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SHAKEELA IS A
COMPELLING
STORY: PANKAJ
10 VIVACITY



MSP, APMC intact: Modi to farmers

Opp misusing farmers as Govt wants to help kisan grow more earn more, says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
A day after the Supreme Court suggested that the Centre should put on hold the three contentious farm laws and open talks with the agitating farmers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday made another outreach to the farmers and said he is ready with folded hands to discuss their concerns.

The PM emphasised that the system of Minimum Support Price (MSP) will stay and "talk about MSP ending after the new laws is the biggest lie ever".

"If anyone has any concerns, then with our heads bowed and our hands folded, with humility, we are willing to discuss with them and assuage their fears," Modi said, addressing farmers in Madhya Pradesh via video as part of the Government's redoubled efforts to reach out to farmers.

Modi said the Government is ready to ally farmers' fears and maintained that "they are being misled by Opposition parties" who are supporting the protests to promote their own agenda.

"Agar hamain MSP samapt Karin hoti to hum Swaminathan Committee report kyon lagu kartain", he said.

Seeking to dispel farmers' apprehensions, Modi said, "It is six-month since the new farm laws have come into effect but not a single mandi has been shut down."

"Phir ye jhoot kyon failaya ja raha hain?" asked the Prime Minister as he defended three farm reform laws.

Farmers have been asking the Modi Government to provide a written guarantee on the continuation of the MSP, apprehending that farm reforms which now allow trading, would gradually end the MSP and the mandi system.

Opposition is feeling slighted as "we have delivered on farm reforms", said the Prime Minister.

Modi said Opposition parties are using you (farmers) to do politics to find relevance today, since they have lost their political ground. "They fear that Modi will get the credit for reforms. Please take the credit, for me, the only thing that

matter is growth and progress for farmers," he said.

Modi said all old manifestos of other parties said the same thing "what his Government has dared to implement".

Without taking any name, the Prime Minister said Opposition parties are trying to take mileage from farmers' protests.

He said farm reforms did not happen overnight, years of discussion and consultations have gone into it.

"In the new farm laws, the centre has only stated that whether the farmer sells his produce in the market or outside, it will be his will," Modi said, adding that not a single market has been closed after the new laws were enacted.

"Today I want to expose those who have absolutely no care or genuine concern for you — our anna-daata (farmers). I want to caution all those who are being misled and instigated in the name of these farm laws," the Prime Minister said.

It is the 20th day of protest by farmers on the outskirts of Delhi and agitators hope that the Government would take concrete steps to resolve the stand-off by walking the talk as the Government seeks farmers to not to press for scrapping the new laws.



Farmers watch live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on a screen during Kisan Mahasammelan in Raisen on Friday

Opp misleading farmers just for political gains, alleges Tomar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar — who is leading the negotiation with about 40 farmer unions along with Food Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Commerce Som Parkash — asserted the three new farm laws are beneficial for farmers and the Government is ready to give a written assurance that the MSP and mandi system will continue.

He put the blame on Opposition parties for misleading the farmers and accused them of changing their stance on the reform process.

4 upper caste men named in Hathras case

CBI files chargesheet against four for Dalit woman's rape-murder on September 14

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday filed a chargesheet against four accused in the gangrape and murder case of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Hathras.

Those charged for gangrape and murder in the case are Sandeep, Luvkush, Ravi and Ramu. The Dalit victim was allegedly raped by four upper-caste men in Hathras on September 14. She died on September 29 at the Safdarjung Hospital here during treatment.

"The Central Bureau of Investigation has today filed a chargesheet against four accused (residents of district Hathras) in the Court of Special Judge, Hathras (Uttar Pradesh) in a case related to an incident at Hathras," the CBI said in a statement here.

The CBI had registered the case on October 11 this year on the request of Uttar Pradesh Government and further notification from the Centre.

Accordingly, the investigation of the case, earlier regis-



tered vide CC No-136/2020 at Police Station Chandpa, district Hathras on a complaint, was taken over by CBI.

The victim was cremated in the dead of the night near her home on September 30. Her family alleged they were forced by the local police to hurriedly conduct her last rites. Local police officers, however, had claimed the cremation was carried out "as per the wishes of the family".

The UP Government had faced a lot of flak over handling of the case, compelling it to entrust the investigation to the Central agency.

State police officials had refuted allegations of gangrape leading to a massive uproar.

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and a host of politicians had marched to Hathras to express solidarity with the victim's family.

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Another jolt to TMC, one more MLA resigns for BJP

CPM MLA too quits for 'right' movement; Suvendu's resignation from House not OK'd

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after senior Trinamool Congress leaders Suvendu Adhikari and Jitendra Tiwari left the Bengal ruling outfit, two more legislators, one from TMC and the other from the CPI(M), quit their respective parties dropping hints of their rightward movement.

Sources close to Adhikari whose resignation from the Bengal Assembly was not immediately accepted by Speaker Biman Banerjee on "technical grounds" said he would join the BJP in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah during his Saturday rally



at Midnapore.

Adhikari has been summoned by Mamata to explain his position personally to him before considering his resignation. Shah is coming to Bengal on a two-day organisational trip.

"The letter he submitted personally to the Assembly secretariat has no date while the e-mailed letter to me contains a date... this discrepancy has to be clarified by him for which I have asked him to meet me on

December 21. Then only I will be able to accept his resignation. Till then he continues to be a TMC member of the House," Mamata said.

Adhikari a former MP and Bengal Transport Minister later said he would meet the Speaker at the Assembly on the designated date.

The leader who had expressed concern about his personal safety and that of his followers was being provided with Z-category security by the Union Government sources said without providing further clarifications.

The other two leaders who on Friday left their respective parties are TMC legislator and Mukul Roy confidant Sil Bhadra Dutta and Tapasi Mandal a CPI(M) MLA from Haldia whose husband left the Marxist outfit on November 21.

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Bengal to move SC against 3 IPS officers' Central deputation

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The high voltage tension between the Centre and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee escalated with the Trinamool Congress Government on Friday deciding to move the Supreme Court after the Centre issued a mandatory order to three Bengal cadre Indian Police Services (IPS) officers — whom they had earlier ordered on Central deputation — to report in Delhi by Friday.

Even as the State Government refused to release the officers accusing the BJP of violating federal norms — that made the State's clearance necessary to send Central services officers on deputations — the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) summoned the three

IPS officers to report to the Centre setting a reporting deadline of 5 pm on Friday.

The MHA had issued transfer letters to the three officers — Rajeev Mishra (ADG, South Bengal); Praveen Kumar Tripathi (DIG, Presidency Range) and Bhola Nath Pandey (SP, Diamond Harbour) — over alleged lapses in security arrangement to BJP chief JP Nadda during his December 10 visit to Bengal.

The convoy of Nadda was attacked by an alleged crowd of TMC leaders in which a number of vehicles were damaged and senior leaders like Kailash Vijaybargiya and Mukul Roy received injuries leading the Centre to question the law and order situation of the State.

Continued on Page 2

LAC parleys inconclusive but both agree on disengagement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the stand-offs continuing for the ninth month at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India and China held yet another round of diplomatic-level parleys on Friday to break the logjam. There was no breakthrough, but both the sides agreed to sustain the process of dialogue and ensure speedy disengagement at the border.

The latest round of diplomatic level talks under the aegis of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was

held nearly 11 weeks after the last round on September 30.

These talks, though inconclusive, could pave the way for the ninth round of Corps Commander-level talks between the armies of the two countries. The two commanders had met last on November 6 but of now no avail.

Given the apparent mistrust at present, India has ramped up its military preparedness and has deployed additional mountain warfare trained troops for the winter months all along the 1,700 km long LAC in Ladakh. More than one lakh troops from both the sides are facing each

other in the Ladakh sector.

In the virtual WMCC talks, the sixth since the face-offs began in early May, the Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (East Asia) from the Ministry of External Affairs Naveen Srivastava. The Director General of the Department of Boundary & Oceanic Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hong Liang led the Chinese delegation.

The two sides reviewed the developments along the LAC since the last round of the WMCC, the External Affairs Ministry said here.

Continued on Page 2

Mercury drops below 3° C in Delhi, more in store for 2 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi is likely to witness "severe" cold on Saturday and Sunday. "Cold wave" conditions are predicted in Delhi on Saturday and the cold spell is likely to continue till Monday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The minimum temperature dropped below the three degrees Celsius-mark in parts of Delhi on Friday as frosty winds from snow-covered Western Himalayas continue to sweep the national Capital.

The mercury plunged to 2.7 degrees Celsius at Jafarpur. It settled at 3.5 degrees Celsius and 3.8 degrees Celsius at Ayanagar and Lodhi Road weather stations, the IMD said.

Covid-19 cases cross 1-cr mark

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's coronavirus tally crossed one crore mark on Saturday. The country added over 26,896 cases and with 339 new fatalities, its Covid-19 death toll reached 1,45,168.

With a continuous trend of daily reductions, India's share of global active coronavirus cases is down at 1.51 per cent (one in 66). The last one million cases for India have come in 29 days.

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Covid-19 IN INDIA TOTAL

CASES: 1,00,04,730
DEATHS: 1,45,168
RECOVERED: 95,49,770
ACTIVE: 3,07,158



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	18,88,767	48,580	17,78,722
Karnataka	9,07,123	11,989	8,79,735
Andhra Pradesh	8,77,806	7,070	8,66,359
Tamil Nadu	8,04,650	11,954	7,82,915
Kerala	6,93,866	2,758	6,32,065
Delhi	6,14,775	10,219	5,93,137
Uttar Pradesh	5,72,196	8,154	5,46,087
West Bengal	5,32,695	9,277	5,04,353
Odisha	3,25,505	1,882	3,20,947
Rajasthan	2,95,953	2,589	2,79,717
Telangana	2,80,195	1,506	2,71,649
Chhattisgarh	2,64,898	3,163	2,44,247
Haryana	2,56,477	2,803	2,47,097
Bihar	2,45,933	1,341	2,39,538
Gujarat	2,33,263	4,220	2,16,783
Madhya Pradesh	2,29,130	3,453	2,13,801

Conmen put Modi's Varanasi office on block

4 held for listing PM office for sale on OLX

PTI ■ VARANASI

Four people have been arrested for allegedly posting an online advertisement listing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Varanasi office for "sale", police said on Friday.

The accused had taken a picture of the "Jansampark Kaaryalay (public relations

office)" of Modi, who represents Varanasi in the Lok Sabha, and put it "up for sale" on OLX website, they said.

The office is located in the Jawahar Nagar locality of the city, and it falls under the Bhelupur police station limits, Varanasi Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amit Pathak said.

"Yesterday, it came to our notice that the Prime Minister's office here has been put up on sale on OLX website. An FIR was immediately lodged at the

Bhelupur police station, and the matter is being probed," he said.

"Four people involved in the case have been taken in custody," the SSP said, adding that the person who took the picture and put it on the website is among them.

The accused are being questioned, and further legal proceedings are being carried out, he said. Modi was first elected to the Lok Sabha from Varanasi in 2014 and then re-elected in 2019.



Violators of Covid guidelines, SOPs must be punished

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said that any decision to impose curfew or lockdown must be announced in advance so that people may make provisions for their livelihood.

The court said this while observing that Covid-19 pandemic has spread like wildfire owing to the lack of implementation of guidelines and SOPs.

"Curfew on weekends/night may be considered by States where it is not in place. However, any decision to impose curfew or lockdown must be announced long in advance so that the people may know and make provisions for the livelihood, like ration," a Supreme Court bench comprising Justice Ashoke Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah said.

The apex court said strict and stern action should be

taken against those who are violating Covid-19 guidelines and SOPs, irrespective of their position.

The bench said there should be more police personnel at food courts, eateries, vegetable markets, sabzi mandis, bus stations, railway stations, etc, as these are the places which are seeing gathering of people.

No permission shall be granted for any celebration as far as possible, the SC noted adding that there should be mechanism in place to check the number of people attending such gathering. The bench also observed that there shall be more and more testing and the focus should be to declare correct facts and figures.

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CAPSULE

DOING BUSINESS: CHINA GOES DOWN 7 NOTCHES
New Delhi: Coming out with corrected Doing Business rankings following review of data irregularities, the World Bank has said China's ranking would have been lower by seven notches in the index for 2018.

UN VEHICLE HIT: INDIA REJECTS CLAIM BY PAK
Islamabad: The Pakistan Army on Friday accused the Indian Army of "deliberately" targeting a United Nations Military Observers (UNMO) vehicle in the Chirikot Sector along the Line of Control, an allegation dismissed by India as untrue.

₹7,926-CR BANK FRAUD: HYDERABAD FIRM BOOKED
New Delhi: The CBI has booked Hyderabad-based Transstroy (India) Ltd and its directors for alleged bank fraud of over ₹7,926 crore in a consortium led by Canara Bank, in one of the biggest banking scams in the country, officials said on Friday.

Uttarakhand CM tests Covid positive

Dehradun: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said he tested positive for Covid-19 on Friday. "I had undergone a coronavirus test today and my report has come out positive. I am well and have no symp-

oms. So on the advice of doctors, I will remain in home isolation," tweeted Rawat.

The CM also requested the people who had come into his contact over the last few days to get themselves tested for the infection.

Assembly resolution seeks CBI probe into ₹2,500 cr misappropriation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly on Friday passed a resolution, demanding a CBI enquiry into 'financial mismanagement' and an alleged Rs 2,500 crore scam in BJP-ruled municipal corporations.

Addressing the assembly session, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that BJP's Rs 2500 crores scam in MCD is a bigger scam than Congress's Commonwealth scam.



event for the people of Delhi, the Delhi Assembly and the entire state because we have

gathered here today to discuss the biggest scam in the history of Delhi. A 7500-bedded

hospital or 12500 Mohalla clinics could have been created using the entire public exchequer lost of Rs 2500 crore.

"The Congress party did many scams in its tenure, one of the most famous scams being the Commonwealth scam. But the BJP-led MCD has left Congress behind, and the people are saying that the Rs 2500 crore scam of the BJP is even bigger than the Commonwealth scam of the Congress. Imagine what they would have done, had they formed a government in Delhi.

The scam of Rs 2500 crores is just one MCD of this year, the three MCDs must have done unaccounted scams in the 15 years of their rule," he said.

"Everyone knows that the BJP ruled MCDs takes money from the people of Delhi to build a residential property in Delhi. Only RSS has the share of discount per lintel to build a property. And there is a yearly scam of Rs 5000-10000 crores in the lintel in buildings alone, which they can earn if they stop this corruption," he added.

Terming the 15-years of the BJP rule in Municipal Corporation as black era, he said "I hope that the people of Delhi will collectively end this black era. The people of Delhi have two models in front of them; one is BJP's model in MCD and AAP's model in Delhi government. During the assembly elections this year in February, people had to choose between two models, and they chose the AAP model and gave us 62 seats as against 8 seats to BJP. I hope that they will entirely reject the BJP

model in the coming days," he added.

"It is unfortunate that all the three MCDs are locked as the protests and Commissioners have not been appointed. I hope that the people of Delhi will keep all these in mind next year during the municipal elections. I support the proposal tabled by Saurabh Bhardwaj in the Delhi Assembly," he added.

The chief minister further

said that the Delhi government is saving every single penny in all its projects. "It has recently constructed a flyover worth Rs 325 cr in Rs 200 cr and is providing facilities to the people of Delhi with the money saved. The court has also said that the Delhi government has paid its dues in full to the MCD, yet the BJP is seeking Rs. 13000 crores from the Delhi government to again loot the money and do corruption," he added.

Meeting held to create awareness about EV policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to create a transparent, accessible and effective process to deploy 'Electric Vehicles' (EVs), chargers and to create awareness about making Delhi pollution free by adopting clean modes of transport, the Delhi Government on Friday held its first meeting on Friday in which industry representatives highlighted challenges and opportunities in implementing the EV policy in the national Capital.

The 'Delhi EV Forum' established to serve as a platform for continuous engagement with stakeholders in the EV ecosystem for successful implementation of the Delhi EV Policy. On behalf of the Delhi government, Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) hosted the first meeting of the forum with RMI India's support.

Speaking at the meeting, Kailash Gahlot, Minister of Transport and Environment, Delhi government said, "Under the leadership of the Chief Minister, the EV policy is being implanted in Delhi. Its execution has been systematic,

including the rollout of financial incentives for EVs. We would like to see Delhi as the EV capital not only of India but of the world."

Highlighting the need for a robust EV ecosystem, Jasmine Shah, Vice Chairperson of DDC said, "It is a privilege for DDC to host the Delhi EV Forum. This forum creates a much needed platform for the entire community of people passionate about deploying electric vehicles at scale in one Indian city, to come together and make it happen."

Shah further highlighted that the government can do its part but there has to be a joint vision. "Five years from now, when we talk about a global lighthouse city, Delhi's name should be there. If that is the tall ambition that is to be achieved, this will require combined efforts of all of us," he added.

Commenting on deploying more charging stations in the capital, Padmini Singla, Secretary (Power) Delhi government said, "There is a chicken-egg situation with EVs and charging stations. Delhi government is trying to solve this by deploying charging infrastructure by providing 100 sta-

tions in the first phase".

More than 130 participants from auto, charging and fleet sectors along with civil society organisations and experts attended the virtual meeting. There were discussions around creating joint awareness programmes by government departments and industry to promote EVs; ways to deploy charging infrastructure at appropriate spaces; need for high quality EVs and encouraging fleet operators to convert existing fleets to electric.

Considering that the EV ecosystem is relatively new and still in the initial stages of development, consultations and stakeholder discussions are expected to prove crucial in the early stages of implementation of the Delhi EV Policy, the office of DDC said in a statement.

Therefore, think-tanks, civil society organizations (CSOs), Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), charging infrastructure providers, fleet-aggregators, first and last-mile service providers, among other mobility service providers and government agencies will be invited to further quarterly meetings, it said.

Police dog squad checks farmers' Ghazipur stir site

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI /GHAZIABAD

Farmers stayed put at Ghazipur border (UP Gate) on 23rd day to mark their protest against the Centre's new farm laws. Following specific inputs regarding some anti-nationals forces do not keep any explosive items at the movement site and to avoid any kind of untoward incident, the police dog squad also checked the area for unclaimed items and area.

Meanwhile, Rakesh Tikait, the national spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, while addressing the gathering on Friday said the next revolution in the country will be Kisan Kranti, if the Government does not agree to our demands and repeal the laws.

He said the BJP-led Centre Government has launched a campaign to convince the farmers in every district. "Why is the Government setting up camp in the city, this camp should be set up in the village. The farmer whom you want to explain must also hear what you want to explain, we will

arrange your forum. The solution will be found only when you come in the middle of the plowman," said Tikait.

Tikait termed the government as Jungle Raj rule and said that farmers like them should also be part of the traders meet organized in Delhi's FICCI auditorium. Tikait said that the government neither called them to Delhi nor did it come to the villages.



6 IPS officers transferred in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Lieutenant Governor's office on Friday transferred and gave new postings to six Indian Police Service (IPS) officers in National Capital. In the order issued on Friday, IPS 1988 batch, Sunandri Nanda, Special Commissioner of Police (CP) Vigilance has been given the charge as Special CP Establishment and General Administration.

IPS 1988 batch, Balaji Shrivastava has been appointed as Special CP, Vigilance while IPS 1990 batch, Dependra Pathak has been given the charge of Special CP, Intelligence.

IPS 1992 batch, Satish Golcha, Special CP, Central Zone has been transferred as Special CP, South Zone while IPS 1994 batch, Rajesh Khurana, Special CP, Intelligence has been transferred as Special CP, Central Zone," as per the order.

IPS 1991 batch, Nuzrat Hassan, Special CP, SPUWAC has been additional charge of Special CP, Provisioning and Logistics.

Rlys sees 87% drop in earnings from passengers this year: Yadav

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Railway Board Chairman RKV Yadav on Friday pointed out that it has seen an 87-per cent drop in the earnings from the passenger segment so far this year, compared to the last year.

Addressing the media, Yadav said that the railways' earnings from passenger rev-

enue have been Rs 4,600 crore and estimates show that by March 2021, the figure is expected to rise to Rs 15,000 crore or so in the current fiscal.

The chairman, however, said the loss in the passenger segment will be overcome from the earnings through freight, which is expected to cross last year's figures. He said by December, the national transporter had already achieved 97 per cent of last year's loading.

"Railways has suffered massive losses in passenger revenue due to the suspension of train services because of the coronavirus pandemic. It is not possible to give a definite date for the resumption of normal train services. The general managers have been in dis-

ussion with the state governments and we will resume the services when and where we get the go-ahead. Even now, the situation is not normal," he added.

"So far, our earnings from passenger revenue are Rs 4,600 crore and by the year-end, our aim is to take our total earnings from the passenger segment to Rs 15,000 crore. In the last fiscal, our earnings from this segment were Rs 53,000 crore. This makes our earnings 87% less than last year," Yadav said.

He pointed out that even the trains that are currently in operation are witnessing around 30-40% occupancy on an average, reflecting that the fear of pandemic is still there.

LAC parleys...

From Page 1

The two sides agreed that based on the guidance provided by senior leaders and the agreements reached between the two Foreign Ministers and Special Representatives, they would continue to work towards ensuring complete disengagement in all friction points along the LAC in the Western Sector at the earliest.

The two sides noted that the 7th and 8th rounds of Senior Commanders meetings held on October 12 and November 6 respectively had in-depth discussions in this regard and that these discussions had also contributed to ensuring stability on the ground.

Both sides agreed to maintain close consultations at the diplomatic and military level. They agreed that the next (9th) round of Senior Commanders meeting should be held at an early date so that both sides can

work towards early and complete disengagement of troops along the LAC in accordance with the existing bilateral agreements and protocols, and fully restore peace and tranquility.

Airing more or less same views, the official Chinese communiqué also said the two sides had candid and in-depth exchange of views on the situation along the LAC.

The two delegations agreed to earnestly implement the five-point consensus reached between the foreign ministers of both countries at the Moscow meeting. The talks also focused on the disengagement of front-line troops and take concrete measures to deal with the issues on the ground to further deescalate the border situation. The two delegations also reiterated their commitment to continue dialogue at the military and diplomatic level.

India on Thursday had stressed the need for further discussions with China for a

mutually acceptable solution for complete disengagement at the LAC.

Covid curbs must be ...

From Page 1

"One must be transparent in number of testing and declaring the facts and figures of the persons who are Corona positive. Otherwise, the people will be misled and they will be under impression that everything is all right and they will become negligent," the bench noted.

"Another issue is the fatigue of the frontline healthcare officials. They are already exhausted physically and mentally due to tireless work for eight months. Some mechanism may be required to give them intermittent rest," the apex court said.

Another jolt to TMC...

From Page 1

Even as a video showing Mandal holding a closed-door parley with Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh went viral, the Marxist outfit promptly expelled her from the party where after she said, "It had become impossible to work with the CPI(M) and so I am leaving the party."

She too is likely to join the BJP in presence of Shah on Saturday.

When contacted CPI(M) legislative party leader Sujan Chakrabarty said, "She must have done what she has done either out of some pressure or some lure... no it is for her to explain her stance to the people and not the party... currently the TMC and BJP are engaged in a dirty game of leader swapping that may not go down well with the people of the State."

Meanwhile, Trinamool Congress top brass on Friday met at the Kalighat residence of Mamata apparently to weigh up the present political situation in Bengal against the backdrop of frequent desertion by party leaders.

The meeting that started late in the evening was had battle plans for the 2021 elections prime on its agenda said sources, adding efforts would also be taken to assuage the ruffled feelings in the party.

Bengal to move SC against 3...

From Page 1

The Bengal Government moved the Apex Court citing the provisions under Article 312 of Constitution according to which the officers could be taken on Central deputation only after getting clearance from the respective State.

The law suit came hours after Bengal Chief Minister called the Centre's attitude as "expansionist" and vowed not to bow down before News Delhi. Interestingly retired IAS officers, Bikram Sarkar and IPS officer Gautam Chakrabarty referred to special

circumstances when the Centre could lift officers from the State and "there is nothing that the State can do about this."

The Centre-State tussle went beyond the IPS transfer controversy with the MHA once again summoning Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandoopadhyay and DGP Virendra for meeting in Delhi which the officers politely refused to comply with citing the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The two officials however proposed virtual meeting that the Centre had agreed to sources said.

4 upper caste men named...

From Page 1

The agency has looked into the role of accused Sandeep, Luvkush, Ravi and Ramu who are currently in judicial custody, officials said, adding the accused were also put through various forensic tests at the Forensic Science Laboratory in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Reacting to the CBI charge sheet in the case, Priyanka said despite the campaign against the 19-year-old, Dalit woman and attempts to threaten her family, truth has ultimately prevailed. "On one side, there was government-protected injustice. On the other hand, was the victim's family's hope for justice. The victim's body

was forcefully cremated, and there were attempts to tarnish her image. The family was threatened. But, in the end, truth has prevailed. Satyamev jayate," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet

The CBI investigators had also met doctors at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital, where the victim was treated after the alleged gang rape on September 14 as part of the probe, they said.

The CBI had constituted a team to probe the incident and handed over the probe to its Ghaziabad unit which also recorded statements of family members of the victim.

Covid-19 cases cross 1-cr mark

From Page 1

Meanwhile, ICMR DG (Prof) Balram Bhargava has tested positive for COVID-19 and been admitted to AIIMS trauma centre on Friday.

The Covid-19 cases in India are steadily coming down while the caseload of infection in many parts of the world is experiencing a second or even a third peak. The global tally of coronavirus cases stands at 75,456,940.

While 53,012,389 have recovered, 1,671,822 have lost their lives. Meanwhile, the US continues to be the worst-hit country with 17,628,578 cases.

According to the health ministry's data, the five most affected states by total cases are Maharashtra (1888767), Karnataka (9,07,123), Andhra Pradesh (8,77,806), Tamil Nadu (8,04,650), and Kerala (693866).

Kerala has reported 5,456 fresh case in the last 24 hours, highest in the country, taking the total number cases to 6,93,866; even as 4,701 patients have recovered from the disease. Meanwhile, 23 deaths in the last few days were confirmed, taking the death toll in

the state to 2,757.

Maharashtra's coronavirus tally has reached 18,88,767 after 3,994 people tested positive for the infection in the last 24 hours. With the death of 75 patients, the fatality count went up to 48,574. A total of 4,467 patients were discharged after recuperating, taking the recovery count to 17,78,722. Mumbai division, which comprises Mumbai city and its satellite towns, reported 1,250 new cases, taking its total to 6,46,756. As many as 18,809 people have died so far in the region due to the infection, the official said. Mumbai city reported 642 new cases, which pushed its overall count to 2,85,632, while its death toll rose to 10,970 as nine patients succumbed to the infection during the day.

West Bengal has reported 2,239 fresh cases, taking the total tally to 5,32,695. With 42 deaths, the total fatalities rose to 9,277.

With 1,418 fresh COVID-19 cases and 37 deaths in the last 24 hours, the number of total cases has touched 6,14,775 and death toll rose to 10,219 in Delhi.

ICICI Home Finance Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. (Basement) SCO 485, 486 Sec 35C, Chandigarh Pin- 160022

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

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

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer ICICI Home Finance Company 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 / Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) 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.	Kiran Kureel, Kamala, Shive Kumar NHDSS00000871722	Plot No. 287 Vasant Vihar, Vill Gulabgarh Dist SAS Nagar Dera Bassi, Punjab 140607. Area of the Plot is 1755 Sq. Ft	Rs. 21,47,177/- (as on 15 Dec 2020)	Rs. 8,75,000/- Rs. 87,500/-	January 07, 2021 at 11 AM to 12 PM	January 18, 2021 From 11 AM to 12 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgages/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **January 16, 2021 before 05:00 PM** 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 Ltd. (Basement) SCO 485, 486 Sec 35C, Chandigarh Pin- 160022** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **January 16, 2021 before 05:00 PM** 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 Ltd. (Basement) SCO 485, 486 Sec 35C, Chandigarh Pin- 160022** on or before **January 16, 2021 before 05:00 PM**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited" payable at Chandigarh.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 7347020115** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**.

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised 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 19, 2020
Place: Delhi

Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of Rajasthan



Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

TWO YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

PWP : Public Welfare Portal (Jan Kalyan Portal) Launched on December 18, 2020

: The only portal of its kind where all information is available at one place :
Information of eligibility, conditions, benefits etc. in all government schemes
Information of achievements and innovations of the government
Collection of useful circulars/orders for the general public



Indira Rasoi Yojana – Arrangement of food at Rs 8 to needy in all urban bodies across the state. Over 1.12 crore plates of food have been made available to people uptill now. The State Government provides subsidy of Rs 12 per plate.



A financial burden of Rs 310 crore was borne by the State Government due to the relaxation given in depositing bills to 1.05 crore domestic electricity consumers and 14.50 lakh agriculture and other consumers because of COVID.



Subsidy of Rs 27,229 crore provided to farmers and Rs 968 crore to domestic consumers in electricity bills in the last two years. Decision taken not to increase the electricity tariff for agriculture for five years. New 1.61 lakh agriculture connections have been issued.



For better marketing arrangements of agriculture crops, 643 **Gram Seva/ Kray Vikray Sahakari Samities** and warehouses of Rajasthan State Warehousing Corporation have been given the status of private sub-yards (Mandies).



Rajasthan Agro-processing, Agro-business and Agro-export Promotion Policy – 2019 : Provision of subsidy to the tune of Rs 2 crore to farmers on capital and interest cost. A fund of Rs 500 crore created for easy loans.



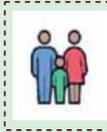
Interest-free crop loans of Rs 19,323 crore disbursed to 61 lakh loanee units of cooperative banks, which include 12.67 lakh new farmers.



Waiver of crop loan from cooperative banks of 20.85 lakh farmers amounting to Rs 8,000 crore.



With the aim to have medical colleges in every district, new medical colleges have been sanctioned in 15 more districts, now 30 out of 33 districts will have 31 government medical colleges.



Assistance of Rs 1,144 crore provided to 33 lakh destitute and helpless families at the rate of Rs 3,500 per family.



Rajasthan became the model state for excellent management of corona. Free of cost testing and treatment facility at government hospitals in all the districts. Health infrastructures strengthened. Substantial increase in oxygen beds, ICU beds, ventilators, oxygen plants was ensured.



Over 713 types of medicines and 90 kinds of tests have been made free. Medicines for serious diseases such as cancer, heart, respiratory and kidney diseases are also free. Centralised oxygen pipeline in 20 sub-district and 21 district hospitals.



Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Health Insurance Scheme started. Free of cost treatment facility to 1.10 crore families with the addition of 10 lakh new families.



Over Rs 10,579 crore spent on construction/development of 24,100 km roads. These include 3923 km new roads costing Rs 1,650 crore.



Exemption from any kind of approval and inspection for three years on setting up new Micro, Small and Medium Industry. **'One Stop Shop'** for all kind of facilitation to industries. **Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme-2019** implemented.



For 43,000 crores refinery project being set up at Pachpadra (Barmer), works to the tune of Rs 5,000 crores completed and work order of Rs 25,000 crores issued.



'Rajasthan Samajik Suraksha, Laghu Evam Simaant Vraddhjan Krashak Samman Pension Niyam-2019' issued. Over 2.80 lakh farmers benefitted.



Free of cost availability of maximum useful medicines for livestock, treatment to 567 lakh and vaccination to 786 lakh livestock.



10% Reservation to the Economically Weaker Sections. Condition of immovable property in EWS quota abolished and income of Rs 8 lakh per annum considered as the only basis.



Assistance of Rs 822 crore granted to Gaushalas till now. Subsidy of Rs 2 per litre on milk collection to cattle raiser farmers.



State's first underground Metro Rail made operational in Jaipur.



Rajasthan Silicosis Policy-2019 : Provision for the assistance of Rs 3 lakh for rehabilitation of the affected person and pension of Rs 1500 per month.



Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy-2019 and Rajasthan Wind and Hybrid Energy Policy-2019 : A big step towards environment conservation, promotion of investment and employment.



Rural Development Panchayati Raj : Construction of 5 lakh houses have been completed, out of 6.43 lakh houses sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Grameen Awas Yojana. A total of Rs 5,410.31 crore spent on construction of houses, First prize awarded to state for completing maximum houses. New 57 Panchayat Samitis formed.



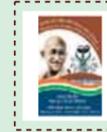
Reservation increased to 4% from 3% for specially-abled persons in government jobs. Increase in pension of elderly persons, widows and single women.



Government jobs provided to 79,761 youths. Over 1,519 dairy booths allotted to unemployed youths.



Rajasthan is the first State to have organised State Games. Medal winning 29 sports persons were given jobs on out of turn basis (6 DSP rank jobs). In addition 250 cases are in process.



Priority to creation of permanent assets in MNREGA. Payment of 99.82% wages in 15 days.



Rajasthan is the first State in India to give assistance of Rs 50 lakh to the family of the government employees (including contractual employees), in case of death on corona duty.



Supply of potable drinking water to 5,000 villages/hamlets and 14 cities (partial) from surface water sources through 9 large drinking water projects.



Jan Soochna Portal – Nearly 261 types of information are available for 94 schemes.



201 **Mahatma Gandhi Government Schools** (English Medium) opened for better education to all boys/girls and 68,540 students have been enrolled. 90 new government colleges opened.



Farmers Welfare Fund : Fund to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore created.



Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana : Financial assistance of Rs 6,000 to every pregnant women becoming mother for the second time and foster mother in 4 tribal districts.



Special Investigation Unit set up to deal with crime against women in each police district and officer of DySP rank posted. Reception counters set up at police stations. ACB strengthened and Helpline 1064 started.



New system of FIR registration at SP offices, established, if Thanas fail to register FIR. Substantial decrease in lodging of FIR through court under section 156(3) after enforcing compulsory FIR registration at Thanas.



Over 450 public utility services available at 80,000 **e-mitra** kiosks near to the homes.

Will ensure resources for nation's safety: Rajnath



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With India facing hostile situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China and the Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday these posed challenges to resources.

He expressed confidence that to meet the twin challenges, the Government will ensure there is no shortage of resources, he said.

Meanwhile, apparently referring to the impact of social media in conflicts between nations, Rajnath said the reach of the mobile phone now was bigger than that of a missile.

"Covid-19 has adversely impacted our economy and we need to pay special attention for efficient utilisation of our budget," the Minister said addressing scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at the annual awards ceremony.

Stating that the armed forces will be facing many new challenges and security threats in the days to come and technology can be used positively, Rajnath said in such a situation while carrying out a realistic assessment, there is need to develop our capabilities quickly, according to our needs.

At the ceremony, he handed over the DRDO made Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System (IMSAS) to Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh and the Border Surveillance System (BOSS) to Army Chief General M M Naravane.

"The system (BOSS) has been deployed at Ladakh border area for day and night surveillance. The system facilitates monitoring and surveillance by



automatically detecting the intrusions in harsh high-altitude sub-zero temperature areas with remote operation capability," the Defence Ministry said in a statement. The system is being produced by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Machilipatnam.

The IMSAS is state-of-the-art, fully indigenous, high performance intelligent software system that provides global maritime situational picture, marine planning tools and analytical capabilities to Indian Navy. The system provides masritime operational picture from Naval headquarters to each individual ship in sea to enable naval command and control, it added.

Addressing the scientists, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said the private industry is also motivated and need the scientists support. "I feel that in case of war in future, we will win it through indigenous weapons," he said.

Addressing the annual Military Literature Festival in Chandigarh, Rajnath warned that different kinds of security threats may emerge in the future.

"This event is important from another point of view," he said through video confer-

CBI files two separate cases in bank fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered two separate cases related to bank fraud to the tune of about ₹7,926.01 and ₹313.79 crore. The agency also conducted searches at several locations at the premises of the accused in Hyderabad, Guntur and Chennai.

The first case has been registered against Hyderabad-based private company Transstroy (India) Ltd. and others including its CMD Cherukuri Sridhar, Additional Directors Rayapati Sambasiva Rao and Akkineni Satish, unknown public servants besides unknown others on a complaint from Canara Bank.

"It was alleged that the private firm based at Hyderabad and its directors had availed credit facilities on multiple banking arrangements. The consortium was formed with other banks, led by Canara Bank. It was further alleged that the accused had involved in falsification / fabrication of books of accounts, fudging of stock statements, tampering of balance sheets, round tripping of funds etc," the CBI said in a statement.

It was also alleged that the accused misappropriated bank's funds and diverted the loan amount sanctioned by the banks and caused loss of ₹7,926.01 crore to Canara Bank and other member banks. The account had become NPA and the fraud was reported.

Searches were conducted at the premises of private company/other accused at Hyderabad and Guntur, which led to recovery of incriminating documents, it said.

The Second case was registered against a private company based at Chennai Agnite Education Ltd. and others including its Chairman K Balasubramaniam, Director K Padmanabhan, unknown public servants and private persons on a complaint from State Bank of India.

Domestic air passenger traffic in Nov down 51% from 2019 level: DGCA



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 63.54 (6.35 million) lakh domestic passengers travelled by air in November as compared to 52.71 lakh in October and 39.43 lakh in September. According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the number of passengers travelled in November is less than 51 per cent as compared to the corresponding period last year.

The DGCA data showed that IndiGo carried 34.23 lakh passengers in November, a 53.9 per cent share of the total domestic market, SpiceJet flew 8.4 lakh passengers, which is 13.2 per cent share of the market. Air India, GoAir, AirAsia

India and Vistara carried 6.56 lakh, 5.77 lakh, 4.21 lakh and 3.97 lakh passengers respectively in November, the data showed. The occupancy rate or load factor of six major Indian airlines was between 66.3 and 77.7 per cent in November, it stated.

"The passenger load factor in the month of Nov 2020 has shown some recovery due to increased demand after the opening of Lockdown and onset of festive season" it said. The occupancy rate at SpiceJet was 77.7 per cent in November.

Meanwhile, the occupancy rate for other major airlines IndiGo, Vistara, GoAir, Air India and AirAsia India was 74 per cent, 70.8 per cent, 70.8 per cent, 69.6 per cent and 66.3 per

cent respectively, according to the DGCA. India resumed domestic passenger flights on May 25 after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus pandemic. Indian airlines are allowed to operate a maximum of 80 per cent of their pre-COVID-19 domestic flights.

The DGCA data showed that in November, IndiGo had the best on-time performance of 97.5 per cent at four metro airports—Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai. AirAsia India and Vistara were at number two and three at these four airports in November with 95.6 per cent and 94.8 per cent on-time performance, respectively, the DGCA said.

PM's new residence will be built on a 15-acre plot ESTIMATED COST ₹13,450 CRORE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister's new residential complex will have 10 four-storey buildings with a maximum height of 12 metres.

Official sources said that there is "no question of dropping" the proposed new Prime Minister's Office (PMO) from the Central Vista Redevelopment project, after the CPWD did not mention the same in its new proposal before an expert panel of the Ministry of Environment and Forest. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD), which is executing the project, has revised the estimated cost from ₹11,794 crore to ₹13,450 crore.

The Prime Minister's new residence will be built on a 15-acre plot and it will have 10 buildings and they will have ground plus three floors, the CPWD said in its proposal.

Permissible ground coverage at the prime minister's new residence would be 30,351 square metre, it stated, adding that a building for the Special Protection Group will come up on a 2.50-acre plot.

The Central Vista Redevelopment project also includes the new Vice President's Enclave which will be built on 15-acre land and will have five-storey buildings with a maximum height of 15 metres, the CPWD said in its proposal. The VP Enclave will have 32 buildings.

Reacting to the CPWD's move to drop the proposed new Prime Minister's Office in its latest proposal, Kanchi Kohli, legal researcher, Centre for Policy Research, said that the documents submitted to the Environment Ministry do not give any justification on why some plots or offices have been excluded or why the costs have increased despite such exclusions.

"But equally important is the CPWD's answer to whether any alternatives to the present proposal were considered is a No.

The study of such alternatives is required to be done before seeking environment clearance," Kohli said.

The CPWD's proposal for terms of reference, which is a step before the environment clearance, was discussed by the Environment Ministry expert appraisal committee (EAC) on Thursday.

The EAC had approved the CPWD's proposal to construct a new Parliament Building earlier this year.

The redevelopment project of Central Vista — the nation's power corridor — also envisages a new triangular Parliament building, a common central secretariat and revamping of the three-km-long Rajpath, from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.

Slight relief from winter chill only a week later in north India, says IMD



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As winter chill grips the plains, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday said night temperatures would continue to be below normal in north India over the next week and a slight relief can be expected only a week later.

In its forecast from December 17-24 and from December 24-30, the IMD said the minimum temperatures would be below normal by 2-6 degrees Celsius over most parts of northwest, central and east India. Near normal or slightly above normal temperatures are likely over remaining parts of the country during the first week.

"Cold wave to severe cold

Cold day to severe cold day conditions would occur in some to many pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, north Rajasthan and northwest Uttar Pradesh during next two days and abate thereafter, it said. A cold wave has swept the north Indian plains since last week with day and night temperatures dipping below normal.

During the second week, there would be slight rise in minimum temperatures as compared to the first week. However, the minimum temperatures would be below normal by 2-4 degrees Celsius over most parts of northwest, central and east India, and Rajasthan during the first half of the first week and decrease thereafter," the IMD said.

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Rahul may be back in the saddles again: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday said the party will soon start the procedure to elect a new president and indicated that Rahul Gandhi may be back in the saddles again, saying that majority of Congressmen want that he be again chosen as full-time party chief.

The grand old party is likely to hold the AICC session in January to elect the new president, for which the party leadership will discuss and chalk out the plans.

AICC chief spokesman and party General Secretary Randeep Surjewala said that Congress will soon start the procedure to elect a new party president, adding that 99.9 per cent of people, including himself, want Rahul Gandhi to take

charge as the next president of the Congress.

Electoral College of Congress, AICC members, Congress workers & members will choose who's best suited, Surjewala said at AICC Press conference.

While Rahul Gandhi early this week during a meeting with few senior leaders reiterated his stand that he will not wear the chief's mantle again which he relinquished last year after the dismal performance of the party in Lok Sabha elections.

Incidentally, AICC sources said incumbent chief Sonia Gandhi is scheduled to meet party dissenters and other top leaders soon to discuss "key" issues concerning the grand old party.

Sonia has expressed her

desire not to continue as interim Congress chief and asked the party to start the process to elect a new party chief.

The party's recent poor performances in the state assembly elections of Bihar and Maharashtra have turned several of its eminent leaders into dissenters.

Sonia is expected to hold talks with her confidants about the new Congress chief and revive the party in states going to poll in 2021.

AICC sources said Sonia will also meet some of the prominent members of the "letter-writers group", who had been demanding an overhaul of the party. Among them are the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and the deputy leader of the party in the Upper House,

Anand Sharma.

Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath, who lost power in the state, after his bete noire Jyotiraditya Scindia quit the party and joined the BJP along with several MLAs, is also slated to meet Sonia and discuss the fall-out of the recently-concluded bypolls in the state, in which the Congress failed to make a mark.

This is the first time that Sonia Gandhi will be meeting her party leaders in person after the pandemic. So far she has been holding virtual meetings including the crucial CWC meet in which party leaders discussed the "letter" by the group of 23 leaders demanding a change in the leadership and an overhaul of the party organizational structure.

NORTHERN RAILWAY FACILITATES THE CANDIDATES APPEARING IN EXAM

It is notified for the information of all concerned that following special trains will be run by Northern Railway to facilitate the candidates appearing in Jail Warden & Fireman Exam in Uttar Pradesh Police as per the following dates and Time-Table:-

04301/04302 Bareilly - Delhi Jn. - Bareilly Exam Special Express					
Train No. 04301		STATIONS	Train No. 04302		Arr.
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
-	23:00	Bareilly	00:10	-	-
23:56	23:58	Rampur	23:05	23:07	-
00:45	00:55	Moradabad	22:30	22:38	-
01:25	01:27	Amroha	21:43	21:45	-
01:48	01:50	Gajraula	21:15	21:17	-
02:30	02:32	Hapur	20:20	20:22	-
03:22	03:24	Ghaziabad	19:40	19:42	-
04:15	-	Delhi Jn.	-	18:50	-

Days of Run: 04301 Ex Bareilly upto 19.12.2020 and 04302 Ex Delhi Jn. from 19.12.2020 & 20.12.2020

04304/04303 Hapur - Lucknow - Hapur Exam Special Express (Via Chandausi)					
Train No. 04304		STATIONS	Train No. 04303		Arr.
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
-	18:10	Hapur	03:30	-	-
18:58	19:00	Gajraula	02:42	02:44	-
19:20	19:22	Amroha	02:23	02:25	-
20:00	20:08	Moradabad	01:40	01:50	-
21:00	21:05	Chandausi	00:05	00:07	-
23:15	23:17	Bareilly Cantt	22:45	22:47	-
00:20	00:22	Shahjehanpur	21:48	21:50	-
01:12	01:14	Hardoi	20:50	20:22	-
02:00	02:02	Balamba Jn.	20:20	20:42	-
-	03:45	Alamnagar	-	19:25	-
04:10	-	Lucknow	-	19:00	-

Days of Run: 04304 Ex Hapur upto 19.12.2020 and 04303 Ex Lucknow from 19.12.2020 & 20.12.2020

The passengers shall adhere to the COVID-19 related safety norms & guidelines issued by the state and central Govt. from time to time

04306/04305 Saharanpur - Lucknow - Saharanpur Exam Special Express (Via Rampur)					
Train No. 04306		STATIONS	Train No. 04305		Arr.
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
-	18:30	Saharanpur	04:50	-	-
19:07	19:09	Roorkee	03:48	03:50	-
19:32	19:34	Laksar	03:20	03:22	-
20:08	20:10	Najibabad	02:39	02:41	-
20:27	20:29	Nagina	02:14	02:16	-
20:48	20:50	Dhampur	01:29	01:31	-
21:08	21:10	Seohara	01:13	01:15	-
21:32	21:34	Kanth	00:56	00:58	-
22:45	22:53	Moradabad	00:15	00:23	-
23:30	23:32	Rampur	23:26	23:28	-
00:32	00:34	Bareilly	22:22	22:24	-
01:40	01:42	Shahjehanpur	21:07	21:09	-
02:38	02:40	Hardoi	19:55	19:57	-
03:10	03:12	Balamba Jn.	19:26	19:28	-
-	04:10	Alamnagar	-	18:30	-
04:30	-	Lucknow	-	18:10	-

Days of Run: 04306 Ex Saharanpur upto 19.12.2020 and 04305 Ex Lucknow from 19.12.2020 & 20.12.2020

All above trains will run fully reserved

Beware of Touts Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139

Always Buy Train Tickets from Railway Counters/Authorised Railway Travel Agents only

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

Please join us on Northern Railway Always at your service Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

Serving Customers with a Smile

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001, PROCLAMATION OF SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Detail -IA NO 200/2020 AND OA NO 283/2108, ICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Satkar Logistics Pvt. Ltd.

Make & Model	Reg. No.	Year of Manufacture
EICHER MOTOR LTD EICHER 40.40	HR55W8545	2015
EICHER MOTOR LTD EICHER 40.40	HR55W4645	2015
EICHER MOTOR LTD EICHER 40.40	HR55W8045	2015
EICHER MOTOR LTD EICHER 40.40	HR55W7245	2015
EICHER MOTOR LTD EICHER 40.40	HR55W8945	2015
EICHER MOTOR LTD EICHER 40.40	HR55W4745	2015
EICHER MOTOR LTD EICHER 40.40	HR55W9245	2015
EICHER MOTOR LTD EICHER 40.40	HR55X6533	2015
EICHER MOTOR LTD EICHER 40.40	HR55W6945	2015

Place of Auction- Ravinder Lather Yard, Behind Renault Showroom, Gt Road Kamal Pin- 132001

Date and time of Auction- Reserve Price- Rs.36,00,000/- (For all 9 cases)

EMD Amount- Rs.3,60,000/-

EMD: DD/PO of EMD amount to be made in favour of ICI Bank Limited. Auction Date: 5 Jan-2021

Contact Person- Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)/ Aarti (7347020115)

Terms Of Sale

The Particulars Of The Said Asset Specified Herein Above Have Been Stated To The Best Of The Information And Knowledge Of The Undersigned, Who Shall However Not Be Responsible For Any Error, Misstatement Or Omission In The Said Particulars. The Interested Participant/s Are Therefore Requested, In Their Own Interest, To Satisfy Himself/ Themselves/ Itself With Regard To The Said Asset And Other Relevant Details Pertaining To It Before Submitting The Bids. All Bidders Are Required To Come At Site With Original DD/PO Of Emd Amount To Participate In The Auction.

Successfully Approved Bidder Shall Have To Deposit Sale Amount (excluding Emd Amount) Within 5 Days From The Auction Date By The Way Of Pay Order/ Demand Draft/ RTGS/ NEFT.

The Intending Bidders May Visit At ICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, Sd Tower, Community Center, Plot No- 7, Rohini Sector- 8, New Delhi- 110085. For Details And Inspection Of The Said Hypothecated Vehicle.

SC directs States to form panel in each district for fire audit of Covid hospitals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday directed all the States to constitute a committee in each district to conduct fire audit of Covid-19 hospitals at least once a month, inform the management of medical establishment about any deficiency and report to the Government for taking follow up action.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said that COVID-19 hospitals, which have not obtained no objection certificate from the concerned fire department, should be asked to immediately apply for NOC and after carrying necessary inspection, decision shall be taken in this regard.

"Those COVID hospitals who have not renewed their NOC should immediately take steps for renewal on which appropriate inspection be taken and decision be taken. In event, COVID hospital is found not having NOC or not having obtained renewal, appropriate

action be taken by the State," said the bench, also comprising Justices R S Reddy and M R Shah.

The top court directed that all states and Union Territories should appoint one nodal officer for each COVID hospital, if not already appointed, who shall be made responsible for ensuring compliance of all fire safety measures.

"In each district, state government should constitute a committee to carry fire audit of each COVID hospital at least once in a month and inform the government for taking follow up action," the bench said in its order.

The apex court had last month taken cognisance of the fire incident at a COVID hospital in Gujarat's Rajkot in which five patients had died. It had also taken note of similar incidents which had happened earlier in other COVID hospitals.

Pak uses cheap tactics over UN vehicle attack

Blames India for targetting, India denies Pak claim

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Resorting to cheap publicity tactics the Pakistani army Friday claimed Indian army had deliberately targeted a United Nations vehicle with two military observers on board along the line of control. Highly placed Indian army sources, however, denied these claims while clarifying that these reports of targeting United Nations vehicles were not true.

In Jammu, Defence spokesman Lt-Col Devender Anand also issued a written statement which said, "on December 18, at about 5.40 p.m Pakistan initiated 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along the line of control in Mendhar sector in District Poonch". In a span of 10 minutes, Defence Spokesman further added, Pakistan army also violated ceasefire agreement in the Balakote sector of Poonch also.

In Jammu, Defence spokesman Lt Col Devender Anand issued a written statement which said, "on December 18, at about 5.40 p.m Pakistan initiated 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along the line of control in Mendhar sector in District Poonch"

He added, Indian army retaliated befittingly.

Posting a series of tweets around the same time late Friday evening the twitter handle of Pakistan armed forces spokesperson said, "Indian Army resorted to unprovoked fire in Chirikot Sector of LOC. Indian troops deliberately targeted a United Nations vehicle with 2 Military Observers on board, enroute to interact with CFV victims in Polas Village in

Chirikot Sector".

The twitter handle also claimed in a separate tweet, "It must be noted that the UN vehicles are clearly recognisable even from long distances due to their distinct make and type and clearly visible markings. While the vehicle was damaged, the two UNMOs luckily remained unharmed. They were safely rescued & evacuated by the Pakistan Army to Rawalakot".

The publicity wing of the Pakistan army went too far to claim that "Such illegal and unlawful acts against established international norms, signify mal-intent of Indian Army to target not only innocent civilians residing along the Line of Control but UN PeaceKeepers as well".

"This act only goes to show Indian Army's complete disregard to principles enshrined in the UN Charter. It is indeed a new low for Indian Army.

Pakistan Army stands in solidarity with #UNMOGIP officials and appreciates the selfless services rendered by all members of UNMOGIP in discharge of their UN mandated duties" the twitter handle of the DG ISPR tweeted.

BJP, MVA lock horns over Metro car shed relocation

MVA proposed shifting from Kanjurmarg to a location earmarked for the proposed Bullet terminus

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A fresh war of words broke out between the Opposition BJP and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on Friday over the latter's proposal to shift the Mumbai Metro III car shed from Kanjurmarg to a location earmarked for the proposed Bullet terminus at Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) in north-central Mumbai.

The Shiv Sena, which heads the three-party government in Maharashtra, lent credence to the reports in a sections of the media that in the wake of the Bombay High Court's stay on the Mumbai Metro-III car shed project at Kanjurmarg, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had asked the senior officials to explore if the car shed project could be re-located at BKC.

Shiv Sena spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut ticked off the BJP - which in the wake of the high court's ruling felt vindicated over its earlier stand on the Mumbai Metro-III car shed project - when he confirmed that the reports that the plot at BKC for re-locating the Mumbai Metro-II was being considered.

Talking to media persons here, Raut said: "(In the wake of the high court's stay on the

high court's stay on the Mumbai Metro-III car shed project at Kanjurmarg), the Opposition need not get worried about the location of the car shed project. Today reports have been published that the state government is considering re-locating the car shed at BKC. Yes. We are examining that venue for re-location".

Incidentally, the plot of land where the Uddhav Thackeray dispensation is considering to re-locate the Mumbai Metro-III car shed is a state-owned land unlike the Kanjurmarg land which is trapped in litigation.

Maharashtra's Urban Development Minister Eknath Shinde also confirmed that the state government was considering the BKC plot for relocating the car shed project. "We are studying the Bombay High Court order. At the same time, we have asked officials to the land at the BKC as an alternative for the car shed project".

The BJP -- which had opposed the the Uddhav Thackeray dispensation's decision to shift the car shed project from Aarey colony at Goregaon in north Mumbai to Kanjurmarg in north-east Mumbai - has not taken kindly to the Maharashtra government's move to re-locate the project at BKC, as it feels that

the car shed project would jeopardise the terminus location Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet Bullet Train project.

Former chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnis hit back at the Shiv Sena-led MVA government describing the move as "ridiculous" since it would involve exorbitant costs. "Whoever is advising the state government is doing a bad job. The advisor is out to deplete the state exchequer. This is because the BKC plot is a price land. In all, the car shed project needs 25 hectare land. Going by the current land rates there, the land itself would cost as much as Rs 1000 crore".

"The bullet train terminus that is coming up there is going to be three levels under the ground. Above the ground, an international business centre is coming up. When it was decided to build the bullet train terminus, we realised it would cost Rs 5,000 to 6000 crore. If we decide to locate the metro car shed, which currently costs Rs 500 crore, it would cost Rs 5 to 6,000 crore if we decide to locate it underground. Plus, the annual maintenance cost would go up five to six folds. Hence it is not feasible to locate the metro car shed project at BKC," Fadnis said.

Another BJP leader Asish Shelar was equally critical of the Uddhav Thackeray government for its move to re-locate the project at BKC. "Just because the metro car shed project has run into rough weather because of the high court's ruling, the MVA government is now spokes into the Bullet train project by choosing the same venue for metro car shed project.

The latest exchange of barbs between the Ma government and BJP comes in the wake of Wednesday's order of the Bombay High Court's further staying implementation of a Mumbai collector's land allotment order dated October 1, transferring the Kanjurmarg land to the state-run Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) for the project. The high court has put a stop to all construction activities at the Kanjurmarg site. Though the Shiv Sena-led state government is also considering moving the Supreme Court against the high court's order, it is now trying to arm twist the Centre into having its way.

It may be recalled that during the end of October this year, the BJP-led NDA government had opposed the relocation of the Mumbai Metro-III car shed project at

Kanjurmarg in north-east Mumbai.

Nearly three weeks after the Maharashtra scrapped the previous BJP-led government's decision to locate Metro phase-III car shed at Aarey colony at Goregaon and moved the project to Kanjurmarg, the Centre's Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) had shot off a letter to the state government opposing the location of car shed project at Kanjurmarg would be "against the interest of the Government of India". The DPIIT also claimed ownership of the 102-acre land there.

Lodging a protest with the state government against the move to relocate the car shed project at Kanjurmarg, DPIIT Secretary Guruprasad Mohapatra said: "The improper and unilateral action of the Mumbai Suburban District Collector and Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority has caused severe loss" to the DPIIT and the Government of India.

The latest move by the Sena-led MVA government to relocate the Mumbai Metro III at BKC is being seen a tit-for-tat act against the Centre for its earlier opposition to the relocation of the car shed project at Kanjurmarg.

JNMC to resume dermatology, psychiatry, eye OPD from Dec 22

Aligarh: The Outpatient Department (OPD) services of the Departments of Dermatology, Psychiatry and Ophthalmology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) will resume from December 22.

"Registration of patients will be done from 8:00 am to 9:00 and initially only first 70 patients daily per OPD will be registered," said Prof Haris M Khan, Medical Superintendent.

"Restarting of OPDs will benefit many patients. However, restoring OPDs to their full capacity will take time, but the number of patients to be seen physically will increase in the days to come," said AMU Vice Chancellor, Prof Tariq Mansoor.

Earlier on December 1, OPD services of the Departments of General Medicine, TB and RD and ENT were resumed.

Doctors at various JNMC departments were providing tele-consultation to patients after hospital services all over the country were abruptly shut due to fear of Coronavirus spread among patients and for diverting health workers to Covid duties. The services are now opening in a phased manner. **PNS**

Prosperous farmers new identity of Chhattisgarh: CM

Raipur: Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh said that some people use name of Lord Ram pretentiously to serve their selfish motives. But we have always adored every person as a reflection of Lord Ram.

Chief Minister expressed the aforementioned views while addressing the programme organized in Chandkhuri near Raipur to mark the completion of two years of the new government. Mr. Baghel said that when Mahatma Gandhi was shot, he uttered the name of Lord Ram as his last words.

This programme organized at the birthplace of Mata Kaushalya marked the conclusion of 'Ram Van Gaman Path Yatra' and Bike Rally which were commenced three days back from North and South side of Chhattisgarh simultaneously.

The rally had started from Koriya in North Chhattisgarh and Sukma in South Chhattisgarh simultaneously on December 14. During his exile, Ram had entered Chhattisgarh from Koriya and had travelled through Sukma to reach South India. State Government has prepared an ambitious plan of Rs 137 crore to develop these places on Lord Ram's path in forest as tourist destinations. In the first



phase, nine out of 75 locations would be developed as tourist destinations under the scheme; Chandkhuri, also called Mata Kaushalya's maternal home, is one of these.

Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that Mata Kaushalya had greatly influenced the nature and character of Shree Ram. Similarly, people of Chhattisgarh are also greatly influenced by Mata Kaushalya's nature. It was her who taught Ram to live in harmony, Rama learned tolerance and dutifulness from Mata Kaushalya. He said that State government is giving a new global identity to Chhattisgarh by developing Ram Van Gaman Path as a tourism circuit. Till a few years ago, people of other states knew Chhattisgarh either by the name of Bhillai or due to the problem of naxalism, but now Chhattisgarh is known for its cultural richness. **PNS**

No more 2 arms licences any more

Aligarh: There is bad news for the people having more than 2 licensed arms. The commissioner has ordered the cancellation of licenses of people who have 2 arms licenses under the new arms act. In view of the upcoming panchayat elections, he also instructed to increase police patrolling in the village panchayats, also ordered for the arrest of history sheeters and sent them directly to jail. Directives have also been given for the allotment of agricultural land lying in the irrigation department. Asked to develop Sarol bus station in modern and State of the Art form.

In the meeting, Commissioner GS Priyadarshi said that the canceled arms should be deposited in the police stations. Under the amendment in the Arms Act, cancel the arms license of those who have more than 2 arms. The commissioner also instructed to allot the agricultural land allocated to the irrigation department under the open process. All the shops in the mandi committees were asked to allot under the statutory process. He also instructed to speed up the revenue collection, he said that the DM should review land revenue cases effectively and take action against illegal possession of private and government properties under the Gunda Act. **PNS**

AMU students welcome SC relief to Kafeel Khan

Aligarh: Dr. Kafeel, a pediatrician from Gorakhpur who came to address the public in AMU on the Citizenship Amendment Act in December last year got relief from the Hon'ble Supreme Court. After his release from the High Court, the State Government and administration had filed SLP in the Supreme Court but the Supreme Court refused to hear.

There is a wave of happiness among the students of Aligarh Muslim University after this decision. They have called it a victory for justice. Dr. Kafeel's

local advocate Irfan Ghazi said that the petition filed by the state government and administration concerning Dr. Kafeel has been rejected by the Supreme Court.

Dr. Hamza Malik, Former President, Resident Doctors Academy said that this is the victory of justice. We were constantly saying that Dr. Kafeel had done nothing wrong. We had earlier appealed to the Chief Minister of the state and those in other positions not to persecute Dr. Kafeel. Release them from jail immediately.

Take back the charges leveled against them. Today, after this move of the Supreme Court, it has become clear that Dr. Kafeel is completely innocent.

According to Syed Majid Hussain Zaidi, Former Vice President, AMUSU, he also heard the speech of Dr. Kafeel Khan when he came to address the movement against the Citizenship Amendment Act last year. According to him, Dr.Kafeel made his statement within the constitutional limit. But matter ignited due to the oppressive policies of the

administration and the state government. It was also unconstitutional to file a case against Dr. Kafeel. After this, when Dr. Kafeel got relief from the court in one case, the administration and the state government acted under the National Security Act in the wrong sense. These steps of the government have proved unconstitutional after the Supreme Court's decision.

On 12th December 2019, Dr. Kafeel addressed the students in AMU against the Citizenship Amendment Act. **PNS**

AMU fraternity welcomes invitation to PM

Aligarh: The acceptance of the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji to be the Chief Guest for a centenary celebration programme of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) via video link on December 22 has been well received by the AMU fraternity.

Welcoming the decision of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Tariq Mansoor to extend invitation to the Prime Minister; famous alumnus, entrepreneur and author, Dr Frank Islam, who donated Rs 12 crore to the Department of Business Administration and Rs 1.25 crores for the auditorium at the Department of Mass Communication said: "The invitation to the Prime Minister will mark a new beginning to bring people closer. Whenever, we come together, we get astonishing success."

He added, "Prime Minister is the Prime Minister-regardless of cast, creed and religion. I am proud of the achievement of Vice Chancellor, Prof Mansoor, whose four years in office blazed a trail of success."

Meanwhile, a number of faculty members have welcomed the decision to invite the Prime Minister saying 'centenary celebration is above politics.' **PNS**

Focus on welfare of Dalits and tribals: Sonia to Thackeray

Mumbai: Interim Congress President Sonia Gandhi has written a letter to ally and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray asking him to implement the Common Minimum Programme in the state 'in letter and spirit,' especially pertaining to the welfare of the Dalits and tribals.

Referring to suggestions she had received, Gandhi said that the budget allocation for the development of SC/ST communities should be in proportion to their share in the population with focus on schemes that would help bring them on par with the rest of society at the earliest.

In her letter earlier this week, she also urged for legislative backing to utilise the funds allocated during the same financial year and recalled laws enacted by previous Congress governments in Karnataka and the undivided Andhra Pradesh.

With a view to stimulating entrepreneurship among SC/STs, Gandhi suggested introducing reservations in contracts and projects for enterprises promoted by the SC/STs, something that was done by the UPA Government at the Centre in the past as well as in Karnataka. **IANS**

Maha reports 3,394 fresh cases, toll 75

Total infections climb to 18,88,767, deaths mount to 48,574

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

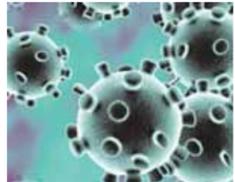
A marginal increase in the Covid-19 infection and fatality tallies, as many as 3994 people tested positive for Coronavirus while 75 more people died of the pandemic in various parts of Maharashtra on Friday.

A day after it logged 3880 fresh Covid-19 infections and 65 deaths, Maharashtra witnessed 3994 new infected cases and 75 deaths.

With 3994 fresh infections, the total infections in the state climbed from 18,84,773 to 18,88,767. Similarly, with 75 new deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Maharashtra rose from 48,499 to 48,574.

As 4467 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March this year rose to 17,78,722. The recovery rate in the state rose marginally from 94.14 per cent to 94.17 per cent.

With 10 new deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai came down from 11,013 to 10907 because of reconciliation of



death figures, while the infected cases went up by 642 to trigger a jump in the infections from 2,84,990 to 2,85,632.

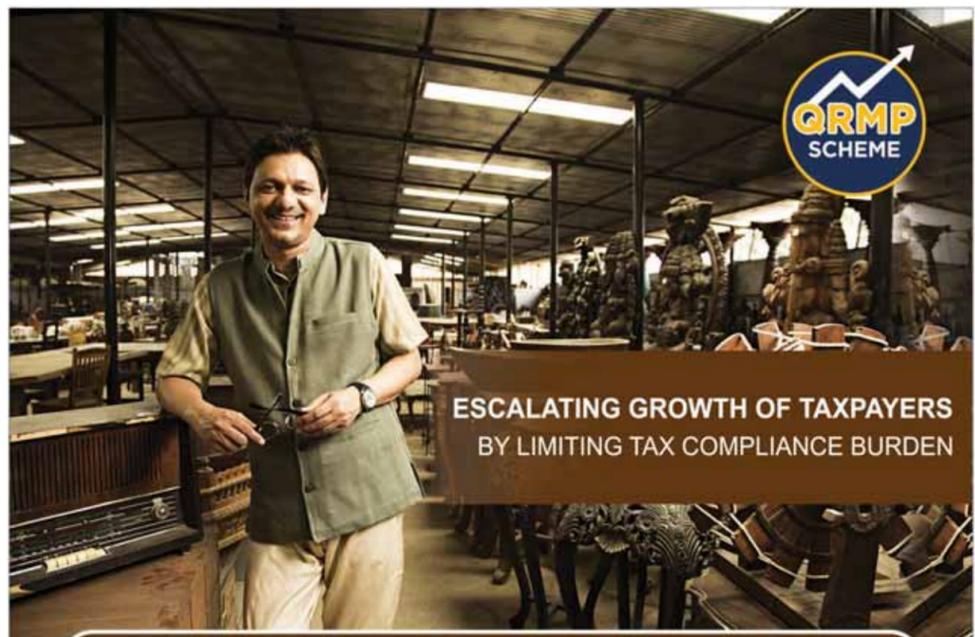
Meanwhile, the number of "active cases" total cases in the state dropped from 60,905 to 60,352. The fatality rate in the state stood at 2.57 per cent.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,65,101 to 3,65,652, while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 7654 to 7667.

Thane district remained in the third spot --after Pune and Mumbai -- after the total number of infections rose from 2,48,979 to 2,49,436 while the total deaths climbed from 5424 to 5475.

Of the 1,19,96,624 samples sent to laboratories, 18,88,767 have tested positive (15.74 per cent) for COVID-19 until Friday.

Currently, 5,03,886 people are in home quarantine while 4168 people are in institutional quarantine.



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Blow to Mamata

BJP is doing an Operation Lotus in advance by weaning away top TMC leaders and re-directing trend winds



Following its more than surprising surge of 18 seats in the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP not only became ambitious about taking Bengal from its archrival and Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee, it proudly said that it would draw more than half of her MLAs to its fold and that the desertions would be voluntary. Now with the BJP's strategist-in-chief Amit Shah determined to seize the psychological edge over the emotional hold Mamata has on Bengal's voters, he is crafting his game of optics. Claiming that the BJP would win 200 of the 294 Assembly seats, Shah has modified the template

of Operation Lotus, finding the weaknesses of the TMC and breaking that party from within even before elections. His biggest gain happened over the last 24 hours when Didi lost four senior leaders, prize picks all, and he will probably parade them in front of the media to prove his point. There is no doubt that her cadres are none too happy with her protectionism of nephew Abhishek, whom she is grooming to be her successor and for whom, despite claiming that people are her heart, she has the familiar dynastic dream of passing on her legacy to. And because Abhishek Banerjee got in election strategist Prashant Kishor to help the TMC battle the BJP's organisational might, the latter, too, is being distrusted by the grassroots workers. Of course, none of the defecting Trinamool leaders are clean but they each have a committed constituency and can swing the BJP's fate, with the latter promising them immunity from probes by investigating agencies. After Suwendu Adhikari, who was the key architect of Mamata's crusade at Nandigram, and Jitendra Tiwari, TMC MLA Shilbhadra Dutta and minority cell leader Kabirul Islam quit in rapid succession. Of course, the BJP purred over the *ghar waapsi* of its one-time Asansol observer, Col Diptanshu Chowdhury, who resigned from the post of South Bengal State Transport Corporation and as head of the State's grievance monitoring cell. Of these, Adhikari, who has a hold in the Haldia port area, can swing results in about 50-odd seats.

Mamata understandably has deeply furrowed brows. Any exit hurts her larger-than-life image and makes the BJP look like a solid challenger. It started with Mukul Roy, whom she sidelined after he was found to be involved in the Narada sting operation case and the Sharada ponzi scam. For all practical purposes Mamata's eyes and ears, Roy felt slighted for being selectively pushed aside when the going was tough and played a crucial role in turning the BJP's fortunes in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. At the same time, Shah is keeping up the heat on her with the Home Ministry insisting on recalling three Bengal IPS officers for Central deputation, the idea being to unsettle the cosy equation she has developed with them. Besides, the police machinery comes in handy for any party, which wants a "friendly" supervision of the poll exercise. Mamata, of course, is not giving up and is likely to approach the Supreme Court. The one thing going for her, of course, despite the anti-incumbency, is her personal connect and sincerity of doorstep campaigns. So Shah is focussing on mathematical certainty and working on consolidating the tribal and Dalit vote in the State. This is necessary if the BJP wants to hold its voters from 2019, who had given it a commanding position in 143 of the 294 Assembly seats. With his lunch diplomacy at a tribal home, Shah laid the primary ground rule for the BJP's roadmap to transfer votes in its favour. Bengal's Dalit population stands at 1.85 crore, of which 80 lakh are Matuas, who are settlers and have a sizeable influence in Assembly seats in Nadia, North and South 24 Parganas districts. And although they threw in their lot with the BJP last year, they feel short-changed by it on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register for Citizens (NRC), none of which helps their refugee status. The biggest concern for the BJP is to have an iconic face as its chief ministerial candidate. Its own core members lack the charisma required and its cadres are anyway upset by the TMC imports taking up positions of importance. Shah, of course, has been trying to toy with the idea of bringing in cricketer Sourav Ganguly but he, too, is no match for Didi's cross-sectoral and earthy appeal.

Can EC help?

Since a mass COVID vaccination drive will be similar to general elections, the Govt must consider using its strengths



Having conducted the Bihar Assembly elections in the middle of a raging pandemic while avoiding a superspreader event, the Election Commission (EC) and its machinery have acquired a depth of experience in getting crowds to keep to COVID-appropriate behaviour. And given its proven credentials in conducting the general elections, its architecture seems to be the most suitable for administering the vaccine in phases across the country. Apart from the immunisation drives for women and children, India has no precedent for an adult inoculation drive. So Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora is open to the prospect of offering assistance, if sought by the Government, in dosing the country over

the first half of next year. Of course, the EC is not mandated to operate outside its core area of expertise but extraordinary times do call for extraordinary measures and its curated drills and logistical expertise can be relied upon to inoculate India's heaving population. This needs to be done fast to break the chain of transmission, with experts predicting that given our population density, we could be subjected to unexpected waves of infection. Truth be told, there is not much of a difference in the vaccine administration process. There will be vaccination booths with COVID-safe protocols and social distancing in place. No more than 100 people will be allowed per session at each site. There will be a recovery enclosure where those given the shot will be watched for allergies over half an hour and attended to in case of an adverse reaction. This seamless mapping and mobilising staff and candidate flow are frankly the EC's forte. While getting vaccinated for COVID-19 will be voluntary, the turnout is still expected to be huge given the disease burden and co-morbidities in a large part of our population. Besides the Health Ministry has advised that each citizen gets a complete schedule of the anti-Coronavirus vaccine irrespective of past history as this will help in developing a strong immune response against the disease. It also said that a protective level of antibodies generally develops two weeks after receiving the second dose. Currently, the EC has the wherewithal to manage such a graded response system.

With the Health Ministry planning to vaccinate 20-30 per cent of the population to reach a critical mass for herd immunity and Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla claiming that by September-October next year, there would be enough vaccines for everyone, everybody is getting drill ready. The challenges, of course, are many. One is to ready an effective awareness campaign on the virtues of the vaccine and counter the myths about its utility. This public service message needs to be rolled out right away. Then there are the logistics of the supply chain, the safety of the vials, avoidance of wastage and ensuring enough trained health workers to administer the vaccine and monitor its effects on the recipients. Also, a two-shot vaccination drive would mean double the effort. The delicacy of maintenance and administering doses requires a sophisticated and expensive infrastructure that even our cities will find difficult to mobilise. But the EC, used to guarding EVMs and deploying personnel according to the sensitivities concerned, can ensure that safety standards are maintained. The only question is that with the Assembly elections in Bengal and Tamil Nadu around the corner, how much of its resources can the EC spare?

Reforms ain't magic tricks

The farmers' fear that MSP will be discontinued is irrational. But panic and irrationality take over when didacticism replaces consultations in any set-up



PRIYADARSHI DUTTA

Remunerative jobs for farmers might sound incongruous when remunerative pricing for their products is the argument of the season. Believe it or not, the Narendra Modi Government is currently looking for two seasoned persons whose main profession would be farming, who could be leaders of the Kisan movement. It is a Level 14 post in the pay band of ₹1,44,200-2,18,200. Counterintuitively, they will not be deployed to win over the agitating farmers to the side of the Government. They will contribute towards determining the Minimum Support Prices (MSP), which the Government currently offers on 24 agri products, including rice, wheat and coarse grains.

For several years now, the Commission of Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP) has gone without two unofficial members on its panel. Is that really news under this Government where many institutions have gone headless for years on end or held as additional charge by senior bureaucrats? This writer recently found out through an application under the RTI Act, 2005, that a position under Article 350-B of the Constitution of India viz. Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities has been vacant since February 2016. The Commission resultantly has not been able to file a single annual report of its activities before Parliament in the past four years. These two advertised positions are meant to fill vacancies in the CACP. The farmers had flagged this vacancy issue way back in February 2018. However, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare notified these only last month.

The Modi Government, to its credit, has substantially increased the MSP on most of the agri products since taking office. However, it perhaps felt that appointing two unofficial members, representing the farming community, into the CACP was redundant. This mindset, one is afraid, is discernible in the formulation of the three agricultural laws as well. They were introduced through the Ordinance route on June 5. There is no evidence of any consultation with the State Governments, farmer unions, agri economists and allied stakeholders.

One can argue that consultations are lengthy processes. However, to obtain durable results, there is no shortcut to this grind. The consensus over the Goods and



Services Tax (GST) was institutionalised through a GST Council comprising the Finance Ministers of various States. Though agriculture marketing is indeed in dire need of reforms but everything cannot be a surgical strike. Pulling rabbits out of the hat might not be the best way to pursue reforms. Having failed to drum up support from the States on the Model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (APLM) Act, 2017, and also the Model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Contract Farming Act of 2018 that the Centre had circulated, it decided to cut the Gordian knot by promulgating the three agricultural laws.

It cannot be gainsaid that the Modi Government initiated several welfare measures for the farmers. It would be sad to see them drowned in the din of the agitation. However, if only the Government had gone into consultative mode rather earlier, it could have linked certain national agricultural goals with the issue of remunerative pricing. These goals could be identified as crop diversification, reducing dependence on chemicals in farming, water conservation, reducing the regional imbalance in procurement, reforms in the APMC Act, increasing IT literacy in farmers to take advantage of eNAM (National Agriculture Market),

improving the terms of trade with industry and so on. The Government could have generated a trust surplus rather than deficit as at present. It could have made the farmers an ally in its mission. However, at present, the Government is shy of quoting from its flagship commission report. The 14-Volume Report of the Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income (2017-2018) chaired by Ashok Dalwai, IAS, is nowhere in the Government's discourse. This begs for an explanation.

The farmers, fearing the MSP will be withdrawn, want it to be legally guaranteed. The truth is that MSP itself has never been legally defined. Even the CACP, the commission which recommends the MSP every marketing season, is not a statutory body. However, it is the Siamese twin of co-born Food Corporation of India (FCI), a statutory body. The FCI, being established under the Food Corporation of India Act, 1964, on the same day as the CACP (January 1, 1965), should be considered guarantee enough.

Without procuring food grains in both Kharif and Rabi marketing seasons, the Government will not be able to run its Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and manage allocations under the Integrated Child

Development Services (ICDS) scheme and Mid-Day Meal for long. These three are statutorily guaranteed under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. The TDPS alone reaches out to 80 crore people through 24 lakh ration cards. Without the Government being sincere about TDPS, it would not have implemented the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' project. Thus as long as the FCI Act, 1964, and the NFSA, 2013, are in currency, the farmers have little to fear about the MSPs which have actually been significantly enhanced in the past six years.

However, this MSP-oriented rice-wheat agrarian culture has become the bane of Punjab despite contributing to its material prosperity. Punjab is reluctant to diversify its agriculture. With 75 per cent of its population relying on farming as a source of livelihood directly or indirectly (as per Punjab's Agriculture Department's website), which is far above the national average, the progress of industrialisation has been stymied. The introduction of rice cultivation on a commercial basis since early 1970s had led to the exploitation of groundwater and poisoning of soil through excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Water is a big issue in Punjab, which is why the Sutlej-

Yamuna Link has been lying defunct for the past 40 years. However, Punjab virtually exports a huge quantity of water in every grain of rice it produces, meant largely for consumption by people outside the State. That Punjab's wheat and rice contain the highest concentration of chemicals is also a cause for concern. The Government could promote crop diversification, like cultivation of pulses and oilseeds, which is likely to fetch higher profits through the MSP route.

The Supreme Court's proposal of forming a committee having representation from the Government and farmers' unions raises hope. A good way to defuse the farmers' agitation would be to follow the repeal and re-enact principle. Merely repealing the three new farm laws — particularly the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 — might appease the agitating farmers. However, then the much-needed reformation in agricultural marketing would be left without a future roadmap.

(The writer is an author and independent researcher based in New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

SOUNDBITE

I politely requested the chairman many times to allow me to complete my intervention. But he refused. I had no option but to leave the room.

Congress leader
—Rahul Gandhi



Did we leave the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty? We didn't... then our colleagues (the US) withdrew from the INF Treaty ... and Open Skies Treaty.

Russian President
—Vladimir Putin



When lockdown started, I used the time to work on vocals for my new songs. I am eager to perform my new set of songs whenever live gigs start. I really want to meet my fans, live!

Singer
—Jubin Nautiyal



I have been preparing myself mentally and physically to compete in 2021. We are not too far away and we will all have to adapt, train and give our best in Tokyo.

Indian shuttler
—PV Sindhu



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Must listen to the SC

Sir — This refers to the editorial 'Stop blockades' (December 18). The Supreme Court has rightly said that the farmers protesting against the new farm laws have the constitutional right but cannot block a city and destroy property or endanger life. But who forced these farmers to sit on protest and block the Capital's borders?

It is the Central Government which did not consult them on the laws, then didn't listen to their grievances, ignored their demands and dictated its own terms and conditions to try and crush their protest. Despite many rounds of talks between the farmers and the Centre, the dialogue failed every time due to the rigidity of the latter. The idea of setting up an impartial and independent committee by the Supreme Court is a good one and both the parties can offer their sides of the story to resolve the impasse.

But the growers are bent upon protesting until the Government repeals all the three laws. It is time that the Supreme Court puts a stay on the three laws and their implementation till the issue is completely resolved.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Spent force Cong needs to stay united in Goa

In the event of any debacle, the search for a scapegoat to pin the blame on continues to this day unabashedly. In the modern-day parlance, 'witch-hunting' is a term one usually associates with this abominable practice indulged in by political parties to keep their slate clean. The resignation of Girish Chodankar as the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) chief is one such instance.

Let us for once understand that the Congress in Goa is today a political dispensation that fails to justify its stature as the nation's grand old party. Mutilated beyond recognition, the party's Goa unit is virtually gasping for breath. Seriously in need of rehabilitation, efforts should have been made to revive its fortunes in a gradual and phased manner. But the Congress has been guilty of behaving as if things were normal and believing that the series of setbacks it has been suffering since the saffron wave swept the State and the nation is just a temporary phase in its 'glorious' existence and would have no bearing on its electoral fortunes.

An occasional victory for its candidates here and there only accentuated the complacency. Although the party's senior leaders would not want to admit it, but the infigh-



ing infesting the party has had a cancerous effect. The blame game within the party continues as if there is no end to it. Besides, the young brigade bemoaning the domineering attitude of many a senior leader and a spate of resignations by the minority leaders have hit the party hard and thrown up a big question mark over the democratic functioning within. As good as a fledgling in the State's political scenario, the Congress has to literally claw its way back into recognition, and only a united effort will help.

Pachu Menon
Margao

Tomar's forked tongue

Sir — I am unable to understand why Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar suddenly changed his stance? Hardly two days ago, he sounded egoistic in an interview while saying: "Our (BJP) 303-seat mandate was given to the Government not just to stay in power but to effect change."

Two days later, his tone changed when Tomar wrote in an eight-page open letter that those stopping trains carrying supplies to soldiers at the borders, especially at a time when the situation in Ladakh was "challenging", cannot be farmers. It's nothing but a ploy to kill two birds with one stone: Creating anger among the public against the roadblock; and to

create confusion among the farmers about its justification. A convenient argument that if there's a blockade around Delhi, the supply chains of our forces at the borders will suffer. But have these farmers become a threat to national security? Shame on the Centre for such poor preparedness!

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

Needless controversy

Sir — The reports that the Government is planning to arm itself with powers to interfere with the functioning of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are disconcerting as the move can only harm them.

The HRD Ministry was apparently provoked to take this step after the decision of the IIMs to introduce one-year degree course for experienced working professionals. The Ministry wants to call it a diploma. The world over, business schools offer a one-year degree course for working professionals. Besides, it is ridiculous that the Government considers the terminology of an award a matter serious enough to be taken up with the IIMs.

It is worse that the issue has turned into a ground for stand-off and the Ministry threatens to launch an inquiry against the IIM Board. Such an interventionist attitude by the Government is unfortunate and cannot aid the growth and development of academic institutions.

Shovanlal Chakraborty
Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A deepening malnutrition crisis

The effects of COVID-19 will be felt for generations to come, so systems must act now collaboratively to address all these challenges



SAHIL SHARMA

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit incomes, social systems and the world economy. The management of this dual burden has put pressure on the Indian healthcare system which has limited resources in terms of equipment, protective gear and essential medical supplies. The pandemic and the subsequent lockdown strategies in many countries around the world, including India, had a crippling impact on jobs, housing, migration and, most importantly, nutrition. The *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report produced by five UN bodies estimated that almost 690 million people went hungry in 2019, up by 10 million from 2018 and one billion people in the world still do not have access to a healthy food supply. Estimates show that by the end of this year, the figure is likely to go up. Malnutrition increases the chances of individuals becoming susceptible to infections because of a weakened immune system and eventually dying, setting in motion a vicious cycle for future generations. Those experiencing malnutrition and diet-related diseases in particular face the brunt of COVID-19 and malnutrition. When families face grave challenges in the form of food price hikes, unemployment, restricted mobility and disruption to health and social services — regardless of whether they are directly affected by the virus — their nutritional intake and, therefore, health will be harmed if urgent action is not taken to address the barriers they face in accessing healthy food.

As per the *Global Nutrition Report 2020*, the global prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), was 7.3 per cent in 2018, compared to 7.9 per cent in 2012, validating negligible progress towards the five per cent target set for 2025 in the 2012 World Health Assembly. India is home to half of the wasted children globally. Even before COVID-19, one of the most impacted groups when it comes to access to nutrition-related schemes has been the marginalised section of women and children everywhere. According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), malnutrition indicators have worsened, with the proportion of children with stunting rising in 11 out of 18 States, cases of those with wasting going up in 14 and of those with anaemia in 17 States. One study interprets that the contagion may result in health system disruption, collapse and decrease in access to food, which will further increase child and maternal deaths. The least severe scenario over six months would result in 2,53,500 additional child deaths and 12,200 more maternal deaths. A most severe scenario over six months would result in 11,57,000 additional child deaths and 56,700 more maternal deaths. The increase in wasting prevalence would account for 18-23 per cent of additional child deaths.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of India has been 6.1 per cent in 2018, 4.2 per cent in 2019 and 1.9 per cent this year. Fitch rating slashed the country's economic growth prediction to 0.8 per cent for April-March 2020-2021. Part of this probably is the effect of the outbreak and the subsequent lockdown. Consumer spending has fallen to 0.3 per cent from 5.5 per cent a year ago. This is twice the 2009 recession. In 2018, people from the lowest income quintile from India spent 35.1 per cent of their income on food whereas in the highest quintile, food expenditure was 8.2 per cent. So if the food prices increase by 20 per cent, the effect on the lowest quintile will be disproportionately high. New data released by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs on food prices showed that barring cereals, the cost of all other food items has increased three times since April. Prices of pulses are likely to rise due to the unavailability of labour to peel the lentils. This relation between income elasticity and food intake shows that some degree of increase in malnutrition is inevitable during the outbreak. Besides a drop in income during the lockdown, there have been many issues related to a supply chain breakdown and the unavailability of fruits and green vegetables. Transport limitation, closure of shops and markets, too, led to an increase in food prices. Seasonal variation on the availability of food in the summer has compounded the issue further.

Key strategies to combat malnutrition and COVID-19 together involve building a resilient future to also face shocks of future pandemics. These include ensuring continuity to provide critical community-based nutrition services, using innovative and digital delivery systems for basic services such as promotion of breastfeeding, micronutrient supplementation and basic primary healthcare, including immunisation. In India, the need for pushing Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition guidelines by the Centre is the need of the hour. Emergency supply of fortified food, scaling up of public distribution systems and health promotional outreach activities on COVID-19, reiterating the need for social distancing while continuing to safely breastfeed infants and emphasising the need for healthy diets, basic nutrition services such as vitamin A supplementation and immunisation, should be intensified. The effects of COVID-19 on malnutrition will be felt for generations to come, so systems must act now collaboratively to address all these challenges for healthier outcomes.

(The writer is a Food Technologist and a Public Policy Consultant. The views expressed are personal)

THE BJP IS SPENDING CRORES OF RUPEES TO BRING IN A PARTY FROM HYDERABAD TO DIVIDE MUSLIM VOTES IN WEST BENGAL ELECTIONS.

—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE

POINT COUNTERPOINT



NEVER WAS A MAN BORN WHO CAN BUY OWAIISI WITH MONEY. SHE SHOULD WORRY ABOUT HER PARTY. MANY TMC PEOPLE ARE GOING TO THE BJP.
—AIMIM CHIEF
ASADUDDIN OWAIISI

Master of post-modern game

Modi's post-modern politics took root not by replacing his modernist development agenda but by working around it and mediating the universal development through particularist identities



JYOTIRMAYA TRIPATHY

Thinking of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a post-modernist is a little intriguing for intellectuals but a no-brainer for both, his admirers and detractors. For the former, Modi carries the hopes and aspirations of millions and there is little that he cannot do, so there is no reason why he cannot be a post-modernist. For the detractors, he epitomises everything that ails India, so it is not a stretch to assign a post-modern dimension to him. Given that the latter group has already assigned the choicest of adjectives to Modi that establish his limitless power and absolute control over the Indian body politic, they cannot deny a mere post-modernist tag to him.

That said, Modi's supposed post-modernity may evoke surprise and even derision from the intellectual class who, for the first time, see themselves as powerless and realise that the cliché "speaking truth to power" is just an honourable trope. For them, the very idea of yoking Modi with post-modernity is an act of violence and may be a cruel joke that compromises the emancipatory promise of post-modernity and completely de-intellectualises the concept.

In fact, they could imagine this proposition as a game plan to control knowledge. Having been forced to cede political space to Modi, they had retired to their comfort zones of universities and NGOs. The possibility of Modi's post-modernity may appear to them another strategy to rob them of their safe spaces and legitimise him intellectually.

Modernisation first: Let me assure them I have no such objective and that the present engagement comes from within the same thinking class. I would much rather identify the shift in Modi's politics that makes his post-modernity an eminently believable idea. Before Modi became the phenomenon that he is today, he was a moderniser. After an accidental ascension to the Chief Minister's chair, he capitalised on the entrepreneurial community of Gujaratis and channelised their success to a pan-Indian aspiration, to be known as the "Gujarat model", though critics would still find many contradictions within that claim.

In terms of Hindu consolidation against an aggressive Mandalisation of politics and the division of Hindu society along caste lines, BJP veteran leader LK Advani had already sought to unify Hindus through the Ram Mandir agitation. Modi took this unification strategy from Advani and gave it a developmental idiom. Whether it was intended to arrest the fragmentation of Hindus for cultural or political reasons is anybody's guess, but what we can agree on is the fact that Modi went beyond Hindu unity and created a developmental unity.

As a modernist he was both, disruptive in terms of breaking away from traditional politics and constructive, as in ushering in a new type of politics that was the beginning of development. His modernity was palpable when he invested his political future in the idea of development as universal with the hope of neutralising particularist assertions.

If secularism was the master code of the pre-Modi era, his counter master narrative was development. The slogan "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" articulated a new India's resolve for the 21st century. This is not to gloss over alleged incidents of atrocities against minorities after his rise as Prime Minister, though they are not unique to his era. As Chief Minister, Modi had shown his resolve in infrastructure develop-

ment, even by demolishing many Hindu temples in Gujarat's Capital Gandhinagar.

Modi took upon himself the responsibility of creating a new political culture where nationalism is no longer a bad word and development is the master legitimator of contemporary politics. His rationalisation of development as the new mantra may be dismissed as reflective of a post-World War mentality but the fact that India continues to be underdeveloped is the reason behind Modi's success as a moderniser. His promotion of women's empowerment (through the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative), more seats for women candidates in IITs and the 'Ujjwala Yojana' for rural women, among others, created development as the new universal and legitimated development as the new catch-all category of Indian politics. So much so that all parties reimagined themselves as development-oriented ones.

The post-modern turn: The Opposition had understood that to keep their hopes alive they had to reclaim Backward communities from Modi and bring them to make common cause with minorities. The fact that non-BJP parties had benefited heavily from this so-called Backward-Dalit-Muslim unity, something which development started eroding steadily, made them jittery.

Theirs was a post-modern challenge that survived on dissociating Dalits, OBCs, women, Muslims from the modernist project of development. Modi needed a new strategy to reinvent himself and he found one, to beat his critics in their own game. His modernist thrust had created a catch-all and all-encompassing category such as development that appeared to have replaced politics. Now began Modi's post-modern politics, not by replacing



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his modernist development agenda but by working around it and mediating the universal development through particularist identities.

The mistake many intellectuals make is imagining that Modi and his party as intellectually challenged. They too, imagined the strategy of fragmentation as the bulwark against Modi's juggernaut (that depended on universals such as nationalism and development) and highlighted difference, fragmentation, particularism and so on. If Modi spoke of Hindutva, the post-modern impulse was to highlight caste difference; if he spoke of nationalism, the post-modern impulse was to offer regional and religious challenge; if development promised equal opportunity, the post-modern alternative was to highlight development's religious and caste blindness. Modi used their tool of fragmentation to fragment further.

Most politicians and intellectuals were convinced that particulars such as Dalit or Muslim or Other Backward Classes (OBC) can never be another universal, but Modi knew better. He criminalised triple talaq and broke the Muslim universal and its inherent patriarchy, something that had been avoided by most political parties.

The Mandalisation of politics had created the greatest monolith of OBCs but Modi knew that OBC is a political construct and so can be refashioned. More than 50 per cent of the country's population cannot be a monolith and that it cannot be a cohesive unit. In 2018, the Rohini Commission recommended splitting of the OBC quota of 27 per cent because about 25 per cent of the 27 per cent OBC quota is usually gobbled up by around 10 dominant castes and the remaining 1,000 castes are largely left out. Modi instinctively understood that these silent groups can be persuaded to see the irony of OBC

reservation and can be the site of a counter-OBC formation.

He also worked around the creamy layer among the OBCs (mostly the salaried and middle-class) who are usually vocal about rights. He knew that their exclusion from the OBC umbrella would dilute the narrative of OBC assertion. So far as Dalit votes are concerned, every State has a few dominant castes (Jatavs, Mahars, Madigas depending on the region) who are heavily politicised to the extent of hijacking the Dalit movement away from marginal Dalit communities.

Now Modi and the BJP are actively working with these marginalised castes and are integrating their practices in the Hindu cultural sphere. They are also actively empowering them through mobilisation at the grassroots level.

Conclusion: Mandal politics had politicised a few dominant castes. Modi is taking it to its logical conclusion by breaking the monolith. Similarly, the single voting block of Dalits is over and politicians and intellectuals cannot complain against something that they themselves championed. On top of that, Modi's introduction of the Economically Weaker Section quota was a masterstroke that brought class rather than caste into distributive politics, something Indian communists had chosen to ignore.

Intellectuals and politicians did not have the foresight to see the vulnerability of their position. In their enthusiasm, they had forgotten that though the minority/Dalit/OBC difference can threaten the universal nation, the former is equally vulnerable to contradictions within. Modi beat them in their post-modern game.

(The writer is Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras and a cultural critic. The views expressed are personal)

The RBI should be ready for a balancing act

The Central bank needs to adopt a cautious approach as far as monitoring inflation and pushing for growth are concerned



MEENAL SHARMA JAGTAP

The National Statistical Office's estimates for the second quarter (Q2) (July-September) of 2020-21 came as a relief to all, raising hopes of the much-talked about V-shaped recovery. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (2011-12) prices in the Q2 of 2020-21 is estimated at ₹33.14 lakh crore, as against ₹35.84 lakh crore in the Q2 of 2019-20, showing a contraction of 7.5 per cent as compared to 4.4 per cent growth in the Q2 of 2019-20. This contraction of 7.4 per cent as against a contraction of 23.9 per cent in Q1 is a tremendous improvement

and at current prices it turns out to be only four per cent.

Reviewing the macroeconomic and financial developments of the domestic and global economy as well as the evolving outlook for the Indian economy, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at four per cent, the Bank Rate and Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF) unchanged at 4.25 per cent and the reverse repo rate at three per cent.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation at 7.6 per cent in October is higher than the mandated two-six per cent inflation target. The mandate set in 2016 requires the Central bank to keep the headline inflation at the mid-point of its range at four per cent. For most of the year, retail inflation has been outside the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) tolerance limit, mainly due to supply-side pressures owing to the lockdowns.

The sticky CPI inflation has prevented the RBI from announcing further rate cuts. In the absence of

much direct fiscal support, the RBI did most of the heavy lifting by reducing rates by a cumulative 115 basis points this year and pumping ample liquidity into the system.

The RBI's flexible inflation targeting will be up for review after March 2021 and some economists think that the Central bank should keep a watch on overheating rather than trying to keep inflation within a target range. The US Federal Reserve, too, has indicated that it would actively seek and tolerate higher inflation in America.

Reviewing the inflation target for the RBI may give it the much-needed leverage as pressure builds on it to do more to revive the economy. The RBI has rendered support through its monetary policy and used a host of unconventional monetary policy tools to support the Government's fiscal measures. It has made efforts to ensure liquidity in sectors with multiplier effects, nudged the bond markets to respond to the signals from the RBI in the

conduct of its monetary policy and debt management. One of the unconventional monetary policy tools to be adopted by the RBI was the 'Operation Twist.' This refers to the purchase of Government securities of longer maturities and selling of an equal amount of securities of shorter maturities under Open Market Operations (OMO). The procedure is designed to exert downward pressure on longer term interest rates by lowering long-term yields. Besides, measures to enhance liquidity support to targeted sectors, it has been taking initiatives to deepen the financial markets, conserve capital among banks and NBFCs through regulatory support, strengthen supervision through strengthening audit function, ease external trade and expand financial inclusion.

Going forward, the primary challenge for the Central bank is going to be dealing with sticky inflation while its eye is firmly set on the recovery of the economy. In the December 3 Monetary Policy, the

RBI pegged CPI inflation at 6.8 per cent for Q3 of 2020-21 and to 5.8 per cent for Q4. These projections were owing to the likely persistence of food prices at elevated levels and cost-push pressures on core inflation.

Apart from some cheer coming in with the Q2 GDP figures, there is a fear about the uncertainty of the macroeconomic conditions and the fact that the current upturn may be only due to the pent-up demand, the festival season and initial easing of the supply chain.

The results of the Consumer Confidence Survey by the RBI also showed that consumer confidence remained very low in November as compared to a year ago. However, it showed marginal improvement from its all-time low recorded in the previous cycle (September).

Low consumer confidence is reflective of the people's insecurities regarding the job scenario, employment levels, household incomes and economic recovery in the country. However, the households remain

optimistic about the scenario one year ahead as reflected by the Future Expectations Index. Hence, managing inflation is critical to sustaining the growth stimulus spurred by the policy stimuli of the Government and the Central bank.

Till now, the RBI's efforts for liquidity injection as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to support the Government's fiscal responsibility, have achieved their purpose, as assessed by the it.

Liquidity influx with Foreign Portfolio Investment and Foreign Direct Investment has been high and the RBI has been sterilising them with reverse repo operations. Going forward, the Central bank needs to adopt a cautious approach as far as monitoring inflation and pushing for growth are concerned. It should be ready to do the balancing act.

(The writer is Joint Director, the National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development, Niti Aayog. The views expressed are personal.)



FOREIGN EYE



NEED OF THE HOUR IN UK

Supporting schemes to make roads outside schools car-free is one thing; confronting the motor industry and getting serious about the kinds of shifts in behaviour and technology that are needed to reduce congestion and pollution is another. Increasing the cost of driving and giving more space to people on bicycles is not popular. But it is the need of the hour in the UK.
(The Guardian editorial)

US overwhelmingly OK'd Moderna vaccine: Trump

Washington: President Donald Trump on Friday said that the United States has authorized a second coronavirus vaccine, jumping the gun on regulators who have yet to give it the formal green light.

"Moderna vaccine overwhelmingly approved. Distribution to start immediately," he wrote on Twitter.

This follows a recommendation by an expert panel on Thursday to grant emergency use approval for Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine in the United States.

The Food and Drug Administration is expected to issue formal approval Friday. This would make Moderna's vaccine the second to be approved in a Western country following the one developed by Pfizer-BioNTech.

Trump's announcement came as US Vice President Mike Pence and his wife received the Covid-19 vaccine live on television, in a public display designed to boost national confidence in the measure.

Pence indicated that formal approval for Moderna would be a matter of hours.

"We have one, perhaps within hours two, safe and

effective coronavirus vaccines," he said.

Thursday's hearing came as the number of deaths from the coronavirus quickly approaches 310,000 in the country with the world's biggest Covid-19 outbreak, which this week began vaccinating health care workers and long-term care residents with the Pfizer vaccine.

Both of the frontrunner

vaccines are based on cutting-edge mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) technology, which had never been approved prior to the pandemic, and both are two-dose regimens.

The US, which has recorded more than 17 million cases of the virus, will probably become the first country to approve the Moderna vaccine. **AFP**

Half of Belgium's Covid-19 deaths in rest homes



Brussels: More than 10,000 elderly people living in Belgian rest homes have died from Covid-19 since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Yves Van Laethem, a spokesman at Belgium's coronavirus crisis center, told a news conference on Friday that the death of 10,270 rest home residents accounts for 56 percent of all the victims.

In a report published last month, Amnesty International said Belgian authorities "abandoned" thousands of elderly people who died in nursing homes and did not seek hospital treatment for many who were infected, violating their human rights.

One of the hardest-hit countries in Europe, Belgium has reported more than 618,000 confirmed virus cases and 18,371 deaths linked to the coronavirus. During the first wave of the epidemic last spring, the European nation of 11.5 million people recorded a majority of its Covid-19-related deaths in nursing homes. Van Laethem said the situation has improved, but remains "precarious and difficult." **AP**

Rickshaw bomb kills 15 kids in eastern Afghan

Kabul: A bomb rigged to a rickshaw killed at least 15 children and wounded 20 others in a Taliban-controlled area in eastern Afghanistan on Friday, a provincial official said, as violence in the war-weary country continued to surge.

The bomb went off after a man driving a motorised rickshaw entered a village in the Gilan district to sell goods and was soon surrounded by kids, according to Wahidullah Jumazada, spokesman for the Ghazni provincial Governor.

He said the casualty toll could rise further. No one

immediately claimed responsibility for the attack and Jumazada said an investigation was underway into why children were targeted.

However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid sent a message to the media claiming that the explosion was caused by the remains of unexploded ordnance in the area, which the children had allegedly picked up and brought to the merchant.

Mujahid gave a lower death toll, saying 12 children were killed.

The conflicting reports

could not be reconciled as the area is under Taliban control and off limits to reporters.

Violence in Afghanistan has spiked in recent months even as the Taliban and Afghan government negotiators hold talks in Qatar, trying to hammer out a peace deal that could put an end to decades of war.

Earlier this week, US Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, held an unannounced meeting with Taliban leaders in Doha, Qatar, to discuss military aspects of last February's US-Taliban agreement. The agreement, signed in

Qatar where the Taliban maintain a political office, was intended to set the stage for direct peace talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

It also provided for the withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan. President Donald Trump has ordered the reduction of US Forces in Afghanistan from 4,500 to 2,500 by January 15, just days before President-elect Joe Biden is to be sworn in as Trump's successor. The troop levels are now at about 4,000 and are expected to reach the 2,500 target on time. **AP**

US inmate scheduled to be executed tests Covid positive

Washington: A federal prisoner scheduled to be executed just days before President-elect Joe Biden takes office has tested positive for coronavirus, his lawyer has said.

The Bureau of Prisons notified attorneys for Dustin John Higgs on Thursday that their client had tested positive for the virus, his attorney Devon Porter said during a court hearing Thursday afternoon.

The revelation comes amid concern about an exploding number of coronavirus cases in the federal

prison system and specifically at the complex in Terre Haute, Indiana, where the executions are carried out. It is the only federal death row.

Higgs is scheduled to be executed on January 15, just five days before death-penalty opponent Joe Biden's inauguration. Higgs is the last of those currently scheduled to be executed in a series of federal executions that began in July. The Trump administration will have executed more people in a single year than any other administration in more than 130 years. **AP**

Iran builds underground nuclear facility amid US tensions

Iran has begun construction on a site at its underground nuclear facility at Fordo amid tensions with the US over its atomic programme, satellite photos obtained on Friday by The Associated Press show.

Iran has not publicly acknowledged any new construction at Fordo, whose discovery by the West in 2009 came in an earlier round of brinkmanship before world powers struck the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran.



Students stage a sit-in outside the Fenelon High School in Lille, northern France on Friday **AP**

First Covid dose given in Native American communities

Santa Fe: The first doses of the coronavirus vaccine are being administered in Native American communities from the desert highlands of New Mexico to a coastal fishing tribe outside Seattle as the federal government and states rush to protect one of the most vulnerable US populations.

The two-pronged effort includes a massive logistical operation by the federal government's Indian Health Service focusing on vaccinating health care workers at sover-

Biden's close adviser tests virus positive

Washington: Congressman Cedric Richmond, a close adviser to President-elect Joe Biden, has tested positive for the coronavirus, according to the transition team.

He developed symptoms on Wednesday and took a rapid test which came out positive, Transition Spokeswoman Kate Bedingfield said on Thursday.

Richmond, 47, has been named as the White House Senior Adviser and Director of the Office of Public Engagement in the incoming Biden administration.

"Richmond was not in close contact, as defined by the CDC (Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention), with the President-elect. President-elect Biden underwent PCR testing for COVID-19 today and COVID-19 was not detected," Bedingfield said.

On December 15, Richmond travelled to Georgia for a campaign event with the Ossoff and Warnock campaigns.

Neither the candidates nor any member of the Ossoff or Warnock campaign teams were in close contact with Richmond, nor were Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, Stacey Abrams or Nikema Williams, who also attended the Tuesday event, she said. **PTI**

Chinese citizen journalist to face trial for reporting on Covid in Wuhan

Beijing: A citizen journalist detained in China after reporting from the Covid-19 ground zero of Wuhan will face trial later this month, her lawyer said Friday, as fears grow for her health.

The coronavirus first emerged in central China late last year, and Beijing has faced accusations that it covered up the initial outbreak and silenced early whistleblowers.

Zhang Zhan, a former lawyer, travelled to Wuhan in February and livestreamed her experiences on social media. She also wrote essays critical of the government's response —

including the strict lockdown of millions of people.

Zhang was detained in May and is accused of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", according to a court notice seen by AFP — a charge routinely used to suppress dissidents, with a maximum prison sentence of five years.

The 37-year-old's lawyers received notice earlier this week that the hearing will take place in a Shanghai court on December 28.

Zhang began a hunger strike in June, her lawyers said, and has been force-fed via a nasal tube. **AFP**

French teenagers protest after transgender classmate's suicide

AP ■ LILLE

About 100 teenagers rallied in northern France on Friday to pay homage to a transgender student who killed herself this week after facing tensions with school officials around her gender identity.

The case has drawn indignation on social media.

The students held a sit-in and a moment of silence outside the entrance to the Fenelon High School in Lille as school started Friday, expressing their anger and distress at the suicide of their classmate Fouad.

The Panipat Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., Panipat

WALK-IN INTERVIEW			
Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post & Category	Qualifications & Experience
1	Dy. Chief Accounts Officer.	1 No., General	Academic: Chartered Accountant OR ICWA. Experience: One year of handling the accounts & finance of a reputed commercial organization having turnover of Rs.10 Crores per annum.
2.	Assistant Engineer (Elect.) (Co-Gen.)	1 No., General	Academic: B.E. in Electrical with minimum 55% marks. Experience: Atleast one year in maintenance and running of Power Station or One year apprenticeship in Sugar Industry. Computer Course upto 'O' Level will be preferred.

This engagement will be purely on temporary & contract basis and only for one year. The Salary will be paid as prescribed in Out-Source Policy Part-II of the Haryana Govt. Eligible candidates should come in office of the undersigned on 29-12-2020 at 11.00 a.m. along with original documents and two Photostat copies of the same for Walk-in Interview. No T.A. will be admissible. **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Parwati** along with son **Priyanshu**-Age 1 Year 6 months, W/o Rajesh, R/O B-445, Chander Vihar, Delhi, **Age:** 25 years, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Yellow colour Saree and Sandal in her feet, has been missing/kidnapped from area of P.S. Nihal Vihar since 17.11.2020. In this regard a **DD No. 58-A**, dated 18.11.2020 has been registered at **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady alongwith son but no clue has come to light so far. if any one having any information about this alongwith son please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/551/OD/2020

SHO
PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Ph. : 011-25946700, 25946710

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Short Term E-Tender Notice No. BCSM/25 dated 18.12.2020
Department: The Bhogpur Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd., Bhogpur invites online bids for the following job :

S.No.	Item	
1	Construction of One No. Sugar Godown at CSM Bhogpur with Specification & Size as : Capacity : 60000 Bags (100 KG each) Size : 22 x 77 Meters Height : 10 Meters (Clear) Roofing : MS Trusses/Portals with GI sheets Openings : MS Shutters	As per NIT uploaded on the website
2	Providing Temporary Sheds for storage of sugar bags on rent basis for 12 months Capacity 1.00 lakh Bags (50 kg each)	As per NIT uploaded on the website

Closing Date & Time : 28.12.2020 upto 10.00 AM
 Opening Date & Time : 28.12.2020 at 12.00 Noon
 For detail log into : www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note : For any enquiry / help regarding e-tender please contact on 79735-16225, 99151-12559, 90419-23098, 98558-93604. **Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.**

GENERAL MANAGER

WESTERN RAILWAY E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/30/2020 Date 16.12.2020

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
765	Security Plate	15000 Nos.	23.12.2020
766	Security Plate for Control Arm Fitment	11940 Set	23.12.2020
767	Body Side Hand Hold	825 Nos.	23.12.2020
768	Centring Disc	94 Nos.	24.12.2020
769	Safety Wire Rope Assly.	4500 Nos.	24.12.2020
770	Swinging nut	1910 Nos.	24.12.2020
771	Stainless Steel Wire Rope Cable	1450 Nos.	24.12.2020
772	Radio Freq. Nerve Ablation Machine with Accs.	1 No.	28.12.2020
773	Security plate for anti roll bar	5210 Nos.	28.12.2020
774	Security plate for centre pivot Arr.	1580 Nos.	28.12.2020
775	Terminal Fault Indication	5 Nos.	28.12.2020
776	Biphasic defibrillator monitor	4 Nos.	28.12.2020
777	Thromboaspiration Equipment	1 No.	28.12.2020
778	Fixation Ball Joint	324 Nos.	29.12.2020
779	M 20 X 100 Long CSK Head Screw	11250 Nos.	29.12.2020
780	Bush	635 Nos.	29.12.2020
781	Ball Joint Roll Link	1600 Nos.	30.12.2020
782	Body to Bogie Connecting Swinging Link	2050 Nos.	30.12.2020
783	Anti Roll Bar	87 Nos.	30.12.2020
784	Anti Roll Bar Bracket	380 Nos.	30.12.2020
785	Link Pin	2037 Nos.	30.12.2020
786	High Tensile Transition CB Coupler	80 Set	31.12.2020
787	Bracket	100 Nos.	31.12.2020
788	Bush for Cast Steel Brake Beam	3099 Nos.	31.12.2020
789	Lock Nut	965 Nos.	31.12.2020
790	STD Hex Head Bolt M10x100 Long	3090 Nos.	31.12.2020
791	STD.Hex Head Bolt M10x110 Long	5148 Nos.	31.12.2020
792	Two Central Station High End Bed Side Multiparameter Monitor	1 No.	31.12.2020

Regarding detailed notice, EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in.

513 For Principal Chief Materials Manager

Like us on : [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) | Follow us on : twitter.com/WesternRly

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** **Gopal Kumar Jha S/o Manoj Kumar Jha R/o D-5, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped since 17.07.2018 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 812/19 u/s 365 IPC dated 05.12.2019 has been registered at Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age : 24 Years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion :** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Wearing :** Red colour shirt & blue colour pant and leather shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi at E-mail Id — cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: **SHO**
011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/549/OD/2020
Ph. No. 011-25946700, 25946710

1 in 5 prisoners in US has had Covid, 1,700 have died

Little Rock (US): One in every five state and federal prisoners in the United States has tested positive for the coronavirus, a rate more than four times higher than the general population.

In some states, more than half of prisoners have been infected, according to data collected by The Associated Press

and The Marshall Project.

As the pandemic enters its 10th month — and as the first Americans begin to receive a long-awaited Covid-19 vaccine — at least 2,75,000 prisoners have been infected, more than 1,700 have died and the spread of the virus behind bars shows no sign of slowing. **AP**

THE PANIPAT CO-OP. SUGAR MILLS LTD., PANIPAT

Email ID : panipatsugarmills@gmail.com Contact No. : 0180-2651269, 2651184

"TENDER NOTICE"						
Sr. No.	Name of the Department	Name of Work/Notice/ Tender	Opening Date	Closing Date	Amount (Approx. in lac.)	E.Money (in lac.)
	The Panipat Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Panipat		14-12-2020 At 10:00 AM	28-12-2020 At 09:00 AM		
	The Panipat Co-op. Sugar Mills Ltd., Panipat	Purchase/Sale Item for Sugar Mill				
1.		Sale of Press Mud			25.00	0.20
2.		Uniform			04.80	--
	The Panipat Co-op. Sugar Mills Ltd., Panipat	Purchase/Sale for Distillery Unit				
3.		ENA			100.00	--
	The Panipat Co-op. Sugar Mills Ltd., Panipat	Job Works for Distillery Unit				
4.		Dismantling, Fabrication and Erection work of Fermentation Vals			06.00	0.20
5.		Canteen			01.00	00.05

The detailed tender have already been uploaded on the website <https://tenders.hry.nic.in>. The tender should be filled on the above website on or before 28-12-2020 up to 09:00 A.M. The "TECHNICAL BID" will be opened on 28-12-2020 at 09:30 A.M. If a tenderer qualifies in "TECHNICAL BID" then only "FINANCIAL BID" will be opened on 28-12-2020 at 03:00 P.M. The Negotiation, if necessary will be held in the presence of lowest tenderer or his representative who may be present at that time on 29-12-2020 at 11:00 AM.

Managing Director

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/W Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN))	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Jayeshkumar Hasmukhbhai Parmar & Truptiben Jayesh Parmar - QZCDD00005036483 (DHFL Old LAN - "13800001757 & ICICI New LAN - QZCDD00005036483)	Block No. 12, Unit No.204, 2nd Floor, Shree Thakomath Residency, Nandoli Road, Survey No. 308, Dehgam, Delhi - 382305 / December 17, 2020	August 27, 2020 Rs. 18,31,084.00/-	Dehgam

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 19-12-2020
 Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Around the Globe

Houston: The US government is preparing to deport more than a dozen children and their parents held at a Texas immigration detention centre, including a 4-year-old girl with a broken arm requiring surgery, according to lawyers for the families.

Tokyo: A councilwoman who was ousted from the town assembly in a famous Japanese hot springs resort after accusing the mayor of sexual assault said Friday her case highlights the problems of male-dominated small town politics in which women are often silenced.

Cape Canaveral (US): Jupiter and Saturn will merge in the night sky Monday, appearing closer to one another than they have since Galileo's time in the 17th century.

Sensex, Nifty make new highs as FII maintain buying spree

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Markets darted up to fresh peaks on Friday, capping off a stellar week where equity benchmarks closed at record highs every session on unabated foreign fund inflows.

After opening at its lifetime intra-day high of 47,026.02, the 30-share BSE Sensex succumbed to selling pressure but rebounded in fag-end trade to finish at a record 46,960.69, up 70.35 points or 0.15 per cent.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 19.85 points or 0.14 per cent to 13,760.55 -- its new closing record.

IT stocks hogged the limelight as better-than-expected results from Accenture Plc enthused investors.

Infosys was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, jumping 2.64 per cent, followed by Bajaj Auto, SBI, ICICI Bank, HCL Tech, Titan, Asian Paints and TCS.

On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, ONGC, HDFC Bank, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv and Bharti Airtel were among the main losers, skidding up to 3.30 per cent.

During the week, the Sensex rallied 861.68 points or 1.86 per cent, while the Nifty surged 246.70 points or 1.82 per cent.

Continuing their buying spree, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) purchased shares worth a net Rs 2,355.25 crore on Thursday, according to provisional exchange data.

FPIs have been net buyers in the domestic capital markets in each session this month so far, following record inflows of Rs 60,358 crore in November.

"Domestic equities recovered from today's low in tandem with recovery in banking stocks. IT index was top performer today with strong buying in many IT counters due to strong performance and upbeat commentary from Accenture.

₹ rises by 3 paise to 73.56 on forex inflows, weak dollar

Mumbai: The rupee appreciated by 3 paise to close at 73.56 against the US dollar on Friday amid sustained foreign fund inflows and positive domestic equities. Traders said weakness in the American currency in the overseas market supported the domestic unit. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 73.55 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.49 and a low of 73.57. It finally ended at 73.56 against the American currency, registering a rise of 3 paise over its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee settled flat at 73.59 against US dollar.

RBI Board reviews prevailing economic situation

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said its Central Board on Friday reviewed the current economic situation in the backdrop of global and domestic challenges.

The Central Board met under the chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das through video conferencing. It was the 586th meeting of the Central Board.

"The Board reviewed the current economic situation in the backdrop of global and domestic challenges and various areas of operations of the Reserve Bank including the customer education initiatives and resolution of customer complaints," it said in a statement.

The Central Board also discussed the draft report on trend and progress of banking in India, 2019-20.

It also noted the change in



the central bank's financial year from July-June to April-March and the changes in the unit of presentation from millions / billions to lakhs / crores.

Besides the deputy governors, directors of the board N Chandrasekaran, Ashok Gulati, Manish Sabharwal, Prasanna Kumar Mohanty, Dilip S Shingvi, Satish K Marathe, S Gurumurthy and Revathy Iyer attended the meeting.

Tarun Bajaj, secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Debashish Panda, secretary, Department of Financial Services, also attended the meeting.

Govt rules out cut in cane prices, asks sugar mills to be efficient, profitable

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Food Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said the government cannot reduce the FRP, the minimum price at which sugar mills buy cane from farmers, and asked the industry to be efficient, profitable and diversify product portfolio with less dependency on the central subsidy.

Addressing the 86th annual general meeting (AGM) of industry body ISMA, Goyal, who is also the railway and commerce minister, said the government's decision to provide Rs 3,500 crore subsidy for exports of 60 lakh tonnes of sugar in the current marketing year 2020-21 (October-September) will help in liquidating surplus sugar stocks.

On the industry's demand that the sugarcane purchase price be linked with sugar price realisation, he said it is not practical to reduce the fair and remunerative price (FRP) and told the industry leaders to produce more ethanol as well



as other bye-products to boost their income.

"Let's be practical about it. We cannot reduce the FRP. It's an institutional mechanism going on for several years," he said.

Goyal also expressed concern about some mills being profitable and others in bad shape and asked the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) to undertake a gap study to make mills efficient and competitive. He said a holistic assessment should be made to find a sustainable solution, which is workable and make industry efficient as well as profitable with "least

stress" on the government's subsidy. On the government's decision to give a subsidy of Rs 3,500 crore to sugar mills for the export of 60 lakh tonnes of the sweetener during the ongoing marketing year 2020-21, the minister said this will "give some comfort to industry in disposing surplus sugar stocks". He said the sugar output is expected to rise 20 per cent in the current marketing year.

Goyal said the food ministry will also soon clear the subsidy worth Rs 5,361 crore of previous marketing year, to mills pertaining to exports and ethanol programme.

India Inc's overseas investments at \$12.25 bn during Apr-Nov: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Corporate India has invested USD 12.25 billion overseas during the first eight months of the current fiscal, most of which has gone into the firms' wholly-owned subsidiaries in the US, Singapore or the Netherlands, according to data collated by Care Ratings.

In the whole of FY20, total foreign direct investment (FDI) by domestic companies was USD 13 billion, while FDI inflows had hit a record USD 76 billion, according to the ratings agency.

Of the total USD 12.25 billion outward FDI during April-November this fiscal, the actual outflow was USD 6.35 billion, of which USD 2.97 billion was through equities and USD 3.38 billion in loan commitments and the balance USD 5.90 billion was in the form of guarantees, the agency said quoting RBI data. As against this, during the first five

months of the current fiscal, total FDI inflows rose to USD 35.73 billion, the highest-ever for the period, and 13 per cent higher than same period in FY20 when it stood at USD 31.60 billion. This was primarily driven by the string of deals that Reliance Industries clinched for its telecom and retail arms. For the full FY20, inflows stood at USD 76 billion, which after adjusting for repatriation of around USD 18 billion, meant USD 56 billion of foreign direct investment, which was the highest achieved on record.

In FY20, around USD 13 billion was invested outside, which was the second successive year of double-digit overseas investment since FY13. But the peak was USD 19 billion in FY09 and USD 18 billion in FY08.

From a sectoral point of view, 90 per cent of the money invested overseas was in financials, insurance and business services (USD 3.89 billion).

Jai Prakash R Dandegaonkar takes over as new president of NFCSF

New Delhi: Jai Prakash R. Salunke Dandegaonkar was unanimously elected as the President of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. at the apex Sugar Body's 214th meeting of the Board of Directors on Friday.

Dandegaonkar succeeds Dilip Walse Patil, who had resigned as the President of NFCSF on becoming the Cabinet Minister of State Government of Maharashtra, said the co-operative sugar industry body in a statement.

A former State Minister of Cooperation and Textile in the Government of Maharashtra & having put in many years in public service majority of which have been closely associated with the development of sugar sector, Dandegaonkar is also the current Chairman of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation Ltd. He is also the founder Chairman of Purna Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt-Hingoli, Maharashtra.

'Railways aims to increase freight share to 45% by 2030'

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Preparing for the demand in future as part of its National Rail Plan, the Indian railways is planning to increase its share in freight movement from 27 per cent now to 45 per cent by 2030, officials said on Friday.

The railways also plans to introduce demand based passenger trains and doing away with the wait list tickets by 2024.

Addressing a press conference here, Railway Board Chairman and CEO V. K. Yadav said, "We have been working to prepare the National Rail Plan for last two years and we are ready with our plan that will be shared with everyone.

Railways operating 1,089 mail, express trains as compared to 1,768 trains during normal time

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The railways is operating 1,089 mail and express trains as compared to 1,768 trains which used to run before the Covid-19 pandemic, officials said on Friday.

Addressing a virtual press conference here, Railway Board Chairman and CEO VK Yadav said, "As of now we are operating 1,089 mail and express trains as compared to 1,768 trains."

He said that the railways is operating 264 Kolkata metro trains and 3,936 suburban services. The Chairman said that railways is monitoring the train services. "We are also running 20 special clone trains as of now where there is high demand in terms of waitlist."

He said that during the festive season looking at the high demand for confirmed tickets, the national transporter operated 618 special trains to clear the rush.

INBRIEF

NDMC CHAIRMAN DISTRIBUTES PRE-LOADED TABLETS
New Delhi: Online teaching for the students of NDMC Schools has been initiated during this pandemic. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has accordingly launched a pilot project to provide free tablets to the students of Class Xth and XIth of four NDMC Schools - Atal Adarsh Vidyalaya-Havelock Square, Atal Adarsh Balika Vidyalaya-Gole Market, Navyug School-Sarojini Nagar and Navyug School, Peshwa Road, New Delhi to ensure online learning for these academically important and crucial classes.

MRS BECTORS FOOD SPECIALTIES INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER SUBSCRIBED 198.02 TIMES
Mumbai: Mrs Bectors Food Specialties initial public offer of Rs 540.54 crore attracted more than 198 times subscription on the IPO closing day. The initial public offer opened on Tuesday, 15th December 2020 and closed on Thursday, 17th December 2020. The IPO is backed by robust demand from all categories of investors. Estimated demand at 5.00pm is 198.02 times.

EPL GETS GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR RECYCLABLE PACKAGING TUBE
New Delhi: EPL Limited, formerly known as Essel Propack Limited, the world's largest specialty packaging company, has received global recognition from the Association of Plastic Recyclers, USA, for its Platina Tube with an HDPE closure. "Sustainability is a key area of focus for us and we constantly endeavour towards achieving it. We are extremely delighted to receive this recognition from APR, and this will motivate us to develop more innovative and sustainable solutions and consciously reduce our carbon footprint," said EPL MD & CEO Sudhanshu Vats.

Reliance, BP start gas production from Asia's deepest project

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries and its partner BP plc of the UK on Friday announced the commencement of natural gas production from Asia's deepest project, putting the second wave of discoveries in the KG-D6 block onstream.

The production from ultra-deepwater R-Cluster, the first of the three deepsea projects Reliance-BP are developing in the eastern offshore block, started production, the two firms said in a statement.

Reliance and BP are developing three deepwater gas projects in block KG D6 - R Cluster, Satellites Cluster and MJ - which together are expected to meet about 15 per cent of India's gas demand by 2023. "These projects will utilise the existing hub infrastructure in KG-D6 block," it said.

Reliance is the operator of KG D6 with a 66.67 per cent participating interest and BP holds a 33.33 per cent stake.

R-Cluster is the first of the three projects to come onstream. The field is located about 60 kilometres from the existing KG-D6 Control and Riser Platform (CRP) off the Kakinada coast and comprises a subsea production system tied back to CRP via a subsea pipeline.

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

e-Tender Notice
Letter No.: 833 Date: 18.12.2020
Office of Executive Engineer (M) Ramganga Power Station, UJVN Limited, Kalagarh, Distt. Pauri Garhwal invites online tender from interested parties. Detail of tender is given below.
T. No. 13/EE/(M)/Kg/2020-21

Name of work: Hiring of one no. 24 seater non AC Bus for 12 months
Estimated cost: Rs. 12,13,128/- GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website: 19/12/2020
Last date for submission of tender: 09/01/2021 up to 16.00 Hrs.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in" **Executive Engineer (M)**

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

RUNNING OF NG EXPRESS SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN KALKA & SHIMLA

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Northern Railway has been running the following special train as per details given below:-

04517/04518 Kalka - Shimla - Kalka Express Special Train (Daily)

Train No. 04517	STATIONS	Train No. 04518
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.
-- 07:00	Kalka	21:15 --
09:00	Barog	19:02 19:08
12:55 --	Shimla	-- 15:50

Days of Run: 04517 Ex. Kalka with immediate effect till further advice and 04518 Ex. Shimla with immediate effect till further advice

Accommodation: AC Chair Car

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

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

Please join us on **NORTHERN RAILWAY**
Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
Regional Office, 4- Nehru Place, Tonk Road, Jaipur-302015
Ph.: 0141-2743137, Fax: 0141-2742034, E-mail: srmrj.fci@gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

An e-tender notice is invited, under two-bid system for appointment of regular Handling/Handling & Transport Contractor for two years at various centers of Rajasthan region. Under e-tender notice ROJ/ CONTRACT/ HTC/ 05/2020, the bids shall be accepted ONLINE from 19.12.2020, 02:00 PM to 11.01.2021, 02:00 PM. All the Terms & Conditions and other details are available on Central Public Procurement Portal's website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and Corporation's website www.fci.gov.in. **GENERAL MANAGER (REGION)**

Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited
"SARAS SANKUL" J.L.N. MARG, JAIPUR - 302017 Ph. No. 2792501-06, Direct: 0141-2710209
Website : www.sarasnikfed.rajasthan.gov.in E-Mail : pur-rcdf-fj@nic.in

No. RCDP/Pur/F/CF Pkg. Mat./2020/32542-75 Dated: 17th Dec., 2020

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Single Stage Two Parts unconditional online e-Tenders/Bids are invited by Rajasthan Co-Operative Dairy Federation Ltd., Jaipur for the procurement of "PP Woven Sack (Tubular Type) Yellow Pigmented Bag for packing Cattle Feed (UBN No. CDF2021GLRC0931)" from eligible tonnage manufacturers or their authorized suppliers as per details given in the respective bid document. Last date for submission of online e-Bid is 30.12.2020 up to 3.00 PM.

The Complete Bidding Documents can be visited and downloaded from our website www.sarasnikfed.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. E-Bids shall be submitted only on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. **General Manager (Purchase)**

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
JAIPUR

E-BID NOTICE

निगम की नकारा वादको का ई-ऑक्शन वेब-साइट Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc एवं rsrtc.procure247.com के माध्यम से जहाँ है, जहाँ है कि स्थिति में किया जाना है जिसका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है :-

S. No.	Event's Name	EMD Deposit Start Date	EMD Deposit End Date	BID Start Date	BID End Date
1	LEYLAND BLUE LINE WITHOUT DUMMY	09-12-20	28-12-20	28-12-20	29-12-20
2	TATA BLUE LINE VEHICLES WITHOUT DUMMY	09-12-20	29-12-20	29-12-20	30-12-20
3	SCRAP/DELUXE BUSES	09-12-20	29-12-20	29-12-20	30-12-20
4	DUMMY LEYLAND BLUE LINE VEHICLES	09-12-20	29-12-20	29-12-20	30-12-20
5	SCRAP/COND. WITHOUT DUMMY TAT ALL STAR LINE SLEEPER VEHICLES	09-12-20	29-12-20	29-12-20	30-12-20

नोट:-
1. ई-ऑक्शन में शामिल होने से पूर्व मोलीदाता द्वारा EMD जमा करना अनिवार्य है।
2. ई-ऑक्शन का सम्पूर्ण विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तें वेब-साइट पर उपलब्ध है।

एच.सं.दा.सं. / सी / 7825 विज्ञापन संख्या 145/2020-21 **Financial advisor**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Ankita**, D/o: Karmbir, R/o: Flat No. 31/119 MTNL Quarter, Sector-03, Rohini, Delhi has been reported missing since 08.12.2020 at about 12:15 PM from her house. In this regard DD No. 75A, dated 08.12.2020 has been registered at P.S. South Rohini, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Ankita, **Age:** 18 Years, **Height:** about 5', **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Hair:** Black, **ID Mark:** Cut mark on right eye **Brow:** Wearing: Blue Jeans Jacket, Black yellow T-Shirt, Blue Jeans Pant and cream colour sports shoes in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. South Rohini, Delhi

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, **Email:** cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, **Fax:** 011-24368639 **SHO**
Police Station South Rohini, Delhi
Ph: 011-27512189, 8750870328

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi
... A Joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 19.12.2020

Sealed tenders are invited for following jobs from all bidders:

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Due Date & Time of Submission
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/PM/27	Registration and Revalidation of Insurance Broker for Providing Services Related to Insurance for BYPL	01.01.2021 12:00 HRS

Cost of each EOJ Document: ₹1180/-
Documents in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying Requirements, Terms & Conditions, Purchase/Submission of documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com -> Tenders -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LIMITED -> Open Tenders.
Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
TEL: 011-41247777 | Fax: 011-4124 7787 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Firoz Ahmad/ Sadia Hayaat/ LBNOD00001379876	Flat No- FF- 2 Situated At Plot- No- B- 286, Shalimar Garden Main Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh/ Dec 14, 2020	August 13, 2020 Rs. 8,13,548/-	Del Ncr
2.	Chaudhary Arun Kumar/ Satender Kumar/ LBGHZ00002240578	Flat No-1310, 13th Floor Tower- C, Officer City Khalsa No- 1059 And 1098 Village Noor Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ December 15, 2020	August 13, 2020 Rs. 25,82,872/-	Del Ncr
3.	Gagan Gautam/ Lata Rani/ LBNOD00003067507	Flat No. A120, UGF, Wave Executive Floor, Nn- 24, Ghaziabad/ December 15, 2020	August 18, 2020 Rs. 16,05,087/-	Del Ncr
4.	Jugal Kishore/ Kamal Kant/ LBDEL00002501467	Flat No 47, 2nd Floor Sec- 34, Pocket 3, Block- C2, Rohini New Delhi/ December 16, 2020	August 18, 2020 Rs. 13,35,804/-	Del Ncr
5.	Praveen Kumar/ Anju/ LBDEL00002023272	Shop No- D- 1/19/1A, Ground Floor, DLF Dlishad Plaza, DLF Dlishad Extension-II, Ghaziabad/ December 14, 2020	August 18, 2020 Rs. 6,78,529/-	Del Ncr
6.	Sanjay Joshi/ Asha Joshi/ LBDEL00004351455	Flat No. E- 903 At Ninth Floor, Skytech Colours Avenue, Gh- 01/C Sector 10, Gr. Noida (West)/ December 15, 2020	September 25, 2020 Rs. 24,39,835/-	Del Ncr
7.	Anu Saxena/ Anju Kumar Saxena/ LBDEL0000378724	Plot No- A- 262- A, Khalsa No- 402, Block- Aindrapuri Abcd, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ December 14, 2020	September 30, 2020 Rs. 5,52,286/-	Delhi Ncr
8.	Ranbir Singh/ Manjulata/ LBDEL00000384959	House No- 499, Sector- 9, Gda Residential Colony Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ December 14, 2020	September 25, 2020 Rs. 3,14,337/-	Del Ncr
9.	Subroto Biswas/ Riya Biswas/ LBGUR00002845715	Flat No- T1- 1505, 15th Floor, The Aranya, Gh- 2, Sector 119, Noida, UP/ December 15, 2020	September 30, 2020/ Rs. 2,65,582/-	Del Ncr
10.	Vinay Singh/ Jatan Singh/ Bhanwar Lal Singh/ LBDEL000044091	House No 87, Ground Floor, Without Roof Block- A2, Sector- 5, Rohini, Delhi/ December 16, 2020	September 30, 2020 Rs. 17,34,027/-	Del Ncr
11.	Gyanesh Kumar Singh/ Vijaya Sengar/ LBDEL00002363353	Lig Flat No- 40, 4th Floor Sector- 34 Pocket- 2 Block- A- 3 Rohini Delhi-110085/ December 16, 2020	April 29, 2017 Rs. 13,48,400/-	Del Ncr
12.	Kapil Mann/ Preeti Gahlot/ LBDEL00002363899	Flat No- 1, Lig, Ground Floor, Sec- 34, Pocket- 4, Block C10, Rohini, Delhi/ December 16, 2020	August 18, 2020 Rs. 13,03,949/-	Del Ncr
13.	Jugnu Devi Dharmendra Kumar Singh/ LBDEL00002717847	Flat No- 44, 2nd Floor Lig Block A6, Sector- 34 Pocket- 3, Rohini, Delhi/ December 16, 2020	August 13, 2020 Rs. 12,10,259/-	Del Ncr
14.	Ram Kumar Ramamoorthy/ Shilpi Srivastava/ LBGUR00002002517	C 2001, 20th Floor, Avj Heights, Greater Noida, Plot No- Gh- 1212, Sector- Zeta- 1, Na, Noida- 201307/ December 15, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs. 60,62,338/-	Del Ncr
15.	Sandeep Bhatnagar/ Jyoti Bhatnagar/ LBNOD00001930242	Apartment No.1903, Tower No. 10, Lotus Boulevard, Plot No. Gh- 03, Sector 100, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP, India/ December 15, 2020	August 31, 2020 Rs. 14,25,413/-	Del Ncr
16.	Indraneel Bose/ Sheetal Bose/ M/s Bose Design Pvt Ltd/ LBNOD00002026149	Unit No- A2-1203, Block- A2, 12th Floor, Glory Gardenia Aims Developers Pvt Ltd, Sector- 46 Noida Uttar Pradesh/ December 15, 2020	September 25, 2020 Rs. 44,76,152/-	Del Ncr
17.	Bhavinder Singh Khurana / Anju Khurana / LBDEL00002317009	Property No CGF 253 25th Floor, Tower F DLF Capital Greens, Plot No 15, Shivaji Marg, Delhi. / December 16, 2020	August 11, 2020 Rs. 1,33,44,879.08/-	Del Ncr

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 19-12-2020
Place : Delhi Ncr **Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited**

SHORT CIRCUITS



PANKAJ TRIPATHI
Shakeela is a compelling story, told truthfully. I had a great time essaying the role. This story will surely entertain people but will also make them think of the double standards we have pertaining certain characters who have been wrongly boxed into being someone, without knowing their real life story.



JUBIN NAUTIYAL
 Before the lockdown started, I was one of those singers who were always on-stage, doing around 20 live gigs in 30 days. It was a different high! So when lockdown started, instead of feeling upset, I utilised the time to work on vocals of new songs. I would have not done that if I was just hopping from one stage to another.



DHANUSH
 Elated to announce that I will be joining the team of Netflix's *The Gray Man* starring Ryan Gosling and Chris Evans, directed by The Russo Brothers. Looking forward to being a part of this wonderful action packed experience. My sincere thanks to my dearest fans for all the love and support you have been showing me throughout these years.



ARJUN MATHUR
 It's been a tough and unhealthy year, but I'm glad to be back on track now and all that energy I have stored because of sitting at home has got me raring to go. It's great that it's finally happening, I can't wait to be back on sets as Karan Mehra in the second season of *Made In Heaven*.

DEEPIKA PADUKONE
 Whether in love or war, Mastani was fuelled by her passion, unafraid to write her own destiny, no matter how perilous the path. She always stood her ground with a fierce dignity and a love so strong that its burning embers seared through every societal constraint, to join both her and her lover's names.



CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES

The dream of a space telescope took 20 years to realise. Now, 30 years on, comes the incredible story of one of the most complex machines ever made. The Hubble space telescope has made more than 1.3 million observations and enabled over 15,000 scientific papers to be written. Its history has been dramatic. A triumphant launch that turned into disaster. Astronauts risking their lives to fix it. But ultimately, it's an invention that opened up the universe in unimaginable ways. This anniversary film, *Hubble: Wonders of Space Revealed*, tells the whole story and meets the scientists and astronomers who use Hubble on a daily basis as well as astronauts from each of the missions that have serviced and updated it. We talk to Steve Crabtree, the executive producer of the film, to know more. Excerpts:

What prompted you to bring up a film like *Hubble: Wonders of Space Revealed*?
 The film was to celebrate Hubble's 30th birthday, really. It coincided to mark the 30 years since the telescope was launched into space. So that was the simple reason. We thought to make a special shot, telling the whole story of Hubble, what is often referred to as the one of the most productive scientific instruments that has ever been invented.

The film includes real astronauts who work on Hubble daily. How was the experience of filming with them?
 I'm the executive producer of the film. So this time round unfortunately, I didn't get to meet the astronauts, the director David Briggs met them. They were super friendly and helpful. I have interviewed astronauts before and what I love about them is their training means that they're very precise and very accurate with anything you ask them. They're almost like sorts of space journalists in a way. They're always amazing and way friendly. And, you know, it's a real feeling, a real privilege to work with them, but there's not many of them out there.

How did you go about curating the stories and choosing the people set to feature in this film?
 We sat down for a long time along with the director and we tried to work out how to structure a programme such as this. And what we settled on was to tell the story through each of the service missions. There were five service missions in total. Each service mission then led to a new discovery because each mission was basically an upgrade which led to a new discovery. So we knew that we wanted to structure the film in that way. The first job was to make sure that we had astronauts from each service mission. Otherwise, we wouldn't be able to tell that whole story. Luckily, they were very kind to give us their time. Then, once we knew we had astronauts, we just focussed on one of the discoveries that each service mission had led to. That helped us decide which sciences to pick, I mean, obviously, in real life, there were hundreds of discoveries but in an hour long programme, you can only pick one. So we just picked some that we thought was great. If you watch the first one, what actually happens is as the film plays, each discovery is further and further out into the universe until the last one, which is



A DRAMATIC HISTORY

The Hubble space telescope has made more than 1.3 million observations and enabled over 15,000 scientific papers to be written. It's an invention that opened up the universe in unimaginable ways. Executive producer STEVE CRABTREE digs deeper and shares secrets. By TEAM VIVA

basically the farthest Hubble can see. So there's quite a little narrative there as well.

What were the challenges involved during the making of the film?

The big challenge for us in the UK was that we wanted the programme to tie in with the actual 30th anniversary of Hubble. And on every birthday what NASA does is that they release a very special picture that Hubble has taken and we sort of tried to get hold of that picture earlier because we were making a TV programme. We got that finally and we got to see Hubble's 30th anniversary photograph exactly the same time as everybody else did, which was about six or eight hours before our film was going to be broadcast by the BBC. So me, the director and the editor were in an edit suite together, just waiting for this photograph to be given to us. Once we got the photograph, we then cut the picture and re-finish the entire film, and then gave it to BBC to go on the television. It also



means that there is a sort of another version of the film without the picture in it that's never been seen by the audience because we managed to use the proper pic-



ture at the end. So that was quite a challenge, really. I haven't had to do that very often in my television career. I feel live television is very different. But I don't generally work in live television. So this time was quite interesting.

You have also been a core part of the show *250 Million Pound Cancer Cure*, can you provide some insights into the show?

That show was really close to me. I was

the editor for horizon when we started making it. But then I'd left by the time we finished it because it took about two years to put the show together. Initially, I was involved in the making and the engineering part of the technology and then left it midway for the team to finish the show. In 2014, five-year-old Ashya King's parents were arrested. Unwilling to accept that their son's brain tumour was incurable. They took him to Europe against the doctors' advice for Proton Beam Therapy. In

this treatment, high-energy protons travel at two-thirds the speed of light through a patient's body. It can transform treatment for children with inoperable cancers. But bringing it to the UK needs a £250 million investment, and one of the world's best facilities. A nuclear bunker with six-metre-thick walls. Nearly 2,000 tonnes of kit squeezed under the streets of London and Manchester. Horizon goes behind the scenes of a super-sized engineering challenge. It's an amazing piece of technology and all of the engineering that goes into it is just awe inspiring.

What is the future of Proton Beam Therapy in India?

In India? I don't know. All I know is that it seems to be very successful in the UK. They're doing many treatments now. So, you know, it just seems like it's a really good piece of technology. But I don't know the future of it in India.

Any message for the Indian audience?

I would just say that both of these programmes, in very different ways, go down to show that not only how important science, technology and engineering is, but also how they can sort of bring people together. For the Hubble film in particular, those amazing images that we see of the universe and the cosmos are inspiring for young people, especially who may want to have a career in science, technology or engineering. I mean, if you were to boil both films down to their core ingredients, what we're talking about is amazing scientists and engineers, building incredible machines that help humanity. I think that's something that we can all aspire to. They spread a positive message to say, look, what we can do together when we invent amazing things.

(The film premieres today at 9 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)

READING LIST

A light read

The Thursday Murder Club by author RICHARD OSMAN is difficult to fit into genres.

Thriller is one way to look at it. Slice of life is another, says KAVITHA MURALI

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman is difficult to fit into genres. "Thriller" is one way to look at it. "Slice of life" is another. "The quaint countryside contemporary classic" if ever there was such a genre might fit in too. Ever so slightly.

We have septuagenarian and octogenarian protagonists in this unlikely murder mystery set in a hep and happening retirement community. Well, if Pilates is



"hep and happening" that is.

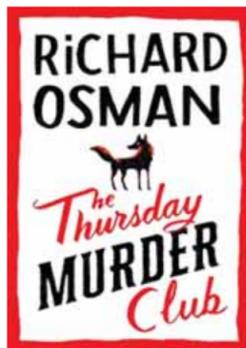
Elizabeth is a methodical crucifier. Joyce, poor little Joyce, is a people pleaser, perhaps, there's more there than what meets the eye. Ib is an analyst with a difference while Ron, a firebrand activist. What happens when these four get together? Some good old

wine, choice desserts and jigsaw puzzles. Only, the jigsaws are of the police file kind. Having access to unsolved mysteries from decades ago, our foursome meet every Thursday trying to puzzle out the solution.

And then suddenly, one day, they have a murder in their midst.

Or two. Perhaps three.

Leveraging seniority in age and frailty of body, these alert and fertile minds of the Thursday murder club get access to information and people the police aren't able to worm out themselves. This strange group then solves the mystery, trading info with the



police and jumping into the fray and action many a time without warning the police. But, that's not even half of what this book is about. While the mystery is getting solved, friends are dying of old age, spouses getting dementia. Sometimes, flowers are all that one needs to wase through an uneventful day.

If you are curious to know what happens when Miss Marple meets Holmes meets Nancy Drew, all in a quiet little English countryside consuming almond flour cake and mint tea, this is the book for you. A light and adorable read, perhaps, a befitting end to this horrible year.

Packed slate for Yami in 2021

Having marked her debut with *Vicky Donor* in 2012, which won her wide acclaim, there has been no looking back for actor Yami Gautam. Her film choices have proved her versatility. A self-made actor who has worked her way up through sheer talent and dedication, she has been hailed for her scintillating screen presence and playing her characters with a rare elegance and restraint.

After a slew of box office successes in 2019 with *Uri: The Surgical Strike* and *Bala*, Yami is all set to have another eventful year as she has a bunch of projects lined up for 2021. A source reveals that she will have a packed slate in the forthcoming year.

"Yami has now been approached with eight interesting scripts and she has locked in as many as six films for which she will start shooting in 2021. The offers are quite overwhelming and Yami is taking up dynamic roles that will challenge her as an actor," says the source.

Her recent release, *Ginny Weds Sunny* co-starring Vikrant Massey, proved to be yet another massive entertainer. She recently wrapped up the Dharamshala schedule of *Bhoot Police* which also stars Saif Ali Khan, Arjun



Kapoor and Jacqueline Fernandez. As she gears up for a choc-o-bloc 2021, we are definite that she is all set to surprise her fans with her forthcoming projects. Needless to say, 2021 is surely going to be Yami's year!

GALLERIA 45 MINUTES

CELEB TALK 15 MINUTES

'My journey has been overwhelming'



Actor Aparshakti Khurana started his Bollywood journey in 2016 with the Aamir Khan-starrer *Dangal*. After interesting roles over the past four years, he is now gearing up for his solo release as a protagonist, the comedy film *Helmet* opposite actor Pranutan.

The actor is happy the way his career is shaping up. He says feels amazing when he looks back at his journey and shares that he had no idea that god has this in store for him.

Before his debut in Bollywood, Aparshakti, brother of actor Ayushmann Khurrana, was a radio jockey in New Delhi. After his shift to Bollywood in 2016, he was seen in hit films such as *Badrinath Ki Dulhania*, *Stree*, *Lukka Chuppi* and *Street Dancer 3D*.

Talking about his journey in Hindi cinema from being a radio jockey to an actor, Aparshakti said, "It feels amazing to see that journey. I had no idea that god has this in store for me. I am still that uptempo, jumpy boy who just wants to chill, eat together, dance together. I am still that guy. Well, taking one step at a time. Whatever god has given me so far, it is just so overwhelming."

He added, "I have a lot of talented people around me but I don't know why god has been so kind to me. I feel that you have to be at the right place at the right time to perform, and that is something which you can't plan. It just happens when it happens. So, I think it just happened to me and of course I am not complaining."

Aparshakti is now gearing up for *Helmet*. Directed by Satram Ramani, the film is a quirky comedy that depicts the ground reality in the heartlands of the country, where talking about protection for sex is awkward. The film also features Abhishek Banerjee and Ashish Verma in pivotal roles.

—IANS

SALE NOTICE
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
46/2018, ICICI Bank Vs Ashok Kumar	Vehicle No. DL10CG8318 Make & Model TATA XT RT 90 PS
CS (Comm) No. 1325/2019 ICICI Bank Vs Ass Mohd	Vehicle No. UP14GT8009 Make & Model HYUNDAI XCENT
1450/19 ICICI Bank Vs Daler Singh	Vehicle No. DL8CAU9121 Make & Model HYUNDAI I20 SPORTZ DIESEL
CS 900/2019 ICICI Bank Vs Punit	Vehicle No. HR55AA9780 Make & Model MAHINDRA KUV 100 K4 PLUS D
CS (Comm) No 1035 Of 19 ICICI Bank Vs Rahul Kumar	Vehicle No. UP14FT1710 Make & Model CHEVROLET ENJOY 1.3 LS 7 STR
22 OF 19 ICICI Bank Vs Raj Kumar	Vehicle No. DL8CAK3669 Make & Model IHYUNDAI ELITE I20 ASTA 1.2
CM (M) 25/2020 ICICI Bank Vs Svmr Logistics Pvt Ltd	Vehicle No. DL3CCN3899 Make & Model HYUNDAI ASTA 1.2L
1905/2019 ICICI Bank Vs Vimesh Prasad	Vehicle No. HR51BK1011, Make & Model MARUTI Swift
44 Of 18 ICICI Bank Vs Vipul Goel	Vehicle No. UP14CK1886 Make & Model HYUNDAI SANTRO GL PLUS
1104 Of 20 ICICI Bank Vs Vaibhav Gupta	Vehicle No. UP14CP6677 Make & Model RAPID RAPID ELE 1.6 TDI MT
1210 Of 18 ICICI Bank Vs Ajit Pal Singh	Vehicle No. HR38V5861 Make & Model DATSUN GO T
1152/2018 ICICI Bank Vs Bharat Miglani	Vehicle No. HR51BP8125 Make & Model DATSUN GO T
470 Of 17 ICICI Bank Vs C L Yadav	Vehicle No. UP16AW8861 Make & Model MARUTI WAGON R LXI CNG
15789 Of 17 ICICI Bank Vs Chand Saifi	Vehicle No. UP16ET2968 Make & Model NISSAN GO T
1056 Of 18 ICICI Bank Vs Gourav Kumar	Vehicle No. UP14FT7430 Make & Model MARUTI WAGON R LXI
6215 Of 18 ICICI Bank Vs Pal Gomes	Vehicle No. DL1VB9530 Make & Model CHEVROLET ENJOY
3183 Of 17 ICICI Bank Vs Rakesh Batra	Vehicle No. DL3CBM1900 Make & Model BENZ E350 CDI
1934/2019 ICICI Bank Vs Ram Sewak	Vehicle No. UP14FT7944 Make & Model CHEVROLET BEAT PS PETROL
1791/2018 ICICI Bank Vs Saksham Kathuria	Vehicle No. UP16DT8933 Make & Model HYUNDAI XCENT
CS (Comm) No 187 Of 19 ICICI Bank Vs Sanjeev Kumar	Vehicle No. DL12B2383 Make & Model CHEVROLET SAIL LS
3180 Of 17 ICICI Bank Vs Subodh Kumar	Vehicle No. UP14FT7914 Make & Model MARUTI ECU VX
2301 Of 17 ICICI Bank Vs Surav Singh Ranwan	Vehicle No. DL9CZ4500 Make & Model BMW 520 D
Suit (Comm) No 2/19 (ID No 89/2019) ICICI Bank Limited Vs Abprakash Narayan Bind	Vehicle No. UP16BP9684 Make & Model - Mahindra SCORPIO/S LX

Auction Date & Timing: January 5 - 2021 From 11:00 AM onwards, Venue: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram - 122022.
Contact Person: Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

CS(COMM) 1603/19, ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Reema Sisodia (Sanya Enterprises) Vehicle no -UP16ET2031, Manu yr-2017, Make and Model-Swaraj Mazda

Auction Date & Timing: January 5, 2021 From 11:00 AM Onwards
Venue: Shriram Automall, Vill-Mampurur, Pio Maniyari Road Narela, New Delhi, Narela, Delhi, 110040
Contact Person: Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

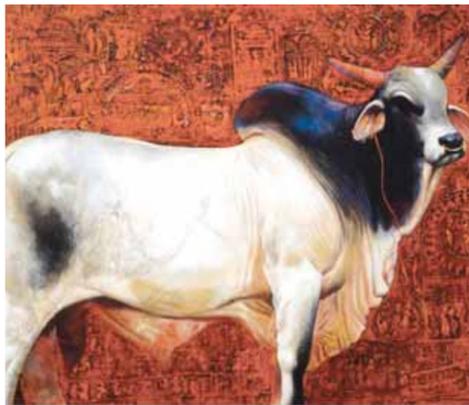
Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself/ themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.
Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/ RTGS/ NEFT.
The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi- 110085 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.



EMBLEM OF ELEGANCE

Artist JIBAN BISWAS paints cows as individuals surrounded in a world of magical realism, mysticism and mythology, says UMA NAIR

In the everyday vocabulary, artist Jiban Biswas looks at cows as individuals. From turban clad to bell necklaces, Biswas' cows are surrounded by a host of scenarios where they are festooned, horned and have gorgeous expressions. His works are characteristically rubbery and colourful. The cows are silhouetted as stark white, shiny-nosed spirits, which make them dynamic. It's rare that a small suite of works looks so transformative. Each work is an emblem of elegance that dwells on the reality of lived life.



Biswas' handling of composition suggests a dynamism that seems paradoxical yet serene. His paintings create a stark reality where gods, men and beasts live in perennial peace around each other.

SHADES AND SHADOWS
"The mud colours I use are changing its shade and getting transformed to shadows — of

has become a daily term used for comfort. When I create something, I'm full of confusion and asking questions with my characters," he added.

Whether single subjects or many of his larger paintings — they all have a common screen-saver charm. It's clear, at first glance, that they are created according to a limited number of elements arranged according to a limited set of rules on his space. So you might suppose that it's the cows which are actually a picture of human beings as potent atoms in a sea of forces within and beyond their control. Even their most passionate demonstrations are as formulaic as the history. You might even consider the buoyant breath and the philosophical perspective, the placement of number of heads of cows as an evidence of how easy it is to fool the eye. But I think they're evidence that even the simplest of subjects, if you analyse their presence the right way, can make magic.

COSMOPOLITAN CONSUMER

Biswas said, "The cosmopolitan grind of daily life offers a consumer many things. Each person has their place and role and sometimes, I think people are magicians sometimes playing to an audience and sometimes just subjects of fear."

Biswas' each frame is built on a distinctively accurate approach to the geometry of reality. He settles into a seemingly conservative cohesion of brightly-coloured cows that sometimes seem strange, sometimes sarcastic and the other times, credulously real and ironically novel.

"I have used the animal as an icon," said Biswas. "I try to interpret the representation of

instinct, individual dilemmas, and the complexities of psychological journeys that affect us in our day-to-day struggles. There is the stage of the powerful and the powerless. At times, one person gets it all and sometimes, even the whole crowd is jostling for space."

MEMORY AND EXPERIENCE

Arranging both space and subject matter into densely-layered images, Biswas is informed by a certain collective ethnic aesthetic. Memory and experience become allies that build the analogue. He presents some reflections — much of what we think we know is far removed from reality like a distortion or an illusion.

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General public is here by informed that one girl Namely: Pinki with 4 Year old Son Chintu, W/o Suraj R/o H.No. 37, Gali No. 20, Kotla Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi Age: 23 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Black Kurta-Salwar and Red Jutti in Feet has been missing/ kidnapped since 19.10.2020 from the area of PS. Ranhola.

In this regard a DD No. 79-A dated 21.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

SHO
E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in P.S. Ranhola, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. No.: 011-28363001, 28363002
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/533/OD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is here by informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: Aarti D/o Rajender R/o H. No. D-444, Gali No. 8, Baprola, Ranhola, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS. Ranhola, Delhi since 30.11.2020. In this regard FIR No. 990/20 U/s 363 IPC dated 01.12.2020 has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, Age: 16 years, Height: 5'0" ft., Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Wearing: Brown Suit-Blue Salwar-Black Chunnis and Blue Chapple in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in P.S. Ranhola, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. No.: 011-28363001, 28363002
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 DP/560/OD/2020
Fax No.: 011-24368639

**GOVT. OF BIHAR
OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT ENGINEER,
BIHAR BHAWAN, NEW DELHI
NO. 216/Dated 18/12/2020
Short notice inviting quotation**

The reputed firms are requested to submit sealed quotation for following work in Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas Chanakyapuri, New Delhi for the year 2019-20. Quotation will be submitted up to 30-12-2020 till 3:00 pm and opened on 31-12-2020 at 3:30 pm at the office of the Resident Engineer, Bihar Niwas Chanakyapuri, New Delhi undersigned office has right to cancel quotation without any further information. Registration, Tin No., Pan No. and authorization of firm paper here enclosed. Details of items list can be obtained from the office of the Resident Engineer Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi. The Earnest Money (NSC/term Deposit) should be deposited 5% of total contract value before issue of work order.

S.No	Particulars
1	Painting and polishing work of door's and furniture at bihar bhawan 1st, 2nd and 4th floor room's for the year 2020-21
2	Renovation of staff toilet at entry gate (including its door and stairs there) in Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21
3	Renovation work of room No 205 at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2020-21
4	Removing and refixing of black sun stroke film in glass window/gate of Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21
5	Supply of 29 Nos sony make large size 43" T.V A3 W 672 G at Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-cum-Resident Engineer
Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi

Bowlers put India in control

Ashwin & Co bowl out Aus for 191 in 1st innings before losing Shaw late; overall lead of 62

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin produced one of his most memorable overseas performances as Indian bowlers collectively terrorised Australia into submission, bowling them out for 191 on the second day of the opening Day/Night Test here on Friday.

Courtesy Ashwin's 18-3-55-4, India successfully managed to neutralise a sub-par first innings score of 244. Rival skipper Tim Paine (73 off 99 balls) was the only home batsman to show stomach for a fight.

With a handy first innings lead of 53 runs, India found their opener Prithvi Shaw's defence being breached again before ending the day at 9/1 — with an overall lead of 62 runs. Pace spearhead Jasprit

Bumrah (21-7-52-2) played the night watchman's role after Shaw's dismissal, giving company to Mayank Agarwal (5) when stumps were drawn.

Indian magnificent bowling effort during the day could be segregated into three phases.

In the early afternoon, Bumrah bowled the fuller length to make the first inroads.

Ashwin then took charge of late afternoon with his perfect length and made use of the additional bounce to blow away the middle-order.

And then under lights, Umesh Yadav (16.1-5-40-3) was brilliant with the old pink kookaburra as he bowled back of the length to get rid of the dangerous Marnus Labuschagne and



Ravichandran Ashwin celebrates with skipper Virat Kohli after taking wicket of Australian batsman Pat Cummins. BCCI/Twitter

1st Test, Day 3
Live from 9:30am IST
SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX

Mohammed Shami (17-4-41-0) was also immaculate with his length but he was let

down by the fielders as the only glitch in their second day's performance was a poor catching effort.

But Virat Kohli wouldn't mind even four dropped chances as his bowlers forced the Australian batsman to go

It is certainly not our best performance but credit to them (India). They bowled really well, put us under pressure, we just couldn't quite do that today, but our top order has done a good job for a fair while now.

TIM PAINE

After Bumrah removed the two openers in the first session, Ashwin did the star turn in the second session.

Ashwin set up Smith with a few that were flighted with the angle and then bowled one that straightened and bounced a touch more. Smith, expecting turn, squared up and Ajinkya Rahane at first slip made no mistake.

Travis Head (7) wasn't reading Ashwin well and the left-hander got a flighted one that took the leading edge of his bat, which ended in a chest-high return catch for the bowler.

Debutant Cameron Green (11) would curse himself as his was a long hop asking to be pulled but the extra bounce got the top edge and captain Virat Kohli pulled off a fabulous catch at mid-wicket, diving full-stretch to his right.

SINGLES

SCG TEST STILL ON, CA MONITORING SITUATION
MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia on Friday asserted that the third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India is not threatened by a fresh Covid-19 outbreak in Sydney even though the situation is being closely monitored. Australian cricket officials were put on alert after the number of cases in the northern beaches outbreak in Sydney reached 28 on Friday. The third Test at the SCG is scheduled to get underway on January 7.

PEREZ TO RACE WITH RED BULL IN 2021
MILTON KEYNES: Mexican driver Sergio Perez will race alongside Max Verstappen at Red Bull next season, the Formula One team said on Friday. Perez, who will replace Alexander Albon, became Mexico's first F1 winner in 50 years with his victory this month at the Sakhir Grand Prix in Bahrain. Red Bull said that historic performance helped make Perez the "favored choice" over Albon, who will remain with the team as a test and reserve driver. Perez has a one-year contract.

SIMRANJEET ENTERS COLOGNE WC FINALS
NEW DELHI: World championship Bronze-medallist Simranjeet Kaur (60kg) stormed into the finals of boxing's Cologne World Cup in Germany, defeating Ukraine's Marianna Basanets on Friday. The Asian Silver-winner prevailed 4-1 to assure herself of a place in the summit bouts to be held on Saturday. Earlier, two-time world medallist Sonia Lather (57kg) set up a clash against compatriot Manisha in the semifinals by beating Ukraine's Snizhana Kholodkova 3-2.

SCHALKE FIRES BAUM, RECALLS HUU
GELSENKIRCHEN: Schalke fired Manuel Baum as coach on Friday and turned once again to the experienced Huub Stevens. The Dutch coach is returning to Schalke for his fourth stint for the last two games of the year. Schalke is last in the Bundesliga standings with four points from 12 games and trying desperately to end its club-record 28-game run without a win in the league.

PHL POSTPONED TO NEXT YEAR
NEW DELHI: The inaugural edition of the Premier Handball League (PHL) was on Friday postponed to next year due to concerns over health and safety of players amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The league was earlier scheduled to be held at the Sawai Mansingh Indoor Stadium in Jaipur from December 24 to January 10. The new dates are yet to be announced.

HEGERBERG SIGNS NEW LYON DEAL
LYON: Former Ballon d'Or winner Ada Hegerberg extended her contract with European champion Lyon on Friday. The club said the 25-year-old Norwegian forward signed a three-year deal through June 2024. Seeing out the contract would complete a decade for Hegerberg at the dominant women's team in world football. Hegerberg has scored 220 goals in 184 games for Lyon, which has won five Champions League titles, six French leagues and four French Cups since she joined the club.

RASHFORD LEADS MAN UNITED COMEBACK
SHEFFIELD: Hours after being honored for his impact off the field, Marcus Rashford also delivered in front of goal. The striker scored twice to lead Manchester United's recovery to beat Sheffield United 3-2 in the Premier League on Thursday. His goals at Bramall Lane lifted United to sixth in the league, five points behind leader and champion Liverpool with a game in hand. Agencies

NZ start series with 5-wicket win

AFP ■ AUCKLAND

New Zealand cruised to a five-wicket win over Pakistan in the first T20I at Auckland's Eden Park on Friday.

The Black Caps ended on 156/5 with seven balls to spare after losing the toss and being set a target of 154.

Tim Seifert top-scored for the hosts with 57, while debutant paceman Jacob Duffy took 4/33.

Pakistan never recovered from a slow start, despite a fighting 42 from stand-in captain Shadab Khan. Haris Rauf was the tourists' best bowler, taking 3/29. Player of the match Duffy made a sensational start, dismissing opener Abdullah Shafique for a duck in his first over. He then claimed the scalps of Mohammad Rizwan and



Jacob Duffy celebrates after taking wicket during 1st T20I against Pakistan. ICC

Mohammad Hafeez in his second as Pakistan lost three wickets in three balls to slump to 20 for four.

Khushdil Shah was out for 16 when he mistimed a ball from Ish Sodhi straight to Martin

Guptill in the field. Khan tried to rescue his side's innings, smashing 42 from 32 balls before Duffy coaxed a top edge to Sodhi.

Pakistan's attack made early inroads as two quick wickets from Rauf restricted New Zealand to 72/3 at the 10-over mark.

Seifert brought up his half century off 35 balls but was out on 57 after a sharp catch from Ashraf, who then dropped an easy chance sitter to give Mark Chapman a life. Mitchell Santner steered his team to victory with a six to seal the win.

The second and third T20s will be played in Hamilton and Napier on Sunday and Tuesday, with the first of two Tests starting in Mount Maunganui on December 26.

Lewa wins Fifa's Best player award

AFP ■ GENEVA

Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski was named men's player of the year on Thursday at Fifa's 'The Best' awards ceremony in Zurich.

England defender Lucy Bronze took the women's award, seeing off the challenge of Wendie Renard and Pernille Harder.

It is the first occasion for both Lewandowski and Bronze to win the award, with the Pole only the second player after Luka Modric in 2018 to break a 13-year Messi-Ronaldo hegemony.

"I am very proud and very happy," said Lewandowski. "I have to honestly say that it is a great day for me and for my club. It is an unbelievable feeling. Winning an award ahead of Lionel Messi and Cristiano

Ronaldo means a lot to me."

Lewandowski's stellar season for all-conquering Bayern has already been recognised by UEFA who awarded the Polish striker European player of the year in October.

His Bayern teammate Manuel Neuer was chosen as 'The Best' Fifa men's goalkeeper.

Bronze, 29, who succeeds last year's winner Megan Rapinoe, won the Champions League with Lyon in August before moving back to England to play for Manchester City.

France and Lyon's Sarah Bouhaddi capped her fine career with The Best Fifa women's goalkeeper award.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp was named men's coach of the year while current Dutch women's national team boss Sarina Wiegman took the women's award for the second time in her career following her 2017 success.

The Puskas Award for best goal went to Tottenham's South Korean striker Son Heung-min for a mazy, individual goal he scored against Burnley in the Premier League in December 2019.

STRONG ROOTS

SUMIT PRATHAST has been singing since he was a young boy, and is now redefining fusion music

We try to take it as far as we can. We sang 'Main Kyon Chahoon' which is a sort of a 'punk' song. There are songs where there are downtempo, almost psybient, elements and others with jazz and blues. In the sense, my attempt is to get the best of both the worlds."

With the distribution channels changing thanks to online platforms, Sumit believes that 2020 will be the last 'tough' year for Indian 'indie' (independent) bands. "There is a lot of good music coming out; there is a hunger. Look at some bands' videos getting millions, maybe tens of millions, of views." He argues that if a band is good, they will get their market although he feels that there are opportunities for the distribution channels and particularly the management side. There could be innovations that would make music in India independent of movies. "You see Hip-Hop really picking up in India and so many new

THERE IS A LOT OF GOOD MUSIC COMING OUT; THERE IS A HUNGER. LOOK AT SOME BANDS' VIDEOS GETTING MILLIONS, MAYBE TENS OF MILLIONS, OF VIEWS [...] YOU SEE HIP-HOP REALLY PICKING UP IN INDIA AND SO MANY NEW LABELS COMING UP FOR INDIAN HIP-HOP

labels coming up for Indian Hip-Hop." Talking of some other Indian bands whose music he enjoys, he mentions Bengaluru-based band Parvaaz, the duo Shadow & Light and Advaita.

Sumit really likes performing at colleges: "I remember there were a couple of shows we played at the Haldia Institute of Technology near Kolkata, the Ansal Institute and Brijmohan Munjal University near Gurugram. All these colleges were not just great hosts but had great crowds." Yet with the lack of audiences in 2020, thanks to the pandemic, he admits that times have been tough but not just for him, for everyone. "I've been trying to stay strong mentally, spending more time with my family and taking care of my cat Oreo and, well, focussing on 2021." But with the vaccine coming out, he does expect there to be a much better situation in 2021.

As we listen to 'Dekho Na', one of Desi Root's own tracks on the Kia Sonet's BOSE audio system, Sumit explains his theory of songwriting. "Well, I do not necessarily take inspiration from real life but I imagine a scenario and how it plays out in my head. And it is good if it rhymes," he says. The song, which explores the issue of toxic love, sends out the message about how bad such a relationship is for both partners.

As for the advice he would give youngsters getting into music: "Well, it is not a conventional career and you have to set your goals early. You should know what you want to achieve and spend a lot of time and effort, at least four-five hours, every day with music. With practice comes perfection but fundamental training is really important."

But 2020 has not been a terrible year for cars, as we saw the introduction of the new Kia Sonet, and Sumit who admits to liking cars also found the audio system very good. Listening to his own band's music, he said: "The sound in the car was sharp, crisp and well-balanced. This is by far the best set-up of sound I've heard in a car. You don't need anything else." But Sumit is even more thrilled about the Intelligent Manual Transmission (IMT) in the Sonet. He was the first musician who saw the IMT and knew what it was, and couldn't wait to try it out. "I get the thrill of changing gears and I get off the awful clutch, and in city traffic that can be really irritating on your left knee. If you would take a test drive on an IMT, you would definitely love it." ■

I guess the glitter and glamour of the stage really appealed to me", Sumit Prathast, the lead singer for the band 'Desi Roots', tells me about why he started singing at a very young age. But it was a Maithili singer singing at his neighbourhood Durga Puja that really inspired him. "I think I've always had a knack for the performing arts," he adds.

As a trained filmmaker, he doesn't just add his voice to the band's music, which explores multiple Indic genres of music alongside rock; he also curates the band's music videos and has a hand in poster design as well.

Hearing Sumit talk about his musical influences can make one understand his band's music. Introduced to Md Rafi and Kishore Kumar by his father at home at a young age, by the time he was a teenager, he was listening to Arctic Monkeys, Radiohead, Coldplay, Red Hot Chili Peppers and the like. More recently, he has been listening to Arijit Singh's music but also drawing inspiration from western musicians like Charlie Puth and Jacob Collier. He says that artists like The Weeknd and even Justin Bieber have been coming out with some great new music. "You can call it fusion because the lyrics I write are in Hindi and the music that accompanies it is mostly on western instruments. In essence it is fusion, but it isn't traditional fusion where you try to mix Indian Classical and Western Classical.