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USUAL SUSPECTS SWAPAN DASGUPTA

BJP's challenges in Bengal turf war

Historians have traditionally banked on newspapers and magazines as primary sources. However, future chroniclers of the period after 1995 will find that printed sources have to be supplemented with material drawn from electronic archives. It is likely that YouTube will acquire a great deal of importance for future historians.

Clips from TV shows from the second half of 2013 will reveal that there was a broad consensus among political pundits on two things. First, it was widely believed that while the momentum was with Modi, the tally of the BJP and its allies would fall short of the majority mark. This deficit, in turn, would prompt the BJP to select a less "polarising" figure than Modi as the Prime Minister. Secondly, while it was conceded that the BJP would do exceedingly well in northern and western India, it was believed Modi would fail to make a dent on the imagination of voters in eastern and southern India. The belief that the BJP is primarily a party of the upper caste Hindus — with a sprinkling of support from the backward castes — was widespread in the punditry.

The election results of 2014 and 2019 disproved both assumptions but never entirely. Despite the BJP's inroads in Karnataka, the feeling that eastern and southern India were out of bounds for the saffron party remained a firm belief among many BJP-watchers. Under the circumstances, the BJP victory in 18 seats in West Bengal and a majority of seats in Assam was a shock.

This shock may well escalate into a larger conceptual turbulence in the coming days. In West Bengal, the big battlefield for the Assembly elections of 2021, the Trinamool Congress has based a big chunk of its campaign on the plank of the BJP being a party of "outsiders". As the fissures within the TMC escalate, the dissidents are being advised to avoid looking at the BJP as an alternative because the party has no links with the culture and ethos of Bengalis. Yet, the inward flow into the party has persisted and turned into a flood.

If the BJP is to upstage the TMC in the Assembly polls, it has to supplement certain tendencies with the neo-conservatism of aspirational India that also finds expression in the growing Bengali Hindu exasperation with economic decline and a new 'Muslim question'. Integrating these different traditions is the political challenge before the BJP

The argument is facile and based on a narrow, "progressive" interpretation of the past. Apart from the obvious fact that the Bharatiya Jana Sangh — the political precursor of the BJP — was born out of Bengali political impulses by Shyama Prasad Mookerjee in 1952 and won its first Lok Sabha seats from West Bengal in 1951-52, there is the intellectual ancestry of modern Indian nationalism. Despite the implicit suggestion of some historians that West Bengal's turn to Left politics after Independence was a consequence of the 19th century Bengal Renaissance, the linear movement is not obvious.

The exposure to European ideas did certainly steer a small section of Bengali Hindus in the direction of British Anglican theology — although these influences didn't necessarily lead to the growth of Christianity — but the deeper impact was that of nationalism. The nationalism that influenced Hindu Bengalis stemmed from the imagery of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, the Hindu pride of Swami Vivekananda and the political imagination of the likes of Sri Aurobindo and Bipin Chandra Pal. This strand of political thought was naturally at odds with both Gandhism and the progressivism promoted by the Communist parties, not to mention the liberal cosmopolitanism fashionable in a section of Hindu Bengalis.

The dominant hold of Mahatma Gandhi on India's nationalist imagination led to intriguing developments in Bengal. The leadership of the Mahatma was grudgingly accepted in Bengal but this was not accompanied by the internalisation of the Gandhian imagination. What further complicated matters was the "Muslim question". As many historians have noted, the Bengali Hindu heart was with the Hindu Mahasabha and the body with the Congress.

Subhas Chandra Bose personified the conflicting pulls and pressures on the Bengali Hindu: his political imagination was unquestionably pre-Gandhian, his local politics was dictated by alignments with conservative nationalism and his national profile was linked to the socialist critics of Gandhi.

With Partition and Independence, the fog partially lifted and competitive politics was reduced to a straight fight between the "progressive" Left and the conservative Congress dominated by the likes of BC Roy and Atulya Ghosh. The electoral growth of the Left after 1967 witnessed two developments. First, the economic basis of conservative politics was undermined by land redistribution and industrial collapse. Secondly, whether it was Siddhartha Shankar Ray in the early-1970s or Mamata Banerjee four decades later, the anti-Left forces chose to fight the Communists by painting themselves a pale shade of red.

The BJP in West Bengal, despite its national lineage, is a relatively new formation. The accretion of its strength, post-1990, drew from various streams. There was first the fallout of the Ayodhya movement, the BJP's emergence as the principal alternative to the Congress and, most important, the appeal of Narendra Modi. In the past few years, the most significant stream has come from the TMC defectors, at home with the BJP's old anti-Left credentials and its new populism. If the BJP is to upstage the TMC in the Assembly election next year, it has to supplement these tendencies with the neo-conservatism of aspirational India that also finds expression in the growing Bengali Hindu exasperation with economic decline and a new "Muslim question". Integrating these different traditions is the political challenge before the saffron party.

You will be left alone: Shah to Didi

10 MLAs, MP, 2 ex-Mins, ex-MP, 45 municipal heads & councillors et al join BJP at Midnapore rally

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ MIDNAPORE

The BJP on Saturday netted its biggest ever catch in Bengal grabbing a large swarm of Opposition leaders led by powerful TMC satrap Suvendu Adhikari — a Mamata Banerjee man Friday and her sharpest spearhead in Nandigram movement that catapulted her to power in 2011.

A massive saffron rally at the historical town of Midnapore presided over by Union Home Minister Amit Shah witnessed 10 MLAs — 7 of the ruling outfit — a sitting party MP, two ex-Ministers, a former parliamentarian, 45 municipal chairmen and councillors, and two district board chairpersons switching sides prompting Shah to predict a "landslide victory" for the saffron party in 2021 Assembly elections in Bengal.

The only rebel face who apparently could not make it to the BJP on Saturday was former Asansol Mayor and MLA Jitendra Tiwari who backed off hours before switching sides reportedly after Union Minister and Asansol BJP MP Babul Supriyo and some other saffron leaders objected to his joining

the outfit. Tiwari then offered his apology to the Chief Minister saying he would work for her.

Cut to Midnapore: Seeking five years' time for his party to smarten up Bengal, Home Minister Shah said, "You gave 27 years to the Congress, three decades to the Left and 10 years to Mamata Banerjee but nothing happened... now afford us five years and see how we convert your State into Sonar Bangla (golden Bengal).

Launching a scathing attack on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, he said "The desertion will continue in the TMC till she is left with none before the elections." Advising her retrospection he said, "The people are quitting the TMC in large numbers because of the misuse, corruption, (tolabaji) extortionist culture, nepotism with the singular aim of making the nephew (read Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee) the next Chief Minister."

The long queue of defectors suggested that the BJP was going to come to power with 200-plus legislators, Shah said buttressing party vice president Mukul Roy's argument that the ruling outfit would not



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, along with party leaders, during an election rally ahead of West Bengal Assembly polls 2021 in West Midnapore district on Saturday

cross three figure in the elections. Apart from the TMC leaders two Left MLAs and a Congress legislator too joined the BJP.

Attacking the State Government, he said, "Mamata Didi should feel ashamed of the rampant corruption... so much so that they would not even spare the poor men's relief materials for which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had sent Central funds... they even gobbled down the relief mate-

rials sent during the pandemic times..."

The Home Minister, who along with Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh and senior leader Kailash Vijayvargiya, had lunch at a farmer's house, complained how "the State Government is blocking the Central schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Kisan Samman Nidhi" aggravating the crisis in a job-starved State.

Adhikari too referred to the growing discontent in the

party and among the people saying the TMC was formed with an ideal but all that had been sacrificed at the altars of corruption and nepotism. "The only goal seems to be to make Bhaipo (nephew Abhishek Banerjee) the Chief Minister," Adhikari seldom known for mounting personal attacks thundering raising the slogan, "Bhaipo Hatao Bangla Bachao" (Remove the nephew and save Bengal).

Hitting out at the Chief

Minister for frequently raising the "outsider theory" while speaking about leaders like Shah, Vijayvargiya, JP Nadda, etc, Adhikari reminded how Bengal had always represented a pluralist culture and that "one should always remind that "India comes first and Bengal comes after that."

Attacking his erstwhile party colleagues about calling him a "traitor" Adhikari said, "The people who call me a traitor should keep in mind that the TMC had been a part of the NDA and an ally of the BJP jointly fighting elections since 1998 when we together won 11 seats... those who call me traitor should remember the TMC's chemistry with the party that was once led by Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee..."

Saying that the party and the colleagues for whom he had given the prime time of his life and "did not even care to call me up when I was down with corona... but it was Amit Shah ji who rang me up like an elder brother and wished me well," Adhikari said "the storm that was coming in Bengal would sweep across Bengal from Digha to Darjeeling" and along with it blow away the TMC.

Earlier he wrote a letter to the TMC leadership in which he objected to the decision of invoking poll strategist Prashant Kishor for winning elections.

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Sonia paves way for Rahul to take up reins of Cong

Holds meeting with party leaders and dissenters

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress interim chief Sonia Gandhi conducted a meeting of senior party leaders, including dissenters, on Saturday to apparently facilitate her son Rahul Gandhi's re-appointment as the party president.

Rahul relinquished the post after the dismal performance of the Congress in 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan stated that 30 leaders had deliberated on the path ahead for the party in a "constructive" atmosphere.

Flanked by former Uttarakhnd CM Harish Rawat and Congress treasurer Pawan Bansal, Chavan added that more such meetings will be held to strengthen the party. He also said that a Chintan Shivir shall take place in Pachmarhi

or Shimla.

Clear indications regarding Rahul's comeback in a month's time emerged after party leaders shared to media that the Gandhi scion conveyed in the meeting that he is "ready to work for the party as all desire". The comment was greeted by prolonged applause in the presence of the Congress "dissenters" who had written a letter criticising the leadership and calling for an overhaul earlier this year.

The members of the meeting also decided to convene a Chintan Shivir (brainstorming session) at Pachmarhi or Shimla soon.

This was Sonia Gandhi's first meeting with dissenting leaders who had raised concerns about the functioning of the party. The five-hour meeting between Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and the so-called "rebels" on the lawns of the Congress interim president's 10 Janpath residence marked the first move towards reconciliation after months of feuding, revolt and resignations.

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India poised to OK Covid-19 vaccines, says Harsh Vardhan

Covid cases cross 1-cr mark, but recovery rate peaks at 95.46%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India crossed the one crore infection mark, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan announced that the country is on the cusp of authorising the first set of Covid-19 vaccines and expressed the need for an expeditious vaccination drive to cover all the target populations estimated to be 30 crore.

"We should follow coronavirus guidelines even at a time when the country is on the cusp of authorising the first set of vaccines," said the Minister while chairing the 22nd meeting of the high-level Group of Ministers (GoM) on Covid-19 through a video-conference.

Expressing gratitude to all Covid warriors, Vardhan shared with his colleagues the progress made by the country's public health system against the pandemic and the encouraging results so far. The Minister said that India's Covid-19 pandemic growth has dropped to 2 per

cent and the case fatality rate is amongst the lowest in the world at 1.45 per cent. "India's Recovery Rate has peaked to 95.46 per cent, while the strategy of testing 1 million samples has decreased the Cumulative Positivity Rate to 6.25 per cent," he added.

Harsh Vardhan was virtually joined by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State Health & Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, Member NITI Aayog Vinod K Paul, Advisers to the PM Amarjeet Sinha and Bhaskar Khulbe.

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Investors' mindset has shifted to 'Why not India', says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that investors' mindset has changed from "Why India?" to "Why not India?", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his Government's reforms had changed the world perception and the farm reforms brought by his Government six-month ago have begun to deliver benefits to the farmers.

Speaking at industry association Assocham's Foundation Week event here, Modi said, "From a non-existent culture for innovation to a new ecosystem promoting and nurturing startups has given the world confidence to say 'why not India'."

The Prime Minister also presented the "Assocham Enterprise of the Century Award" to Ratan Tata, who received the award on behalf of the Tata Group. He said that the Tata Group had contributed to the development of the country under the able leadership of Ratan Tata.

Ratan Tata thanked the Prime Minister for the award and appreciated his strong leadership during the coronavirus pandemic.

"There was a situation in



the past when investors would question 'why India' (for investing in the country). With reforms (of past six years) and their effects, its proposition has changed to 'why not India,' Modi said.

He cited scrapping of 1,500 old and obsolete laws and farming new ones that in tune with the changing investment order as an example of his Government's outlook.

"Red tape previously made investors say 'why India' but a red carpet is now making them say 'why not India,'" he said.

In the backdrop of farmers' protests on the outskirts of Delhi, the PM said agriculture reforms brought by his Government six months back have started benefiting farmers.

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RSS ideologue MG Vaidya dies at 97

Nagpur: RSS ideologue and the organisation's first spokesperson Madhav Govind Vaidya died here on Saturday, his family said. He was 97.

Vaidya, who had recovered from coronavirus infection, died at a private hospital in Nagpur. The last rites will be held on Sunday.

Vaidya, who became a volunteer of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh almost two decades after the organisation was set up, had seen it all during his eight decade-old association with it; the three bans, isolation, internal conflicts over joining politics, ferment and resurgence, changing power equations with the BJP, and the latter's storming to power at the Centre in 2014.

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Virat disaster in Australia

India record lowest test score of 36

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

The Indian cricket team under Virat Kohli faced its worst hour of embarrassment while collapsing to its lowest Test score of 36 as a rampaging Australia cruised to an emphatic eight-wicket victory inside two and half days in the opening Day/Night Test here on Saturday.

There were no demons in the pitch but Josh Hazlewood (5-3-8-5) and Patrick Cumminso (10.2-4-21-4) displayed fast bowling of highest



quality to dismantle the visitors. The sequence of 4, 9, 2, 0, 4, 0, 8, 4, 0, 4, and 1 on the scoreboard will rattle the fans but more so this team, for a very long time.

"Very hard to put those feelings into words. We had a lead of 60-odd coming and just

collapsed," said Kohli, who would be heading home on paternity leave now.

India's earlier lowest score was 42 at the Lord's in 1974 against England, known in Indian cricket parlance as the "Summer of 42."

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Farooq's ₹12 cr assets attached in JKCA money laundering case

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Cracking its whip in the money laundering case of Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association, the Enforcement Directorate on Saturday attached eight properties worth ₹11.86 crore of former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah.

The attached properties include three residential houses, one at Gupkar Road, Srinagar, one at Tehsil Katipora, Tanmarg, and one at Bhatindi, Village Sunjwan, (Jammu) and commercial buildings at posh Residency Road, Srinagar.

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CAPSULE

FOUR DEAD, 2 INJURED IN FACTORY ROOF COLLAPSE

New Delhi: Four labourers died and two others were injured after the roof of a factory collapsed in west Delhi's Khayala on Saturday, officials said. The structure, which was being used as a motor winding factory, is located at Vishnu Garden area in Khayala.

APPLE, WINSTRON ADMIT TO WAGE LAPSES AT UNIT

New Delhi: Apple's contract manufacturer Winstron on Saturday removed its vice-president Vincent Lee, who was heading operations in India after finding fault in the process of wage payment during its internal investigation.

HOME THEATRE

Funny but melancholic too



VIR DAS: OUTSIDE IN — THE LOCKDOWN SPECIAL
Netflix
*ing: Vir Das
Rated: 5.5/10

We all know how funny stand-up comedy is. We also know that Vir Das has perfected this craft. The latest 50-odd minute virtual session on Netflix on how he entertained people in order to raise money for charity is everything that he is known for— being funny and ensuring that his audience got plenty of laughs.

raise over ₹35 lakh for 17 different charities— a commendable feat — and that over a period of three months via his virtual stand-up. We get to see a very different side to him as well as he lams his camera to show the audience his personal space — something that his fans would love to get a sneak peek into including his collection of caps. Then there is the whole headband that he supports which he carries off with elan. One also gets to see how the lockdown affected this comedian — making this show a bit melancholy as well. Of course there is bound to be plenty of laughs as he goes

about asking people a simple question— what is the first thing you would do once lockdown opens? The answers, someone wanting to eat ice cream to another wanting to ride his bike to yet another wanting to eat Asian food from her favourite restaurant, besides bringing a smile are extremely real and relatable. He is engaging, making his audience laugh at their own expense. He is also sars the stage and tells you that he longer has the advantage of being shrouded in the shadows and that it is nice to see inside his audiences' home. — Shalini Sakseena



Retelling Peter Sutcliffe's crimes

THE RIPPER
Netflix
Documentary
Rated: 6/10

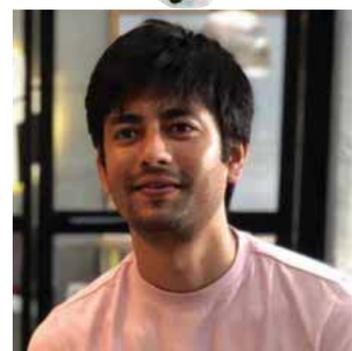
It is a no-brainer that documentaries are interesting to watch provided they are told in an engaging manner. What can be more engaging than following an investigation by the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police in what is considered to be one of the biggest man hunt for a serial killer that terrorised the women of North England for more than five years and killed 13 women and attacked seven others who lived to tell the tale. What makes this documentary interesting, absolutely fascinating and riveting is the way it has been told through various people who were part of the investigation and some of the women who were willing to talk about their bear brush with death. Then there are accounts of reporters who give you an inside of what was happening in the society at that time and how the once thriving area of this part of England due to Industrial Revolution fell on bad times and people lost their jobs and women stepped out to roam on the streets at night to make money to support their family. It also tells you how a patriarchal

mindset of the police showed these women as loose, how the police's warning to women to stay indoors after dark was met with resistance because they were not able to catch a killer. It was also the time when England saw its first woman Prime Minister in Margaret Thatcher and the changing polity of England. But perhaps the most fascinating thing about this four-part mini series is how the killer was always a few steps ahead of the police and managed to evade them even though no stone remained unturned and millions of pounds were spent to catch him. What is even more bizarre is that it was a bit of luck that landed him in police net — in a totally unrelated offence — a wrong number plate; the car didn't match the number plate it supported. Finally, the man who had terrorised the women was caught — his name Peter Sutcliffe, a lorry driver. His neighbours were shocked that he was the Yorkshire Ripper — a name given to him by the Press due to the fact that most of his victims were prostitutes — and killings similar to *Jack The Ripper*. So why this documentary now when the killings took place almost 46 years back? Sutcliffe finally died in prison at age 74 on November 13, 2020. — Shalini Sakseena

Plan Your Day

Twinkling lights, ornaments for the Christmas tree, bells and candy canes- it is beginning to look a lot like Christmastime and Oberoi Hotels The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra; The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur; The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur; The Oberoi Vanyavilas Wildlife Resort, Ranthambhore; The Oberoi Sukhvilas Spa Resort, New Chandigarh; Wildflower Hall, Shimla in the Himalayas — An Oberoi Resort and The Oberoi Cecil, Shimla: are paving way for a jubilation to welcome the New Year. This festive season promises to be the most joyful yet as a sense of cheer unfurls with the onset of the celebratory joy. Plan your getaway with Oberoi Hotels & Resorts and enjoy this momentous occasion to the fullest. **The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra:** Located merely 600 metres from the Taj Mahal, The Oberoi Amarvilas is a tribute to the legacy of Mughal architecture; accentuating awe-inspiring vistas of the exquisite mausoleum. When staying at the hotel on New Year's Eve, you can indulge in a gala dinner at Bellevue, the all-day dining restaurant, which will be offering a wide array of world cuisine; Indian, Asian and Western preparations, accompanied by live music from a two piece band. You can also choose to dine privately by the poolside; the perfect setting to for a romantic dinner or a party with loved ones. **The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur:** The Oberoi Rajvilas is the perfect base from which to explore one of India's most vibrant cities. This idyllic retreat evokes princely Rajasthan with luxury villas and royal tents in a fort-like setting. On New Year's Eve, witness a royal Rajasthani ceremonial welcome. The evening will be a gastronomic feast featuring an array of Indian and international favourites. Live Rajasthani folk music, traditional dance performances and toe tapping music from a DJ will keep you entertained into 2020. **The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur:** Udaipur is home to many beautiful lakes and is set against the dramatic backdrop of the Aravalli Hills. Located on the banks of Lake Pichola, The Oberoi Udaivilas magnificently recreates the nostalgia of royal romance. Framed by beautiful trees and demurely lit, our vast, manicured lawns are the perfect venue to usher in the New Year. The menu for the evening is an exciting mélange of Indian and Western cuisines, served with our warmest hospitality under starry skies. The evening's entertainment will range from traditional Indian dance performances to upbeat DJ music. **The Oberoi Vanyavilas Wildlife Resort, Ranthambhore:** The Oberoi Vanyavilas Wildlife Resort is a luxury jungle resort located adjacent to Ranthambhore National Park. Between the Aravalli and Vindhya mountain ranges, the resort is 180 kilometres from Jaipur and is the ultimate destination for adventurers. New Year's Eve is celebrated with an array of regional Indian and international cuisines served in the main dining room and starlit inner courtyard, around a glowing bonfire. There will be enthralling performances by a live band along with dance performances from different states of India. **Wildflower Hall, Shimla in the Himalayas — An Oberoi Resort:** The former residence of Lord Kitchener, Wildflower Hall exudes the ambience of a grand stately home. Framed by cedar forests and towering over Shimla at 8,250 feet above sea level, it provides a unique opportunity to lose yourself in the romance of nature. Stay with us and enjoy a sumptuous New Year's Eve dinner buffet, featuring an extensive selection of Indian and Western gourmet delicacies. Our chefs will be at hand at live cooking stations, to prepare you the perfect dish, just as you like it. There will also be a four piece live band for your exclusive entertainment.

ACTORSPEAK



Christmas is such positive festival I love all the things related to Christmas. Every year I make sure I decorate the tree visit the church and in the evening me and my mom bakes a cake. This year I would be celebrating with my Indian Idol family and I am planning to bake a cake for everyone. I wish Santa helps me win Indian Idol 2020 that's my only wish from him. — Shanmukha Priya from Indian Idol 2020



May this Christmas season bring you closer to all those that your treasure in your heart. Since I was young I have been celebrating Christmas I love the entire vibe of the festival and this time also I will make sure I take out sometime and celebrate it with my family. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. — Madrakshi who plays Parvati in SET's Vighnaharta Ganesh

lesson that our parents taught us quite early in life. We used to host friends and family for lunch every year, spend time with them, give them cake and gifts. This made us really happy. I feel the true spirit of Christmas is sharing and caring. That's what makes it so special. With these memories of mine, I set out to reminisce special childhood memories of friends, colleagues and relatives. I have the same plan this year too, decorate the house with a Christmas tree, invite friends over, celebrate the festival with plum rum cakes, yummilicious food and dance. — Sanjay Gagnani who plays

'You are as good as your last show'

MUSBA HASHMI chats up SHAKTI ANAND, who plays Mukund Tiwari in Zee TV's Hamariwali Good News, about what attracted him towards the role, his takeaways from the industry and whether he have any regrets

■ **What is your role in Zee TV's Hamariwali Good News?**

I play Mukund Tiwari, who is based out of Agra and is a shopkeeper. He has lost the X-factor in life because of being extremely busy in fulfilling his family's desires and earning money. This responsibility has put everything else in his life on the backseat. Hence, he has become stern towards everything. He has lost his mission in life. He is rude towards everyone and doesn't gets along well with his wife or children, but his sister whom he has given the status of nothing less than a God. The story talks about how the transformation happens in his life.

■ **What attracted you towards this role?**

The storyline of course. Whenever an actor is narrated about a show, the storyline catches his attention at first. Then comes the character.

■ **From X-Zone Saheli to now Hamariwali Good News, how has the journey been?**

It has been good. I have got to play a lot of different roles and got a chance to work with different production houses. Whenever you see a photo celebrating an anniversary of your show, it feels good that people still remember you and appreciate your work that you have done 20 years back. It has been an amazing journey. Even today, people watch my shows with a lot of expectations. This is a big achievement for an actor.

■ **What has been your takeaway from the industry?**

This industry is volatile. I belong to a non-film background and when I came to the industry everyone told me that things are very tricky here. Sometimes it happens, sometimes not. But when you get into the industry, you think that you can make it there. Then,



when you start comparing yourself with people who started with you, you realise that the industry is volatile. You are as good as your last show, shoot or award. This has been a big learning that you have to be on your toes and try out different characters. ■ **You have been a part of the industry for about 20 years now. Do you think you have got your due?**

Yes of course. I don't have any regrets. I never see what I wanted, instead I look at what I have got. To dream is something that will never end, but as an actor you have to see whether you have been able to make a place for yourself or not. Even today, I am giving interviews to the press, this means that people want to know about my life and journey. Everyone doesn't become ShahRukh Khan or Hrithik Roshan. One in a million people shine in this field. I am happy and positive about whatever I have achieved and wherever I am. In the last eight months, life too has taught us to be content with whatever you have.

■ **A role that comes close to you?** Saara Aakash is a show that comes close to my heart. That was my first show as a lead. Back then, I was a bit flamboyant and risk-taking, so I enjoyed being a part of it.

■ **How easy or difficult is it to shoot during Corona?** It is quite a task. Right now I am shooting for a daily soap in a confined space so it is fine, but for my other action-based shows that I am shooting for OTT platforms is tough.

Earlier, we used to rehearse for the action sequences, but now to rehearse with a mask on becomes tedious. We have a crew of 110 people, who are juniors forget about other people. It is scary.

The best thing about Christmas is the nip in the air, the festive atmosphere and lots of yummy food. While most of us have outgrown the Santa phase, I still feel we are each other's santa in a way. It's always great to receive gifts but to see the smile on someone's face while receiving a gift is a feeling that can't be described in words. This year, I will be a part of the Secret Santa celebration on the set of *Story 9 Months Ki*. While I am curious to know what my santa will get me, I am equally stressed about being a Santa for someone. But I promise to be a good Santa. And I would like to wish all our fans and viewers 'Merry Christmas' and hope for a bright & healthy future for everyone. — Aashay Mishra who plays Sarangdhar in SET's Story 9 Months Ki

Christmas has always been very special for me with all of us singing carols, Mom baking cakes and stocking up on goodies while Dad decks up our home with the Christmas tree and all the decoration. This used to be our tradition since we were kids, and we used to attend the early morning church service as well. Add to this list the visiting relatives, friends and neighbours who come to distribute cake, giving gifts to children and it goes on and on. Amidst all this flurry of activity what stands out always is the happiness we get by sharing what we have with others. This is a

Christmas for me is eating cookies and plum cake as well as wearing all the jackets and sweaters that I have! I grew up singing Hymns and Carols and I absolutely love Christmas and also watching Christmas Movies these days is fun. The best part is that Christmas is followed by New year and this year has been quite a ride for everyone. I hope the new year brings in joy and health and happiness in everyone's lives. — Mugdha Chapekar who plays Prachi in Zee TV's Kumkum Bhāgya

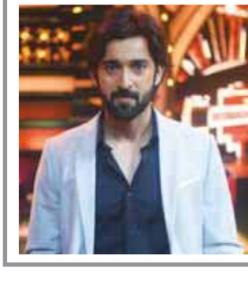
Let the festivities begin! Our team is planning a 'Secret Santa' on-set as a part of the celebrations and I am very excited. In times like these, becoming each other's Santa and getting a chance to make someone happy is a beautiful thought. I am looking forward to surprise that one person on the set and I promise to go all out. The whole atmosphere is happy and forward looking towards a new beginning. As a tradition, I will set up a tree in my house and decorate it with a lot of love and hope and buy presents for my family. — Sukirti Kandpal who plays Alia Shroff in SET's Story 9 Months Ki



Christmas calls for celebrations and I want everyone to have fun this festive season. Everyone has a childhood memory associated with Christmas. In fact, we associate it with red colour, cakes and Santa. It is a day of hope and everyone as kids used to wish that Santa would come to their home and make their dream come true. I hope everyone still believes in this and has that child-like innocence in them. Merry Christmas! Although it will be relatively different this year but I hope every one enjoy with all precautions taken. — Rajveer Singh who plays Neel in Zee TV's Qurban Hua



I have a lot of friends who have their birthday around Christmas, so this time I am thinking that I will plan their party themed around the festival. I have never done something like this before but I am sure it will be a lot of fun. We also have an interesting sequence on Christmas coming in our show, so that too will add a lot of festive feel on the set. — Helly Shah who plays Riddhima in Colors' Ishq Mein Marjawan



Christmas for me is eating cookies and plum cake as well as wearing all the jackets and sweaters that I have! I grew up singing Hymns and Carols and I absolutely love Christmas and also watching Christmas Movies these days is fun. The best part is that Christmas is followed by New year and this year has been quite a ride for everyone. I hope the new year brings in joy and health and happiness in everyone's lives. — Mugdha Chapekar who plays Prachi in Zee TV's Kumkum Bhāgya



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3RD COVID WAVE OVER: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said that the national Capital has now overcome the third wave of Covid-19 infections as the city reported 1,133 fresh cases at a positivity rate of less than 1.5 per cent.

The highest number of daily coronavirus tests is being conducted in the country, which is even more than the US, Kejriwal said, adding when New York reached its peak the patients were lying on the streets and corridors of hospitals, almost 7,000 beds were lying vacant when the highest number of corona cases was reported in a day in Delhi.

Addressing an online briefing, he said that there are 1133 cases in Delhi. "The positivity rate in Delhi was 15 per cent in November and it is just 1.3 per cent," he said.

The chief minister said that in November the number of active cases touched 45,000 and today Delhi has just 12,000 active cases. He further said "Delhi gave various new techniques to the world like home isolation and plasma therapy to



fight against the pandemic." "Delhi is conducting 4,500 tests per 10 lakh population in a day. The number of tests per 10 lakh populations is 670 in Uttar Pradesh, 800 in Gujarat, 4300 in US and 4800 in UK. Today Delhi has a recovery rate of 96.5 per cent," he said.

Kejriwal said, "On 19th November, Delhi has the highest number of deaths due to Covid and the number was 131 and today the number of deaths is 37. This number will also go down and we are working on it. We gave prime importance

to the testing to detect Covid-19 patients and I am proud of the doctors, nurses, officials and other Covid Warriors because they worked round the clock and ensure the testing."

Elaborating it further, he said, "When the third wave of Covid pandemic hit Delhi then we increased the number of tests per day from 60,000 to 90,000. We were conducting tests and isolating Covid positive patients. Today Delhi is conducting around 90,000 tests per day. This number is highest across India and also across



the globe. Today Delhi is conducting 4,500 tests per 10 lakh population in a day."

The number of tests per 10 lakh population is 670 in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat 800, US 4300 and in UK 4,800, he added.

Increase water production to 16 mn of gallons/day, Jain orders DJB officials

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Chairman Satyendar Jain has instructed officials to increase water production of 16 millions of gallons per day (MGD) at Haiderpur by upgrading existing recycling plant to produce additional drinking water.

Jain said the project will be completed by December 2021. "This intervention will save 88 crores from DJB budget. Similar augmentation will be done at Dwarka, Nangloi and Okhla water treatment plant (WTP) in future," he said.

All the key projects related to 24x7 supplies were discussed in a review meeting of all the on-going DJB works called by the Minister

and Wazirabad WTP. These two WTPs are severely affected by ammonia pollution as they are dependent on raw water from the Yamuna River. Present WTPs can treat low doses of ammonia contamination but in the recent past it is seen that huge quantities of ammonia is dumped into rivers by Haryana due to which WTPs have to be shut down. After installation of the ozonation unit, WTPs will be able to treat ammonia as well as many other chemical and biological pollutants, he said.

DJB Chairman Satyendar Jain said the project will be completed by December 2021. "This intervention will save 88 crores from DJB budget. Similar augmentation will be done at Dwarka, Nangloi and Okhla water treatment plant in future," he said

All the key projects related to 24x7 supplies were discussed in a review meeting of all the on-going DJB works called by the Minister



AAP hits out at protesting BJP Mayors

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Soon after BJP Mayors ended hunger strike, SAam Aadmi Party (AAP) hit back saying that Mayors who are sitting outside the residence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal are doing drama.

"Yesterday after having their lunch they started a so-called hunger strike and today the information was received that they are feeling sick," the AAP said in a statement.

From the last 15 days, the BJP ruled MCD is not working because these BJP leaders are sitting outside the residence of Delhi Chief Minister, he said, adding that the BJP has completely ruined the MCD in the last 15 years.

The AAP leader added garbage is piled up everywhere because the BJP ruled MCD do not perform their works.

"The BJP completely finished the MCD and the capital of India. The BJP councillors take money to build any new house in the city and every person in Delhi knows that without bribing the BJP councillors no house can be built. To distract the attention of the citizens of Delhi from the Rs 2,500 crore scam done by the BJP they are doing this drama," he added.

DCPCR launches Child Rights Fellowship to strengthen rights of children

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has launched "Child Rights Fellowship (CRF)" to engage young professionals and strengthen the implementation of the rights of the children with particular focus on curbing child abuse, early childhood care and development and education.

The applications for the first cohort of the Fellowship are now open. The fellowship was launched in collaboration with Ashoka University.

"Interested candidates can apply through the following link on or before the 4th of January: <https://shortlist.net/child-rights-fellowship>. As part of CRF, the Fellows will get an opportunity to work on-field in the assigned district for one year while receiving training, mentorship and support for professional development from government officers and the programme team at CRF," he said. They shall work closely with

DCPCR and other government departments within the district administration for better implementation of programmes and policies while ensuring accountability and efficiency in the domain of child rights within the state, DCPCR said in a statement.

"Through this collaboration, the Commission aims to provide an opportunity for 5 young professionals to create real, sustainable change on the ground. DCPCR seeks to recruit a diverse pool of Fellows and has strongly encouraged candidates from all religions, castes, gender groups, and geographical regions to apply for the Fellowship," it added.

Launching the Fellowship, Rajender Pal Gautam, Minister for Women and Child Development and Social Welfare appreciated DCPCR efforts, saying that our governance in India needs innovations, background research and passion and this fellowship is an example of the same. SR

5,000 kg of narcotics substance recovered by Delhi Police till Nov



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have arrested around 844 people and recovered more than 5,000 kilogram (kg) of narcotics substance up to November 2020.

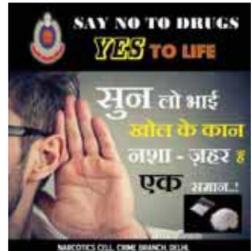
Delhi Police Commissioner, SN Shrivastava on Saturday gave a message for youth and said that make health your "new high" in life, not drugs, "Say No to Drugs" and Delhi Police is strict against drugs.

"The Delhi Police is taking many steps. We need to spread awareness so that no one would get in this. The person who is taking drugs should get himself treated. The source of supply also should be destroyed," he said.

The data shared by the Delhi Police was recorded from January 1, 2020 till November 31, 2020. Police have registered 695 cases and recovered 17,771.548 kg drugs.

According to the data, police have recovered 23,904 kg charas, 29,184 kg opium, 4205.939 kg ganja, 84,932 kg heroin, 699,538 kg poppy head and 1.035 kg cocaine.

The other drugs — 219.743 kg Tremadol, 12,500 tablets Alprazolam, 0.325 kg Methaqualone, 500 tablets bupromorphine, 7.495 kg Amphetamine — have also been recovered during 2020," as per police data. In 2019, police recovered



47,461 kg charas, 2,010 kg opium, 5,055.532 kg ganja, 631.035 kg heroin, 1,696.035 kg poppy head and 1,106 kg cocaine.

Twenty tablets morphine, 10,513 kg methaqualone, 1,480 ketamine, 100 injection ketajet etc were also recovered in 2019, police said.



INTERNATIONAL GITA MAHOTSAV

17-25 December, 2020

INAUGURATION

Monday, 21 December, 2020 (10:30 AM)

Inauguration of International Gita Seminar

11:00 AM

Srimad Bhagavadgita Sadan, Kurukshetra University

Preside Over By **Sh. Satyadeo Narain Arya** Governor, Haryana

Chief Guest **Sh. Jai Ram Thakur** Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh

Chief Guest **Sh. Jai Ram Thakur** Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh

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Temp drops to 3.9°C in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Cold conditions prevailed in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) as the minimum temperature dropped to 3.9 degree Celsius - lowest of the season so far, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).

"The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for the city, recorded a low of 3.9 degrees Celsius, four degrees below normal. The maximum temperature is likely to settle around 21 degrees Celsius," an IMD official said.

The mercury dipped to 3.3 degrees Celsius and 3.4 degrees Celsius at Lodhi Road and



Ayanagar, respectively, as icy winds from snow-laden Western Himalayas continued to sweep the city, the India Meteorological Department said.

On Friday, the minimum temperature had plunged to 2.7

degrees Celsius at Jafarpur. Delhi had recorded a "severe" cold day on Thursday as the maximum temperature dropped to 15.2 degrees Celsius, seven degrees below normal and the lowest this sea-

son so far.

Meanwhile, overall air quality recorded at the lower end of the very poor category. Surface-level winds moderate and Westerly.

According to SAFAR, the cold day conditions have been forecasted to intensify in the Delhi region and moderate surface winds are forecasted only till Sunday and likely to slow down after that. So the current better dispersion conditions are likely to continue only for the next 24hrs and then the ventilation coefficient will decrease to deteriorate AQI. Hence, AQI forecasted to stay in the poor to very poor category on December 20, deteriorate in the lower end of very poor.

India poised to OK Covid-19 vaccines...

From Page 1

Observing the fact that despite festivals in October and November, Vardhan said no new surge of cases was observed in this period due to comprehensive testing, tracking and treatment policy implemented on the ground.

Sujeet K Singh, Director (NCDC), presented a detailed report on how the data-driven graded government policies have helped India achieve significant control over the pandemic. Singh presented a granular analysis of the trajectory of the pandemic in each state pointing out critical parameters like positivity, RAT and RT-PCR per cent breakup, the concentration of cases in particular districts and other trends like a fatality, and fatality within 48 and 72 hours of hospitalisation. He also presented data on the total dedicated Covid-19 facilities in the country.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan noted the importance of health seeking behaviour among the population as a key driver in checking fatality.

Investors'...

From Page 1

He asked industry to link today's goal with that of future of the country saying "coming 27 years will not only set our global role but also test dreams and dedication of Indians".

The Prime Minister said, "This is the time for you to show your capability, commitment and courage to the world."

Looking out the change brought about by his Government over the years, Modi said there was so much Government interference that investors said 'why India'. Today the faith reposed by the Government in the private sector and encouragement of foreign investors have made the same people say 'why not India', he said.

Modi stated that new India is pushing towards Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). The Government's main focus is on manufacturing and production linked incentives have been given to boost domestic capabilities and capacity, he said. "The world trusts the Indian econo-

my. Record FDI and FPI during pandemic testimony of that", Modi said.

The Prime Minister asked the industry to adopt the best corporate governance and profit-sharing practices.

He also said investment in research and development (R&D) must be increased and the private sector must scale up investments. "There is a great need to increase investment in R&D. In the US, 70 per cent of investments in R&D is done by the private sector, in India the same is done by the public sector. A big chunk of this is in the IT, pharma and transport sectors. Today the need is of increasing the private sector share of investment in R&D," he said.

"Today when we are on mission mode to make local-global, we have to react fast to geopolitical developments.

A mechanism has to be developed to see how India can meet any sudden spurt in demand in the global supply chain," he said adding there was a need for better coordination between the Ministry of External Affairs, Commerce and Trade, and industry associations.

FARMERS' PROTEST

Transporters feel pinch as borders are closed for traffic movement

THEY ARE SUFFERING LOSSES OF ₹1 TO 2 CRORE ON DAILY BASIS

STAFF REPORTER ■ GHAZIABAD

The ongoing farmers' protest on Delhi borders is causing immense hardships. With the protest entering 24th day, the transporters are feeling the pinch as borders are closed for traffic movement.

Transporters say, they are suffering losses of Rs 1 to 2 crore on daily basis.

"The entire business has been stalled for 24 days, on the other hand the transporters are facing penalty due to non-payment of government tax on time. Apart from this, about five thousand unorganized daily laborers and pullidars



associated with this business have reached the brink of hunger," alleged transporters.

The President of the Transport Association, Kamlesh Pandit said at this time a large number of trucks are standing on the highway

toll tax filled with goods.

"They have also exhausted their money which was for their daily needs and food. Our employees are eating food in the langars at the protest sites. A large number of trunks are lined up in the Transport City. Every day, people associated with this business are losing one to two crores," said Pandit.

"Due to lack of work, the laborers and pullers have been forced to cut the shanks. They barely get only one or two vehicles to load. If this movement stays for a few more days, then vegetables, fruits and all the items of ration will become expensive," he said.

Kejriwal trying to divert issue by tearing off farm law copies: Delhi Cong

NEW DELHI: Delhi Congress accused the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of diverting peoples' attention from real issues by tearing off copies of the farm Acts passed by the Centre in the special session of the Delhi Assembly.

Delhi Congress unit president Anil Kumar said Chief Minister Arvind took up the farmers' issue only after the Delhi Congress wrote to him, demanding the matter be discussed in the special session.

Addressing the media, Kumar said the Arvind Government realised the urgency to call a special session of the House only after 25 farmers had died in 24 days, due to the bone-chilling cold in the open. = The Congress president said the Arvind Kejriwal Government was showing 'fake' sympathy to the farmers' protest after endorsing one of the Modi Government's three black Acts, which will ruin the farmers across the country.

Kumar added CM is trying to mislead people of the country and Delhi with his cheap political stunts as in the last seven years of Aam Aadmi Party rule in Delhi, the farm sector was one of the most neglected. He said the Government had not bothered to give compensation to the farmers when they suffered extensive crop damage due to heavy rain and hail storms. SR

Farooq's...

From Page 1

Besides, lands at four different places in J&K have also been attached. The timing of the action against Dr Farooq Abdullah is bound to trigger political reactions in Kashmir valley as the same had come ahead of the counting of votes in the District Development Council polls on December 22.

Enforcement Directorate had recently grilled Dr Abdullah in Srinagar on October 19 for over seven hours in connection with a money laundering case linked with a multi crore scam in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association.

Sharing the information Enforcement Directorate in a tweet said, "ED attaches 3 residential houses in Jammu & Kashmir, a commercial building in Srinagar, 4 lands in J&K totaling to ? 11.86 crore of Farooq Abdullah, former Chief Minister of J&K under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a case of laundering of funds of Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association." According to a separate press statement issued by the Enforcement Directorate,

"Between years 2006 to January 2012, when Dr Farooq Abdullah was the President of JKCA, he misused his position and clout by illegal appointments of office bearers at JKCA to whom he gave financial powers for the purpose of laundering of JKCA Funds. "During investigations it is disclosed that out of the aforesaid attached properties the residence & land of Dr.

Farooq Abdullah at Gupkar Road and commercial buildings at Residency Road, at prime upmarket locations, are basically State lands obtained on lease". "It was also disclosed that the attached house at Bhatindi, Village Sunjwan, (Jammu) had been constructed by Dr Farooq Abdullah on State land and forest land, where he has also grabbed State land and forest land", the statement said.

Between 2005 - 2006 to December 2011, JKCA received funding totaling to Rs. 109.78 from BCCI. Investigation clearly brings out that Dr Farooq Abdullah was instrumental as well as beneficiary of the laundered funds of JKCA.

Sharing details of modus operandi, the ED statement said, "Despite existing regular bank accounts of JKCA, six new bank accounts were opened for parking of JKCA Funds and siphoning of the same. One dormant bank account in the name of Kashmir Wing of JKCA was also made operational for the same purpose".

According to official sources, "It has surfaced that JKCA funds to the tune of more than Rs. 45 crore have been siphoned, which includes heavy cash withdrawals of around Rs. 25 crore, with no corresponding justification. Investigations disclose that for the purpose of generation of proceeds of crime, JKCA funds were layered by way of complex interbank transfers in all the bank accounts of JKCA and also by transfer to several personal bank accounts, followed by siphoning off the funds".

Reacting to the crucial

development, National Conference Vice President and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah posted a series of tweets claiming, "My father has seen the media reports regarding attachment of his properties in the ongoing investigation into the JKCA matter. Not surprisingly the media was tipped off regarding the seizure before he had received any official notice or documentation".

Raising question marks over ED's decision to seize ancestral property, Omar posted, "The properties attached are largely ancestral dating from the 1970s with the most recent one built before 2003. There can be no justification for the seizures because they fail the very basic test of having been acquired as the proceeds of the "crime" being investigated".

Omar also announced, "Dr Abdullah is in touch with his lawyers & will fight all these baseless charges in the one place that matters - a court of law, where everyone is presumed to be innocent & is entitled to a fair trial unlike in the court of the media or the court of BJP managed social media". Dr Abdullah was earlier summoned to the office of Enforcement Directorate in Srinagar on October 19, a day after he had padded up to play another 'political' innings under the banner of 'Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration' to fight for the restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Abdullah had appeared before the Enforcement Directorate in the same matter to respond to their list of questions in July 2019.

You will be...

From Page 1

"The very people on the backs of whom the party was created are now being sidelined, humiliated and outcast.

The party was filled with "Sakam Karma Bhogis" (those concerned with self-aggrandisement individuals) who are not bothered about anyone but themselves, individuals who will take monetary compensation for their services and disappear as soon as the elections conclude".

Meanwhile, faced with a large number of desertions the TMC put up a brave face saying those who had left the party were all redundant. Calling Adhikari a "coward" Trinamool MP Kalyan Banerjee said, "Instead of bringing the issue of Bhaipo he should have named him and seen the consequence".

On his quitting the party, another senior Minister Firhad Hakim said "If he feels that the TMC has rotted and that he could not perform here then why he did not leave earlier... why he waited for the past 10 years and consumed the cream before leaving ahead of the elections. He will have to explain a lot of things to the people".

A deft organiser Adhikari's exit could hit the TMC hard as he has a good following in a number of districts including West Midnapore, East Midnapore (from where he belongs), Bankura, Purulia, Murshidabad, Malda, Burdwan and North Dinajpur, insiders said.

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties

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(ies) mortgaged and charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 07.01.2021 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 262,72,64,847/- (Rupees Two Hundred and Sixty Two Crores Seventy Two Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty Seven only), i.e. Rs.106,85,68,869 (Rupees One Hundred and Six Crores Eighty Five Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Nine only), Rs. 78,00,16,254/- (Rupees Seventy Eight Crores Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Four only) and Rs.77,86,77,724/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Crores Eighty Six Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Four only) towards Loan Account Nos. LAP0240519, LAP0240520 and LAP0240522 respectively, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 09.12.2020 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 10.12.2020 legal expenses and other charges along with pending Tax Deducted at Source of Rs. 2,09,66,038/- (Rupees Two Crore Nine Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Thirty Eight only), i.e. Rs. 81,86,870/- (Rupees Eighty One Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy only), Rs. 63,89,584/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four only), towards Loan Account Nos. LAP0240519, LAP0240520 and LAP0240522 respectively, due to the Secured Creditor from BLISS HOUSE PVT. LTD., IMAGINE HABITAT PVT. LTD., IMAGINE RESIDENCE PVT. LTD., B. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR) and R. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR).

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be Rs. 113,05,00,000/- (Rupees One hundred Thirteen Crores Five Lakhs only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 11,30,50,000/- (Rupees Eleven Crores Thirty Lakhs Fifty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 114505001412 with ICICI Bank Ltd. (IFSC: ICIC0001145), having its branch at B1 and B2, Vanija Nikunj, Enkay Tower, Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon - 122015 (Haryana) before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES)

ALL THAT PIECES OR PARCELS OF LAND/ PROPERTIES AS UNDER TOGETHER WITH ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE STRUCTURES, BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, FITTINGS, STANDING AND/ OR PLANT AND MACHINERY INSTALLED/ TO BE INSTALLED AND/ OR CONSTRUCTED/ TO BE CONSTRUCTED THEREON AND ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE RIGHTS, TITLE AND/ OR INTEREST OF BLISS HOUSE PVT. LTD. THEREIN:

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EAST BY : SERVICE ROAD WEST BY :SARDAR PATEL MARG

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4 die after roof of factory collapses in Khayala

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a tragic incident, four labourers died while two sustained injuries after the roof of a factory collapsed in west Delhi's Khayala on Saturday. The structure, which was being used as a motor winding factory, is located at Vishnu Garden area in Khayala.

The deceased persons were identified as Saina (36), Guddi (45), Twinkle (25) and Ramesh (35) while the injured have been identified as Ravi (20) and Guddu Kumar (18). Factory owner Mahendra Pal, a resident of Uttam Nagar, has been arrested.

According to Atul Garg, the Director of Delhi Fire Services (DFS), a call about the incident was received around 10 am following which four

fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

"Six labourers, including three women, were inside the factory when the incident took place," said Subodh Kumar, the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), West district.

"They were rescued by a team of officials and were rushed to two nearest hospitals — Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital and Guru Gobind Singh government hospital. Four of the six labourers were declared brought dead by doctors, while two others were undergoing treatment," said the Additional DCP.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Patel Nagar has been informed for further legal proceedings and a case has been registered at Khayala police station is being taken, the police official said.

Sonia paves path for Rahul to take...

From Page 1

"I am willing to work for the party as all of you desire," senior Congress leader Pawan Bansal said quoting Rahul after the meeting. The former Congress president reportedly also agreed that "better communication" was needed and the party needed to strengthen itself at the booth-level.

When asked whether Rahul Gandhi's comment and the cheers that greeted it meant his return as chief, Bansal said: "No one has an issue with Rahul Gandhi... don't put words in my mouth. The process of electing a Congress president is in the process."

The dissidents reportedly remained firm on their position of demanding an election for the post of Congress president, the Congress Working Committee and the parliamentary board. A letter in August by 23 Congress leaders noted the leadership drift and called for an "active and visible leadership" and collective decision-making.

"A positive discussion was started by Sonia Gandhi. She talked about defining the narrative, deciding the top leadership," Bansal said. "Sonia Gandhi said we all are one big

family and should work to strengthen the party. There is no dissidence in Congress, all are committed to work unitedly to energise the party."

The dissenters, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shashi Tharoor and Anand Sharma, spoke directly to the Gandhis for the first time since the letter bomb. AK Antony, Ashok Gehlot and Ambika Soni were among the loyalists at the meeting while Kamal Nath reportedly played a big part in getting Sonia Gandhi to agree to the meeting. This was first of a series of meetings - to be held over the next 10 days - between the Gandhis and senior party leaders ahead of organisational elections. Some of the leaders outside the rebel group, like P Chidambaram, reportedly asked for a shift from the "general secretary approach" of running States.

The state Congress chief should be empowered and booth level committees must be strengthened to help the Congress retain its voters, they suggested in what was described as a "free and frank discussion".

Rahul Gandhi's sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the Congress general secretary in charge of Uttar Pradesh, talked about rebuilding the organisation and "taking care of grassroots workers". She reportedly called for "better inner party communication". Congress leaders said

Virat disaster ...

From Page 1

Saturday's total was also the lowest score in the brief history of D/N Tests and the joint fifth lowest overall.

The easy target of 90 runs was achieved by the home side in only 21 overs without much fuss.

They only lost Matthew Wade (33) and Marnus Labuschagne (6) in pursuit of the easy goal and in the process, opener Joe Burns (51) got a confidence-boosting half century.

The home team collected 30 World Test Championship points from the win, while its skipper Tim Paine was adjudged player of the match for his gritty first innings knock of 73.

"I said this morning in the media that both these attacks have the ability to take quick wickets. Didn't expect them to come this quick," said Paine, grinning from ear to ear after the rather remarkable triumph.

India have now lost three successive Tests well inside three days with two being in New Zealand earlier this

year. To make matters worse for the visitors, star pacer Mohammed Shami's series could well be over due to a wrist injury from a short ball from Pat Cummins, which could potentially be a fracture. Shami could not continue and the Indian innings was terminated at 36 for 9 in 21.2 overs.

The likes of Sunil Gavaskar and the late Ajit Wadekar had long carried the baggage of that English Summer, arguably one of the worst in the annals of Indian cricket. It will now be replaced by the "Summer of 36".

Call it irony, but just like Gavaskar then, a modern day great like Virat Kohli will have this bit of avoidable history in his legacy, a day when one could hardly figure out what went wrong. At one stage, India were reduced to 26 for 8 and looked like equalling the lowest ever Test score (26 by New Zealand vs England) but Hanuma Vihari's boundary helped them evade entry into the dark pages of cricketing history.

The Indian batting was completely exposed by the extra bounce generated by Australian pacers, who bowled

every delivery on the off-middle channel after landing on the seam. In an inexplicable collapse, India's much vaunted batsmen fell like nine pins with not a single one able to reach double figures.

=Once nightwatchman Jasprit Bumrah (2) was out in the first over, Hazlewood and Cummins (10.2-4-21-4), literally decimated the tourists and also caused lasting damage to their pride. The likes of Mayank Agarwal (9), Cheteshwar Pujara (0) and Ajinkya Rahane (0) were all out in similar fashion. All the deliveries were almost identical, angled in, which forced the batsmen to jab at them and just bounced a wee bit more. They deviated a shade taking outside edges to Tim Paine behind the stumps.

Kohli (4) was dismissed in the manner he used to get out in England back in 2014, trying to drive a delivery on the fifth stump and caught at gully.

To sum it up, the Indian batsmen failed to factor in the pitch suddenly becoming more livelier with extra bounce. PTT

RSS ideologue MG Vaidya dies at 97

From Page 1

A former chief editor of the city-based pro-RSS Marathi daily 'Tarun Bharat', Vaidya became a member of the RSS in 1943 while at the Morris College in Nagpur.

He was the first RSS 'pracharpramukh' (spokesperson), a former editor of Tarun Bharat said. Vaidya was also a former Akhil Bhartiya Bauudhik Pramukh of RSS, he added.

In January this year, Vaidya triggered a controversy with his demand of dividing Maharashtra into four parts, and came in for attack from various quarters over the demand.

Born in Taroda tehsil in Wardha district, Vaidya was a gold medalist in his Master of Arts course, and taught at the Hislop College in Nagpur from 1949 to 1966 while also being associated with the RSS.

He joined the editorial department of Tarun Bharat in 1966. He was a nominated member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council from 1978 to 1984, and also a senate member of Nagpur University.

He wrote several books and also a column in Tarun Bharat for 25 years. He was among the few who witnessed most of the journey of the RSS, from early stages and expansion. Vaidya, who saw all six

Sarasnghchalaks of RSS, including RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar is survived by wife Sunanda, three daughters, and five sons including RSS Sah Sarkaryawah (joint general secretary) Manmohan Vaidya.

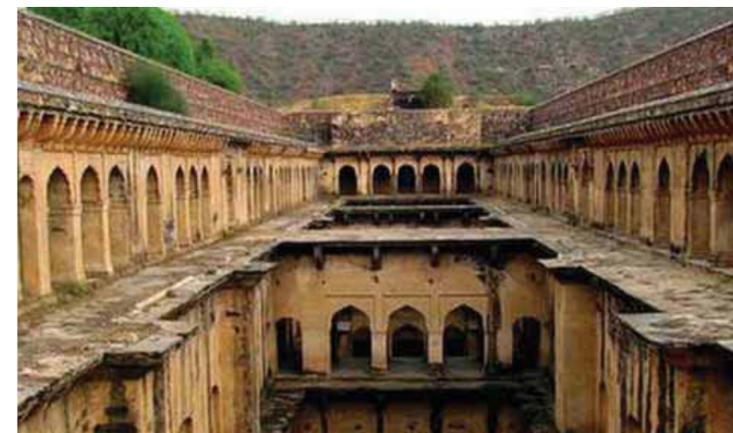
"M G Vaidya, my father breathed his last today at 3.35 pm at Nagpur after completing 97 years of active, meaningful and inspiring life. He was a veteran journalist, a Hndutva "Bhashyakar" and active Sangh (RSS) Swayamsevak for 9 decades", Manmohan Vaidya tweeted.

In his condolence message RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat described Vaidya as a multi-faceted personality and an excellent journalist, adding the Sangh has lost a senior figure.

Union minister Nitin Gadkari said he had hoped that Vaidya would complete 100 years but destiny had other plans."He had a major contribution in shaping the RSS' ideology," tweeted Gadkari, who also hails from Nagpur.

"Saddened by the demise of Shri M G Vaidya ji - Veteran Sangh ideologue. He played a crucial role in the RSS and guided the organisation with his ideas and intellectual thoughts. I pray for the departed soul. My condolences to family members. Om Shanti", Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani tweeted. PTT

National monuments' footfall curbs eased



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday eased the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for visitors at the national monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) by removing the cap on number of visitors at the sites while giving powers to concerned superintending archaeologists to decide the per day footfall in concurrence with respective district magistrate.

The new SOPs mentioned that the sale of physical tickets to these centrally protected monuments and sites may be resumed where there is problem in QR code and network.

As many as 3,691 central-

ly-protected monuments and archaeological sites maintained by the ASI were shut from March 17 in view of the coronavirus crisis. There were reopened on July 6.

The order also gave approval to the sound and light programmes that has been banned since March 17 this year—days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced nationwide lockdown from March 24 to avoid the spread of Covid-19 that has so far infected over 1 crore people in the country.

All ASI protected monuments across the country reopened for the public from July 6 with full security and precaution. The rules of the

NIA files chargesheet against 6 Pak nationals in narcotics seizure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed chargesheet against seven accused, including six Pakistani nationals, in the case of seizure of 237 kg of narcotics in Gujarat.

On December 18, the NIA chargesheeted the six Pakistanis and one Indian arrested in the case before NIA Special Court, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The NIA case bearing number RC-24/2020/NIA/DLI (seizure of 237 kg narcotics drugs) registered under Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy and disappearance of evidence besides provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act as also certain Sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

Those charged in the case include Safdar Ali, Alahi Daad Angiyara, Azim Khan alias

Azeem Khan, Abdul Aziz, Abdul Gafur, Sakidat Angariya and Mohamad Malah, all residents of Karachi, Pakistan and Ramjhan, a resident of Beyt-Dwarka, Gujarat.

The case relates to seizure of 237 kg of narcotics from Pakistani vessel Al-Madina, near Jakhau Port, Kutch, Gujarat.

“Investigation in the case has revealed that the arrested accused persons had conspired and attempted to bring a total of 330 kg of narcotics drugs into Gujarat, who were eventually intercepted by Indian Coast Guards on May 21, 2019 and resulted in the recovery of nearly 237 kg of narcotics, several incriminating articles and Pakistani currency notes,” the NIA said in a statement.

Further investigation against nine absconding Pakistani accused persons is continuing, it added.

Sonia appoints 3 AICC secretaries each for poll-bound Assam, Kerala

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday appointed three All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretaries each for Assam and Kerala where Assembly polls are slated for early next year.

The newly appointed secretaries will assist the general secretaries in-charge of the two States — Jitendra Singh for Assam and Tariq Anwar for Kerala.

Assembly polls in the two States, where the Congress is the main opposition party, are slated for April-May.

Upcoming Assembly polls in five States: EC issues advisory

No officer connected directly with election duties should be allowed to continue in his/her respective home districts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of Assembly polls in five States — West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Puducherry due next year, the Election Commission (EC) has issued an advisory saying that no officer connected directly with election duties should be allowed to continue in the respective district if he/she is posted in her/his home district.

The Commission wrote to the chief secretaries and chief electoral officers of these five states regarding the transfer and posting officers associated with conducting the elections.

According to the EC, the decision follows the consistent policy of the Commission that officers directly connected with conduct of elections in poll-bound State/Union Territory are not posted in their home districts or places where they have served for considerably long periods.

The terms of the Assemblies in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Puducherry and Assam will end on May 24, 2021, June 1, 2021, May 30, 2021, June 8, 2021 and May 31, 2021 respectively.

Meanwhile the EC has begun poll preparation for Assembly elections in April-May next year. While senior



officials of the poll body are already in West Bengal, a team would visit Tamil Nadu next week.

Deputy election commissioner Sudip Jain is already in Kolkata and EC secretary general Umesh Sinha and deputy election commissioner Ashish Kundra will leave for Chennai next week.

The poll-bound States are likely to see a heated battle, with BJP campaigning in full swing in Bengal. In Tamil Nadu, the latest entrant into the political fray is actor Rajinikanth and Kamal Hasan for the upcoming polls.

“Officials who completed three years in the respective district during the last four years or would be completing three years on or before May 31, 2021 would also be not allowed to continue in the same district,” the EC said in its advisory.

The Commission made clear that officers/officials against whom it had recommended disciplinary action in the past, especially those who had been charged for any lapse in any election or election relat-

ed work should not be assigned any election related duty. Similarly, no officer/official against whom criminal case was pending in any court of law should be associated with or deployed on election related duty.

Further, any officer, who is due to retire within the coming six months, should not be associated with any election related duty. The officers posted on recommendation of the Commission during the Lok Sabha elections 2019 may be exempted from this transfer policy.

In case of any need for any transfer of any official due to extra ordinary reasons, prior approval of the commission was mandatory, the EC order said.

The instructions would also be applicable to police officers in different ranks who would be responsible for security arrangements or deployment of police forces in the districts at election time. Police officials posted in functional departments like computerisation, special branch, training and related wings would not be covered under the instructions but steps should be taken to ensure that officers in the rank of police sub-inspectors and above were not posted in their home district.

Khattar calls on Tomar over farmers' stir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar called on Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Saturday and discussed about the farmers' protest against new farm laws that entered the 24th day. After the meeting, Khattar said that talks between farmers and the Government could be held in the next 2-3 days.

“I believe that the talk could be held in the next 2-3 days. A solution to this issue (farmers' protest) should be found through discussion. I have said that this issue should be resolved soon,” Khattar he said.

The meeting comes a day after BJP leader and former Union minister Chaudhary Birender Singh joined a protest in support of the farmers at Haryana's Rohtak.

The dharna was organised by the members of the Sir Chhotu Ram Manch. Singh is the grandson of Sir Chhotu Ram, a prominent Jat leader of



the pre-independence era who championed the interests of farmers.

This is the second time the Haryana Chief Minister met Tomar at his residence since the protests broke out. Khattar had earlier met

the Union Minister earlier on December 8.

The two leaders are believed to have discussed about the ongoing protest at Delhi's borders and the way forward to resolve the issue at the earliest, sources said.

Farmers from different parts of the country, including Haryana and Punjab, have been camping at various border points of Delhi for three weeks to demand a repeal of three recent farm laws.

Covid-19 much more severe than influenza: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers have said that Covid-19 causes much more severe disease than seasonal influenza, a conclusion they reached after comparing data from over 130,000 hospitalised patients.

The study was based on French national data from 89,530 patients hospitalised with Covid-19 between 1 March and 30 April 2020, and 45,819 patients hospitalised with seasonal influenza between 1 December 2018 - 28 February 2019.

Published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, the study also found that death rate among hospitalised Covid-19 patients was not only three times higher than seasonal influenza, more Covid-19 infected patients required intensive care. Also, the average stay in ICU with Covid-19 was nearly twice as long.

The researchers analysed that fewer children aged under 18 years were hospitalised with Covid-19 compared with seasonal influenza, but a larger proportion of those aged under 5 years required intensive care for Covid-19 vs influenza.

Also, nearly twice as many people were admitted to hospital for Covid-19 at the height of the pandemic than were for influenza at the peak of the 2018/2019 flu season, the study found.

The authors noted that the difference in hospitalisation rate may be partly due to existing immunity to influenza in the population, either as a result of previous infection or vaccination. In contrast, Covid-19 is a new virus where very few people would be expected to have any previous immunity.

Nevertheless, they said their findings reinforce the importance of measures to prevent the spread of both diseases and are particularly relevant as several countries prepare for the Covid-19 pandemic to overlap with outbreaks of seasonal influenza.

Professor Catherine Quantin, from the University hospital of Dijon and from L'Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (Inserm), France, who jointly

Covid vaccination drive: COVAX lines up two billion doses for global use

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

COVAX, the global vaccine partnership, has lined up almost two billion doses of existing and candidate Covid-19 vaccines for use worldwide, including 200 million doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine through a pact between the Vaccine Alliance Gavi, the Serum Institute of India (SII) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

COVAX is the global initiative to ensure rapid and equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines for all countries.

It announced that it had arrangements in place to access nearly two billion doses of Covid-19 vaccine candidates on behalf of 190 participating economies.

This includes delivering at least 1.3 billion donor-funded doses of approved vaccines in 2021 to the 92 low- and middle-income economies.

“This is fantastic news and a milestone in global health,” World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters at WHO Headquarters.

“This is a time for taking comfort that the end of the pandemic is in sight, but taking care that we do not let down our guard. We are all responsible for taking the measures to keep ourselves and each other safe, including during this holiday season.”

“With today's news the led the study, said: “Our study is the largest to date to compare the two diseases and confirms that COVID-19 is far more serious than the flu. The finding that the COVID-19 death rate was three times higher than for seasonal influenza is particularly striking when reminded that the 2018/2019 flu season had been the worst in the past five years in France in terms of number of deaths.”

Overall, disease was more severe for patients with Covid-19 compared with seasonal



light at the end of the tunnel has grown a little bit brighter, but we are not there yet. And we will only get there together,” he said.

The goal of COVAX is to deliver two billion doses of safe, effective vaccines that have passed regulatory approval and/or WHO prequalification by the end of 2021. These vaccines will be offered equally to all participating countries, proportional to their populations, initially prioritising healthcare workers and then expanding to cover vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions.

Further doses will then be made available based on country need, vulnerability and Covid-19 threat. The COVAX Facility will also maintain a buffer of doses for emergency and humanitarian use, the WHO said in a statement.

Adar Poonawalla, CEO of the Serum Institute of India (SII), said in the statement that his company has signed for a 100 million doses of Novavax and another 100 million doses of AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccines with

France, with an option of extending it by 900 million doses.

“The advance purchase commitments under COVAX initiative is encouraging as it will further bolster our fight and ensure equitable access at the most affordable price from Serum Institute of India,” he said.

For the vast majority of these deals, COVAX has guaranteed access to a portion of the first wave of production, followed by volume scales as further supply becomes available. The deals will enable all participating economies to have access to doses in the first half of 2021, with first deliveries anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2021.

Before Friday's announcement, COVAX had already lined up more than 1 billion doses of vaccines under development for 2021.

Of the 92 economies eligible to be supported by the COVAX AMC, 86 have now submitted detailed vaccine requests, offering the clearest picture yet on actual global demand for Covid-19 vaccines.

More than one in four patients with Covid-19 experienced acute respiratory failure, where the lungs are unable to get oxygen into the body, compared with less than one in five patients with influenza.

In line with previous reports, the most common underlying medical conditions among patients admitted with Covid-19 were high blood pressure, being overweight or obese and diabetes.

Dr Pascale Tubert-Bitter, research director at L'Institut

Nationale de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (Inserm) and from the University Paris-Saclay, France, who jointly led the study, said: “Taken together, our findings clearly indicate that Covid-19 is much more serious than seasonal influenza. At a time when no treatment has been shown to be effective at preventing severe disease in Covid-19 patients, this study highlights the importance of all measures of physical prevention and underlines the importance of effective vaccines.”

Severe cold wave likely to sweep Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), severe cold wave conditions are likely to persist at various places over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi.

IMD said that Kashmir will get the next spell of snow with the onset of Chillai Kalan. Kashmir's winter pans out in three stages, starting with the 40-day intense period from December 21 (Chillai Kalan) followed by 20 days of Chillai khard, which translates to small cold and 10 days of Chille bache (literally, baby cold). Chillai-Kalan is the 40-day period of harsh winter. The winter solstice happens on Monday, December 21, 2020, first day of “Chillai Kalan”. This is the astronomical first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the shortest day of the year.

On this day, the sun reaches its highest or lowest point in the sky at midday, marked by the longest and shortest days. Chillai Kalan known as Chilla' in Delhi, 'Chilla Jada' in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Interestingly according to Persian tradition, night of 21st December is celebrated as Shab-e Yalda—“Night of Birth”, or Shab-e Chelleh. — “Night of Forty”. Iranian Azerbaijanis call it Chilla Gejasi, which marks the beginning of the first 40 days of winter. The Iranian



concept also survives in Kashmir, where Chillai Kalan designates the 40-day harshest winter period.

The bone-chilling cold conditions continue in the Kashmir valley where night temperatures are continuously dipping. Srinagar city witnessed the coldest night of the season with a freezing night temperature of minus 7 degree Celsius while mercury at world famous Dal Lake plummeted to minus 6 degree Celsius on Saturday. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ladakh recorded a worse fall in temperature, where Drass recorded the coldest night in the country at minus 29 degrees Celsius. Similarly, other parts of Leh recorded minus 18.3 degrees Celsius. The temperature in Kargil was minus 21.1 degrees Celsius.

The IMD update said that ongoing cold to very cold spell over North-West and Central

India is now fraught with an associated risk of ground frost over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, West Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during the next two days.

“The cold spell will also be accompanied by strong surface winds speed reaching 10-20 km/hr adding to the frigid conditions. The wind chill factor would, in turn, lead to severe cold wave conditions during this period, said IMD.

Keylong, Kalpa, Manali, Solan, Chamba and Mandi in Himachal Pradesh shivered at sub-zero temperatures in the last 24 hours in Himachal Pradesh. The tribal district Lahaul-Spiti's administrative centre Keylong continued to be the coldest place in the state at minus 12.1 degrees Celsius. Kalpa in Kinnaur district recorded a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius.

NGT extends time for setting up biodiversity management panel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has extended the time limit for the constitution of biodiversity management committees (BMCs) and preparation of people's biodiversity registers (PBRs) on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel was assured by the member secretary of the National Biodiversity Authority that monitoring will be faithfully conducted with all the state biodiversity boards concerned and necessary steps for compliance of law will be taken.

“We also find that in view of COVID situation, it will be necessary to take a liberal view about the delay caused. Accordingly, the time for remaining compliances is extended up to June 30, 2021, and compensation amounts will stand waived if compliances are ensured by that date,” the bench said.

The green panel noted that it has already monitored the matter for the last more than four years and there is substantial progress in compliance with the requirements of setting up BMCs and maintaining PBRs.

The order was passed after some states sought extension of time on account of the pandemic and also waiver of the requirement to pay compensation for the delay.

Unplanned lockdown did not win battle in 21 days: Rahul

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As India's COVID-19 case-load surpassed the one crore-mark, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday alleged that the unplanned lockdown did not manage to “win the battle in 21 days as the PM claimed”, but it “destroyed” millions of lives in the country. India's COVID-19 case-

load surpassed the somber one-crore mark on Saturday, adding 10 lakh cases in nearly a month, while the total number of recoveries surged to 95.50 lakh, according to the Union Health Ministry's data.

Taking a dig at the prime minister's remarks in March that the Mahabharata war was won in 18 days and the war against coronavirus will take 21

days, Gandhi tweeted, “1 crore Covid infections with almost 1.5 lakh deaths! The unplanned lockdown did not manage to ‘win the battle in 21 days’ as the PM claimed, but it surely destroyed millions of lives in the country.”

The country's COVID-19 case tally had surpassed the 20 lakh-mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on

September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, 80 lakh on October 29, and surpassed 90 lakh on November 20.

The health ministry's data updated at 8 am on Saturday showed that the total number of cases mounted to 1,00,04,599.

INDIA-CHINA BORDER STANDOFF

Want peace, but won't tolerate any harm to India's self-respect: Rajnath

Hyderabad: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said India's handling of the border standoff with China showed that the country was not weak and could give a befitting reply to any kind of transgression, aggression or unilateral acts.

With the two countries having held several rounds of talks to resolve the issue, Singh said India wants peaceful resolution of disputes, but asserted no harm to its self-respect will be tolerated.

India and China have been locked in an over seven-month standoff at eastern Ladakh.

In his address at the Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy at Dundigal on the outskirts of the city, Singh also said China's "attitude reflected that country's intentions" dur-

ing the COVID-19 crisis.

"But we have shown that India is not weak. This is new India that will give a befitting reply to any kind of transgression, aggression or any unilateral action," he said. India has found the support of many countries, even as it has received accolades, he said.

Pointing out that rounds of talks have been held at the diplomatic and military levels to solve the issue, the Defence Minister said "let me reiterate, we don't want conflict, but peace."

"But we will not tolerate any harm to the country's self-respect," the Defence Minister asserted. The country was prepared to face any situation, he said.

Referring to the western sector, Singh said Pakistan was indulging in skirmishes on the borders and charged the

neighbour with indulging in a "proxy war" using terrorism, despite being defeated by India in four wars.

The armed forces and police were effectively dealing with terrorism, he said. The country was not only handling terrorism effectively within, but even taking action beyond the borders, he said.

Referring to the air strikes at terror camps in Balakot in Pakistan, he said they demonstrated India's military strength to the world and the country's firm intentions against terrorism.

Stressing the need to change the strategies of war according to evolving times, Singh said the country may face challenges not only across the borders and the seas, but also Space and Cyber domains, for which it needs to be prepared. **PTI**

Will CPM shine in Assembly polls in Kerala?

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The five decades long political rhythm in Kerala is likely to see a change in the next assembly election which may take place in the months of April-May 2021. Since the 1977 Assembly election in the State, the electorate in Kerala has been voting alternately for the Congress-led United Democratic Front and the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front. No fronts have succeeded in retaining power once they completed the five year term and had to sit in the Opposition for the next five years.

But the assembly election in 2021 may see a change in this pattern, according to seasoned political commentators. The LDF made impressive gains in election to the municipal corporations, district panchayaths and block panchayaths while the

"Earlier we had leaders like K Karunakaran who was trusted and believed by party activists. But not anymore. The present leaders are fighting among themselves and there is no cohesion in the party or in the UDF," said TN Saseendran

author and former editor of Mathrubhumi. He said the Congress-led UDF had swept the 2019 Lok Sabha election in the State because the minorities voted en masse hoping that the Congress would win a big majority all over the country.

Situation has worsened in the Grand Old Party's Kerala unit. There is no leader in the party who is acceptable to all sections. "Earlier we had leaders like K Karunakaran who was trusted and believed by party activists. But not anymore. The present leaders are fighting among themselves and there is no cohesion in the party or in the UDF," said TN Saseendran, former DRDO scientist and a keen watcher of Kerala politics.

He pointed out that though the situation was not favourable, the CPI(M) registered good show because the party has a strong leader like Pinarayi

Vijayan. "As on today, he is the most powerful person in the party and there is no one to challenge him. Hence the CPI(M) is likely to repeat the show," said Saseendran.

K Sudhakaran MP, has declared that he would quit as the working president of the KPCC as there was no collective responsibility in the party. Rajmohan Unnithan MP, made it known that he would resign as MP and work as Pracharak for the revival of fortunes of the Congress. K Muraliedharan, MP and son of late K Karunakaran is on a pilgrimage praying at Lord Ayyappa Temple at Sabarimala. On Friday evening he prayed for more than 15 minutes standing in front of the sanctum sanctorum by removing his face mask. He is in the race for the KPCC chief's post which he hopes would come in his way.

35,000 centres will be set up to store coronavirus vaccines: UP Govt

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government said on Saturday 35,000 centres will be set up across the State to store coronavirus vaccines when they are available.

"Every day 100 persons will be administered the vaccine. The person who will be administered the vaccine will be informed through a phone call about its timing, place and date. After vaccination, the person will have to stay in the centre for 30 minutes," the government said in a statement issued here. **PTI**

Public looks for details of Hathras chargesheet

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ HATHRAS

In the Bulgadhi case, the public and media are eager to know about the CBI charge sheet. The chargesheets have been filed against the four accused who were sent to jail by the police. The lawyer of the accused Munna Singh Pundir told the media that the CBI has filed a charge sheet against the accused.

The news of the filing of the charge sheet caused a lot of anxiety among the four accused and they began to walk in the jail. Senior Jail Superintendent Alok Singh said that on completion of 14 days quarantine time on the orders of the court, the accused

will be shifted to separate barracks. Congress leader Shivraj Jeevan said that by conducting a fair investigation, CBI gained the trust of the entire country. As said earlier that there has been humiliation with the girl and the truth has come in front of everybody, now the accused will surely be punished. After the Bulgadhi case, the way I was charged with the tag of the rioter, today everything is in front. I am always with justice and will stand with justice till the last minute of life.

After the charge sheet was filed by the CBI, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that once again the truth has come out.

Our Govt living up to expectations of people: Raj CM on 2nd anniversary



Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has said that the State Government has stood up to the aspirations and expectations of the people, despite the challenges of the Code of Conduct, Covid-19 epidemic and economy due to various elections. Even in such odd circumstances, we have fulfilled more than 50 per cent promises in manifesto in just two years. Now it is our effort to increase the pace of development and fulfill all the promises made to the people and establish Rajasthan as a model of good governance.

Gehlot was addressing a state level function organized at the Chief Minister's residence on Friday to mark the completion of two years of the state government. He and members of the State Council of Ministers inaugurated, laid and inaugurated 1362 development works costing Rs 11 thousand 230

crore through video conference.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister also announced the conduct of the REIT exam on 25th April. 31 thousand third grade teachers will be recruited through this examination. As an important initiative in the direction of e-governance, he dedicated the public welfare portal giving information about the schemes and programs of all the departments. Along with this, he also released the literature published by the Information and Public Relations Department with an aim to inform the public about the welfare schemes of the state government.

The Chief Minister said that about 22 years ago, when I became the Chief Minister for the first time, our government started to make the Election Manifesto a policy document. This was the first example of the

commitment shown by any government to fulfill its promises. We have also made the public manifesto this time as a policy document of the government.

Gehlot said that the Covid-19 epidemic has had a profound impact on all the economies and development works of Rajasthan as well as the entire country and the world. Despite this, our government is working to provide relief to every section by efficient management. Turning this disaster into an opportunity has strengthened the state's medical infrastructure with far-reaching thinking. We are making strong arrangements for safe transport, storage and vaccine.

The Chief Minister said that while there was no power in the state at the time of independence, today we have become self-sufficient in the field of energy.

Karnataka to reopen schools, colleges for Classes X, XII students from January 1

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government on Saturday decided to reopen schools and Pre-University Colleges that were shut due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation, for class 10 and second year PUC (class 12) students from January 1.

It also decided to start the Vidyagama programme, which enables continued schooling for students from classes six to nine, from that date.

The decisions were taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on reopening schools and PU colleges in the state. He said the advice given by the state's Technical Advisory Committee for COVID-19 on reopening schools and colleges was discussed in detail for about an hour.

They suggested starting classes 10 and 12 (second PUC) from January 1 and for imparting education for students from classes six to nine through the Vidyagama programme, he said.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Yediyurappa said "Everyone has unanimously agreed to it...So it has been agreed to start classes 10 and 12 from January 1 and Vidyagama for classes 6 to 9 students."

In a tweet giving information about it, the Chief Minister

added that a decision on reopening schools for students of other classes would be taken after reviewing the situation for 15 days. Both classes 10 and second PUC are crucial as students will have to face board exams.

Schools and PU colleges have remained closed since March just ahead of the national lockdown was first enforced to combat COVID-19. Degree and engineering colleges in the state were reopened on November 17.

The government, on the advice of the technical advisory committee, last month decided not to reopen the schools and PU colleges in December, citing cold weather and chances of a second wave.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar said two things had to be kept in mind when reopening schools - the health of students and the second, their academic future "We are balancing both and taking all necessary care," he said. Standard Operating Procedure has been prepared on reopening schools and the duration it should be held, he said, adding that the Rural Development and Urban Development departments would take necessary steps to sanitise government school classrooms. **PTI**

Tiwa Autonomous Council: BJP wins 16 seats, leading in many others

Guwahati: The ruling BJP has won 16 seats out of 36 seats of the Tiwa Autonomous Council while its ally Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) is leading in one constituency in the ongoing counting of ballot papers for the autonomous body on Saturday.

BJP defeated the Congress in most of the seats it won and humbled Independent contestants at three places, according to Assam State Election Commission (ASEC) counting

updates.

BJP's Moniram Patar from Gobha constituency has won uncontested, it said. The saffron party nominees are leading in many other segments.

Congress as per the report is not leading in any constituency of the Council spread over four districts of Nagaon, Morigaon, Kamrup and Hojai.

Over 71 per cent of the 3,08,409 voters exercised their franchise on December 17 to seal the electoral fate of 124

candidates in the ballot boxes for the 36 constituencies.

The saffron party is performing impressively in back-to-back elections to Bodoland Territorial Council and now in the autonomous body of Tiwa, ahead of the state polls early next year.

In the recently concluded elections for the 40-member Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), the BJP formed the government in alliance with two other local parties. **PTI**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that in addition to already announced some trains whose Arrival/Departure time has been revised, the timings of the following Special Trains will also be revised as under:-

REVISED TIMINGS OF SPECIAL TRAINS					
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Revised Timings Effective From
08311	Hatiya	19:35	Ranchi	19:50	23.12.2020
04672	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	09:55	Bandra Terminus	16:00	30.12.2020
04671	Bandra Terminus	11:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	17:40	01.01.2021
04676	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	09:55	Gandhidham BG	17:40	31.12.2020
04675	Gandhidham BG	09:10	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	17:40	02.01.2021
04678	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	09:55	HAPA	18:30	04.01.2021
04677	HAPA	08:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	17:40	06.01.2021
04680	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	09:55	Jamnagar	18:45	03.01.2021
04679	Jamnagar	08:15	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	17:40	05.01.2021
04609	Rishikesh	17:20	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	07:00	30.12.2020
04610	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	16:30	Rishikesh	08:35	31.12.2020
02779	Vasco-Da-Gama	15:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	06:25	23.12.2020
02780	Hazrat Nizamuddin	14:50	Vasco-Da-Gama	07:25	23.12.2020

NORTHERN RAILWAYS TRAVEL ADVISORY TO RAIL PASSENGERS IN VIEW OF REVISED TIMINGS

In order to provide better train services and due to operational reasons, the timings/stoppages of some trains have been revised from 01.12.2020 and onwards. Therefore, rail passengers are advised to:-

- 1) Please check and verify the revised train timings pertaining to your rail journeys well before commencement of journeys, either with integrated Enquiry No. 139 or Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App or by approaching authorized person in the nearby reservation counters/railway station.
- 2) Passengers advised to please mention their own mobile number only while filling the Reservation Requisition Form. It will help Railways to provide the important information such as 'Change in train timings' or 'Train Cancellation' etc. to the bonafide passengers through S.M.S.

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.

Maha sees 3,940 new cases, 74 deaths

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a minor decrease in the Covid-19 infection and fatality tallies, the infected cases went down to 3,940 and deaths slide to 74 in Maharashtra on Saturday.

A day after as many as 3994 people tested positive for Coronavirus while 75 more people died of the pandemic in the state, the infections dropped by 54, while there was just one additional death on Friday. With 3940 fresh infections, the total infections in the state rose 18,88,767 to 18,92,707. Similarly, with 74 new deaths, the Covid-19 toll climbed from 48,574 to 48,648.

As 3119 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 17,81,841. The recovery rate in the state dropped marginally from 94.17 per cent to 94.14 per cent.

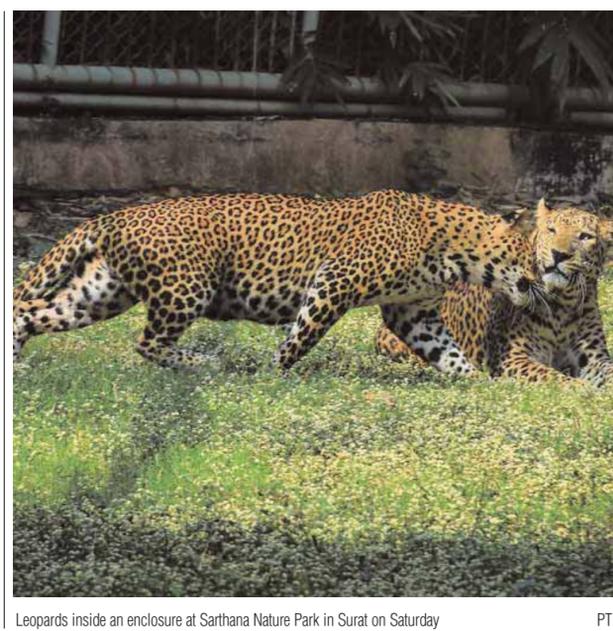
With 10 new deaths, the Covid-19

toll in Mumbai came down from 10970 to 10980, while the infected cases went up by 632 to trigger a jump in the infections from 2,85,632 to 2,86,264.

Meanwhile, the number of "active cases" total cases in the state rose 60,352 to 61095.. 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 3,65,652 to 3,66,319 while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 7667 to 7675.

Thane district remained in the third spot --after Pune and Mumbai --after the total number of infections rose from 2,49,436 to 2,49,883 while the total deaths climbed from 5475 to 5481. Of the 1,29,59,235 samples sent to laboratories, 18,92,707 have tested positive (15.7 per cent) for COVID-19 until Saturday.

Currently, 5,00,360 people are in home quarantine while 4020 people are in institutional quarantine.



Leopards inside an enclosure at Sathana Nature Park in Surat on Saturday **PTI**

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER AGRA CIRCLE, P.W.D AGRA

Letter No. : 5505/14M-A.C/2020 Notice inviting E-Tender Dated : 11.12.2020

1. The Superintending Engineer Agri Circle, U.P.P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved registered Contractors. As The work Comprises of specialized Road work, hence contractors bidding for this work must be registered in Road work with UP P.W.D. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	Dist.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer Executing the Work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category of Contractor
1	Mathura	New Construction work at Raya Neemgaon to Virabali Parikrama Road in Distt. Mathura	54.50	4.73	Rs. 2000.00 STC +300.00TC+ 54.00 GST= 2354.00	45 Days	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-1, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintending Engineer, Agri Circle, P.W.D., Agri	Chief Engineer, Agri Zone, P.W.D., Agri	Class A, B, C

2. Time allowed for completion is including Rainy Season.

3. Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://tenderup.nic.in> and Prahari (<http://wms.upppwd.gov.in/Prahari>) From 11-01-2021 to 18-01-2021. Bids must be submitted online only at tendering portal of <http://tenderup.nic.in> and Prahari App with all documents as per GO No 14/2020(879/1) 237/2020(176)(e)/06 Dt 25-08-2020 on or before 12:30 Hours Dt. 18-01-2021. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 18-01-2021 at 03:30 Hours.

4. The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.

5. Contractor should quote their rates without G.S.T. which shall be paid extra as per applicable at the time of payment.

6. Labour Cess @ 1.00% will be Deducted from contractors bill at the time of payment.

7. The bidders are required to submit Original receipt of Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account as per G.O. No.742/78-2-2018-42 LT/2017 T.C., I.T. & Electronics Section-2 Dated-03-12-2018 follows as :
 (1) Online Tender Cost towards the cost of bid document (As per Column 6) by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account.
 (2) Online Bid security (As per Column 5) in favour of designation of Column 9 by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account.
 (3) Original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B(ii) of ITB as per G.O. No.-3070/78-2-2018-421.T/2017(T2).T. and Electronics Section-2 Dated-03-01-2018.
 (Brijesh Kumar Deepak) Executive Engineer Construction Division-1, P.W.D., Mathura (Yogesh Panwar) Superintending Engineer Agri Circle, P.W.D, Agri

UP-157941 Date 18.12.2020 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgovt.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

UP: On court directive, married woman's body exhumed in dowry death

Muzaffarnagar (UP): The body of a married woman has been exhumed from a graveyard and sent for a post-mortem five months after she was allegedly killed by her in-laws for more dowry in Jamia Nagar area here following a local court's intervention, police said.

The body of Shaista Begum, wife of Abbar Ahmad, was dug up and sent for a post-mortem on the complaint of her mother V Sanjida on Friday after the magistrate court ordered an FIR to be registered regarding the matter, police added.

A case has been registered in Kotwali police station under Section 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act against six members of Shaista's in-laws, including her husband, on the directive of the magistrate court.

According to the complaint, it is alleged that Shaista was killed over demand for further dowry and buried without giving information to her parents or the police in Bhopa village in the district on July 5. **PTI**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client Sh. Ajeet Singh, S/o Late Mahashay Bhoole Singh R/o H.No. V-277, Arvind Nagar, Khuma Mohalla, Village-Ghonda, Delhi-110053, has debarred his son named Satish Kumar and his daughter-in-law named Ms. Suresh Rani and second son named Sonu & daughter-in-law Ms. Rakhi Rani from all his moveable and immovable properties and broken all ties and relations with them with immediate effect and for all times to come due to their misconduct, refusal to look after their aged father, disobedient attitude and misconduct.

Sunil Kumar Advocate
Ch. No. G-326, KKD Court, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Sarvesh Kumar S/o Mr. Satyapal Singh who is purchasing the Plot on land area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No.213, situated at Village Sarfabad, Pargana & Tehsil Dadr, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. from Mr. Prithvi Singh S/o Mr. Sukhran owner vide of Khatauni Record and same to be finance & mortgage by Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Lucern Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masji Mith Opp. Uday Park, South Ex-II, New Delhi-49, Contact #011-4006316 **PTI**

Security Helpline No. 182

Integrated Helpline No. 139

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Army takes orders from Govt: Imran

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has asserted that the Army is a state institution which works under him, amidst Opposition's allegations of the powerful military establishment's interference in the country's politics and elections.



stolen the people's mandate in the 2018 election and imposed a "hybrid and inefficient" government on the masses.

In an interview to SAMAA TV on Friday, 68-year-old Khan rebutted accusations that he does not have any real authority and said that the Pakistan Army is a state institution, which works under him.

On Opposition's claims that the government wouldn't hold it for the support from the powerful establishment, the cricketer-turned-politician said he is the country's democratically elected prime minister and so the institutions back him.

The PDM has set a January 31 deadline for Khan to step down or face a long march to Islamabad. The coalition pledged that it will make sure

that there is no interference of the institutions of "the establishment and intelligence" in politics and at the same time it will make the security institutions stronger on the professional lines.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo and three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, 70, has been repeatedly blaming Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and spy agency ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed of meddling in Pakistan's political affairs.

Sharif was ousted from power in 2017 by the Supreme Court on graft charges. The PML-N chief, currently out on bail, has been living in London since November last year after he was allowed by the courts and the government to go there for a period of eight weeks for medical treatment. But he did not come back, while his lawyers told the court that he was still recovering.

Khan said the Opposition does not want to hold talks with the Government and is instead pressuring the Army to send a democratic government packing. This can be called treason, he said. **PTI**

Biden transition team criticises lack of Pentagon cooperation

Wilmington: President-elect Joe Biden's transition team has expressed frustration with the level of cooperation they're getting from political appointees at the Department of Defense, saying there has been "an abrupt halt in the already limited cooperation there."

Biden's transition team has been meeting with officials at various agencies to get detailed reviews of the programmes and challenges the new administration will inherit, a process that was delayed when the General Services Administration declined to issue an official ascertainment that Biden had won the election.

The delay occurred as President Donald Trump, whose appointee ran the GSA, refused to concede.

Yohannes Abraham, executive director of the transition, told reporters that Biden agency review teams at DOD learned Thursday of meetings "being pulled down" and immediately reported it. Abraham called for meetings and requests for information to resume immediately.

"A failure to work together can have consequences well beyond January," Abraham said.

The Pentagon on Friday offered a different assessment. It issued a statement saying there was a "mutually-agreed

upon holiday pause," which begins Saturday.

Defense officials said that some meetings had been postponed so that department personnel could concentrate on the issues associated with the possibility of a partial government shutdown Friday evening if Congress was unable to agree on Covid-19 relief legislation. Congress passed a two-day stopgap spending bill Friday night, averting a shutdown. Officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

"Our key focus in the next two weeks is supporting essential requests for information" on Operation Warp Speed and Covid-19 to "guarantee a flaw-

less transition," said acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller.

"Let me be clear: There was no mutually agreed upon holiday break," Abraham countered. "In fact, we think it is important that briefings and other engagements continue during this period as there's no time to spare." Miller was put in the job a little over five weeks ago, after Trump fired then-Pentagon chief Mark Esper. Miller quickly replaced a number of top policy advisers with Trump loyalists who may be less willing or able to participate effectively in the transition process.

Miller said the department remains committed to a full

and transparent transition and is working to reschedule about 20 interviews with 40 officials until after Jan. 1. He said the department has already done 139 interviews and provided 5,300 pages of nonpublic or classified information.

Abraham made it clear that Biden's transition team was not satisfied with that decision. Biden becomes president the afternoon of January 20.

"There have been many agencies and departments that have facilitated the exchange of info and meetings over the past few weeks," Abraham said. "There have been pockets of recalcitrance, and DOD is one of them." **AP**

US: China obstructing WHO probe, peddling questionable vaccines

Washington: Urging the international community to demand transparency from China about the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, the US has accused Beijing of "obstructing" a World Health Organisation (WHO) probe into the origin of the deadly virus in the central Chinese city of Wuhan and "peddling" questionable vaccines one year after

the disease broke out. The US leads the world with over 17,442,100 confirmed coronavirus cases and more than 313,000 deaths.

"Even today, nearly a year after the world first learned of the outbreak, the Chinese Communist Party is still spreading disinformation regarding the virus and obstructing a WHO investiga-

tion into its origin and spread," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Friday.

"It is also peddling vaccines that lack essential data on safety and efficacy, due to a fundamental disregard for transparency and accountability regarding results from clinical trials. Both actions put Chinese citizens, and the world, at risk," he said. **AFP**

Rockets hit US base in Afghanistan, no casualties reported

Kabul: Five rockets were fired at a major US base in Afghanistan on Saturday, but there were no casualties, NATO and provincial officials said.

The rockets hit Bagram Airfield, said Wahida Shahkar, spokeswoman for the governor in northern Parwan province.

Shahkar said that 12 rockets were placed in a vehicle and five of them were fired while police were able to defuse seven others.

She couldn't provide other details on any possible casualties or damage within the U.S. Base. She said there are no casualties among civilians in the area.

A NATO official confirmed the attack and said initial reports indicated that the airfield was not damaged.

No one has immediately claimed responsibility. In April, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for five rocket attacks on the base. There were no casualties.

The IS also has claimed responsibility for multiple attacks in the capital Kabul in recent months, including on



educational institutions that killed 50 people, most of them students.

Violence in Afghanistan has spiked 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. At the same time, the Taliban have waged bitter battles against IS fighters, particularly in eastern Afghanistan, while continuing their insurgency against government forces.

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 to discuss military aspects of last February's US-Taliban agreement. **AP**

12 killed, 6 injured as train hits bus in Bangladesh

Dhaka: At least 12 people were killed and six others injured when a train ploughed into a bus at a railway crossing in Bangladesh on Saturday, according to media reports.

The incident happened at Joypurhat district when the Rajshahi-bound Uttara Express train, en route from Parbatipur, hit the passenger bus at Puranapail railway crossing, the Daily Star reported.

The train dragged the bus on the railway tracks for about half a kilometre, the Dhaka Tribune reported. The bus was going to Panchbibi from Joypurhat.

Preliminary investigation found that the level crossing was open and the on-duty line man was absent, causing the accident, said AKM Alamgir Jahan, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station. Joypurhat Deputy Commissioner Shariful Islam said bodies of 10 people were recovered from the spot. Eight people were rescued, of which two succumbed to their injuries at a government hospital in Bogura. Six of the injured have been admitted to Joypurhat Sadar Hospital.

All the victims were passengers of the bus, bdnews24.Com reported. **PTI**



People attend a memorial church service for the victims of the conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh in Yerevan, Armenia on Saturday **AP**

Armenia honours Nagorno-Karabakh dead, some demand PM's resignation

Yerevan: Both opponents and supporters of Armenia's Prime Minister rallied on Saturday as the nation paid tribute to the thousands who died in fighting with Azerbaijan over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Critics demanded that the leader resign and tried to pelt him with eggs.

The Azerbaijani army pushed deep into Nagorno-

Karabakh in six weeks of hostilities that ended with a Russia-brokered peace deal on Nov. 10 that saw Azerbaijan reclaim large parts of the separatist region and surrounding territories. The loss of lands that had been controlled by ethnic Armenian forces for more than a quarter-century has traumatized Armenians, triggering weeks of protests demanding

the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. On Saturday, thousands of protesters rallied near the Yerablur military memorial cemetery on the outskirts of the Armenian capital of Yerevan as Pashinyan visited it to honor the soldiers killed in the latest fighting. The nation is observing a three-day mourning period for the dead. **AP**

the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

On Saturday, thousands of protesters rallied near the Yerablur military memorial cemetery on the outskirts of the Armenian capital of Yerevan as Pashinyan visited it to honor the soldiers killed in the latest fighting. The nation is observing a three-day mourning period for the dead. **AP**

Switzerland OK's Pfizer vaccine

Berlin: Switzerland has approved the Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer and German pharmaceutical company BioNTech.

The country's health agency Swissmedic said in a written statement Saturday that the vaccine had been approved for the small Alpine country after a careful examination by expert teams. The agency did not say when vaccinations in Switzerland would begin.

The approval comes shortly after Britain, Canada, the

United States and other countries allowed the use of the vaccine in their respective countries.

The director of Swissmedic said "Thanks to the rolling process and our flexible teams we could quickly decide and fully accommodate the three most important requirements: security, efficacy and quality."

Raimund Bruhin added that, "The safety of the patients is a required condition especially regarding the approval of vaccines." **AP**

UK confirms new coronavirus strain spreads more quickly, informs WHO

London: England's chief medical officer Chris Whitty confirmed Saturday that a new coronavirus strain which surfaced in the country could spread faster and called for greater public vigilance to reduce transmission.

Whitty said London had informed the World Health Organisation of its findings.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock on Monday said scientists had identified a "new

variant" in the south of England that could be causing infections to spread faster.

Britain has seen rising cases and hospital admissions this month and Prime Minister Boris Johnson was set to give a press conference on the virus situation on Saturday afternoon.

The prime minister was reportedly to announce new travel restrictions for London and southeast England in the run-up to Christmas. **AFP**

EXPLAINER

Iran, despite sanctions, has routes to vaccines

Dubai: Although Iran faces crushing US sanctions, there are still ways for Tehran to obtain coronavirus vaccines as the country suffers the Mideast's worst outbreak of the pandemic.

After earlier downplaying the virus, Iran has since acknowledged the scope of the disaster it faces after 1.1 million reported cases and over 52,000 deaths. Getting vaccines into the arms of its people would be a major step in stemming the crisis.

But while Iran is able to obtain vaccines, challenges remain ranging from sanctions imposed under President Donald Trump to the logistics of making mass vaccinations happen.



HOW COULD IRAN GET THE VACCINE?

Iran has signed up for COVAX, an international program designed to distribute coronavirus vaccines to participating countries around the world.

That programme is run in part by Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance. Gavi says the US Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control has already

issued a license for Iran to take part. The Treasury declined to comment.

For its part, Iran has alleged US Sanctions have affected its ability to purchase medicine and vaccines. President Hassan Rouhani has said Iranians "should curse Trump a hundred times" over the difficulties. US Sanctions do have specific carve-outs for medicine and humanitarian aid to Iran. However, international banks and financial institutions hesitate in dealing with Iran transactions for fear of being fined or locked out of the American market.

Those sanctions, however, would not stop Iran from flying a load of cash to Geneva to pay for its participation in

COVAX. Gavi declined to offer any information about Iranian payments or orders, though Iran under its rules at a maximum could order vaccines for 50% of its 82 million people.

Alireza Miryousefi, a spokesman at Iran's mission to the United Nations, criticised the US for its sanctions and banking restrictions, which he said "cruelly put many obstacles in the way of Iran receiving the Covid-19 vaccine."

"Nonetheless, along with our own indigenous vaccine trials, we fully expect the international community and the relevant international drug companies to fulfill their humanitarian obligation and expedite all our orders," Miryousefi said. **AP**

Extradition case of 26/11 accused Tahawwur Rana to continue till April 22

Washington: The case of extradition of Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana, a key accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, to India will continue till April 22, a federal US judge has determined.

Rana, 59, has been declared a fugitive by India, where he is facing multiple criminal charges for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack in which 166 people, including six Americans, were killed.

He was rearrested on June 10 in Los Angeles on an extradition request by India.

"The Extradition Hearing in this case is continued to April 22, 2021, at 1:30 p.M.," Magistrate Judge Jacqueline

Chooljian, the US District Court of Los Angeles, said in his order dated December 17. Rana is a childhood friend of David Coleman Headley, the Pakistani-American LeT terrorist who was involved in plotting the 2008 Mumbai terror attack.

Headley, 60, was made an approver in the case, and is currently serving a 35-year prison term in the US for his role in the attack.

Judge Chooljian said Rana will file opposition to the request for extradition by not later than February 1.

The US Government, which is supporting the extradition of Rana to India, has time till March 22 to file its reply motion. **PTI**

CENTRAL RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT AT NOTICE NO.E-44/2020, DT. 17.12.2020

Description	Qty	T.O.D.
Axle pulley complete 6 groove	200 Nos	15.01.2021
Set of Resistor Element Tray Assembly	05 Set	18.01.2021
Vigilance Control Device	500 Nos	18.01.2021

Regarding detail notice & Tender Conditions please visit www.ireps.gov.in
Principal Chief Material Manager
Railway Helpline 139 | RPF Security Helpline -182 646

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Gopal @ Gopi, S/o Ram Chander, R/o Jh. No. B-300, Lalbagh, Delhi, (2) Yunus @ Chhota Nai, S/o Hameen, R/o Jh. No. 1/8, Lalbagh, Azadpur, Delhi have Committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 517/20, U/S 307/147/148/149/34 IPC, P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) Gopal @ Gopi, (2) Yunus @ Chhota Nai cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Gopal @ Gopi, (2) Yunus @ Chhota Nai have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Gopal @ Gopi, (2) Yunus @ Chhota Nai of FIR No. 517/20, U/S 307/147/148/149/34 IPC, P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 27.01.2021.

By Order
Ms. Rashmi Gupta,
Metropolitan Magistrate-06,
Room No. 208, Third Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi
DP/556/NW/2020(Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male namely Arshad Age : About 50 years, Height: 5'10", Face: Long, Complexion: Sallow, Build: Slim, wearing black colour jacket, grey colour jeans and black colour sandal in feet, was found dead on 15.12.2020 at Jama Masjid Bus Stop, Near Metro gate No. 3, Jama Masjid, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 15-A dated 15.12.2020 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 Hours for identification in mortuary of MAMC Hospital, Delhi
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.
SHO : P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23261625, 23269777
DP/560/CD/20

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Head Office, Parivahan Marg, Jaipur
E-Tender Notice
RFP for implementation of Integrated Central Bus Enquiry System in RSRTC Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation, Jaipur invite Bids from eligible bidders who have necessary qualification and experience to carry out the work of implementation of Integrated Central Bus Enquiry System in RSRTC in a time bound manner. The bidders who are interested in bidding can download the RFP from our website www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.rsrtc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in from 14th Dec, 2020 onward
Raj.Samwadi/CI/20/7877 Advt. No. 150/2020-21 Executive Director (Traffic)

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties
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(ies) mortgaged/charged to **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.** [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 07.01.2021 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 232,41,60,733/- (Rupees Two Hundred and Thirty Two Crores Forty One Lakhs Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Three only), i.e. Rs. 80,34,10,221/- (Rupees Eighty Crores Thirty Four Lakhs Ten Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty One only), Rs. 67,34,25,565/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Crores Thirty Four Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Five only) and Rs. 84,73,24,947/- (Rupees Eighty Four Crores Seventy Three Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Seven only) towards earlier Loan Account Nos. S000240450, [now LAP0240450], S000240451 [now LAP0240451] and S000240667 [now LAP0240667] respectively, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 09.12.2020 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan documents(s) w.e.f. 10.12.2020 legal expenses and other charges along with pending Tax Deducted at Source of Rs. 1,41,24,244/- (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty Four only), i.e. Rs. 76,13,187/- (Rupees Seventy Six Lakh Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Fifty Seven only), Rs. 63,81,625/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five only) and Rs. 1,29,452/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two only), towards earlier Loan Account Nos. S000240450, [now LAP0240450] S000240451 [now LAP0240451] and S000240667 [now LAP0240667] due to the Secured Creditor from BLISS VILLA (DELHI) PVT. LTD., B. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR) and R. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR).

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property(ies) will be Rs. 134,50,00,000/- (Rupees One Hundred Thirty Four Crores Fifty Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 13,45,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Crores Forty Five Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of **INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.**, Account No. 114505001412 with ICICI Bank Ltd. (IFSC: ICIC0001145), having its branch at B1 and B2, Vanija Nijun, Enkay Tower, Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon - 122015 (Haryana) before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES)
ALL THAT PIECES OR PARCELS OF LAND/ PROPERTIES AS UNDER TOGETHER WITH ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE STRUCTURES, BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, FITTINGS, STANDING AND/ OR PLANT AND MACHINERY INSTALLED/ TO BE INSTALLED AND/ OR CONSTRUCTED/ TO BE CONSTRUCTED THEREON AND ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE RIGHTS, TITLE AND/ OR INTEREST OF BLISS VILLA (DELHI) PVT. LTD. THEREIN:
URBAN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY BUILT ON PLOT NO. 49 (ADMEASURING ABOUT 1,031.29 SQ. MTR. I.E. EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 1,233.30 SQ. YD.), BLOCK NO. 48, DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE, NOW KNOWN AS PROPERTY NO. 18, SITUATED AT KAUTILYA MARG, NEW DELHI - 110021, COMPRISING OF 3 FLOORS I.E. GROUND FLOOR, FIRST FLOOR, AND SECOND FLOOR OWNED BY BLISS VILLA (DELHI) PVT. LTD. AND BUTTED AND BOUNDED BY IN THE: NORTH BY : PLOT NO. 6 SOUTH BY : PLOT NO. 20 (VIETNAM EMBASSY) EAST BY : KAUTILYA MARG WEST BY : OTHER'S PROPERTY

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com and www.auctionfocus.in
Date : 16.12.2020 Authorized Officer
Place : NEW DELHI INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

'Govt must indemnify vaccine makers against all lawsuits'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vaccine manufacturers need to have protection against all lawsuits for their vaccines especially during a pandemic, Serum Institute of India (SII) Chief Executive Officer Adar Poonawalla has said.

He also said that the vaccine makers are going to propose this to the government, while speaking at a virtual panel on the challenges of developing a COVID-19 vaccine at the Carnegie India's Global Technology Summit on Friday.

"We need to have the government indemnify manufacturers, especially vaccine manufacturers, against all lawsuits. In fact, COVAX and other countries have already started talking about that," Poonawalla said.

It is because when frivolous claims come up, and

something is blown out of proportion in the media, skepticism sets in that definitely something can happen due to the vaccine and to dispel that, the government needs to step in to spread the right information, he added.

"The government can act, the US, for example, has in fact invoked a law, to say that during a pandemic, and this is especially important only during a pandemic, to indemnify vaccine manufacturers against lawsuits for severe adverse effects or any other frivolous claims which may come about, because that adds to the fear and also will bankrupt vaccine manufacturers or distract them if they have to just all day fight lawsuits and explain to the media what is happening," Poonawalla said.

These are a few things that the government can do and that is what the vaccine man-

ufacturers are going to propose, he added.

Last month, Serum had rejected charges that a 40-year-old man who took part in the 'Covishield' vaccine trial in Chennai had levelled against the company, alleging serious side effects, including a virtual neurological breakdown and impairment of cognitive functions.

He had also sought Rs 5 crore compensation in a legal notice to Serum and others, besides seeking a halt on the trial. Refuting the charges, Serum had said, "It is evident that the intention behind spreading of such malicious information is an oblique pecuniary motive."

The Serum Institute of India, will seek damages in excess of Rs 100 crore for the same and will defend such malicious claims."

Govt to offer flexibility to discoms to end long-term power contracts

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The move is expected to provide flexibility to both procurers (mainly Discoms) and generators (power projects) to look for meaning contracts post expiry of a PPA

The Government has proposed to free both power producers and consumers from continuing with contracted obligation once the tenure of a power purchase agreement expires.

The move is expected to provide flexibility to both procurers (mainly Discoms) and generators (power projects) to look for meaning contracts post expiry of a PPA, one where discoms can get the option to buy cheaper power available in the market while generators could look at new consumers either under long term contract or through price discovery on exchanges.

The changes have been brought out by the power ministry through draft proposals on which it is seeking stakeholders comments before regulations could be finalised.

The stakeholders have been asked to submit their com-

ments suggestions by December 24, 2020.

In its proposal, the ministry has said that states with long-term PPAs with the interstate central generating stations, whose tariff is determined by the Commission, and which are due to expire in the future, can choose to give up the contracted power after the completion of the PPA tenure of 25 years.

Such a mechanism could be available by the states procurer relatively costlier power

from the central generating stations. Also, states looking to convert their long term PPA into shorter term agreements or look to buy power from exchanges to meet exigencies could also relinquish PPA after expiry of its tenure.

Power ministry officials said that the proposed guidelines would also help in making power generation more efficient as generators knowing that their contracts could be rescinded would strive to make their projects more competitive. Also, with PPAs being freed up, such surplus power would be available for deficit states at competitive price.

Under the proposed regulations, the first right of refusal would test with discoms meaning contracted power will be freed only with the consent of discoms. Also, discoms looking to end PPAs would serve at least three month notice to generators to help them prepare for the situation.

Festive, export demand lift textile prices in Nov: Ind-Ra

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Healthy festive and export demand lifted the prices of textile products in November 2020, said India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

According to Ind-Ra, cotton prices inched up by 2-4 per cent on a month-on-month (MoM) basis and were even higher on a year-on-year (YoY) basis during November 2020.

"The incremental demand from spinning mills coupled with a higher demand for cotton seeds amid a continued supply deficit led to the rise in cotton prices," the ratings agency said in a report.

"Cotton Corporation of India continued their support in form of market procurement during the current crop season. The spread of international cotton over domestic cotton remained steady during

October-November 2020."

Besides, it cited that domestic cotton yarn production continued to grow on both MoM and YoY basis at 3.3 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, on back of a high export demand.

"However, the increase in raw material costs was lesser than yarn prices, resulting in higher gross margins for sector players during 2QFY21-3QFY21," the report said.

"Exports increased substantially YoY in September 2020 and are likely to moderate during 3QFY21 upon the execution of winter season orders by key importers."

Furthermore, it said yarn sector will likely benefit from an improved competitive situation with consolidation in the sector because of the liquidity crunch being faced by several small and mid-players.

Indian aviation stocks up by 34-107% in last 3 months: Report

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite subdued improvement in operations, Indian aviation stocks have risen by 34-107 per cent in the last three months, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said in a report.

Accordingly, it pointed out that on a YoY basis, IndiGo is up by 29 per cent (outperforming Nifty by 16 per cent), while SpiceJet is up mere by 2 per cent YoY.

"IndiGo stock has risen on the back of Covid-19 vaccine optimism and gains in market share; SpiceJet was further supported by the re-licensing of the Boeing 737 MAX," the report said.

"The outlook for the sector remains 'Neutral'."

According to the report, optimism over the vaccine could certainly result in increased flying confidence, leading to the quicker normalisation of operations versus earlier estimates.

"However, the same reason has also led to a spike in crude oil prices, which were previously subdued, somewhat easing the pain of airline companies in the currents unprecedented times," it said.

"It's been six months since the resumption of domestic flight operations in India (post complete grounding over April-May'20). Domestic operations in India are still 50 per cent of pre-Covid levels, recording a gradual improvement over these last six months. Besides, it said a rise in the number of unique city pairs has resulted in huge growth in the international market over the last two years. However, the Covid disruption has resulted in a significant reduction in such city pairs (down by 67 per cent YoY). Thus, we believe international travel is likely to take longer to recover, with confidence likely to first improve in intracontinental flying (v/s intercontinental flying)."

Petrol, diesel prices hold for 12 days even as crude rises over \$52 a barrel

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies continued to hold back any change in retail price of petrol and diesel continuing with their wait and watch stance that has kept the prices of two auto fuels static for past 12 days. Accordingly, there was no change in retail price of auto fuels on Saturday with price of petrol remaining at Rs 83.71 a litre and diesel Rs 73.87 a litre in Delhi. It remained unchanged across the country as well.

OMCs have gone on a pause mode at a time when news of successful coronavirus and expectations of big pick up in demand had kept crude on the boil with prices breaching \$50 a barrel mark and hitting \$52 a barrel mark.

Petrol prices were very close to breaching the all time high level of Rs 84 a litre (reached on October 4, 2018) when it touched Rs 83.71 a litre on December 7. But the march has been halted ever since then

with no price revision by the OMCs. Global crude prices have risen almost \$12 a barrel in last one month to reach over \$52 a barrel now. But even at this level, it is far less than than average crude price of \$80.08 a barrel in October 2018 when petrol prices touched highs of Rs 84 a litre in the Capital.

With Saturday's pause, fuel prices have now increased on 15 of the past 30 days with petrol prices rising by Rs 2.65 per litre and diesel by 3.41 a litre. Earlier, Petrol prices had been static since September 22, and diesel rates hadn't changed since October 2. It started rising in November and again went for pause in December.

Though retail pricing of petrol and diesel has been deregulated and oil marketing companies were following a daily price revision formula, the same was suspended for almost two months to prevent volatility in international oil markets from impacting fuel prices regularly during the pandemic.

Minister inaugurates first convergence project in Goa

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Goa Power & Renewable Energy Minister Nilesh Cabral on Saturday inaugurated the first convergence project.

This project will integrate decentralised renewable energy with efficient (water) pumps and LED lamps for rural homes.

"Nilesh Cabral, Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of Goa, inaugurated the first 'convergence project', which integrates the delivery of clean renewable decentralised energy with energy efficient pump sets and LED lamps for rural homes," a statement by Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) said.

The 100MW project will be implemented by the CESL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).

The project will be imple-

mented on unused or degraded land across Goa, located close to sub-stations and the point of use.

The CESL will also deliver the pumps and lights as part of the power purchase agreement.

The total investment of Rs 450 crores will be borne by the CESL and will result in a savings of Rs 2,500 crores for the state of Goa over the life of the project.

Approximately 400,000 households will benefit from this project, and 140,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) will be avoided. Savings to the distribution company will be significant from the solarisation of these feeders.

The CESL is a new energy company focused on delivering clean, affordable and reliable energy. Convergence focuses on energy solutions that lie at the confluence of renewable energy, electric mobility and climate change.

INBRIEF

SECY, MINISTRY OF COAL, REVIEWS PROGRESS OF NUPPL

Anil Kumar Jain, IAS, Secretary to Govt of India, Ministry of Coal visited the Joint Venture Power Project, NUPPL in Kanpur, U.P on 18 12 2020, to review the progress of the project, along with senior officials of NLCIL and UPRVUNL. Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Devendra Singh



Bhole, Hon'ble MLA, Ghatampur, Shri Upendra Nath Paswan, Shri Alok Tiwari, IAS, DM, Kanpur Nagar and Shri Arunkumar, SDM were also present on the occasion. The project progress was reviewed at site alongwith Shri V K Tiwari, IAS, Additional Secretary to GOI, Ministry of Coal, Shri Rakesh Kumar, CMD, NLCIL, Shri Senthil Pandian, IAS, MD, UPRVUNL, Shri Shaji John, Director (Power), NLCIL and Shri Mohan Reddy, CEO, NUPPL. Secretary (Coal) visited the Chimney, Boiler area, TG area, Switch Yard, NDCT area and had an in-depth discussion on all aspects of the project with senior management and officials present on the occasion. Local issues related to the project were also discussed with the Hon'ble MP, Hon'ble MLA and District officials.

DELECTABLE CHERRIES FROM CHILE UNVEILED

New Delhi: The Chilean Cherry Committee of the Chilean Fruit Exporters' Association (ASOEX), alongside the Chilean Embassy in India and the office of the Chilean Trade Commission -- ProChile, has launched the very first generic promotion campaign in India to introduce this delightful fruit to the discerning health-conscious Indian consumers. Inaugurating a promotion campaign at Foodhall, Chanayakapuri in Delhi, Juan Angulo M, Ambassador of Chile to India, said, "The Chilean cherries are prized for their flavor and superior quality... The fantastic taste of the juicy, sweet pulp of these cherries is loved by consumers across the world and I am delighted to see them in India."

Rabi looks promising despite higher base: MOFS

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Outlook for the on-going Rabi season remains encouraging, said Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

In a report, it cited that fertiliser and agrochemical players are also likely to report healthy performances in 2HFY21.

"Farm income was impacted in some states, mainly due to lower yield on account of untimely rains," the report said. "Nevertheless, volumes in fertiliser and agrochemical increased strongly on the back of a good monsoon season."

As per the Ministry of



Fertiliser, sales in 1HFY21 grew 15 per cent YoY to 34 million mt, driven by 28 per cent and 24 per cent volume growth in DAP and NPKs, respectively. Similarly, Urea volumes grew 7 per cent YoY. "Industry volumes improved on the back of above-normal monsoon rainfall for the second consecutive

year," it said. "Good monsoons led to a 5 per cent YoY increase in sowing area to 111.7m hectares." Of the total fertiliser sales, the report said highest volume growth of 28 per cent and 24 per cent was seen in DAP and NPKs, respectively, in 1HFY21.

Personalised advertising, privacy are not at odds: FB tells Apple

FIANS ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Defending its personalised advertising approach, Facebook has said that it disagrees with Apples belief that personalisation and privacy are at odds.

Apple CEO Tim Cook has said in a tweet that Facebook can continue to track users across apps and websites as before, App Tracking Transparency in iOS 14 will just require that they ask for your permission first. According to Steve Satterfield, Privacy and Public Policy Director at Facebook, personalised advertising helps people discover new products and brands, and it enables businesses of all

sizes, not just the ones with the biggest budgets, to reach people who are likely to be interested in what they offer. "We disagree: personalisation doesn't have to come at the expense of privacy. We can do both, and we can do both well," Satterfield said in a blog post. "We've built products that lead the industry in transparency and offer settings and controls to help people manage their privacy. Our products and data policies remain the best resources to understand our data practices," he added.

With full-page ads in leading US publications, Facebook is apparently trying to convince regulators to look at Apple's privacy changes.

Indian pharma cos to benefit from improving US demand: Report

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian pharma companies are expected to benefit from improving demand in the US market, said India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

As per the ratings agency, these companies have garnered 45 per cent of all new Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) approvals over the past nine months.

Besides, Ind-Ra expects the regulatory environment to remain stringent.

However, it said well-equipped companies would be able to take the advantage of a better pricing outlook emanating from supply shortages and recalls.

"Indian companies have received a higher share of new ANDA approvals since April



2020 led by significant manufacturing facility clearances, GDUPA-II (Generic Drug User Fee Amendments), and a strong filing momentum aided by historical investments in R&D," Ind-Ra added in a report.

"Ind-Ra has seen an increasing drug demand since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic led by supply chain issues, channel filling and demand for Covid-19 led pre-

ventive products. In the past, too, there was drug shortage in the US due to the exit of the large generic players from unviable products." "Overall drugs shortages in the US are leading to moderate-to-stable pricing pressures." Furthermore it cited that majority of the drug recalls (91 per cent) from the US markets are from the non or least serious category (Class-II and III recalls).

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

Name of the Work : Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for 02 (two) numbers CNC Machining Center with ATC (Gantry type CNC Milling Machine with changeable heads) bearing machine No.18/2463/01 & 18/2463/02. Shop-18, CLW, Chittaranjan for a period of 02 (two) years. (a) Tender Notice No.: MW_ELM_S_8_AMC-4_ZAYER. (b) Tender No.: MW/ELM/S/AMC-4(ZAYER). (c) Cost of Tender Document (Form): Rupees 5,000.00. (d) Approximate Value of the Work (Tender Value) : Rupees 76,70,300.00. (e) Earnest Money to be deposited : Rupees 1,53,400.00. (f) Bid type: Open Tender (g) Bidding Style: Single rate for tender. (h) Category: Service. (i) Contract type: Expenditure (j) Completion Period of the Work : 02 (two) years. (k) Closing Date for Tender Submission: 04/01/2021 at 13:00 hrs. (l) Tender Validity Period: 90 (ninety) days (m) Complete Details of Tender can be seen in the Railways Websites; www.treps.gov.in. Tendering Authority: Dy CME/Plant, CLW, Chittaranjan Dy. CME/Plant, Siddh-195 CLW/Chittaranjan Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

बिहार सरकार

प्राचार्य का कार्यालय, नालन्दा मेडिकल कालेज, पटना

पुनः अल्प कालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

नालन्दा मेडिकल कालेज, पटना अन्तर्गत माइक्रोवायोलोजी विभाग में RT PCR, BSL-2 level laboratory में Covid-19 के जांच कार्य में निरन्तर / नियमित उपयोग में आने वाले कंजुमेबुल का Urgent Basis पर कय हेतु निबंधित फर्म / निर्माता / आपूर्तिकर्ता / प्राधिकृत विक्रेता से मुहरबन्द लिफाफे में सीलड निविदा राज्यकीय / राष्ट्रीय समाचार पत्र में प्रथम प्रकाशन की तिथि से 11 (ग्यारह) दिनों के अन्दर निबंधित / स्पीडपोस्ट के माध्यम से कार्याधि 10.00 बजे पूर्वहिन से संख्या 05.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। विलम्ब से प्राप्त निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायगा। निविदा दो तरह की होगी। (क) तकनिकी निविदा (ख) वित्तीय निविदा। (दोनों निविदा अलग-अलग लिफाफे में सीलड कर पुनः उसे बड़े लिफाफे में सीलड कर उस पर किस मद के लिये निविदा दिया जा रहा है, अंकित कर प्राचार्य, नालन्दा मेडिकल कालेज, पटना-26 को भेजना होगा। निविदा कम्प्यूटाईज टर्किट होना चाहिए। काट-कूट लिख लेपन वाले निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायगा। निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि की अगली तिथि को मूल निविदा एवं तकनिकी निविदा कय समिति के द्वारा खोली जायगी। निविदा खुलने के समय निविदादाता स्वयं या उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि उपस्थित रह सकते हैं। (कय की जाने वाली कंजुमेबुल की सूची तथा निविदा की शर्त एवं विवरणी निविदा प्रकाशन के पश्चात कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निविदा की शर्त एवं विवरणी तथा कय की जाने वाली कंजुमेबुल की सूची www.nmch.org पर देखें अथवा nmchpatna1980@gmail.com से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।

उक्त सूचना के लिए state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है।

प्राचार्य

नालन्दा मेडिकल कालेज, पटना।

PR. No. 009829 (Health) 2020-21

नौबल कोटोना के संबंध में किस्तुल जानकारी एवं सहायता हेतु Toll Free No. 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

खाद्य सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

Increasing capacity to make trains available on demand: Railways

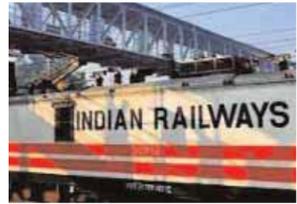
FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Ministry of Railways on Saturday announced that it has been working in the direction to increase the capacity to make trains available on demand to reduce the possibility of passengers getting waitlisted.

Rejecting some reports regarding national Rail Plan to end waiting list with effect from 2024 and that only confirmed tickets would be available, the Ministry made it clear that "wait list is a provision that remains whenever the demand for travellers in a given train is more than number of berths or seats available."

"The provision is not being done away," the ministry added.

"Waitlist is a provision which act as a buffer to mitigate the fluctuations in demand and availability, it said. "Railways would like to explain and clarify that efforts are being made to increase the capacity to make trains available on demand. This would reduce the possibility of passengers getting waitlisted."



The ministry issued the clarification after some reports mentioning to end waiting list in Railways with effect from 2024 in a particular media wing and that the Indian Railways plans to run demand-based passenger trains while raising its share in freight movement from 27 per cent now to 45 per cent by 2030 as part of its draft National Rail Plan.

The passenger trains services, however, are yet to achieve pre-Covid levels, the Indian Railways is trying to improve its capacity. Currently, Indian Railways is running 1,089 passenger trains compared to 1,768 trains prior to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

PHDCCI suggests strategy to attain higher growth in FY22

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Refuelling of consumption demand must be the theme of the Union Budget FY 2021-22 to have a multiplier effect on production possibilities, capex expansion, private investments and employment creation, said the industry body PHDCCI in its 10 pronged strategy suggested to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday during the Pre-Budget consultations. The industry body's 10 pronged strategy revolves around the measures aimed at refuelling consumption and demand, and encouraging the private investments.

The elements of the strategy presented to the FM includes front loading of infrastructure investments, establishing DFIs to fund industrial and infrastructural investments, strengthening MSMEs, reducing the costs of doing business, ease of doing exports, increasing Tax to GDP ratio. PHDCCI said any measure aimed at pushing up growth must keep agriculture and rural sector at the forefront and carry out effective reforms in social infrastructure. Economy has exhibited early signs of recovery in the recent months, however, to sustain the momentum, there is a need to ensure a great support to demand creation in the economy with lower interest rates for consumers and businesses, lesser compliances for MSMEs vis-a-vis ease of doing business at the ground level and a lower tax regime to increase the personal disposable income of the people, said Sanjay Aggarwal in a press statement.



WHY WE CHICKEN OUT ON TURKEY

Cooking and eating turkey is associated with festivities like Thanksgiving and Christmas especially in America and many parts of Europe. Elsewhere, in India, while the fowl finds its way into restaurant menus, households continue to prefer the good old chicken. SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with chefs to tell you why

Did you know that turkey was originally thought to be from India? Did you know that this bird has nothing to Turkey, the country? Did you know that since the Turks knew that this fowl was not theirs, they made a completely different mistake and called it hindi. They thought the bird was probably Indian. The French, too, to begin with, called this bird poulet d'Inde literal translation — chicken from India. The Dutch called it the word kalkoen — Calicut-hoen — hen from Calicut or modern-day Kolkata. It is thought that all this stems from the mistaken belief that turkey trade passed through India.

Yet, this bird, has nothing to do with India and everything to do with America. Stranger yet, fowl's scientific name doesn't make much sense either — Meleagris gallopavo, name of wild turkey that was domesticated, which found its way into the forests of Mexico, where they were first domesticated by the Mayans.

The ancient Aztec and Mayan civilisations revered the bird. The Aztecs honored wild turkey, and believed it to be a manifestation of Tezcatlipoca, the trickster God. The Mayans revered and honoured turkeys in similar ways.

When Europeans saw wildlife of the New World, wild turkeys caught their eye which was similar to their game birds. Turkey was then transported in 1519 to Europe where it was highly prized for its unique flavour.

So why is that India, which tends to follow trends of what is happening globally, has yet to adopt this bird as part of the regular food chain? Chef Tarun Dacha, corporate

chef, The Claridges Hotel has a simple answer.

"Turkey is a gaming bird and traditionally it was hunted to be served on the table for Christmas and Thanksgiving festivities in the West. Even in Europe turkey is not the first choice of meat to be served on these occasions. In America Thanksgiving and Christmas are mostly celebrated between family and the entire bird is cooked whole and served with vegetables and sauces. Turkey is a big bird and now it is also reared on farms rather than only being hunted," Dacha explains.

He tells you that the bird was easy to hunt since it is a big bird and finds it difficult to fly. The total weight of the bird is eight to 10 kg. After dressing it is 4-5 kg.

"Christmas is a family festival where everyone comes together. It is a tradition to eat a meal together on this day. Unlike in India, traditionally and it is still followed by many, the mothers and the daughters are cooking and will eat food only once the men of the house have eaten. In the West, all the family member sit down together and share a meal. You roast the turkey, put it on the table, add the accompaniments and enjoy the feast. If it is a small bird, the whole sense of sharing goes away. That's the reason why the fowl is popular in America.

However, the same is not true for some European countries. Like in Germany, the turkey is replaced by goose or pork; for Nordic countries, it is all about fasting and associated with eating fish; in the UK it is duck or a roast suckling pig. But due to marketing, turkey has found its way here as well, he tells you.

As a meat, turkey is not popular in India for many reasons. First,

it is a gaming bird and hunting of these birds is now allowed in the country. Second, India is a Hindu country originally and Christianity is mostly an adopted religion. As such the eating habits of the Indians are very regional and are different from the eating habits of America and the European nations.

"Turkey as a meat is not very juicy. It is dry and also a hot meat. We like our meat juicy and mostly enjoy it with curries. Even our tandoori meats are soft, moist and juicy. In India Turkey is found on the menu of the 5-star hotels and properties which cater to the expats clientele for Christmas. Also, we don't have the tradition of cooking or eating big joints. Even a tandoori chicken is cut into pieces before it is served. One doesn't carve out a tandoori chicken," Dacha says.

One is told that traditionally, in Indian homes, roasting is not huge even though baking is. The homes are equipped to deal with oven where one can roast meat. "Indian food is all about gravies and masala. Homes are not well-equipped where one can roast a big bird. However, we love to eat roasts when we go out; doing the same at home is not high on the cards in our kitchens," Dacha tells you.

In India, 5-star hotels cater to a wide range of guests, they ensure that they have everything to offer to their guest. Guests who come here want to experience the cuisines of the world and the celebrations from across the world. Even chefs want to showcase their culinary talent. The chefs like to showcase what they know best. They serve turkey, suckling pig and cold cuts like salami and ham.

"If one were to look at homes,



THE TURKEY IN INDIA IS MORE BONY. IT IS STRINGY. THE IMPORTED TURKEY THAT MOST HOTELS BUY IS FAR MORE JUICY IN COMPARISON. DESPITE THE FACT THAT LOCAL TURKEY IS REARED IN SOME REGIONS OF NORTH-EAST AND ASSAM, IT IS NOT THE PREFERRED MEAT SINCE IT IS CHEWY. EATING THIS IS NOT A GREAT EXPERIENCE

what is eaten during this time varies from region to region. In coastal Andhra Pradesh, dominated by Christianity, it is biryanis and mutton curry or fish curry with rice as a special of the day. In Kerala, Alappuzha region where there are Christians, it is duck curry and appams. They will also make Rose cookies which is made from a batter of rice flour and sugar and then deep fried. In the North-east they will do a whole pork. The basic idea is less about feasting and more on community feeling, charity and donations. Foods are centred around what is available in that region. For example in Alappuzha duck farming is huge and hence it finds its way into the homes. These are Indian ducks; more bony and less meaty. They make curry and even duck eggs are popular," Dacha tells you.

The Indian turkey is more bony. It is stringy. The imported turkey that most hotels buy is far more juicy in comparison. Despite the fact that local turkey is reared in some regions of North-east and Assam, it is not the preferred meat since it is chewy.

Eating this is not a great experience for people. The high quality fowl is on the expensive side. One full bird can cost up to ₹5,000. "If one were to cook such a large bird, one needs a huge gathering as well. Mutton is a preferred meat for festivals; it is preferred even over chicken," Dacha says.

Chef Sanjay Dasari, Executive Chef, The Ashok has a similar take. He tells you that turkey has yet to find popularity in the country. According to him, what has gained popularity is duck. This preference of duck over turkey is because duck

is leaner. Of course it depends on the variety of duck. "Peking duck is gaining popularity. Turkey on the other hand is a meat that is only eaten during festivities like Christmas and New Year's. This bird is still confined to festivals. We, at our hotel, serve the bird during these festivals. It is not the supply but the demand where the issue lies," Dasari says. Interestingly, while the duck has since then been Indianised and one find a hotel doing a duck curry or even a tandoori duck, the turkey continues to be roasted full and has yet to be moulded to Indian taste.

The reason Chef Dasari tells you why turkey is yet to be experimented with is because the guests who come in are not asking for this fowl. However, there is a market for the same. "If there was a demand, like there is for ducks, we, as chefs, would like to serve the same and experiment and change it so suit Indian palate. But this is not the case. For now, it is a bird that people want to eat only during Christmas. Also, not many people know that this bird can be eaten. If we promote it, people will see it as an option. Many hotels shy away from doing the same due to lack of demand, unlike duck. Since people are asking for duck, we are Indianising the same," Dasari explains.

This year, The Ashok instead of doing a buffet as was being traditionally done on New Year's eve, they are going to serve per plate which is visually more appealing. The change in serving style is due to the present pandemic and fall in footfall. "We are going to serve turkey; we will serve the bird with foods that boost immunity like

fresh orange juice and ginger. We will use fresh herbs to roast it, rather than using dry herbs. This will be served with walnut jaggery chutney," Dasari says and tells you that turkey meat can be Indianised.

Chef Rubal Pupneja, junior sous chef at the Samrat opines is that despite this bird being a popular dish at Christmas and Thanksgiving, the fact that it is not easily available and is on the expensive side means that there are fewer takers.

"Then there is the whole process of cooking this bird. Since it is much larger than chicken, it takes a longer time to cook. If the full roast chicken gets cooked in 30-35 minutes at 300 degrees, this bird takes over an hour to cook. Also, one has to cook it slowly so that it gets cooked from inside out. There is a misconception around this bird as well. People think that it has more carbs; it is just the opposite. If one were to eat the same amount of chicken and turkey, the latter would have more protein.

"This means turkey is a healthier option. Since it is a large bird, it has moe bones and one can make soup with it. One can cook its meat, shred it and make taco. Like one makes chicken tikka, one can make turkey tikka. One has to however, keep a few things in mind. It has to be marinated longer and cooked slowly," Pupneja explains.

Another factor why turkey doesn't find its way into our homes is because of its shelf life. At best it will keep for two-three days in the refrigerator. But with hotels doing roasts, salads, soups and continuing to serve the bird right from Christmas up to New Year's night, turkey may soon find its way into our homes as well.

LET'S GET COOKING

WALNUT JAGGERY SAUCE

- Onion 1 large
- Garlic 2
- Salt To taste
- Paprika 1 tsp
- Walnut 40gm
- Jaggery 30 gm
- Salted Butter 20 gm
- Fresh Thyme 2 strands

METHOD

- Collect the jus de roti (roast juices) from the roast turkey.
- Heat butter and sauté finely chopped garlic and onion.
- Add paprika and sauté further.
- Add puree of walnuts and jus de roti.
- Simmer for some time; add the grated jaggery and fresh thyme.
- Adjust the seasoning and serve hot garnished with roasted walnut flakes.

— Chef Sanjay Dasari, Executive Chef, The Ashok, New Delhi

ROAST TURKEY

- Turkey 1
- Salt 5 gm
- Crushed black pepper 5 gm
- Onion 100 gm
- Celery 100 gm
- Orange 2
- Lemon 2

For herb butter:

- Unsalted butter 100 gm
- Lemon zest 2
- Thyme 5 gm
- Rosemary 5 gm
- Sage 5 gm
- Garlic chopped 10 gm
- Fresh parsley (Chopped) 100 gm

METHOD:

- Let the turkey rest at room temperature for an hour.



Adjust your oven rack so the turkey will sit in the center of the oven, preheat oven to 170 degree Celsius.

- Make the herb butter by combining butter, mince garlic, salt, pepper, rosemary, thyme, sage.
- Remove the neck and giblets from the inside the cavities of the turkey.
- Seasoned the turkey with salt, pepper and stuff with the quartered lemon, onion, celery, orange and leftover herbs.
- Apply the herb butter all over the outside of the turkey.
- Roast the turkey in the oven at the temperature of 175 degree Celsius for 2 and half hour to 3 hours with aluminum foil.
- Allow turkey to rest for 20-30 minutes before carving.

— Chef Tarun Dacha, Corporate Chef, The Claridges Hotel

CHEESY TURKEY PATTY

For patty

- Cooked minced turkey 200 gm
- Eggs 2
- Chopped bellpeppers (red; yellow) 30 gm
- Chopped parsley 1 tbsp
- Chopped garlic 1 tsp
- Parmesan cheese (Grated) 50 gm
- Crushed peppercorn ½ tsp
- Mozzarella cheese (Stuffing) 20 gm
- Cornflour (For binding) 2tbs
- Salt A pinch
- For batter
- Refined flour 100 gm
- Milk 100 ml
- Eggs 1
- Salt A pinch
- Dry oregano 1 tsp

For coating and frying

- Bread crumbs 100 gm
- Refined oil To fry
- For honey and Dijon mustard dip
- Dijon Mustard (paste) 100 gm
- Honey 15 gm
- Maple syrup 1 tbsp
- Olive oil 1 tbsp
- Dry chilli flakes 1 tsp
- Salt To taste

METHOD

- In a mixing bowl put all the ingredients — cooked minced turkey, eggs, chopped parsley, chopped garlic, chopped bellpeppers, Parmesan cheese, crushed peppercorn and cornflour.
- Mix them all well.
- Make patty and stuff Mozzarella cheese and reshape.

- Keep aside.
- Make a batter made of refined flour, milk, dry oregano and salt.
- Dip patties in this batter.
- Coat the turkey patties with bread crumbs.
- Set aside.
- In a deep pan, heat oil.
- Deep fry the patties.
- For making a healthy version of it we can do it in Air Fryer.
- Garnish the plate.
- Make sauce with honey and Dijon mustard dip.
- Serve hot.
- Note: To make mince out of cooked turkey simply put cooked turkey, add eggs and blend to coarse paste.

— Chef Rubal Pupneja, Jr Sous Chef, The Samrat, New Delhi

It was over before we knew it: Hazlewood

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

It was "over before we knew it," said Josh Hazlewood after playing a lead role in writing one of Indian cricket's darkest chapters in its 88 years of existence in top-flight.

The duo of Hazlewood (5/8) and Pat Cummins (4/21) produced a sensational performance as the visitors collapsed to their lowest Test score of 36, paving the way for an eight-wicket win and a 1-0 lead in the series for the home team.

"Probably I can't put a finger on when but I looked up and it might have been 6/20 and you have (Cheteshwar) Pujara and (Virat) Kohli both out, it was sort of just the tail to come, so around that time you thought something special was going," said Hazlewood.

The pacer said it was a special day for the Australian team as the script unfolded just the way it wanted. "We just didn't let up. It was just one of those days when everything went to plan, we kept putting it in on that spot and the nicks kept coming. It happened so quickly, it was over before we knew it," he said.

He was all praise for the entire bowling unit and compared the match with the 2019 Headingley Test against England, when the hosts were obliterated in their first innings before Ben Stokes played a special knock of 135 to guide his side home.

"I am not too sure, to be honest. It was pretty similar to what we did in 2019. I know we were behind by 50 (53) after the first innings, but there was a calmness amongst us.

"I can probably speak for the bowling group in saying that we thrive on those situations when we're a little bit behind and it's up to us to change the momentum of the game, and that's what we did today," he said.

"I thought Cummo (Pat Cummins) set the scene beautifully and I sort of just followed suit, but everything got nicked and everything went into the hands, one of those days."

India had a slight upper hand coming into the match on Saturday as they ended day two with a 62-run lead over Australia.

Hazlewood admitted that even though they were a bit stunned, there was a sense of calmness among the group.

"We're probably a bit stunned, but probably a bit

AUSTRALIA		INDIA	
RS	WKTS	BATSMEN OUT	B RUNS
7	5	SHAW	4
2	1	BUMRAH	2
1	4	PUJARA	0
1	1	AGARWAL	9
1	1	RAHANE	0
1	1	KOHLI C	4
1	1	SAHA	4
1	1	ASHWIN	0
1	1	VIHARI	7
IND WON TOSS		OVERS RQD 90	

The scoreboard shows the fall of India's wickets near the end of their second innings against Australia on the third day of 1st Test at Adelaide Oval

more stunned when we came off from bowling. The mood didn't change too much throughout the whole game to be fair. I know we were behind by 50 (53) after the first innings, but there was a calmness amongst us.

"I can probably speak for the bowling group in saying that we thrive on those situations when we're a little bit behind and it's up to us to change the momentum of the game, and that's what we did today," he said.

PERSONAL MILESTONES
Australian pace bowlers Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins reached personal milestones as they completed 200 and 150 Test wickets, respectively, in the first session of the third day's play on Saturday morning.

Hazlewood, who took five for eight, got rid of R Ashwin to reach 200 wickets while Cummins, who finished with four for 21, got the wicket of skipper Virat Kohli as his 150th Test wicket. Hazlewood became the 18th Australian to get to 200 wickets.

'Getting out for 36 is going to create headaches for India'

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

India will feel the aftershocks of crumbing to their lowest Test total of 36 heading into the remainder of the four-match series against Australia, Adelaide Oval's wrecker-in-chief Josh Hazlewood said on Saturday.

Virat Kohli leaving for paternity leave from the second Test will also add to the visitors' woes, according to Hazlewood, who snared five wickets in a mere 25 balls to help his team post an eight-wicket win in the opening Day/Night Test and take a 1-0 lead in the rubber.

"Getting bowled out for 36 is going to leave a few headaches here and there and their best batter (Virat) is leaving as well, it is going to leave a bit of whole," Hazlewood said at the post-match press conference. Kohli's absence is also an opportunity for others to prove



Virat Kohli leaving for paternity leave from the second Test will also add to the visitors' woes, according to Hazlewood, who snared five wickets in a mere 25 balls to help his team post an eight-wicket win in the opening Day/Night Test and take a 1-0 lead in the rubber.

their mettle after the forgettable outing at the Adelaide Oval. "But they have got plenty of class batters on the sidelines to come in, not of Virat's class. But in terms of the series, it is great to be one up, it is better than being one-down, as we found out last time," he added.

It was in the company of pace colleague Pat Cummins that Hazlewood scripted one of their biggest wins in recent times.

The pacer though cau-

tioned his teammates that the win is history now and they must look forward to the coming matches.

"It is probably a fresh start to a degree for the batters and bowlers, and they have a player coming for Virat and they have got some class players on the bench to be honest, so good players are going to come in and we will have some plans for (them) no doubt," he said.

Speaking about Shami, who got injured after being hit on the hands, Hazlewood said the visitors will have to dig deep into their reserves if the India pacer is ruled out of the second Test. "It is obviously a blow, we don't know how bad it is yet, we will wait and find out how much damage has been done. But he (Shami) is a class bowler and he has shown in this game, so they might have to dig deep in their arsenal to cover him.

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ANATOMY OF AN INDIAN ANNIHILATION

36 Mohammed Shami was forced to retire hurt which was a bitter way for it to end but it did little to take away from one of the most spectacular sessions of play in recent Test history, with the end result being the lowest completed innings total in India's proud Test history, and the equal-fifth lowest overall.

1 India's 36 is also the equal-lowest innings total in Tests in Australia, matching the low set by South Africa against the Aussies at the MCG way back in 1932. It is also the lowest innings total by any nation in 65 years.

200 Test wickets for Josh Hazlewood, who became the 17th Australian to reach the milestone.

150 Test wickets for Pat Cummins, who became the equal-third quickest Australian to reach the milestone in terms of innings bowled (59), level with Dennis Lillee and Stuart MacGill, and behind only leg-spin legends Clarrie Grimmer (49) and Shane Warne (55).

1 As in the first time ever not a single player in the top six of a Test side has reached double figures in an innings. As it happened, none of the India batsmen reached double figures, with Mayank Agarwal top-scoring with nine.

21.26 Cummins' Test bowling average places him in elite company. Among bowlers to have taken 50 Test wickets in the past 50 years, only Indian quick Jasprit Bumrah (20.50), and legendary West Indies trio Malcolm Marshall (20.94), Joel Garner (20.97) and Curtly Ambrose (20.99) have taken their scalps at a better mark.

5-8 Hazlewood's figures represent the most economical five-wicket haul by an Australian in 73 years. Among Aussies, only Ernie Toshack with 5-2 (1947) and Bert Ironmonger with 5-6 (1932) have better the big quick's return on Saturday in terms of economy.

46.3 Cummins' career strike-rate as it stands — the lowest of any Australian in 112 years.

3 For just the third time in Nathan Lyon's career — and the first since 2012 — he was not required to bowl in a Test match innings.



Indian skipper Virat Kohli shakes hands with Australian players after end of match

Our worst batting show but let's not make mountain out of molehill: Kohli

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

India captain Virat Kohli can't remember a "worse batting performance" by his team than the lowest ever Test score of 36 against Australia here but at the same time, he has urged people not to "make mountain out of a molehill".

He did speak about batsmen "lacking intent" to take forward the lead and although he didn't take names, Mayank Agarwal's approach (9 off 40 balls) in the morning was hard to explain when the team had a 62-run overnight advantage.

"I don't think we have ever had a worse batting performance than this. So we can only go upwards from here and you will see guys stepping up and realising their true characters," Kohli said in the post-match press conference after his team lost the first Test to Australia by eight wickets.

The Indian captain desperately tried but looked at pains to defend the indefensible — another inept overseas batting show with six successive scores of less than 250 just this year.

"It's a strange one to be honest in my opinion. The ball didn't do much but we didn't have too much intent of going out there and taking the game forward," he lamented.

"Everything happened so quickly that no one could make any sense of it," Kohli was unable to fathom what hit his team.

Under Kohli, save the 2018 series in Australia, the Indian team has had way too many batting collapses including six on the trot, starting with New Zealand early this year, but strangely the skipper felt there isn't anything alarming about it.

"I don't think it's alarming and we can very well sit here and make a mountain out of a molehill, it's basically looking at things in the right perspective," he reasoned.

In fact, there has been close to 15 innings in SENA countries (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia) where the team has failed but the skipper could remember only six in 8-9 years.

"You have just spoken about five or six batting collapses in 8 to 9 years if I am not wrong. There will definitely be collapses again and again and we have to accept our mistakes and what we need to work on.

"This is not club level cricket and obviously there is a lot of pressure involved at different stages and as batsmen, we take pride in doing our job for the team. We are not vulnerable to getting out cheaply or vulnerable to a collapse," the skipper asserted.

For Kohli, there is no point looking at the past and he only wants to think how plans can be re-laid.

"Rather than going into the past as to what has happened and let it linger on in future, I

don't think that's productive at all.

"The team definitely doesn't think like that and you learn from your mistakes and move forward."

He, however, did acknowledge the strategic mistakes by his teammates.

"We played enough cricket to understand what needs to be done at different stages in a Test match. It's just lack of executing a plan which is apt for that situation on Day 3," he said.

"We arrived today with 9 wickets in hand. We should have definitely put in a stronger batting performance. I don't think any mental fatigue is involved and I don't think that's a factor," he ruled out the burnout aspect completely.

While Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins were brilliant in their lines and lengths, the skipper felt that they didn't do anything different compared to the first innings.

"Look they bowled similar lengths in the first innings also. We were just better in terms of handling it and having a plan around it how to go about it."

A lead of around 50 plus can always be tricky and that's what happened, feels the skipper.

"A bit of a lead can always be tricky and as a batting unit, you can go into a headspace where you feel like you are just 50 or 60 ahead, you don't want to lose early wickets so that the opposition comes at you.

"The way we batted allowed them to look more potent than they actually were in the morning — to be honest because they bowled similar lengths. We batted way better in the first innings," he explained.

Kohli will go on paternity leave now to be there for the birth of first child with actor wife Anushka Sharma next month.

KOHLI'S YEAR WITHOUT 100
India skipper Virat Kohli ended 2020 without an international century, his first such calendar year in 12 years.

Although India will be playing another game this year, the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne from December 26, Kohli won't be featuring in it as he returns to India to attend the birth of his first child.

Kohli will return from Australia with four scores of fifty in seven international matches and eight innings on the tour of Australia.

His debut year, 2008, when he was picked to the national side after leading India U-19 team to a World Cup title, was the last time he went a calendar year without a century.

He had, however, played just five games in that year. This time he played 22 international games which, compared to the recent few years, is quite low since Covid-19 ensured India did not play international cricket for almost nine months.

Altogether, Kohli has hit seven fifties this year.

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS IN TESTS				
Score	Team	Opponent	Venue	Date
26	New Zealand	England	Auckland	March 25, 1955
30	South Africa	England	Port Elizabeth	February 13, 1896
30	South Africa	England	Birmingham	June 14, 1924
35	South Africa	England	Cape Town	April 1, 1899
36	South Africa	Australia	Melbourne	February 12, 1932
36	Australia	England	Birmingham	May 29, 1902
36	India	Australia	Adelaide	Dec 17, 2020
38	Ireland	England	Lord's	July 24, 2019
42	New Zealand	Australia	Wellington	March 29, 1946
42	Australia	England	Sydney	February 10, 1888
42	India	England	Lord's	June 20, 1974

INDIA'S LOWEST TOTALS IN TEST CRICKET					
Team	Score	Overs	Opposition	Ground	Match Date
India	36	21.2	Australia	Adelaide	17 Dec 2020
India	42	17.0	England	Lord's	20 Jun 1974
India	58	21.3*	Australia	Brisbane	28 Nov 1947
India	58	21.4	England	Manchester	17 Jul 1952
India	66	34.1	South Africa	Durban	26 Dec 1996
India	67	24.2*	Australia	Melbourne	6 Feb 1948
India	75	30.5	West Indies	Delhi	25 Nov 1987
India	76	20.0	South Africa	Ahmedabad	3 Apr 2008
completed innings (* denotes 8-ball overs)					
FAISEL FEATURES					

Shami suffers wrist fracture, set to miss series

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Indian pacer Mohammed Shami is set to miss the remaining three Tests against Australia after suffering a fracture on his bowling wrist during the series opener in Adelaide on Saturday.

The fast bowler was hit on the elbow by a Pat Cummins short ball during India's second innings on Saturday which ended at a record lowest 36 for nine. He was taken to a hospital for scans, which revealed a fracture.

"Mohammed Shami has a frac-



Indian physio attends Mohammed Shami after he was injured during India innings

ture and the chances of him taking part in the remaining three Test matches is next to nil," a BCCI source told PTI.

He added that Mohammed Siraj, for his impressive show in the two warm-up games, will be in line for a Boxing Day Test debut in Melbourne.

With no Virat Kohli available for the next three games due to his impending fatherhood, the Indian team is grappling with a lot of issues on multiple fronts.

Shami has been one of India's most lethal weapons and his

absence will not only weaken the bowling attack but India will also miss a sound cricket brain on the field.

That Shami will be unavailable was indicative when skipper Kohli, at the post-match presentation ceremony, said that the fast bowler found it difficult to even lift his arm.

"He was in a lot of pain, couldn't even lift his arm. We'll probably know in the evening what happens," Kohli revealed after the visitors succumbed to an eight-wicket loss.

Ponting, Gavaskar bat for Rohit as opener

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting on Saturday called for the inclusion of Rohit Sharma as an opener at the earliest, after the Indian team's embarrassing defeat to Australia in the opening Test of the four-match series here.

Indian openers Prithvi Shaw and Mayank Agarwal looked clueless against the Australian attack in both the innings.

"He (Rohit) will definitely play. He is a better Test player than Mayank Agarwal and Prithvi Shaw. If he is fit then he will straightaway slot at the top of the order," Ponting told Channel 7.

Rohit had travelled to Australia having got the clearance

from the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru after missing the entire limited overs leg of the tour and the first Day/Night Test.

Provided he is declared fit by the team's medical staff, Rohit could be back for the third and fourth Test.

Indian batting great Sunil Gavaskar is also certain that Rohit is gearing up to play in the last two Tests.

"Yes, yes, he is definitely going to play in this Test series. He is already in Australia as far as I know and he might not be playing the second Test but he will be there for the third and the fourth," Gavaskar told Channel 7 when asked about the dashing opener.

Warner, Abbott reach Melbourne ahead of schedule

SYDNEY: Star Australia opener David Warner and pacer Sean Abbott flew out to Melbourne ahead of schedule on Saturday as concerns over Sydney's coronavirus cluster grew.

Warner and Abbott were recovering from a groin and calf injury respectively. The two, originally included in Australia's 17-member Test squad, had not travelled to Adelaide after opting to undergo rehab in Sydney.

However, the pair left for Melbourne to avoid being caught in Sydney where the number of cases in the northern beaches increased, according to a report in *Sydney Morning Herald*.

The increase in cases has forced the New South Wales Government to impose restrictions and Cricket Australia is not taking any chances considering the situation and the possibility of Victorian Government shutting its border.

Under Virat India got both highest and lowest Test scores

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Virat Kohli battled the humiliation of leading India to its lowest ever Test score of 36 on Saturday but ironically, it was also under him that the team notched up its highest total exactly four years ago.

At the Adelaide Oval, India endured a maddening hour while collapsing to their lowest Test score of 36 as Australia cruised to an emphatic eight-wicket victory inside two and half days in the opening Day/Night Test.

However, the scene was drastically different on

December 19, 2016.

India, under Kohli, scored a mammoth 759 for 7 declared against England at the Chepauk in Chennai to eventually win the match by an innings and 75 runs.

Karun Nair had hit a triple ton (303 not out) while K.L.Rahul, who did not play against Australia in Adelaide despite being in the squad, had struck 199 on the fourth day of that fifth and last Test of the series.

India had already clinched the five-match series 3-0 before the Chepauk Test.

Cheteshwar Pujara, Ravichandran Ashwin and

Umesh Yadav were also part of that playing XI on that historic day at the MA Chaidambaram Stadium.

Kohli and Pujara contributed 15 and 16 respectively in that massive total.

"It's an evidence of the character of this side and what the guys prepare like for a Test match, playing for the country," Kohli had said on that historic day four years ago.

But on Saturday, Kohli found it hard to express "those feelings into words" after India's stunning batting collapse in the second innings to lose by eight wickets.

"The OTP to forget is 49204084041."
— VIRENDER SEHWAG

"With the way India batted & bowled in the 1st innings, they were in the driver's seat, but the Aussies came back really hard this morning. That is the beauty of Test cricket. It's NEVER over till it's over. India was outclassed in the 2nd half. Congratulations to Australia!"
— SACHIN TENDULKAR

"... It's not fair to blame the Indian batsmen for the way they got out because it was just simply superb bowling by the Australian bowlers."
— SUNIL GAVASKAR

"36 will no doubt be looked at in isolation & should be too, but here's India's totals in last 3 Tests (2 in NZ) when the ball has moved around - 165, 191, 242, 124, 244, 36. Clearly India needs to improve its defensive skills. Easier said than done in today's environment."
— SANJAY MANJREKAR

"Wow!! What a bowling display that was from Pat Cummins & Josh Hazlewood here in Adelaide. Just outstanding. Have to feel for the Indian batsman as never saw that coming - it was one of those days where the batsman nicked everything & didn't play and miss at all! Unbelievable..."
— SHANE WARNE

"Unreal win by the lads today, bowlers what an effort today!! Simply unbelievable day of cricket."
— DAVID WARNER

"Told ya ... India are going to get hammered in the Test Series."
— MICHAEL VAUGHAN

"It was a bad day today no doubt but remember it's a 4 match series. We have bounced back in past and this team can do that too..."
— R P SINGH

"Very disappointed with the result. We all expect the Indian team to play better cricket #INDvAUS
— IRFAN PATHAN

"Saavdhani hati, durgahatna ghati!
Sums up the day for #TeamIndia
Let's hope for a better show in upcoming games #AUSvIND
— VINOD KAMBLI

"Are we just witnessing the birth of a new format? First innings test match - second innings t-20. Best of both worlds.
#IndiavsAus #BorderGavaskarTrophy
— ROHAN GAVASKAR

"The flame still Burns!
#AusvInd #Cricket
— BRAD HOGG

Seven heaven at Selhurst

Salah, Mane, Firmino score in Liverpool's 7-goal rout of Crystal Palace; Manchester City beat Southampton away

AFP ■ LONDON

Liverpool ended a three-month wait for an away win in the Premier League in comprehensive fashion with a 7-0 thrashing of Crystal Palace on Saturday to move six points clear at the top of the table.

In an ominous sign for the challengers hoping to dethrone Jurgen Klopp's men as English champions, the Reds built on the momentum of a last-minute winner that beat second-placed Tottenham in midweek.

Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah scored twice at Selhurst Park, while Takumi Minamino, Sadio Mane and Jordan Henderson also netted.

Klopp has repeatedly bemoaned having to play Saturday lunchtime kick-offs after Wednesday night games, but his side suffered no hangover from their exertions against Spurs.

Salah was given a rare rest from the start, but his Japanese replacement Minamino took just three minutes to open the scoring when he was teed up by Mane for his first Premier League goal.

Palace had chances to get back into the game as Fabinho's intervention just took Wilfried Zaha's dangerous cross away from Jordan Ayew.

Ayew then wasted a glorious chance as he pounced on an uncharacteristic error from Fabinho, but tried to tee up Zaha rather than going for goal himself and played the ball behind the Ivorian.

At the other end, the visitors were ruthless as Mane ended his longest goal drought as a Liverpool player at nine games with an excellent turn and low finish from Firmino's pass.

A clinical counter-attack made it three before the break as this time Firmino latched onto Andy Robertson's cross before calmly flicking the ball beyond Vicente Guaita.

Liverpool had not won in their previous five league games and have already dropped more points this season than they had prior to sealing a first league title in 30 years last season.

However, Klopp's men have so far survived an injury crisis and with more players returning to fitness are now in pole position to defend their title.

Trent Alexander-Arnold is one of those to have returned in recent weeks after a month out and the England international's pass was swept home by Henderson from outside the box to make it 4-0.

Klopp then took the chance to give Mane a rest, but the Senegalese voiced his frustration at being removed to be replaced by Salah.

The Egyptian played his part for the fifth with the pass into Firmino, who has now scored as many goals in his last two games than his previous 27 Premier League appearances.

Salah then moved to the top of the Premier League goalscoring charts this season with a late double by heading home from a corner before bending an incredible effort into the top corner.

Victory ensured Liverpool will lead the league at Christmas for a third successive season and on this evidence will take some catching in the new year.



MAN CITY SEE OFF SAINTS

Southampton: Manchester City secured a much-needed win to keep their Premier League title challenge alive as Raheem Sterling's goal earned a hard-fought 1-0 victory at fourth-placed Southampton.

City slipped to 11 points behind leaders Liverpool prior to kick-off, albeit with two games in hand on the champions, and once again had to rely on a solid defensive display to edge up to fifth in the table thanks to a seventh clean sheet in eight games.

Pep Guardiola's men were again guilty of not being ruthless enough in front of goal with the few chances they did create, but one moment of quality that saw Kevin De Bruyne tee up Sterling separated the sides.

Southampton had lost just once in their previous 10 league games to start the day four points and six places ahead of their illustrious visitors. But the loss of top scorer Danny Ings on top of the defeat dealt a blow to their quest to qualify for Europe.

In a bright City start, Joao Cancelo forced Alex McCarthy into a flying save and Rodri saw an effort ruled out for offside before the only goal arrived on 16 minutes. Southampton's daring approach to press high backfired as it afforded City the chance to counter-attack that very few sides offer Guardiola's men. Bernardo Silva fed De Bruyne down the right and his inch-perfect cross was swept home by Sterling for his seventh goal of the season.



Southampton, though, reacted well to falling behind as Theo Walcott forced Ederson into his first save of the day.

Jannik Vestergaard's threat from set-pieces has been a big part in Southampton's success this season and twice the giant Dane will feel he should have done better as his first weak header was easily claimed by Ederson before his second more powerful attempt flew over the bar.

Ruben Dias's own goal cost City two unexpected dropped points in a 1-1 draw with West Brom on Tuesday and the Portuguese centre-back narrowly escaped another goal at the wrong end after Che Adams just failed to connect with a dangerous cross from Kyle Walker-Peters.

The home side suffered a major blow just before the break when Ings had to be replaced with a muscle injury. City soaked up plenty of pressure from



the Saints in the second half, but again lacked the killer instinct up front to kill the game off.

Ferran Torres flashed an effort across goal before Silva should have provided the finish Sterling did to another brilliant De Bruyne cross.

De Bruyne was also guilty of not taking a big chance on the counter-attack when he fired too close to McCarthy and the Southampton 'keeper than made an incredible save high to his right to deny Ilkay Gundogan.

Cheered on by 2,000 fans in one of the few Premier League venues allowed to host supporters, due to stricter coronavirus restrictions in other parts of England, the home side pushed until the end.

But City always looked the more likely to score if there was to be a second goal and Riyad Mahrez left Guardiola with his head in his hands after blazing over a glorious opportunity in stoppage time.

Marcus Thuram sent off for spitting in opponent's face

AFP ■ BERLIN

Borussia Moenchengladbach forward Marcus Thuram was sent off for spitting in an opponent's face during Saturday's 2-1 home defeat against Hoffenheim in the Bundesliga.

The French international was shown a straight red card with 11 minutes left, which turned the game after the VAR spotted Thuram spitting at Hoffenheim defender Stefan Posch.

The incident happened just after Andrej Kramaric had equalised for Hoffenheim at Borussia Park.

Nine minutes after Thuram's dismissal, Tottenham loanee Ryan Sessegnon put Hoffenheim ahead when he tapped in a cross unmarked at the far post.

Gladbach, who face Manchester City in the last 16 of the Champions League in February, had gone



ahead when their captain Lars Stindl converted a first-half penalty.

Having made his France debut in November, this was the first time Thuram — the son of 1998 World Cup winner Lilian Thuram — has been sent off for Gladbach in his two seasons in Germany.

Gladbach, winless in their

last six games in all competitions, are now eighth in the league while Hoffenheim are up to 11th.

With league leaders Bayer Leverkusen hosting European champions Bayern Munich on Saturday night, RB Leipzig missed the chance to go top after being held to a goalless draw at home to Cologne.

The point leaves Leipzig second in the table on goal difference, but level on 28 points with Leverkusen.

Despite bringing in Dutch veteran Huub Stevens, 67, on Friday as their third coach this season, Schalke are now 29 games without a win after their 1-0 defeat at home to Arminia Bielefeld.

Bielefeld, who are also in the bottom three, secured the points thanks to a header from captain Fabian Klos.

Schalke are now just two games from the unwanted league record of 31 winless games, set by Tasmania Berlin in 1965/66.

Neymar out until Jan with ankle injury

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar is expected to miss Paris Saint-Germain's next two matches — and the remainder of 2020 — with an ankle injury that's not as bad as previously feared.

"Following the sprain to his left ankle, there is some bruising to the bone and he continues to undergo treatment at the training ground," PSG said in a statement on Saturday. "He is expected to make his return in January."

The 28-year-old will therefore be unavailable for PSG's clash against Lille on Sunday and Wednesday's encounter with Strasbourg.

Neymar already received a "reassuring" prognosis after being stretched off the pitch against Lyon last Sunday. Lyon midfielder Thiago Mendes, who tackled Neymar in second-half stoppage time, was sent off for the challenge. Neymar has scored nine goals in 12 matches across all competitions.

Messi matches Pele's record

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Lionel Messi scored his 643rd goal for Barcelona on Saturday to equal Pele's record of goals for a single club as the Spanish giants were held 2-2 by Valencia.

Messi headed in from Jordi Alba's cross after his first-half penalty was saved to equal the mark set by the Brazilian great for Santos.

But Messi was left frustrated as a dogged Valencia forced a draw that leaves Barcelona eight points behind leaders Atletico Madrid, who beat Elche 3-1 earlier in the day.

Barcelona started slowly and went a goal behind to Mouctar Diakhaby's unchallenged header from a corner after half an hour.

Antoine Griezmann earned the penalty that led to Messi's record-equaling goal when the Frenchman was nudged over by Jose Gaya.

Messi's spot-kick was saved by Jaume Domenech but the ball rebounded and from Alba's dinked cross, the Argentine



headed the ball into the net to draw level with Pele.

Barcelona went ahead thanks to a superb scissor kick from Uruguayan Ronald Araujo.

But Valencia's pressure was rewarded when Maxi Gomez got in front of Barca central defender Oscar Mingueza to turn in a cross and equalise.

Hazard set to return 'very soon'

AFP ■ MADRID

Eden Hazard will soon resume his injury-plagued Real Madrid career after recovering from a high problem, coach Zinedine Zidane said on Saturday.

Hazard has missed nearly 50 matches since joining Real from Chelsea in a deal worth up to 150 million euros in July 2019.

"We hope he will be back very soon," Zidane said in a

press conference before the champions face Eibar on Sunday.

"He is fine and he is almost completely recovered. He just needs a little more time. But he is training with us and he is very close to being able to get into the team and play."

Hazard, who was voted the Premier League's player of the year by his fellow players in 2015, was injured on November 28.

Philippe Coutinho drove a shot just wide with 12 minutes remaining and Messi curled a free-kick wide but Barcelona were forced to share the points.

Earlier at Wanda Metropolitano, Luis Suarez scored twice from close range in a 3-1 victory for Atletico Madrid against Elche to move Diego Simeone's side three points clear at the top of La Liga.

In a tight first half, Atletico wasted a clear chance to take the

lead when France forward Thomas Lemar drove the ball straight at Elche 'keeper Edgar Badia as the defence opened up.

Suarez was far more clinical in the 41st minute as the Uruguay forward got the slightest of touches to steer Kieran Trippier's cross past Badia to take the lead.

The former Barcelona and Liverpool attacker then stretched to poke a cross into the net in the 58th minute.

Chennaiyin beat FC Goa in ISL

PTI ■ MARGAO

Chennaiyin FC finally managed to log full points after five games, in the form of a 2-1 victory over FC Goa in the Hero Indian Super League at Fatorda Stadium here on Saturday.

In a game that saw 39 shots at goal, Rahim Ali (53rd minute) scored the match-winner after Jorge Ortiz (9th) cancelled out Rafael Crivellaro's (5th) opener.

It was an easy win for the visitors who should have finished with a bigger goal margin, had it not for their poor finishing.

Brandon Fernandes returned to the side as Goa coach Juan Ferrando named three changes to the line-up that lost against ATK Mohun Bagan with Aiban Dohling and George Ortiz being the other two.

Following their 0-0 draw against NorthEast United, Coach Csaba Laszlo preferred to start with influential midfielder Anirudh Thapa and Rafael Crivellaro. And the duo troubled the FC Goa defence from the first whistle.

Chennaiyin FC fired warning shots early in the game. Thapa made a darting run on the right and cut the ball back to an unmarked



Crivellaro. The latter's first-time shot was pushed behind by Mohammad Nawaz.

The visitors were soon ahead in the game and it came from a moment of individual brilliance. Crivellaro got his corner-kick to loop over the Goa defenders and land in goal.

But the lead lasted for just four minutes as the Gaurs came up with an instant response in the ninth minute. Ortiz found Alexander Jesuraj on the right who squared the ball back to the Spaniard. His shot found the roof of the net.

Chennaiyin displayed attacking prowess in the first half and should have been up by two or more goals. But a couple of missed sitters from Crivellaro and Lallianzuala Chhangte along with Nawaz's brilliance in the Goa goal saw the scores remain level.

The visitors had yet another chance to go ahead in the game just before the break but Chhangte failed to keep his composure in front of the goal.

Raegen's effort from left was saved by Nawaz but the

ball fell to an unmarked Chhangte who once again failed to direct his shot at goal, leaving Laszlo in agony on the touchline.

Nothing changed post resumption. Chennaiyin continued their poor form upfront with Crivellaro being the culprit this time. Chhangte played a low cross from the left to an unmarked Crivellaro, but he blazed his shot over the bar.

Brandon then tried his luck from a distance with a curling shot but Vishal Kaith did well to deny the Goan lad.

Chennaiyin finally got their deserved lead in the 53rd minute when Crivellaro kept his composure in beating Donachie before playing a low cross at the far post where second-half substitute Rahim Ali had little work to tap the ball into an empty net.

Had Chhangte scored with the opportunities he had in this game, he should have nearly completed his hat-trick by now. In the 77th minute, Ali set Chhangte through on goal from the edge of the box, but once again the former shot wide.

FC Goa tried their best through Igor Angulo and Ortiz to get the equaliser but Chennaiyin's defense was too tough to crack.

Aus Open confirm delayed start from Feb 8

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

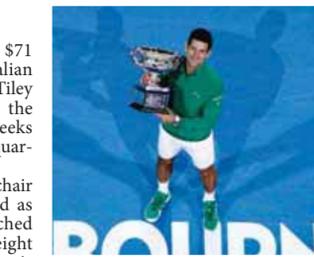
Players will compete for Aus \$71 million at next year's Australian Open, tournament chief Craig Tiley said on Saturday, confirming the Grand Slam will begin three weeks late and players must undergo quarantine.

Singles, doubles and wheelchair competitions will all be played as usual after agreement was reached to stage the event following eight months of talks between Tennis Australia and state authorities in Melbourne.

But the men's and women's qualifiers will be held in Doha and Dubai respectively from January 10-13 while the junior championships have been postponed until later in the year.

"This will be an historic Australian Open on so many levels," tournament director Tiley said in confirming the February 8-21 dates revealed by the ATP Tour last week. "For the first time in more than 100 years, the Australian Open will start in February and we look forward to offering the players what we believe will be one of their best playing experiences in 2021."

The tournament was originally due to begin on January 18 and players will now arrive in Australia from January 15 to serve two weeks of mandatory quarantine in a bio-



secure bubble, many of them coming from countries where the pandemic is still raging.

They are expected to stay at designated hotels but will reportedly be allowed to practise and exercise for up to five hours a day, shuttled between their accommodation and Melbourne Park, where the tournament is held.

A slimmed-down, 12-team ATP Cup, the relocated Adelaide International, and an ATP 250 tournament will all be held in Melbourne ahead of the Slam.

Two WTA 500 tournaments will be held concurrently in Melbourne Park on January 31-February 7.

Tiley said the Grand Slam prize money would remain at this year's Aus\$71 million, but more than Aus\$80 million would be at stake during the players' time in Australia.

Panghal clinches Gold without fight

Injured Satish bags Silver at Cologne WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World Silver-medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) notched up a Gold medal without having to fight his final bout, while veteran Satish Kumar (+91kg) settled for Silver after an injury prevented him from competing in his summit clash at the Cologne World Cup in Germany on Saturday.

Panghal was given a walkover by Germany's Argisht Terteryan.

Satish, who made the final after beating France's Djamil Dini Moindze in the semifinal on Friday night, had to withdraw against Germany's Nelvie Tiafack owing to an injury.

Also making the final were Sakshi and Manisha in the women's 57kg category. The two boxers will now take on each other in the final late on Saturday night.

While Manisha defeated two-time world champion Silver medal-winning compatriot Sonia Lather 5-0, Sakshi got the better of Germany's Ramona Graff 4-1.

However, Asian Games Bronze winner Pooja Rai settled for a Bronze medal after going down to the Netherlands' Nouchka Fontijn.

Also ending with Bronze medals were Mohammed Hussamuddin and Gaurav Solanki in the men's 57kg category.

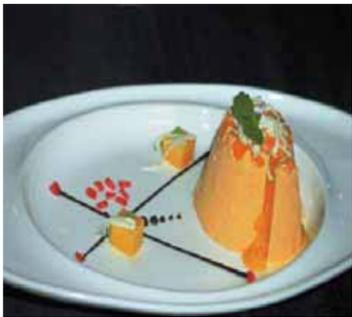
Hussamuddin lost to local hope Hamsat Shadalov. Solanki, on the other hand, was out-punched by Frenchman Samuel Kistohurry.





PLATE FULL OF XMAS CHEERS

With only five days left for Christmas, it is time to whip up some tasty treats and bid adieu to the year on a sweet note. SUNDAY PIONEER brings you some exclusive recipes



MANGO LAVA CHEESE CAKE

- Ingredients:**
- Milk Half cup
 - Corn flour 1 tsp
 - Sugar 1 tbsp
 - Mango pulp 1 cup
 - Gelatin 1 tsp
 - Whipped cream 1 and a half cup
 - Mascarpone cheese 2 tsp
 - Mango Essence two drops

- Method:**
- Mix cornflour in 2 tsp of hot milk and 1 tsp sugar. Add around one cup of mango pulp & two drops of essence into this mixture and keep aside.
 - Melt gelatin in hot water and add the same to mascarpone cheese to make it into a mixture.
 - Mix both the mixtures and add whipped cream.
 - Pour the mixture in a mould (save a little for topping) and put it in refrigerator for 3 hours.
 - Demould and make a hollow in between to fill the mango pulp.
 - After filling top with the remaining mixture, refrigerate it for 40 minutes.
 - Serve cold, topped with chopped mangoes or cheese crumble.

Courtesy: Gaurav Malhotra, Senior Sous Chef, The Ashok



DUNDEE CAKE

- INGREDIENTS:**
- Butter 1 1/2 cup
 - Brown sugar 1 cup
 - Eggs 5
 - Refined flour 1 1/4 cups
 - Baking powder One and a half tsp
 - Orange marmalade 2 tsp
 - Crushed almonds 1cup
 - Raisins 2 cups
 - Orange peel Half cup
 - Orange rind 2 tsp
 - Lemon rind 1 tsp
 - Dark rum 4 tsp
 - Blanched skinless almonds Half cup

- Method:**
- Soak raisins, orange peel, crushed almonds, lemon rind and orange rind with rum for 4 hours.
 - Cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time until light.
 - Combine flour with baking powder and put it into the wet mixture of step 2.
 - Add in the soaked fruit.
 - Spread the batter into a foil-lined round baking pan. Arrange the blanched almonds on top.
 - Bake at 165 degrees C for about 1 1/2 hours, until an inserted wooden pick comes out clean.
 - Remove cake from pan and serve hot.

Courtesy: Executive Chef Abhijeet Thakre, Taj City Centre Gurugram

CHRISTMAS PIES

- INGREDIENTS FOR PIE FILLING:**
- Black Currants Half cup
 - Sweet Bread Crumbs 1 1/2 cup
 - Raisins Yellow 100 gm
 - Almonds Whole 40 gm
 - Candied Orange Peel 5 tbsp
 - Candied Lemon Peel 6 tbsp
 - Candied Mix Peel 6 tbsp
 - Coroncha 3 tbsp
 - Whiskey 1 tsp
 - Wine Sula Red 2 tsp
 - Rum Old Monk 2 tsp

- Tart shells as a pie base As required
- INGREDIENTS FOR SWEET DOUGH:**
- Butter Half cup
 - Icing Sugar 18090 gm
 - Salt A pinch
 - Almond Powder 2 tsp
 - Eggs 2
 - Flour 1 cup

- METHOD:**
- Pre heat the oven to 200 degrees C and keep ready.
 - In a clean bowl, soak all the fruit and nuts in alcohol for half an hour.
 - Then add the sweet bread crumbs to it and mix well. Mix all of them to make a soft and clean dough.
 - With a rolling pin roll the dough into a thin, cut out a disc of 6 inch diameter with a pastry cutter. Keep the disc in a plate and refrigerate for 5 hours.
 - Now, use the tart shells as a base and fill the mix till the top. Keep it ready.



- Brush egg white on the edges of the tart shell and cover it with the sweet paste disc and place it in the oven for 12 minutes with the top heat 50 and side and the bottom heat should be zero.
- When the top crust is baked take it out of the oven and cool it on a wire rack.
- For serving, place lovely Christmas decorations on top and dust it with icing sugar.

- SWEET PASTE METHOD:**
- Cream the butter and add a pinch of salt, almonds, icing sugar, eggs and 120g of flour. Do not beat it.
 - When the mix is homogenous, add the remaining flour as short a time as possible.
 - Refrigerate for at least 5 hours before using.

Courtesy: The Chocolate Box and Lounge, Radisson Blu MBD Hotel Noida



PEPPERMINT MOCHA

- INGREDIENTS:**
- Espresso shot 30 ml, milk (one cup), unsweetened chocolate (one tsp), mint extract (four to five drops)

- METHOD:**
- Heat milk and add unsweetened chocolate to it. Mix well. Once done, add four-five drops of mint extract. Take the mixture off heat, add the coffee shot and mix well.
 - Serve it hot and garnish with mint leaves. Goes best with Rum Cake siders.

Courtesy: Renuka VS, Senior Barista at SLAY Coffee

OLIVE & TOMATO PASTA

- INGREDIENTS:**
- Spaghetti 160 gm
 - Olive oil 1.5 tbsp
 - Onions 50 gm
 - Garlic (finely chopped) 2 tsp
 - Capers 2 tsp
 - Marinara Sauce 240 ml
 - Parmesan cheese 1 tsp
 - Cherry tomato 5
 - Black olives 1 tsp
 - Parsley 1 tsp

- METHOD:**
- Heat oil in a pan, sauté onions for 10 minutes or till they turn translucent.
 - Add finely chopped garlic and sauté until it turns brown, add capers (a form of Jalapeno) and marinara sauce. Bring to simmer, reduce heat and cook the sauce for 15 minutes.
 - To boil spaghetti, take a heavy bottom pan, add half litre of water, 1 tsp salt and 1 tsp of olive oil. Let the water come to a boil and add the spaghetti. Boil for 15 minutes. Take out the spaghetti in a colander, run through cold water and drain the remaining water.
 - Add the boiled spaghetti to the sauce and toss well.
 - Place spaghetti nicely on a serving plate and garnish with parmesan flakes, olives and parsley. Serve hot.



Courtesy: Gaurav Malhotra, Senior Sous Chef, The Ashok

BE SOMEONE'S SECRET SANTA

No festival is complete without a gift. And if its Christmas, then it goes without saying that you have to be someone's Santa and gift them something they will remember for life.



No jewellery, no fun: Spreading bliss beats and chirpy cheer, Kohinoor Jewellers Agra presents its tweaked version of 'Christmas Treats'. A curation of prized endowments that are truly a reflection of everything Christmas-y. The santa's red to wreath's green, the snowflakes to treetop stars, the assortment is an endearing fusion of festive designs and wearable jewels. Featuring striking gemstones in alluring baubles, this gifting collection promises a cherished gift for your loved ones. Price: On request



For a glamorous collection: Celebrate this holiday season with the Kiko Milano Holiday Gems Collection: a line-up of festive gems bringing a contemporary twist on classic beauty. Treat yourself to a look guaranteed to make you feel holiday ready or pick from a range of gifts your friends will be delighted to unwrap and treasure, all packaged in rich emerald green and gold packaging inspired by decorations and ornaments. It's the most wonderful time of the year — and Kiko Milano is ready to celebrate it with you



Steaming cup of happiness: Choose from a variety of Roastery Coffee for gifting this season to let your loved ones enjoy a pleasurable home brewing experience. The range includes Harley Estate Grapa, Black Honey (Balur Estate), Monsoon Malabar, Thogarihunkal Estate Honey Sundried Coffee, Carbonic Maceration (Harley Estate), to name a few. Apart from coffee beans, one can also buy coffee sachets and equipment from Roastery Coffee. Roastery coffee beans are available in packaging of 250 gms, 500 gms and 1kg.



Charms on your feet: This festive season you can gift your loved ones a personalised pair of Classic clogs from Crocs. The Crocs Classic collection has the perfect footwear for everyone in your family with the iconic Croslite technology, giving you the ultimate comfort. You can personalise your favourite pair of Classic clogs with Jibbitz charms which are a fun, symbolic and sentimental way to represent your unique self to the world. Jibbitz charms allow you to make your favourite Crocs uniquely 'you'.



Amp up your style quotient: Woods presents the party collection, crafted for men & women, the range consists of Ankle Strap Sandals, Block heels & statement sling backs for women to add the glam quotient to your western and ethnic outfits effortlessly. And for Men, extensive formal loafers, blingy shoes, trendy slip-ons made from the exquisite quality material is all set to redefine your laid-back style quotient. Conquer this festive season, with the perfect footwear picks for you & your loved ones by Woods.



Personal touch: This Christmas let's unwrap the miracle and bring a cheerful smile to your loved ones' face with the perfect personalised gifts by FernsNPetals designed to make this festival even more memorable. From Xmas themed Personalised LED cushion to Merry Christmas bottles, mugs and surprises filled X-mas stockings, all these gifts can be further customised for a personal touch to surprise the recipient. Other than these amazing gifts, the diverse Christmas gifting catalogue also contains Gift Hampers, Flower bouquets, chocolates, and much more.

the pioneer agenda



Everyone has been discriminated against or harassed — sexism is real — Scarlett Johansson



FROM THE INSIDE

Remove those impediments

If left unguided, one may face numerous roadblocks along their way to spiritual seeking. Make effort in the right direction

2



4

You can write your destiny

By turning your attention inwards, you can make necessary amends through fresh inputs to rewrite your destiny



Gardens and pavilions of Gyeongbokgung Palace

THE HERITAGE PALACES AND TRADITIONAL VILLAGES OF MODERN SEOUL

On the Trail of Buddha — A Journey to the East by DEEPANKAR ARON is a unique sojourn in search of the spiritual, philosophical, and cultural linkages that bind India to the East Asian civilisations. It discovers the unity in diversity of cultures connected by two thousand miles of the Silk Road and separated by two thousand years of history. An edited excerpt:

The traditional Korean greeting *Anyeong hasseyo* means 'Are you peaceful?'. Indeed, there is not one, but many a unique experience and peaceful encounters that can define the wonderful Korean experience.

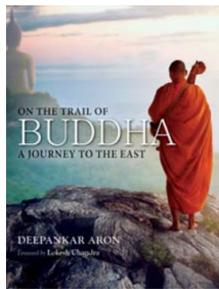
I was ruminating on the three giant gold-plated Buddha statues at the Jogyesa Temple, wondering at the calm and tranquillity they exuded, even after 2600 years of Buddha's nirvana, when a monk passing by stopped with a smile on his face and asked, 'Are you Indian?' Soon he presented his card — he was a Doctorate in Religious Studies.

JOGYESA

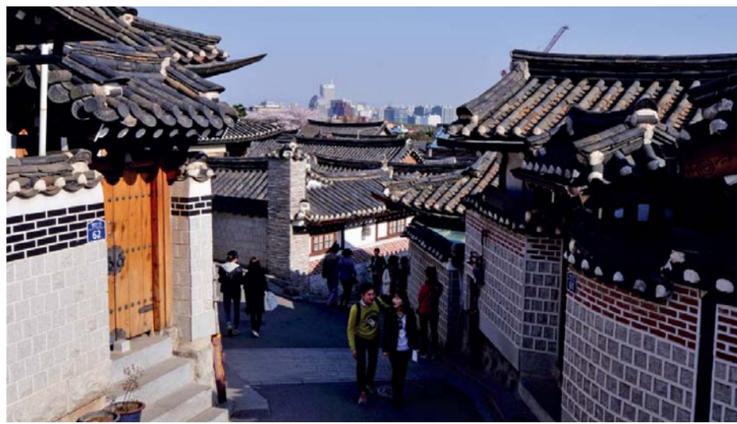
I was at Jogyesa, the main Buddhist temple in Seoul, which belongs to the leading sect of Buddhism in Korea called the Jogye Order. Known as Chan Buddhism in China and Zen Buddhism in Japan, it came to Korea from China, about 1200 years ago, when the Korean master, Taego Bowu went to China and became the 57th Patriarch of Buddhism and the first in Korea. He followed the teachings of the 1st Patriarch of China, the Indian monk Bodhidharma or Damo, who in turn was the 28th Indian Patriarch. Today, close to 20,000 monks and 20 million people in Korea follow this order. The temple, the biggest in Seoul today, was expanded in a big way in 1938 by adding the main wooden hall, Daeungjeon, which houses three giant images of the Amitabha, the Historical Buddha and the Medicine Buddha.

For a temple as large as this, it was conspicuously quiet. People were silently offering prayers, sitting over mats spread on the floor of the main hall. An elderly lady saw me and offered to take my photo from my camera without my having suggested so. I took hers too, reciprocating her warmth and affection.

Modern Seoul is vibrant with fashionable young professionals who believe in the work-hard-play-hard culture. Notwithstanding the absence of fluency in English, their business-



SEOUL IS FAST EMERGING AS THE 'NEW DESIGN CAPITAL' OF THE WORLD, SPRINKLED WITH ART GALLERIES AT EVERY NOOK AND CORNER OF THE CITY, WITH MULTI-STOREYED MARKETS SELLING ARTISTIC SOUVENIRS, MUSEUMS, AND HANDICRAFT SHOPS GIVING WORKSHOPS ON POTTERY MAKING, ETC



The rooftops of Bukchon Hanok village

like approach manifests in various ways — be it the 22000 USD per capita GDP, which was less than USD 100 in 1953; the meteoric rise of South Korean economy, which is Asia's third-biggest economy today, or the legendary emergence of not just Hyundai or Samsung brands, but so many others. It could be felt in the interactions with any Korean — from the presentations of my Korean Custom department friends to the absolute professional homework of the tour guide, who took us on a tour of the World Heritage Site of Gyeongbokgung Palace. For example, to explain the concept of 'ondol', the traditional heating system of Korean homes, our tour guide drew out a proper schematic diagram to show the generation of heat and the consequent hot air and its movement under the floor made up of stones and clay.

Seoul is fast emerging as the 'New Design Capital' of the world, sprinkled with art galleries at every nook and corner of the city, with multi-storeyed markets selling artistic

it was recreated in downtown Seoul after demolishing buildings that covered a stream that used to flow there in the past as well.

Gyeongbokgung Palace

The colours of Korea can be best savoured during the hourly 'change of guards' ceremony at Gyeongbokgung Palace, bringing alive the glory of 600 years of Joseon rule, until about the last century. The colourful guards stand in sharp contrast to the serenity of the palace and its simple architecture. Hanyang (old name of Seoul) was chosen as the capital of Joseon dynasty (1392-1910), as per *fengshui*, because it was surrounded by four mountains in the four directions.

The best example of traditional 'Joseon Korea' for me was the Bukchon Hanok village with hundreds of traditional Korean houses or hanoks, with a central courtyard, like the hutongs of Beijing or the traditional houses of India. We loitered, drifted and lost our way again and again in its narrow alleys while staring at the ever-changing compositions of rooftops, doors, and sloping alleys, framed by a riot of cherry blossoms.

Korea has become a developed country, but that has not taken away the warmth and hospitality of the Koreans. The fight to pick up the bill with Joon, my local Korean friend, or the touching gesture of Mr Jang bringing me Korean coins for my collection, shall linger on forever.

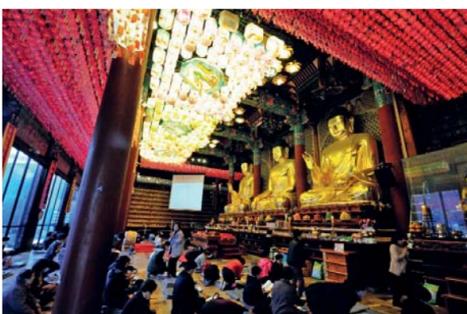
As I leave Seoul, I hope to visit it in future at the time of the Yeon Deung Hoe or the Lotus Lantern festival, celebrated annually, a few days prior to Buddha's birthday, when hundreds of thousands of lanterns are lit up and carried in an evening procession from Dongdaemun (Great Eastern Gate of the Seoul Fortress) to Jogyesa — a 1300-year-old tradition, dating from the times of the Silla dynasty.

Excerpted with permission from *On the trail of Buddha: A Journey to the East* by Deepankar Aron, Niyogi Books, ₹1,995



A glimpse of traditional Seoul

souvenirs, museums, and handicraft shops giving workshops on pottery making, etc. Artists can be seen making live paintings while music wafts from the streets where performers play. The cynosure of this 'Designer Seoul' is the Cheonggyecheon, a lovely stream with a beautiful promenade running along with it. More than 8 km long



Daeungjeon, the sanctum sanctorum of Jogyesa with its holy trinity



Peace and solitude at Jogyesa



Pavilions inside the Korean palaces with traditional Korean architecture



Traditional Korean dance



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Demystifying spirituality



We will be entering the third decade of the 21st century in a few days. This is an era of artificial intelligence and machine learning. Yet we find that the attraction towards spirituality is growing in human beings as they are swaying between hope and despair due to the impact of the pandemic. Solace is in great demand. Information and analytics do not seem to provide succour in these times of turbulence. Humanity needs peace more than the data. In fact, desperation is clearly discernible as the humanity is turning towards spirituality to find a way out. Even the age groups and the classes that were usually not much fancied with the idea of spirituality are leaning towards it. The youth cutting across gender, the affluent with high disposable incomes and even the high flying executives have started embracing spirituality. As Management schools start introducing courses on spirituality Quotient and the corporate houses emphasise spirituality at workplace, the ecosystem is in a state of readiness to accept spirituality. Whether all this is due to some realisation about the futility of material endeavours, or a need for reprieve from the pandemic pressure is yet not clear. But that notwithstanding, it certainly is a welcome sign as it will slowly lead to the enrichment of the society that is in urgent need of a paradigm shift to reinvent itself. Though commerce is still the driving force for most people, yet minimalism as a way of life is finding favour, frugal being no less fashionable than extravagant. Even this little change in mind-set augurs well for humanity. However, there is something that we need to guard against. Growth of spirituality has created an opportunity for even the clever operators who find this as a chance to capitalise on. So we are seeing the rise of charlatans alongside the genuine. There is so much noise about spirituality that its essence is getting diluted. The proverbial empty vessels are making more noise. Quite an irony that spirituality itself has become an instrument of commerce with self-styled gurus of different hues occupying center stage. The idea of spirituality is getting clouded by many shades of grey. Spirituality needs to be understood in right perspective. It is not about renouncing the world, the way the term is popularly used. Walking away from the world to find peace in the Himalayas or the jungle is not renunciation. Renunciation is about detachment from materialistic possessions. Being a yogi in the world is more about duties that the divine has entrusted to the human beings who are supposed to be the highest form of creation. The duty to be righteous and committed to one's duty without craving for its fruits. That is what renunciation is all about. To perform *Nishkam Karma* as the *Gita* tells us. *Karma* or duty is a must. Spirituality is not inaction. It is virtuous action, dedicating the duty to God. The world is not *Maya* or illusion. It is real and meant to be lived. What is illusion is the attachment, the desires and the cravings. That is the *Maya* which is impermanent. Duty is not just a job. Duty is the contribution one makes to this world in making it better. Job or no job, human beings have a duty. It has to be understood that renunciation is a state of mind rather than being. An attitude, a commitment.

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REMOVE THOSE IMPEDIMENTS

If left unguided, one may face numerous roadblocks along their way to spiritual seeking. You must make an extra effort in the right direction, writes HINGORI



Spirituality and spiritual practices have always been considered a virtue of saints. The current day sees a larger majority of the world learning or practicing spirituality in some form or the other. The science of spirituality is being decoded. As many embark upon this new journey, if left unguided, they may face numerous impediments on their way. Like any new skill one learns, there are always some bumps along the road, some impediments, something to lead you astray. The choice you have is to either find yourself unable to progress, or make an extra effort in the right direction and cross the roadblock. Some of the more common impediments faced by most are:

MIND
The most important and strongest impediment lies within ourselves, our minds. We have been nurtured and molded to conform to a particular norm. Religion is one of the biggest contributors when it comes to conditioning as a deep-seated unflinching belief that cannot be questioned. Religion is commonly mistaken to be synonymous with spirituality. This may keep our focus outside of us where we bow to idols of deities instead of embarking on the journey of self-enquiry and seeking the divinity with-

in. As opposed to reliance on any external factor, spirituality requires a deep practice of contemplation on 'who am I' and 'how do I elevate my spirit, *aatma*'. Each religion began with the aim of leading an individual out of the cycle of birth and rebirth, but over millennia, it has metamorphosed with the times and changed its focus, creating limitations and rituals that are seemingly easier to follow and more appealing to people. Spirituality is all about the self, the *aatma*, its upliftment, how best to live in the world of *maya*, how to look beyond the veil of *maya*.

Another big impediment to spiritual growth is guilt. Guilt is a creation of 'ownership' and is created in our minds. It is not about not being a nice person, or being fair. Rather, guilt stems from ignorance of the true nature of reality and a lack of understanding of the concepts of *maya*, destiny, *samskara* and *karma* yoga. The intellect that is intent on adding logic and rationale to the experience where there may be none, creates yet another barrier. If anything does not fit the framework of the known, it is rejected by those who hold their intellect in high esteem.

EXPERIENCE
This can be an impediment in two ways — both the lack of it and the presence of it. Lack of experience could be

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES CAN EASILY BE MISTAKEN FOR COINCIDENCES, PREMONITIONS, OR NOT BE NOTICED AT ALL AND RATHER DISMISSED AS PURE HAPPENSTANCE, IF ONE DOESN'T RECEIVE PROPER GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTION

a result of other impediments such as lack of self-effort or an inability to recognise growth.

Spiritual experiences can easily be mistaken for coincidences, premonitions, or not be noticed at all and rather dismissed as pure happenstance, if one doesn't receive proper guidance. Often, people try to find logic in practices and bend the instruction to a more appealing or comfortable form, leading to their spiritual practices never maturing into spiritual experiences. People often get bored by the repetitive chanting of a *mantra* and self-enquiry and over time the excitement wanes. Little do they realise that for a *mantra* to be '*siddhi*' or realised, it could take up to decades — and this is if it has been given to you by a '*siddhi guru*', else it could even take a few lifetimes. However in this world of instant gratification, the results are sought in a manner similar to cooking noodles.

On the other hand there are some who get 'hooked on', for lack of a better word, to these experiences once they realise them. It is a fact, that consistent practice of yoga leads to the developing of abilities of some form or other. A person not under proper instruction, or one who simply finds himself steered in the wrong direction, may get deeply attached to these experiences. The result of this deep attachment is the

inability to progress any further.

SUBTLE INFLUENCES:

There are some factors that impede our progress which we cannot directly control and among these are the planetary trends. The astrological charts that are a function of our past journey play an important role in the journey of the future too. After making significant progress, for 10 years of my life, there came a period where I was unable to experience any spiritual growth. I was despondent and tried everything I could — did more *seva*, more *mantra vidya*, more meditation, more focus on my *guna* mix, but nothing worked. And as easily as the progress stalled, with the next phase of the planetary positions, it came right back. It was a frustrating period of endless wait, however I made sure that I did not abandon the journey midway.

As we evolve spiritually, there is another element that can impede progress — *chakras*. This is typically true in the early days where we are unable to detach from the physical world and are in an exploratory mode, having had some powerful experiences. At this stage, the belief is strong however the practice is at an initial stage. It is here that the '*chakras*' play a role. It is my belief that the *chakras* comprise magnetic energy and upon spiritual awareness they create a pull of consciousness towards them. What impedes the progress for many, is the pull created by the initial *chakras* that do not allow the consciousness to move towards the higher levels.

THE SPIRITUAL GUIDE

How can a spiritual guide possibly become an impediment? The real question to answer is, how does one identify a '*siddhi guru*' or an accomplished teacher who can help you on the path? There will be many who don the robes and have the right kind of 'brand appeal and packaging'. But, how many of them have experienced '*gati*' or speed of the spirit, have experienced singularity — even if for a few seconds, have had out-of-body experiences, had encounters with spirits, how many have the ability to heal or change what is apparently destined. Unfortunately, very few. And most of the truly enlightened *gurus* are out there, dressed normally, speaking to teach and not impress, not bothered about the set notions of a 'saint's appearance'. Then again, it is the *guru* who will find you when you are destined to be found. So all you can do is have faith that when the time is right, your journey to enlightenment will begin.

The writer is the author of Hingori Sutras series of spiritual books

Music as creative centre

Creativity stems from a place of silence and space. It is a place where there are no rules, no boundaries and time stands still, says NITHYA RAJENDRAN

When we look at anything beautiful, we can see the work of a creative mind or creative force behind it, be it man-made marvels like art and sculpture, or natural wonders such as hills, oceans and forests. The former is a result of man's brilliant creative mind at its best, and the latter, the creative genius of the universal divine force. Creativity in turn stems from a place of silence and space, a place where there are no rules and no boundaries. A place where time stands still... So, if spirituality and creativity are so closely linked, it might be useful for us to understand how we can tune into our spiritual selves, and unleash our creativity with Indian Classical music.

The lineage of Indian classical music stems from the *Vedas*, giving it depth, and a divinity which remains unsurpassed. Since the *Vedas* themselves are odes to nature and the creative life forces like the sun, the air and the earth, it is no surprise that singing Indian Classical *Raagas* and *Swars* brings us very close to nature, and by extension, its creative forces.

It is no rocket science that a walk on dewy grass, or the smell of monsoon earth, brings us to a state of peace and bliss, a state most conducive to creativity. Engaging in a soul-stirring *Raaga* is no different. Looking at it another way, the gamut of emotions that are stirred in us by the different combinations of flat and sharp notes in classical music, resonate with the varied colors of emotion that we feel as human beings. When this identification happens, we are disarmed and free to express. This expression takes the form of unbridled creativity.

I would like to share the anecdote of a four-year-old child attending a music session. Considering her young age, the teacher decided, one day, to give in to the child's desire to doodle on a piece of



paper, instead of having her sit in for a formal session. But, in order to make the most of the class, the teacher put on a *shloka* in *Raag Hansadhvani* in the background, just to keep the mood of the class intact. The child kept silent through the class as she kept creating small pieces of art with her tiny hands. This went on for a couple of more sessions, much to the teacher's apprehension that formal learning was not happening.

A few days later, the teacher got a call from the child's very excited mother. She described how the child had been frequently humming the *shloka* in *Raag Hansadhvani*, along with creating beautiful art! She was overjoyed, not only at how the child was able to sing and paint simultaneously, but also at the fact that the child seemed to be doing these from a space of happiness and spontaneity.

What had really happened was that the child's creative side had opened up in an environment of classical music, even though she did not actually sing in the

sessions. Not only did the music penetrate her without her knowledge, it also created a soothing and disarming environment for her art to flourish, and she was left much happier at the end of it all.

This is a simple but powerful testament to the enormous power of music to open up our creative side. Indian Classical music indeed holds immense potential as a route to spirituality, and therefore to our creativity. It is emotionally disarming, so it sets the stage for our innermost abilities to come forth without fear of judgement or criticism. This is fertile ground for the endless possibilities of our emotions and imagination to find a way to paint themselves in the canvas of our real world through boundless creativity.

It is time we allowed our creative selves to come forth in a flourish. What easier way to do this than with just a small dose of Indian classical music everyday!

The writer is a versatile Indian Classical vocalist with over 30 years of training

How involved is God?

The creation must be unitary for it to exist. This arrangement is good for us, because it is controlled by God, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

God is fully involved, much more than we can imagine or give Him credit for. In the *Bhagavad Gita*, Lord Krishna has stated in unequivocal terms about the degree of His involvement, "I am engaged in action only. Because it is essential that I am carefully engaged in action. If I do not act, then all these worlds will be destroyed. (3.22-24) Then, in the thirteenth chapter, He states: "Having limbs on all sides; having eyes, head and mouth on all sides; having ears on all sides, He is situated in this world pervading all." (13.13) He states again, "God only is outside and inside of all living entities, and situated far away also, and nearby too; it is He only." (13.15) This is not all. God knows everything which goes on in our minds. (13.2)

This is a God-centric creation, and it suits us. Imagine a headless company. Will it be sustainable? The creation must be unitary for it to exist. This arrangement is good for us, because it is controlled by God. Normally, the *karmaphala* principle is applicable to all of us souls, which is: what we sow, we reap. However for devotees of God, there is special treatment. The very best get help in getting what they do not have and security of what they have. (9.22) For devotees like me, God helps us in crossing all impediments by His grace. (18.58) This is wonderful for me, because in this impermanent place of miseries. (8.15) I am assured of His help and guidance at all times. Additionally, God makes sure that "*dharma*" does not suffer decline (4.7), this is good for *dharma* obeying persons like me. God's plans are logical. He wants us to take shelter of Him only. Then, by His mercy we will achieve supreme



peace and His eternal abode. (18.62) What could be better? God promises us that if we follow His instructions, i.e. align our plans with His. The difficulty arises from our free will, which entitles us to desire freely and decide for ourselves. God does not ever withdraw our free will. Because if He did, we will all become robots, God being all-powerful. So what does God do to help us? He preaches. Anyone who has read the *Gita* thoroughly will realise how much God has tried to convince us to follow His instructions, which give us unimaginable benefits. Chapter after chapter, Lord Krishna has argued in so many ways to convince us to follow the spiritual path; give up getting entangled in earthly attractions. God is not against enjoyment but that should be proper, i.e. according to *dharma*. (7.11) Fortunate souls realise the advantages of obeying God's instructions. They can see that the Cosmic Design is in our favour. For God, there is neither anything remaining to be obtained by Him nor there is anything worth get-

ting for Him; God is complete in all respects. The Cosmic Design is such that even in this impermanent place of miseries, we can experience eternal bliss. (5.21) We just have to pay more attention to what God is trying to convey to us through scriptures, to preachers like Adi Shankracharya, and to good souls; there is no lack of them. Not only should we listen to God but realise that He is our biggest benefactor. Imagine a world without the omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent God. What kind of mess we will be in. Even with God so actively involved, we find multiple ways to get in trouble.

Therefore, let us become sensible; pay attention to what God has instructed. His active involvement is also good for us in becoming better persons. I have realised the importance of bringing God in my life in a very substantial way. My life has never been so fruitful. I am really blessed to have God so involved in my life.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

Reversing Trumpism a challenge for Biden

Joe Biden has emerged as the new President-elect in the electoral firmament of the United States and unarguably will take a star and striped avatar in the larger international ecosystem and the political sphere of the American homeland as the most powerful man on the Earth. We are not biding for a superhero but in a way we are referring to the tumult and the histrionics which accompany quintessential American Presidential elections. The million dollar question is that how deftly and quickly New Delhi can change its loyalties to a true blue ally from the heady days of President Donald Trump to a much sombre looking Joe Biden, whose creditworthiness is further augmented as he supported the Indo-US Nuclear deal in 2008 during the times of President George Bush Jr.

The remarkable was the incumbent President's resentment, "I had such a big lead in all of these states late into election night, only to see the leads miraculously disappear as the days went by. Perhaps these leads will return as our legal proceedings move forward!" over losing Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia, after a surprising victory in Florida and North Carolina. As the voting lead of 37,000 votes from the electoral hustings and buntings from Pennsylvania began filtering in, the American Vice President-elect, Kamala Harris, gleefully posted on her Facebook wall, "Congratulations, Joe, we have done it, You are going to be the 46th President of the US."

Biden has attempted to move away from the quintessential American Dream dream of by American historian John Truslow Adams as he reiterated in his acknowledgement speech in Delaware that the pained American soul would be reinstated during his term as the American President in January 2021 as he stressed upon the context of the United States of America requiring a re-building and reorientation in a larger international system which reeks with reformed



President-elect Joe Biden and his wife Jill Biden walk from St. Joseph on the Brandywine Roman Catholic Church in Wilmington, Del, on Friday

AP

multilateralism.

Joe Biden has been anointed as the 47th President-elect of the most powerful nation-state in the broader international system. Subsequently, the incumbent President, Donald Trump, declaring to cooperate with the transition process despite his misgivings about the "rigged elections," the road to the White House looks clear for Biden and his Vice Presidential mate, Kamala Harris.

Antony Blinken is the new Secretary of State designate, who boasts of a diplomatic family background and has been a Deputy National Security Adviser to the President years back. He has gone on record with the official verbiage that the Joe Biden

ameliorative measure to "Bring America Back" is all slated to repudiate the Trump myth and lore of "America First and Make America Great Again (MAGA)." This can serve as a stately change which the nomenclature which the context of US policy will receive under the suzerainty of Biden.

The seat of the Secretary of Defense might go to Michelle Foulrouny, who, along with Antony Blinken, worked at a consultancy firm called West exec. Thus, the masterminds and experts of the previous democrat's tenure under Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama will be leveraged in the Biden cabinet. Also, still, one aspect is a certainty that the left-centre leaders of the order of Bernie

Sanders and Elizabeth Warren are not being considered for the Biden cabinet as the chiefly centrist orientation of the White House has been strengthened. To place the Biden Presidency in an early days' dilemma, Bernie Sanders, who was also a strong candidate for the position of Democrat's nomination, has railed against the President-elect's nomination decisions.

Biden has decided to go stealthy on China, but the cooperative idiom rolled into the administration's policy towards the taloned dragon appears to be inclined towards engagement than containment. Biden had declared in his informal acceptance speech that on the first day of his Presidency,

he would reverse the Trumpism of a proposed withdrawal from the World Trade Organization, World Health Organization and the Paris Climate Change Pact, and strengthen the ties with European allies. Biden has emphasised that "American Global outreach" will receive a fillip, and the grandiloquent American retreat, as a policy, will witness a sea change. The President-elect has contended that the partnership between India and the United States would definitely sail through as one of the most valuable bilateral trusts in the times to come. Thus, India is all set to gain diplomatically but the human rights conundrum which is often associated with the Democratic posturing can

cause a flutter as far as the internal security issues are concerned. The question that will soon be answered is whether we are going all the way back to the Bill Clinton and Barrack Obama days.

Biden has had to match up to the myriad challenges as have been posed by the legal challenges unleashed by the Republican machinery led by the grudgingly outgoing President. The US District Judge, Linda Parker, has contended that she rejects the legal challenge launched by President Trump as a matter of questioning the fungibility of the electoral process being part of the quintessential Democratic process and such imagined barbs at the system do not behave well for the tra-

dition and the seat of power at the White House. President Trump has lost nearly all the legal challenges at the states while he gloats over the victory in Florida and Ohio. The decisions of the State assemblies are deemed to be full and replete with finality and the Democrats are raising the theme that outgoing President is not conceding defeat at the hustings and is attempting a situation, where in, he is not relinquishing power with grace and honour.

Anyway, it seems to be the fact that India soon needs to mend its ways and Prime Minister Narendra Modi needs to initiate quick bridge-building with Biden. Maybe, Modi would be well placed to activate the phalanx of diplomatists to the Capitol Hill and the White House in a full throttled PR exercise which they had done so diligently during the Trump era. The manner in which success was achieved at the Nuclear Supplier Groups and the momentum generated during the global debate to usher in a new definition of terrorism at the United Nations need to be replicated with the utmost zeal as India is partnering with the United States to solve the "troubles" of the twilight zone that Afghanistan is since the initiation of the great game two in South and Central Asia.

The advent of Biden augurs as advantageous to the larger international system, still a forecasted soft policy vis a vis the recalcitrant People's Republic of China tethered on the brink of being labelled as a rogue state. Biden has ounces of political and diplomatic quantum to prove as the American President and a mere Trump bashing will only leave the high pedestal of the White House pulpit tarred and marred. Authenticity in leadership and political discourse in the aftermath of the Trumpism is what Biden will be tested and tried for!

(The writer teaches at International Relations and International Organisations, IIPA, New Delhi)

Joe Biden has to prove his political and diplomatic skills to stand tall as the President of the world's sole superpower. A mere Trump bashing will only leave the high pedestal of the White House pulpit tarred and marred. Authenticity in leadership and political discourse in the aftermath of the Trumpism is what Biden will be tested and tried for



MANAN DWIVEDI

PERSPECTIVE

France at the crossroads of liberty vs Islamophobia

Article 24 of the New Security Bill has given impetus to already fierce debate, within France and outside, on its relations with Islam and Muslims, particularly after the brutal beheading of French schoolteacher Samuel Paty, who was accused of committing the sin of showing to his students the Charlie Hebdo's 2012 cartoons depicting Prophet Muhammad

The New Security Bill (NSB) proposed and passed by the Lower House of the French Parliament is creating a big controversy across the country. In totality the Bill has 32 articles dealing with a broad range of issues such as road security to drones to how municipal police are to be organised. Out of all, the Article 24 which is included in Chapter 4 of the NSB is drawing maximum controversy from across the world starting from rights groups to UN Human Rights agencies. Article 24 of the new Bill would now prevent people to publish images of police officers in action.

This has moved thousands to the street demanding its immediate repeal. And people say this violates basic freedoms guaranteed under the French Constitution. The NSB has started a long debate on secularism or what in French language called "laicite".

The UN Human Rights head, Michelle Bachelet, called on the French Government to withdraw the new law, particularly Article 24 which may curb freedom to share images identifying police. She says the law should be discussed by the French people and the Article 24 should be withdrawn.

In response to this, the Emmanuel Macron administration stated that it would rewrite that article that curbs rights to circulate images of police officers.

If we unearth the background to the NSB, we can easily say it has emerged after the brutal murder of French schoolteacher Samuel Paty on October 16, 2020, in a suburb of Paris city.

He was beheaded by

Islamic terrorist named Abdoullakh Abouyedovich Anzorov, an ethnic Chechen refugee staying in France. Referring to the terrorist-murderer, Paty committed the crime of showing his students the Charlie Hebdo's 2012 cartoons depicting Prophet Muhammad. And it was done in a class to impart the students the very sense of freedom of expression. This gruesome murder of the teacher had forced thousands to descend on the roads demanding immediate action from the Government against the growing incidents of Islamic terror across the country.

France remains traumatised by a series of Islamic terror strikes that killed many in 2015. As much as the Charlie Hebdo killings, the brutal beheading of Paty has demonstrated a direct assault on one of the main pillars of the French Republic i.e. the secular public school system and the very right to freedom of speech.

Meanwhile, the far-right leader and tipped to be the principal challenger for Macron in 2022 presidential poll, Marine le Pen has said, "This situation calls for a strategy of reconquest. Islamism is a bellicose ideology whose means of conquest is terrorism." In fact her party has been targeting the Muslims and migrants for the last nearly half a century.

President Macron has already started a campaign against what he calls Islamic separatism. Besides, by vowing to fight the Islamic terror and recognising Paty's act as a freedom of expression, Macron is highlighting the importance of



national security and the very importance of the basic values established by the Constitution of France. But many say Macron is eyeing a large vote base belonging to the right-wing which could help him win the presidency again in 2022. Therefore his speech after the murder of Paty clearly reinforced the idea to the French people that a large group of violent Muslim contingent is there in the suburbs, waiting for an opportunity to tear down the basic ethos of French society.

He also describes Islamic separatism as a deviation of Islam which is "a conscious, theorised, politico-religious project which is materialised with repeated discrepancies with

the values of the republic, which often results in the creation of a counter society and whose manifestations are the dropping out of schoolchildren, development of sports, cultural and communal practices which are the pretext for the teaching of the principles which do not conform to the laws of the republic".

This was more than sufficient for Macron to invite the ire of the Muslim nations, including Turkey. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has described Macron as mentally ill.

The French Constitution of 1958 clearly says "all citizens regardless of their origin, race or religion are treated as equals

before the law and respecting all religious beliefs". And now it seems the NSB is violating the principles laid down by the Constitution of 1958.

That's why the critics say the way the French President is using the state security apparatus to pound on civic and human rights organisations indicate entirely a unique behaviour of the state under Macron. Besides, his attitude towards the minority exposes the underlying malaise that delves deep into the French political institutions of today.

The French constitutional principle "laicite" imposes strict religious neutrality on both the state and all types of public services. This principle indeed

symbolises a pillar of the very secular identity of the French Republic. The NSB is all set to change this foundation in the name of protecting the state from terror. But many say it is new form of political coercion launched by the Macron administration just in the name of national security.

The people who oppose the NSB say it is a unilateral assault on Muslims and Islam. They all accuse him of not showing wisdom and moral leadership at this moment of crisis in French society. But they say Macron has put forward an agenda to malign Islam by closing down major mosques, banning Muslim and human rights organisations.

These latest measures to tighten the security around the country have simply stirred hatred against the Muslims across France.

Further this has emboldened the far rights groups and violent extremists to mobilise the French to counter and prevent refugee movements around the country. However, a group of 23 organisations that mobilise young Europeans has called out to President Macron to stop the raging hatred. They all urged Macron to embrace France's revered principles of "egalite, liberte and fraternite". In their open letter to him they highlighted that "it is within your capacity to nurture understanding between people and to counter dangerous forms of polarisation within France and globally".

To them he must pander to the bigots and aptly demonstrate his moral leadership so as to survive France's long-held ethos of multiculturalism.

France has already launched a massive campaign against "the enemy within" as its hardline Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin has directly pointed the finger at the country's radicalised Muslims. Now the moot question is whether France is going to compromise with its national security. It's a clear choice between security and liberty. It's the utmost responsibility of the freedom loving French citizens to decide over it. But precisely, its people, it seems, are offering a helping hand to Macron to counter the fast-growing Islamic jihad in the country.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



MAKHAN SALKIA



IT IS NOT IN THE STARS TO HOLD OUR DESTINY BUT IN OURSELVES — WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

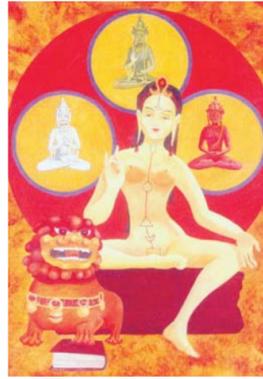
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week you will be charged up and ready to take up physical activity. You are goal-oriented and clear on what your hopes and dreams are and what you should do to get there. Your enthusiasm and charismatic personality will impress others. You are optimistic about your future. Your health will remain good. On the career front, you are trying your best to be in your senior's good books. Your determination and ambition will make you move forward. Remember that you'll need to use both your intellect and your heart to be successful. On the personal front, it is advised not to let small issues blow out of proportion in your mind. Beware that there is someone who does not want your relationship grow and who is working against you.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

When it comes to following a healthy diet, you make the same mistakes — neglect. Give extra attention to your diet, and exercise for at least half an hour so that you can take better care of yourself. On the career front, it is time to take a stand and make some tough choices. You need to be straight forward in your communication and to the point. This will bring satisfactory change and improvement to a specific matter in life. You will find happiness in accomplishment. This week if you implement certain important pending decisions that will have the potential to change the rhythm of life for the better. On the personal front, you have very forceful energy this week. You are likely to be diplomatic and know how to get the things done in your favour.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week count your blessings and enjoy the good things that life has to offer. Whatever you do, keep it simple and enjoy it. Stay safe and enjoy a good meal with family. Some of you would like to stay close to the nature. You may spend time gardening. Females would be sensitive to things around them, be nurturing and make efforts to make lives meaningful. Professionally, good times are on the cards. Moneywise week is satisfactory, and your generosity will earn you goodwill. Overall, it is an extremely good period in your career, and you should take full advantage of it. Do not indulge in gossip as it might hurt your image. On the personal front, you will find emotional stability. This is the time to enjoy your relationships.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will prioritise and focus on your family members, especially children, spouse, and any elderly members in the family over your own health. Those addicted to unhealthy diet this is a wake-up call. Poor level of vitamin and protein will make you feel tired and irritable. The time is not favourable healthwise, you must take care and eat healthy to increase metabolism. Professionally, those who are looking for a job will get hired in a few days, that will test your skills and potentials. This will be a very demanding job. Believe in yourself. Some of you will be weighed down with far more responsibilities. On a personal level, you will have concern for others and people around you will be grateful, and reciprocate well.

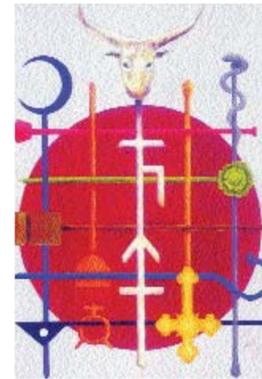
Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you may need to get a medical examination to clear some doubts and lead a stress-free life. You are likely to face some confusion and it will make you feel low. This is the time to lift yourself and transform your lives. It is a crucial time when you must be honest with yourselves and decide what best action should be implemented to rise to the challenges and embrace the best life. Career-wise, this week will be in your favour. You are likely to appreciate your sincere and hard work. Financially, the week will be satisfactory but you need to follow a budget to avoid any tough times. Relationship wise, you will experience the freshness and a blissful state. This week you will be passionate and energetic and will enjoy a charming personality.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You are likely to spend your time in spiritual pursuits to find peace and inner calm. Follow meditation, yoga, and Pranayam etc to bring balance and strength to fight any stress. You will be able to find solutions to most of the issues of life. Don't be in a hurry for any work. Give time to pamper yourself. The divine connect will show you the right path. This week financial worries are indicated. Professionally, you are not happy and some of you feel demotivated. If possible, interact with people to keep up your morale. Do not give up on a temporary low phase. This is the time to wait for the good times. Things are not so good in the relationship area. Your partner will have a long list of accusation, sit and discuss them. Things will move into a lighter phase.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Take your time to detect hidden issues and other subconscious thinking that is stopping you from seeing the facts. Some of you may look out for emotional support from a female to identify the emotional trouble and what can be done about it. Meditation is beneficial at this time. Don't be disappointed about not getting things done as this would spoil your day or maybe week. On the career front, investing your time in attending a webinar or any online skill development class will be favourable. These programs will help you virtually connect with people. This will further provide you unique guiding light and moral force. This week relationship area needs your attention and clear expression. Express yourself before it is too late.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You will feel great about yourself. Overall health remains good for you. This week is a period of great productivity. You will have a sense of fullness and confidence, that will make you feel that you have finally found your niche. This time is the biggest changing point in your life, so getting stuck and becoming aggressive about the things that are not working in your favour could hold you back. It is advised to choose a middle path to live life to the fullest. On the career front, you will face opposition. Your colleagues might not agree with your thinking. Aggression is indicated. You need to understand the mentality of others and stay away from conflicts. On the personal front, you will use your charm to attract people. Be careful as a complication is indicated in your relationships.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You will enjoy this week as planned. Your health, wealth and happiness are co-related. It is recommended that you learn some techniques to stay stress-free to stay healthy. Take some time out for a walk amidst nature. That could be the great energy provider and refreshing for you. Career-wise, you need to ease your expectations. Those in business will see a good response and hike in financial matters. Those in job need to sit down with a financial planner and figure out exactly your needs are and plan your finances accordingly. On the personal front, you are likely to feel a tight leash around you. There is a lack of understanding and feelings for each other. Married couples need to communicate well.

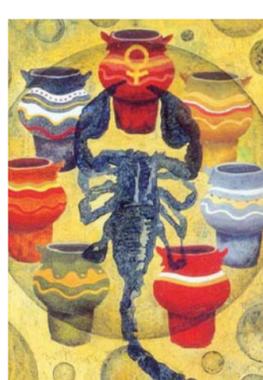
Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

As you recover from certain health issues, you feel recharged with energy and stamina. You will find your self-confidence unharmed. And this is your greatest achievement, one that helped you to regain an inner sense of direction. You need to be grateful for all the blessings that surround you at this time. This week you will reflect the positive influence and will prove to be a motivator for others. Career-wise, you will experience roadblock and will find stagnation in your present job. The current scenario is not bright and this could demoralise you. Those in business will get some monetary gains. Prioritise your expenses and avoid unnecessary spending, this will help you now as well as in the long run. On the personal front, your maturity plays an important role at home.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week brings indulgence in social activities. You will be shifting the balance in your life from work toward more social activities. This will improve your health and give you more energy. This way you are trying to be of help to your family as well as society. On the career front, you may feel a little confused with your career. Try not to get too overworked about it. Your modest approach and shift into a different track/department would be helpful. This is the time to define yourself do not bother yourself with other people's perspective. There will be a time when you think that everything has come to a standstill. Use this time to enhance your skill. On the personal front, your partner is supportive. You can try and talk to your spouse and relieve yourself from the stress.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This is a good week for your emotional and physical well-being. Your positive approach will be of great help. Those who are waiting on test results regarding health, relax and know that the news will be good. You are likely to enter new realms in your spiritual exploration. You will get attracted to herbal ingredients and homemade remedies to cure health and you may join some courses. Those in the retail business, this week will be the most fruitful. For some of you who are working from home should not take it as a leisure time, otherwise, this might take a negative turn on you. On the personal front, you may be involved in a serious conflict. Feelings of helplessness and lack of understanding are indicated. The situation may be lightened up with the support of a close family member.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

You can write your destiny

How much control we have on our destiny? Asked a student during my astrology class. Well, the answer is 'no and yes'. Should you leave yourself to the usual run of life, you have no control. For, you have yourself scripted your destiny, as it is a carryover effect of your own doing and undoing in the past. If, however, should you turn your attention inwards, reflect upon and identify own desire and mental trends well in time, you can make necessary amends through fresh educative inputs to rewrite your destiny afresh.

Here, it will be desirable to understand how one's destiny is made. Remember, human beings enjoy the exclusive privilege to guide their actions by choice and discrimination, not available with any other existence. But given our usual tendency, seldom do we care to discriminate before we get going with our inherent desire trends, and with obvious consequences. It needs to be appreciated here that whenever there is a choice in hand, the probability of its use and misuse becomes equal. That binds us into a cause-effect chain running in succession, and which sets the premise of our destiny, ordinarily difficult to

evade its future ramifications.

Here again, it also needs to be appreciated that the choice option available would also enjoin upon us with the privilege to make conscientious choice to make necessary amends, provided we remain conscious enough to live mindfully. For, mind is a very versatile equipment, which can self-reflect upon itself to identify and acknowledge its own inherent trends. Following which, applying our indwelling faculty of discriminate intelligence, we can make necessary corrections and redefine our future course of life. The irony, however, is that ordinarily our ego identifies itself with the inherent mind-trends, as if that would be its identity. It then passionately pursue them as if that would be its end game. In the process, it fails to invoke faculty of discriminate intelligence for due diligence. Consequently, we fail to look at our own mental infirmities in an unbiased manner. Here comes the role of Astrology which could dispassionately provide us with the right lead.

"Agreed sir, we have the potential to reshape our destiny. But how to pick up the right lead from astrological pointers in practical terms?" Asked the student.



A case in point is someone in whose chart, the Sun signifying his identity is opposite *Karmakaraka* Saturn, both debilitated. It, in the first place, speaks of a preconditioned mind, stuck to self-defined perceptions and beliefs, and not open to look beyond for a reality check. Second, it brings in a sense of fear and insecurity. Third, it is indicative of identity crisis because he would have been continuously belittled in early life. It doesn't simply make him habitually suspicious of other's intent, but also tempts him try to forcefully prove his point. If that would not be enough, Mars placed adverse to Jupiter speaks of his inflated ego, which further restricts his scope of vision. He can't digest any observation or suggestion, contrary to his own beliefs and perceptions. He, rather contests them loudly as Mars is placed adverse to Moon. Further to that, mind-signifying Moon is opposite Jupiter. It, though speaks of a fertile and imaginary mind, but at the same time breeds in a sense of overconfidence which often makes him go overboard. That, read together with his Aries sign, often tempts him jump into action without applying proper forethought, and with obvious consequences. What further

compounds his problems is that Moon is placed opposite intelligence signifying Mercury, which further makes him suspicious and overcritical of others. The question now is: How to overcome these infirmities?

Here comes the role of a *Guru*. He will give you a lesson in the making of the mind and its functional modalities, and let you know how to access full landscape of mind, when you may know limits. The paradox, however, is that because of our self-created limitations, we are hardly able to use between 5 to 7 percent of our mind-power, the rest lying dormant. He then leads you through meditative process to clear off the clutters of mind, when it becomes receptive. He then gives you lesson in the realities of life and lets you reflect on them in meditative mode so that they get absorbed in the inner realms of mind. Having become aware thus, you will not only be able to transcend the limitations of mind. You may be able to redefine your thought process that may provide right leads in life.

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