

OPINION 6 BEHEADINGS IN FRANCE

WORLD 8 PHILIPPINES: 16 DEAD, THOUSANDS OF HOMES DAMAGED IN TYPHOON

SPORT 12 SRH FACE MI TO SEAL LAST 4 SPOT

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I WANT TO DO SKYDIVING: VARUN SHARMA 10 VIVACITY

Desi Covid shots to secure 50% Indians

India leverages manufacturing capacity; after US, it is only country to pre-order 600 mn vaccines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as drug manufacturers are racing to develop a vaccine to combat Covid-19, India has already used its manufacturing capability to pre-order 600 million doses of the coronavirus shots and is negotiating for another billion doses.

This will be enough to vaccinate at least half the population, according to an analysis of purchasing agreements for Covid-19 vaccines by the US-based Duke Global Health Innovation Centre.

After the US, India is the only country in the world which has pre-ordered such a large number of doses under negotiation.

The point about India was made by Andrea D Taylor, assistant director of programmes at the Duke Global Health Innovation Centre. "In terms of numbers of confirmed doses, the USA has pre-ordered the largest number (810 million confirmed, another 1.6 billion doses under negotiation), followed by India (600 million doses confirmed, with another 1 billion doses under negotiation), and the EU (400 million doses confirmed, another 1.565 billion doses under negotiation)," said Andrea D Taylor.

She went on to add that in terms of per cent of population covered by confirmed purchases, Canada has pre-purchased enough vaccine to cover

527 per cent population, followed by the UK at 277 per cent population.

"Of course, it is important to remember that most likely only some of the vaccine purchases will come through, depending on regulatory approval," Taylor said.

The three potential vaccine undertrials in India are Bharat Biotech and ICMIR's Covaxin, Zydrus Cadila's ZyCoV-D and Oxford-AstraZeneca in partnership with Serum Institute, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech on Sunday said that it is planning to launch its vaccine for Covid-19 in the second quarter next year if it gets the requisite approvals from the Indian regulatory authorities.

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19 Indian fliers to Wuhan test +ve

New Delhi: At least 19 Indian passengers from New Delhi to Wuhan Air India flight tested Covid-19 positive on arrival in Wuhan on October 30.

Among the 277 passengers who came on the flight, at least 39 were suspected to be "potentially asymptomatic" Covid-19 patients as tests found antibodies in them.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 82,62,478

DEATHS: 1,23,025

RECOVERED: 75,96,418

ACTIVE: 5,41,576

Table with 4 columns: STATES, TOTAL CASES, DEATHS, RECOVERED. Lists states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, etc.



Festive season, laxity behind Delhi surge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Monday, attributed the sudden surge in Covid-19 cases in Delhi to the festive season, greater movement of people along with laxity in adhering to safe Covid behaviour.

The Home Secretary said efforts will be made for testing, contact tracing and treatment, especially in critical zones of the city.

The meeting emphasised that Metro patrol should be carefully regulated as per the strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as Delhi is

witnessing a third surge in cases. "The recent surge in the number of active cases was attributed to the festive season, which has witnessed greater movement of people, accompanied by laxity in adhering to the basic principles of safe Covid behaviour," said MHA in a statement.

The hospital bed situation was reported to be comfortable with 57 per cent of the 15,789 dedicated beds being vacant, it said.

While the new Covid cases and total active cases are going up, the administration is focusing on testing, contact tracing and treatment.

SC stays EC order stripping star campaigner status of Nath

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the EC order which revoked the "star campaigner" status of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath for model code violation during the campaign for bypolls in 28 Assembly constituencies in the state. The counsel appearing for the poll panel told a bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde that Nath's plea has become infructuous as the campaigning has ended and the voting is to take place on Tuesday.

"We are staying it," said the bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian. The SC was hearing Nath's plea challenging the October 30 order of the EC revoking his star campaigner status. While a political party pays for the expenditure of its star campaigner, the candidate concerned bears the expense of other campaigners. The SC issued notice to the EC seeking its response on Nath's plea.

"Issue notice. Until further orders, there shall be a stay of order dated October 30, 2020 issued by Respondent No. 1 — EC," the bench said in its order. Besides seeking quashing of the EC order, the senior Congress leader has also sought framing of appropriate guidelines for speeches during campaigning by star campaigners or campaigners, "keeping in mind the right to freedom of speech and expression and concept of democratic elections".

Forces in J&K kill over 200 terrorists for 3rd yr in a row

MOHTI KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The security forces in Jammu & Kashmir have scored a "hat-trick" by eliminating more than 200 terrorists for the third time in one calendar year in the last one decade.

Earlier 200 terrorists were killed in anti-terrorists operations in 2017 and the highest number of 271 was gunned down in 2018 by the security forces in J&K.

This year more than 200 terrorists, including over two dozen top commanders of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizbul Mujahideen and

other terror outfits, have been killed by the security forces till October.

Director General of Jammu & Kashmir Police Dilbagh Singh late on Sunday told the media, "Since January 1, 2020 more than 200 terrorists have been gunned down which included 190 in Kashmir and over a dozen in Jammu region".

Over 30 top commanders — who were either number one or number two — have been eliminated in the last 10 months, after which their leadership structure has been broken to a great extent.

He said, the anti-terrorists operations like last year would continue even during

the winter months and would be carried out with more vigour and severity.

Referring to the elimination of Chief Operational Commander of Hizbul Mujahideen Dr Saifullah in Rangreth area of Srinagar, Dilbagh Singh said after the killing of Royar Naikoo in May 2020, Hizbul Mujahideen had become leaderless and after the killing of Dr Saifullah, it has become leaderless once again.

Earlier in May 2020, Junaid Sehrai, the top Hizbul Mujahideen commander and son of Tehreek-e-Hurayat chairman Ashraf Sehrai was killed in Nawakadal area in Srinagar.

25 dead in Kabul University attack

AP ■ KABUL

Gunmen stormed Kabul University on Monday as it hosted a book fair attended by the Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan, sparking an hours-long gun battle and leaving at least 25 dead and wounded at the war-torn country's largest school.

"The ministry's spokesman, Tariq Arian, would not break down the casualty numbers for the attack at the campus in the Afghan capital, though local media reports were saying there may be as many as 20 killed. Arian also said there were three attackers involved in the assault, all of whom were killed in the ensuing firefight.

"As the sun slowly set over the Afghan capital, there were few details though the Taliban issued a statement denying they took part in the assault. The attack came as the insurgents are continuing peace

talks with the US-backed government. Those negotiations, taking place in the Gulf Arab state of Qatar, aim to help the US finally withdraw from America's longest war, though daily bloodshed continues and an Islamic State affiliate launches its own attacks on Shiites in the country.

Five hours into the fighting, sporadic grenade explosions and automatic weapons fire echoed down the empty streets surrounding the university's fenced compound. Afghan troops stood guard. Earlier, students were fleeing for their lives from the site.

"Unfortunately, there are casualties," Arian said as the assault unfolded, without elaborating.

Ahmad Samim, a university student, told journalists he saw militants armed with pistols and Kalashnikov assault rifles firing at the school, the country's oldest with some

17,000 students. He said the attack happened at the university's eastern side where its law and journalism faculty teach.

Finally, media reported a book exhibition was being held at the university and attended by a number of dignitaries at the time of the shooting.

While Afghan officials declined to discuss the book-fair, Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency reported Sunday that Iranian Ambassador Bahador Aminian and cultural attaché Mojtaba Noroozi were scheduled to inaugurate the fair, which would host some 40 Iranian publishers.

Iranian state television reported the attack occurred, but did not offer information on its officials. Iranian diplomats have been targeted previously by attacks in the country and nearly sparked a war between the two countries. In 1998, Iran held the Taliban responsible for

the deaths of nine Iranian diplomats who were working in its consulate in northern Afghanistan and sent reinforcements to the 950-kilometre (580-mile)-long border that Iran and Afghanistan share.

No group immediately took responsibility for the ongoing attack though the Taliban issued a statement saying they were not involved. However, suspicion immediately fell on the Islamic State group.

Last month, the Islamic State group sent a suicide bomber to an education centre in the capital's Shiite dominated neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi, killing 24 students and injuring more than 100. The Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan has declared war on Afghanistan's minority Shiite Muslims and have staged dozens of attacks since emerging in 2014.

2ND ROUND OF SERO SURVEY HARYANA FINDS SERO PREVALENCE IN 14.8 PER CENT POPULATION

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Health Minister Anil Viji on Monday said that the State has found antibodies against Covid-19 among 14.8 per cent of its population.

"Urban areas have observed a high positivity rate of 19.8 per cent, while it was 11.4 per cent in rural areas," he added.

Addressing a news conference, the Health Minister said that in the first round of survey conducted in August, sero-prevalence was 8 per cent across the state. He said, "This second round of sero survey was carried out to identify the further penetration of Covid-19 at the community level and to monitor its transmission trends so that proper measures can be taken to control its spread."

Viji said that rural areas of districts Faridabad and Jind were found to have the highest positivity rate of 25.5 per cent. Urban areas of districts Faridabad, Yamunanagar and Panipat had the highest sero-positivity rates 40.2 per cent, 37.1 per cent and 36.3 per cent respectively, he said, adding that the districts of Haryana which are having lower sero-positivity less than 10 per cent like in Hissar (9.7 per cent), Mahendragar (6.6 per cent), Charkhi Dadri (7.7 per cent), Sirsa (7.5 per cent), Palwal (5.5 per cent) and Bhiwani (3.1 per cent). Haryana Director of



Health Services Dr Usha Gupta said that in October, Haryana had carried out the second round of sero survey to find sero prevalence of Covid-19 in its population.

In the first round of the sero survey in August, NCR districts had high sero-positivity with Faridabad, Nuh, Sonapat and Gurugram recording 25.8 per cent, 20.3 per cent, 13.3 per cent and 10.8 per cent penetration respectively. She said that survey was conducted in all 22 districts of Haryana in collaboration with Department of Community Medicine, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), Rohtak. "It was conducted by taking 720 persons

from each district, including both urban and rural population," she added.

Haryana additional chief secretary (Health) Rajeev Arora said, "The study finding will be useful to guide further in designing and modifying planning, strategies and implementation of appropriate measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the State."

Haryana Director General of Health Services Dr Suraj Bhan Kamboj said 14.8 per cent population of Haryana has developed antibodies but still a significant proportion of population is vulnerable. Therefore, the containment measures need to be continued with the same rigor.

Punjab Cabinet Ministers castigate BJP for misleading farmers with 'shocking lies' to save their skin

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Hitting out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over its "atrocious charges" against Punjab Chief Minister, the state Cabinet Ministers on Monday said that it was the BJP state leadership that was misleading the farmers with regard to the agricultural laws of the Central Government, but their

leaders and workers are actively indulging in brazen falsehoods in a bid to exploit the sensitive and critical issue to promote their political interests," said all Cabinet Ministers adding that the fact of the matter was that the BJP was trying to incite farmers against the Chief Minister for their own political gains.

Reacting to Punjab BJP president Ashwani Sharma's accusations against the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, the Ministers said that it was obvious that the leaders of the party, which was at the centre of the ill-conceived Farm Laws, were either oblivious to

the concerns of the farmers or simply did not care.

"The farmers don't need any instigation. They are hurt and shocked at the treatment being meted out to them by the BJP-led Central Government. They are fighting to save their livelihood and to survive. But clearly, Sharma, like other BJP leaders, has no realization of this," the Ministers said.

The Ministers scorned the allegation of the Congress Government in Punjab being responsible for the continued farmer protests and suspension of the goods trains. "Did we also mislead all those BJP lead-

ers in the State who have quit in protest against the Farm Laws in recent days?" they asked, trashing Sharma's accusation that the Chief Minister was misleading farmers as ridiculous to the extreme.

Recalling that the Centre had not suspended movement of trains in Punjab even during the dark days of terrorism, the Ministers said that the reasons of law and order cited by the Railways in the present instance was inexplicable, especially since the farmers had already announced their decision to allow transport of supplies by trains.

Pointing out that the security and safety of trains was the responsibility of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), with the State Government having no say in the matter, the Ministers asked what the Capt Amarinder Government had to do with the safe movement of trains.

This was not the first time trucks had been blocked by farmers in a State, they said, adding that instances of such blockades had been reported in many places, irrespective of the government in power, even in the past. "So does that mean the Chief Minister of that state

becomes responsible," they quipped.

In any case, said the Ministers, it was illogical to even contemplate an act that was causing massive economic losses to this own state, besides causing misery to this own people. That is not the way Congress Chief Ministers function, they said, quipping that "perhaps that's the way of BJP Chief Ministers".

Punjab's industry is suffering, its agriculture is suffering, and the economy, which is already severely impacted by the Centre's failure to release the

state's dues amid Covid-19, is further crashing day by day as a result of the suspension of the goods trains by the Railways, the Ministers pointed out.

In such circumstances, it was foolhardy to even think of Capt Amarinder indulging in politics instead of trying hard to resolve the crisis, they added, asking the BJP leaders to stop playing with the sentiments of the farmers, who were already going through unprecedented anguish and pain.

Reacting to Sharma's allegation of Capt Amarinder failing to maintain law and order in the State, the Ministers suggested

that the BJP Punjab chief should go and speak to the people, who had seen first-hand under the SAD-BJP regime what failure of law and order means.

Citing the Chief Minister's repeated statements urging all parties to rise above politics to resolve the crisis in the interest of not just the state but the nation, the Ministers said that it was unfortunate that instead of responding positively, the BJP continued to indulge in political games at the cost of the farmers. But the farmers of Punjab know who is indulging in hypocrisy and who is sincere to their cause, they added.

Voting for high-stakes bypoll to Baroda seat today

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Voting for the high-stakes Baroda assembly seat in Sonapat district of Haryana will be held on Tuesday with the ruling BJP taking on the Congress in a direct fight in which the INLD and an independent pose an interesting challenge to the main candidates.

A total of 1.81 lakh eligible voters will decide the fate of 14 candidates, including the ruling BJP candidate Yogeshwar Dutt, who are in the fray. Polling will be held from 7 am till 6 pm, officials said on Monday. The counting will be held on November 10.

The Baroda seat fell vacant in April after the demise of Congress MLA Shri Krishan Hooda, who had won the seat in 2009, 2014 and 2019 assembly polls.

All the arrangements have been made for the bypoll in Gohana. Sub-divisional Magistrate Ashish Kumar said. Voters will be screened through

thermal scanners at each polling booth, the official said, adding that social distancing would be ensured at the polling stations as a precautionary measure against the coronavirus pandemic.

Hand sanitizers, masks and gloves will be available at polling stations, which will be sanitised. Besides, PPE (personal protective equipment) kits, gloves and sanitizers have been arranged for the polling staff.

As many as 280 polling booths have been set up and 151 of them categorised as vulnerable. Security personnel, including three companies of paramilitary forces, have been deployed to ensure peaceful by-elections, the official said.

There are a total 1,80,529 voters, out of which 99,726 are men, 80,801 women and two transgender, the official said. He also appealed to voters to raise the development plank, the main opposition Congress attacked the ruling party for

neglecting the rural constituency.

Apart from wrestler-turned-politician Yogeshwar Dutt of the BJP, who is backed by saffron ally JJP, former Zila Parishad member Indu Raj Narwal of the Congress is also in the fray. Indian National Lok Dal has fielded Joginder Singh Malik.

Seven Independents and four candidates belonging to other parties, including former Kurukshetra MP Raj Kumar Saini who heads the Loktantra Suraksha Party, are in fray from the constituency. The results will be out on November 10.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, JJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala campaigned for the ruling BJP, while former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, state Congress

chief Kumari Selja, senior leaders Kiran Choudhary and Deepender Singh Hooda sought votes for Congress candidate.

Universities in Haryana to open from Nov 16

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Government has decided to open colleges and universities from November 16, while online classes have started from Monday.

In view of the needs of students studying in colleges and universities, it has been decided to open Government, Government-aided, private colleges and universities from November 16 following the standard operating procedures, an official said. He said that academic staff would be present in the institutions.

If a student needs to clarify his doubts, he can visit the college keeping in mind the norms of social distancing and following the coronavirus guidelines, the official added.

Capt directs Depts to complete pending works to mark 550th prakash purb

Chandigarh: As the year-long celebrations head to a close, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday directed all departments to complete all pending works initiated to commemorate the historic 550th birth anniversary of Sikh's first master, Guru Nanak Dev, and to highlight the 550 projects completed in 65 villages during this period.

The closing functions will take place over three days at the end of this month, culminating

on November 30, when the Chief Minister will visit Sultanpur Lodhi and Dera Baba Nanak to pay his respects in the historic towns associated with the first Sikh Guru.

Chief Minister, chairing a high-level meeting to discuss the programme, asked various departments to avoid events with large crowds and instead to organize virtual or digital functions amid projections of the second COVID-19 wave in the State.

Punjab Pollution Control Board lashes at Delhi authorities on pollution

PNS ■ PATIALA/CHANDIGARH

Amidst allegations of farm fires in Punjab contributing to high pollution levels in the national capital, the state's Pollution Control Board on Monday lashed out at the Delhi authorities to check its internal

source of pollution instead of pointing fingers at Punjab. "Rather than pointing Punjab for pollution in the national capital, Delhi authorities should check internal source of pollution," said Punjab Pollution Control Board chairman Dr AS Marwaha.

Punjab invites protesting farmers for talks on Nov 4

Chandigarh: Virtually in a critical situation following a series of crisis including power, financial, economy, and agriculture mainly due to stoppage of the goods trains, the Punjab Government has once again turned to the farmers' organizations for getting back on the road to recovery.

The State Government has once again invited all the 31 farmers' organizations in the State for the talks on November 4 (Wednesday).

The farmers have been holding protest in Punjab since past 40 days against the Centre's three farm laws, with the prevailing situation leading to a big blow to the State's economy; with the state's industrialists foreseeing the black diwali this season.

The suspension of movement of goods trains has resulted in shortage of various essential items such as coal, petroleum products, urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), and jute bags. The suspension of coal

rakes has forced the authorities and private thermal power plant owners to shut the units bringing the power generation to a grinding halt.

To find the way out, the State Government has once again invited all the 31 farmers' organizations in the State for the meeting on Wednesday to discuss the impact of the suspension of goods trains on the State's economy due to the rail blockade agitation.

The railways have suspended the operation of freight trains in Punjab in the wake of the blockade of some rail tracks by farmers who are protesting against the Centre's new farm laws. Krantikari Kisan Union president Darshan Pal said that the farmers' organizations have received a letter from Punjab Agriculture Department for a meeting on November 4, in which it has highlighted the impact of the non-operation of goods trains in state due to farmers' "rail roko" agitation. PNS

Capt orders expansion of Covid contact tracing to 15 persons; makes RT-PCR mandatory

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In the face of declining cases of the novel coronavirus in Punjab, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday ordered expanding the contact tracing of positive patients to 15 persons as part of a slew of measures to strengthen the Covid-19 management systems amid apprehension of second wave.

The Chief Minister has also made it mandatory for the hospitals and radiology labs, conducting CT scans, to report such patients to the state administration in case of suspicion of coronavirus.

Further, to streamline and prioritize the process of Covid-19 vaccination, the Chief Minister has ordered a state-level three-tier vaccine supervision mechanism, comprising a steering committee as well as state and district task force, to be put in place.

In sharp contrast to some other states that are depending heavily on less reliable Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT), Capt

Amarinder has directed the Health Department to make RT-PCR the rule, with RAT to be treated as exception.

At the same time, the Chief Minister also ordered another task force to assess the ground situation.

In other steps, the Chief Minister directed 24x7 testing facility to be made available at District Hospitals, all fever cases or other symptomatic patients to be tested with RTPCR and all patients attending the flu corners to be tested with RTPCR. He stressed the need to make arrangements for walk-in testing at multiple points to the health facilities to be tested with RTPCR and all patients attending the flu corners to be tested with RTPCR. He stressed the need to make arrangements for walk-in testing at multiple points, and asked the Health Department to consider branching out testing by scaling up local initiatives like Mohali's out-door testing.

The Chief Minister asked the Health Department to get information from private and public hospitals regarding COVID-19 mortality and complete the audit by November 9 so that remedial action can be taken by mid-November.

- ☐ Contact tracing of positive patients to be expanded to 15 persons
- ☐ Hospitals and radiology labs to report CT scan patients to Administration in case of suspicion of coronavirus
- ☐ State-level three-tier vaccine supervision mechanism set up to streamline and prioritize the process of COVID-19 vaccination
- ☐ A steering committee, along with state and district task force, to be set up for vaccine
- ☐ Makes RT-PCR mandatory, with RAT as an exception
- ☐ Another Sero Survey ordered to assess ground situation
- ☐ 24x7 testing facility to be made available at district hospitals
- ☐ All fever cases or other symptomatic to be tested with RTPCR
- ☐ All patients attending flu corners to be tested with RTPCR
- ☐ Directs completion of complete audit by Nov 9, Health Dept to get information from private, public hospitals regarding COVID-19 mortality
- ☐ Health Dept directed to meet manpower shortage
- ☐ Directs to issue appointment letter to selected, and asked them to join

15 more Covid-19 deaths, 1,566 fresh cases in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana on Monday registered 1566 fresh cases of the Covid-19, which took the caseload in the State to 1,70,446, and with 15 more fatalities, the Covid-19 death toll rose to 1810.

A total of 1,266 Covid-19 patients were released from the hospitals from the State after recovery, taking the total count to 1,55,717. Of the fresh fatalities, three each were reported from Faridabad, Hisar while two deaths each were reported from Rewari, Panchukla and one each from Gurugram, Kurukshetra, Jhajjar, Fatehabad and Jind districts, according to the state health department's daily bulletin.

A total of 398 Covid-19 cases reported in Gurugram while 223 in Faridabad, 157 in Hisar, 115 in Rewari, 80 in

Jhajjar, 77 in Sonapat, 65 in Mahinderghar and 58 in Sirsa. Active cases in the state currently stand at 12,919 while the recovery rate was 91.36 per cent, the bulletin said.

ONE DEATH, 55 NEW CASES IN CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh on Monday reported one COVID-19 related death and 55 fresh positive cases. "227 residents have died due to the virus in the city till now. The total case tally stood at 14528 which included 593 active till now, 10891 samples have been tested in the city. 593 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours and the result of 106 was awaited, the bulletin added.



Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
Government of India

Free Farmer – Empowered Farmer

Indian farmer of 21st century will cultivate freely without any restrictions.
Farmer of 21st century will sell his produce wherever he wants and wherever he gets better price.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020

Farmers' Myths	Reality
Will the farmers benefit from the new Agricultural Trade Act?	Yes, definitely. Now, the farmers can choose their buyers and decide their price. The new Act permits farmers to decide the buyers of their choice anywhere in India and enter into direct contracts with them.
Can farmers sell their produce outside APMC Mandis without any Fee and Licence under the new Act?	Yes, Farmers can now sell their crops/produce outside the Mandis anywhere and to any buyer who gives a better price. Farmers need no Registration and are not required to pay any transaction fee.
What is the provision for dispute resolution between the farmers and traders?	This Act promotes dispute resolution in a time bound manner with minimum cost. The court process in India is very expensive and time consuming for the farmers. The new Farm Act ensures settlement of dispute within 30 days under the guidance of local SDM.
In how many days will the payment be received from buyers under the new Act?	Buyers have to make payment to the farmers on the same day. If the farmer enters into an agreement with the buyer, then the buyer will issue a receipt of goods and make payment to the farmer within 3 days.
Will the Farmer Organisations like FPOs also benefit from the new Act?	Yes, definitely. Under the new Act, all Farmer Organisations will be treated as 'Farmers' and they will get the same benefits as the farmers. The farmers can form Organisations to get full benefits from markets. Farmers associated with AMUL and other good Dairy Co-operative Societies are examples before us.
Will the Minimum Support Price (MSP) continue?	Definitely, yes. The Government has clarified in the Parliament that MSP will continue as before. The new Act has nothing to do with MSP in any way.
Will the FCI stop procurement from the farmers?	No. FCI and other Govt. Agencies will continue the procurement from farmers as before. There is no change in these policies in the new Act.
Will the APMC Mandis close down in future?	No. The Mandi system will continue as before. These new Acts will encourage Mandis to provide better services to the farmers. The farmers will decide where they want to sell their produce.

Website : www.agricoop.nic.in

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90% of J&K land cannot be sold to outsiders: Govt

Jammu: The Government has repealed 11 land laws that existed in the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir replacing the old, regressive, intrinsically contradictory and outdated laws with a set of modern, progressive and people-friendly provisions.

The new land laws will not only afford protection to over 90 per cent of the land in J&K from being alienated to outsiders but will also help revamp the agriculture sector foster, rapid industrialisation, aid economic growth and create jobs in J&K.

This was stated by the Principal Secretary, Information and government spokesman, Rohit Kansal at a press conference in Jammu on Monday.

Kansal made these comments while interacting with the media on a host of issues related to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Fifth Order, 2020.

Elaborating, Kansal remarked that the repealed laws were made to serve the old agrarian-based economy and were required to be modified for modern economic needs. Besides, they were beset with ambiguities, contradictions and redundancy. The new laws were clearly regressive. For instance, a number of laws had contradictions leading to scope for discretionary interpretation and rent seeking.

An official statement said the Prohibition of Conversion of Land and Alienation of Orchards Act, 1975 not only prohibited alienation of orchard lands; but also prohibited conversion of orchards. Similarly, the old Agrarian Reforms Act prohibited the selling of land distributed to tillers even after 44 years. The Right of Prior Purchase Act severely constrained an owner's right to dispose off his own property.

It further added the new Land Laws are modern and progressive even while affording adequate pro-

tection against alienation of land to outsiders. A number of protections have been built into the new land laws on similar lines as has been enacted in other states such as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. To begin with, no agricultural land can be transferred to any person from outside the UT of J&K but can only be sold to an agriculturist from within J&K. No land used for agricultural purpose can be used for any non-agricultural purpose.

The terms agricultural land and agriculturist have been unambiguously defined to include not just agriculture but horticulture and allied agro-activities as well. Agriculturist has been defined as "... a person who cultivates land personally in the UT of J&K...". The safeguard and progressive provisions of the repealed laws that more than 90 per cent of land in the UT which is an agricultural land remains protected and with the people of J&K. The statement said the new provisions not only address the infirmities in the old set of laws but also provide for modern and enabling provisions to aid in the agricultural and industrial growth of the UT of J&K. Modern and progressive provisions of the repealed laws have been retained by including them in the modified Land Revenue Act, new provisions have been added to modernise existing laws.

There are now provisions for setting up of a Board of Revenue, Regional planning for regulating use of land, alienation and conversion, land lease, consolidation and land use. Senior officers will not only be the Developing Authority for preparing regional plans but can notify a scheme of consolidation of land holdings and also a scheme for restricting and regulating the fragmentation of agricultural land holdings to make agriculture viable.

Reactions to new land law uncharitable: J&K Govt

IANS ■ JAMMU

The Government on Monday described the reaction by many politicians to the new land laws in the Union Territory as 'uncharitable and result of misapprehension'.

Rohit Kansal, government spokesman, said at a press conference on Monday, "A number of old laws, at least 11 of them, have been repealed and four major laws have been modified. The old legislations were outdated, regressive."

Reacting to reactions by mainstream politicians, who have said the new land laws have put J&K on sale, the spokesman said, "Many of these reactions are uncharitable."

For example, some political parties have said that J&K is now on sale. Some others have said there is no protection with regard to land on similar lines as has been given to people by some other states.

"I think there are lots of misapprehension, misinformation and lack of clarity on these issues. The old land laws were probably a product of their times and may have been appropriate to the times when those were intro-

duced. The old land laws were essentially meant to serve an old agrarian rural economy. Quite obviously, many of those laws had been outdated and obsolete.

"For example the big lands abolition act fixed a ceiling of 182 kanals, but it was superseded by the agrarian reforms act of 1976 which redefined the law and yet the two laws continued to co-exist."

Kansal further said: "The Agrarian Reforms Act 1976 is 44 years old and yet it acts as a barrier to the selling of any land that was available to the tiller and even after a generation has past, the land could not be sold or transferred. As a consequence of this, you had large number of benami transactions."

Now there is a need to straighten up, clean up the system and provide a set of simple land laws which would prevent unnecessary litigation and prevent discretionary interpretation of laws which leaves opportunities for the vested interests."

As per the new land laws enacted on October 27 by the Ministry of Home Affairs, any citizen of India can buy land in J&K, except land reserved for agricultural purposes.

Vijayan hits out at Centre, probe agencies for violation of federalism

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday lambasted the Central agencies investigating various corruption charges against his Government and alleged that all these probes were as per script prepared by forces outside the State.

"Certain forces want to tarnish the image of my government and they are discrediting the good works done by us during the last five years. This is against federalism and an open violation of the Constitution," said Vijayan who read out a statement from a prepared speech.

Challenging the media as part of briefing the Covid-19 situation in the State, Vijayan came down heavily on Enforcement Directorate for exceeding its brief and interfering in the affairs of the State. The ED is probing charges of money laundering and alleged scam in which the Chief Minister's Office is allegedly involved.

M Sivasankar, the former principal secretary to the Chief Minister who is also his close confidante has been arrested in connection with the case. Vijayan said that the former secretary, Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of party secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan too was arrested by the agency for his role in narcotic smuggling and money laundering. The two arrests have brought the opposition parties to the

streets and has put the CPI(M)-led government in a dilemma.

Chief Minister bimed both the central agencies and the media for selective leaking and publishing of certain reports which he said was against all norms. "The State Government is observing the norms specified in the Constitution. But these agencies are against the cases with their motives as they have a hidden agenda," charged Vijayan.

He read out a list of encomiums bestowed on his government by some NGOs and media houses and said that it proved that Kerala was the best managed state in the country. Though the Chief Minister did not point out the kind of trespass made by the central agencies, he alleged that certain forces were behind the attempts to sabotage LIFE Mission and K-Phone projects, two flagship programmes of the State.

The K-Phone Project (Kerala Fibre Optic Network) is a joint venture between two public sector undertakings, Kerala State Electricity Board and Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd, which envisages internet connectivity to 2 million in the country.

There were reservations expressed by the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission which questioned the viability of such a project while the Centre's Bharat Net mission was on the verge of completion.

BJP's Velayudhan breaks down during press meet, alleges insult

KOCHI: A day after Sobha Surendran, vice-president and senior BJP leader came out in the open accusing V Muraliedharan, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and K Surendran, president of the Kerala unit of conspiring to finish her political career, P M Velayudhan, senior BJP leader and national executive member too, lambasted party leadership for insulting him.

Velayudhan started sobbing while describing the humiliation he is undergoing in the hands of the party leaders. "I joined the party only to serve Bharat Matha and not expecting any position or power in return. After dedicating my entire life for the growth of the party in the State, I feel that I have been dumped in an old age home," said Velayudhan who was seen sobbing uncontrollably.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Velayudhan, a Dalit leader, compared himself to aged parents dumped to old-age homes by their children who have their own interests and vocations, continued on Sunday. "Surendran became party president because I voted for him. But he started ignoring me the

day he was appointed as party president. Though he comes to my town regularly, he never bothers to call me or even attend my calls," said Velayudhan who was seen weeping despite the efforts of his aides to console him.

According to party insiders, Kerala BJP is a class divided along caste and communal lines. While Muraliedharan and Surendran represent the powerful Ezhava lobby, leaders like Krishna Das and former Mizoram Governor K Rajasekhar lead the Nair faction in the party. Sobha has said that Muraliedharan, who could not win any election from anywhere in the State, is out to destroy the emergence of new leaders.

"Despite his indifference to party cadre, we stood with him when scams involving Arun Raveendranath, a fraudster from Kottayam and reportedly a close friend of the minister and a woman by name Smitha Menon joined the party. But both Muraliedharan and Surendran have their own interests and vocations, continued on Sunday. "The 549 restaurant workers tested only two were found positive. IANS

SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT'S DEATH

Why is CBI still silent on AIIMS forensic report: Maha Cong

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Lambasting the CBI for its delay in the investigations into the Sushant Singh Rajput case, the Maharashtra Congress on Monday demanded to know from the investigation agency as to "why there is so much silence" on its part on the forensic report submitted to it more than a month ago by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which had "concluded that the actor committed suicide."

"It's been a month since the AIIMS report was submitted to the CBI and there is neither any action nor any official statement issued by CBI as yet. Why is there so much silence?" Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee's general secretary

and spokesperson Sachin Sawant asked.

Sawant said that the investigations into the Sushant Singh Rajput death case was handed over to the CBI after "some people raised questions" about the probe initiated earlier by the Mumbai police.

"But, even the CBI has not been able to reach any conclusion. Suspicion was also raised on the autopsy report given by the Cooper hospital. The AIIMS team said in its report that Sushant committed suicide. The AIIMS panel also confirmed the findings of the autopsy report prepared by the Cooper Hospital and it was concluded that Sushant had committed suicide," the state Congress spokesperson said, as he questioned the CBI as

to why it had not spoken anything about the report.

Raising questions on the CBI's role in the investigations, Sawant wanted to know if the CBI was following the election code of conduct imposed due to the Bihar elections. "Or has Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked them not to act until the elections are over?", he asked.

"We have been saying from the very start that the Sushant case has been politicised and was being used to serve political interests of BJP. The Supreme Court too has validated the investigations done by the Mumbai Police in the case," Sawant said.

Sawant said he had a reason to believe that the

Narendra Modi government might have asked the CBI to remain silent as the "conspiracy hatched by the BJP" had fallen on its face.

"A conspiracy was hatched to discredit the Mumbai Police and the Maharashtra government by playing dirty politics over Sushant Singh's death. That is why it has now been proven that three central investigating agencies, including the CBI, were used politically. Sawant also said that the CBI may have been asked to remain silent as the plot that the BJP hatched has fallen on its face," the Congress spokesperson said.

It may be recalled that Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput was found hanging to a ceiling fan in his closed room

of his duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai on June 14.

Having registered a case of Accidental Death, Report (ADR) in connection with Sushant's death, the Bandra police had collected all documents and pieces of evidence, including autopsy and forensic reports and recorded 56 statements as part of the investigation. It was reported by it under section 174 of Cr P.C. After substantial investigations, the Mumbai police had inferred Sushant's death was a case of "suicide".

In the third week of August, the Supreme Court transferred the investigations in the case to the CBI.

Agra's Covid recovery nears 93%

Agra: With 48 fresh cases in the district, Agra's Covid-19 tally now stands at 7,281. So far there have been 148 deaths while the number of discharged was 6,763 as per the state health department.

District Magistrate P.N. Singh said the recovery rate in the district was 92.89 per cent. This is above the national recovery rate of 91.54 per cent.

6 killed in road accident in UP

Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh): Six persons were killed and 10 injured in a road accident in Bahraich district on Monday morning. The accident took place near the Shivdaha crossing when the SUV they were travelling in crashed into an unidentified vehicle. Six persons died and ten have been admitted to the hospital in a serious condition. All the passengers belonged to

8-week relief for prisoners released during Corona period

Aligarh: Currently there is a relief from the Government level for the detainees released during corona lockdown. After the parole is over, it will again extend for an 8-week basis, although the police are keeping an eye on their activity outside the jail.

On March 23, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has suggested that the number of prisoners should be minimized in the jail due to the Coronavirus. The Bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justice L Nageshwar Rao had asked the state governments to form a high-level committee and said that the prisoners sentenced less than seven years punishment can be released on parole. After this order, the state government issued guidelines related to the release of prisoners on parole in all the districts. PNS

3 infants die in IP shelter home in 48 hrs, probe ordered

IANS ■ AGRA

Three infants, all under six months of age, died at an Uttar Pradesh government-owned children's home and pre-adoption centre between October 24 and 26, almost a month after an inspection at the centre revealed that the children were not being provided adequate nutrition.

According to an official communication, four-month-old Sunita died on the way to SN Medical College on October 24, three-month-old Prabha and two-month-old Awani, died within hours of being admitted to the hospital on October 25.

At present, two workers take care of 44 children for eight hours in each shift a day. An additional district sessions judge had conducted an inspection at the Sirolvi village centre in mid September. There were 13 children then all below five years of age. He had sent a letter to the district probation officer (DPO) citing lack of proper care or nutrition for them.

However, the superintendent at the centre has blamed the sudden weather change in the city and the premature births of the children for the deaths that started on October 24.

It was told by the centre management that two children were lodged there in a critical condition. They were thrown away by their parents. Another child was having health complications and died during treatment," District Magistrate Prabhu N. Singh said.

At present, 44 children below 10 years of age are lodged at the state government's shelter facility in Agra for children who have no known guardians to look after them.

Covid vaccine trials at medical college

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ PIONEER

One thousand volunteers have been invited to enrol in a series of large-scale clinical trials aimed at evaluating the safety and efficacy of Covaxin, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech-led coronavirus vaccine at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

The clinical trials will begin

Covid vaccine trials at medical college

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ PIONEER

from November 14 and continue till the end of January. JNMC has enhanced the preparations for the trials after a nod from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

AMU received the confirmation to begin the clinical trials from ICMR on Friday after the state government's sponsorship, said the Vice Chancellor, Professor Tariq Mansoor.

Maha recovery rate crosses 90%

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The recovery rate crossed 90 per cent in the country's worst Covid-19 affected State of Maharashtra on Monday as the daily infections dropped to 5369 and the deaths came down to 113 in the state, Maharashtra witnessed the daily infections come down to 5,369. Monday was the second lowest number of infections in five months. Earlier on October 26, infections plummeted to 3645.

With fresh 4009, the total number of infections jumped from 16,83,775 to 16,87,784. Similarly, the Covid-19 toll in the state mounted from 44,024 to 44,128.

Of the 104 deaths reported in the state on Monday, Pune accounted for a maximum of 31 deaths, followed by Thane district with 29, 96,615,8 samples sent to laboratories, 16,87,784 have tested positive (18.62 per cent) for COVID-19 until Monday.

8-week relief for prisoners released during Corona period

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New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.N. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

ETENDER NOTICE
Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with U.P.C. Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & http://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

- (A) 1. 18/GM/SM(WC-7)/ET/2020-21, Name of Work - M/o Roads (P-I) Interlocking tile in front Park (A-210) and Master Green in Sector-6(3), Noida
Cost: Rs. 70.18 Lacs
- 2. 19/GM/SM(WC-7)/ET/2020-21, Name of Work - D/o Village (C/o) Balance C.C. Road and Drain in Village Bhooada, Noida
Cost: Rs. 42.30 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 18.11.2020 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 19.11.2020 at 11:00AM.

General Manager
Noida
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

RTCL LIMITED
CN No. L16603UP994PLC016225
Registered Office: 6926, Second Floor, SOB Plaza, Arya Nagar, Kanpur UP 208002
Corporate Office: 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007
Website: www.rtclimited.in E-mail: rg.secreatari@gmail.com

NOTICE
Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Tuesday, 10th November, 2020 at 03:30 PM. At its corporate office 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007. Inter-alia to consider and take on record the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Half Yearly ended on 30th September, 2020.

This Information is also available on the Company's website at www.rtclimited.in and on the Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com. Further, in accordance with the SEBI (Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the Trading Window for dealing in the Company's securities was closed from Thursday 01st October, 2020 and will open 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchanges.

FOR RTCL Ltd- (Vijal Saxena) Company Secretary
Date: Delhi
Date: 02.11.2020

PREMIUM MERCHANTS LIMITED
Registered office: Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasoal District Centre, Jasoal, New Delhi-110025
CN: L15909DL19695LCO21077.Tel: +91 11 61119668
Email: id.premiummerchants@gmail.com, website: www.pmltd.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the meeting on 03/20/2021 of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 10th November, 2020 (Tuesday) at the registered office of the Company at Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasoal District Centre, Jasoal, New Delhi-110025 at 3:30 PM to discuss the following agenda items:
i. To consider and take on record the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2020 in terms of Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015.
ii. To discuss any other business with the permission of Chair.

By Order of the Board
For Premium Merchants Limited
Date: 02.11.2020 Director
Place: New Delhi(Balbir Singh) DIN-00027438

America votes

The choice between Donald Trump and Joe Biden is one that will determine the rest of the 21st century



It is remarkable that the United States, possibly the most diverse nation, is choosing between two old, White men to lead it out of the tailspin that the Coronavirus pandemic has caused. This is a time when the US and the rest of the world need leadership, and if America does not choose wisely, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his lackeys are just waiting in the wings to dictate a new world order. But what is the wise choice? Should the US vote for a man who has been divisive and broken ethical and moral norms, even though he did correctly call out China's hypocrisy? Or should the US vote for a man who by all accounts is a nice guy, but has clear signs of age-related mental degeneration? Frankly, this is not a choice that the US needed to make; there are far better, healthier and smarter people on both sides of America's political spectrum. In fact, the 2020 election in the US is possibly a horrible advertisement for democracy, American style. Its electoral system is deeply flawed and while the very basic first past the post system in India and many other nations has its issues, the concept of the electoral college, where a candidate can lose the plurality of the nationwide vote by a massive margin and yet win the right to sit in the White House, is one that the rest of the world finds bizarre. At the same time, the enforced duopoly in the US system has led to extremist views gaining more traction within both parties and although the death of centrism is not only an American phenomenon, it is most starkly experienced in the US where, like Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, the Republicans and Democrats have foiled any potential rival from emerging. For a nation that famously "exports" democracy, American democracy is the worst in any large democratic nation.

From an Indian perspective, Trump and the Republicans have usually been kinder towards us since the times of Ronald Reagan although it was Bill Clinton who started to reset the Indo-US relations at the fag end of his term. The Trump administration's more hawkish view of China has been more than welcomed by the Narendra Modi Government, which had good chemistry with the Democrat President Barack Obama, too. And given the geo-strategic importance India has vis-a-vis China, its vanguard capabilities and Pakistan's somewhat fall from grace, the Indo-US partnership will not only continue but is expected to become stronger. With India's growing concern about China's imperialistic agenda and territorial greed, especially in the border areas and the Indian Ocean Region, the Trump administration has already assigned India an important role in its framework, especially with the free and open Indo-Pacific region. Our Quad initiative, with the US, Japan and Australia, has been activated with Trump's pressure. This has further laid the basis for defence and security cooperation. On the other hand, India's economic dependence on the US has increased. For the fiscal year 2019-20, bilateral trade between the two nations stood at \$88.75 billion, making the US India's top trading partner. However, Biden is known to have expressed a softer stance on trade with China. He even hinted at ending the tariffs that Trump had imposed on Chinese imports. So, if Biden is elected, some of the economic gains that India expects might not come true. Having a Vice-President, who has an Indian heritage and speaks Sanskrit and Tamil, might appear as a plus point. But the Democratic Party has often fallen prey to the wiles of separatist elements and religious freedoms could be on the agenda. However, American pragmatism might mean a more nuanced approach to the relationship with India even in a Biden-Harris victory despite Modi personally investing heavily in Donald Trump, although that was before the Chinese contagion ripped the global economy asunder. By the time you read this, voting might have started in several US States, and by all accounts, there is going to be a whole load of chaos across the nation with different States setting different standards for the election with no federal electoral body. Whatever happens, Indian foreign policy objectives might win but the American people will be reminded that they live in a deeply flawed democratic nation.

Stand by women

A-G argues for gender sensitivity in rulings on sexual assault survivors in SC, recommends training judges



There is no doubt that the judiciary has been quite insensitive and vacillating when it comes to handling rape cases and their survivors, sometimes forcing a reconciliation, at other times becoming sexist and overall being guided by a patriarchal mindset. So instead of assuring and encouraging the abused girls, the courts fail them, few of whom anyway register cases with fewer still fighting it out till the end. This is exactly what happened when the Madhya Pradesh High Court directed a man accused of sexual assault to get a rakhi tied by his victim as a condition of bail, implying that any man can absolve himself of guilt and recompense a girl's dignity by posing as a brother without her consent and changing the predator status at will by becoming the protector. This is worse than the *khap* mentality that we love to rile about, which advocates that rapists get married to the violated girl in the name of preserving honour. The justice system then becomes equally guilty of violating a girl's rights. Worst, it destroys her integrity by easing bail instead of denying it altogether. So Attorney-General KK Venugopal has rightly raised the issue in the Supreme Court, saying judges seem to have been "carried away" while passing the order and that they need to be educated. He further called for adding a part on gender sensitisation in the judges' recruitment exam. It is a sad comment that judges, who are considered learned, informed and seen as notables, are woefully inadequate when it comes to not just gender rights but ensuring humane and equal standards. Unfortunately, this isn't the first time that such bizarre statements have been made in a sexual assault case by the sitting judge. On June 22, while granting bail to a rape accused, Justice Krishna S Dixit of the Karnataka High Court said he found the woman's statement "a bit difficult to believe" and asked her why she had gone to her office at 11 pm and why had she not objected to consuming drinks with the accused, as if proximity implied consent for sex. The judge even felt that it was unbefitting of the woman to have fallen asleep after she was raped, undermining the severity of the physical assault. In July, a civil court in Bihar's Araria district sent a 22-year-old gang-rape survivor to jail on charges of obstructing court proceedings. In 2015, the Madras High Court, in a highly criticised order, granted bail to a convicted rapist and advised a "compromise" between him and his unmarried victim, who had become pregnant. Such rulings have only prejudiced the affected woman, making her look like a revenge-seeker than a credible victim. Worst, her trauma has only multiplied because the justice system rarely individualises the woman on a case-specific basis but defines her in feudalistic terms and judges her under the cultural umbrella of a desired behaviour of Indian womanhood.

Trivialising verdicts on sexual offences means that rape adjudication and sentencing are still subject to stereotypes despite legislative reform. It is not like the A-G's suggestion for gender awareness lessons is new. Training and sensitisation of judges have been recommended and followed since 2013, post the December 2012 gang-rape and murder of Nirbhaya. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 explicitly stated that lack of physical resistance is immaterial for constituting an offence and even broadened the scope of sexual assault. But correspondingly, the judicial sanctification of virginity, chastity and honour being a woman's most prized possession, in turn, places the burden of proof on victims. So, while the demand for swift justice continues to echo throughout the country, we should also call for the reform of the judiciary and the restructuring of the Provincial Civil Services (Judicial) exams. With the conviction rate in rape cases abysmally low at 27.2 per cent, archaic rulings do not settle cases but unsettle women further.

Beheadings in France

As Indians, we need to stand by France and wage a united war against terrorism while upholding our secular and democratic values



A SURYA PRAKASH

The decision of the French President Emmanuel Macron to defend freedom of speech in his country, following the barbaric beheading of a school teacher and some others by radicalised Muslims, has led to violent protests across Islamic nations. The perpetrators of these violent acts in France, as believed, were seeking to avenge the caricaturing of Prophet Mohammed in a French magazine. So it has become a blasphemy versus free speech issue in a nation that rests on the foundation of liberty, equality and fraternity.

Most of the protesters in the Islamic world are justifying the beheadings and baying for the blood of the French President. The biggest culprit is the former Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Bin Mohamad, who said that Muslims have the right "to be angry and to kill millions of french people for the massacres of the past". This is an open encouragement to bloodshed and must easily be the most outrageous and irresponsible statement made by a person who has held an important public office in a big nation. It is surprising that Twitter has only deleted Mohamad's tweet and restrained itself from taking more severe action.

While all this is on the Islamic world, how should citizens of India respond to the developments in a big nation. It is surprising that we see angry protests by Muslim citizens against the caricaturing of the Prophet. There is legitimacy for these protests so long as they are peaceful and non-violent and do not cause any disturbance to the normal run of life. That is why the comment of Farhan Zuberi, a student leader from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), who has justified the beheadings in France and held out an open threat to behead anyone speaking against Islam, deserves to be condemned.

India, given its democratic credentials, has taken the right stand against this kind of violence. The Foreign Ministry condemned the beheading of the school teacher in Paris and said there can be no justification for terrorism for any reason or under any circumstances". For once, the Ministry put aside its weakness for prevarication and "strongly deplored" the personal attack on the French President and said it is a violation of the most basic standards of international discourse.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also taken a firm stand. In a tweet, he strongly condemned the terrorist attacks, including the heinous attack in Nice inside a church. "India stands with France in the fight against terrorism", he tweeted.

This is where all Indians have to draw the line. They cannot behave like the citizens in the Islamic States where everything revolves around religion and the space for public discourse is severely constricted. For the moment, it can be said that the violent outbursts of the AMU student leader are an aberration. It is not the rule. All those who value democracy speak a different language. That is why the statement of one hundred Indian personalities, who "unequivocally and unconditionally" condemned the recent killings in France by fanatics in the name of faith, is important. The signatories to this statement, who included actor Naseeruddin Shah, former Indian Police Service Officer, Julio Ribeiro and lyricist Hussain Haideri, said: "We are deeply disturbed by the convoluted logic of some self-appointed guardians of Indian Muslims in rationalising cold-blooded murder and deplore the outrageous remarks of some heads of state". The signatories attacked whataboutism and condemned attempts to rationalise crimes by comparing them with other similar crimes. They said this was irrational and absurd. "No god, gods, goddesses, prophets or saints may be invoked to justify the killing and/or terrorising of fellow human beings".

India is the world's largest, secular, liberal, democratic republic

“ SECULAR, LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES CANNOT SURVIVE, LET ALONE FLOURISH, IF ANY SECTION OF THE POPULATION OFFERS JUSTIFICATION FOR VIOLENCE IN ORDER TO ASSERT THE CORRECTNESS OF ITS STAND. NO CITIZEN CAN TAKE LESSONS FROM ISLAMIC NATIONS ”

and all of us who care for the free air we breathe must unite against individuals who defend such brutality.

As citizens of the most democratic and diverse nation in the world, our future lies in the preservation of the core values in our Constitution and our democratic way of life. Secular, liberal democracies cannot survive, let

alone flourish, if any section of the population offers justification for violence in order to assert the correctness of its stand. This applies to all Indian citizens and, in the present context, especially to citizens who are adherents of Islam. No citizen of India can take lessons from Islamic nations which have no respect for plurality and equality. We are different. In fact, we are unique, and we must assert our uniqueness and the exalted status that our Constitution has given us. Co-existence within a plural society demands a high degree of tolerance. Our Constitution makers recognised this and it is here that our constitutional arrangement is slightly different from that of France. Our "freedom of expression" is subject to "reasonable restrictions". We cannot use it to disturb, among other things, "public order, decency, morality" or resort to "defamation or incitement to an offence". This is further reinforced by provisions in the Indian Penal Code, such as Section 153 A, 295 and 295 A, which prohibit any activity which promotes enmity between different groups or amounts to "deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage the religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or the religious beliefs". Therefore, we are distinct and we should completely stay clear of the violence that is being promoted by the Islamic nations against France.

As the campaign for a separate Muslim nation started building up in the 1940s, Dr BR Ambedkar, after much deliberation, came to the conclusion that the creation of Pakistan was inevitable. In his book, *Thoughts on Pakistan*, he said, "The allegiance of a Muslim does not rest on his domicile in the country which is his, but on the faith to which he belongs. To the Muslim *Ubi Bene Ibi Patria* is unthinkable. Wherever there is the rule of Islam, there is his own country. In other words, Islam can never allow a true Muslim to adopt India as his motherland and regard a Hindu as his kith and kin". Dr Ambedkar said this 75 years ago and in a certain context — when Muslims in India said that they constituted a separate nation — and established Pakistan. About 35 million Muslims stayed back in India after Pakistan was born because they believed that life in a liberal, democratic environment was far better than in an Islamic State. Muslim families, the third generation is growing up with the protection and safeguards offered by India's Constitution.

These citizens, like all others belonging to other faiths, who have grown up under this secular, democratic umbrella, can see that Pakistan is a failed State that is weighed down by its own failures and has cross-border terrorism as a single-point national agenda. The issues that prompted the creation of Pakistan are no longer relevant. That being the case, they need to prove Dr Ambedkar wrong. The times have changed and peaceful co-existence offers all of us the best chance. As Indians, we all have grown up under this secular, democratic umbrella and we should stand by France and all other democracies and wage a united war against terrorism and against all those who are opposed to secular, democratic values.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

If you were a voter in Bihar, do they tell you about unemployment, jobs, new industries, MSP for food grains, crop insurance, flood relief, women's safety etc? The answer is zilch... nothing.

Senior Congress leader — P Chidambaram

The US thinks India will contain China, which is a completely flawed premise. India is a threat to its neighbours, to China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and to us.

Pakistan PM — Imran Khan

He (Akhlesh Yadav) is young, educated and a visionary. The prevailing circumstances in the country and the State, we need to strengthen secular forces.

Former Congress MP — Annu Tandon

Yes, Denmark Open didn't happen but that won't stop me from training. When I come to you, one must come back twice as hard.

Badminton player — PV Sindhu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Impose curbs on Pak

Sir — The admission made by the Federal Cabinet Minister Fawad Chaudhry on Islamabad's role in the Pulwama terror strike should be taken into consideration by the United Nations and other international bodies for initiating action against Pakistan for using force as an instrument of State policy. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) must take cognisance of this fact and blacklist Pakistan. However, till such a time, India needs to develop a targeted strategy to focus on the business interests of Pakistan. The Government should start by identifying companies and individuals from India that do business with Pakistani entities or even those who have a presence there.

New Delhi should adopt a multi-pronged approach rather than impose sanctions in silos. With its focus on policies like Neighbourhood First, Act East and multipolarity, India is nurturing friendships with other countries and can further leverage these in the implementation of its sanctions strategy against Pakistan.

Yash Pal Ralhan Jalandhar

BJP politicising Pulwama attack

It is most unfortunate that the BJP is trying to use Pakistan's Science and Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry's statement about Islamabad's role in the Pulwama attack to woo the voters in Bihar. It is as if the party waited for the "confession". It grabbed it with both hands as a big chance to try and turn the pro-Tajewshi tide in the ongoing Assembly election in its favour. Clearly, the BJP does not want the voters to believe that the ruling party and the Opposition are nationalistic and patriotic in equal measure. The attempt to portray the Opposition as not adequately "pro-India" and "anti-Pakistan" is absolutely preposterous.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi slammed "politics" on Pulwama and rightly so, but then can he be oblivious to the fact that his own party has perfected the art of invoking the Army to outdo the Opposition in domestic politics? It is wrong to misconstrue pointing out "lapses" as an unpatriotic act as it is done to ensure greater caution and avert a repeat of such

Delhi's toxic air

Sir — On November 1, the shock of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution rose to 40 per cent, the maximum so far this season. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), had spotted action this time, especially as we continue to live with the Coronavirus. The immediate step would be banning the sale of firecrackers as Diwali is just around the corner. The Centre and State Governments should work on alternative ways of disposing of the stubble like the accelerated straw decomposition process. We also need to bring innovation in the energy sector. We have no option but to invest in new ideas.

Must stop making empty promises of employment and initiate steps to create new job opportunities by organising skill-based training programmes in various sectors. People need to start focussing on other employment alternatives by bringing down their dependence on Government jobs.

Drugging Pakistan in election after election by the ruling party at the Centre to make it look more acceptable to the electorate is a sad commentary on Indian democracy. It is time we learn that we don't have to define our identity and existence in relation to a neighbouring country.

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G David Milton Maruthancode

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Urvil Jain Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

MVA must focus on development

As long as Uddhav ensures that there is no friction among the alliance partners, there is no danger to the Maharashtra Government's stability



KALYANI SHANKAR

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will complete one year in office later this month. He is heading a coalition Government, which consists of the Shiv Sena, the Congress Party and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Eyebrows were raised when the three parties came together to form a Government though there is no common factor among them. Despite some differences, the Government has survived for a year due to the accommodative attitude of the partners. Uddhav is the first from the Thackeray family to become the Chief Minister, though he was reluctant to occupy the chair initially. He has been functioning under the tutelage of the NCP chief Sharad Pawar, who has had a long innings, both as Chief Minister and Union Minister. It was Pawar who had put together the coalition, Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA), and keeps it going.

There have been speculations regarding the stability of the Government and many expected either the NCP or the Congress to pull out of the coalition, resulting in its collapse. However, Uddhav seems to be confident of the survival of the MVA but apprehends danger to the Government from the outside, particularly from the BJP which is the main Opposition party in the State. Though inexperienced in governance, Uddhav has matured. In his calm and quiet manner, he is running the Maharashtra Government with help from Pawar.

So what is Uddhav's report card like? First, his Government has survived so far. Second, like many of the other Chief Ministers and leaders around the globe, he was stunned by an unexpected pandemic, which hit the world. The outbreak of Coronavirus has been Uddhav's biggest challenge so far as it has destroyed the economy of Maharashtra, like it has that of the country. So he faced twin challenges, apart from apprehending political instability at any time.

Maharashtra was one of the States to register the maximum number of COVID cases in the country and it may take months to stabilise. Mumbai was the worst-hit because it has Asia's biggest slum, Dharavi, and also many workers from there and neighbouring Pune had brought back the infection from the Gulf countries, where they had migrated for better prospects. Added to that was the challenge of dealing with the thousands of migrant labourers who felt abandoned. Just like in the rest of India, in Maharashtra, too, there were cases of thousands of migrant workers trudging back home. These two challenges were difficult even for experienced administrators across India to handle. But in the end, Dharavi became the symbol of how to manage a pandemic and was lauded by the World Health Organisation, too.

Uddhav had to deal with some controversies along the way. One of them was the alleged murder of actor Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR), which turned out to be suicide, and the marking of the 75th anniversary of the death of the late NCP Minister Nawab Malik marking a five per cent reservation for Muslims, which was part of the common minimum programme of the coalition. The Chief Minister quietly maintained that the issue was sub-judice and the partners kept quiet too. Another challenge for the new Chief Minister was keeping his flock together as there were major apprehensions that the BJP would break his party and engineer a collapse of the Maharashtra Government. But the Sena stood by him and perhaps to reassure them, Uddhav in his Vijayadashmi speech, adopted an aggressive tone. He utilised the occasion to clarify many issues raised by the BJP. Uddhav has belied the belief that he has no fire in his belly with his new-found assertiveness. Vijayadashmi would have been an ideal occasion for the Chief Minister to speak about positives and his vision for the future but he chose to counter-attack the erstwhile partner, the BJP. He also clarified the Sena's Hindutva ideology. He said, "My Hindutva is not merely reopening temples. Those who question our Hindutva were hitting after the Babri Masjid was demolished... My Hindutva comes from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, my father, and others who followed him. It's about nationalism... This was in reply to the Governor who questioned the Maharashtra Government's decision not to reopen temples and tauntingly asked Uddhav whether he had 'turned secular'."

Significantly, the Sena chief asserted that the MVA Government was stable. "Many (read BJP) were saying they will make the Government fall. People are still saying the same. I would like to dare them all. If you dare to try to break this Government you will fail." He also taunted, "Rather than working on improving the economy, steps are taken to topple governments. We are heading towards anarchy." For a novice, running the coalition was quite difficult as it was under stress all the time but the BJP is not in a position to form the Government unless it breaks the Congress or the NCP. As long as Uddhav ensures that there is no friction among the MVA partners, there is no threat to the Maharashtra Government's stability. Uddhav must focus on development in his second year.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

PATY WAS KILLED AS ISLAMISTS WANT OUR FUTURE. WE PLEDGE TO FIGHT ISLAMIST SEPARATISM TAKING HOLD OF SOME COMMUNITIES IN FRANCE.

—FRENCH PRESIDENT
EMMANUEL MACRON

POINT COUNTERPOINT



PRESIDENT MACRON COULD HAVE PUT A HEALING TOUCH AND DENIED SPACE TO EXTREMISTS. SADLY HE HAS CHOSEN TO PROVOKE MUSLIMS

—PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER
IMRAN KHAN

Food for thought

The co-existence of APMC and non-APMC markets giving competition to each other is the best foot forward for ensuring a fair deal to farmers



UTTAM GUPTA

The enactment of the three farm laws by the Central Government has triggered agitations by farmers' organisations and a spate of protests, specially from non-NDA ruled States. Their main worry is that growers won't get the Minimum Support Price (MSP) on sales made outside the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis (markets). All this, when it is well-known that under the APMC, agriculturists are already getting a raw deal. The constitutional validity of the farm laws has been challenged in the Supreme Court, too, with the Chhattisgarh Government arguing that these have in effect repealed the State law on the mandis system. It will be some time before the matter is adjudicated by the top court. The fact remains that with multiple selling options available under the new Central laws, growers will definitely be much better off. Instead of trying to undo what the Centre has done, the States should focus on how APMC mandis can do better.

The most strident criticism of the laws is based on a belief that big food companies, who now get to buy directly from agriculturists outside the designated APACs — courtesy, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 — will use their power to deny growers, particularly small and marginal ones, the MSP for their produce. In fact, an amendment passed by Punjab says that the sale of its cash crops, wheat and paddy, will be valid only if the seller pays a price equal to or greater than the MSP announced by the Central Government and that any violation would be punishable.

Before violating the gun and speculating over what the farmers won't get, we need to introspect as to what they are getting under the existing dispensation. At present, they are required to bring their produce to the mandis notified by the State Government and sell to the APMC. The acts. Growers can't take their produce to any other place (if any farmer does this, s/he runs the risk of the vehicle being impounded by the State agencies for violating the extant law). If a buyer is willing to pick the produce up from the farmers' doorstep, even that is not possible.

On reaching the designated mandis, the agriculturist is confronted with two major players, namely arhtiyas or commission agents and licensed traders or buyers. The main function of the arhtiyas is to arrange for the auction and delivery of the harvested crop to the buyers. He gets a commission at the rate of 2.5 per cent of the purchase price and this has to be borne by the buyer. In addition, the latter has to pay other charges levied by the State Government (for instance, Punjab levies market fee at the rate of three per cent and rural development cess or RDC at three per cent).

In cases where the licensed trader is a State agency, such as the Food Corporation of India (FCI), which purchases grain for meeting the needs of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and selling them to the beneficiaries at a subsidised price, the farmer is assured of the MSP. But State agencies don't buy all of the produce brought by growers to the mandis for sale. Even for wheat and paddy, where the agencies have a well-entrenched network, the purchase is at the most about 35 per cent of the total produce. For others (the Centre notifies MSPs for 22 agri-items), this is much less.

The agriculturists, who are not fortunate to sell

GIVING MORE OPTIONS TO FARMERS TO SELL THEIR PRODUCE CAN'T BE STALLED JUST BECAUSE THE POTENTIAL BUYERS WON'T GIVE THEM MSP. INSTEAD OF OPPOSING REFORM THAT PROMISES SOMETHING DISTINCTLY BETTER THAN WHAT THE FARMERS ARE GETTING TODAY, THE STATES NEED TO WORK TO MAKE THEIR MANDIS EFFICIENT AND HEALTHY



their produce to State agencies (these are predominantly small and marginal growers), are left at the mercy of the arhtiyas and licensed traders and are forced to dump it at a price substantially below the MSP. Arhtiyas exploit farmers in other ways, too. They lend money for buying agricultural inputs, namely seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and so on (in many cases, for weddings, medical emergencies, too). The interest charged is a minimum 1.5 per cent a month. That leads to mounting debt for farmers.

According to a study on *Indebtedness Among Farmers and Agricultural Labourers in Rural Punjab*, as many as 86 per cent of farmers and 80 per cent of agricultural labour households are mired in debt. Over a fifth of that debt was owed to commission agents and moneylenders. What's more, the debt burden gets worse down the scale. It's the heaviest among marginal and small farmers.

The conditions of millions of small and marginal growers could not have been worse than what it is today. And this has to do fundamentally with the absence of alternative options to sell their produce.

The extant arrangements are being used by States to bolster their coffers (for instance, Punjab garners about ₹1,750 crore annually from levy of RDC at the rate of three per cent) at the cost of the Centre. This is because the levies increase the cost of food procurement for distribution under the National Food Security Act, 2013, which increases the food subsidy. It is a typical case of States gaining access to Central funds outside the purview of the Finance Commission (whether one likes or not, the taxpayers' money is also used for adding to the riches of arhtiyas

as their commission too, is coming out of the food subsidy).

The Central law on trade and commerce opens up a world of opportunities to the farmers even while keeping the APMC intact. They can go to a private market for selling; they can enter into a contract for selling to a company (processor, aggregator, large retailer, exporter and so on) at their doorsteps, form farmer producer organisations (FPO) and sell under their umbrella. To worry about whether they will get MSP on all such sales, that too when at present they are literally getting nothing, is flawed thinking. By all means, they must be protected from exploitative corporations. That doesn't mean they should be denied access to them though.

In August, 2018, among the several amendments approved by the then Devendra Fadnis Government to the Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 1963, a provision related to making purchase of farm commodity below the official MSP a punishable offence. With this, if a private trader buys farmers' produce at a price lower than the MSP, he could be jailed for one year, and will have to pay a fine of ₹50,000. This led to widespread consternation and had to be dropped.

Even so, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 on contract farming has provisions to protect the interests of farmers. For instance, the grower can walk away from the contract anytime but the company can't. It protects the minimum guaranteed price in the event of a drastic fall in the open

market rate, even as the agriculturist gets a share of the post-contract price surge after a contract farming agreement is signed. To give a fillip to development of parallel markets, the Central law has also disallowed State levies (market fee, RDC and so on) on transactions outside the APMC platform. While, on one hand, this move will reduce the cost of food to consumers, on the other, it will lessen the burden of food subsidy. Instead of re-introducing these levies, the States will do well to abolish these on purchases made at APMC mandis as well.

Complementing the other two legislations, the Centre has also enacted the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 to exclude pulses, cereals, edible oil, seeds, onions and potatoes from the purview of this archaic law. This will free the processors, millers, exporters and so on from stock limits and other shackles and help them do their business in a seamless manner. However, the exceptions (imposition of stock limits in situations of sudden spike in price like in the case of onions right now) should be sparingly used as it gives the wrong signal, particularly in export markets, and will eventually boomerang on farmers.

Giving more options to farmers to sell their produce can't be stalled just because the potential buyers won't give them MSP. Instead of opposing reform that promises something distinctly better than what the farmers are getting today, the States need to work to make their mandis efficient and healthy. Both APMC and non-APMC markets giving competition to each other is the best foot forward for ensuring a fair deal to farmers.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

Air quality management is the answer

Enacting laws sans assessment only leads to diverting attention from long-term comprehensive solutions to short-term myopic interventions



SNEHASHIS MITRA

Air quality management in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) is perhaps an idea whose time has come. With the Supreme Court hot on its heels on the issue of air pollution, the Central Government has taken a holistic view of the matter. A new law will seek to put a permanent statutory body in place with participants from the affected States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and, of course, Delhi to reduce air pollution in contiguous areas. Delhi's air quality has been in the "very poor" category and is predicted to remain so till the end of winter. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's satellite imagery also showed a very dense cluster of fires in Punjab, Haryana and nearby regions. Air pollution in urban

areas arises from multiple sources, which may vary with location and developmental activities. Anthropogenic activities, such as rampant industrialisation, exploitation and overconsumption of natural resources and the ever increasing number of vehicles, are major contributors to air pollution.

The Delhi-NCR region bears the brunt of farmland fires that contribute heavily to the annual air pollution crisis. Dense smoke billows from smouldering paddy fields, which are set on fire to prepare the ground for sowing the next crop. The smoke rises and settles over vast swathes of north and north-west India. Coupled with local emissions and dust, it has in recent years turned cities into what the apex court once described as "gas chambers".

According to data compiled by the Union Agriculture Ministry, Punjab accounted for 82 per cent of the stubble burning cases, besides Haryana and UP, between October 1 and 23. This contributed heavily to the foul air choking Delhi-NCR.

Residue burning in the fields of Punjab, Haryana, UP and Delhi-NCR, saying all it wants is that the "people can breathe fresh air without any pollution".

The law intends to address the issues of existing rules and regulations that hampers coordinated action, though it has to address State jurisdictions involved in implementing steps. There are enough laws to deal with the situation, experts feel, saying multiplicity of institutions and overlapping laws may end up creating even more confusion and friction.

Both the Centre and the States have enough powers under the existing laws and more than any new legislation, there has to be actual action on pollution sources while implementing existing rules and regulations effectively, say experts.

As of now, the Central Government has been using its powers under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in order to issue directions to control pollution. Both the State and Centre have authorities under existing laws — the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 — to take pre-

ventive and remedial measures to deal with air pollution. In case the Centre intends to enact a law regulating farming practice, it will have to ensure that it does not encroach upon the domain reserved for the State. Agriculture is a State subject while the Centre is in the Concurrent List. In case it directly impacts agricultural practices, it is likely to face both social opposition as well as legal challenges, say environmental experts, who rue that the Supreme Court, Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) may not be that clear as to what needs to be done. They say that if the Government is keen on resolving the issue, it must undertake a thorough review of the various laws and institutions in order to look at their efficacy and utility.

Enacting laws or issuing directions without any assessment and consultation with the stakeholders will divert attention from long-term comprehensive solutions to short-term myopic interventions.

"The problem lies in the fact that

political will is missing when it comes to implementation. Having said that, it will be a welcome step if there is a specific provision to deal with crop residue burning at the national level. It should not be left alone as a problem of the State Government. High Resolution Satellite images from central and southern India show the extent of crop waste burning in these parts as well, which have an impact on local climate resilience," says Polish Mukerjee, Air Quality Researcher.

There is no dearth of power under the law, the question is of adherence, says Anumita Roy Chowdhury, Executive Director, Centre for Science and Environment.

The moot question, according to former counsel for the CPCB in the Supreme Court Vijay Pantwani, is what action the Centre can take if the State fails to follow the directions?

A report by Beijing-based policy think tank, BlueTech Clean Air Alliance (BCAA), released in June 2019, had stated that China faced a similar problem and the Chinese Government started to show strong political commitment in tackling the issue from the highest levels, which is widely considered to be a key factor for the success

of such measures. "Political commitments from the State Governments are also required to ensure they are transformed into solid actions. Effective air quality management requires science-based policy-making, analysing scientific assessments, data monitoring, emissions inventory, air quality modelling, source apportionment studies and transport planning. China's lessons showed that significant investments and efforts that have no foundation in science are made in vain, with no impact on air quality improvement," says the report.

Despite US President Donald Trump's libe about India's "filthy air", Delhi did record a drop of 25 per cent in PM-10 levels and a 19 per cent fall in PM-2.5 in 2019, as compared with 2016. But neither the pace of decline of these two key air pollutants, nor the existing target under the National Clean Air Programme are likely to be enough to make the city breathe easily even by 2024, going by the national ambient air quality standards. Air quality management is the need of the hour and must be undertaken at all cost.

(The writer is Technical Associate, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun)



FOREIGN EYE

WHAT TOOK BORIS SO LONG?

The tough restrictions will hurt but are needed — and the UK Prime Minister's foot-dragging has only increased the cost. This lockdown will save lives, and the more assiduously people respect it, the more quickly and effectively it will work. The public has so far proved markedly more responsible than those leading the country. But every Government failure saps the morale, goodwill and sense of purpose on which compliance depends. (The Guardian editorial)

Sensex snaps 3-day losing streak

RIL TANKS OVER 8% POST Q2 SHOW

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices found firmer ground on Monday after three days of declines as robust demand for banking and financial stocks amid upbeat macro-economic data neutralised heavy selling in heavyweight Reliance Industries. A positive trend in global markets too bolstered sentiment, though a sharp depreciation in the rupee capped the gains, traders said.

After gyrating 633.11 points in a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 143.51 points or 0.36 per cent higher at 39,757.58.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 26.75 points or 0.23 per cent to 11,669.15.

IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 7.10 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, HDFC, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, Indian Oil, Finance and HDFC Bank.

ICICI Bank on Saturday reported an over four-fold jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 4,882 crore for the September quarter, driven largely by core income growth and lesser provisions for the pandemic-related impact.

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd on Monday said its consolidated net profit declined by 57.5 per cent to Rs 4,600 crore in the July-September quarter of 2020-21. However, during the quarter ended September 30, 2019, Rs 8,000 crore were reported, being reported by subsidiary GRUH Finance Limited, it added.

Reliance Industries (RIL) was the top loser among the Sensex constituents, crashing 8.62 per cent, after the company reported a strong report of 15 per cent drop in second quarter net profit as a slump in core oil and chemicals business dragged down continued good showing in consumer-facing verticals such as telecom.

Other major losers included Paints, Tata Steel, Bajaj Auto,

Gold rises by ₹103; silver gains ₹793

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose ₹103 to ₹51,286 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday supported by strong global trends and rupee depreciation, according to HDPC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at ₹51,183 per 10 gram in the previous trade.

Silver also gained ₹793 to ₹62,155 per kilogram, from ₹61,362 per kilogram in the previous trade.

Spot gold prices for 24 karat in Delhi were up by ₹103, supported by strong global gold prices and rupee depreciation," HDPC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

The rupee depreciated 32 paise and settled at 74.42 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday tracking strong American currency.

In the international market, gold traded with gains at USD 1,885 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.83 per ounce.

However, some recovery was seen as investors showed interest in banking stocks as major players announced Q2 results, which brought estimates with positive outlook.

"Additionally, the banking stocks are attempting to price, in expectation of the positive SC verdict on moratorium. While the market is expected to be volatile, amid mixed global sentiments due to increasing COVID cases, US election and delayed stimulus," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Rupee slumps 32 paise to close at 74.42 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 32 paise and settled at 74.42 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday tracking strong American currency amid global risk aversion.

The local unit opened at 74.40 in the interbank forex market, then lost further ground and finally closed at 74.42 against the greenback, down 32 paise over its last close.

During the session, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 74.28 and a low of 74.45 against the greenback.

On Thursday, the rupee had declined by 23 paise to close at a two-month low of 74.10 against the US currency.

Forex market was closed on Friday on account of Id-E-Milad.

Uncertainty ahead of US presidential election weighed on investor sentiment, traders said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.23 per cent to 94.25.

Great sales but wait before celebrating

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

Before we get into the lacunae of this column, one should know that the auto sector will likely also declare record sales for the month of November 2020. This is primarily because in 2019, the festive season has been later than most years and is split almost equally between the two months with Diwali taking place on November 14. That said, how much should one read into the massive domestic sales announced by all major automobile, two-wheeler and commercial vehicle manufacturers? First things first, while sales in October 2020 are significantly higher than October 2019, one should

remember that this time last year the automotive industry was hurting as sales had declined sharply since the 2017-2018 time period. Yes, sales are up from last year, but in many cases sales have not recovered to pre-downturn levels. Thanks to COVID, the brakes hadn't been applied in 2019 will be a disservice to everyone.

The other major thing to remember for all automotive categories is that despite the sales bump in October, and expected bump in November, sales for the year are still down on last year as there were no sales in April and the months of May, June and July barely existed as well.

Looking at October, if one looks at 'Year To Date' sales for this fiscal year over last year, sales are down between 15-25 per cent for most automakers and while there are a few who have bucked the trend, it is mostly because they are a company in a growth phase in India.

There are also a couple of other things to keep in mind right now, for companies like Hyundai Motor India and Maruti Suzuki, which have domestic sales of 56,000 units in October, that has come at the cost of exports. Of course,

exports are up significantly for some companies, notably Bajaj Auto whose exports have climbed dramatically thanks to their operations in Africa, a continent notably less affected by the pandemic, but four-wheeler exports are down significantly across the board.

Predicting the rise of global demand is going to be difficult and for a nation like India, which has become a major export hub, this is something to keep an eye on.

Thanks to Maruti-Suzuki, India's largest carmaker being a listed company, there are some other learnings that one can glean from their results and conference as well.

Sales of cars that operated conventionally, mainly by taxis for the likes of Ola and Uber, sales have nosedived. Maruti-Suzuki said that from as much as seven per cent a few quarters ago, sales of such vehicles account for just 2.4 per cent of total sales.

From this one can glean that the recovery for the likes of Ola and Uber may be a long and drawn out one. And if private car sales are up, that is also an indication that the trust level in app-based operations has crashed. Let us be honest, a plastic shield between the driver and passenger will

The automotive sector had a bumper October, but everyone should hold off the celebrations just yet

make little of no difference when the ventilation system is the same.

There are also some positives for the market here. The average ticket size of a sold car for one large manufacturer has gone from Rs 4 lakh in 2014 to Rs 8 lakh/unit in 2014 to 2020. People are spending more money on their cars and they want more features on cars. This means buyers want more features - touchscreens, safety and more - in their cars. That is a good thing and a higher ticket size usually means more work for component manufacturers as well.

But all this is no indication of how things will play out in 2021, and here Maruti-Suzuki is a good example. It is hard to predict, the company does not know how sales will be in 2021 as the real impact of the Coronavirus might be next year as people really tighten their purses.

Those who want to buy a car or motorcycle due to the collapse of app-based taxis and public transport would have already done so, and attracting people into the market next year with job growth being minimal and next to change of salary increments will be tougher than most people expect.

GST shortfall: Centre to transfer ₹6,000 cr to 16 States, 3 UTs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Monday said it will transfer ₹6,000 crore as the second tranche of GST compensation shortfall to 16 States and 3 Union Territories - including West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, UP, Uttarakhand, Delhi, J & K and Puducherry.

Last month, the Centre gave in to the demands of opposition ruled states to borrow and fund the GST compensation shortfall.

The Finance Ministry said that the Centre would borrow from the market to pay the GST compensation shortfall of ₹1.1 lakh crore to states, and then act as an intermediary to arrange back-to-back loans to state govts. This arrangement will not reflect in the fiscal deficit of the Centre and will appear as capital receipts for state govts. The Centre had in August proposed two options to states: (a) borrow Rs 97,000 crore (on account of GST implementation) from a special window facilitated by the RBI or (b) complete shortfall of Rs 2.35 lakh crore (including Rs 1.38 lakh crore due to COVID) from the market.

The Centre had in August proposed two options to states: (a) borrow Rs 97,000 crore (on account of GST implementation) from a special window facilitated by the RBI or (b) complete shortfall of Rs 2.35 lakh crore (including Rs 1.38 lakh crore due to COVID) from the market.

21 states and 3 Union Territories till date, have opted for the Special Window and the

loans raised by the Centre would be released on a back-to-back basis to states/UTs, in lieu of GST Compensation Cess releases. The loans have been released to the following states and Union Territories - Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, UP, Uttarakhand, Delhi, J & K and Puducherry.

Last month, the Centre gave in to the demands of opposition ruled states to borrow and fund the GST compensation shortfall.

The Finance Ministry said that the Centre would borrow from the market to pay the GST compensation shortfall of ₹1.1 lakh crore to states, and then act as an intermediary to arrange back-to-back loans to state govts. This arrangement will not reflect in the fiscal deficit of the Centre and will appear as capital receipts for state govts. The Centre had in August proposed two options to states: (a) borrow Rs 97,000 crore (on account of GST implementation) from a special window facilitated by the RBI or (b) complete shortfall of Rs 2.35 lakh crore (including Rs 1.38 lakh crore due to COVID) from the market.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform & seek opinions, if any, from general public that the Mr. Rohan Kumar Soni of St. Srinagar has left the immovable property on 30th August, 2020 and is the allottee of property Unit Commercial Space No. 702 B on 7th Floor, Plot No. 10/10 in the project known as "Sri Centre" situated at Sector 14, Singhpura, Zirakpur, Jalandhar District, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Mr. Soni Prakash, Smt. Sudhanshu Kaur and Mr. Rahul Sheel are the father, mother and the younger brother of the said deceased person have claimed as legal heirs and have obtained a Certificate of Legal Heir from Municipal Corporation discharging three of them as the sole legal heirs of the said deceased one further of the said property and have furnished their consent to transfer the whole share of the said property in the name of Mr. Soni Prakash Soni of Mr. Nitin Lal and as such they had also submitted an undertaking in this respect as well. Any person or persons including any bank, societies or financial institution having any claim, right, title or interest in the above said property in any manner whatsoever by way of a gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, assignment, agreement, attachment, license, maintenance or otherwise whatsoever, shall bring the same to the notice of the undersigned in writing with supporting documents within a period of 21 days from the date of this notice failing which such claim, if any, shall be considered to be waived, abandoned and the above premises are presumed that no person or persons including societies/bank/financial institution has any claim or any interest in respect of the said property and any subsequent claim shall not bind us in any manner.

Director
Gupta Builders and Promoters (P) Ltd.
(S.O. 196-197, Ground Floor, Sector 34-A
Chandigarh, Pin Code: 160022)

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED

(CIN: L25190IN18001PL0173)
Regd. Office: 28, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110007
Website: www.cosco.in
Tel: 91-11-23343000; Fax: 91-11-23343000

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (the "Listing Regulations"), a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 12, 2020 to, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30/09/2020, as per Regulations 29 & 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

A copy of the said Notice and the Unaudited Financial Results shall also be available at the Company's website at www.cosco.in and the website of the Stock Exchange - BSE at www.bseindia.com

For Cosco (India) Limited
Sd/-
(Pankaj Jain)
Whole Time Director and CFO
DIN:00190414
Place: Delhi
Date: November 02, 2020

Data centre industry to see USD 5 bln investment by 2025 on data localisation

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Data centres, which have seen a massive growth on the back of data localisation diktats and the pandemic, will witness USD 5 billion in investments till March 2025 and a threefold increase in capacity, a report said on Monday.

The overall capacity, which is measured by the amount of power they consume, stood at 360 MW as of March 2020 and the same is expected to surge to 1,100-1,200 MW by end of March 2025, according to the report.

Parliament Standing Committee discusses production of coal, lignite

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Monday discussed issues related to production of coal and lignite as well as planning in different coal fields in India. The meeting was held in Parliament premises at 11:30 a.m. The 31-member committee, including 21 Lok Sabha members and 10 Rajya Sabha members, discussed 'production of coal and lignite, its promotion and supply of coal (including specific reference to performance of Western Coalfields Limited and Central Coalfields Limited)' Bharatiya Janta

2025 after the investments of up to USD 5 billion, the report said. The research was led by agency CRISIL said.

The data centre business has entities like Japan's NTT, Sify, Hiranandani Group etc in the fray already, and others like the Adani Group and an arm of Bharti. The report also announced investment plans.

The research note said, there was a 38 per cent growth in data consumption in April-June period and the consumption will continue to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 10 per cent per year in the next few years, it said.

The growth in consumption will be driven by factors such as high growth in e-commerce, increase in usage of social media, greater preference for over the top (OTT) platform, the governments' impetus for digital India initiative and rapid digitisation of services across industries, it said.

Data localisation norms initiated by the government and regulators, which mandate storage of sensitive data within India, will also support growth of local data centres, it said.

SC seeks stay report on Mallya's extradition in 6 weeks

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to file status report on extradition of Mallya's business partner Vijay Mallya within six weeks.

The top court after a brief hearing in the matter adjourned the case to the third week of January.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, submitted before a bench headed by Justice U.U. Lalit that some legal proceedings are still pending in the UK, which is delaying Mallya's extradition.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE LARGEST LIST OF MR. SHAMTI DEVI W/o Late Narayan Venkatesh Rao, R-2-403, Twin Tower (Wing), AWHO Society, Near Prakash Institute, Omiga - Gurgaon, Bude Nagar, Gurgaon, Haryana, India, who is the sole and absolute owner of the scheduled property and/or claimant in respect of the scheduled property or any part thereof or any benefit arising thereon, in the scheduled property, is hereby requested to make the same known in writing to the undersigned, along with the details of documents in support thereof, within 15 days from the date of publication hereof. If such person(s) and/or organization(s) shall be unable to do so, the undersigned shall be deemed to be the sole and absolute owner of the scheduled property and transfer of the scheduled property and transfer of the scheduled property shall be deemed to be completed without reference to such person(s) and/or organization(s).

NOTICE IS REFERRED TO HEREINAFORE: Plots of residential land bearing Municipal No. 1168/148/19, total area 200 sq. yds or thereabouts, situated at Sector 14, Singhpura, Zirakpur, Jalandhar District, SAS Nagar (Mohali), India, with existing building, containing three floors (G+2 constructed) hereon, being: 1. Ground floor (G.F.): 167 sq. mtrs.; 2. First Floor (F.F.): 167 sq. mtrs.; 3. Second Floor (S.F.): 167 sq. mtrs. Area with total area 501 sq. mtrs. (120.23 Sq. Yds.) Dated this 03rd day of November, 2020.

Adv Sachin S. S. 509, Nirmal Tower, 5th Floor, 26, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110008
Tel: 011- 23313598

IN BRIEF

PHONEPE NOW HAS 250 MILLION USERS IN INDIA

Bangalore: Digital payments platform PhonePe on Monday claimed it has crossed the 250 million registered users in the country. The company also reported over 100 million monthly active users (MAU) and 2.3 billion app sessions in October. "Our next target is to cross 300 million registered users by December 2022," said Sameer Nigam, CEO and Founder of PhonePe. PhonePe said it processed a record 925 million transactions in the month on October, with an annual TPV (total payment value) run rate of \$277 billion.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK-2020 CONCLUDED

New Delhi: The Vigilance Awareness Week-2020 was launched by Northern Railways from 27.10.2020 to 21.11.2020 with inauguration of Integrity Pledge at the Headquarter office, Baroda House by the officials by General Manager, Northern Railway. Simultaneously, the pledge was also administered to the officers and staff at all the five Divisions by the concerned Divisional Rail Manager in their area of jurisdiction.

PUBLIC WELFARE SCHEMES RECOGNISED AT NATIONAL LEVEL: CM

Rajpur: On the occasion of Chhattisgarh State Foundation Day, ₹ 1500 crore was transferred into the bank accounts of farmers as the third installment of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana, in the virtual presence of Member of Lok Sabha Mr. Rahul Gandhi. In this Rajivnivas programme organized at the Chief Minister's Residence Office, Swami Atmanand English Medium School Scheme and Mobile Hospitals cum Laboratories were inaugurated in 30 urban slum areas of the state under Mukhyamantri Shaanti Shiksha Swasthya Yojana, in the presence of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Patel and Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant, and Ministers. Extending hearty greetings of State Foundation Day to people of Chhattisgarh, MP Mr. Rahul Gandhi said that farmers and labourers are the foundation of the country. Entire country is struggling in this time of pandemic, but the weaker section of the society is facing more difficulties and has become more vulnerable.

MP Mishra takes over as Director NALCO Bhubaneswar: Manasa Prasad Mishra, has taken over as the new Director (Projects & Technical) of the Navarna CPSE National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). Prior to the present assignment, Shri Mishra was serving in the Company as Executive Director of Smelter and Power Complex at Anup. After graduating in Mechanical Engineering from UCE Burla (now Veeva Surendra State University of Technology), Shri Mishra began his career in NALCO as Graduate Engineer Trainee in 1984.

MP Mishra takes over as Director NALCO Bhubaneswar: Manasa Prasad Mishra, has taken over as the new Director (Projects & Technical) of the Navarna CPSE National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). Prior to the present assignment, Shri Mishra was serving in the Company as Executive Director of Smelter and Power Complex at Anup. After graduating in Mechanical Engineering from UCE Burla (now Veeva Surendra State University of Technology), Shri Mishra began his career in NALCO as Graduate Engineer Trainee in 1984.

NTPC - Q2/H1 FY21 UNAUDITED RESULTS

The Country's largest power generator- NTPC Ltd. with a group installed capacity of 62910 MW, declared the unaudited financial results for the second quarter and half-year ended 30 September, 2020 on 2 November, 2020. The gross generation of NTPC in H1 FY21 was 127.86 Billion units as against 130.14 Billion units during the corresponding period of previous year. NTPC Coal stations achieved PLF of 61.26% in H1 FY21 as against the National Average PLF of 49.58%. On standalone basis, in Q2 FY21, total income was 28,338.33 cr as against 27,658.23 crore in Q2 FY20, registering an increase of 10%.

AGRITECH TO TECH-ENABLE 50,000 SMALL FARMERS

New Delhi: Agritech Enablers Private Limited, a company incorporated to facilitate technology adoption by India's tech-starved small and marginal farmers for enabling manifold increase in their minuscule agrif income, on the occasion of signing of its first seeds in the open farm, announced plans to comprehensively tech-enable 50,000 small and marginal farmers across India in five years. "We have a vision to enable technology to make a significant impact on the lives of small and marginal farmers. We are all passionate about the cause and are committed to help build world-class agripreneurs," said Vijay Patwa, Chairman, Agritech Enablers, a 50-year marketing veteran of tyre and petroleum industries, and Director of National Development Corporation.

ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED

CIN: L74990DL1976PLC00865
Regd. Office: Unit No. 6 Ground Floor Pocket III, Sarita Vihar New Delhi 110076
Website: www.rotogrids.com Email: info@rotogrids.com Phone: 011-47366600

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 35B (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Monday, 12th November, 2020 at 03.30 PM at the Registered office of the company, (hereinafter referred to as the "Meeting") to consider and approve and/or ratify the financial results of the Company for the Second Quarter and Half Year ended 30th September, 2020. The information is also available on website of the BSE (www.bseindia.com) where the shares of the company are listed and is also available on the website of the company viz. www.rotogrids.com

Date: 02.11.2020
Place: New Delhi

By Order of the Board
For RotoGraphics (India) Limited
Pradeep Sharma
Company Secretary
Chartered Accountant

ICICI Bank

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

(See proviso to rule 80B)
Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower/ Guarantor(s) / Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Jyoti (Borrower), Co-Borrower LBDEL00002301579 LBDEL00002545113	House No. - N-K-1/333, Indraprastha, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Area 274 Sq.ft.	Rs 18,10,968 (as on October, 27th 2020)	Rs. 10,50,000 (1,05,00,000 to 03.30PM 11:00AM	November 03, 2020 From 11:00AM To 11:00AM 01:00PM	

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL-Link:https://disposalhub.com/) of our auction agency M/s NexGen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagor's/noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till December 02, 2020 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column (E) of the above table) to ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No. 23, 3rd Floor, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005 on or before December 02, 2020 before 05:00 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then earnest copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No. 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005 on or before December 02, 2020 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/DDP should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 9372730494 or M/s NexGen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

Please note that Marketing agencies, 1. M/s NexGen Solutions Private Limited 2. Ageoze Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Procs APM are also engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/4ps

Date: November 03, 2020
Place: Delhi/NCR
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited



FootSAY

Researchers have shown that socks coated in zinc oxide nanoparticles (ZnO-NPs) can prevent foot odour and bacterial infection causing smelly feet. Reducing the foot odour, this embarrassing condition has on quality of life. Developed by the Royal Thai Airforce, the ZnO-NP-coated socks were trialled in a real-life setting by researchers in Thailand



DOCYARD

DR PRAVEEN JHA

MD, DM, Consultant Gastroenterology

REGENCY SUPERSPECIALITY HOSPITAL



Is your belly dancing?



As the festive season has begun and so does our indulgence in food. Puddings, sweets, ghee-laden puris and all kind of beverages take a toll on our digestive system and we often complain of indigestion, acidity, bloating, constipation and other gastric issues. And, if these problems are dampening the spirit of the festive seasons then fret not. We have come up with some easy ways to take care of your gut health. By following these few simple and effective tips, you can enjoy the festive season comfortably and smoothly. These tips include:

Stay hydrated: We often forget to drink enough water and keep ourselves hydrated during the festive season. However, we should have adequate amount of water to keep ourselves fresh and make our health good as water helps in passing the food from our body. Dehydration can disrupt the smooth function of the gut and when we drink adequate quantity of water, it helps to create our stool softer and with the same it doesn't constipate you.

Limiting the intake of oily and fatty foods: We all know that festivals do not let us limit our food intake but we need to be cautious and avoid foods that are very high in fat content. The fat rich foods put us at a greater risk of constipation and higher chances of indigestion.

To prevent yourself from falling sick, try to avoid taking too much of caffeine during the festive season as excess of caffeine can harm your digestive system. Include salad, fruit and vegetables in your diet, this will add roughage which is good for gut

Don't skip your exercise: Since you have slept late because of the festive season, it should not be an excuse to give your exercise a miss. Go for your daily dose of exercise/workout for healthy and hassle-free digestion during your festive holidays. Exercise improves your gut health too.

Avoiding the intake of caffeine: To prevent yourself from falling sick, try to avoid taking too much of caffeine during the festive season as excess of caffeine can harm your digestive system. You should balance your diet accordingly. If you're taking a lot of caffeinated or aerated drinks, then include salads, fruits and veggies in your diet. It will add roughages, which are good for gut health.

Practise moderation: We completely understand that it's difficult to not gorge on the food-items, which you have been waiting for long to eat during the festive season. But you need to practise portion control. As the name suggests, it means we don't have to avoid the food we love but we have to eat in moderation. The best way to do is to limit the portion size by using smaller plates, utensils and serving spoons.

Relax and breathe: Irregularity of sleep and food is quite common during the festive season. Therefore, sometimes such erratic schedules can lead to stress. Relaxing for a while is very important for your body to stay healthy. Festivities don't mean you should forget to keep calm.

Plan your day wisely: By this we mean that you need to plan your day keeping in mind your health. Enough sleep, less intake of sugary snacks, planning your meals is important. To keep your body fresh all day, you need to take care of all the things. A good planning lets you to enjoy the festival in a more healthy, relaxed and better way.

WARMFOODS
STAR ANISE: Also known as *badian* or *chakra phool*, star anise is a spice that work wonders for your health and skin in winters. The oil produced from star anise contains thymol, terpineol and anethole, which is used for treating cough and flu. It makes it a must have spice, especially during the current time when all one wants is to keep flu at bay.
Anise also helps improve digestion, alleviate cramps and reduce nausea. Consuming star anise tea after meals helps treat digestive ailments such as bloating, gas, indigestion and constipation. It is also rich in antioxidants and Vitamin A and C, which help fight free radicals that are responsible for early ageing and Diabetes. It also helps boost immunity.
Not only does this, but adding star anise to your current diet and lifestyle can help you keep your heart in good shape to protect against issues like heart disease and stroke.

Keep paranoia at bay

In times of unexpected uncertainty, our inability to cope with the crisis may increase chances of mental health problems like paranoia and delusional thinking. KUHOO GUPTA shares tips that can help

There is a famous saying "The idle brain is the devil's workshop". As Covid-19 has rendered several people with imperilled jobs, this has fabricated disquietude pressure upon people which is making them live in monochrome due to getting engrossed with depressing thoughts and this has become a buzzword for the past few months. The world's reluctance regarding poor mental health is discretely visible all these years.

The continual rise of deterioration of psychological condition among people is finally succumbing to the society's nonchalant pursuit. Our mental wellbeing has been needlessly tossed on a bonfire due to an existence bedeviled by tedium which has also given a raise to vicious mental health disorder — delusion thinking and paranoia — making people suffer so much worse during this time of pandemic. In times of unexpected uncertainty, our inability to cope with the crisis may increase chances of mental health problems like paranoia and delusional thinking. Such condition tends to strongly incapacitate people due to incorrect interpretation of reality.

Psychological delusion and paranoia are silent destroyers — just like the virus. If we do not open this Pandora's box, it could mutate to create self-defeating dimensions. It has potential to create mass violence in the inner world which develops itself as some symptoms relate to denied, projected, or repressed feelings. Paranoid thoughts and feelings are often related to relationships and events in a person's life. This increases their isolation, and makes it more difficult to get help.

Some symptoms of paranoia and delusional disorders are:
■ Intense irrational suspicion or mistrust
■ Fear, anger and betrayal
■ Hypervigilance
■ Difficulty forgiving
■ Hidden motives keeping you busy
■ Fear of being taken advantage/inability to relax
■ Argumentative

Here are few tips to effectively cope up with such phenomena:

Aromatherapy: Aromatherapy will help healing paranoia. Essential oils derived from plants are either inhaled or absorbed through the skin to promote a sense of calmness and ease physical discomfort.
Brain health: A recent study found that practicing mindfulness meditation, even over a short period, reduces feelings of paranoia. Mindfulness meditation is the one linked to predicting levels of paranoia. Mindfulness meditation produces brain oscillation changes and increases brain network integration, which could contribute to the decreased abnormal brain activities and reduced delusion. Mindfulness training increases



found that the combination was effective in alleviating fear due to irrational thinking for terminally ill patients, and may have helped with pain management as well. Another study conducted on mice found that frankincense stimulates the portion of the brain that regulates feel good emotions, in addition to activating a protein that plays a role in the perception of warmth. These effects together can create a sense of comfort and peace to the person with paranoia. Also, lavender is a good choice to relax the mind when the person is suffering from mental disturbances.

Aquatic therapy: Severe traumatic paranoia events can physically weaken the joints and muscles to the point where they can't support your body's weight or motion capabilities on land. Aquatic therapy gives mental health patients more buoyancy which makes it easier to perform, touch, feel and move. The water also provides the resistance needed to strengthen brain muscles. Water can improve one's mood and make you feel better. Water also provides the resistance needed to strengthen brain muscles. Water can improve one's mood and make you feel better.

Acceptance and ameliorates anxiety/distress emotion, resulting in general improvement in psychotic symptoms.
Compassion with Chakras: Balancing your chakras can help you restore the energy flow in your system and thus, reduce delusion levels. Derived from the Sanskrit word "wheel," chakras are considered the centers of energy in

AQUATIC THERAPY GIVES MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS MORE BUOYANCY WHICH MAKES IT EASIER TO PERFORM, TOUCH, FEEL AND MOVE. THE WATER ALSO PROVIDES THE RESISTANCE NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN BRAIN MUSCLES

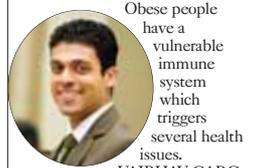
the body. Chakras are centers where major nerve points meet and where life force, or prana, flows harmoniously. Hindu and Buddhist traditions believe that when the flow of energy is blocked, it disrupts physical, emotional, and mental health. There are seven main chakras that connect to nerve points or plexuses in the body. According to the Western practices, these seven points affect the nervous system and the endocrine glands. Each chakra is associated with a specific colour from the seven rays of the spectrum light, or rainbow. Colour light is an electromagnetic wave that affects our bioenergy and stabilises our mental health energy.

Hypnosis: also referred to as hypnotherapy or hypnotic suggestion, is a trance-like state in which you are highly focused and concentrated. Hypnosis is usually done with the help of a therapist using verbal repetition and mental images. When you're under hypnosis, you usually feel calm and relaxed, and are more open to suggestions. Hypnosis can be used to help you gain control over undesired thinking and to help you cope better with delusional thinking or pain. It's important to know that although you're more open to suggestion during hypnosis, you don't lose control over your behaviour.

Yoga Nidra: Yoga nidra has been found to be effective in reducing symptoms of delusional thinking more than other types of relaxation techniques. Yoga nidra are widely known to alter the perceptions and mental responses to both external and internal stimuli, slowing-down reactivity and instilling greater control over stressful situation.

The writer is Healer and Wellness Coach

HEALTHY DIET IS KEY



Obese people have a vulnerable immune system which triggers several health issues. VAIBHAV GARG shares tips that may help keep your weight under check

We have all heard about co-morbidities (the state of having multiple health conditions at the same time) being primarily responsible for the high number of COVID deaths, so if you are reading this and know someone who can benefit from knowing how excess weight and immunity are linked, make sure they read this. Knowing the scientific facts and how natural remedies actually form the basis for warding off deadly infections should be the primary objective in every household today! A disciplined routine, nutritious diet, quality exercise & sleep and your daily vitamins and plant based natural supplements — this is the real recipe and secret to a long and healthy life!

Speaking of which, weight gain and obesity are matter of serious concern among people in the developing world. Obese people are more prone to having a poor immune system which in turn leads to an array of health problems like diabetes, hypertension (elevated blood pressure), heart problems, PCOD and even cancer. If you thought the Coronavirus was the real pandemic, think again!

Our immune system is very sensitive to lifestyle & nutritional changes as they directly affect the gut flora (gut microbiome) and hormone/enzyme activity. A little imbalance can cause a negative immune response. Oxidative stress (as a result of poor eating, a sedentary lifestyle, or even over exercising) can result in weight gain as the stress hormone cortisol dominates. Excess fat results in malfunctioning of the insulin hormone, disrupts the functioning of the sex hormones testosterone, oestrogen and progesterone, basically causing an overall breakdown.

It has been established that the severity of infectious diseases of a particular type are present in those who are obese than a non-obese body. Reason being that fewer antibodies are present inside an obese body which results in weaker immunity as it cannot provide full protection from the viruses.

Now that this has been established, some words of wisdom will help you in deciphering the role of having a healthy immune system. First and foremost, you do not need a protein rich diet, but a diet rich in fibre. Yes, all the colourful fruits and vegetables you see out there are full of natural anti-oxidants, anticancer and medicinal qualities. Ditch the potato and opt for more colour — remember, more colour means more nutrients! Obese people, these fibre rich foods are the real food for the healthy/good bacteria living in your gut!

Secondly, fats are not bad for you, they are actually essential for proper heart and brain function. You just need to know which to consume and where to get them from. Think Omega 3. Ideal sources of Omega 3 are those sourced from foods like nuts and seeds like flaxseeds, chia seeds, and walnuts. And lastly, avocados and olive oil are not the real super foods meant for us. We have the locally grown and acquired coconut and desi ghee/rice bran oil. Our DNA is more in line with these natural foods. They are present in natural healthy fatty foods, have great antioxidant properties and can alkalise your body.

The writer is Clinical and Sports Nutritionist, Founder — Purecise

DadiKa Kehna

Stomach ache can make one feel extremely uncomfortable. More so, if it occurs in toddlers. ROSHANI DEVI shares easy home remedies that can help ease the pain and discomfort



Stomach aches are common. While some go away on their own, others can be extremely painful. And if it is a toddler who is suffering from one then you are definitely in for a sleepless night.

Here are a few home remedies that can help. First, keep your child hydrated at all times. Water or fresh Sattu juice will work wonders.

Second, try warm compress. The best thing about warm compress is that it does not have any side effects and it provides quick relief. But make sure the cloth or heating pad is not too warm.

Third, try applying hing diluted in water on the tummy area. Take a pinch of hing, add some water to it, and heat the paste until it becomes lukewarm. Fourth, honey can also do the trick. Add honey in warm water and give it to your toddler drink it. Last, but not the least give a massage to the muscles of the stomach. Stomach ache can be relieved by enhancing the blood circulation around it and this can be easily achieved by giving a gentle massage. Using your palms and fingers, gently massage in circular motions in the clockwise direction around the navel area of your child.

For a glass-like glow

Textured skin is one of the most common problems. DR AJAY RANA shares tips that can help you get rid of it

Our skin's health is influenced by several factors like pollution, stress and sun damage that sometimes has a huge impact on the condition of the skin, at our complexion and make it more prone to roughness, wrinkles, age spots, and bruises and sagging. Especially people who struggle with genetic conditions like eczema, ichthyosis, keratosis pilaris and psoriasis are especially susceptible to having dry and rough skin.

With age, women's bodies undergo several chemical and hormonal changes due to perimenopause and menopause can contribute to an overall loss of skin smoothness and cause textured skin. In fact, the normal aging process plays a huge role in the skin's health.

There are many reasons which cause a textured skin condition. The build-up of dead and keratinised skin cells and irritation also take a toll on the skin's texture and appearance. Those people who have a history of acne can get little bumps under their skin that of

scarring acne will get atrophic scars, excess oil producers which have enlarged pores and those who pick at their zits can get poplar scars. Dry or coarse feeling skin, patchiness, fine lines and wrinkles, enlarged open pores and scars are left behind post-acne. And it causes textured skin conditions. Excessive build-up of dead skin cells on the surface of the skin, genetics, sun damage and pollution, and a poor skincare routine and diet are some other common causes of uneven skin texture.

Here are a few skincare tips one can follow for glass-like skin texture:
■ Opt for skincare products with acids like AHAs and BHAs. Alpha Hydroxy Acid and Beta Hydroxy Acid are two hydroxy acids popularly found in various skincare products like cleansers, moisturizers, peels and exfoliating products. These are very good for ideal skin texture.
■ We can't talk about clear and smooth skin without mentioning exfoliation. Whether using

a physical exfoliator, such as crushed walnut or gentle jojoba beads or a chemical exfoliator like glycolic or lactic acid. Exfoliation will slough away dead skin cells that dull skin and clog pores and give a glass-like skin texture.
■ Keep your skin hydrated with a moisturiser that is made for your skin type. Sunburn or sun damage is one of the most common reasons for uneven skin texture. Keep your skin protected with a broad spectrum SPF 30 sunscreen and try to cover up as much as you can when you step out in the sun.

Chemical peels are a very popular treatment to get rid of textured and uneven skin conditions. Switch up your regular facial with a fruit acid peel in-clinic and let a professional handle that pesky dry skin build-up. Chemical peels give you instant results and reveal fresh and glowing skin from within.

The writer is Dermatologist and Aesthetic Physician and Founder-Director of ILAMED

INBRIEF

Olena, a leading plant based nutrition company with clean, sugar free, non gmo, gluten free products which cater everyday individuals will be soon launching a host of women wellness products from plant based Biotin to Collagen etc. to help women not miss out on their health and daily nutrition. Mumbai based Olena is offering its customers plant based proteins and women wellness products.

Olena is adding Biotin to their range of products. Biotin helps in nourishing the hair, which would make the hair fuller and healthier. It encourages the concept of beauty from within. It aims to break the silence on damaged and thinning hair created by a stress solution, embracing the change and the beauty from within.

The Collagen Builder supports the function and enhances the body's natural beauty & radiance. The blend of 100mg Hyaluronic Acid, 600mcg Retinol, 100mg Vitamin C and 90mg Silica provides all the nutrients and vitamins our body needs to boost collagen. This anti-ageing formula is vegan, Non-GMO, Gluten Free, with no added sugar or preservatives.

The Evolve Protein powder is a vegan protein supplement created to boost post workout recovery. The protein is derived from yellow peas and sprouted brown rice. It contains the antioxidants.

Trend *Slazer*

'Extremely cautious about the pandemic'

Bollywood star **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA** is busy shooting his next, a progressive love story *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*, being directed by Abhishek Kapoor. The youth icon is shooting this film in his hometown Chandigarh but we discovered that he is not staying with his family and rather checked himself into a hotel.

Ayushmann reveals, "I have been extremely cautious through the pandemic and taken every possible step to not catch the virus and protect my family. My wife and my two young kids should not come in harm's way because of me. It is for the safety of my parents too."



'Working with senior actors was a dream come true for me. Not only were they

friendly but also supportive. I learnt a lot from them. For me it was like attending a school with brilliant teachers. I used to just observe how they would portray a scene. Even if I had an early pack up, I would sit on the set and just observe them.'

—Nikhil Bhambri

Actor **VARUN SHARMA** can't wait to tick off skydiving from his bucket list.



The adventure sport, the Bollywood funnyman reveals, was to be his gift to himself on his birthday in February but that couldn't happen because the COVID outbreak started happening around the time.

"I really want to do skydiving. I even planned to go out and do skydiving on my birthday this year but the pandemic happened. I hope things come back to normal. Most probably I will go next year and try out skydiving," Varun said.

Gal gives a sneak peek into set life

Hollywood actor **GAL GADOT** says shooting amid the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic came with lots of sacrifices, adding that the crew was sequestered for the entire duration.

The actor took to Instagram to reflect on her experience of working in the COVID-19 era after wrapping up the shoot of her forthcoming heist film, *Red Notice*, which also stars Dwayne Johnson and Ryan Reynolds.

"Now that I'm back home I've had time to reflect on the past couple of months shooting the film. The work during the pandemic came with a lot of sacrifices especially from our amazing crew," Gadot wrote.



When less is more

This edition of Karva Chauth shows a shift in jewellery trends from big chunky pieces to distinctive yet functional ones. By TEAM VIVA

It is that time of the year when you will find women on a shopping spree, markets bustling with bangle stalls, mehndi and all things that come under *solah shringar*. Other than this, there are charming accessories and gifts as well to add on to the vibe of Karva Chauth festival. It is a day of love when women fast for the well-being and long lives of their husbands as well as an occasion for spouses to reinforce their commitment and promises to each other.

Following rituals, observing fasts and worshipping the moon, Karva Chauth fashion is all about ethnic and fusion looks with jewellery playing an important role. The festival has always been a reason to buy jewellery and invest in designs that will remain with one forever. This year was meant to be the same but considering how the pandemic has affected the lives and budgets for each one of us, investing big in jewellery remains a tight-lipped question. Agerika Hari, founder of Vataanka, a jewellery brand, says, "We have seen a shift in trend from big chunky pieces to distinctive yet functional luxury diamonds. Consumers are picking pieces which can be worn on various occasions and styled in many different ways. Grandeur is important, attractive and beautiful but functionality is also essential now. When it comes to gifting jewellery, you can never go wrong with customised fine diamonds. It's trendy,

chic, functional and best suited in this season of love. Personalised, fine pendants, bracelets or earrings will be the best buy. We have come out with a new minimalist collection, which includes the royal peacock shaped statement rings, bangles and necklaces with exquisite artwork."

What works best for your lady should be something that can be worn everyday and at the same time be design pleasing. Agerika feels that one should follow their heart and not trends. While picking a piece of jewellery for your loved one, buy what feels right.

Jewellery designer Archana Aggarwal believes that every year the trends keep on undergoing a shift, retaining the classic ones, and so is the case this time. Says she, "Although we have seen a shift in trend of jewellery lately, the classic one can never go out of style. Opt for pieces that could be worn on several occasions and styled in



various ways." Shyamala Ramanan, business head of Mia by Tanishq, feels glad that the gifting trends continue even more dur-

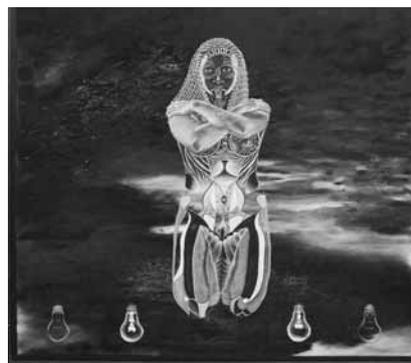
sought after, especially the light weight ones that have a variety of uses and can be worn with both traditional and western wear. The booming categories are earring and bracelet/bangles, says he.

The season is usually dominated by traditional clothes or fusions as they are considered to be the ideal festive wear. Milind Mathur, creative director and partner, Kohinoor Jewellers, Agra, focusses more on what can be paired with traditional outfits. Says he, "One can wear colourful stones studded ornaments with traditional clothes. It will bring a trendy gaze for this festive season. By grading, cutting and polishing, gemstones are given a new look and colour because of which the jewellery looks even more attractive."

Customised jewellery is a trend that never goes out of fashion. "Jewellery with a caption adds a personal touch and helps you take your fashion game a notch higher," adds Milind. Stack rings are next in line for this time's trend. Sachin Jain, managing director, De Beers, India, talks about the new collection that Forevermark, the diamond brand of the group, has brought forth. "We have come up with our Tribute collection which comprises 22 rings and can be stacked according to one's personality. It gives the wearer a choice to select each ring to stack as per their preference," says he.

The feminine spirit

For more than 30 years, artist **VASUNDHARA TEWARI BROOTA** has explored the human figure and in the discourse, unravelled her own perceptions of a woman. By **UMA NAIR**



Kumar's rendition of Jai Jagdishwari Mata Saraswati. The colour tones and fluid renditions reflect her rich repertoire of strokes and colourative chasms.

She explains, "The red canvas for Subrata was an image of Devi Durga, who's the epitome of strength, courage and compassion. She emits the aura, the radiance when her devotees are in danger. Like a fierce mother, she takes care of them. She stands for power, compassion and peace that the dancer has depicted through her vocabulary of Odissi."

In all these four paintings, we sense a sensibility towards the understanding of the internal and external psychological spaces, where 'woman' is displayed in lucid liminality. She plays between creating her figure as a protagonist as well as someone who shares an equi-focal space with the background. Experiences and ruminative reflections become a meaningful reality for Vasundhara. Devi and the celebration of the contemporary woman, participant and goddess unafraid to reveal her soul stands at the centre of her epoch.

JAGDISHWARI AND DEVI DURGA

In another painting, she creates a Devi whose universe is under her feet as she seems to symbolise the word 'Jagadishwari' or 'Ishwari' of universe resounding in Ashiqur

Express, enjoy, discover

Dance maestros **FARAH KHAN** and **ASHLEY LOBO** mentor budding Indian dancers and discuss the scope of being a choreographer in the post-COVID era

In the aftermath of a three-day choreography camp organised by Ashley Lobo's institute The Danceworx, the Indian-Australian choreographer engaged in a discussion with renowned film and stage personality Farah Khan on how to build a professional dance career within the evolving dance scenario in India and overseas. Given the kind of restrictions imposed by the global pandemic on movement and interactive learning, this session saw over 200 students actively engage with them.

Talking about the session, Lobo said, "The main objective of this session was to expand the understanding of commercial dance in India and create an environment for dancers to approach commercial dance as a career. We wanted to create awareness about what is possible still and equip dancers with the correct information about what it takes to build a professional career today. There could be no one better than Farah to interact with the students about these important topics."

Farah talked about how dance happened to her. "Dance was a very good way for me to forget my troubles at home and the circumstances that we were living in. For me, there was a joy that I would get. It actually saved my life at that point," she said. Ashley couldn't agree more. "I think this is very common. It is said that you never choose dance, dance chooses you. It's always an accident," he added.

With the gross uncertainty that performers are faced with the current COVID-struck era, both of them shared real and enthusiastic bunch of dancers. "Today is a great time for people who are trained in dance and who can choreograph because there is so much work. It's not only about doing work in films. There is so much work on television as there are thousands of reality shows. Today, there is a different industry where you can do corporate shows. If you do a film song that does well, it becomes your legacy. If you want to make money and a career in dance, there are so many options now, none of which were available to us when we started work," Farah said.

The session explored various problems that



affect the large generation of dancers, which were met with helpful answers from both Farah and Ashley — how does a dancer become an assistant choreographer, being flexible in the dance industry, staying true to one's passion and art, being trained in more than one dance styles, how its never too late to find your calling and be a dancer, and dealing with the impact and reality of failure and rejection in the real world and never giving up.

Ashley summed up the crux of the session aptly, painting a very practical picture for the 200+ youngsters looking up to them.

"There are various areas you can get into dance because it is a very big world. There are lots of things you can do and find your place. You just got to figure out what your place is and where you want to take it. I think you just need to express yourself, have fun with it and discover yourself in the process. You're constantly trying to reinvent yourself. That excitement translates into the work that is being done," he said.

The session culminated a camp including a roster of international artists like Brian Friedman, Exon Arcos, Gabe De Guzman, Jake Kowish, Krista and Autumn Miller in a three-day extravaganza to create opportunities for enthusiasts to learn international styles.



TODAY

MI vs INDIA

Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1

IPL 2020

KL Rahul | 670 runs

Kagiso Rabada | 25 wickets

The impressive thing was our (KKR) collective bowling. We were absolutely outstanding. Regardless of qualification, we feel we have given everything that we have

Our (Royals) batters, the top four or five didn't take responsibility perhaps. Couple of real positives. Jofra (Archer) has been exceptional pretty much every game

We've played inconsistent cricket throughout the tournament. We had opportunities in a couple of games but couldn't get over the line. Today summed it up for us

I am more satisfied what we (Delhi Capitals) did today as a bowling unit. We have done the hard work up until now, and hopefully we can finish the game off

Nortje holds RCB to 152/7



Delhi Capitals pacer Anrich Nortje celebrates after taking wicket of RCB batsman

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Young Devdutt Padikkal shone again with a half-century before Delhi Capitals roared back to restrict Royal Challengers Bangalore to 152 for seven in their final IPL league stage match here on Monday.

Padikkal, who looked in good nick during his stay in the middle, smashed five fours in his 41-ball 50 and shared a 57-run stand with skipper Virat Kohli (29 off 24) for the third wicket.

The Capital pulled things back brilliantly in the middle overs.

Pacer Anrich Nortje (3/33) was the pick of the bowlers for

wicket of the Australian in the fifth over.

The powerplay overs yielded 41 runs, including five fours and a maximum, for the loss of one wicket.

Kohli, who was dropped on 13 in the 10th over by Nortje, tried to put the ante in the 12th over by hitting Axar Patel for a six. The RCB skipper again looked to smash the ball over the fence in the next over but was caught at deep midwicket by Marcus Stoinis off an Ashwin delivery.

Nortje struck twice in the 16th over to get ride of Padikkal and South African all-rounder Chris Morris for a duck.

AB de Villiers (35) was yet again in sublime touch and raised a 33-run stand with young Shivam Dube (17 off 11 balls), but the duo couldn't power RCB to a bigger total.

Kapil wants Dhoni to play domestic cricket

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The legendary Kapil Dev feels that it will be "impossible" for Mahendra Singh Dhoni to perform well if he decides on playing in the IPL without getting any match practice, which was the case this year.

Chennai Super Kings were out of IPL play-offs for the first time in 11 appearances and Dhoni, who played competitive cricket for the first time since last year's World Cup semifinal, scored only 200 runs in 14 games with no half-centuries and a poor strike rate of 116.

to get his form back.

"If Dhoni decides on playing only IPL every year, then it's impossible for him to perform. It's not a good thing to talk about age but at his age (39 years), the more he plays, the more his body will be tuned," Kapil told AP News.

"If you don't play any cricket for 10 months a year and suddenly play IPL, you can see what happened. You can always have a season up or down if you have played so much cricket. It has happened to someone like Chris Gayle also," the World Cup winning former skipper said.

Kapil, who recently underwent angioplasty after suffering a heart attack, wants the former India captain to play a lot more in the domestic circuit

time that Dhoni plays some domestic cricket this season.

He should go back to first-class cricket (domestic List A and T20) and play there.

POINTS TABLE						
		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	MI (Q)	13	9	4	+1.296	18
2	RCB	13	7	6	-0.145	14
3	DC	13	7	6	-0.159	14
4	KKR	14	7	7	-0.214	14
5	SRH	13	6	7	+0.555	12
6	KXIP	14	6	8	-0.162	12
7	CSK	14	6	8	-0.455	12
8	RR	14	6	8	-0.569	12



Agriculture Enablers Pvt Ltd team

Agriculture Enablers Private Limited, a company incorporated to facilitate technology adoption by India's tech-starved small and marginal farmers for enabling manifold increase in their minuscule agril income, on the occasion of sowing of its first seeds in the open farm, announced plans to comprehensively tech-enable 50,000 small and marginal farmers across India in five years.

"We have a vision to enable technology to make a significant impact on the lives of small and marginal farmers. We are all passionate about the cause and are committed to help build world-class agripreneurs" said Vijay Palwa, Chairman, Agriculture Enablers, a 30-year marketing system of tyre and petroleum industries, and Director of National Skill Development Corporation.

"Establishment of India's 127 million small and marginal farmers whose average farmland is just 1.5 acres and agril income is INR 3140 per month, who support nearly 625 million family members, will galvanize India's rural and national economy and it will create unprecedented market opportunity for the Indian industry, and it will generate unprecedented wealth for all the stakeholders" says Ranvij Singh Dada, Vice Chairman, Agriculture Enablers, an accomplished public administrator for 38 years and ex-Director General of Police, Haryana. He comes from a farming family and is currently working with rural communities to empower them.

Agriculture Enablers is currently developing a Proof of Concept at a 3-acre (1.2 hectare) farm at Bhisola (Gurgaon) that includes a 4000 sqft polyhouse and an 8000 sqft open farm to deploy appropriate agril technologies, deploy comprehensive systems, establish crop and farm planning, processes, systems, quality management, operations management, and establish market linkages. The first yields are expected from December this year. It intends to help build replicable, scalable, and sustainable models for the farmers that can be forklifted for implementation across India.

Mumbai stand between SRH & play-off spot

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Riding high on momentum, resurgent Sunrisers Hyderabad will back themselves to topple the mighty Mumbai Indians and qualify for the IPL play-offs here on Tuesday.

and trump card Rashid Khan to their bowling attack, it makes up for a well rounded attack.

Sunrisers are not just riding high on momentum, they are also a team, full of confidence, having outplayed Delhi Capitals and RCB in their previous two outings.

PTI ■ DUBAI

It's up to the gods now, said Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Eoin Morgan, expressing satisfaction with the effort put in by his team to clinch a whopping 60-run win over Rajasthan Royals and keep its IPL play-off hopes alive in an immensely tight race.

Thanks to their healthy run-rate, a win against Mumbai Indians should be enough to send Sunrisers into the final-four.

After taking a tough call to leave out the dangerous Jonny Bairstow from the playing eleven, Sunrisers have managed to find out the right balance.

Sunrisers also know there is little scope for error against formidable outfit like Mumbai Indians, who seem to be on course for an unprecedented fifth IPL title.

In the absence of injured skipper Rohit Sharma, Mumbai Indians steamrolled RCB and Delhi Capitals in their previous encounters, becoming the first team to qualify for the play-offs.

KKR finished their league campaign with the big win on Sunday to get into the top four with 14 points. However, the team's qualification to the playoffs hinges on Sunrisers Hyderabad losing their final league game and to defending champions Mumbai Indians on Tuesday.

Wridhiman Saha has made an instant impact as David Warner's opening partner and the inclusion of Jason Holder has given them an all-round option.

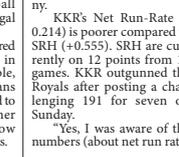
Pacers Holder and Sandeep Sharma were extremely impressive, both upfront and at the death, in the last game Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah have looked menacing with the swinging new ball and ever so frugal with the old.

Already assured of the top spot in the points table, Mumbai Indians will be expected to put up another ruthless show against Sunrisers.

KKR's Net Run Rate (-0.214) is poorer compared to SRH (+0.555). SRH are currently on 12 points from 13 games. KKR outgunned the Royals after posting a challenging 191 for seven on Sunday.

"Yes, I was aware of the numbers (about net run rate)



KKR skipper Eoin Morgan plays a shot against Rajasthan Royals. IPL20.com

Watson set to bid adieu to competitive cricket

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

after CSK ended their IPL campaign on Sunday with a win over Kings XI Punjab, the senior player told his teammates about the decision to retire from all forms of cricket.

This season, he has scored 299 runs in 11 games.

MPL is new kit sponsor of Indian cricket team

NEW DELHI: Fantasy gaming platform Mobile Premier League's subsidiary arm 'MPL Sports Apparel and Accessories' is the new kit sponsor of the Indian cricket team for a period of three years.

A member of the Apex Council confirmed the development on Monday that BCCI has inked the apparel and merchandise deal with MPL, replacing Nike.

"Yes, Apex Council has passed the sponsorship deal for apparel of Indian team (men, women, A and U19). However the rate per match will be ₹65 lakh per game instead of ₹88 lakh that Nike was getting," the senior official told PTI.

It is learnt that BCCI will also get 10 percent of the royalty from the sale of merchandise. "MPL has formed an apparel manufacturing company. They will also pay an amount for merchandise contract. The deal will end in November, 2023," the source added.

While Puma and Adidas had earlier picked up the bid papers for apparel sponsorship, they didn't bid as they felt that the deal needed to be reduced to one third from the original bid.



Manchester United's Paul Pogba touts Arsenal's Hector Bellerin for a penalty during Premier League match on Sunday. AP

Arsenal break big-six hoodoo

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang condemned Manchester United to fresh misery at Old Trafford as his penalty clinched a 1-0 win for Arsenal, while Gareth Bale was the match winner with his first goal since returning to Tottenham in a 2-1 win over Brighton on Sunday.

Aubameyang ended a five-

game goal drought in the league when he stepped up to convert a 69th-minute spot-kick after Paul Pogba fouled Hector Bellerin.

The Arsenal captain's first league goal since the opening weekend of the season gave the Gunners their first league win at Old Trafford since 2006.

United have now failed to

win any of their four home league games this season, with the three defeats including a humiliating 6-1 rout against Tottenham.

It is the Red Devils' worst start to a home league campaign since 1972-73, leaving Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team languishing six points above the relegation zone in 15th place.

Arsenal moved up to ninth, just a point off third, thanks to their first win away at a 'big six' rival in 30 attempts.

BALE RESCUES SPURS

Spurs moved up to second as Bale, though, when he broke Brighton's resolve in a controversial clash at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium.

Harry Kane's early penalty put Jose Mourinho's men in front before the visitors were denied a spot-kick for a pull on Leandro Trossard by Matt Doherty.

Brighton's bright display got the slice of luck they needed to level 11 minutes into the second-half when referee Graham Scott allowed Tariq Lamptey's equaliser to stand after what appeared a clear foul on Pierre-Emile Højbjerg in the build-up, despite reviewing the incident on the pitchside monitor.

Bale got Spurs and Scott off the hook, though, when he powered home a header 17 minutes from time.

"It's a great feeling," said Bale. "I just want to come on and make an impact for the team."

"I haven't played a lot of football. It's taken time, I'm being patient and working hard when I get chances."

I RETIRE: SINDHU GIVES FANS A 'HEART ATTACK'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World champion P V Sindhu created a stir on Monday by posting "I Retire" on social media only to follow it up with a lengthy statement declaring that she would actually be retiring to institute, started her rather stunning post by saying that the "Denmark Open was the final straw. I Retire".

She was referring to her pullout from the event last month due to the pandemic.

"I'm writing today to tell you that I'm done...Not being able to represent India in the Denmark Open was the last straw," Sindhu's note on Twitter stated.

the unknown," she said.

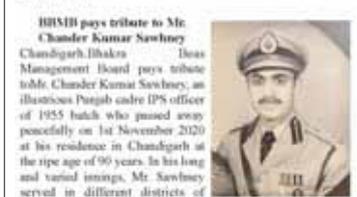
"Most importantly, I choose to retire from sports to uphold hygiene standards and our lack-adapted attitude towards the virus."

The 25-year-old's post drew a response from sports minister Kiren Rijiju, who said he was stunned for a moment.

"You actually gave a mini shock at Pvsindhu but I had unflinching faith in your power of determination. I'm sure you have the strength and stamina to bring many more laurels for India," he tweeted.

The star shuttler, who last competed at the All England Championships in March, is targeting a return to action when the world tour comes to Asia in January, Sindhu said the reason why she started the post with a shocker like 'I Retire' was to ensure that maximum people take note of the message she was trying to convey on dealing with the virus.

"I might have given you guys a mini heart attack; unprecedented times requires unprecedented measures. I guess I needed to get you guys to sit up and take notice."



Chander Kumar Sawhney, Union Management Board pays tribute to Mr. Chander Kumar Sawhney, an illustrious Punjab cadre IPS officer of 1955 batch who passed away peacefully on 1st November 2020 at his residence in Chandigarh at the ripe age of 99 years. In his long and varied innings, Mr. Sawhney served in different districts of Punjab as SSP in Barnala, Bathinda and DGO in Ferozpur and Patiala. He attended the National Defence College, New Delhi in 1976. He was SP, CH in Ambala and IG, Punjab Frontier of BSF in Afghanistan. He served as DGP Punjab Police in 1983. He retired as chairman of PEPSU Roadways, Patiala in 1990. A very conscientious and committed officer, he was known in Punjab and all over the country for his impeccable probity and integrity. He was a highly decorated officer, having been conferred with both the President's Police Medal for Gallantry and the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service. Currently he was on the Board of Trustees of Dyal Singh College and School (Karnal). Mr. Sawhney leaves behind his wife - Mrs. Harveen Sawhney, two sons - Rajas, a consultant in UK and Surinder, an architect in Chandigarh and two daughters - Mishu married to Dr. Sumetkesh IAS, Secretary - Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs and Shamada married to M. Sanjay Malhotra IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India.



Union Bank of India, Mid Corporation Branch, Ludhiana observes Vigilance Awareness Week 2020.

Union Bank of India is observing Vigilance Awareness Week from 2nd of November 2020 with the theme "Vigilance India, Prosperous India" envisaged by Central Vigilance Commission. During this week on 27.10.2020 all the branches & controlling officers of India has taken "Integrity Pledge".

In the continuation of the same Mid Corporation Branch, Ludhiana of Union Bank of India has conducted a workshop and awareness programme on 30.10.2020 at the factory and premises of M's Malanga Cotspin Limited situated at Village Lall Kulan, Chandigarh Road, Ludhiana. Beside the factory staff the camp was attended by nearby villagers and other distinguished guests. The attendees of the meeting expressed about various bank products and services which was responded by bank officials. The meeting ended with vote of thanks from Shri Vikas Gauridankar, AGM Mid corporate branch.