5,91,845. A total of 26 more Covid deaths took the state's death toll to 2,533. Across the state, 3,16,491 persons were under observation at various places, including 13,924 in hospitals. IANS

MVA leaders demand NDA Minister ouster for Pak-China behind farmer's stir remark

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI Union Minister of State Raosaheb Danve on Thursday landed in the soup over his controversial statement that Pakistan and China were behind the ongoing farmers' protests in the country, with the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders slamming him and demanding his ouster from the Narendra Modi Cabinet. A day after he alleged that there appeared to be a "conspiracy" involving Pakistan and China behind the ongoing farmers' protests, the MVA leaders upped the ante against Danve for his "irresponsible" statement and said that the minister's statement was clear indicator to the fact that the NDA government continued to be "blatantly indifferent" towards the plight of the agitating farmers. While the Congress demanded that Danve be "kicked out" of the Union Cabinet, the Shiv Sena said that if the BJP was sure of the involvement of Pakistan and China in the "conspiracy" behind the protests, then the NDA government should launch "surgical strikes" against the two countries. A minister in the MVA cabinet said that time had come to enter the house of Danve and beat him for his "questionable" statement. Talking to media persons, Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that the Modi government should take Danve's statement and lose no time in

launching "surgical strikes" against Pakistan and China. "If a Union Minister has information that China and Pakistan have a hand behind the farmers' agitation, then, the Defence Minister should immediately conduct a surgical strike on China and Pak. The President, Prime Minister, Home Minister and Chiefs of the Armed Forces should discuss this issue seriously," Raut said. Rooting for Danve's ouster from the Union Cabinet, Maharashtra State Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant said: "We have come to such a pass that the current ruling dispensation dubs all the opposition leaders and those opposing it as traitors. This is a reflection of the rule of dictatorship prevalent in the country. During the past six years, the ruling party leaders see conspiracy behind each of the protests that places in the country". By alleging that Pakistan and China were behind the ongoing farmers' protests, Danve has called the farmers as traitors. That goes to prove that we do not have democracy in the country. All we have is Modishahi in the country. We condemn Danve's statement and demand his removal from the Union Cabinet," Sawant said. Minister of State Omprakash B. Kadu, alias Bachchu Kadu said last time he had laid siege outside Danve's home, and warned that "now, the situation is such that we will enter his home and beat him up" for his anti-farmer utterances.

NCP's national spokesperson Nawab Malik and State Spokesperson Mahesh Tapase also demanded Danve's removal from the cabinet for his statement. "The farmers' agitation is inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's call for Civil Disobedience in 1930 and now they are exercising their constitutional right to oppose the draconian anti-farmers bill," Tapase said. Tapase said it is absolutely shameful that the agitating farmers have lost their trust in the NDA government which remained "blatantly indifferent" to their plight. "The NDA Government should learn from history where dictatorial regimes have been overthrown by agrarian revolutions across the world," Malik said. Malik and Tapase said that when NCP President Sharad Pawar was Union Agriculture Minister in the UPA I & II, he always insisted on higher MSP which in turn yielded higher food production that helped the country's food security concerns. "The UPAs policies increased the financial earnings of farmers, but today the agriculturists are worried about loss of earnings with the 3 new farm laws which throws them at the mercy of the corporate houses," Malik said. Meanwhile, Minister of State Omprakash B. Kadu, alias Bachchu Kadu caused a minor stir in the state political circles when he said that time had come to enter the house of Danve and beat him.

launching "surgical strikes" against Pakistan and China. "If a Union Minister has information that China and Pakistan have a hand behind the farmers' agitation, then, the Defence Minister should immediately conduct a surgical strike on China and Pak. The President, Prime Minister, Home Minister and Chiefs of the Armed Forces should discuss this issue seriously," Raut said. Rooting for Danve's ouster from the Union Cabinet, Maharashtra State Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant said: "We have come to such a pass that the current ruling dispensation dubs all the opposition leaders and those opposing it as traitors. This is a reflection of the rule of dictatorship prevalent in the country. During the past six years, the ruling party leaders see conspiracy behind each of the protests that places in the country". By alleging that Pakistan and China were behind the ongoing farmers' protests, Danve has called the farmers as traitors. That goes to prove that we do not have democracy in the country. All we have is Modishahi in the country. We condemn Danve's statement and demand his removal from the Union Cabinet," Sawant said. Minister of State Omprakash B. Kadu, alias Bachchu Kadu said last time he had laid siege outside Danve's home, and warned that "now, the situation is such that we will enter his home and beat him up" for his anti-farmer utterances.

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION & REGULATION OF TRAINS DUE FOR UPGRADATION WORK

In order to upgrade the infrastructure, Delhi Division of Northern Railway will undertake the Pre-Non-Interlocking and Non-Interlocking work in connection with doubling of track between Ghaziabad and Saharanpur Stations on Deoband - Talheri Buzurg - Nagal - Tapri Section. To execute this work Delhi Division will take suitable traffic blocks of different durations from 11.12.2020 to 23.12.2020. During this period following trains will be cancelled/regulated on the dates shown against each:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No.	Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
04522/04521	Ambala - Delhi Jn - Ambala Special Express	11.12.2020 to 23.12.2020
04507/04508	Delhi Jn - Fazilka - Delhi Jn Express	11.12.2020 to 23.12.2020
09017	Bandra Terminus - Haridwar Jn Special Express	16.12.2020
09018	Haridwar Jn - Bandra Terminus Special Express	17.12.2020
09111	Valsad - Haridwar Jn Special Express	15.12.2020 & 22.12.2020
09112	Haridwar Jn - Valsad Special Express	16.12.2020 & 23.12.2020
02017/02018	New Delhi - Dehradun - New Delhi Shatabdi Exp.	19.12.2020 & 23.12.2020
02171	Lokmanya Tilak - Haridwar Jn Superfast Express	21.12.2020
02172	Haridwar Jn - Lokmanya Tilak Superfast Express	22.12.2020

REGULATION OF TRAIN

Train No. & Name	Regulation of Trains at Station
02055 New Delhi - Dehradun Shatabdi Express	Train will be Regulated for 60 minutes on 19.12.2020 between Ghaziabad & Khatauli Stations

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Democracy in name

The PM may have dedicated paens to the concept while laying the foundation stone for a new Parliament but is his Govt honouring it?



Will a robust Parliament building, in keeping with the needs of the 21st century, also nurture the right spirit of the institution of democracy? Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while laying the foundation stone of a new Parliament building, sounded the right notes, saying the structure would be an amalgamation of the old and new. He consciously threaded the theme of continuity with the past, saying democracy had been inspired by our history, that it was our soul and that it "won't be long before the world would say that India is the Mother of Democracy." On the face of it, one could interpret the Prime Minister's hyperbolic speech as well-meant but

given the crackdown on dissent during his tenure, one cannot help but wonder if his speech was meant to obviate that criticism. Particularly when voices in the establishment have not exactly been supportive of the participatory and accommodative nature of democracy. Or respected the right to dissent, most often equating it with anti-nationalism. Just the other day Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had to step in to neutralise Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant's observation about the perils of "too much democracy." At a webinar, the senior official had said it was "tough" to push reforms in India because "we are too much of a democracy," sounding unfortunately like Chinese observers, who believe that democracy in India is prohibitive. The import of Kant's remarks was not lost considering the Government is besieged by farmers agitating over new laws that were pushed down their throats, ignoring consultative processes between stakeholders. The farmers are not so much against market economics as they are upset by the lack of explainers on how it would disadvantage them or not vis-a-vis the big food corporations and whether they would have price guarantees, considering the minimum support price (MSP) itself is unremunerative at the moment and would be impacted by open market operations. While the farm laws address the need for structural reform in the agriculture sector, in a pandemic-stressed economy, all that the farmers really want is that while fighting debts, they should not be cheated out or exploited further. Nobody is expecting the Government to be welfarist all the time but everybody is certainly expecting to trust it on its word. That has not happened. The Government could have empathetically hand-held them through the change rather than attributing destructive motives to them or demonising them.

The less said about the way the farm laws were pushed in Parliament the better. There was no all-party meeting or even talks with the farmers' representatives. If the passing of the farm Bills by voice vote was any indication, then the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has already become over-confident about subverting parliamentary fairplay and justifying its authoritative weight. Worse, it has even made Parliament a tool in its exercise of power, trampling any opposing view as redundant, even if well-argued. Controversial Bills in this country have always been open for discussion in the House, often moved to relevant parliamentary committees for careful perusal and closing deficiencies. But the use of a voice vote — which is nothing more than a shouting match of who gets heard louder and which is used to pass Bills that are consensual — in pushing the farm Bills changed all that. Though the Bills split the House down the middle, a "friendly" Chair ensured that the voice vote could be resorted to. The Government has enough numbers in the Lok Sabha to override dialogue and even if outnumbered in the Rajya Sabha, it knows it can hijack debate by provoking the Opposition enough and use a voice vote in the resultant din. Or simply take advantage of the latter's boycott. Clearly, cooption is becoming more the rule than the exception. The dilution of Question Hour during the last Parliament session was another example of the Government limiting the scope for deliberation. It is the only time that allows the Opposition equal standing and allows it to keep a check and balance on the executive. Even Treasury Bench MPs can ask questions of a Minister for better clarity on policies. Dropping it means reducing the relevance of the MP. Just for comparison, the House of Commons even has a dedicated slot for "Prime Minister's Questions", where the Prime Minister personally answers or explains his Government's functioning. That is unlikely here. How does all this mean "too much democracy" is, therefore, difficult to understand. Particularly, when the Prime Minister highlights the importance of every decision made in the august portals of Parliament as a building block of democracy. Besides monolithic power has not always guaranteed reforms. The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime before 2014 did manage to push economic reforms and achieve growth indices despite the pulls and pressures of a coalition. The Government should in no way give credence to the theory that democracy decelerates progressive action or is anti-reformist. If anything it is an enabler. And it is only when its value gets eroded that people protest. That's their last option to be counted and heard. Had the Government talked to all protesters with an open mind, listened to them and not made them believe that its last word was non-negotiable, protests and demonstrations would not have assumed the proportions they have. But perhaps the Government wants a polarity to justify its muscularity. And though it may believe that protesters are being misled by vested interests, the fact is it is disrespecting democracy by assuming that they can't have a thinking mind of their own.

Public Wi-Fi

Govt approves hotspots across cities and towns but there are concerns about security and data thefts



Accessing Wi-Fi anywhere in the country is expected to be an easy click with the Government giving permission to set up lakhs of public hotspots across the country. The plan includes remote areas and high-density areas in cities. Not only that, information consumption is expected to be easily snackable as connecting to a hotspot has been envisaged to be as easy as opening an app on your smartphone. The network is fairly open as anyone — be it a private individual in a residential area (with a commercial broadband connection), the neighbourhood shop or the vendor — can provide the facility. The Public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) has been conceived to be as revolutionary as the PCO movement of the 1990s that enabled millions of Indians to make phone calls easily and at virtually no cost. The idea of setting up public Wi-Fi hotspots was recommended by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) a few years ago to boost digital connectivity and encourage self-employment. Of course, data management is a humongous task and the Government has set up a tiered system, with Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) at the top, who will then enlist the Public Data Offices or PDOs (operators). No licence fee will be required for providing broadband internet through public networks.

However, with so much data floating around and being easily accessible, there are undoubtedly questions about security risks, particularly in a country like India, which has millions of internet users. The multi-layered architecture that has been conceived by the Government is intended to filter such cyber threats and misuse of personal information but it is still leaky. Besides telecom companies see no business sense in public Wi-Fi, given the low data rates and security concerns. As it is, social media platforms have been wildly manipulated in this country by vested interests, and increased access to the internet does come with its attendant risks of data-mining and identity thefts. Of course, pandemic-appropriate behaviour now demands that there be increased digitisation and the Government has jumped at the opportunity to consolidate this space. India will soon have 700 million broadband users, which will only swell in years to come. Done with good intentions but is it practical to implement, considering connectivity continues to be denied to Kashmir on grounds of security threats?



JS RAJPUT

At the mid-point of the 20th century, "growth, progress and development" emerged as the key drivers of policy formulations in most developing countries. Developed countries were too keen to offer "ideas, strategies and experts" in such initiatives, mostly for reasons that were no secret to anyone. All of this resulted in the Western psyche being sustained in the former colonies, clandestinely suppressing the emergence of ideas, imagination and endeavour that was rooted to the soil and tradition of knowledge quest in each of these nations. The only encouraging sign is the realisation of this quiet intrusion. So there is an emergence of initiatives that are "rooted to culture and committed to progress." The most illustrative example is the formulation of the National Policy of Education (NEP), 2020.

In 1937, India had already prepared a well thought out plan on foundational learning or *Buniyadi Talim*. Proposed by Mahatma Gandhi, it was meant to replace the transplanted alien system. It preferred continuity. Its focus on drawing the best out of body, mind and spirit clearly links it to Indian culture and heritage and simultaneously takes note of international requirements and aspirations to ensure that young Indians are not deficient in any context. It is evident in the NEP that next generations have to play a far greater role not only within India but also on the global stage. People are looking towards India to play a great role in humanity's march towards a world of peace, tranquility and cohesion. Towards this end, every learner must comprehend and internalise the strength of Indian culture and its inherent nature of universality.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals or SDG-17 are the global expression of common concerns being faced by humanity. To be achieved by 2030, these include education as SDG-4, which aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." One of the most challenging and an ambitious goal is the Target 4.7: "By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender

Inheritors of culture

People are looking towards India to play a great role in peace, tranquility and cohesion. Every learner must internalise the strength of Indian culture and its inherent universality



equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development." To achieve this target, and every other contained in SDG-17, India, too, needs an education that acculturates. Even a cursory perusal of the NEP, 2020, would indicate that it comprehensively embraces all of these aspects and has persistent emphasis on acculturating its learners. It begins with a comprehensive statement of the eternal goal of education and learning: "Education is fundamental for achieving full potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development." This policy very clearly acknowledges the emerging role of India on the global stage and, at the same time, recognises the need to transform the existing systems of teaching and learning to ensure that it consistently, and in a dynamic manner, derives its nourishment and enrichment from the very soil of this land. Culture is a dynamic entity and only such cultures, which did not discard the assimilations necessitated by the changing times, have survived. It was very suitably stated by MK Gandhi in *Harijan* of May 9, 1936: "The Indian culture of our times is in the making. Many of us are striving to produce a blend of all the cultures, which seems today in clash with one another. No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive." Accordingly, he had all the respect for European and Western culture, which was suitable in that context but was fully convinced that copying it would be ruinous to India. It would be interesting how Gandhi could foresee the future and write in 1931 that: "I make bold to say that Europeans themselves will have to remodel their outlook if they are not to perish under the

weight of the comforts to which they are becoming slaves."

Unfortunately, the glamour and glitz of materialistic pursuits gradually took precedence over spiritual quest and have landed the entire humanity in a badly wounded man-nature relationship. India's destiny lies in its traditional ways of respect for nature, life and its acceptance of every conceivable diversity created by nature, *Ekam Sat Viprah Bahudha Vadanith* - Truth is one. In such a philosophical comprehension, there could be no place for disrespect to any culture, religion or faith. It was realised by luminaries who could take an unbiased and objective view on India, its culture and the tradition of knowledge quest. Great historian Arnold Toynbee is often quoted for having said that a chapter which had a Western beginning will have to have an Indian ending. This, he found, was necessary to prevent the self-destruction of the human race. Could there be a greater tribute to India and its heritage? Does it not astonish us that now scientists are calculating how long the planet Earth would survive? India has to write the chapter that would bring back the culture of acceptance of and respect for diversity, a tradition it has practised over thousands of years. When Mahatma Gandhi wrote that nature has sufficient resources to meet the need of everyone but not the greed of any one, he was echoing the eternal value of *aparigraha* or non-accumulation. Now the responsibility of India is to realise its global obligation to revive its own culture, live it and let the world learn from it.

Developments in science and technology have reduced physical distances and provided instantaneous global connectivity up to the last man in the line. So demographic variations became inevitable. Poverty,

hunger, violence and terrorism have accentuated human migration. When people move in large numbers, they carry with them their religion, language, culture, traditions and practices. It has deep implications for mutual acceptance of diversity in every aspect of human life. These could lead to widespread differences and even to sporadic violent clashes. What happened recently — as well as in the past — in France is only one of such instances that indicate the gravity of the concern.

Things are particularly tough for nations which had the experience of one culture, one language and one religion. Over the last three decades, it is globally recognised that one of the most prominent challenges before humanity is "learning to live together." The uninitiated are often amazed to witness the continuity of the Indian tradition of acceptance of diversity — particularly of faiths and religions — and tradition of mutual respect that existed all along, unless it was deliberately distorted and disturbed by external elements. Is it possible to ignore how Emperor Asoka transformed after the Kalinga War and consequent massacre and his acceptance of Buddhism? But it did not impact his reverence for other religions. His rock edicts clearly indicate the importance he attached to the "advancement of the essential doctrine of all sects." His twelfth rock edict contains an eternal message that is universally applicable even today: "This progress of the essential doctrine takes many forms, but its basis is the control of one's speech so as not to extol one's own sect or disparage another's on unsuitable occasions, or at least to do so mildly on certain occasions. On each occasion one should honour another man's sect, for by doing so, one increases the influence of one's own sect and benefits that

of the other man's, while by doing otherwise, one diminishes the influence of one's own sect and harms the other man's." It's very clear — if any clarity is needed — that Indians had learnt much ahead of others "to live together."

At this juncture, human existence is at stake. There are several well-delineated factors — consequences of human follies — responsible for our sufferings. It must be acknowledged and accepted that misinterpreted religion is the easiest refuge of the rogue elements to create dissension. As the inheritors of the legacy of luminaries like Asoka, is it not obligatory on the part of India and Indians to practise this legacy?

The answer is simple. Each generation has to acquire, internalise and find its own "self-fulfillment" by "living up to its fundamental values afresh." In his illustrious essay, *Significance and Vitality of Culture*, K.M. Munshi refers to this recapturing of the values of culture by each generation by a "subtle process of reinterpretation, reintegration and adaptation." In his words, "When the culture is living, the promising young man and woman of the generation receive the impact of its fundamental values. The sensitive and the vigorous among them become each a human laboratory, which purifies the fundamental values relating them afresh to the central idea; stimulates them to meet the needs of the times; reintegrates the subsidiary values with fresh vigour of the new interpretation and shapes the traditions and institutions not only without impairing the strength of the collective will, but by giving it a new edge." This articulates the challenges before the individual, family, society, education and institutions. They — and hence India — must rise to the occasion.

(The author works in education and social cohesion)

SOUNDBITE

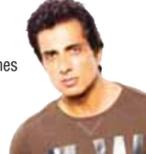
We need a forceful, dynamic and rapid action plan to limit global greenhouse gas emissions to save us and our planet.

Bangladesh PM — Sheikh Hasina



I wanted to connect with every individual who did something during these tough times for a common man.

Actor — Sonu Sood



I haven't got any work since the last eight months and I am sure there are a lot of people like me out there.

Singer — Mika Singh



In this decade it has been Virat Kohli who has had the most impact on the matches that India has won.

Legendary batsman — Sunil Gavaskar



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A strong NATO

Sir — It is good for Europe that the NATO is rejuvenating. Earlier, it was a deterrent for the East Bloc backed by the Communist Soviet Union. It is being realised slowly that a strong Europe is a necessity with NATO as a part of it.

Russia's involvement in the US elections the last time around was a warning sign for that nation. As soon as US President-elect Joe Biden takes office, he must rescind President Donald Trump's order to withdraw 12,000 troops from Germany. Without costing the US a penny, Biden would dramatically repudiate Trump's isolationism and throw a wrench into Russian President Vladimir Putin's divide-and-rule strategy in Europe. Reversing the troop withdrawal would also strengthen NATO, Germany and Chancellor Angela Merkel — whose potential successor will be chosen in mid-January by her Christian Democratic Union — as they battle Putin and home-grown anti-Western populists. NATO membership gives smaller countries a sense of security and the sharing of intelligence among the members prevents terrorism. As it is, the new wave of migrants is posing a great challenge to peace in Europe. A strong

The Govt must heed the farmers' demands

The unprecedented crisis triggered by the enactment of the three new farm laws without building a consensus has created a volatile situation in the country. The time for delaying tactics and procrastination is over. The Government must rise to the occasion and resolve the issue peacefully. The farmers are fully justified in demanding that they be heard. They are not worried merely about the finer details of the laws like tax for APMCs and tax-free procurement by private players, no guarantee of MSP and bar on approaching civil courts for dispute resolution.

The farmers have a mind of their own and they are aware that corporatisation of agriculture forms the substance of the new farm laws. They are convinced that the underlying objective of the laws is to bring agriculture under the control of corporate behemoths and so have not accepted the Government's proposals to amend them. The main objection of growers to the farm laws is that they put corporate interests above the agriculturist's economic interest, way of life, identity and welfare.

The new laws have far-reaching consequences. For instance, they will engender a situation in which the procurement of foodgrains for the PDS will go down drastically. How much the country's food security relies on the PDS needs no reiteration. The vast majority of the people in India hold farmers in great esteem as they grow food



by the sweat of their brow. Hence, they are now lending their full support to the farmers' agitation. Thousands of farmers, who are staging a sit-in on national highways contiguous to Delhi with children, the elderly and women braving the cold for almost two weeks, must be saluted. We must extend our moral support to them for resisting the corporate takeover of agriculture. The rising tide of public opinion against the new farm laws should dissuade the Government from relying on its parliamentary majority (the victory in local body elections in Rajasthan has been construed by some central Ministers as endorsement of the farm laws) and the might of the State machinery to have its way.

G David Milton Maruthancode

A major responsibility

Sir — As the world hurtles towards destruction due to the impact of

climate change on the environment and economies alike, there is some good news on the horizon. Carbon dioxide emissions globally are predicted to fall by seven per cent this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic-linked lockdown and reduced travel and industrial activ-

ities. However, this does not mean that all is well with the world. The planet is still heading for a temperature rise in excess of 3°C in this century, says a report by the United Nations Environment Programme. The *Emission Gap* report, released recently, underlines

that the emissions of the richest one per cent of the global population account for more than twice the combined share of the poorest at 50 per cent. This means that wealthy nations like the US, the EU countries, Australia, New Zealand and others have a bigger responsibility to cut their respective emissions to reach the Paris Agreement goals. It is a good thing that China and India are already doing their bit to lower their emissions. However, it is time that the developed nations understood their responsibility and reduced their impact on the environment.

Ashmit Aaron Noida

Self-reliant India

Sir — The Centre has approved the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana to boost employment in the formal sector and incentivise the creation of new job opportunities during the COVID recovery phase under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0. This is a praiseworthy and much-needed move towards creating a self-reliant India.

Amit Singh Kushwaha Satna

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Vaccine sans politics

It is a matter of debate whether our vaccination should be administered by the Govt or made broader with private sector participation



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

A fortnight ago, I was approached by the district authorities for a possible volunteer opportunity regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, once it becomes available in 2021. That to my mind is the beginning and perhaps end of an era and a change in mindset for a mass vaccination project, unseen and unattempted in human history. The challenge to provide an effective remedy for nearly one-fifth of the human population on planet Earth, in a country, which can be called a semi-continent. Till now, three companies have approached India's regulatory body for emergency use authorisation of their vaccines: Pfizer-BioNTech, the Serum Institute of India with Oxford-AstraZeneca and the home-grown Bharat Biotech with an indigenous vaccine in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The Prime Minister has promised a vaccine availability in a few weeks, post regulatory approvals, and also indicated that there are about eight different vaccines under different phases of trial. Finally, the next two months are going to be crucial in India's march towards a multi-trillion dollar economy, as it rapidly adjusts to the changing global and domestic discourse on the shot, while hoping for immunity for a critical mass of the 1.3 billion plus population.

That leads to a relatively young democracy like India, largely administered via 740 local district authorities and municipalities, to a new governance roadmap, where various models of vaccination have to be undertaken before it can be safe and available on demand across a chemist's counter. A crucial aspect of this mass vaccination programme would, therefore, be Centre-State co-ordination, public-private partnership, engagement at the electoral booth level for personnel who work alongside healthcare professionals or vaccinators, a vaccine management central war room, with nodes spread right to the vaccinating spot in a far-flung district. When India went into one of the harshest lockdowns around the globe in March, it was an experience alien to all. Central Government departments, (for the time being we keep aside district and State-level authorities) that were bound by centuries of office protocols that required a physical signature by an authority before a regulation could be implemented, stretched broadband and hardware resources to facilitate seamless shift of work spaces (or laptops) to homes.

India managed four lockdowns, gradually opening up sector after sector, while ensuring a productive and record-breaking agriculture harvest and managing to avert any serious shortage of food and essentials. The mass movement of migrant labourers walking down streets of large cities or along railway tracks was perhaps the only major negative outcome of the pandemic (if we leave out the impact on an already ailing economy and the job losses). Yet, all of these had a common link in the way State Governments were coordinating with an evolving central leadership on all pandemic-related regulations and best practices. Hence, it would be good for the mass vaccination programme to keep the lessons of the lockdown handy. We must keep the hotlines of communication and supervision in top gear to achieve a healthy 2021 for all. Politicisation of the vaccine, making it an election issue for States going to polls in 2021 and spread of misinformation are all lethal for the nation's vaccination goal. Plus, the Government has a wonderful opportunity of clubbing two initiatives of a high voter turnout and booth-level vaccination simultaneously for the five States that have elections looming on the horizon. Of course, it would require thorough coordination between various State and Central agencies, medico-legal backing and out-of-the-box thinking, to provide jobs to election duty personnel and the electorate at the booth level.

Some of the firms who have applied for emergency application approvals in India have also indicated their willingness to make it available for paying private players besides the Government. National vaccination programmes so far have been tightly State-controlled and have proven to be an effective means of preventing once-deadly diseases and viruses. But they have always been used for a certain bracket of the population, never exceeding 30 million in one shot. It is a matter of public policy and debate whether India's vaccination should be tightly-controlled and administered by the Government, or made broader, with private sector participation. Estimates suggest that if the Government, as the largest employer, manages to vaccinate all its employees, and larger private players, including those in the healthcare sector, administer shots to their employees and families, nearly 10-12 million people will get vaccinated quickly. That should leave many dosages for the poor and the elderly who should be in the second order of priority for vaccination. Of course, the question and debate over prioritisation, the cost of the shot, State subsidy vs over the counter market prices, are going to be in the headlines for the coming months. However, the Government should allow the private sector to participate with a light touch regulatory lease (at least for the initial six months) in the biggest vaccination project in human history. As we approach 2021, a new world of emerging opportunities and threats awaits India. A new decade of promise and prosperity for the billions of citizens of Naya Bharat may very well begin with an effective job.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE AGITATION THAT IS GOING ON IS NOT THAT OF FARMERS. CHINA AND PAKISTAN HAVE A HAND IN IT. MUSLIMS IN THIS COUNTRY WERE INCITED FIRST.

—UNION MINISTER
RAOSAHEB DANVE



IF A MINISTER SAYS THAT CHINA AND PAKISTAN HAVE A HAND IN THE FARMERS' AGITATION, THEN INDIA SHOULD CONDUCT A SURGICAL STRIKE.

—SHIV SENA LEADER
SANJAY RAUT

Reduce 'time poverty'

It is argued that engagement in unpaid domestic and care work is one of the prime reasons for women's low participation in economic activities



BALWANT MEHTA

NIDHI MEHTA

The Coronavirus pandemic is not showing any signs of abating and with the onset of winter, it is, in fact, spreading exponentially in India and globally too. In addition to the public health emergency, the economic and social disruption that the COVID-19 contagion has unleashed upon us threatens the long-term livelihoods and well-being of millions of people around the globe. Ironically, this year marked the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and it was meant to be a groundbreaking one for gender parity. Instead, with the spread of the Coronavirus, even the restricted gains made in the past are being lost.

The pandemic is not just exacerbating pre-existing gender inequalities within the workplace, it is also exposing the vulnerabilities in the world's social and economic systems, which are successively amplifying the impact of the outbreak. Across every sector, from health to major industries to services, the multiple impacts of COVID-19 are cascading down on women workers just by virtue of their gender.

According to a recent McKinsey report, globally the job security and employment opportunities of women are 1.9 times more vulnerable to this crisis than that of men. Though women make up 39 per cent of the global employment, they account for 54 per cent of overall job losses. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2018-19, women's participation in employment in India is low and significantly less than that of their male counterparts. Women comprised a meagre 18 per cent of the workforce compared to 52 per cent of men before the pandemic. Even as it plunged nearly 30 per cent in the last 20 years, the COVID-19 crisis further accentuated this fall in the work participation rate of women in the country. McKinsey reported that women account for 23 per cent of the overall job losses recorded after the pandemic hit India.

It is argued that engagement in unpaid domestic and care work is one of the prime reasons for women's low participation in economic activities. Women do an average of 75 per cent of the world's total unpaid care work. This includes nurturing the children, caring for the elderly, looking after the differently-abled and domestic chores like cooking, cleaning, washing clothes and so on.

Women's unpaid domestic work is often invisible but has immense value. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) a whopping 16.4 billion hours are spent by women on unpaid care work daily. This is equivalent to two billion people working eight hours per day, without payment. The actual value of this work amounts to nine per cent of the global GDP, which is equivalent to \$11 trillion. Significantly, women's unpaid work is estimated to be valued at almost 40 per cent of India's GDP.

Globally, more people are at home than ever, due to the pandemic-related social distancing measures that have been put in place. As a result of the emerging new norms of work from home, online education, the lack of domestic workers, the need to perform unpaid domestic chores has increased significantly. In India, owing to the existing gender-based division of labour and social norms, the time spent on unpaid activities by career women and home-makers alike has increased disproportionately.



THE STRONG MESSAGE EMERGING IS THAT POLICYMAKERS AND EMPLOYERS NEED TO ACT FAST TO REDUCE 'TIME POVERTY' AMONG WOMEN AND PUSH FOR GREATER GENDER EQUALITY IN THE LABOUR MARKET. THIS INCLUDES REDUCING THE GENDER IMBALANCE AT WORK THROUGH BETTER RECOGNITION, PLUS REBALANCING UNPAID WORK AND CLOSING THE GENDER GAP IN DIGITAL INCLUSION



These activities are time-consuming and physically tiring, and subject to "time poverty", leaving little or no time in the day to undertake all the activities one is required to perform or desires to undertake, like education, job or leisure. In particular, the growing demands of unpaid work and a looming recession are increasingly reducing opportunities to participate in productive economic activities. Therefore, the implications of "time poverty" for women, in particular, are immense, because they are associated with the double burden of paid and unpaid work. Even though this "time poverty" is a global phenomenon, the problem is even starker in India as many of these unpaid activities simply cannot be outsourced because market substitutes or State provisions do not exist in adequate measure.

COVID-19 and time poverty: The time use survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2019 confirms a persistent pattern of "time poverty" suffered by women in India. The NSSO survey showed that women spent 84 per cent of their working hours on unpaid activities, while men spent 80 per cent of their working hours on paid work. Conversely, men spent a longer time in employment-related activities (459 minutes per day) than women (333 minutes per day). As per the UN Women global survey findings, since the spread of the Coronavirus, 28 per cent of women and 16 per cent of men say the intensity of their unpaid domestic work has gone up. The COVID-19 global crisis has exposed the fact that the world's economies and our daily lives are made possible by the unpaid care work of women, which is often invisible and under-appreciated. The UN Women survey, that was conducted in

16 countries, reveals that before the pandemic, the average time spent on childcare by women was approximately 223 minutes per day. But since the crisis began, they spend approximately 266 minutes per day, with Indian women spending the maximum time in childcare among those surveyed from the other nations. Similarly, several estimates reveal that the pandemic has disproportionately increased women's "time poverty" by up to 30 per cent in India.

Additionally, surveys conducted by Action-Aid (Delhi), Azim Premji University (Bengaluru) and the Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST, Delhi) confirm that women were the hardest hit by the pandemic as a significant proportion of them lost their jobs and incomes. They also reported an increase in unpaid work at home and growing demands for domestic work, childcare and care of the elderly.

About 66 per cent of the working women surveyed in Delhi by the ISST reported an increase in household chores and 36 per cent stated an increased burden of child and elderly care work during the pandemic. They also said that closure of schools and day-care centres had put an additional burden on them. Plus, with most of the household members staying at home, it resulted in an increase in the volume of household work.

A Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) survey revealed that around 39 per cent of women lost their jobs during the ongoing pandemic due to several reasons, including an increasing demand for unpaid domestic work put on them by their families.

The way forward: It is argued that most people who are time-poor are also income-starved and suffer from multiple deprivations. Therefore, the strong

message emerging is that policymakers and employers need to act fast to reduce "time poverty" among women and push for greater gender equality in the labour market. This includes reducing the gender imbalance at work through better recognition, plus rebalancing unpaid work and closing the gender gap in digital inclusion. This is especially important as remote work or work from home have become more prominent during the pandemic.

This flexibility of work allows women to combine their domestic duties and employment responsibilities seamlessly. Furthermore, such flexibility needs to be extended not only to women, but also to men to facilitate their contribution in the unpaid domestic work. More efforts are needed in this direction by engaging citizens and launching public campaigns to promote equitable distribution of care and domestic chores between men and women.

Since the pandemic, the Government of India has introduced many relief packages and schemes to get the economy and livelihoods of people back on track. India's economic recovery must lead to a more equal world that is more resilient to future crises. Fiscal stimulus packages and emergency measures to address public health gaps have been put in place by the Centre to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic. It is vital that the national response places the inclusion of women, their representation, rights and economic outcomes at the centre if it is to have the necessary impact. But more than anything else, this gender gap at the workplace can only be closed by changing mindsets.

(Nidhi is Director at The Vision, Delhi and Balwant is Senior Faculty at IHD, Delhi)

Remembering the syncretic roots of AMU

Syed Ahmad Khan believed that Indian nationalism was secular and was based on a synthesis of Hindu and Muslim cultures



MJ WARSI

religious, cultural and political movements and organisations emerged in India in the latter part of the 19th century. These movements were mostly led by Hindu and Muslim leaders in their respective communities. Syed Ahmad Khan influenced Indian society significantly with his ideology and philosophy. His supreme interest was the intellectual development of the people through modern and scientific education. He succeeded to a great extent in making the people understand its importance, become economically independent and lead a life of dignity.

Khan believed that Indian nationalism was secular and was based on a synthesis of the Hindu and Muslim cultures. He stood firm for the amalgamation of the knowledge systems of the East and the West. He always talked about his belief and philosophy, such as democracy, nationalism, the relationship between Islam and Hinduism, between the Hindus and

the Muslims and their attitude towards the British.

Khaliq Ahmad Nizami in his work, *Secular Tradition at Aligarh Muslim University*, clearly mentioned that the Revolt of 1857 was the greatest event in Syed Ahmad Khan's life, which shaped and guided his personality. The main victims of the revolt were the Muslims and their lives and properties were destroyed. So he wanted to revive their social and economic conditions through modern education. And for its propagation, he founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College at Aligarh.

The college was both an institution and a movement. It popularised scientific education among Indians. The doors of the institution were kept open to all from the very beginning, irrespective of their religion, caste, class, colour and creed. They lived together in harmony on the campus and from the very beginning, the college was truly representative of the country's multi-

racial, multi-religious and multi-lingual character. This tradition of a harmonious, cooperative living further contributed to the development of a broad, universal, cosmopolitan and secular attitude in the institution.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said, "Sir Syed was an ardent reformer and he wanted to reconcile modern scientific thought with religion by rationalistic interpretations and not by attacking basic belief. He was anxious to push new education. He was in no way communally separatist. Repeatedly he emphasised that religious differences should have no political and national significance."

While delivering a commemorative speech, Professor Tariq Mansoor, Vice-Chancellor of the historic Aligarh Muslim University, said, "The movement started by Syed Ahmad Khan, commonly known as the Aligarh Movement, heralded the era of intellectual and cultural renaissance of the people of India in gen-

eral and Indian Muslims in particular. The Aligarh Movement led to the foundation of the MAO College in 1877 and its elevation to the Aligarh Muslim University in 1920."

Stressing on the secular atmosphere that prevailed at the MAO College, SK Bhatnagar in his book, titled *History of the MAO College*, said, "The college remained a model of secularism almost till the end. The Hindu and Muslim students fraternised with one another and lived in peace and devoted to their common *alma mater*. The Hindus competed with the Muslims for all college honours — academic, social and sports, on terms of equality. They secured admission, received prizes and medals solely on merit. They lived as comfortably in the boarding house as the Muslims and fully participated in the life of the college."

In the eyes of Syed Ahmad Khan, there was no difference between Hindus and Muslims. They were one. Not only this, from the very inception of the college, he gave

higher posts to non-Muslims. Some of the distinguished non-Muslim teachers who served the college during the period were Ram Shankar Misra, Sardar Ranjan Roy, Bhawani Chander Chakraborty, Piyarelal, Brij Mohan Lal, Munshi Bansidhar, Gobindra Prasad and Binodi Lal.

Syed Ahmad Khan's educational caravan reached everywhere, including all the continents of the world. His message of Hindu-Muslim unity and his educational movement inspired and encouraged people to establish institutions of learning for imparting modern and scientific education.

It seems that his educational mission and the message of Hindu-Muslim unity is more relevant in the India of today than ever before. A Syed Ahmad Khan is born but once in centuries. We would do well to imbibe his values.

(The writer is Chairperson, Department of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University.)



FOREIGN EYE



CORRECT PAST WRONGS

A small one-off levy on wealth would be a much fairer way of paying for the COVID recession. But in Britain taxes work far more than does idle wealth, a situation both unfair and economically damaging. Yet politicians of both main parties have long lacked the stomach to right this wrong. The current crisis is a good time to right past wrongs. (The Guardian editorial)

All 50 US states and DC certify their poll results

Washington: With West Virginia certifying its presidential election results, all 50 US states and the District of Columbia have now certified the outcome of the November 3 presidential polls, according to a media report on Thursday. President-elect Joe Biden, a Democrat, is projected to win 306 electoral votes, and incumbent President Donald Trump is set to win 232. It takes 270 electoral votes of the 538 available to become president. West Virginia became the final US state to certify its presidential election results on Wednesday, according to CNN's tally. West Virginia formally declared that President Trump, a Republican, is entitled to the state's five electoral votes. On Monday, the 538-member Electoral College will meet to take forward the election process. The US president is not chosen directly by the voters,

but what is known as the Electoral College. In this process, the states elect the President and Vice President. Each US state is allotted a different number of electoral votes, based on how many representatives it has in the House, plus its two senators. While California has the maximum electoral votes with 55, Texas is second with 38 electoral votes. The states' certifications come as Trump, who has not conceded defeat, has baselessly claimed that the election was rigged and sowed doubt about the outcome of one of the most divisive presidential races. Dozens of lawsuits filed by the Trump campaign challenging the results have been dismissed at the state and federal levels across the country since the election. Though Trump initially did not allow the transition

process to start, he finally relented on November 23. The Biden team now have access to additional office space inside the agencies and the ability to use federal resources for background checks on Biden's White House staff appointments and Cabinet picks. Each American state has different processes for certifying results, and some states certified their slate of presidential electors separately from state and local election results, according to the CNN report. The next major step in the Electoral College process is the meeting of the electors, who are required by law to convene on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, which this year is December 14. The electors' votes are later transmitted to officials and counted in a joint session of Congress on January 6. **PTI**

US B-52H bombers fly to West Asia in mission to deter Iran

AP ■ WASHINGTON
In a new show of military might, two American bomber aircraft took off from the United States and flew over a swath of the Middle East on Thursday, sending what US officials said was a direct message of deterrence to Iran. The flight of the two massive B-52H Stratofortress bombers over the region, the second such mission in less than a month, was designed to underscore America's continuing commitment to the Middle East even as President Donald Trump's administration withdraws thousands of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. The long-range heavy bombers, which are capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear weapons, are a formidable sight and are flown less frequently in the Middle East than smaller combat air-

craft, such as American fighter jets. Adversaries often complain about bomber flights in their region, deeming them a provocative show of force. "The ability to fly strategic bombers halfway across the world in a non-stop mission and to rapidly integrate them with multiple regional partners demonstrates our close working relationships and our shared commitment to regional security and stability," Gen. Frank McKenzie, the top U.S. Commander for the Middle East, said in a statement. The troop cuts coupled with the impending departure of the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier strike group in the Gulf have fuelled allies' concerns that the US is abandoning the region. Those worries are compounded by fears that Iran may strike out at the US or allies in retaliation for the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh.

Thai activists urge UN to help repeal royal defamation laws

Bangkok: Pro-democracy demonstrators in Bangkok marked United Nations Human Rights Day on Thursday with rallies calling for the abolition of Thailand's strict royal defamation law, which was recently revived to prosecute more than 20 of the protest movement's leaders. Somyot Prueksakasemsuk, one of the leaders, submitted a letter to the United Nations on Thursday urging it to pressure the Thai government to stop using Article 112 of the Thai Criminal Code, which forbids defamation of key members of the monarchy. Somyot, a former magazine editor, was previously imprisoned for seven years for publishing articles deemed to violate the lese majeste law. "Article 112 is an outdated law that no other countries have endorsed. It prevents people from expressing their opinion freely and the government has used it to destroy its oppo-



People dance to live music during a pro-democracy rally on Thursday **AP**

nents," Somyot said. Somyot said the pro-democracy group will send representatives to a UN Human rights conference in Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2021. Thursday's protests also coincided with Thailand's Constitution Day, a national holiday marking the country's adoption of its first constitution in 1932, which meant that many offices in the city were

closed. The demonstrations drew significantly smaller crowds than other recent rallies, which have attracted tens of thousands of participants. Ahead of Thursday's protests, government security officials erected barricades using shipping containers and barbed wire, and police were deployed to prevent any possible move toward Chitralada Palace, the residence of King Maha Vajiralongkorn. **AP**

US set to execute 1st of 5 inmates before Biden inauguration

AP ■ CHICAGO
The Trump administration is planning an unprecedented five more federal executions before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, starting with a Texas street-gang member set to be put to death Thursday for his role in the 1999 slayings of an Iowa religious couple whose bodies he

burned in the trunk of their car. Brandon Bernard was 18 when he and four other teenagers abducted and robbed Todd and Stacie Bagley on their way from a Sunday service in Killeen, Texas. He would be the ninth federal inmate put to death since July, when President Donald Trump ended a 17-year hiatus in federal executions.

Pak PM dares Opposition to table no-confidence motion in Parl to oust him

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has dared the Opposition alliance to table a no-confidence motion in Parliament to oust him, as he criticised its call to lawmakers for mass resignations to force him to call snap polls. Khan said he did not back-track from holding a national dialogue to steer the country out of multiple crises. An 11-party Opposition alliance announced on Tuesday that their lawmakers will resign en masse by the end of this month from Parliament to paralyse the government and force Prime Minister Khan to call snap polls. **PTI**

The decision was taken after the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance of 11 Opposition parties formed in September this year to overthrow Prime Minister Khan's government, held a marathon meeting in Islamabad. Khan said the Constitutional way to send a no-confidence motion in Parliament. "If the Opposition wants to move a no-confidence motion, they should come and do so in the assemblies," he said. He also criticised the PDM's call for en masse resignations. **PTI**

Iran, Afghanistan open first rail link with eye on trade

Tehran: The leaders of Iran and Afghanistan on Thursday inaugurated the first railway link between the two countries, expressing hope it would enhance trade links across the region. The 140-kilometer (90-mile) line running from eastern Iran into western Afghanistan will eventually be expanded by 85 kilometers to reach the Afghan city of Herat, providing a crucial transport link for the landlocked country, where decades of war have hindered infrastructure development. The \$75 million project began in 2007, with Iran funding construction on both sides of the border as part of its development assistance to Afghanistan. **AP**



Members of a Turkish forces commando brigade take part in a military parade attended by Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, in Baku, Azerbaijan on Thursday **AP**

Azerbaijan stages parade to mark Nagorno-Karabakh peace deal

Moscow: A military parade was held on Thursday in the Azerbaijani capital in celebration of the peace deal with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh that saw Azerbaijan reclaim much of the separatist region along with surrounding areas. The agreement took force exactly a month ago and put an end to six weeks of fierce fighting between the two ex-Soviet nations over Nagorno-Karabakh. It was seen as a major victory in Azerbaijan, but prompted mass protests in Armenia, with opposition supporters

demanding the ouster of the country's prime minister over his handling of the conflict. Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994. That war left Nagorno-Karabakh itself and substantial surrounding territory in Armenian hands. More than 3,000 people took part in the parade on Thursday, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan attended the event. Turkey strongly backed Azerbaijan during the con-

flict, which it used to expand its clout in the region. A Turkish commando brigade took part in the parade in which Turkish drones were also put on display. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev thanked Turkey for its support in his speech. "From the first hours of the war, we felt the support of Turkey," Aliyev said. "This is an example of our unity, our brotherhood." The Azerbaijani president said the country was able to "restore historical justice" and blamed Armenia for starting the fighting. **AP**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr.PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Bharat Bhushan R/o G-40/A, Block G, Radhey Puri, Near Jain Mandir, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 73/2019 u/s 174A IPC, P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Bharat Bhushan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Bharat Bhushan** of **FIR No. 73/2019 u/s 174A IPC, P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **14.01.2021**.
By Order,
Ms. Pragati
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 32
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi
DP/172/NDD/2020

IST LIMITED
CIN: L33301HR1976PLC008316
Registered Office: Dharuhera Industrial Complex, Delhi-Jaipur Highway No. 8, Kapriwas, Dharuhera, Distt. Rewari - 123102, Haryana
Tel: (91) 1274-267346, 267347, 267348, 267419, 267420 Fax: 01274-267444
Website: www.istindia.com; E-mail: istgroup.ho@gmail.com
NOTICE OF THE 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 44th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, the 31st December, 2020 at 11:30 AM at the Registered Office of the Company at Dharuhera Industrial Complex, Delhi - Jaipur Highway No. 8, Kapriwas, Dharuhera, Distt. Rewari - 123102, Haryana to transact the business as set out in the Notice dated 4th December, 2020 convening the said AGM.
In terms of the provisions of Section 101 and Section 136 of the Companies Act, 2013 read along with Rule 18 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, including any amendment thereto, the Notice setting out the business to be transacted at the 44th AGM along with the Explanatory Statement pursuant to Sec. 102(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Annual Report of the Company for the financial year 2019-20 have been sent through electronic mode to those shareholders whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Companies/Depository Participants on Wednesday, 9th December, 2020 and to all other Members, whose e-mail IDs are not registered with the Company/Depository Participants or to members who holds shares in physical mode at their Registered Address in permitted manner on Saturday, 5th December, 2020. The dispatch of the Notice in both the mode have been completed on 9th December, 2020.

In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time, and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company is offering the remote e-voting facility to all its Members, holdings shares as on the cut-off date i.e. 24th December, 2020 to enable them to cast their vote electronically in respect of the business as set out in the Notice of the 44th AGM of the Company. The Company has allied assistance for remote e-Voting from National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to provide remote e-voting facilities which can be accessed at the website www.evoting.nsdl.com.

- The Company has appointed Ms. Neetu Saini, Company Secretary in whole-time practice, New Delhi as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
The members are informed that:
(a) The Business as set out in the Notice of the AGM may be transacted through voting by electronic means;
(b) The remote e-voting shall commence on Monday, the 28th day of December, 2020 (9.00 AM);
(c) The remote e-voting shall end on Wednesday, the 30th day of December, 2020 (5.00 PM.);
(d) The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means or at the AGM is Thursday, the 24th day of December, 2020;
(e) Any person who acquires shares of the Company and become Member of the Company after the dispatch of the Notice of the AGM and holds shares as on the cut-off date i.e. Wednesday, 24th December, 2020 may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or to the Company's Registrar - Mas Services Limited at info@masserv.com / sm@masserv.com, contact no. 011-26387261, 26387262, 26387263 to resolve any grievances;
(f) The members may note that the:
A. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL beyond 05:00 PM on Wednesday, the 30th day of December, 2020;
B. The facility of voting through Ballot Papers will be made available at the AGM for members present at the Meeting;
C. Members who have casted their votes by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again;
D. Only the Members whose names are recorded in the Register of Members or in the Register of Beneficial Owner maintained by the Depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. 24th December, 2020 shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting facility as well as voting using Ballot Papers at the AGM. A person who is not a member as on the cut-off date should treat this Notice for information purposes only.
(g) The Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year 2019-20 are available on the website of the Company at www.istindia.com.
(h) For any grievances/queries/clarification relating to e-voting, the Members may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual available at www.evoting.nsdl.com or call toll free no. 1800-222-990. Members can also contact the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent - M/s. Mas Services Limited, having their office at T-34, 2nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II, New Delhi - 110020, Email id: info@masserv.com / sm@masserv.com, contact no. 011-26387261, 26387262, 26387263 to resolve any grievances.

Notice is hereby also given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Friday, 25th December, 2020 to Thursday, 31st December, 2020 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting.
For IST Limited
Sd/-
Bhupinder Kumar
Company Secretary
Date: 10.12.2020
Place: New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer Public Works Division Bhokar, Dist Nanded
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 12/2020-2021
Online Tender (e-tender) In "C" form for the in Nanded District total **01 (One)** works are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Bhokar, Dist Nanded (Phone No.02467-222658) on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management System. From the registered contractor in appropriate class of Public works Department of Maharashtra State. The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tender portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in/> on sub portal www.mahapwd.com as under.
Note:-
1) Details of the tender documents are available on e-tendering <https://mahatenders.gov.in/> and www.mahapwd.com website of the Government of Maharashtra.
2) If there are any changes in the tender notice, then the information will be display on the website.
3) Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Bhokar, Dist Nanded has reserved the right to accept or reject tenders.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division
Bhokar Dist, Nanded
DGIPR/2020-2021/1447

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sachin Maggo Son of Shri Subhash Chand Maggo resident of Janta flat no. JG-II/44, 2nd floor, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 hereby informed to all that I am the bonafide purchaser/lessee/GPA holder of property no. Janta flat no. JG-II/44, 2nd floor, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 vide file no. F.20(139)85(NP) VP has applied for conversion from lease hold to free hold in DDA and the original Possession letter and NOC for water and electric connection of the above said property/all have been lost/misplaced. An NCR/ FIR to this effect has been lost in Delhi vide no. 7925/9/2020 dated 08.12.20. If any one found same may please contact to me within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, the person/institution/government Authority claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform or write of Dy. Director(Jamia), 3rd floor, D-Block, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023.

UJVN LTD.
H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025886, Website: www.ujvnl.com
RO No.-818 **Corrigendum-01** **Date: 10-12-2020**
In Tender No: 10-EE-Test-Dkp-2020-21 for Internet lease line (1:1) for Chibro PH, Khodri PH, Ichari Dam, Dakpathar Barrage and Viduyt Bhawan offices, Please read "E-Tender" as "Tender" and all terms & condition will be same as previously. For further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com" **EE(Test)**
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, 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 asset
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 with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Jyoti (Borrower), Ramesh Kumar Rout (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002301759 LBDEL00002554513	House No. N-K-I/333, Ground Floor, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad- 201001 Uttar Pradesh. Area: 274 Sq.ft.	Rs. 1850195/- (as on December 2, 2020)	Rs. 9,45,000/- Rs. 94,500/-	December 18, 2020 From 11:00 AM To 2:00 PM	January 11, 2021 From 11:30 AM onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till January 08, 2021 before 05:00 P.M else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
The Prospective Bidder (s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005, and there after they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before January 08, 2021 before 05:00 P.M along 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 January 08, 2021 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 9372730494 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933
Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.
The 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/n4p4s
Date: December 11, 2020
Place: Delhi/ NCR.
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my Client Smt. Nirmal Rani D/o Late Sh. Lakshmi Narain Garg and W/o Sh. Satish Kumar R/o I-181, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-52 do hereby Voluntarily relinquish her whole undivided share of inherited property owned by her deceased father bearing Prop. No. C-59, Rohit Kunj, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, in favour of her brother Sh. Rajesh Garg S/o Late Sh. Lakshmi Narain Garg R/o C-59, Rohit Kunj, Pitampura, Delhi-34 Any person having any right, title, interest or claim put forth his/her claim within 10 days and no claim will be entertained thereafter.
Sd/-
G.P. Goyal
Advocate
Enrol. No. D/406/86

WESTERN RAILWAY
Various Works
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th Floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008 invites E-tender as per details given as follows : **Executive :** DEN (Est/S)BCT, Tender Notice No. & Date : BCT/20-21/276, Dtd: 09.12.2020. **Work and Location :** Colaba-Badwarpark-Housekeeping and maintenance of officers rest house of Imperial mention & Estate Villa and Badwarpark ORH for two years. **Approx Cost of work :** Rs. 1,13,78,804/- **EMD :** Rs. 2,06,900/- **Executive :** DEN (Est/S)BCT, Tender Notice No. & Date : BCT/20-21/277, Dtd: 09.12.2020. **Work and Location :** Mumbai Central-Improvement to Firefighting system in DRM's office building, Annex building and TMS building as per Fire Audit report. (i) Churchgate-Improvement to fire fighting system at Station Building. (iii) Mumbai Central-Improvement to fire safety under the jurisdiction of ADE(W) BCT. **Approx Cost of work :** Rs. 3,65,33,428.81 **EMD :** Rs. 3,32,700/- **Date & time of submission :** on 05.01.2021 till 15.00 hrs. for each tender. **Date & time of opening :** on 05.01.2021 at 15.30 hrs. for each tender. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non-refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. 0487
Like us on : [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

UK signs post-Brexit free trade deal with Singapore

London: The UK has signed a free trade deal with Singapore covering trade worth 17.6 billion pounds (\$23.4 billion), the latest in a series of trade pacts that Britain is seeking to secure around the world post-Brexit. International Trade Secretary Liz Truss, who was in Singapore for the ceremony, said Thursday the deal was the second-biggest that Britain has signed in the Asia-Pacific region. The agreement came as British and European Union officials make a final push to break a deadlock over the U.K.'s future trade relationship with the bloc.

Britain left the EU on Jan. 31, but remains in its economic structures until the end of the year. The Singapore deal largely mirrors one that the Asian city-state already has with the EU, and effectively allows trade to continue as before after January 1. Truss said the pact with Singapore "secures certainty" for businesses and is "further proof we can succeed as an independent trading nation." Singapore is Britain's largest trading partner in Southeast Asia, and the British government said that the deal will "provide a gateway to Asia for UK Businesses." **AP**

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) **Namely: Rajesh Kumar Hauwa, S/o: Lt. Sh. Ram Lubhaya Sharma, R/o: H.No. A-45, Asha Park, Fateh Nagar, Near Jheel Wala Park, Hari Nagar, New Delhi, Aged: 55 years, has been reported missing from his house, since 30.11.2020. In this regard a DD No. 31A, Dated 01.12.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:**
Height: 4'1". Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Physique/Built: Thin, Clothing: Grey Colour Kurta-Pajama and Chappal in feet.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Hari Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> **Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641**
S.H.O
P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi
DP/286/WD/2020. Ph.: 011-28525719, 28523677, 8750871128

India's recovery faster than expected

ADB cuts contraction projection to 8% for FY21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday upgraded its forecast for the Indian economy, projecting 8 per cent contraction in 2020-21 as compared to 9 per cent degrowth estimated earlier, on the back of faster than expected recovery.

Observing that the economy has begun to normalise, the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Supplement said the second quarter contraction at 7.5 per cent was better than expected.

The economy contracted by 23.9 per cent in June quarter of the current fiscal on account of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The GDP forecast for FY2020 is upgraded from 9.0 per cent contraction to 8.0 per cent, with GDP in H2 probably restored to its size a year

earlier. The growth projection for FY2021 is kept at 8.0 per cent," it said.

Highlighting that India is recovering more rapidly than expected, the report said the earlier South Asia forecast of 6.8 per cent contraction is upgraded to (-)6.1 per cent in line with an improved projection for India.

Growth will return in 2021-22, at 7.2 per cent in South Asia and 8 per cent in India, it added.

Earlier this month, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das had said the economy is recuperating faster than anticipated and growth rate is likely to turn positive in the second half of the current financial year.

In the year as whole, the economy is likely to contract by 7.5 per cent, which is an improvement over Reserve Bank's previous projection of

9.5 per cent contraction, Das had said while unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy review.

Observing that the prospects of growth have brightened with the progress on the vaccine front, Das said, the economy was likely to record a growth of 0.1 per cent in Q3 and 0.7 per cent in Q4.

With regard to inflation, ADO said, it is expected to ease in the coming months, and the 4 per cent update projection for 2021-22 is maintained.

In India, supply chain disruption brought food inflation to an average of 9.1 per cent in the first 7 months of 2020-21, pushing headline inflation to 6.9 per cent in the same period, it said.

As a result, ADO revised India's inflation from 4.5 per cent to 5.8 per cent for the current fiscal.

Benchmarks slip from record highs on profit-booking; FMCG stocks stand tall

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex snapped its five-session winning run to close 144 points lower on Thursday as investors pocketed gains in bank and IT counters after the recent rally.

A weakening rupee and lacklustre global markets further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened lower and stayed in the negative territory throughout the session to end at 45,959.88, down 143.62 points or 0.31 per cent.

The broader NSE Nifty ended its seven-day record-setting spree to close 50.80 points or 0.38 per cent lower at 13,478.30.

UltraTech Cement was the top loser among the Sensex constituents, tumbling 3.27 per cent, in line with other cement stocks after fair trade regulator CCI initiated a probe against cement companies for alleged anti-competitive behaviour.

M&M, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, NTPC and Reliance Industries were the

other laggards, shedding up to 2.50 per cent.

On the other hand, FMCG counters led the gainers' chart, with Nestle India spurring 4.17 per cent, ITC 3.58 per cent and HUL rising 2.61 per cent.

Other winners included Kotak Bank, L&T, Tata Steel and ONGC, climbing up to 1.13 per cent.

Asian markets skidded while European bourses held steady ahead of ECB's policy decision, while investors also monitored the UK-EU Brexit talks.

"After five days of bullish rally, the domestic market reversed along with Asian peers, backed by weak global markets, triggering profit booking across major sectors. PSU Banks, small and midcaps which were so positive recently were also under bearish attack..."

"A sell-off was seen in the US tech stocks which led to a correction in the US market as the stimulus package talks dragged. Markets being at the highest level, any unfavourable events, domestic or global, can result in temporary profit

booking. However, we believe that the market is optimistic enough to continue the rally post a required consolidation," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Rupee logs 1st loss in three days, slips 9 paise against USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee snapped its two-day winning streak to close 9 paise lower at 73.66 against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking muted domestic equities and a rebound in the American currency.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.68 against the US dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.62 and a low of 73.77. The local unit finally closed at 73.66 against the American currency, registering a fall of 9 paise over its previous close.

Centre asks 5 States to identify for auction at least 5 mineral blocks with pre-embedded clearances: Joshi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday said it has asked five states Gujarat, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to identify for auction at least five mineral blocks with pre-embedded clearances.

To boost investment, the Centre has provided the auction of mineral blocks with pre-embedded clearances for mining projects, Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi said during a webinar on 'Strategic Importance of Mining'.

"We have requested the states of Gujarat, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to identify at least five mineral blocks for auction with pre-embedded clearances. I have requested five (states) but if any state comes forward and offers for pre-embedded clearances, the Government of India is open for that," the minister said.

The move will ensure that mining activity continues without hindrance.

The minister further said that in the mining sector many

reforms are in pipeline.

"Very shortly most investment and industrial friendly mining reforms are going to come out," he said. The reforms, he stressed, will bring a major change in the mining sector and will result in the growth of economy and creation of job.

Stating that infrastructure will become identity of modern India, the minister said that to operate coal transport facilities, 39 first mile connectivity projects at an expenditure of Rs 18,000 crore are in various stages of implementation.

Coal PSUs, he said, have an investment plan of almost Rs 2.5 lakh crore by 2030.

Also, Joshi said by 2022 there will be a new Parliament building with all technological facilities "so that Parliament can be also paperless".

"This Parliament building is almost ...100 years old and many innovations have been taken place from time to time. But to cater to the need of today's requirement, (we) needed a new Parliament building," he said.

Govt plans to sell up to 20% stake in IRCTC



IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union government has proposed to sell up to 2.40 crore shares or 15 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital of IRCTC through the offer of sale route.

It has also proposed an additional share sale of up to 80 lakh equity shares of 5 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital, in case of oversubscription.

In total, the base offer size and oversubscription option

represent 20 per cent of outstanding equity shares of the company.

The floor price of the offer has been fixed at Rs 1,367 per equity share.

The IRCTC share sale will take place on a separate window of the stock exchanges on December 10 and December 11. Only retail investors shall be allowed to place their bids on December 11.

The Twitter handle of the Secretary of Department of

IRCTC shares fall 8% as Govt offers stake sale of 20%

IANS ■ MUMBAI

Shares of IRCTC plunged over 8 per cent on Thursday after the company announced that the government will sell up to 20 per cent stake in the company through offer for sale (OFS).

Around 12 p.m., IRCTC shares on the BSE were trading at Rs 1,481.50, lower by Rs 136.55 or 8.44 per cent from its previous close.

Yash Gupta, Equity Research Associate with Angel Broking said that shares of the

company fell as company announced OFS of up to 2.40 crore shares with option of additional sell of 0.8 lakh shares with floor price of Rs 1,367 per share.

Company has fixed OFS has cut-off date for non-retail investor December 10, 2020 and December 11 for retail investors.

In a regulatory filing on Wednesday, the company 10 per cent of the OFS has been reserved for retail investors and 5 per cent reserved for the employees.

Non Retail investors. Day 2 for retail investors. Govt. would divest 15 per cent equity with a 5 per cent green shoe option."

Finance Minister takes stock of MSME dues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday reviewed the situation about outstanding payments to micro, small and medium enterprises, especially by CPSEs and central government agencies.

Top officials including Secretary in the Department of Financial Services Debasish Panda, MSME Secretary A K Sharma, among others, were present in the meeting.

As part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package announced in May this year, MSME dues from central government agencies and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) should have been paid

in 45 days.

"Since the month of May 2020, regular follow-up and concerted efforts have been made by Government of India, particularly by the MSME Ministry for payment of these dues.

Particular focus was placed on CPSEs and central government agencies for payment of dues to MSMEs," an official statement said.

As a result, over Rs 21,000 crore of MSME dues have been paid in past 7 months by central government agencies and CPSEs, it added.

The statement by the MSME ministry said the highest level of procurement was achieved in October of over Rs 5,100 crore and payment of

over Rs 4,100 crore.

It further said going by the reports received in first 10 days for November, this level of performance is expected to be surpassed as procurement of about Rs 4,700 crore and payment of about Rs 4,000 crore have already been reported.

"Efforts made in respect of clearing MSME dues include several rounds of letters written to the GoI Ministries and CPSEs by the Secretary, MSME, followed by personal talks and persuasions," the statement said.

The efforts found strong support from PMO and Cabinet Secretary, who wrote letters to CPSEs and government agencies.

Steel companies bullish on prices in near future

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Steel companies are bullish on prices of the metal for the next two quarters and seeking to resolve supply-side constraints after the raw material cost has risen sharply, officials said on Thursday. Speaking on the Centre's target of producing 300 million tonne of steel by 2030, they said the sector will achieve it with rising demand for the metal but could take three-four years more than the deadline, and the supply-side stability is required to meet the goal. Steel users complained of a sharp rise in the metal prices by about 40 per cent in the last four months. "We are bullish on prices for the next two quarters," Vedanta Electrosteel Ltd CEO Pankaj Malhan.

Satellite-based Narrowband-IoT now a reality in India

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

BSNL, in partnership with SkyloTech India, on Thursday announced a breakthrough in satellite-based NB-IoT (Narrowband-Internet of Things), in pursuance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Digital India — starting with fishermen, farmers, and construction, mining and logistics enterprises.

With this solution, India will now have access to a ubiquitous fabric of connectivity for millions of yet unconnected machines, sensors and industrial IoT devices. This new 'Made in India' solution, which is indigenously developed by Skylo, will connect with BSNL's satellite ground infrastructure and provide PAN-India coverage, including the Indian seas. The coverage will be so vast

that it will not leave any dark patch within the boundary of India, from Kashmir and Ladakh to Kanyakumari, and from Gujarat to the Northeast, including the Indian seas. P.K. Purwar, CMD, BSNL, said: "The solution is in line with BSNL's vision to leverage technology to provide affordable and innovative telecom services and products across customers segments."

Insurance sector's growth momentum fizzled out in November

New Delhi: The growth in the insurance sector witnessed during August-October reversed in November as the industry reported Annual Premium Equivalent (APE) degrowth of 44.4 per cent last month, said

a report by Emkay Global Financial Services.

It was the first month of decline since July, it said.

"The improvement witnessed in August-October 2020, after the unlocking, fiz-

zled out in November 2020 as the industry reported APE degrowth of 44.4 per cent YoY," it said. The de-growth can be largely attributed to the 62.6 per cent year-on-year (YoY) APE degrowth for LIC.

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Jyoti, D/o Rakesh, R/o USB-A 149, Gali No. 3, Chander Vihar, Delhi.** Age 19 yrs., height 4'10", Fair complexion, Thin built, Long face, wearing yellow colour kurta, yellow colour pant and hawai chappal in feet is missing since 27.11.2020 from the area of PS Madhu Vihar, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 72-A, Dt. 28.11.2020 has been lodged at PS Madhu Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-23011334
 Ph.: 011-23014046
 011-23015218

S.H.O., PS Madhu Vihar, Delhi
 Ph.: 011-22732427, 22732426

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publically notified that Sanjeev Sharma S/o Devender Mohan Sharma R/o Flat No. 93, Meena Apartment Plot No. 78, Ground Floor, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-92 is the original allottee of Flat No.-6A, Block No.-17, Type-1, Sector-118, Noida has been sold to the following person through registered G.P.A on 18.01.2019 volume no-4, document no.-1564 in the office of sub registrar-III, Noida in the name of Shilendra Kumar S/o Brahmdeo Narayan Prasad R/o House No. D-125, Sector-105, Noida, Distt.-Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P) and through agreement to sell has been executed on dated 18.01.2019 volume no-1, document no. 6952, Noida in the name of Manik Walia S/o Shilendra Kumar R/o 860, 6th Cross, 6th Block, Koramangala Club, Bangalore, Karnatak-560095.

Now the G.P.A holder is transferring the above said property in Noida Authority in favour of Anil Kumar Singh Tomar S/o Vikrama Ditya Singh R/o H.No.-508, Friends Society, Sector-12, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad (U.P) in which the current agreement to sell holder does not have any objection. If any other concerned person have any objection kindly inform Noida Authority (Housing Depart.) Within 15 days of the publication of this notice.

Shilendra Kumar

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorized Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) UNDER Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorized Officer has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) the "said Borrower(s)", to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings. If any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Loan Code	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	PROPERTY ADDRESS
(LC No. 00000853 of Ghaziabad Branch) Praveesh Kumar (Borrower) Chander Prakash (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 881958 /- (₹ Eight lakh Eighty One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA (01-04-2020)	Unit No.- 1102/11 Floor, Plot No.- 08 Tower B6, Eco Village -1, Sector-1 Noida Extn., Gurgaon Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 203207
(LC No.00000761 of Greater Noida Branch) Zafar Abbas (Borrower) Shabnam Zehra (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 432011 /- (₹ Four lakh Thirty Two Thousand Eleven) NPA (01-03-2020)	Plot No-C-1/68 Flat No-SF-3 Mig 2 Floor Dif Ankur Vihar Loni Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201010
(LC No. DEL02747 of Delhi - Safdarjung Branch) SHILENDRA KUMAR PATHAK (Borrower)	23-10-2020 / ₹ 41615 /- (₹ Forty One Thousand Six Hundred Fifteen) NPA (01-03-2018)	FLAT NO., GANDHARVA CHSLS LTD GHAZIABAD Uttar Pradesh - 201030
(LC No.00043859 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Makhan Lal (Borrower) Reekha Devi (Co Borrower 1)	23-10-2020 / ₹ 211670 /- (₹ Two lakh Eleven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy) NPA (01-07-2019)	Rzp 287, 3 rd Fir (RHS), Flat No.- 401 Kh No. 43/18/3, Vill. Palam, Street No - 5 Raj Nagar-2 Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110075

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 11.12.2020
 Place : Delhi

Sd/-
 (Authorized officer)
DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

कार्यालय नगर निगम जोधपुर दक्षिण

(नगर निगम धन, पोलोस्टीक कॉलेज परिसर, रोजीनेची चौक, जोधपुर) (ccn.nj@rediffmail.com, Tel: 0291-2651464, Fax: 2651466)

क्रमांक : एफ/स/नगर/2020-21/4433 दिनांक 8.12.2020

ई-निविदा सूचना : 4433 (UBN No.: DLB2021WSOB18642)

नगर निगम जोधपुर दक्षिण की ओर से काजरी कार्यालय के पास स्थित नगर निगम के डंपिंग स्टेशन की नियमित रूप से प्रतिदिन की सफाई कार्य हेतु दो वर्ष के लिए अनुभवी एवं योग्य प्रतियोगियों से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की विस्तृत शर्तें www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in, www.jodhpurnimca.gov.in एवं www.spp.rajjasthan.gov.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

Samwad/C/7518/2020-21 आवृत्त, नगर निगम जोधपुर दक्षिण

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI.

4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

OA NO 812/2019 DATE: 18.11.2020

CANARA BANK VS MR. AMIT GUPTA & ORS.

Applicant VS Respondent

To, DEFENDANT

3. M/S GAYATRI INFRA PLANNERS PVT. LTD. Through its Director, B-121, 1st Floor Sect.-2 Noida UP-201301

ALSO AT: 42-C, Anushka R, Dilshad Garden Delhi - 95

4. M/S ANURAG ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS AND CONSTRUCTION PVT. LTD., 7042, Ghas Mandi Pahari Dhiraj Delhi - 06

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 31,75,702/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Seven Hundred And Two Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the tribunal on **11.03.2021 At 10.30 A.M.**

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order Of The Tribunal
 For Registrar, DRT-II, NEW DELHI.

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN INDIA

CIN No. : U55101DL1952NPL002161
 Regd. Office : 406/75-76, Manisha Building, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
 Tel : 011 - 26468103, 26435550, Fax : 011 - 26236201
 Website : www.hrani.net.in, E-mail : hrani1950@gmail.com

NOTICE OF 69th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION

In view of the order dated November 18, 2020 issued under section 22 of the Disaster Management Act, by Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, imposed in the city thereby restricting the number of persons in a gathering to 50 and pursuant to Rule 20(3) (v) of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 notice is hereby given that **69th Annual General Meeting of "Hotel and Restaurant Association of Northern India" will be held through Video Conference (VC) on ZOOM platform on Thursday, December 24, 2020 at 12:30 hrs.** The deemed venue for the AGM would be the registered office of the Association.

The notice of the Annual General Meeting has been served to all Members of HRANI on December 9, 2020 through electronic mode. Following businesses will be transacted at the Annual General Meeting:

- Adoption of Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2020
- Appointment of Auditors
- Election of Members of Managing Committee of HRANI, which was to be conducted at the 69th Annual General Meeting of HRANI and is hereby deferred for the next year and the existing members are allowed to continue to be the members of the Managing Committee of HRANI until the elections are conducted next year at the 70th Annual General Meeting of HRANI.

Members may cast their votes electronically on the business as set forth in the Notice of the AGM through electronic voting system of "Karyv Fintech Private Limited" from a place other than venue of the AGM ("remote e-voting"). All the members are informed that:

- The business as set forth in the Notice of the AGM may be transacted through remote e-voting & voting at the AGM; The Link to attend the AGM is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8478687401> and the link for voting through electronic mode is <https://evoting.kfintech.com>
- The cut-off date for the purpose of completing all formalities for renewal of membership and thereby being eligible for remote e-voting and voting at the Annual General Meeting is 16 December 2020.
- The remote e-voting shall commence on December 20, 2020 (9:30 am IST) and shall end on December 23, 2020 (5:00 pm IST);
- Members may note that: a) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by Karyv Fintech Private Limited beyond 5:00 p.m. IST on December 23, 2020 and once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently; b) the members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.
- In case of queries in regard to electronic voting, members may contact Mr. S.V. Raju, Deputy General Manager, Corporate Registry, Karyv Fintech Private Limited, Karyv Salientum Tower 5, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nansakrangaui, Hyderabad - 500 032, Ph. D : 040 67161569, M:9177401092, Email: raju.sv@kfintech.com

For Hotel and Restaurant Association of Northern India
Sd/-
Renu Thapaliyal
 Secretary General

New Delhi, India
 December 9, 2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Neha, D/o Abrar Husain, R/o Flat No. 11, MCD Flat, Jahangir Puri, Delhi.** Age: 25 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Build: Thin, wearing Pink Kurta and White Salwar, has been missing from her house since 18.11.2020 at 12:35 PM. In this regard a DD No. 81A, dated 19.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
 E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-24368639
 Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi
 Ph. No. : 011-27636000, 27631600

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Samiya Khatoon D/o Mohd Rajabul R/o Jhuggi No. N-22/A-413, Kaushal Puri, Azadpur, Delhi** has been missing since 03.11.2020. In this regard a FIR No. 715/20 dated 06.11.2020 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi.

The description of missing girl is as under:-
Name: Samiya Khatoon, **Father's Name :** Mohd Rajabul, **Age :** 13 year, **Height :** 4'0", **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Build :** Thin, **Wearing :** White & Orange Colour Suit and Orange colour salwar.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
 e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641
 Extn.-210
 Fax: 011-24368639

SHO P.S., Adarsh Nagar, Delhi
 Ph. : 011-27674452, 8750870233

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Sapna, D/o Pradeep Kumar, R/o M-25, Gali No. 10, Multani Dhandha Paharganj, Delhi.** Age 20 yrs., height 5'2", wheatish complexion, Normal built, Round face, wearing blue colour jeans and grey colour jacket and shoes in feet has been missing since 04.12.2020 from the area of PS Paharganj, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 45-A, Dt. 05.12.2020 has been lodged at PS Paharganj, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-23011334
 Ph.: 011-23014046
 011-23015218

SHO, PS Paharganj, Delhi
 Ph.: 011-8750012525, 8750042525

Trend Glazer

Salman poses with 'Mother earth'

Actor SALMAN KHAN has shared a picture from his farm on social media on Instagram.

In the image, the actor is seen working with a handpick axe in his farm.

"Mother earth," Salman captioned the image, which currently has over 1.4 million likes on the photo-sharing website.

He is currently seen hosting the 14th season of Bigg Boss on television.

His last big screen outing was in the third installment of *Dabangg*, where he was seen reprising the role of Chulbul Pandey.



END OF AN OLD WORLD GRACE

Dressed in a blue ripped jeans, a striped shirt with a black shawl casually draped across his shoulders, contemporary dancer ASTAD DEBOO wore his hair in a buzz cut that January afternoon at the Triveni Terrace Café, where we caught him candid. The air that he exuded belied the years that he had clocked having been born in the same year as our country. His eyes lightened up often and his hands moved in tandem with his words. His brain felt agile. He meandered frequently from a question to expound a point but came back to where he had begun through a number of examples. The world woke up to his demise yesterday. Here are the excerpts of our conversation with the maestro, who had pushed boundaries in pursuance of his art and continued to experiment till his last breath. By SAIMI SATTAR



You were born in the same year as India, 1947. How have you seen it change?

Yes. When I came back to India to introduce a new dance form, there was a lot of resentment in government cultural institutions, Ministry of Culture, and even from classical gurus. Not that people themselves weren't receptive to my experimental workshops. They were afraid that their gurus would get upset. It was my determination and perseverance that kept me going. I am grateful to the media as they spoke about my work.

But yes, the peer criticism was still around. A very established dancer once said that even when you stage one show in a year, people talk about it but they won't talk about the 30 to 40 shows we do in a year. But the reason was due to the kind of work they did and the dance form that they practiced. Though I have studied Kathak and Kathakali, I do not take an entire *tukda* from the Indian classical style in my work. I just use the technique. While often what they were doing was yet another interpretation of Krishna or Shiva. In the beginning, the audience was limited to writers or musicians. Slowly, the word got around. The best form of publicity is word-of-mouth. Everybody went happy while I stuck to my guns. In those early days, I spent six months here and six overseas.

Earlier, I was a solo dancer and very energetic. But now I do slower movements and it is more difficult to be in sync with the music than when the movement is faster.

What kept you going despite the fact that the institutions and the established artists were not accepting?

Those days, it was hard and frustrating to be accepted as a liberal artist but I had the support and blessings of my parents. I could come back to a happy home and that was a big blessing. Even today, many boys find it hard to rationalise their choice as performers. My father, on the other hand, said, 'I am sorry we do not have enough connections to help you out.' Had it been an unhappy home, I would not have been able to handle the rejections I faced constantly.

How do collaborations further your journey?

A collaboration needs to blend. There needs to be some amount of respect and understanding between the collaborating partners. We should be on the same plane.

When you are working, you want the working environment to be stress free. Otherwise, one is not able to create. When I collaborate with somebody, there is a spark and I am able to do things which I have never tried before. You need someone to trigger that change or extend that boundary. I worked with a great artist, Bahauddin Dagar. We were discussing something and he said, 'Your performance'. And I immediately pointed out, 'It is not my show but ours. You are not accompanying me. We are working together to create something good.'

How difficult it was to perfect the Jose Limon technique and the way it seems to defy gravity? How difficult was it to perfect, especially when you are using it in conjunction with the Martha Graham technique?

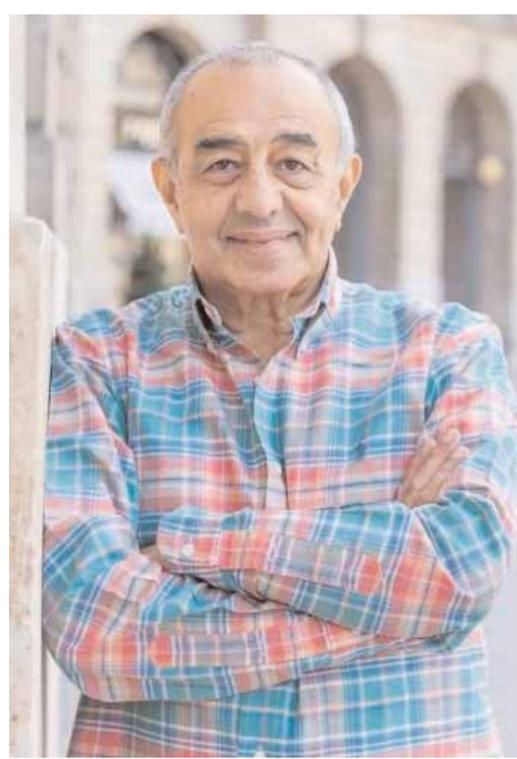
I took these classes when I was already 24. When you are young, your body is supple. I imbibed only those things which my body could accept. So I cannot claim perfection in these dance forms. But yes, all that experience of how these schools' practitioners worked with their bodies and their breath control influenced me deeply. This was a whole new teaching process. I studied many dance forms and ended up using a lot of Balinese movements in my work. People also see the influence of Japanese Butoh dance in my work. All this experience enriched me as an individual.

Mukhabhinay is an important part of your dance technique and that is something which is clearly Indian in origin...

Mukhabhinay is something that is ingrained in me. Don't forget that I learnt Kathak and Kathakali for 16 years so it comes naturally. I use it a lot but not all the time.

You hitchhiked to the US. What made you do that? How have your travels contributed to your art?

I had studied Indian classical dance, beginning with Kathak. And then my father put the brakes on my lessons. But he had let a boy, and that too a Parsi one, take dancing lessons in the first place. Destiny called again when I watched an American dance company perform in the city. A new dimension opened up where dancers performed as a collective using a defined space. Nothing like that existed in India and my father



didn't have the means to invest in my passion. But I was fired by a spirit of adventure and just set off. I left the country in 1969 on a cargo ship with goats, sheep and other workers who would get off at Dubai or Bahrain. Eventually, the voyage ended at Khorramshahr in Iran. I hitchhiked across Europe as it was a part of the youth culture then. Nobody thought anything about travelling with strangers.

I also travelled to Canada and Japan. Monuments and places that I had just read about came to life for me. I travelled the world and explored different cultures for approximately eight years instead. I just hitchhiked, studied, absorbed and learnt. I went to Australia and New Zealand on a cheap budget. These travels have ensured that I look at each day as a gift where I meet more people. I stayed in a youth hostel picking up tips to survive. Recently, a friend's daughter told me that she was so much in awe of my experiences. But now many young people are doing it though in a much different form. It is more hiking rather than hitchhiking.

'I TRAVELLED THE WORLD AND EXPLORED DIFFERENT CULTURES FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHT YEARS. I JUST HITCHHIKED, STUDIED, ABSORBED AND LEARNT. I WENT TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ON A CHEAP BUDGET. THESE TRAVELS HAVE ENSURED THAT I LOOK AT EACH DAY AS A GIFT WHERE I MEET MORE PEOPLE'

Is that why you connect to young people from varied backgrounds? You've also worked with hearing-impaired children and those from the Salaam Baalak Trust...

Yes, I worked with children of the Salaam Baalak Trust and the drummers of Manipur. And here I can point out a difference. When travelling on shows, the Manipur dancers wait for me to take them out while the ones from the trust are survivors and they have the instinct to explore.

I have worked with the deaf after I came across a friend who was working with a deaf theatre company in Kolkata. I was not trained to work with them but learnt on the job. After a three-week workshop, it was possible to create an entire experience with them able to express themselves. I learnt so much from them like lip-reading and sign language. I use myself as a catalyst and then mentor and nurture them. They became confident and were role models.

Earlier, the ones from the Trust performed on Bollywood songs and were applauded. After working with me, they got recognition as people came up to speak with them and applauded them. They were excited because there was a sense of achievement as they saw their photos in the newspapers as well. I am not doing this for my glorification but rather to demonstrate what can be done with hard work and perseverance.

While dancers half your age follow the set patterns, you keep extending your boundaries... What keeps you young?

(Guffaws) I still, by God's grace, can dance at my age and the response, which one gets from the public is an incentive. And I personally feel that I still can so why should I stop? I keep pushing myself physically and creatively. I have been working for 14 years in Manipur. Earlier, it was with the martial artists and now it is with the drummers. The performance that is put up now is all very organic while keeping their tradition intact. I do feel tradition is very important and it gives you grounding. When you have a strong foundation, then you can grow and are open to absorbing and looking at things with an eye that is impartial. *Lekin chahat honi chahiye* (But you should have the desire). Otherwise you are wasting your time and also that of the person who wants you to be a part of the

project.

Your choice of venues have been eclectic to say the least, for instance, The Great Wall of China, amid artefacts in a museum and more...

People are used to watching a performance in a theatre. But when I select a space, it has to speak to me. For example, at Triveni, I will have people sitting on the stage while the performance takes place on the steps. But some performances work better in an enclosed environment.

With the advent of digital, how do you see performing arts changing?

Overseas, there is a lot of audio-visual work happening in production. But I feel when you come to see a performance, you want to do just that.

How much of practice did it take to mould yourself like dough during *Chewing Gum*?

I am very impressed that you've done your homework. A lot of time people come to me and say, *Bataiye aap kya kar rahein hain* (What are you doing)? It was a stretch fabric that I used. It was a small box and I sat inside it. The way children chew gum and take it out, that's the way it was performed. It was a short interlude. People still ask me if I do it.

Can artistes afford to be political, especially through their work?

Yes. The four quotes of Mahatma Gandhi that I have used for my present work reflect it. When I started, the protests against CAA had not picked up but now they are so much more relevant. The first quote is, 'It is very easy to be a part of the crowd. It takes courage to stand alone.' And that is what citizens have done, the way they have rallied together.

The second one is, 'I have been very disappointed with educated people and how they have reacted.' While Mahatma Gandhi was talking about how educated people did not shun khadi, today, it is a reference to people who are saying, 'I am pro-CAA,' which is disappointing. When I attended protest rallies or put up a status on Facebook, someone told me, 'I wouldn't be affected so I shouldn't react.' But I am looking at the larger picture. Earlier, all of us lived, worked, spoke and stood up for each other. Why not, now?

Durgamati has stretched me as an actor. Physically, it was a tough film to pull off because of the genre and also my role. As an actor, I want to sink my teeth into all the genres and horror thriller was definitely on the top of my list. I wanted to see for myself if I can be good in horror and I think I have pleasantly surprised myself.

—Bhumi Pednekar

Actor SARA ALI KHAN is gearing up for the release of her forthcoming *Coolie No. 1*. Revealing her signature flair at quirky poetry, the actor calls co-actor Varun Dhawan her mate and dancing with him her fate.

Sara posted a string of pictures on Instagram. The pictures seem to be stills from the song *Husn Hai Suhaana* from the forthcoming film.

Alongside the image, she wrote: "Varun Dhawan is my mate. Dancing with him was my fate. *Abhi gaana aa gaya*, so why wait? Watch it soon, don't be late!"

Gwyneth's love for acting 'wore off'

Actor GWYNETH PALTROW says she was in her mid-twenties when she realised she did not love acting that much.

The realisation came soon after she won an Oscar for *Shakespeare In Love*.

"I felt like, now who am I supposed to be? What am I, what am I driving towards?" she said during an appearance on *Quarantined With Bruce*.

Now 45, Paltrow said that "part of the shine of acting wore off" due to the "intense public scrutiny" of being a young actor in Hollywood.



Give love another chance

MTV *Splitsvilla X3* is all set to host online auditions, embracing the new normal. Host RANVIJAY SINGHA says that even though safety is of prime importance, there's no way the entertainment quotient can spiral down

"Yeh ishq nahi asaan, Bas itna samajh lijiye Sirf 30 seconds ka time hai, Aur impress karke nikalna hai!"

Finding love has never been quirkier and if you think you can ace this, then MTV has you covered. Sprucing up the momentum to find love in the current unprecedented times, the channel has launched the first ever online auditions for the 13th season of its marquee dating-reality franchise, *Splitsvilla X3*.

For the first time, the channel will unveil four *Splitsvillain* (two boys and two girls) prior to the show, who will be part of the online auditions. Ten shortlisted boys and girls will pitch a date to the *Splitsvillain* in each episode. And then, the twist will begin. These virtual pitches are timebound, and the contestants will only have 30 seconds to ace the game. Out of the four people the *Splitsvillain* selects after dating them, the audience will select a boy and a girl, who get a chance to make it to MTV *Splitsvilla X3*, via public voting on Voot. The ones to make it to the show get a chance to be a part of



Splitsvilla X3, with an exotic location, drama, fun, romance, and spice. And to top it all, the charming duo Rannvijay Singha and Sunny Leone will be back as hosts for the seventh time over and up the ante with the virtual auditions.

is of prime importance, there's no way the entertainment quotient can spiral down. This is one show which lets you explore the possibilities of love and relationships in the most candid way and the online auditions is sure to add up to the fun. Digital is the new normal and we're here to kickstart the season in a different yet fresh avatar. Looking forward to fans pouring in their love for the show."

Sunny Leone said, "Every season, the journey of *Splitsvilla* unfolds in a refreshingly different way for me. Not only do I meet new people, I get to experience and work around newer themes and formats. This year is no different, despite the challenges. With digital becoming the way of life, the live auditions are a first for me and I am really excited to be a part of this format. The auditions are sure to double up the fun and I'm looking forward to interact with some interesting people in the process."

(The virtual auditions will be held on December 12 & 13 and then December 19 & 20 on the official MTV pages on Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and VOOT.)

Had to redo script of Coolie No. 1: David

The film of the 1990s, *Coolie No. 1* has been revamped with a modern-day twist. Director David Dhawan shares his thought and experience behind re-making the film with Varun Dhawan and Sara Ali Khan.

"It's my film that I made 25 years ago and the thought of a remake had never come. I had to do something with Varun, and I was thinking what to do. When I asked Varun if he liked this film, he saw it and didn't answer. He later got a little convinced as it was a very difficult film for him because we have one of the best actor playing the lead role — Govinda — and there's no comparison. At the same time, Vashu ji said let's do a remake of the film. And that was also the first film that Vashu and I had done. So that's how the idea came about," he says.

Talking about the script, the director says, "When I started to work on the film/ script, I had to redo everything."

The makers have also released peppy tracks back to back, first *Teri*

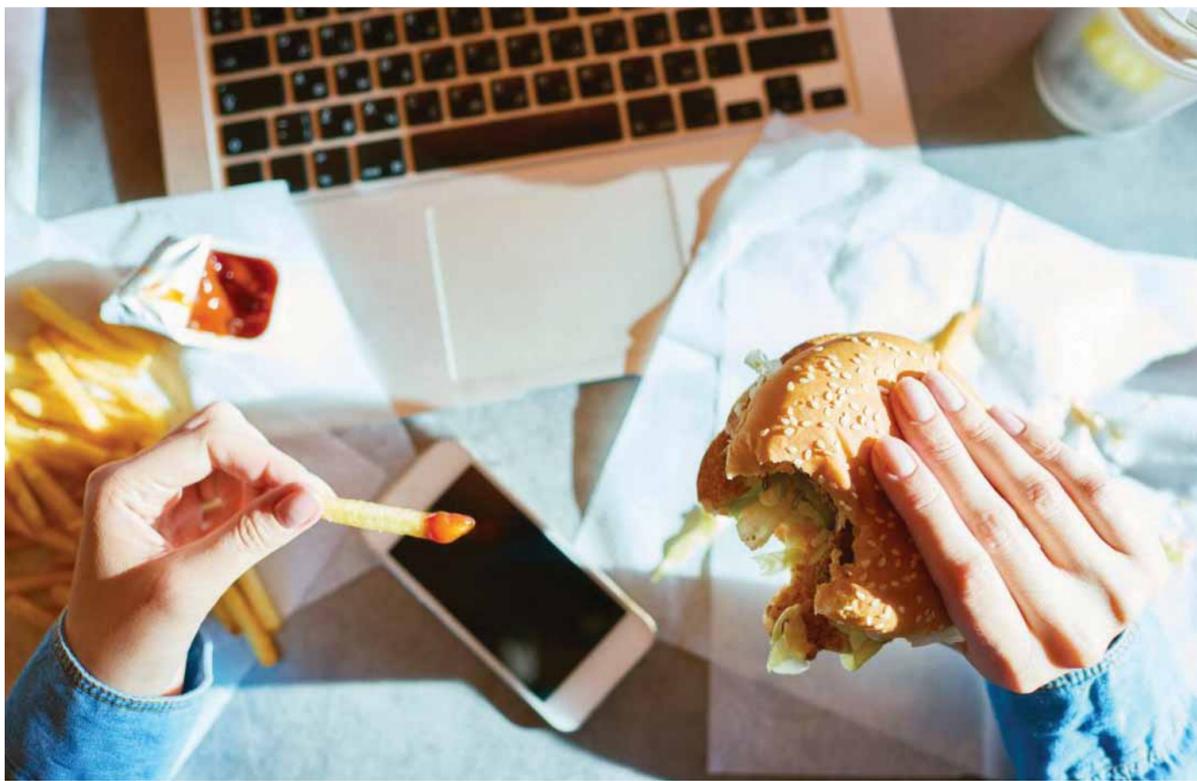


Bhabhi followed by *Husn Hai Suhana*, which have made it to everyone's party playlists once again.

Adding onto the Christmas cheer, Amazon Prime Video brings the World Premiere of Dhawan's 45th film.

The film is produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Jacky Bhagnani and Deepshikha Deshmukh. It also stars Paresh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav, Javed Jaffrey and Johnny Lever.

On other front, Varun recently tested positive for COVID-19.



An essential ingredient

As baking season is upon us, we suggest ways to use vanilla depending on where it is sourced from

I used to take vanilla for granted. Then, I was making chocolate chip cookies one day and ran out of vanilla extract. So I left it out. It was like leaving salt out of the recipe. The cookies lacked the round, full flavours they usually had. I realised vanilla was the foundation of all my favourite baked goods.

It is an essential ingredient like salt, and its usual supporting role is to enhance and bring out the featured flavour. Whether it's part of the supporting cast or the star, however, it is important to use the best quality vanilla you can find.

As baking season ramps up, here's a primer on vanilla extracts, pastes and powders, including single-origin vanillas, which have specific uses depending on where they come from.

Although the word 'vanilla' can carry a 'plain Jane' vibe, vanilla is anything but plain. Cultivating and growing vanilla beans is complex, and vanilla is the second most expensive spice after saffron. But you use so little of it per recipe that the cost of even the highest-quality vanilla in a batch of cookies, say, is nominal, and a small price to pay for maximising flavour.

Vanilla planifolia originated in Mexico and was brought to Madagascar, Indonesia, Uganda and Tahiti, among other places. Today, Madagascar produces the most vanilla beans, and is likely the origin of the vanilla product in your pantry. Making extracts, paste and powder out of the fruit of an orchid is a time and labour-intensive proposition.

Until recently, I didn't realise how many vanilla options there were. Nielsen Massey, for instance, makes five single-origin extracts, and I wondered if I could taste a difference among them.

With the help of Nielsen, I have created a primer on vanilla and the five single-origins that I tasted. The good news about the paste and powder is you can substitute them. Meaning, if your recipe calls for one teaspoon of vanilla extract, you can opt for one teaspoon of either paste or powder instead.

For everyday cooking and baking, choose your favourite single-origin vanilla, or opt for the pure vanilla extract.

Pure vanilla extract

The pantry staple, it's made from a blend of different origins. Different brands have different blends. Vanilla extract generally has a small



amount of sugar in it, in addition to alcohol. The sugar keeps the vanilla suspended in the liquid. You can buy no sugar added vanilla extract, but it must be shaken before use.

Single-origin vanillas

These, Nielsen says, "shine in their distinct ways, such as high-heat application for Indonesian, chocolate dishes for Ugandan, etc." Varieties include:

Madagascar Bourbon: Deep, smooth, creamy flavour. This is what most people associate with the flavour of vanilla. Best choice for a multi-purpose vanilla.

Mexican: The OG vanilla, spicy, works well with warm autumn spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice. This is the vanilla to pair with fall flavours. Has an affinity to chocolate as well.

Ugandan: Similar to Madagascar vanilla in that it is creamy and sweet, but it has a chocolate note and is good in caramel and citrus dishes.

Indonesian: Indonesia is the second largest grower in the world, and the vanilla has a unique flavour profile that is woody and earthy, with natural smoky notes. It retains its flavour in high heat and is a good choice for a grilling marinade, as well as cookies like biscotti which are baked twice.

Tahitian: Comes from a slightly different vanilla orchid called the Vanilla tahitensis, and only grows in tropical Tahiti. It is uniquely fruity and

floral, and the beans are shorter. This vanilla is delicate and cannot withstand heat well. It has a cherry fruit note and is best in fruit-based desserts, or added to ice cream, cream anglaise and non-cook desserts.

Vanilla bean paste

Available as a blend and as a single-origin from Madagascar, vanilla bean paste delivers the same flavour and adds the look of the vanilla bean, which is especially appealing in ice cream, cream brulee and other desserts. Beth Nielsen, vice president of culinary for the company, also brushes it on mild fish before grilling. The sugar that is there in the paste caramelises during cooking and creates a simple glaze.

Vanilla powder

The Nielsen-Massey powder is made by encapsulating vanilla extract in a cornstarch base, which dissolves when blended with any wet product. It is sugar- and alcohol-free. It is best used in any dry applications or when you want the taste of vanilla but not the tint of vanilla extract, as in a white cake or white buttercream.

I also use it in spice rubs made of dried ingredients, for grilled fruit recipes, for instance. There are other vanilla powders in the marketplace that are ground beans and dark brown in colour. —AP

A BRAND NEW PALATE

Immunity-boosting food, snacking through the day, sustainable and vegan food have become the new norm. Chef KARANN TALWAR talks about the forthcoming trends in the food industry post-pandemic



As the world grapples with the massive impact of the global pandemic, daily interactions with the external world — retail and other public spaces, restaurants, offices, educational institutions, and even with each other has been effectively reoriented to prioritise personal hygiene and public safety. No one can predict how events will unfold in the foreseeable future. As a result, our sensibilities are moving towards and causing major changes in how the food industry is expected to function. Industry stakeholders are, hence, gearing up for the new normal.

Following the new health guidelines, countries around the world have started to implement a number of policy measures to curb the spread of the disease. And there are certain

new trends that are likely to gain ground in the post-COVID era. These are:

Omnichannel eating

In the wake of the pandemic, people have adopted a new approach towards the food they cherish. Consumers now eat whatever they please — whenever and wherever they want to. Conventional hospitality has taken a backseat as people become adept at and continue to hone their own culinary skills staying at home. They aren't beholden to the services of restaurants if they feel like having a burger or pizza. They know they can turn to their own kitchen for the purpose. Rise of home-based cooking is scaling up the use of available meal kits or starters and healthier ingredients, resulting in new gourmet

Lip-smacking breakfast
As more people work from home, the most vital meal of the day — breakfast — is getting the

experiences.

Immunity boosting food

As the pandemic dug its claws deeper, raw turmeric was picked up, gut health became important, variety of cakes were baked and Dalgona was stirred. But a greater buzz was created by foods meant for boosting health, one of the many favourable outcomes of COVID-19. Reports show that almost 31 per cent consumers are purchasing more items with health benefits, and 50 per cent indicated a preference for foods and beverages that contain nourishing ingredients for strengthening immunity.

Snacking through the day

With life getting busier by the day, people are slowly doing away with the standard 3-meal-a-day routine. Instead, people have now developed a habit of either eating small meals at regular intervals or snacking throughout the day. This gives them the much-needed breaks in between work. Also, many have switched to nibbling on healthy and nutritious snacks rather than savoury items that they used to eat earlier.

attention it truly deserves, not just on weekends but every day. There's a whole new bunch of innovative products catering to people for what they eat in the morning. With newer and healthier options available, it has become easier to work from home as well as stay healthy.

Less intake of sugar

The pandemic upended our lifestyles completely. In order to deal with the accompanying stress, rising uncertainty, inconsistent routines and lower activity levels, many gravitated towards comfort food, leading to unhealthy lifestyles. As a result, most of them are now re-engineering their diets to reduce the intake of sugar, which in turn augments the demand for sugar substitutes and new technologies in sugar reduction landscape. Every adversity has a silver lining to it. For COVID-19, it's the consciousness that has emerged amongst people about switching to healthy diets and living an environmentally sustainable life. Indoor indulgent gourmet experience will be the new norm. And this trend is expected to only rise further.

Sustainability and vegan foods

With the pandemic taking the world by storm, vegan food picked up steam amongst many. People became more conscious about the food that they eat, wanting to consume things that were grown in a sustainable way — without harming animals and earth at large. Consequently, the market for 'vegan-only' brands is growing by leaps and bounds. Many SMEs have also arisen in the product space across the nation promoting plant-based products, foods and more.

More plant-based products

The pandemic upended our lifestyles completely. In order to deal with the accompanying stress, rising uncertainty, inconsistent routines and lower activity levels, many gravitated towards comfort food, leading to unhealthy lifestyles. As a result, most of them are now re-engineering their diets to reduce the intake of sugar, which in turn augments the demand for sugar substitutes and new technologies in sugar reduction landscape. Every adversity has a silver lining to it. For COVID-19, it's the consciousness that has emerged amongst people about switching to healthy diets and living an environmentally sustainable life. Indoor indulgent gourmet experience will be the new norm. And this trend is expected to only rise further.

(The writer is Managing Director and the Gastronomie Chef, Kitchen Kraft Luxury Catering.)

R E C I P E S



GRILLED FISH

WHAT YOU NEED

- Fish: 160 gm
- Garlic: 20 gm
- Thyme: 6 gm
- Olive oil: 20 ml
- Broccoli: 60 gm
- Asparagus: 30 gm
- Red capsicum: 20 gm
- Mash potato: 100 gm
- Parsley: 6 gm
- Cooking cream: 50 ml
- Salt to taste



- Black pepper: 4 gm
- Micro herb: 2 gm
- Lemon: 1
- Caper: 6 gm
- For mash potatoes:**
- Potato: 1 kg
- Milk: 200 ml
- Cream: 100 ml
- Butter: 40 gm
- Salt to taste
- Pepper: 4 gm
- Garlic: 10 gm

- Thyme: 6 gm

METHOD

- Take a fillet and marinate garlic, thyme, salt black pepper and olive oil. Leave it for an hour.
- On the other side we have to make mashed potatoes. For that boil potatoes perfectly and then strain it.
- Take a saucepan, add oil, garlic, thyme and cook. Then add mashed potatoes, milk and leave it to thicken for four to five minutes.

● On the other side, make sauté vegetable. Blanch broccoli and Asparagus.

● In a non stick pan heat up oil, add thyme, capsicum and broccoli.

● For sauce take a pan, put some garlic, caper, add cream, salt, pepper, parsley and butter. When the sauce is ready, add lemon. Then serve it with mash potatoes.

Courtesy: Himanshu Dhondiyal from Sixth Emperica.

PLUM CAKE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Flour: 500 gm
- Butter: 300 gm
- Eggs: 6 gm
- Brown sugar: 300 gm
- Garam masala: 20 gm
- Soaked fruits: 520 gm
- Milk: 120 gm
- Baking powder: 12 gm

METHOD

- Preheat the oven at a temperature of 145 degree celsius.
- Scale the flour, baking powder, spices and mix together.
- Start by mixing the butter and sugar together in the mixer until it looks pale and fluffy.
- Gradually add the eggs and the milk.
- Add in the dry ingredients and soaked fruits and mix well.
- Line the bottom of the cake ring with aluminum foil. Put 800 gm of the plum cake mix and bake at 145 degree celsius for 35 minutes.

Courtesy: Culinary Head Amit Kumar, L'Opéra.

THE BRAMBLE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Monkey 47: 45 ml
- Schwarzwald Dry Gin: 25 ml
- Lemon Juice: 15 ml
- Sugar Syrup: 7.5 ml
- Creme de Mure/Creme de Cassis/black currant syrup

METHOD

- Add the Monkey 47 Schwarzwald Dry Gin, lemon juice and sugar syrup into a rocks glass.
- Then add crushed ice. Mix well. Add more crushed ice.
- Float the creme de mure/ cassis/ syrup on top and garnish with fresh blackberries.

Courtesy: Pernod Ricard India.



CHRISTMAS PUDDING

WHAT YOU NEED

- Boiling water: 150g
- Rum: 170 gm
- Black currants: 240 gm
- Black raisins: 185 gm
- Sultanas: 185 gm
- Prunes: 150 gm
- Figs: 200 gm
- Brown sugar: 50 gm
- Red cherries: 150 gm
- Butter: 250 gm
- Chocolate: 100 gm
- Vanilla extract: 10 gm
- Dates (chopped): 150 gm
- Flour: 320 gm
- Cocoa powder: 20 gm
- Eggs: 180 gm
- Baking powder: 2 gm
- Cinnamon powder: 2.5 gm



- Garam masala: 2.5 gm
- Cardamom powder: 3 gm

METHOD

- Combine the black currants, black raisins, sultanas, prunes,

figs, brown sugar and rum in a mixing bowl. Stir well to mix, cover and leave for 24 hours to soak.

● After 24 hours, mix the flour, dates, cocoa powder, baking powder, butter, spices and eggs along with the soaked fruit mixture in a large mixing bowl.

● Grease pudding mould with butter. Pour the pudding mixture into the moulds.

● Bake in a double boiler at 140 degree celsius for 60 minutes.

● Once the pudding is cooked, remove from the pan and set aside to cool.

● Cover with cling wrap to keep it soft.

Courtesy: Culinary Head Amit Kumar, L'Opéra.

'Oz depth will be tested in Warner's absence'

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

India's nemesis Steve Smith feels that Australian team's batting depth would be hugely tested in absence of injured opener David Warner in the first Test in Adelaide, starting December 17.

The hosts will likely have a new look opening combination in Joe Burns and Marcus Harris following injuries to Warner (groin) and in-form young gun Will Pucovski (concussion).

"Our depth is obviously going to be tested with Davey (Warner) out and few potentially new players coming in. It will test us out no doubt against a good Indian outfit," Smith said in a virtual news conference.

"They beat us out here last time and they're a very good side. It's gonna be a great series and whoever's up there and whoever's in the team hopefully we will do our job and can have a successful summer."

Smith rated the Indian bowling attack highly even though he felt that it's not the "strongest" without senior pro Ishan Sharma, who has been ruled out of the four-match series because of a side strain he sustained during the IPL.

"They are a good (bowling) line-up. They're pretty experi-



Australian batsman Steve Smith and David Warner

AP/File Picture

enced now... Mohd Shami has played a lot of cricket, Bumrah has played a reasonable amount of cricket and a quality bowler.

"In the spin department, whichever spinner they use be it Ashwin, Jadeja or Kuldeep, they've all played a fair bit of cricket now.

"The quicks perhaps haven't played quite as much, whoever they go with them but they're all good bowlers. We're gonna have to be at our best as a batting group this summer, if we're gonna beat them."

On Ishant's absence, he said: "Ishant Sharma is probably a big loss for them at the start, if he's not available... He's obviously played a lot of cricket. Maybe without him, it may not be the strongest. I'm sure they would like him to play."

The series will see Smith's face-off with Indian pace spearhead Bumrah for the first time in longer formats and he said the key against his awkward action is to be watchful all the time.

"I'm not doing anything specific. I think his skill set won't probably change too much. We know how he bowls, he's got a good pace.

"He's got that awkward action, very different to a lot of people. So you've got to be pretty watchful all the time.

Indian skipper Virat Kohli will take paternity leave after the Pink Ball Test to be with his actor wife who is expecting their first child in January.

Asked whether it will be a big advantage for the Aussies, Smith said it's a big loss for India but he credited Kohli for the decision. "No doubt it's a big loss for India, Virat is a world class player. But look, you have got to give some credit to him."

"I know how much he would love to have played here but he's also a human being, and he's got a life outside of cricket and a family that's starting. So credit to him for wanting to be there for the birth of his first child. "We know how much he loves playing here in Australia, how good he is. But like I said, a lot of credits go to him for wanting to go back there."

30K FOR BOXING DAY TEST

The iconic Boxing Day Test between India and Australia is set to be played in front of 30,000 fans per day after the Victorian government eased crowd restrictions on Thursday.

The Boxing Day Test scheduled to be played on December 26 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground was earlier restricted to 25 per cent of the total capacity crowd a day.

Madrid clubs find way to advance

Real beat M'gladbach to reach last 16; Atleti also progress

AFP ■ MADRID/PARIS

Karim Benzema sent Real Madrid through to the last 16 of the Champions League on Wednesday alongside their rivals Atletico, while Neymar scored a hat-trick as Paris Saint-Germain beat Istanbul Basaksehir in a match that had been delayed for 24 hours over a racism row.

Real are Europe's most decorated club with 13 European Cups but they needed to beat Borussia Moenchengladbach in Madrid to be sure of making it through the group stage of the Champions League for a 24th straight year.

Benzema was their hero, easing the pressure on coach Zinedine Zidane with two fine back-post headers in the first half securing a 2-0 win in a game played behind closed doors at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium.

The Frenchman also hit the bar in the second half and in the end it was a result that suited both teams, with a 0-0 draw between Inter Milan and Shakhtar Donetsk allowing Real to top Group B and Gladbach, former European Cup runners-up, to go through as runners-up.

Players from the German club gathered around smartphones and laptops after full time in Madrid to follow events in Milan, where a winner for either team would have knocked Gladbach out. They celebrated wildly when their qualification was confirmed.

INTER FAIL AGAIN

Shakhtar go into the Europa League while Inter finish bottom of their group, failing to reach the last 16 for a third season running.

Meanwhile Atletico needed to beat Red Bull Salzburg in Austria to qualify as runners-up in Group A behind Bayern Munich, and did so



PSG and Basaksehir players take knee in support of Black Lives Matter campaign before the start of Champions League group H match on Wednesday

with Mario Hermoso and Yannick Carrasco scoring in a 2-0 victory.

Salzburg now go into the Europa League while reigning European champions Bayern completed the group stage unbeaten as Niklas Sule and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting gave them a 2-0 win over Lokomotiv Moscow.

ATALANTA THROUGH

The other team to clinch qualification on Wednesday was Atalanta, whose 1-0 win away to Ajax secured second place in Group D behind Liverpool and a last-16 spot for the second year running. Luis Muriel scored a late winner for Atalanta in Amsterdam after Ryan Gravenberch was sent off for the hosts, who drop into the Europa League.

Already through, Liverpool were able to give a chance to several younger players in their 1-1 draw with Midtjylland in Denmark, where Mohamed Salah put the 2019 winners ahead early on but Alexander Scholz's penalty gave the hosts an

honourable draw.

NEYMAR HAT-TRICK

PSG had wrapped up their qualification for the last 16 on Tuesday thanks to Manchester United's defeat at RB Leipzig, despite their own game being suspended after an unprecedented walkout.

With a new set of officials, the game restarted in the 14th minute on Wednesday and an irresistible Neymar scored a hat-trick while also winning a penalty converted by Kylian Mbappe.

That was Mbappe's first Champions League goal in 12 months, and he scored again later on after Mehmet Topal pulled one back. With their 5-1 victory, PSG go through as group winners.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City made it five wins and a draw in Group D as they eased to a 3-0 victory against Marseille in the second-half goals before an Alvaro Gonzalez own goal. Also already qualified, Porto beat Olympiakos 2-0 in Piraeus courtesy of Otavio's early penalty and a Matheus Uribe goal.

The draw for the last 16 is on Monday.



Ahmedabad to host D/N Test against England

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

International cricket will return to India after a coronavirus-forced break with the marquee series against England in February-March next year and the itinerary unveiled on Thursday features a Day/Night Pink Ball Test at the reconstructed Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Apart from the day-nighter starting February 24, Ahmedabad will also host the fourth and final Test and five T20s, the BCCI stated unveiling the 52-day tour's detailed schedule.

The two other venues that have been allotted matches as

per BCCI's rotational policy are Chennai, which will be the venue for the first two Test matches (starting February 5), and Pune that will host the three ODIs (March 23 to 28).

"Chennai will also host the second Test while the newly built Sardar Patel Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad will host the remaining two Test matches," stated a press release from the BCCI.

"Motera, the largest cricket stadium in the world, boasts of state of the art facilities and a seating capacity of 110,000...The iconic Test will be followed by the 5-match T20I series, which will also be held in Ahmedabad," it added.

ENGLAND'S TOUR OF INDIA

TEST SERIES
1st Test: 5-9 Feb (Chennai)
2nd Test: 13-17 Feb (Chennai)
3rd Test: 24-28 Feb (Ahmedabad) (D/N)
4th Test: 4-8 March (Ahmedabad)

T20Is
1st T20I: 12 March (Ahmedabad)
2nd T20I: 14 March (Ahmedabad)
3rd T20I: 16 March (Ahmedabad)
4th T20I: 18 March (Ahmedabad)
5th T20I: 20 March (Ahmedabad)

ODIs
1st ODI: 23 March (Pune)
2nd ODI: 26 March (Pune)
3rd ODI: 28 March (Pune)

England team will finish its two World Test Championship engagements in Sri Lanka (Jan 14-18, Jan 22-26) and fly from Colombo to Chennai on Jan 27.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Thursday announced Motera as the venue for the day/night Test during the Gujarat Cricket Association's Indoor Academy inauguration.

The match will be India's second pink ball Test at home after the Bangladesh game at the Eden Gardens last year.

The last leg of the tour will feature ODIs and all three matches will be held in Pune.

Since the England team will be travelling from one bio-bubble to another, it would be

allowed to train during its week-long soft quarantine in Chennai.

There are no practice matches scheduled as of now and it is understood that since England would have already played two Tests in Sri Lanka, they won't require a warm-up game after landing in Chennai.

The Indian squad members are likely to be given a week's break after they are back from Australia and would again undergo RT-PCR Tests before they enter the bio-bubble in Chennai.

It is understood that a successful hosting of England series would pave the way for a good IPL at home after it had to be taken to UAE this year.

Who says Bassists aren't cool

GAVIN PACHECO gave up his job in an IT major to follow his passion and he hasn't regretted it since



Why would you quit a job as a Human Resources manager in an Indian IT major to take up a career as a musician? "Well, if you are not being honest to either your job or your passion, you are short changing both," Gavin Pacheco says. He quit his job a decade ago and has had no regrets since. Describing himself as a 'freelance musician', Gavin has played the bass guitar in several prominent independent bands in India including Faridkot, Desi Roots, The Limited Experience and Gone Fishing and has had a blast doing that. "Nothing beats the experience of playing music in front of a crowd and seeing the audience happy," he says.

So how did he get into music? "People assume that just because I'm Goan I have a musical heritage, and yes, I do. My father played the saxophone. While my introduction to music was through Gospel music, but I'd say, like most kids my age, when I was a teenager I listened to rock music including Guns 'N Roses, Metallica, Van Halen and the like." Yet, many of the bands Gavin plays for, and where he often collaborates in the arranging of music as well as writing the songs, take a lot of inspiration from Indian music and sounds.

Bands such as Desi Roots where the lyrics are in Hindi help the music reach out to a wider audience and have given Gavin and his bands the opportunity to play at concerts and corporate shows across the length and breadth of the country. "My father would have loved it if I got into an IIT. Of course, that didn't happen but I can proudly say that I have played at every IIT."

College shows are the best in his opinion. "And when the audience is singing the chorus along with the band, it is an exhilarating feeling." Sometimes things can take a surprising turn. "We got noticed by a major global clothing brand after one of our shows and they liked our music so much that they took us on as brand ambassadors. This was during demonetisation and things were tough for musicians, so that was really cool", Pacheco continues.

PEOPLE ASSUME THAT JUST BECAUSE I'M GOAN I HAVE A MUSICAL HERITAGE, AND YES, I DO. MY FATHER PLAYED THE SAXOPHONE. WHILE MY INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC WAS THROUGH GOSPEL MUSIC, BUT I'D SAY, LIKE MOST KIDS MY AGE, WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER I LISTENED TO ROCK MUSIC INCLUDING GUNS 'N ROSES, METALLICA, VAN HALEN AND THE LIKE



Gavin's father, Tony Pacheco never did carry on with the saxophone professionally and pursued a career as a very popular teacher at Delhi's St.Columba's school, Gavin is now following in his father's footsteps by becoming a teacher. But not a traditional school teacher rather Gavin became an entrepreneur by establishing 'Your Academy of Music' (YAM) in Gurugram Sector-50, where he teaches the guitar to the next generation of kids. "In fact, we get to learn a lot from these kids. Of course, we become aware of the current trends and sounds in music. And I teach the kids through the bands and artists they listen to rather than shoving things down their throat, or things they may not like. And it is amazing getting to meet these kids every day."



Unfortunately for many musicians, 2020 has been a major bump on road, rather a long and loud feedback noise on the amplifiers. There are few opportunities for live performances, the bread and butter

for most musicians, not just in India but across the world. "Well, let's hope the vaccine gets music back as well as live classes but teaching kids has helped me retain some sanity."

And what about the Kia Sonet and the seven-speaker BOSE audio system in the car? "Well, first, the Intelligent Manual Transmission is a brilliant idea and the sound quality is just amazing for a car at this price. As a musician or anyone who loves listening to music, having a good audio system on a car is a very important thing and we all know the quality of BOSE audio and after hearing this, I would even consider purchasing a car like the Sonet."

Little wonder then that the Kia Sonet is among the best cars launched in 2020. The year might have been a difficult one for many people but on India's roads we have a new champion. It comes loaded with amazing new technology and features that are not found even in cars three times the price forget the ones in its own segment. ■