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NEVER FORGET
WHY YOU
STARTED: RAO
10 VIVACITY

States can't impose lockdown sans MHA nod

MHA's guidelines call for crowd management, but empowers States to clamp lockdown and night curfew in Covid zones

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The States cannot impose lockdown without approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). According to new guidelines released by the Ministry of Home on Wednesday, only in containment zones, the States are empowered to impose lockdowns and the list of containment zones has to be updated with the Union Health Ministry.

The Union Home Ministry on Wednesday issued new guidelines asking States to follow the strict directives in crowd management to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. As per the new directions, the States are allowed to impose restrictions like night curfew and reduction of number of people allowed to assemble but can't impose lockdown without approval from the MHA. Only in containment zones, the States are empowered to impose lockdowns and the list of containment zones has to be updated with Union Health Ministry.

The MHA's new directions, titled as 'Guidelines for Surveillance, Containment and



A health worker collects swab samples of a passenger at New Delhi railway station on Wednesday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

'Caution' will be applicable from December 1 to December 31, directed the States and Union Territories to implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) approved by the Union Health Ministry in controlling the crowd management, fines for non-mask wearing, opening of academic institutions etc. These guidelines are to implement 'Covid appropriate behaviour', said the MHA.

"The main focus of the guidelines is to consolidate the substantial gains that have been achieved against the spread of Covid-19 which is visible in the steady decline in number of active cases in the country. Further, keeping in view the recent spike in new cases in a few States/UTs, ongoing festival season and onset of winter, it is emphasised that to fully overcome the pandemic, there is need to maintain caution and

to strictly follow the prescribed containment strategy, focussed on surveillance, containment and strict observance of the guidelines/SOPs issued by MHA and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW).

"Local district, police and municipal authorities shall be responsible to ensure that the prescribed containment measures are strictly followed. States and UTs, based on their assessment of the situation, may impose local restrictions, with a view to contain the spread of Covid-19 and implement surveillance and containment," said the MHA's new guidelines. There shall be intensive house-to-house surveillance by surveillance teams formed for the purpose and testing shall be carried out as per prescribed protocol in containment zones.

"Listing of contacts shall be carried out in respect of all persons found positive, along with their tracking, identification, quarantine and follow up of contacts for 14 days (80 per cent of contacts to be traced in 72 hours). Quick isolation of Covid-19 patients shall be ensured in treatment facilities/ home (subject to fulfilling the home isolation guidelines)," said the MHA detailing the SOPs to be followed in containment zones.

The new guidelines directed that the State/UT Governments shall take all necessary measures to promote Covid-19 appropriate behaviour and to ensure strict enforcement of wearing of face masks, hand hygiene and social distancing. "In order to enforce the core requirement of wearing of face masks, States and UTs may consider administrative actions, including imposition of appropriate fines, on persons not wearing face masks in public and work spaces," it said.

"Social/ religious/ sports/ entertainment/ educational/ cultural/ religious gatherings, with up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity, with a ceiling of 200 persons in closed spaces; and keeping of the size of the ground/ space in view, in open spaces. However, based on their assessment of the situation, State/ UT Governments may reduce the ceiling to 100 persons or less, in closed spaces," said the

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL
CASES: 92,57,945
DEATHS: 1,35,165
RECOVERED:
86,73,328
ACTIVE: 4,47,353



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	17,95,959	46,748	16,63,723
Karnataka	8,78,055	11,714	8,41,432
Andhra Pradesh	8,64,674	6,962	8,45,039
Tamil Nadu	7,73,176	11,639	7,49,662
Kerala	5,78,364	2,122	5,11,008
Delhi	5,45,787	8,720	4,98,780
Uttar Pradesh	5,31,050	7,615	4,99,507
West Bengal	4,66,991	8,172	4,34,067
Odisha	3,16,001	1,740	3,08,102
Telangana	2,66,042	1,441	2,53,715
Rajasthan	2,53,767	2,218	2,25,229
Bihar	2,32,460	1,237	2,25,797
Chhattisgarh	2,27,326	2,767	2,01,744
Haryana	2,24,489	2,291	2,01,250
Assam	2,12,021	978	2,07,763
Gujarat	2,01,949	3,906	1,83,856

guidelines.

States and UTs, based on their assessment of the situation, may impose local restrictions, with a view to contain the spread of Covid-19 such as night curfew. However, State/ UT Governments shall not impose any local lockdown (State/ district/ sub-division/city level), outside the containment zones, without prior consultation with the Central Government. States and UTs also need to enforce social distancing in offices. In cities, where the weekly Case Positivity Rate is more than 10

per cent, States and UTs concerned shall consider implementing staggered office timings and other suitable measures, with a view to reduce the number of employees attending office at the same time, thereby ensuring social distancing. No restriction on Inter-State and intra-State movement, said the new guidelines.

"There shall be no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement of persons and goods including those for cross land-border trade under treaties with neighbouring countries. No separate per-

mission/ approval/ e-permit will be required for such movements," said the guidelines.

CENTRE ASKS STATES TO TAKE STEPS TO REOPEN MEDICAL COLLEGES FROM OR BEFORE DEC 1

New Delhi: The Union Health Ministry Wednesday asked state governments to initiate steps for reopening of medical colleges from December 1 or before it, but with strict adherence to all Covid-19 related guidelines.

Punjab farmers on way to Delhi despite curbs

Haryana seals border, Delhi Police refuses permission to protest

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

While the Delhi Police has refused permission and the Haryana Government sealed borders with Punjab, thousands of farmers from Haryana and Punjab started moving towards the national Capital on Wednesday for their 'Delhi Chalo' march on November 26-27 against the agriculture legislations.

The farmers had major scuffles with the Haryana Police which failed to stop them despite heavy deployment of men and use of water cannons.

A viral video showed that after crossing the barricades at Ambala, hundreds of farmers faced water cannons at Kurukshetra. The visuals showed massive jets of water being fired at a huge crowd on the highway barricaded by the police.

The scuffle between the farmers and the police broke out at the Shambhu border near Ambala city when the



Police personnel check vehicles at Singhu border ahead of the scheduled farmers' protest march to Delhi on Nov 26-27 against the Centre's new farm laws in New Delhi on Wednesday
PTI

farmers broke the blockades and managed to proceed to Delhi for staging a demonstration.

Despite the use of water cannons, the protesting farmers, riding tractor-trailers, cars and motorcycles, managed to enter Haryana from Punjab. They were later joined by thousands of their counterparts from Haryana, led by Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) State chief Gurnam Singh Charuni.

Meanwhile, the Haryana Police set up barricades and deployed water cannons across the State. Massive security arrangements have been made at the Delhi-Haryana border at

Gurugram. The build-up is the heaviest on the Haryana side. As a preventive step, neighbouring BJP-ruled Haryana has imposed Section 144 of the CrPC to prevent assembly of protesters. Also, the police had taken nearly 100 farmer leaders from the State into 'preventive custody'.

However, there was no report of any violence or the use of teargas shells or batons. BKU Punjab president Balbir Singh Rajewal said Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has got the inter-State borders sealed for Punjab farmers to prove that "Punjab is not part of India".

China cries foul after India bans its 43 more apps

AGENCIES ■ BEIJING

A day after India banned 43 more Chinese mobile apps, including Alibaba Group Holding's e-commerce app AliExpress on national security ground, China on Wednesday said it is firmly opposed to India's decision, claiming the move violated WTO rules.

The ban had come against the backdrop of border tensions with China in eastern Ladakh since May. The banned applications, which include a few dating apps, were a threat to the "sovereignty and integrity of India", an official statement said in New Delhi.

Asked for his reaction to the latest ban on Chinese apps by India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said, "Since June this year four times India has imposed restrictions on smart phone apps that have Chinese backgrounds under the pretext of national security... This behaviour violates market principles and World Trade Organisation rules, severely undermines the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies. China firmly rejects it."

Slow wind deteriorates Delhi's air quality to 'severe' category

Ghazipur landfill fire adds to pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality deteriorated to the "severe" category on Wednesday due to slow winds after 10 days, Government agencies said. Stubble burning accounted for two per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, political blame game started after a fire broke out at Ghazipur landfill in East Delhi. The fire started early morning and the landfill site smouldered throughout the day with firefighters putting up massive efforts to douse it.

As the national Capital's overall air quality deteriorated, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) mobile app, SAMEER, said the city's air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 401.

It forecasted winds to pick up and improve the ventilation condition by Thursday.

"The AQI is forecasted to improve towards 'very poor' category by tomorrow and likely stay in the lower end of Very Poor on November 27 and 28," SAFAR said.



Firefighters attempt to douse a blaze at the Ghazipur landfill site in New Delhi on Wednesday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Stubble burning accounted for five per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution on Tuesday, six per cent on Monday and 12 per cent on Sunday. It was 15 per cent on Saturday, 15 per cent on Friday and 20 per cent on Thursday.

The maximum and minimum temperatures in the city on Wednesday settled at 24.4 degrees Celsius and 10.4 degrees Celsius with cloudy sky.

Regarding the Ghazipur landfill, Atul Garg, Director, Delhi Fire Services (DFS), said the call regarding fire was received around 9.56 pm on Tuesday following which five fire tenders were rushed to the

spot. "Later, three more fire engines were dispatched to douse the fire. The fire was at different places at the landfill. The operation is still going on," said Garg.

Another official said the cause of fire at different locations might be due to the garbage collectors who dumped garbage here and set it on fire.

"DFS had informed this practice of garbage collectors to authorities several times but the garbage collectors keep on repeating the same putting lives of nearby residents at risk and causing pollution levels to spike in the city," he said.

SC undoes HC's gag order on Amaravati land scam FIR news

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the Andhra Pradesh High Court direction restraining the media from publishing news regarding an FIR lodged on alleged irregularities in land transactions in Amaravati.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said that the high court shall not decide till January last week the pending matter which relates to the alleged illegal land transactions during shifting of the State capital to Amaravati.

The bench, also comprising Justices RS Reddy and MR Shah, refused to stay at this stage the other directions of the HC, including the stay on probe into the FIR.

The SC passed the order while hearing an appeal filed by the Andhra Pradesh Government against HC's September 15 order.

The top court, which did not issue notice to chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on the appeal, sought responses from others including the Director General of Police of Andhra Pradesh.

"In the meantime, directions issued in the impugned order dated September 15, 2020 to the extent of following shall remain stayed.

Haryana seals borders with Punjab

DEPLOYS COPS TO FOIL FARMERS' DELHI MARCH

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the farmers' protest march to Delhi against the Centre's farm laws, the Haryana Government on Wednesday heavily barricaded its borders with Punjab and suspended its bus service to the neighbouring State in a bid to foil the march. The State Government also suspended its transport bus service to Punjab with immediate effect on Wednesday because of the farmers' "Delhi Chalo" call.

Farmers assembled during the day along with their tractor-trolleys on the Punjab side of the inter-state border to undertake onward march to Delhi but had to stay put in Punjab amid the heavy police deployment on the border. Haryana police officials said amid the COVID-19 restrictions, they cannot allow movement of a large number of people towards the national capital. The Haryana authorities have also imposed prohibitory orders under section 144 of the CrPC in several parts of the state to prevent assembly of protesters.

Detailed report on Pg 3

HP records highest Covid growth rate, positivity rate

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh's Covid-19 cases have been galloping as the average growth rate of new infections is recorded at a highest 2.2 per cent in the country.

Not only this, the State also has the highest positivity rate of 16.8 per cent in the country.

Positivity rate — the fraction of tests that return positive — is a crucial metric as experts say that a high positivity rate is also indicative of higher infection in the community and points to the need for ramping up testing.

The fresh spurt of positive cases in the month of November in Himachal has pushed the state's COVID-19 related parameters from bad to worse. While the total tally of positive cases has reached 36566, there were more than 7875 active cases in the hill state till Thursday evening. Only a day before, the state

had clocked its highest single-day spike of 948 positive cases.

The daily growth rate of COVID-19 cases, averaged over a seven-day period in Himachal has surpassed the worst affected states like Delhi, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat and others. At 2.2 per cent average growth rate of infections, the state is at the top in the country.

The growth rate of fresh cases in neighboring states of Punjab and Haryana stood at 0.5 per cent and 1.2 per cent respectively.

Himachal's COVID-19 recovery rate stands at a poor 76.79 per cent against 93 per cent in the country.

The active ratio of cases was recorded at a high 21.5 per cent which means for every 100 confirmed cases, 21 are currently

infected in the city. "The death toll reached 575 with 13 deaths in the last 24 hours. 837 new positive cases were reported on Wednesday," stated Himachal's evening health bulletin.

The COVID fatality rate in the state was recorded at 1.57 per cent.

Of the 837 fresh cases, a maximum of 194 were reported in Shimla followed by 161 in Mandi, 139 in Kangra, 89 in Kullu. So far, 28080 people have recovered from the virus in the state. 99 people have recovered in the last 24 hours, it said.

Among 7875 active cases till the evening, Shimla has the highest number of active cases in the state at 1968 followed by 1337 in Mandi and 1121 in Kullu.

So far, 502357 COVID-19 tests have been conducted in the state, the bulletin added.

Continued on Page 2

Chennai halts ahead of Nivar's landfall

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Flights operations were cancelled from 7 pm onward at the Chennai airport for 12 hours; metro and buses services suspended, and trains cancelled or diverted as torrential rain and heavy winds continued to lash Chennai and the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu ahead of severe cyclone 'Nivar's' landfall. More than 1.25 lakh people have been shifted to safer places in the State.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the powerful cyclone is likely to cross Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mamallapuram around Puducherry around early hours (2 am) of November 26 with a wind speed of 120-130 kmph, gusting up to 145 kmph. Nivar has brought with it heavy rain and strong winds in coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

"Due to #CycloneNivar aircraft operations at #AAI #Chennaiairport will remain suspended from 1900hrs of 25.11.2020 (today) to 0700hrs of 26.11.2020.

The decision has been taken considering the safety aspect of passengers and the severity of approaching Cyclone," the airport said on its Twitter handle.

In Chennai, the impact of powerful cyclone is being felt in the form of heavy rain and waterlogging in parts of the city.

Velachery, Madipakkam, Valluvar Kottam, Royapetta, Triplicane and adjacent sides of Mount Road — all prime areas in Chennai — have reported waterlogging.

CAPSULE

KALBE SADIQ DIES, PM CONDOLES HIS DEATH
Lucknow: Prominent Shia cleric and All India Muslim Personal Law Board vice president Maulana Kalbe Sadiq died in Lucknow on Tuesday. He was 83. Expressing grief, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Maulana made notable efforts towards social harmony and brotherhood.

SOCCER GREAT DIEGO MARADONA NO MORE
Buenos Aires: Diego Maradona, the Argentine soccer great who was among the best players ever and who led his country to the 1986 World Cup title before struggling with cocaine use and obesity, has died. He was 60.

'JALLIKATTU' IS INDIA'S OFFICIAL OSCAR ENTRY
New Delhi: Malayalam feature "Jallikattu", directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, has been selected as India's official entry for the International Feature Film category at the Oscars, the Film Federation of India (FFI) announced on Thursday.

Himachal CM directs officers to regularly monitor Covid situation

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Wednesday directed the officers concerned to regularly monitor the situation and take corrective measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chief Minister while holding a video conference with Chief Secretary, Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners of the state from Jammu took stock of the COVID-19 situation in the state.

Thakur directed that the officers must ensure that COVID patients get proper treatment and people are motivated to adopt social distancing and use face masks in public places.

The COVID patients under home isolation must be provided required treatment and their health condition should be monitored regularly, he said.

The Chief Minister said that there is no dearth of oxygen and other health inputs and the State Government has launched 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan' to sensitize the people regarding COVID-19 pandemic and to collect information regarding symptomatic COVID population, TB, Leprosy, sugar, blood pressure etc. by door to door campaign in the state.

He urged the people of the state to provide wholehearted support to the health workers by providing them accurate information about their diseases and health parameters.

The Chief Minister also directed the officers to make foolproof arrangements for proper maintenance and clearance of roads in the state in wake of ensuing snowfall. He said that adequate arrangements of men and machinery should be made available at strategic points so that people do not face any inconvenience.

The Chief Secretary Anil Khachi assured the Chief Minister that administration would spare no efforts to check the spread of COVID in the state and SOP would be implemented in letter and spirit.

HRTC BUSES STILL NOT PLYING ON 47 PERCENT ROUTES

Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses are still not plying on 1,724 out of its total 3,708 routes.

The HRTC has incurred losses worth Rs 450 crores due to this.

Chandigarh reports one death, 87 fresh Covid cases

One more resident succumbed to the Covid-19 in the union territory of Chandigarh as 87 fresh infections were detected on Wednesday.

The positive case tally reached 16925 in the city, stated Chandigarh Health Department's evening bulletin. There were 1127 active cases till the evening. 77 patients have recovered in the past 24 hours.

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Public Notice regarding the purchase of Colour Coated Profile Sheets, A.C.C. Sheets and G.C. Sheets which should reach in the mills on or before 03.12.2020.

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Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

I, Jagman Singh Tohra S/O Karamjeet Singh R/o village Tohra, (Nabha), (Patiala) (Punjab) Declared my 10th certificate year 2017-2018, Roll No. 2288342, (CBSE) Has Been Lost.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Surinder Yadav S/O Yadvu Rai Yadav and Summa Yadav W/O Surinder Yadav R/o # 1684, Sector 52, Chandigarh declare that our daughter Archana Yadav is out of our control we disown her from our movable / immovable properties. Anybody dealing with her at their own risk.

I, Kashmiri Devi W/O Late Nanak Chand Sharma R/o HE 3, Phase 9, Mohali, Punjab declare that I had disowned my son Subhash Chand Sharma, his wife Kavita Sharma, granddaughter Loveleen Sharma alias Lovely, grandson Pushpinder Sharma alias Prince on 8th December 2004 published in Dainik Bhaskar. Now I withdraw my Eviction, and my son Subhash Chand Sharma and his family and full rights in my moveable / immovable properties.

I, Kamal Partap Singh Bains S/O Chhatrapal Singh Bains, Village Sahota, Naina Devi Road, Tehsil Sri Anandpur Sahib (Ropar), declare that my name in passport of my son's name Harpratap Singh Bains and daughter's Harmehar Kaur Bains, written as Kamal Partap Singh, but my actual name is Kamal Partap Singh Bains.

I, Radhey Sham S/O Ram Nath R/o # 1360/10, Phase XI, Mohali declare that my son Gaurav and his wife Kajal is out of my control. So I disown them from my Moveable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with them will do so his/her at own risk.

I, Bal Kishan S/O Late Kura Ram R/O 3240 & 41, Maloya Colony, UT, Chandigarh hereby disown my son Munish Mittal, his wife Sonam Mittal from all my moveable/immovable properties. They are out of my control. If anybody deal with them will do so at own cost. We shall not be responsible for their any deeds.

I, Sahab Singh S/O Sri Ajmer Singh R/O Vill Karchan, Ambala Cantt declare that my son Jasbir Singh and his wife Jasbinder Kaur and Ranbir Singh and his wife Daljeet Kaur are all out of our control. So we disown them from our all moveable immovable properties.

I, Bal Kishan S/O Late Kura Ram R/O 3240 & 41, Maloya Colony, UT, Chandigarh hereby disown my son Mukesh Mittal, his wife Shweta Mittal from all my moveable/immovable properties. They are out of my control. If anybody deal with them will do so at own cost. We shall not be responsible for their any deeds.

I, Parmeshree Alias Panmeshari W/O Mal Chand Alias Bhal Chand R/O Nand Government School Sakra Tehsil Dhand District Kaithal Declares That My Son Amit Kumar Is Out Of My Control. I Disown Them From My Moveable/Immovable Properties. I And My Family Will Not Responsible For His Act And Conduct. Anybody Deal With Them.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Smt. Brahma Devi D/o No 6456680, Late Sep Tarsem Lal R/O VPO Sataru Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab has changed my name from Brahma Devi to Brahma Devi Concerned Note.

I, No 4480742X EX L/NK Surinder Singh S/O Sri Anup Dass R/o Village Khekna Dwarkana PO Khudwa Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur has changed the name of my daughter form Tanisha Kaur to Tanisha Concerned Note.

I, Vipin Kumar S/O Kharali Lal R/O Sayal colony opp Embassy Hotel Dhangu Road Pathankot, Tehsil & Distt. Pathankot. That I have Changed my name Vipin Kumar to Vipin Puri. Vide affidavit no. AT 767874 dated 24 Nov 2020 before Sat Pal Notary Pathankot.

I, Army No 4473735Y Ranjit Singh S/O Chamam Lal. In my service record my wife's (Rekha Ran) DOB wrongly recorded as 14-08-1977 instead of 28-10-1977 vide affidavit no. AL27063 dated 24-11-2020 before Notary Pathankot.

I, Seema Devi W/O Gowardhan Dass R/O Village-Taksal, Tehsil-Kasauli, Distt.Solan (H.P.) have changed my name from Seema Devi to Soma Devi.

I, No.3394096-L Ex-Nk Jagtar Singh S/O Deena Singh R/O village Lehrian P.O a Bhagawal Tehsil Anandpur Sahib Distt Ropar(pj)declare that in my service record name of my son is Manpreet Singh but his actual name is Manpreet Singh Gill.

I, No.15102341L NK/TS Jagga Singh S/O Phuman Singh R/O Village Manemajra Tehsil Chamkaur sahib District Ropar Declares that in my army record name of my name is my wife is Parmjit Kaur. D.O.B is 11-05-1976 but her correct name is Parmjit Kaur & D.O.B is 19-04-1977.

I, No 15129547M Ex Hav Ranjodh Singh S/O Sri Yakti Singh R/O Vill. Khangwan PO Manhota Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the name of my son from Saurav Singh to Sourav Singh Concerned Note.

I, Smt. Malkit Kaur W/O J.C. 348142N Late Sub Jiginder Singh R/O Village Nangal Farid PO Ghorwahaha Tehsil Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the name of my daughter from Ravinder Kaur to Ranjil Kaur Concerned Note.

I, Neeraj Jindal S/O Sh. Ram Nivas Jindal #726, First Floor, Sector-16, Panchkula have changed my name to Neeraj Kumar.

I, Aastha W/O Mr. Neeraj Kumar #726, First Floor, Sector-16, Panchkula have changed my name to Aastha Jindal.

I, Satinder Pal Singh S/O Narinder Singh H.N.- 600, Santpura Road, Model Town, Yamuna Nagar declare that my daughter name is Kavleen Kaur and Kavleen both names are of the same person. My daughter actual name is Kavleen Kaur.

I, Riya Yadav W/O Himanshu Singh R/O H. No. 288, Shakti Nagar, Hisar Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Riya Yadav To Riya Singla For All Future Purposes.

I, Prashant Raghav S/O Ashok Kumar R/O H.No. 123-E, Staff Quarter, Sector-11, Huda, Panipat declare that my name is Prashant & Prashant Raghav. These are the name of one and same person. But in future is Prashant Raghav.

I, Smita Mukund W/O No.14639542-N, Rank-Hav Dushmukh M V unit 867 Fd Wxsp(640 EME BN) C/o 56 APO Ambala Cantt. Have changed my name from Smita Mukund to Smita Mukund Dushmukh & changed date of birth from 01/07/1981 to 11/07/1981 in my Husband Record.

I, Rashmi D/o Khem Chand R/O 81, Vikas Nagar Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh have changed my name to Rashmi.

I, Shabir alias Shabir Khan alias Shabir Mohammad S/O Anwar Khan R/O #265, Kartarpura Mohalla, Near Wajir Sahib Gali, Nabha Distt. Patiala declare all above names are mine and of one and same person.

I, Divanshu D/O Rajendra Pal Singh Resident Of 108, Shyam Vihar, Dimpur, Najafgarh, New Delhi, Delhi-110071 Have Changed My Name From Divanshu To Divanshu Singh Vide Affidavit Dated 25-11-2020 Before Notary Public Pathankot.

I, Jaspreet Kaur Jhally W/O Ravinder Singh Sandhu R/O Vpo. Manuke (Ludhiana) changed my name to Jaspreet Kaur Sandhu after marriage.

I, ReshmdEEP Singh S/O Sukhwinder Singh R/O Vpo. Binjal (Ludhiana) changed my name to ReshmdEEP Singh Jassal.

I, Judge Kumar S/O Nand Lal R/O H No 1226 Abotah Road Bye Pass Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Change My Name Jyoti Kumar.

I, Kashmir Kaur W/O Makhan Singh R/O Vpo. Dayapur Teh Phillaur (Jalandhar) changed my name to Kuldip Kaur.

I, Parkash S/O Mohan Lal R/O Village Chugha Tehsil Gurusaraha Distt Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Parkash To Om Parkash Girhar.

I, Navdeep Singh S/O Kulwinder Singh R/O Chak Dhab Khushal Jyoti District Fazilka Have Changed My Name To Navdeep Singh Bar.

I, Sinder Kaur W/O Nishan Singh Vpo Jansuli, Ambala Changed Name Sinder Kaur To Surinder Kaur.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the original Sale Deed No. 4426 dated 20.12.2005, pertaining to the immovable properties of Sh. Anil Kumar Chahala S/O Sh. A. N. Chahala situated at House No. 1235, Phase 10, Mohali, deposited by way of security against a Facility availed by Sh. Anil Kumar Chahala S/O Sh. A. N. Chahala has been misplaced from the custody of ICICI Bank Ltd., Industrial Area Phase I, Chandigarh.

Public Notice regarding the information of General Publicity Singh Man Singh Sangwan S/O Sh. Amar Singh Sangwan R/O H.No. 19, Indira Colony, Bhiwani has applied for transfer of Flat no 3507-A/MT/FF in Housing Board Colony, Sector-1 & 4, Part-II, Hisar in favour of Sh. Vikas S/O Sh. Mangat Ram R/O VPO Jamalpur, Tehsil Bawani Khara, Distt. Bhiwani if any person has an objection regarding transfer of this flat, he/she should file objection with documentary proof in writing, in person, to this office within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

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Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of works, Estimated Cost, EMD, Cost of Tender, Time, Eligible class of Contractor. Includes construction of Ayurvedic Dispensary Building at Dhar, Tehsil Jubbah Distt. Shimla H.P. (SH) - C/O Civil works, W/S.

Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Jubbah Distt Shimla H.P on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP records...

From Page 1 Notably, the positive cases have shot up in the last fortnight, especially in the four districts of Shimla, Mandi, Kullu and Kangra where night curfew has been imposed from 8 pm to 6 am from November 24 to December 15. The government has also shut down all government educational institutions till December 31.

Lost & Found

Hukam Chand S/O Fateh Singh Deed No. 1010/1 dated 16-05-2007 in favour of Shiv Charan S/O Roop Ram S/O Banwari is missing on 24.11.2020

सूचना

ग्राम पंचायत जाखौली में 9 पंचायती दुकानों की किराये पर देने के लिए खुली बोली 28.11.2020 को सुबह 10 बजे ग्राम सचिवालय में की जायेगी। बोली देने के लिए सिक्वोरिटी 2000 रु होगी जो मौके पर जमा की जाएगी। गौरव कुमार, संपत्त ग्राम पंचायत जाखौली

Punjab to impose night curfew in all towns, cities from Dec 1

DOUBLES FINE FOR NOT WEARING MASKS OR KEEPING SOCIAL DISTANCE

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Amid the grim Covid-19 situation in Delhi-NCR and apprehensions of a second wave in Punjab, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday ordered a series of fresh restrictions in the State, including re-imposition of night curfew in all towns and cities as well as doubling of fine for not wearing masks or following social distancing norms, with effect from December 1.

The curbs, which will be reviewed on December 15, also restrict opening timings of all hotels, restaurants, and marriage palaces till 9.30 pm.

Night curfew will remain in force from 10 pm till 5 am, announced the Chief Minister, warning the people against letting their guard down under any circumstances.

Giving details of the new restrictions after a high-level state COVID-19 review meeting, an official spokesperson said that fine for now following COVID-19 appropriate behaviour shall be hiked from the present Rs 500 to Rs 1000.

Given the inflow of patients from Delhi for treatment in Punjab, it has also been decided to review and optimize the beds availability in the state's private hospitals.

The Chief Minister has asked the state Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan to work with the concerned departments to encourage more private hospitals to come on board and earmark beds for COVID-19 care.

To further strengthen the availability of oxygen and ICU beds, Capt Amarinder has ordered the strengthening of the Level II and Level III, with constant monitoring of districts that are not equipped with Level III facilities.

The management practices in Government Medical College and Hospitals (GMCHs) and Civil Hospitals should also be examined in light of the recommendations of the report received from the Expert Group, he said.

The Chief Minister has also directed the Health and

Medical Education Departments to make emergency appointments of specialists, super-specialists, nurses and paramedics, to further augment the manpower which was recently strengthened with the recruitment of 249 specialist doctors and 407 medical officers. The Departments have also been asked to consider preparing fourth and fifth year MBBS students as reserve and back-up, in case needed in the future. On the testing front, the Chief Minister stressed the need to fully utilize the 25,500 daily RT-PCR testing capacity, and directed targeted and regular testing of potential super spreaders, including Government officials.

The District Hospitals must have 24x7 testing available, and the same must also be

made available at other convenient locations where people can easily access the same, he said.

While the increase in contract tracing was a positive sign, steps must be taken to ensure that all these contacts are also tested, said the Chief Minister, adding that the Patient Tracking Officers must also be assigned this task.

To ensure that no deaths take place in home isolation, Capt Amarinder said that the agency hired to look into these cases should keep close tabs on such patients.

"While mortality audit is ongoing, it is a matter of satisfaction that the Department is now collecting reasons for placing patients on ventilator by private hospitals, and there is a referral group available to mon-

FRESH CURBS IN PUNJAB FROM DEC 1

- Night curfew in all towns and cities from 10 pm to 5 am
- Fine for not wearing masks or following social distancing norms to be doubled from Rs 500 to Rs 1000
- All hotels, restaurants, marriage palaces to remain open till 9.30 pm
- Curbs to be reviewed on Dec 15
- Punjab to review and optimize beds availability in state's private hospitals
- To strengthen availability of oxygen and ICU beds
- CM orders strengthening of Level II, III with constant monitoring of districts that are not equipped with Level III facilities
- Management practices in GMCHs, and Civil Hospitals to be examined
- Health and Medical Education Depts directed to make emergency appointments of specialists, super-specialists, nurses and paramedics to further
- augment the manpower
- Departments also asked to consider preparing fourth and fifth year MBBS students as reserve and back-up
- CM asks to fully utilize 25,500 daily RT-PCR testing capacity
- CM directed targeted and regular testing of potential super spreaders, including Government officials
- All contacts of positive cases must be tested by involving Patient Tracking Officers

itor these patients," said the Chief Minister.

Referring to the reports of early vaccine coming in, the

Chief Minister said that while he was happy to note that the database for healthcare workers was ready, the Departments

should also look at the other categories of frontline workers who could be prioritized for the vaccine.

Punjab's thermal power plants resume generating power

PNS ■ PATIALA

Punjab's thermal power plants have started power generation. Informing this, the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) chairman-cum-managing director A Venu Prasad on Wednesday said that the dreadful situation and apprehensions of the public about the possibility of black out in Punjab was averted due to timely decisions taken by the state power utility.

Prasad said that despite nearly two months long 'Rail Roko' agitation by farmers in Punjab, PSPCL has managed the entire situation without any load shedding on commercial and industrial consumers, "though minimum possible demand side management was carried out by way of curtailing power to agriculture sector and through minimum possible imposition of power cuts on domestic consumers."

"Due to farmers' 'Rail Roko' agitation, the coal stock position within the state's private thermal power stations dwindled to zero. It was, thus, apprehended that there could be a possibility of a black out

or at least partial black out in Punjab paralyzing the already crippled state economy," he said.

He said that in a power system, the basic principle is to maintain balance between the demand and supply for ensuring safe and secure operation of grid. "The lack of within state generation resulted into a challenging situation to maintain balance, and this mismatch can endanger grid security," he said. "Due to late sowing of paddy crop and an extended dry spell during the month of September and subsequently in October, caused the paddy season demand to extend till about second week of October," said Prasad adding that at this point of time, PSPCL usually returns the power it had availed during the paddy season, as "any failure to do so would have dented the reputation of the State or PSPCL throughout the country."

Also due to lower reservoir levels in hydro power stations, their generation was considerably less this year, pointed Prasad. He added, the catering of demand during the month of November, when the festival season is in full swing, was also of utmost importance.

Preamble of Indian Constitution to be read in all depts in Haryana to observe Constitution Day today

Chandigarh: All the departments of Haryana Government will celebrate Constitution Day on Thursday in which the Preamble of the Constitution will be read. An official spokesperson said that this year Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the reading of the Preamble at 11.00 am on Thursday during the Conference of the All India Presiding Officer at Kevadia, Gujarat.

He said all offices of the State Government, Autonomous Bodies, Organisations, Local Self Government Institutions, and Educational Institutions etc

may also join the Prime Minister in reading of the Preamble from their respective offices/locations while ensuring to adhere to the guidelines issued in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. The spokesperson said other activities, including talks/webinars on constitutional values and fundamental principles of the Indian Constitution may also be organized. A letter in this regard has been forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries, All Head of the Departments, Divisional Commissioners and District Commissioners across the State.

Nursing, Pharmacy Colleges in Punjab to be opened under State Institute of Medical Sciences in Mohali

Chandigarh/SAS Nagar: Considering the prolonged demand of Mohali residents, the Punjab Government has approved the Nursing and Pharmacy Colleges under Dr BR Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences in Mohali. "The decision has been taken in the video conference meeting where along with others, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences' Vice-Chancellor Raj Bahadur was also present," said

the Health and Labour Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu on Wednesday. Sidhu said that the course of BSc in Nursing and Pharmacy would be initiated in the next session in new colleges under Dr BR Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences, Mohali. At the same time, he clarified that in case of paucity of land in the concerned colleges, it would be provided free of cost to the Institute. PNS

Punjab farmers gather at the State's border with Haryana for 'Delhi Chalo'

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Braving the inclement weather and undeterred by the hurdles created by Haryana Government, Punjab farmers along with their family members, including women and children, riding on tarpaulin-covered tractor trolleys, ration that could last for months, besides other things on Wednesday started gathering and camping at the state's borders after being halted by the Haryana police en route their 'Delhi Chalo' march.

Haryana Government literally placed stumbling blocks in the farmers' way towards the national capital, as a part of all-India's 'Delhi Chalo' agitation, by placing huge boulders along with double barricading to seal all main entry points from Punjab to prevent the farmers from marching to New Delhi.

Denied entry, hundreds of farmers from far-flung areas of Punjab, including Ferozepur, have started gathering at the inter-state borders, while announcing to sit on dharna right there is stopped from proceeding towards Delhi.

A large number of farmers have reached main entry points into Haryana — including Shambu, Ghanaur, Dera Bassi, Khanauri, Pehowa, and Jakhla.

In fact, farmers stated reaching Dabwali border in Bathinda and Khanauri in Sangru since Tuesday night. As per reports, Khanauri is expected to witness maximum number of farmers gathering, followed by Doomwali on Bathinda-Sirsa border near Dabwali.

While the Haryana police is allowing movement of vehicles, it is stopping the tractors, vehicles carrying flags of farmers'



Farmers continued with their protest in various parts of Punjab against the farm laws. Pioneer photo

associations.

"We have all along been saying that we would stage peaceful protest. We don't want any confrontation. We only wanted to protest against the farm laws. If they would not allow us to move towards Delhi on Thursday, we would sit on dharnas at the borders," said Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan) president Joginder Singh Ugrahan.

BKU Ekta Dakaunda president Jagmohan Singh Patiala said that the designated routes include Lalru (Chandigarh-Delhi highway), Shambhu (Amritsar-Delhi highway), Patiala-Pehowa, Patiala-Chika, Patran-Khanauri, Munak-Tohana, Ratia-Fatehabad, Talwandi-Sirsa, among others.

"If we are stopped on our way to Delhi, we will start indefinite dharnas right there under the call of 'Dera Dalo-Ghera Dalo' programme," he added.

Protesting against the Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's decision to halt the farmers, the farmers put on fire his effigies at no less than 50 places across Punjab. "Khattar's effigies were burnt for

his government's decision to seal off Haryana's borders, arresting about 80 Haryana farmers, attacking farmers with water cannons to suppress the farmers' agitation by force," said Patiala.

The farmers' leader said that the BJP-led Haryana Government was becoming an obstacle in the way of farmers which is undemocratic.

Patiala said that lakhs of farmers from across Punjab are enthusiastic to travel to Delhi in spite of rains and cold weather conditions. "Their trolleys are waterproof and fitted with speakers. Apart from this, arrangements for rations, fuel, utensils, blankets, tarpaulins and other essential items have also been provided as required... They are ready to leave with two months' ration and all the necessities," he added. It has been learnt that farmers from south Malwa region of Punjab would start gathering at Talwandi Sabo on Wednesday night and would move towards Haryana on Thursday. The farmer organizations have planned to reach Delhi via Doomwali and Talwandi-Rori routes in Bathinda and via Sardulgarh in Mansa district.

FARMERS' PROTEST IN THE REGION

Haryana Police steps up vigil along border with Punjab to prevent entry of farmers: DGP

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With the deployment of additional police forces, Haryana Police on Wednesday sealed its borders with Punjab to prevent farmers from entering the State in response to the onward 'Delhi Chalo' march against the Centre's new farm laws.

Talking to 'The Pioneer' over the phone, State Director General of Police (DGP) Manoj Yadava said that State borders with Punjab and Delhi have been sealed with the deployment of State Police force and Centre's Rapid Action Force (RAF) to maintain law and order in the State. Four companies of Rapid Action Force (RAF) were received from Central Government and deployed at Sirsa, Ambala,

Punjab border at Jind and Delhi border at Sonapat. 14 additional State police companies have also been deployed along the State borders with Punjab and Delhi, he added.

Yadava further said that about 73 farmer leaders were arrested so far as a part of precautionary measures in view of farmers' Delhi chalo march. Prohibitory orders were enforced to avoid any untoward incident in the State. Stern action will be taken against those found violating the orders, DGP said, adding that Police forces have been ordered to be vigilant in all the areas sharing border with Punjab including four major national highways from Haryana to Ambala-Delhi, Hisar-Delhi, Rewari-Delhi, Palwal-Delhi

Highways.

COPS USE WATER CANNONS ON ANTI-FARM LAW PROTESTORS IN AMBALA

Farmers affiliated with the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) from Ambala, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Karnal and Kaithal, gathered outside the New Grain Market in Ambala Cantonment near Mohra village on National Highway 44. When they tried to move forward to register their protest against the farm laws, which they dubbed as anti-farmer, police personnel tried to stop them. Following this, there was a confrontation between the farmers and the police. Later farmers broke barricades. However, when some farmers tried to cross the barricade,

police used water cannons to disperse them.

Police and a company of the RAF stood guard, while senior police officials tried to convince the farmers to call off the march to the national capital on Thursday. Instead, farm union leaders started a protest against the impounding of a tractor and the arrest of their activists.

Addressing the crowd, BKU state Chief Gurnam Singh Charuni said, "The police have to release our activists and the vehicle."

"We will march towards Delhi, breaking the barricades." Some farmers said they have been making arrangements for food and fuel for Punjab farmers. Later farmers marched towards Kurukshetra.

HARYANA CM APPEALS TO FARMERS TO WITHDRAW CALL OF 'DELHI CHALO'

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar appealed to the farmers to withdraw the Delhi Chalo march. Talking to reporters, Khattar said that he has already assured the farmers that the State Government would continue to procure Bajra, Mustard, Moong, Sunflower seed etc along with Wheat and Rice on Minimum Support Price and would also set up additional mandis for their convenience. He said that there are few people who always try to misguide them for their vested interests and farmers need to be aware about such elements. He called the protest meaningless as the new laws are pro-farmer, while opposition

parties pointed that the arrest of farmer leaders by Haryana police shameful and the Haryana Police are issued an advisory, asking people to modify their travel.

BUS SERVICES SUSPENDED ON NOV 26-27

Haryana Transport Department has decided to suspend operations of Haryana Roadways buses for Punjab for two days on Thursday and Friday in view of farmers' Delhi Chalo march. The Union Territory administration too has decided to suspend all Chandigarh Transport Undertaking (CTU) bus operations in and out of Haryana. The official spokesperson said that the CTU operation in Punjab and Himachal may get affected as well.

FARMERS COORDINATION COMMITTEE CONDEMNS SEALING OF BORDERS

Haryana Chapter of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC)—a joint platform of several farmers' outfits—has strongly objected to the Khattar government's act of sealing all border points in the state—leading to Delhi and Punjab in order to check the farmers from going to Delhi on November 26 and 27 to protest against three farm laws. It is a bizarre paradox, that the state is acting at the behest of the Centre Govt to suppress the farmers' agitation by dictatorial methods. The government should not remain under any false illusion that it would succeed.

Haryana has 42 Covid-19 deaths, highest single-day fatality count

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana's Covid-19 tally on Wednesday climbed to 224,489 after 2197 fresh cases and 42 new fatalities were recorded in the last 24 hours, taking the total count to 2291. Wednesday's deaths are the highest single day death count till date, State Health authorities said. Of the 42 deaths, six each were reported from worst-hit Faridabad district, Panipat, five each from Bhiwani, Rohtak, three each from Gurugram, Hisar, Fatehabad, two each from Rewari, Sirsa and one each from Ambala, Karnal, Panchkula, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, Jind and Charkhi Dadri, according to the State health department's daily bulletin.

Capt, Sidhu sort out differences in luncheon meeting

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Breaking the ice, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and the cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu on Wednesday shared thoughts on vital issues, including farmers' agitation, during an hour-long "warm and cordial luncheon meeting."

Sidhu, who has been maintaining distance from the party programmes ever since he resigned from the State Cabinet in July 2019 following differences with the Chief Minister, made a comeback amidst the farmers' struggle against the Centre's farm laws. His return to the active politics could be attributed to the hardwork put in by the Congress' newly appointed state party affairs-in-charge Harish Rawat to bridge the gulf between the two.

When Rawat, Uttarakhand's former Chief Minister, was given the responsibility of Congress' state unit in September, he indicated at bridging the differences between the party's top brass, especially bringing together Capt Amarinder and Sidhu.

In fact, it was only after Rawat's insistence that Sidhu shared stage with the Chief Minister during Rahul Gandhi's tractor rally against Centre's farm laws, attended Vidhan Sabha session after more than a year, and even participated in party's dharna at Delhi under Capt Amarinder's leadership.

And all through this, Rawat ensured that Sidhu was not left behind or ignored.

Wednesday's luncheon meeting was also part of these rapprochement efforts — initiated by Rawat and taken for-



ward by both Capt Amarinder and Sidhu. Available information suggests that Capt Amarinder had himself called up Sidhu asking him to second his resolution against the Centre's farm laws in the Vidhan Sabha's special session.

Moreover, Sidhu was the second last speaker before the Chief Minister and praised the Chief Minister for his stand in favour of the farmers during the party's dharna at Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

thoughts on vital issues. @sheryontopp @INCIndia," the Chief Minister's media adviser Raveen Thakral tweeted after the meeting.

Even as he did not give any insights of the meeting, it has been learnt that the two leaders discussed a host of issues, including the ongoing farmers' agitation.

The meeting between the two is seen as Sidhu's possible re-induction in the State Cabinet, in which a berth has been lying vacant ever since his resignation. It is believed that Sidhu's induction in the Council of Ministers would lead to a major reshuffle of departments.

In fact, the Chief Minister reportedly wanted to carry out a Cabinet reshuffle early this year, which was delayed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

Fresh snowfall in Himachal, rainfall in parts of Punjab, Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

There was fresh snowfall in several parts of Himachal Pradesh and rainfall in parts of Punjab and Haryana on Wednesday. According to the Met Centre, Shimla, Kalpa recorded 9 cm snowfall, Keylong recorded 5 cm snowfall, Sangla 5 cm, Sainj 3 cm and it was 1 cm in Kufri. Several parts of the state saw light rainfall, including Manali 17 mm, Bhuntar 6 mm, Dalhousie 5 mm, Dharamshala 4 mm and Mandi 3 mm. Tribal district of Lahaul and Spiti's administrative centre Keylong was recorded as the coldest place in the state at minus 2.5 degrees Celsius. Kinnaur's Kalpa recorded a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius. The minimum

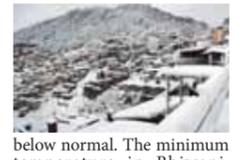
temperatures in Dalhousie, Manali and Kufri were recorded at 2.3 degrees Celsius, 3.8 degrees Celsius and 3.9 degrees Celsius respectively. The state's capital—Shimla recorded a low of 6.5 degrees Celsius. The Met Department has forecast snowfall and rainfall in parts of Himachal in next 24 hours.

AFTER LIGHT RAINFALL, MAX TEMP DECLINES IN PUNJAB AND HARYANA

The maximum temperatures across the plains of Punjab and Haryana continued to remain below normal level.

Several parts of the region recorded light rainfall on Wednesday.

In Haryana's Hisar, the minimum temperature fell to 8.5 degrees, three notches



below normal. The minimum temperature in Bhiwani, Karnal, Ambala and Narnaul recorded at 8.7 degrees, 10.5 degrees, 11.8 degrees and 12 degree Celsius.

In Punjab, the temperature was comparatively higher with the minimum going up to 13 degrees in Amritsar. In Patiala and Ludhiana, the minimum temperature was 13 and 11 degrees, respectively. Chandigarh registered a low of 13 degrees Celsius and maximum of 19.2 degree Celsius, down by six notches from normal.

Coast Guard seizes 100 kg heroin meant for terrorism

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In one of the major drug hauls in recent times with ramifications of narco-terrorism, the Indian Coast Guard seized more than 100 kilos of heroin in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday. The drug was recovered from a Sri Lankan boat which had received the consignment from a dhow in Karachi.

While investigations are on, officials said here the haul was the result of nearly nine day long operation. It ended in the seizure in the high seas south of Thoothukudi. Six crew members, reportedly Sri Lankan nationals, were detained and their questioning was on, they added. Officials from various agencies were now questioning the detained crew.

Preliminary probe indicated that the crew members told the Coast Guard the contraband was transferred to the Sri Lankan vessel Sheny Duwa on the high seas near Karachi by a Pakistani dhow. The consignment was to be ferried to western countries and Australia, sources said.

It was suspected Pakistan was sending the consignment to fund terrorism in several nations. The Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) and the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) in the past used narcotics to fund their terror campaign in Kashmir. The search of the Sri Lankan boat also led the Coast



Guard to the recovery of five 9mm pistols and a satellite phone set. Moreover, the contraband was concealed in an empty fuel tank on the boat, officials said.

The seizure on Wednesday was carried out by Coast Guard (ICG) ship Vaibhav. Other ships of the force including Vikram, Samar, Abhivav and Aadesh and a Coast Guard Dornier aircraft were also involved in anti-smuggling operations, despite rough sea conditions.

A similar seizure was conducted by the Coast Guard last year and foiled an attempt by Pakistan to smuggle heroin worth over ₹500 crore.

The narcotics were recovered from a boat in October last year off Porbandar.

After being intercepted, the boat crew set the vessel afire and also tried to destroy the drugs. The Anti-Terrorism

Squad of the Gujarat police arrested nine Iranians from the boat, the officials said.

The Iranian boat was loaded off the Gwadar port in Pakistan. Occupants of the boat set it ablaze as the Coast Guard and ATS personnel closed in. The boat sank off the Gujarat coast near Porbandar.

The interrogation of the detained crew revealed one Pakistani national named Hamid Malek had sent the consignment, which was loaded in the Iranian boat off Gwadar port of Pakistan.

The seizure came about after the ATS had received a tip-off that an Iranian boat will make an attempt to smuggle in heroin along the Gujarat coast.

The ATS contacted the Coast Guard and the Marine Task Force of the Gujarat police to launch an operation.

Prez, V-P, PM condole death of Ahmed Patel



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and a host of leaders including Congress president Sonia Gandhi and BJP chief JP Nadda condole the death of senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel and hailed his contribution to his party and public life.

Kovind said he was distressed to learn that Patel is no more. "An astute Parliamentarian, Shri Patel combined the skills of a strategist and the charm of a mass leader. His amiability won him friends across party lines. My condolences to his family and friends," he tweeted and later at a public function he paid tributes in the midst of his speech.

Patel, 71, died at a Gurugram hospital in the early hours of Wednesday due to multiple organ failure more than a month after he tested positive for COVID-19. Son, who leaves behind his wife, son and daughter, is the second senior Congress leader to have died due to COVID-related complications in two days. On Monday, former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi died in Guwahati.

In a statement, the Congress said party workers across the country are deeply pained by Patel's demise. As a mark of

respect, the Congress party flag will fly at half mast for the next three days, the party said.

Vice president Naidu said he was deeply saddened. "He was an able parliamentarian and always maintained cordial relations with leaders across the political spectrum," the Vice President Secretariat tweeted quoting Naidu.

Prime Minister Modi said Patel's role in strengthening the Congress will always be remembered. "Known for his sharp mind, his role in strengthening the Congress would always be remembered. Spoke to his son Faisal and expressed condolences. May Ahmed Bhai's soul rest in peace," Modi said in a tweet.

Union ministers Amit Shah, Prakash Javadekar, Rajnath Singh and Smriti Irani were among the others who condole the death of the Congress' key strategist.

Several top Congress leaders expressed grief, with Sonia Gandhi mourning the loss of an "irreplaceable comrade" and Rahul Gandhi saying Patel "lived and breathed Congress" and stood with the party through its most difficult times.

The Congress president said in her message that Patel, who served as her political advisor for years and was AICC treasurer, had dedicated his entire life to the Congress.

"I have lost an irreplaceable comrade, a faithful colleague and a friend. I mourn his passing and I feel deeply for his bereaved family to whom I offer my sincere feelings of empathy and support," Sonia Gandhi said. "It is a sad day. Shri Ahmed Patel was a pillar of the Congress. He lived and breathed Congress and stood with

the party through its most difficult times. He was a tremendous asset," Rahul Gandhi said in his message.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra described him as not only a wise and experienced colleague to whom she constantly turned for advice and counsel but also as a friend "who stood by us all, steadfast, loyal, and dependable to the end".

The chief ministers of Congress-ruled States—Rajasthan's Ashok Gehlot, Punjab's Amarinder Singh, Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel and Puducherry's V Narayanasamy and a host of other party leaders paid tributes to the leader who always maintained a low profile.

BJP chief J P Nadda said, "Deeply anguished to hear about the demise of veteran Congress leader Shri Ahmed Patel ji. I pray for strength to the family members and his supporters at this hour of grief. Om Shanti."

While Home Minister Amit Shah said the news about the death of Ahmed Patel who made a significant contribution to the Congress party and public life is too sad, the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Patel was a seasoned leader, who made remarkable contribution to his party and to public life. "Ahmed Bhai had friends across party lines. My thoughts are with his family and well-wishers in this sad hour," Singh tweeted.

Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Delhi Yogi Adityanath Mamata Banerjee, Hemant Soren and Arvind Kejriwal also mourned Patel's demise and admired his virtues.

Foundation stone for new Parliament building to be laid in first half of Dec by PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The foundation stone for the new Parliament building is likely to be laid in the first half of December by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Besides, around five statues, including that of Mahatma Gandhi as well as Bhim Rao Ambedkar that are present in the existing Parliament complex, are expected to be temporarily relocated due to the construction work. The construction of the new building is likely to be completed by October 2022. The new Parliament building, which is triangular in its design, will come up at plot number 118 of the Parliament House estate.

According to sources, although December 10 is the proposed date of laying the new Parliament building's foundation stone, the final date would depend on the PM's availability.

The relocated statues will be reinstalled at prominent places within the new complex once the project is completed.

Tata Projects Limited (TPL) had won the contract to build a new Parliament building for ₹861.90 crore in

September.

As per the design by HCP, the new Parliament complex will have a total of six entrances: a ceremonial entrance for the PM and the President; a ceremonial entrance for the Lok Sabha Speaker, one for Rajya Sabha Chairperson, and MPs; another entrance for MPs; as well as two entrances for the public.

As per the plan, the new parliament building will have separate offices for all MPs and as a step towards creating "paperless offices", it will be equipped with the latest digital interfaces. The new Parliament building is a part of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and central government's Central Vista Project.

The Central Vista Project helmed jointly by the CPWD and the Centre also included a complete revamp of Rajpath — a 3 km long path between Rashtrapati Bhawan and India Gate. The Modi government had kick-started the process of bidding while focusing on the need of a new Parliament building earlier this year.

Kovind urges lawmakers to engage in healthy dialogue



PNS ■ NEW DELHI/KEVADIA (GUJARAT)

President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday said elected representatives should engage in a healthy dialogue in Parliament and legislative Assemblies and refrain from using unparliamentary language during debates in the House. Use of unparliamentary language and indiscipline in the House by elected members hurts the sentiments of people who elect them, Kovind said addressing the inaugural session of 80th All India Presiding Officers' Conference at Tent City in Gujarat's Kevadia village, near the Statue of Unity in Narmada district.

"It is expected from elected representatives that they remain committed to democratic values. The biggest challenge for elected representatives and democratic institutions is to fulfill the expectations of people. I believe that people of this country expect that their

elected representatives to follow parliamentary norms. People get hurt when their elected representatives use unparliamentary words or indulge in indiscipline in Parliament or in the Assembly," Kovind said.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla were also present on the occasion and addressed the session. Naidu talked about the judiciary process and cited some judgments that gave a distinct impression of the judiciary's overreach. The higher judiciary deciding on Diwali fireworks, denying the executive any role in the appointment of judges through collegiums, invalidating the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act seeking to enforce accountability and transparency were some of the instances of judicial overreach cited by the vice president.

Naidu stressed that the legislature, the executive and the judiciary are bound to work within their respective domains as defined in the Constitution.

Naidu said harmony lies in each organ doing its job, without interfering with that of the others. This warrants a spirit of mutual respect, responsibility and restraint. Unfortunately,

there have been several instances of crossing the boundaries," Naidu who is also the Chairman of Rajya Saha stated in his address at the 80th All India Presiding Officers' Conference.

Talking about the executive, the vice president said there have been cases when rules framed under the delegated "subordinate legislation" violated the provisions of the original legislation passed by Parliament. Expressing concern over the frequent disruptions in the legislatures, Naidu said the "decency, dignity and decorum" of the temples of democracy will be upheld only through adherence to three "Ds" — debate, discuss and decide.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla stressed on harmonious coordination between the legislature, executive and judiciary. Addressing the Conference, he said constitution provides the basis for the functioning of parliament and state assemblies according to people's aspirations. In a democracy, there can be a difference of opinion among institutions. But with improvement in procedures, constitutional provisions and democratic norms, solutions can be found, he said.

Sidhu likely to be back in Punjab Cabinet



PNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

After months of strained relationship, cricketer-turned-politician and Amritsar MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu is likely to be back in the Punjab Cabinet. The former Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MP had quit his parent party BJP over differences and joined the Congress before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who had axed Sidhu from his cabinet early this year, invited the former Indian skipper over lunch at his official residence in Chandigarh triggering speculation that Sidhu may be re-inducted into the State Cabinet.

Both leaders have not been on the best of terms since May last year when the Punjab CM accused the former cricketer of the "inept handling" of the Local Government Department, claiming it resulted in "poor performance" of the Congress in urban areas during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Sidhu was stripped of key

portfolios in a cabinet reshuffle, after which he resigned from the state cabinet and stayed away from all Congress activities.

In between, there were also rumours that Sidhu can join Aam Admi Party which did not materialise as the famous television humorist had put conditions that he should be announced as the party's Chief Ministerial candidate when the next assembly elections in Punjab was to be announced.

According to sources close to the chief minister, both leaders spent an hour together at Amarinder Singh's residence and shared thoughts on various issues. "It was a warm and cordial luncheon meeting that saw Captain Amarinder and Navjot Singh Sidhu discuss a host of important political matters of Punjab and national interest. The two leaders spent a pleasant over an hour sharing thoughts on vital issues," said the sources.

Earlier, Sidhu had made a public appearance at a "tractor rally" against the Centre's farm laws in Moga last month where party leader Rahul Gandhi, Amarinder Singh and others were also present. Sidhu attended the "tractor rally" after AICC general secretary Harish Rawat met him at his residence in Amritsar.

India gets two predator drones from US to boost recce along LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to enhance surveillance capabilities and detect movement of the adversary especially on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India has acquired two predator drones from the US. In the months to come, 18 more such sophisticated drones will be inducted into the Indian Navy.

The two drones were made operational earlier this week by the Navy in south India. These drones have an endurance capability of more than 30 hours and can relay top quality visuals to the Navy. Besides getting deployed in the Indian Ocean region there, security establishment also plans to use these machines in Eastern Ladakh and eastern sector of the LAC covering Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, source said here on Wednesday.

They said the Predator drones were acquired through the emergency route in the wake of the nearly seven month long stand-off on the LAC in eastern Ladakh. The two drones were procured under lease agreement valid for more than a year.

A US crew was assisting the Navy in maintenance and technical issues handling the drone.

Harsh Vardhan calls for robust Covid vaccine manufacturing, delivery module in country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the world waits with bated breath for a vaccine to combat Covid-19, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, on Wednesday sought the help of innovators and industry to create a robust Covid-19 vaccine manufacturing and delivery mechanism.

In a message, delivered at the inaugural session of the Global R&D Summit 2020, organised jointly by FICCI and the Department of Science and Technology, Vardhan said research and innovation has become a way of life and their outcomes have been helping a wide range of industries and communities to develop various solutions such as the latest delivery App to safer cars to breakthrough treatment for illnesses.

"The current pandemic has only reinforced our belief in innovation and research and development. They are not only helping in better disease management but also making our nation resilient and self-reliant," the Minister said. He cited the example of how industry in the country used the opportunity created by the Covid-19 pandemic to produce five lakh PPE kits per day from scratch. "As the world raises to find



a cure and vaccine for Covid-19, India is looking to be self-reliant in both - vaccine and its mass production. Called as the pharmacy of the world, India has the largest capacity to produce Covid-19 vaccines," he added.

India, with second-highest coronavirus cases after the US, has at least five vaccine candidates under human trial, of which three candidates are undergoing advanced Phase-2/3 clinical trials to establish safety and efficacy.

Gururaj Deshpande, founder of Tejas Network and many other successful firms, said directed research, by universities to solve specific problems for industry, will not lead to breakthrough innovations.

"We need to find a way so that the industry seeks good thinkers, good innovators and rub shoulders with them to see how their problems can be solved. The Governments on the other hand have to reduce the friction and encourage people to make these connections," Deshpande said.

Swami Gaud joins BJP ahead of local bodies polls

TRS leader has met JP Nadda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

TRS leader and former Chairman of Legislative Council Swami Gaud has joined the BJP ahead of local bodies elections in Hyderabad.

The BJP leadership was trying, for sometime, to rope in the important TRS leader to spread saffron wings in the state.

Gaud has met key central leaders including BJP president J P Nadda.

Party leaders Bandi Sanjay and union minister G Kishan Reddy reportedly had earlier met Swamy and invited him into the party.

He was made MLC and chairman after formation of separate Telangana state. His tenure as MLC from Medak-Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Adilabad constituency ended last year.

ED files chargesheet in Bitumen scam



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday filed supplementary Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet in police parlance) against accused firm Classic Coal Construction Pvt Ltd and others under money laundering charge for confiscation of attached properties and award of punishment in connection with the bitumen scam worth several crore.

The prosecution complaint under Prevention of Money Laundering Act was filed before the Special Judge (PMLA), Ranchi against Classic Coal Construction Pvt. Ltd, Classic Multiplex Pvt Ltd and their directors Dilip Kumar

Singh and Kumar Pranav in a case of bitumen scam in Jharkhand.

"The Prosecution Complaint has been filed before the Court with a prayer for confiscation of attached properties totalling to ₹1.83 crore apart from awarding punishment to the accused persons," the ED said in a statement.

The attached assets include three immovable properties in the form of a commercial property and a residential property, both at Ranchi and a plot in Ramgarh, held in the name of the accused firms and the erstwhile Managing Director of the Company, Late Pawan Kumar Singh, it said.

The ED initiated investi-

CBI raids locations in 2 graft cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Wednesday conducted searches at various places in Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala in connection with two separate cases registered against accused including Chief Engineer (Railways), Assistant Director, India Tourism (Government of India) and

others related to possession of disproportionate assets and other case for accepting bribe.

"During searches, cash of Rs one crore (approximately), documents related to investment, jewellery etc. have been recovered at the premises of the accused, family members, other private persons/suspects," the CBI said in a statement.

MT of bitumen for road works and got payment in connivance with the departmental engineers on strength of these fake/forged bills to the tune of Rs. 6.88 crores, the ED said.

Investigation under PMLA revealed that this ill-gotten money was used to create assets and to meet miscellaneous expenditure pertaining to the company and its directors. After identification of Proceeds of Crime, two Provisional Attachment Orders attaching assets worth ₹2.08 crores and 1.83 crores were issued.

Earlier, a Prosecution Complaint was filed and now this supplementary complaint has been filed for conducting trial against accused.

India's Covid-19 caseload goes past 92L with 44,376 new cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's Covid-19 caseload went past 92 lakh with 44,376 new cases reported in a day, while the number of recoveries surged to 86.42 lakh, the Union Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

The number of total coronavirus cases rose to 92,22,216 in the country, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 1,34,699 with 481 new fatalities, said the Ministry. According to the health ministry, more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

The active caseload shot up to 4,44,746, an increase of 6,079 cases from Tuesday, even though it remained below five lakh for the 15th consecutive day, accounting for 4.82 per cent of the total cases, it added.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 86,42,771, pushing the national recovery rate to 93.72 per cent, while the Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.46 per cent.



August 7,30-lakh mark on August 23 and 40-lakh mark on September 5.

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

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), over 13.48 crore samples were tested for Covid-19 up to November 24, including 11,59,032 on Tuesday. The 481 new fatalities

include 109 from Delhi, 49 from West Bengal, 33 each from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, 30 from Maharashtra, 24 from Kerala, 22 from Punjab and 21 from Chhattisgarh.

Of the 1,34,699 deaths reported in the country so far due to the disease, Maharashtra accounts for 46,683, followed by Karnataka (11,695), Tamil Nadu (11,639), Delhi (8,621), West Bengal (8,121), Uttar Pradesh (7,615), Andhra Pradesh (6,956), Punjab (4,653) and Gujarat (3,892).

Woman abducted, raped for 14 days in Kota

Kota (Raj): A 20-year-old woman has accused a man of abducting and raping her for 14 days while keeping her in his captivity in a jungle near Mandana town of Kota district, police said on Wednesday.

In her complaint lodged at the Anta police station in neighbouring Baran district, the woman said she was able to approach the police after her father managed to rescue her from the 22-year-old man's captivity on November 22.

The woman said accused Phoralal Odd, a resident of

Kapren town in Bundi district, abducted her on November 9 from her maternal uncle's village where she had gone to attend a marriage in the family, said Anta police station SHO Umesh Manaria.

He said the woman alleged that the man abducted her on his motorcycle when she had gone to the field to answer the nature's call and took her to a jungle where she was held hostage by the man and was raped repeatedly, said the SHO.

She told police that during

her captivity, one day she managed to call up her father who rescued her, said the SHO, adding the father, however, had not lodged any complaint with the police when her daughter had gone missing.

The SHO said on the woman's complaint, the police have lodged an FIR against the man for kidnapping and rape and is trying to nab him.

The woman was earlier examined medically and her statement was recorded by a magistrate, said the SHO. **PTI**

Muslims react with caution to UP Govt's Ordinance against conversion for marriage

Lucknow: With the Uttar Pradesh government clearing a draft ordinance to deal with religious conversions solely for marriage, Muslim leaders on Wednesday reacted with caution, saying it should be ensured that it does not infringe upon the constitutional right to freedom of religion.

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday approved a draft ordinance to curb forcible or "dishonest" religious conversions including those for the sake of marriage, which could land violators in jail for up to 10 years.

The good thing is that the draft ordinance does not use the term "love jihad" and the forced conversion which has been termed as illegal and punishable is something that is already held as crime in the Muslim law, senior

member of the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) Khalid Rashid Farangimahli told PTI.

In the Quran also, Allah has said force in religion is not justified, so we have no objection to punishment over it, he added.

"Love jihad" is a term coined by a section of Hindu groups for Muslim men allegedly forcing women to convert in the guise of love and marriage.

"We are of the opinion that for peace and communal harmony, it is needed that Muslims and Hindus marry in their own communities. We have no objection to whatever we have seen in the ordinance," Farangimahli said.

The AIMPLB member stressed that whenever any law is enacted, it is

based on the intention that there would not be any discrimination with anyone.

"We also expect that this law will not be used wrongly. The legal experts will have to see that the law does not raise a question mark on the constitutional right to freedom of religion for all Indians. Otherwise, we have no objection to this law," he said.

Shaista Amber, president, All-India Muslim Women Personal Law Board, however, said there was no need for such a law. "If anyone is getting married on the basis of deceit and forcibly getting the other person converted, there should be a stringent law for it and we already have laws for it. There was no need to bring a new law," she said. **PTI**

Bengal Govt decides to cut 30-35% of Class X-XII syllabus

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Government has decided to slash the syllabus for Class X and XII by about 35 percent for the coming Board exams in early 2021.

Quoting expert committee reports State Education Minister Partho Chatterjee on Wednesday said "considering the pandemic situation we had referred the issue of academics to the expert committee which has suggested that the syllabus for Classes X and XII be reduced by 30 to 35 percent... accordingly the Government based on the expert committee reports has decided to reduce the syllabus for the next year's board examinations for the two classes."

Junaid Azim Mattu elected Srinagar Mayor for 2nd time

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Junaid Azim Mattu on Wednesday became Mayor of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) for the second time in a row.

Mattu polled a total number of 44 votes in a house of 70 members while his nearest rival Sheikh Imran could garner only 7 votes. Nineteen other members abstained during voting. Mattu was ousted from the same post through a no-confidence motion in June 2020.

Previously associated with the Peoples Conference, Mattu contested the polls as an independent candidate with tacit support from the like minded corporators.

During the polling the rival candidate created ruckus inside the house and prevented members from casting open ballots.

On the intervention of the election authorities and security personnel deployed for election duty the situation was contained.

Thanking his supporters Mattu said, "I am happy they have trusted me once again and voted in my favour to lead the SMC".

Taking a dig at the National Conference for creating road blocks and preventing him from contesting the polls, Mattu said first they went to the court to stop these elections but when their plea was rejected they tried to scuttle the democratic process. He said, "I am happy I won the polls." Democracy prevailed, he added.

Mamata vows to win polls even from prison

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said even if the saffron Government in the Centre put her behind the bars she will win the 2021 Assembly elections from jail.

Launching her election campaign quite early from Bankura district where her party Trinamool Congress conceded all the seats to the BJP in 2019 general elections the Chief Minister said BJP, which is "the biggest abhishap" (curse) on the nation is planning to put behind the bars by employing the central agencies but I dare them to do so. I challenge them to get

me arrested if they have courage... I will win the elections from inside the prison."

Calling the BJP a "not a political party but a garbage of lies," Banerjee said whenever the elections came they rake up the chit fund and Narada pay off issue to intimidate our leaders.

"They set central agencies after her before the elections raking up the Sharada (chit fund) and Narada issues... but I am not afraid of them and am ready to go to jail if they... let them arrest me if they have the courage to do so... I will win from jail," the Chief Minister said citing how RJD patriarch Laloo Yadav maneuvered his party to near-victory in Bihar from jail.

"Though they jailed Laloo Yadav he ran his party well from inside the prison and brought to a near situation of winning," Banerjee said accusing the BJP of horse-trading. What was promptly interpreted by the political experts as her diminishing trust on the party colleagues Banerjee said she had not appointed district observers for her party as "I am the observer in all the districts and all the seats," accusing some TMC leaders for being in touch with the BJP.

"There are some leaders who are with us in the day time and

with the BJP during the night... this will not be tolerated," she said.

Accusing the Marxists of providing the support base for the BJP, Banerjee said "yesterday's CPI(M) are today's BJP... these CPI(M) men are joining the BJP to avoid arrest but they must understand that the BJP will never come to power in Bengal."

The TMC displaced the Left Front in 2011 and ever since it has been in power in Bengal amid accusations of corruption, nepotism, falling law and order etc.

Reacting to Banerjee's statements Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh wondered why the Chief Minister was afraid of going to jail.

Kerala records 6,491 fresh Covid cases; toll touches 2121

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala on Wednesday registered 6,491 fresh Covid-19 cases and 26 deaths, taking the total caseload to 5,78,132 and the toll to 2,121.

A total of 5,770 people recovered from the viral infection, state Health Minister K K Shylaja said here. With this the total number of cured in the state has risen to 5,11,008, she said.

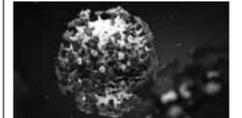
The state has 65,106 active cases as of Wednesday. Kerala has tested 66,042 samples in the last 24 hours and the test positivity rate is 9.83 per cent. The state has tested 60,18,925 samples so far, she said.

Northern district of Kozhikode reported the highest number of cases on Wednesday at 781, followed by Ernakulam (566) and Malappuram (628) cases.

Of the fresh cases, as many as 95 people came to the state from outside while 5,669 persons contracted the disease through contacts. The source of the infection of 663 patients was unknown, the Minister said.

"At least 64 health workers turned COVID-19 positive on Wednesday. There are 3,14,676 are under observation in the state, of which 2,98,616 people are in home or institutional quarantine and 16,060 are in hospitals," she said adding 1,853 people were admitted to various hospitals on Wednesday. **PTI**

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Maha sees 6,159 new cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a spike witnessed in the number of deaths and infections after a gap of two days, Maharashtra on Wednesday logged 65 deaths and 6159 new infected cases.

A day after Covid-19 deaths remained static at 30 for the second consecutive day and the infections rose to 5439 in the state, the number of deaths more than doubled and infections rose by 720 to touch a figure of 6159.

With 65 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Maharashtra climbed from 46,683 to 46,748. Similarly, with 6159 fresh infections, the total infected cases jumped from 17,89,800 to 17,95,959.

As 4844 more people were discharged from various hospitals the number of people discharged from the hospitals on Wednesday after full recovery

since the second week of March this year went up to 16,63,723. The recovery rate in the state dropped marginally from 92.69 per cent to 92.64 per cent.

Of the 65 deaths reported on Wednesday, Mumbai accounted for a maximum of 17 deaths, followed by 11 deaths in Satara, 8 in Nagpur, 6 in Pune, 4 in Beed, 3 in Raigad, 2 each in Thane, Jalgaon, Solapur, Jalna and Yavatmal and one death each in Nashik, Dhule, Sangli, Sindhudurg and Gondia. In addition, one person from outside the state died in Maharashtra.

With 17 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 10,708 to 10,725, while the infected cases went up by 1,144 to trigger a jump in the total infections in the city from 277,453 to 278,597.

Meanwhile, the number of "active cases" total cases in the

state went up from 83,221 to 84,464. The fatality rate in the state dropped from 2.61 per cent to 2.60 per cent.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,47,789 to 3,48,814, while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 7298 to 7304.

Thane district remained in the third spot -- after Pune and Mumbai -- after the total number of infections rose from 2,36,390 to 2,37,180 while the total deaths mounted from 5437 to 5439.

Of the 1,04,56,962 samples sent to laboratories, 17,95,959 have tested positive (17.17 per cent) for COVID-19 until Wednesday.

Currently, 5,29,344 people are in home quarantine while 6980 people are in institutional quarantine.

People flout Covid protocol, run regular biz pushing positive cases to new high in Raj

Jaipur: Rajasthan, which was once being lauded for its effective containment of the Covid 19 hotspots, is witnessing a steep rise in Covid cases as the suspects have been operating their shops and businesses regularly, pushing the cumulative positive cases to a new high.

Arun (name changed), a medical shop owner, had his wife and children tested Covid positive but he was seen sitting at his shop selling medicines, steamers and various drugs regularly to other patients.

When asked why he has not quarantined himself, he said, "This is a chain which started a month back and is still continuing in my home; initially my wife was infected, when she turned negative, my son tested positive and now my daughter is Covid positive. I can't think of sitting idle inside my home for over a month and not doing anything as tests, CT scans and other such diagnosis have already added more to my regular expenses."

He is not the only one. A garment seller died in Jaipur due to lung infection. A week before his death, he and his sons were

attending to customers at their shop.

"My father died due to lung infection. As the season changed, he contracted a cold. It took a turn for the worse and he passed away," his son said.

Other shopkeepers in the locality said that the family hid the information and did not reveal his real Covid status. The stories of people flouting the Covid 19 protocols do not end here.

There are many patients who are not going for testing but are simply following the prescriptions being circulated on WhatsApp while continuing their regular routine. Monica (name changed), who runs a kids garment shop, has been regularly attending to her customers despite having a cough and cold. She has also been taking the drugs prescribed by doctors which include azithral 500 mg, zincovit and limee for the last four days.

"Will take these medicines for five days and shall be ok," she said.

ANS contacted CMHO Narottam Sharma in this context and he said, "People have been coming to us after five days of test-

positive. We have to tell them that their quarantine period is 14 days so don't come to us before 14 days for another test."

People, it seems, have lost their senses and hence are adopting this approach, he said when IANS informed him of such suspects who have been running their regular business despite having Covid positive patients at home. "We are adopting random sampling and those caught shall be acted against strongly," he added.

On Tuesday, the state had 3314 cases out of which 656 cases were reported from Jaipur, on November 23, 3232 cases were reported from Rajasthan out of which 599 were from Jaipur, on November 22, 3260 Covid cases were reported.

Health Minister Raghunath Sharma said on Monday that the state is registering over 3,000 Covid-19 cases daily for the past few days, calling it a second peak of coronavirus in the state. Taking precautions is the only way to save oneself from this pandemic, Sharma said, adding that there are many reasons for the spike in the number of Covid cases. **IANS**

Rats kill, eat newborn baby girl in Aligarh

Aligarh: A newborn baby was eaten and killed by rats in a hospital in the Atrauli area of Aligarh district. The victim complained to the SDM about this injustice. The SDM has given assurance of providing justice to the victim's family.

Pilkhuni resident Rajesh Kumar son of Sukhpal Singh said that his wife Sapna Devi gave birth to the baby in Kirti Hospital on Ramghat Road, Atrauli on Sunday evening. Both mother and child were healthy. After some time, the doctors asked to keep the baby in the freezer etc. and asked to pay the money. After some time, the doctors informed the family that the girl had died. The relatives were surprised that the girl was completely healthy. The staff did not give

any satisfactory response on asking the cause of the girl's death. When the relatives of the dead girl saw the dead body, their senses flew away. The face of the newborn girl was cut in such a way as if a bug or a rat has bitten. Seeing the deranged face, the family of the victim heated up and started creating a ruckus at which the hospital staff pushed them out of the hospital and did indecency with the victim's family. It is alleged that only after depositing the outstanding money, the dead body of the girl was handed over to the relatives and the woman was discharged. The victim side has complained about the injustice done to the SDM. The SDM has given assurance of providing justice to the victim's family. **PNS**

Bengal's Leader of Opp Abdul Mannan tests Covid +ve

Kolkata: Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Abdul Mannan, has tested Covid-19 positive and was admitted to a private hospital in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Abdul Mannan, a Congress legislator from Champdani in Hooghly district, had met Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar in Darjeeling on Sunday. After returning to Kolkata, he was staying at the MLA hostel when he developed some respiratory problems.

According to hospital sources, the Congress leader is currently stable and under a computerised tomography (CT) scan test. He has co-morbidities, including diabetes, and a mild respiratory infection. **IANS**

BJP workers assault on-duty policeman

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

A dispute broke out between the police and the BJP worker at Mohalla Naurangabad in the Gandhi Park area. It is alleged that BJP worker, resident of Manik Chowk (formerly Mahavirganj BJP Mandla) and zinc businessman Manish Gupta, along with his partner, tore the policeman's uniform and kicked the inspector. Later somehow the police took both to the police station. Three BJP MLAs reached there on the news. Later, they compromised on the intervention of the MLAs.

From the IG level, Inspector Manikant Sharma of Gandhi Park police station

has been called for line. At the same time, a case has been registered against both the accused.

Two parties were having dinner at a function in a hotel at Mukhiya Ji's Dharmsala in the Naurangabad area. Suddenly there was a fight between the two sides on something. A person from one side was recognized as BJP worker Manish Gupta. The people called the police. Shortly, the soldier and the police reached the spot. According to the police, at the time they arrived, Manish and his fellow Awadhesh were found assaulting a man named Virendra. When he was stopped by the soldier Rajkumar, he beat him and tore the uniform.

831 new corona cases reported in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati: Only 831 new Covid-19 cases were reported in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday, taking the gross to 8,64,674.

The number of active cases fell below the 13,000 mark to 12,673 after 1,176 patients got cured in 24 hours ending 9 am on Wednesday.

Six deaths were reported, the lowest daily count in about five months now.

The total recoveries increased to 8,45,039 and the toll to 6,962, according to the latest bulletin.

Only three districts reported between 100 and 150 fresh cases, four districts between 50 and 100 while six others added less than 50 cases each in 24 hours. **PTI**

Police assaulted while out to arrest accused

Aligarh: Inspector and two soldiers, who went to Udaipur village to catch the accused under Pocco Act, were beaten up by the family members & villagers of the accused with sticks. The inspector tried to make a video, but his mobile was snatched away. The attackers fled by seeing more police forces who arrived on the information. The victim has filed a report at the police station.

On October 3, a teenager filed a case against Ajit, son of Kripal Singh, Sachin and Bablu son of Babulal, resident of Udaipur village, for molestation and assault under the Pocco Act. Since then the police was looking for the accused. SSI Yogendra Singh Dhama said that the in-charge Virendra Singh of Barka police station received information from the

informant that an accused Ajit had come to the village. He went to Udaipur to catch him along with soldier Dharamvir and Rajiv Kumar. Police apprehend Ajit from his house. Then the family and the villagers of the accused surrounded the inspector and the two soldiers and started beating them with sticks and rescued the accused. When the inspector tried to make a video, the mobile was also snatched away.

On information, SSI Yogendra Singh reached with the Force. But by then the accused had escaped. In the fight, both the constables and the soldier were badly injured. Inspector Virendra Singh has filed a case against Udaipur resident Babulal son of Kari Singh, Ajay son of Kripal Singh and Sachin son Babulal. **PNS**

Summoned for questioning, Sena MLA Sarnaik goes into quarantine

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day after ten of his family members were raided and his son Vihang was detained by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning, influential Shiv Sena MLA and real estate development Pratap Sarnaik on Wednesday did not appear before the ED, saying that he had gone into quarantine on his return from Goa.

Fifty-six-year-old Sarnaik, who was not present when the ED raided the residences of his two sons and eight other premises at Thane and in Mumbai, was reportedly away in Goa.

Sarnaik, who met Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut at the office of Shiv Sena newspaper "Saamana", went into quarantine. His fam-

ily sources said that Sarnaik and his son Purvesh had quarantined themselves at their Bandra flat in north-west Mumbai.

In a letter submitted to the ED at its Mumbai on his behalf, Sarnaik's brother-in-law told the investigating agency that Sarnaik was currently in quarantine, while son Vihang was attending to his wife Anita who has been admitted to Thane's Jupiter Hospital. He urged ED that Sarnaik be given one week's time to appear before the ED.

Reacting to Sarnaik's "failure" to appear before the ED for questioning, BJP leader Kirit Somaiya wondered if Sarnaik was "scared" of either Covid-19 or ED or money-laundering and benami transactions.

Sarnaik and his family members are being investigated for their links with TOPS GRUP, a security service provider company owned by Rahul Nanda. On his part, Nanda has gone on record, saying that Sarnaik was his friend for the past 25 years but had not invested in his company.

The case registered by the ED against Nanda and Sarnaik is based filed by two senior employees of TOPS GRUP, who were terminated from service for alleged misappropriation of money. In their complaint, the two employees had alleged that Nanda had "diverted" money to an off-shore trust and his company had indulged in alleged irregularities in the acquisition of a firm in the UK The Shield Guarding Co Ltd for Rs 140

crore in 2017. On his part, Nanda has told the ED that he had set up a trust in Mauritius as per laws.

On Tuesday, the ED conducted simultaneous raids on two residence and eight other premises of Sarnaik and his family, and detained his son Vihang for questioning. Soon afterwards, a political controversy broke out in the state, as the ruling MVA partners slammed the BJP for "misusing" its official machinery to get at them on the occasion of their government celebrating first anniversary in office.

Pratap Sarnaik is a three-time MLA from Ovala-Majiwada constituency in Thane, and is a real estate developer and the Chairman of Vihang Group of Companies with interests in varied sectors.

Within hours after the ED carried out raids at ten Sarnaik's family premises, including son Vihang Sarnaik's residence at Hiranandani Estate, at Thane and Mumbai, NCP chief Sharad Pawar joined other MVA leaders, including Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and Maharashtra Congress president Pratap Thorat in accusing the BJP of using the central investigating agencies for settling its political scores.

Accompanied by a huge posse of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, the ED officials carried out searches at the residences of Sarnaik's son Vihang and Puvesh and eight other premises belonging to Sarnaiks. Pratap Sarnaik was not present when the raids took place.

After the raids, the ED offi-

cial detained Vihang whom they took to their office where they questioned him for more than six hours, before letting him off late in the evening.

Dubbing the ED raids on Sarnaik's premises as an act of "political vindictiveness", Shiv Sena spokesperson and MP said: "The raids carried out on the premises of Sarnaik were an act of political vindictiveness. If you want to arrest our people, please go ahead and do. We are not scared of anyone. If you (BJP) have guts, please fight against us openly rather than using the central investigating agencies our people."

Without naming the BJP, Raut said that the party should forget about its dream of returning to power in Maharashtra for the next 25

years "no matter how much pressure it exerts on us or spreads terror through agencies"

In a sharp criticism of the BJP over the raids conducted on Sarnaik's premises, NCP chief Sharad Pawar said: "What we are witnessing in the state today is an act of desperation. Instead of responding to questions being raised by the people (about the lack of governance), the ruling party at the Centre is using its official machinery against its opponents. This is not done. Our MVA government is about to complete its first anniversary in office. Having realised that it won't return to power in the state, the ruling BJP at the Centre is misusing its official machinery against its political opponents."

Two held for raping teenage girl

PTI ■ THANE

Two persons have been arrested from Bhiwandi town in Thane District of Maharashtra for allegedly raping a 16-year-old girl, police said on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the news of arrest of the duo on Tuesday night led to violence in their residential area, an officer said, adding that unidentified miscreants damaged some stalls.

"The accused duo were booked on the charge of rape and under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act," DCP, Bhiwandi, Yogesh Chavan told reporters.

An era ends in Congress

With the passing away of Ahmed Patel and Tarun Gogoi, the old order has receded further. Rebuilding just got tougher



Perhaps, the Congress is in its lost year indeed. Perhaps that's the trigger for that emboldening moment among its legacy holders to rescue the party. Electorally, it is quite done with trying to make a difference. Organisationally, it has been torn asunder like never before. And now an era that justified its bigness and relevance has ended with the passing away of two of its senior and indispensable leaders, Ahmed Patel and Tarun Gogoi. Both were organisation builders who used dissent as an opportunity to strengthen and glue the party further. But Patel's loss is indeed irreplaceable as the Congress has lost its Chanakya. And the Gandhis, their lone warrior and the gatekeeper, who kept them safe and convinced everybody else that the party indeed needed them. A self-effacing man, who masterminded the shrewdest backroom strategies, he ran the party much like the late Pranab Mukherjee ran the Government under successive Gandhis, from Indira to Sonia. But he never let his ambition show unlike the latter, helming the party through crisis after crisis, propping up Governments with coalition partners when the numbers seemed impossible, raising funds and building a worth that would be bigger than any chair. He became the party, the Gandhis the representable face. That doesn't mean he was a courtier, far from it. Or that he was shy, being socially one of the most accessible of Congressmen. He was just sagacious and discreet that made him the most trustworthy leader and the party's ablest troubleshooter. He got the job done. A fact that he put to good use to build connections within the party and outside. He was accessible to cadres, had his ear to the ground and addressed their grievances, a quality that junior leaders are yet to imbibe, believing in data analytics than the human connect. A failing described by the well-meaning and weathered senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad as "five-star" culture. In fact, Patel was the bridge in the perennial tussle between the old guard and the young Turks, between the Congress and its allies in the coalition era and between the party and the Opposition. And he endeared himself to corporates, a fact that even compelled Rahul Gandhi to bring him in as Treasurer though the latter was not too close to him unlike his parents. Patel never went public, choosing to settle matters in private, his last manoeuvre being calming the 23 senior "letter writers" and keeping the party leadership out of an ugly spat. In short, he embodied all that held the Congress together. And he had deep political foresight, winning the Bharuch seat swearing loyalty to Indira Gandhi in 1977, post-Emergency, when the tide was against her even in her own party. Rajiv Gandhi noticed his deliverer capabilities and made him party general secretary, a most wanted post back then. Then he became part of the first family circle. Obviously, he was left out in the cold after Rajiv's assassination but he never embarrassed PV Narasimha Rao despite being sidelined or chorused the then Prime Minister's critics. He had that stabilising quality. By the time Sonia Gandhi warmed up to politics and was ready for the 2004 Lok Sabha election, Patel became her strategist and advisor, finding relevant talk points in the campaign that demolished the "India Shining" blitz by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government. And despite the Modi wave, Patel made sure that the Congress at least had a moral victory by narrowing the BJP's margins in the Gujarat Assembly elections or clinching his own Rajya Sabha victory. But the best part was that for all the Congress' appeasement politics, Patel never ever played the Muslim card himself. Personal heft and consensus-building were also the virtues of Tarun Gogoi, who steadied the party's presence in Assam in the post-militancy years as Chief Minister, ensuring development, peace and growth and rescuing a ravaged State from the brink. Both these stalwarts did pull the party out of its morass and kept it on course.

The problem with the Congress now is that none of them is around to steer it back. The senior leaders are understandably adrift, unable to convince the leadership that the party should now give up the culture of nomination and restore organisational democracy first before renewing and rebuilding itself. Sonia, bereft of fresh ideas and now Patel, continues to be reluctant about anything that could challenge the continuity of the Gandhi bloodline at the helm of affairs. And with divisions so sharp, anybody with a prescriptive formula to revive it is usually considered a rebel than a well-meaning loyalist or dismissed as a defector, usually to the other national party. Yet the dynastic entitlement has outlived its purpose in a politically empowered India, one that sees no potential in the leadership of Sonia's children but would certainly believe in a rebuilt party. The Congress last held CWC elections 1998 and holding one now would keep the field workers and grassroots leaders invested in the party. All of them are currently cut off by a sedimentary layer of loyal courtiers, who are interested in simply playing along as long as their posts are secure. Yet State leaders like Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel and Punjab's Amarinder Singh have proven that they are able organisers and can even articulate and take a stand on national issues. If the Congress wants to stick around, this is its last chance to self-correct, rise above ego, value honest counsel and appear selfless in the interest of a larger political legacy. Unless its leadership just wants to exist for the sake of it. Dynastic stubbornness would have to give way to reason, wisdom and reconciliation. And if Rahul Gandhi still wants the adulation, he has to earn the confidence of the rank and file to be elected, not foisted, in the hardest of times. At least, he would have made a brave choice.

Beating Twitter?

While the makers of Tooter are hoping that a home-grown social network can take off, that bird has long flown



This is not the first time a new social network has popped up to take on the might of Twitter. A few months ago another network called Mastodon created a buzz and while many, particularly those of a certain liberal persuasion, populated the site, sadly its fate wasn't very different from the animal it was named after. The latest site to float up on your device is called Tooter, which is really just a rebadged version of the social network called Gab in the United States (US). While its makers claim it to be Indian or *swadeshi*, it turned out that even the "Terms Of Service" were copied almost verbatim from the American service. Without disparaging the efforts of those trying to create a new service, it would be good if Indian software engineers could create a new social network, one that integrates the best of the others and adds features, rather than blithely copying another product. On this front, India would be well served to learn from the Chinese internet experience.

That said, can Twitter or Facebook ever be replaced? There is an argument that says yes, given their monolithic power now as opinion makers themselves. Twitter has, in particular, played a dubious role in restricting access to certain information during the US election, or so the losing candidate, President Donald Trump, alleges. Then again, one could argue that without Twitter, Trump's popularity would never have soared. It is important that services like Facebook and Twitter, which are transnational, should come under some sort of regulatory mechanism and should not become some extra-constitutional force in nations like India. That said, the arguments for free speech and misinformation make for a dubious grey area and territories have to be clearly demarcated by the Government of the day. Also, a lot of the lamenting about Twitter being right or wrong for one side or another disguises the fact that it is what it is because of such issues and cannot be equal to the electorate. Much of what goes on in social media is happening at a level that the elite, on either side, have little or no idea about, on messaging applications like WhatsApp. Yes, social networks should be subjected to Indian regulations and it may not be a bad idea to create an Indian social network, but clearly, Tooter, like Mastodon, isn't the answer.

Bengal's revival

It is possible to make a quick start in reviving the State's economy without large investments but through governmental will and management



PRAFULL GORADIA

If I were still a resident of West Bengal, my first priority in the coming Assembly elections would be to retain the identity of our State. It should not in any way get compromised by Bangladesh or its concerns. We need to recall that on the eve of the Partition of 1947, Sir Abdul Rahim and the popular peasant leader, Fazlur Rahman, had come to Calcutta to convince Netaji's brother Sarat Bose that a united Bengal should be the third dominion besides Hindustan and Pakistan. The Communist Party then began to support the idea of an undivided Bengal. Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah also backed it because a Muslim-dominated Bengal would willy nilly side with Pakistan rather than India.

When it comes to song, music, language and literature, all Bengalis take pride in them. But when it comes to memories, most Bangladeshis would recall their social oppression at the hands of the zamindars and their camp followers. Many remember that even when they were invited to dinner at wedding celebrations, they would be asked to sit separately and after meals were expected to clear their clay thalis. This hierarchical rift ran so deep that a united Bengal would eventually be torn from within. In conversation a few years ago with some acquaintances from Dhaka, I was surprised to find that they resented how East Bengal was not given Calcutta during the Partition, although the city was, as it were, a stone's throw from Jessore. They believed it was unfair of the British to change the allocation at the last minute, and while conceding Lahore to Pakistan, they had done grave injustice to them. Calcutta was sought after because it was an economic hub and a port city; it supplied all the raw jute and the merchant princes of Kolkata reaped the benefit of jute mills and many other industries.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah was anxious to acquire Calcutta and the impression was that he was a capable negotiator. But obviously, he lost out, perhaps because his lungs were failing and his heart was set on getting Pakistan. The interests of East Bengal had a lower priority for him. Incidentally, the Qaid had never visited East Bengal until February 1948. The only so-called industry given to it was the Sylhet district, which was rich in tea gardens. Bangladesh has very few economic means, other



than subsistence resources, such as rice and fish. That is why, it needs to follow the Japanese model of importing raw materials from overseas and converting them into products with high technology for export. It is difficult for any people to have such techno-entrepreneurial genius as the Japanese. The legend of *Sonar Bangla* is now threatened because six of the western districts no longer receive the rainfall of yesteryears and they badly need river water from India. The other misfortune is that most of the land is low-lying and the sea level is rising. According to scientists, in two decades' time, 17 per cent of Bangladesh's land area is expected to be submerged. All these factors make Bangladeshis the highest number of migrants to other parts of the world. But West Bengal has borne the brunt of this influx.

My heart throbbled with delight when a few years ago, Mamata Banerjee, with all the fury at her command, threw a sheaf of papers on the Lok Sabha Speaker's table. She was then demanding an infiltrator-free West Bengal. The State has limited land and plentiful people and its resources have undoubtedly been stretched over the years, the refugees bulging that burden. Then the many industries — small, medium and heavy — that the State was proud of rapidly turned into industrial graveyards thanks to trade unions and poor management in years past.

Bengalis are a gifted people and certainly intelligent right down to the illiterate. If for

nothing else, for their talent, the State deserves a better economy. A revival is overdue and it should soon set a new economic agenda. Setting up a new industry is like creating a brand, which would have to compete in this age of globalisation. On the other hand, education is a sphere in which Bengal enjoys a natural advantage as well as reputation. The first major thrust should be in the field of schools, colleges and universities. There is scope for developing a big knowledge economy because the catchment area can sweep UP, Bihar, Nepal, Assam and the Northeast, as well as Bangladesh. None of these regions is able to provide young people with quality education.

I would begin with medical studies. With efficient management and capable doctors, as many hospitals as possible across the State could be improved by deploying professional managers supported by medics. Let the doctors do their own specialised work. Management and medicine/surgery should not be mixed up. Thereafter, medical colleges along with as many hospitals as possible could be set up. The significant investment would largely be in creating medical colleges. The World Bank could lend the money since the Government could guarantee the loans. There should be an option, wherever possible, for expanding the hospital and adding another college, considering the best of technology is already available in India.

There is a crying need not for ordinary schools but for excellent ones with hostel facilities. The

New Education Policy (NEP) should be used as the lodestar for these schools to come up in the private sector with improved facilities. The land could be allotted by the State or there could be private-public partnerships. A similar strategy should be followed for colleges and universities. This would restore Bengal's pride as the seat of intellect.

Next, the Government should attend to sub-Himalayan West Bengal. There is space for a splendid international airport in and around Bagdogra, which is near the town of Siliguri. This is the place for proceeding to either Darjeeling, Kalimpong or Gangtok in Sikkim. The most glorious mountains in the world form the backdrop of these hill stations. Darjeeling is at 6,000 ft, and another 6,000 ft above that is Sandakphu, which is motorable, too, and from where one can view the Everest on a clear day. World class hotel groups and enterprising airlines could be lured with promises of support, a stable law and order situation and assurance that any obstacles in their path would be removed. Himalayan Bengal would become a brand in itself for Nature has indeed done its best to give North Bengal an unparalleled beauty. It is, therefore, possible to make a quick start in reviving the economy of West Bengal without undue large investments but with governmental will and excellence of management.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author. Views expressed are personal)

“ BENGALIS ARE A GIFTED PEOPLE. IF FOR NOTHING ELSE, FOR THEIR TALENT, THE STATE DESERVES A BETTER ECONOMY. A REVIVAL IS OVERDUE AND IT SHOULD TOP THE NEW AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT ”

SOUNDBITE

I am satisfied with the discussions with Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit on the issue of release of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassins.



DMK President —MK Stalin

We cannot take any risks. We still have to wait and see when educational institutions can be opened. We will take up the matter with the experts.



Kerala Chief Minister —Pinarayi Vijayan

I share a special bond with Mumbai. I have experienced failure way more than the success that I am enjoying now. Perhaps that is one of the reasons I value success!



Actor —Anagad Bedi

I remember missing a couple of Ranji Trophy matches to be with my wife for the delivery of my daughter. It is a very important feeling, especially when you are going to get your first child.



Former cricketer —VVS Laxman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Best of luck, boys

Sir — Cricket is also a game of luck and like any other sport has its ups and downs. India's top-most spinner has been neglected and put under quarantine by the Indian cricket board despite showing superb performance with the ball in all the three formats of the game.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) decennially honours some of the most prolific names in men's and women's international cricket. These players are voted for by respected members of the cricket fraternity and the general public.

Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin are two Indians among seven players nominated for the prestigious "Player of the Decade" category. Ravichandran Ashwin is the only bowler in the ICC "Player of the Decade" repertoire. He finished the decade with the most number of wickets across formats (564). Let us all wish that the ball rolls in favour of India's top spinner and our captain Kohli, too, bags the prestigious honour. Let both the men walk into the hall of fame.

Gundu Maniam Mumbai

Maharashtra's COVID plan a good move

It is good that the Maharashtra Government has made it compulsory for all travellers coming to the State from other parts of the country to carry RT-PCR negative reports. Due to the second wave of COVID-19, the State Government has issued new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to contain fresh triggers for a pandemic spread. Just like in international travel, fliers to Maharashtra should get themselves tested 72 hours before boarding. Those passengers who do not have the RT-PCR test reports will have to compulsorily undergo tests at the airports at their own expense. The Airports Authority of India has been requested to check the report before allowing the passengers to board flights.

People arriving in the State via train will have to carry an RT-PCR negative test report from a sample collected 96 hours before their scheduled arrival in Maharashtra. Those rail passengers who do not have an RT-PCR report will be screened for symptoms at the alighting railway stations. And only passengers without Coronavirus symptoms would be allowed to go home.

For those travelling by road, the District Collectors of the State's border districts shall make arrangements to ensure that people are tested for symptoms, includ-



ing body temperature. Those with Corona symptoms will have to undergo an antigen test and will be allowed entry in the State only if the report is negative. People with COVID-19 symptoms would be turned back.

This is being done as Maharashtra's COVID-19 tally has risen to 17,84,361 infections with 46,653 deaths. It is the first State under the Shiv-Sena-Congress-NCP rule to introduce such tough restrictions through notifications. This is a step in the right direction as the State will have to clamp down on imported infections if it has to get a grip on the pandemic on its own turf.

Bhagwan Thadani Mumbai

Better sense prevails

Sir — We appreciate the LDF Government in Kerala for bowing to public opinion and agreeing to put on hold the regressive Ordinance empowering the police to prosecute persons disseminating "defama-

tory content." Unlike other Governments, the Leftist Government in the State listened to sane voices, realised the scope of potential abuse of the Ordinance and made amends by keeping it in abeyance. One wishes that the Centre, too, would pay heed to

the voice of the people on undemocratic laws. Clearly, the text of the law was not drafted by those with a clear understanding of the niceties of constitutional provisions. A staggering ignorance of the landmark rulings of the Supreme Court on criminal

defamation was writ large on the Ordinance that had to be put in cold storage. The State Government may have had the good intention of curbing defamatory social media posts. But then the Ordinance, in the form in which it was promulgated, was seen as an attempt to gag the freedom of expression, which is the bedrock of democracy. The phraseology of the Ordinance, built on sweeping generalisations, did not indicate either discernment or sensitivity and gave the police blanket powers of crackdown.

The State cannot be seen to be arrogating to itself or arming itself with arbitrary powers in the guise of curbing abusive or offensive online content. Had the Ordinance been shown to Sitaram Yechury or the Politburo, the Kerala Government could have avoided the embarrassment of promulgating such a dubious law. Better sense has prevailed in the nick of time and saved us another round of Left-Right whataboutery.

David Milton Maruthancode

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A different ball game altogether

It is crucial to understand the financial behaviour and practices of SMEs which are totally separate from those of larger firms



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Although capital is a scarce resource for any business, it is even more scant for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Therefore, cash flow and working capital management are the most crucial challenges of organisations in general and SMEs in particular. Working capital is short-term in nature and refers to the funds required for the daily functioning of a firm. In business parlance it consists of accounts receivables (debtors and any pre-payments, stock or inventory) and accounts payable (creditors and short-term provisions). The lifeline of any enterprise is the flow of cash and other liquid assets through a business cycle — a journey of collecting receivables from the debtors to pay off the creditors. This is also known as the cash conversion cycle. The efficiency and, therefore, the success of a business depends upon how fast the goods are converted into cash.

SMEs differ in many ways from large firms in terms of their financial behaviour and decision-making, mainly because of their characteristics and ownership. This ultimately reflects in their financial habits. So, what are the factors that affect the availability of capital to small enterprises? One of the most important issues is the size. According to researchers, during the start-up phase, the owner's personal savings are an important source of funds. Young and small firms do not have an established track record and may be characterised by informational opacity, making banks and other financial institutions reluctant to lend to them. In general, firms which are less than four years old, rely more on informal sources of funding.

However, when the SMEs increase in size and become larger, they have a greater network of banks willing to fund their business. The firm's ability to deal with multiple banks and other credit agencies generally grows with size, too. So, they rely more on long-term debt and external financing, including bank loans.

Second, the type of ownership is another important determinant for the source of funding. Any SME with a concentrated ownership, like in a proprietorship, should be more prepared to use bootstrap financing, as it would have greater difficulty in accessing a formal source of credit. From the lender's perspective, in such SMEs, there is no clear distinction between the owner and the firm, information asymmetry is prevalent and an ability to provide collateral is missing. On the other hand, a private limited SME may be viewed by financing agencies as more structured and credible. As a result, formal financing options are freely available to it. Third, the location of the start-up makes a huge impact. A firm's proximity to the banks has an influence on its ability to gain external funding. Research also suggests that one of the reasons for a company's failure is poor location that prevents customers and suppliers from reaching it. Therefore, despite high rentals, SMEs prefer to move to urban areas for the sake of better infrastructure and the ease of raising external finance.

Fourth, several researchers have provided evidence that the sector where the SME is operating has an impact on the short and long-term debt available to it. For example, short-term credit is used more in wholesale and retail trade as compared to manufacturing SMEs. Whereas the construction sector, hotel, hospitality and mining industries appear to depend more on long-term finance. And finally, availability of assets plays an important role in raising funds. From a lender's point of view, collateral, which is also known as the lender's second line of defence, is highly relevant while approving loans. Researchers Ono and Uesugi studied the Japanese SME loan market and found a positive relationship between the use of collateral and the ease of access to bank loans and external financing. It can also be understood that firms with lower tangible assets would face difficulties in accessing funds.

Additionally, the characteristics and gender of the owner too influence a firm's capability to raise external funding. According to several researchers in different countries, men and women differ in the way they raise cash for their businesses. There is empirical evidence that women entrepreneurs start their business with a smaller start-up capital, in fact less than half of the amount used by men. In addition, women also face discrimination from banks and other financial institutions. This is evident from the higher rates of interest charged from women entrepreneurs, the requirement of additional collateral, higher loan denial rate and so on. The age of the owner, too, impacts the personal financing preference. Older SME owners are less likely to take additional finance into their firms. Younger owners tend to use a variety of external cash sources like loans, overdrafts, credit cards and personal savings.

SMEs are the backbone of any growing economy. Therefore, it is crucial to understand their financial behaviour and practices which are very different from the financial management of large corporations. This would help policymakers come up with ways to improve the external financing scenario for such firms, as stronger SMEs make a stronger economy.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

A FEW DAYS AGO, THE HOME MINISTER WAS HERE. THE FOOD THAT HE ATE WAS COOKED IN FIVE-STAR HOTELS AND TAKEN TO THE DALIT HOUSEHOLD.

—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
 MAMATA BANERJEE



THE TMC HAS A HABIT OF PLAYING POLITICS ON EVERY ISSUE. THE FOOD THAT AMIT SHAH ATE AT BANKURA WAS COOKED AT THAT VERY HOUSE.

—BJP NATIONAL SECRETARY
 ANUPAM HAZRA

A case for natural gas

Consumption of one fossil fuel over another will, on its own, not offer a long-term solution to climate change, but employing less emission-intensive fuels can reduce pollution significantly



JONATHAN SYIEMLIEH

As the winter approaches, Delhi-NCR is under its annual envelop of smog. Caused by an unhealthy combination of low wind speed, change in wind direction, dip in temperatures and stubble burning in parts of North India, air pollution is back in the headlines and our daily lives. According to a study of 28 cities by IQAir and Greenpeace Southeast Asia, air pollution in Delhi-NCR was linked to the loss of an estimated 24,000 lives and 5.8 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the first two quarters of this year, despite a strict COVID-19 lockdown since March. In fact, the linkage between rising air pollution levels and increase in COVID-19-related cases and deaths is being confirmed by several studies from around the world.

A recent study published in *Cardiovascular Research*, which was the first of its kind to distinguish between fossil fuel-related and other human-generated sources of air pollution, estimated that long-term exposure to air pollution has been linked to an increased risk of dying from COVID-19. The study estimated that about 15 per cent of deaths worldwide from the virus could be attributed to long-term exposure to air pollution. In Europe, the proportion was about 19 per cent, in North America it was 17 per cent and in East Asia about 27 per cent.

A recent study by Harvard University indicated that an increase of only one microgram per cubic metre in PM2.5 is associated with an eight per cent increase in the Coronavirus death rate. Long-term exposure to chronically-high PM2.5 levels weakens the ability of the lungs to fight off infections, therefore making people more susceptible to COVID complications.

In 2016, the national Capital ranked third on a list of cities around the world reporting close to 15,000 deaths due to air pollution. Shanghai was ranked first among the cities with most premature deaths at 17,600, followed by Beijing with 18,200 premature deaths due to PM2.5 pollutants. A study undertaken by *Lancet Planetary Health* the following year stated that Delhi had recorded the highest annual population-weighted mean PM2.5 levels in its air. Further, in 2019, the World Air Quality Report, compiled by IQAir, listed Delhi on top of the list of the capital cities with most polluted air for the second consecutive year with annual PM2.5 levels nearly 10 times the limit prescribed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Other prominent NCR cities were also listed among the top 10 cities in the world with most polluted air.

Source apportionment studies, such as the ones conducted by IIT Kanpur (2013-2014) and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (2017), have pointed out that secondary particles are a significant contributor to PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations in Delhi-NCR, with industrial point sources being the top four major contributors to PM2.5. Polluting fuels such as coal, diesel, pet coke and heavy fuel oil used by industries in Delhi-NCR are a major reason for this.

In such a dismal scenario, natural gas provides a good alternative to not only meet the energy needs of industries, but also as a less polluting option that can contribute to addressing environmental problems. The burning of natural gas for energy results in lower emissions of greenhouse gas (GHG), Carbon Dioxide (CO2) and nearly all types of air pollutants in comparison to burning coal or other fossil fuels to produce an equal amount of energy. However, natural gas has not seen much penetration in industries, especially those situated in Delhi-NCR. According to British Petroleum, India's share of natural gas in the energy mix is lower than



THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NATURAL GAS PENETRATION IN THE MSME SECTOR PROVIDED THE PRICES ARE RATIONALISED, ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES ARE PUT IN PLACE, AND PROPER REGULATIONS IMPOSED TO RESTRICT CONSUMPTION OF POLLUTING FUELS. A POLICY DIRECTIVE FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE THE BAN ON USAGE OF NON-CLEAN FUELS LIKE COAL, WOOD AND SO ON COULD BE INTRODUCED IN A PHASED MANNER



many large economies. It had reached a mere 6.2 per cent in 2019; this when the Government aims to raise the share of natural gas in the country's energy mix to 15 per cent by 2030.

Switching to natural gas and displacing polluting fuels has contributed to lower GHG emissions and improved air quality in New York, Toronto and Beijing, according to a 2015 report by the International Gas Union (IGU). The benefits of increasing the use of cleaner-burning natural gas in the industry were acknowledged and put into force by policymakers in Northern China in 2017 where the shift from coal to natural gas in industries led to extensive reduction in GHG and air pollution. In Turkey, the industry around Istanbul, too, witnessed a reduction in air pollution as a result of switching from coal-lignite to natural gas in the early 2000s.

According to the 2019 *World Energy Outlook* special report analysis, an estimated 98 per cent of natural gas consumed today has lower life cycle emissions intensity than coal, when used for power or heat. The analysis incorporates both CO2 and methane emissions and indicates that, on an average, coal-to-gas switching reduces emissions by 50 per cent when producing electricity and by 33 per cent when used for heating purposes.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in 2019 had assessed the potential and impact of a switch to natural gas from heavier polluting fuels among Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) units operating in Delhi-NCR. Data collected showcased the presence of thousands of MSME units operating in this region and using a variety of fuels ranging from coal to low sulphur heavy stock, light diesel oil, wood, bagasse, rice husk, other biomass fuels, high-speed diesel and natural gas. By and large, MSMEs were found to be disinclined to migrate to natural gas owing to high upfront costs such

as connection costs and security deposit, limited access to natural gas and economic viability in terms of increased unit price compared to other fuel options. To add to this, end users were also charged a conversion cost and had to bear the cost of internal piping infrastructure.

Obtaining the right of way and other clearances from State/local Government to lay natural gas pipelines also contributes to delays in setting up adequate pipeline infrastructure. Notably, micro units among MSME clusters in Delhi-NCR were found to be located in non-conforming areas and were especially not in favour of switching to alternative cleaner fuels as this would entail putting themselves under the ambit of regulatory compliances.

However, a switch to natural gas in MSMEs is not without precedent. The case of Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad glass bangle industry is a prime example of how switching from coal and wood to natural gas, coupled with the adoption of energy-efficient technologies, can reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions. Similarly, the Morbi-Wankaner area in Gujarat witnessed immediate reduction in air pollution as a result of the local ceramics industry shifting from coal to natural gas in 2019, following an NGT order the same year. The area recorded a 75 per cent reduction in PM2.5 levels, 72 per cent reduction in PM10 levels and an 85 per cent reduction in sulphur dioxide (SO2).

Further, in case of a shift to natural gas at a metal casting unit in Faridabad, Haryana, the learnings have highlighted that along with fuel switching, there is also scope for further reduction in energy consumption if MSME units follow best operating practices to improve energy efficiency. This requires understanding of technological best practices and their assimilation and adaptation to meet the needs of individual MSME units.

The provisions for upgrading and introducing new clean technologies in

MSME regulations can be capitalised in favour of natural gas augmentation in their energy mix. However, the diverse Government departments that have programmes and schemes related to enhancing clean energy measures in this sector are working in silos. It is important to achieve proper coordination among departments and link related programmes and schemes on clean energy, energy efficiency, technology upgradation, database generation, reporting and monitoring and capacity-building. This could ensure effective targeting and a confluence of actions at the intended delivery point.

There is an opportunity for natural gas penetration in the MSME sector provided the prices are rationalised, energy efficiency measures are put in place and proper regulations imposed to restrict consumption of polluting fuels. A policy directive from the Central Government to enforce the ban on usage of non-clean fuels like coal, wood and so on could be introduced in a phased manner. The city gas distribution companies could also be mandated by the Centre to completely erect the gas pipeline infrastructure in urban areas.

With the overall objective of increasing the adoption and usage of natural gas in the MSME sector, adopting a cluster-based approach would make natural gas penetration more effective. The Central and State Governments can play an important role in this area by facilitating the creation of necessary infrastructure and greener investments to ensure reliable and affordable supply of natural gas to MSMEs. Unabated consumption of one fossil fuel over another will, on its own, not offer a long-term solution to climate change, but employing less emission-intensive fuels such as natural gas can result in significant reduction in both CO2 emissions and air pollution.

(The writer is Associate Fellow, TERI)

A major leap for science and the Corona war

The mRNA technique may mean that future pandemics can be dealt with far quickly. The vehicle is available to carry the next vaccine



FOREIGN EYE



COMBATING RAPE CULTURE IN NEPAL

The Oli Cabinet has approved an ordinance proposing stricter laws on rape. Thankfully, lawmakers have let go of their demand of incorporating regressive provisions like the death penalty and chemical castration. Such provisions, if included, would have dealt a body blow to the principles of the modern criminal justice system. (Kathmandu Post editorial)

if it does have an average efficacy of just 70 per cent. Clearly, this Coronavirus can be beaten, and there are nine more potential COVID-19 vaccines already in the third and final stage of human trials.

But again, the riders: There will be at least half a million more COVID-19 related deaths this winter — or over a million if people don't observe the lockdowns and other restrictions like social distancing and use of sanitisers and face masks that are meant to contain the spread of the virus.

"What is absolutely essential," says Sahin, "is that we get a high vaccination rate before autumn/winter next year." That's when it could really be over. And yet there is cause to celebrate, because of the 11 vaccine candidates that were already in third-stage trials, both the front-runners are "messenger ribonucleic acid" (mRNA) vaccines, an entirely new approach that allows a much faster response to novel viral infections.

Traditionally, new vaccines took around ten years to be developed, test-

ed and approved for general use. For the new mRNA vaccines, it has been ten months. It's a revolutionary science at work here.

After Chinese scientists posted the full genetic sequence of the COVID-19 virus online on January 10, says Drew Weissman of the University of Pennsylvania, "we were making RNA within a week or so". Weissman then supplied that RNA to both BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna.

RNA carries the genetic instructions from the nucleus of the cell to build whatever protein is needed, and for the past decade researchers have been trying to fabricate "messenger RNA" that could be inserted into human cells. The mRNA would then use the cell's own genetic machinery to make vaccines and other medically useful proteins.

By 2018, several companies had cracked the problem of getting the mRNA past the body's immune defences. With the full RNA sequence of the new Coronavirus in their possession, all they had to do was choose

which bit of the Coronavirus RNA to use in the vaccine.

Obviously not the whole thing, or it would rebuild the entire virus in the cell. Just a harmless segment of the virus' RNA, copied millions of times by the vaccinated person's cells, would alert the body's immune system and train it to destroy any invading virus with that sequence. Scientists chose the "spike" that the virus uses to attach itself to the human cell.

Several companies had mRNA vaccines ready for testing within two or three months, and the results have been spectacular. BioNTech/Pfizer has just reported 95 per cent efficacy for its vaccine and Moderna has reported 94.5 per cent success.

Even better, both BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna included all major ethnic groups and a significant number of elderly people in their third-phase trials. All categories responded well to the shots (which is not always the case with trial vaccines).

Yet another mRNA vaccine in third-phase trials could be even bet-

ter because it will be far cheaper than the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine (priced at ₹2,896 for two shots) or the Moderna jab (priced at ₹5,495 for two shots) if it pans out. At Imperial College in London, Robin Shattock's team is working on a "self-amplifying RNA" vaccine that may require as little as one-hundredth of the amount of vaccine.

The mRNA technique may mean that future pandemics can be dealt with far more quickly. The vehicle is already available and waiting to carry the next vaccine. Just "plug and play" for any future Coronavirus, as one researcher puts it. (We have had three new Coronaviruses in the last two decades.)

Pfizer boss Albert Boura goes even further to say: "It is the greatest medical advance in the last 100 years." Well, maybe, though a vote taken today would probably plump for antibiotics instead. But we are only beginning to see the potential of the mRNA technique. There are already trials underway for a wide variety of other illnesses.



GWYNNE DYER

All the usual caveats apply: Don't go out and celebrate. Don't let your guard down because it is still going to be a long haul. This winter will be "hard", warns Ugur Sahin, co-founder and CEO of BioNTech, the German company that announced the first effective COVID-19 vaccine recently. "The vaccine can't be rolled out fast enough to reduce infections much in the current wave," he says.

The publication on November 16 of positive results for a second vaccine, this time by the US company Moderna, strengthened the optimism as did the fact that the AstraZeneca vaccine is also ready to roll out, even

Pak host to largest number of UN proscribed terrorists: India

United Nations: India has reminded Pakistan, the "host to the world's largest number of UN proscribed terrorists and entities", of Abbottabad, the garrison city where al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden hid for years and was killed, in a hard-hitting response as Islamabad's UN envoy gave a "dossier of lies" to Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador T S Tirumurti on Tuesday tweeted that the "dossier of lies presented by Pakistan enjoys zero credibility".

"Concocting documents and peddling false narratives is

not new to Pakistan, host to the world's largest number of UN proscribed terrorists and entities. Remember Abbottabad!" he said.

The Indian Ambassador's tweet was in response to Islamabad's UN envoy Munir Akram meeting Guterres to hand over the dossier from the Pakistan government that alleged India was promoting terrorism in the country.

In his stinging tweet, Tirumurti made a reference to the Pakistani garrison city of Abbottabad, where bin Laden was hiding for years and was killed in an operation by the US Navy Seals in May, 2011.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Monday briefed top envoys of key nations, including the US, Russia, France and Japan on the planned terror attack by Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Nagrota in Jammu which was foiled by security forces on November 19.

The heads of missions were provided with a comprehensive "information docket" giving the details of the incident, and also a list of items and ammunition recovered from terrorists, clearly indicating their Pakistani origins.

The envoys were sensitised

about India's concerns regarding Pakistan's sustained efforts to "destabilise" the situation in Jammu & Kashmir and to "subvert" upcoming local elections and democracy in the union territory, sources said.

Four suspected JeM terrorists, who were hiding in a truck, were killed by security forces near Nagrota in an encounter on Thursday morning after which the government asserted that a major terror attack was foiled by the Indian security forces. India is all set to join the powerful UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2021.

India is all set to join the powerful UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2021

Jaishankar hails contributions of Indian diaspora in Bahrain in strengthening bilateral ties

Manama: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday virtually interacted with the members of the Indian diaspora in Bahrain via video conference and appreciated their valuable contributions to the strengthening of the bilateral ties.

Jaishankar is on a two-day visit to Bahrain from November 24 to 25. It is the first leg of his six-day three-nation tour to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Seychelles, beginning Tuesday. The visit is seen as important as it comes in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic that has wreaked havoc across the world.

"Glad to interact virtually, with members of the Indian community in Bahrain. Thank them for keeping India's flag flying high. Appreciate their valuable contribution to the strengthening of our bilateral ties," Jaishankar tweeted soon after the online interaction.

Earlier in the day, he visited the centuries-old Lord Sri Krishna temple at the Bahrain capital, Manama.

"Began the day with darshan at the 200 year-old Shreemathji Temple at Manama. A testimony to our time-tested and close bonds with Bahrain."

Proud of Indian diaspora's achievements, contributions to society: Dutch PM to India's envoy

PTI ■ THE HAGUE

Noting that the Netherlands is home to one of the largest Indian diasporas in Europe, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte has said that he was proud of their achievements and contributions to the society.

In a letter to India's Ambassador to the Netherlands Venu Rajamony, who completes his term this month, the prime minister cited the seven-decade-long Indo-Dutch bilateral relations and said that both the countries were working together closely on different fields including water, agriculture and renewable energy.

Biden seeks swift Cabinet votes, but GOP Senate stays silent

Washington: As President-elect Joe Biden started rolling out his administrative team, one voice has been notably silent: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Senate Republicans will hold great sway in confirming or denying Biden's Cabinet nominees, regardless of which party controls the narrowly split Senate after runoff elections.

But key Republican senators, including the GOP leader,

are keeping quiet, for now, choosing their battles ahead.

In announcing his national security team, Biden appealed Tuesday to the Senate to give the nominees "a prompt hearing" and "begin the work to heal and unite America and the world."

The soonest the Senate would consider the nominations is Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, when past presidents often have been able to win swift

confirmation of top national security officials shortly after taking the oath of office.

But with President Donald Trump still disputing the election, McConnell is setting the tone for Senate Republicans by not publicly congratulating Biden or acknowledging Trump's defeat.

He wants to give the president time to contest the vote, even as Trump's legal team has been losing most of the cases.

Analysis: Biden prioritises experience with Cabinet picks

New York: President-elect Joe Biden has prized staying power over star power when making his first wave of Cabinet picks and choices for White House staff, with a premium placed on government experience and proficiency as he looks to rebuild a depleted and demoralized federal bureaucracy.

With an eye in part toward making selections who may have to seek approval from a Republican-controlled Senate, Biden has prioritized choosing qualified professionals while eschewing flashy names. Even the most recognizable pick — John Kerry — lacks the showmanship that has defined the Trump era.

In sharp contrast to President Donald Trump, who openly distrusted the very government he led, Biden has showcased a faith in bureaucracy that was born of his nearly five decades in Washington.

He's made hires with the deliberate aim of projecting a sense of dutiful and, even boring, competency.

Surrounding himself with longtime aides and veterans of the Obama administration, many of whom have already worked together for years, Biden has so far rolled out a team of careerists with bursting resumes and little need of a learning curve.

Trump vents about election as agencies aid Biden transition

Washington: President Donald Trump insisted on Tuesday that he is not giving up his fight to overturn the election results, but across the federal government, preparations were beginning in earnest to support President-elect Joe Biden's incoming administration.

Within hours of the General Services Administration's acknowledgement Monday evening of Biden's victory in the Nov. 3 election, career federal officials opened the doors of agencies to hundreds of transition aides ready to prepare for his Jan. 20 inauguration.

And on Tuesday, Trump signed off on allowing Biden to receive the presidential daily brief, the highly classified briefing prepared by the nation's intelligence community for the government's most senior leaders.

An administration official said logistics on when and where Biden will first receive the briefing were still being worked out.

Biden, in an interview with "NBC Nightly News," said he was also working out a meeting with the White House's coronavirus task force and vaccine distribution effort.

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New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC 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.	34/E-tender/GM/SM(WC-3)/2020-21, Name of Work:- M/o Village (Reconstruction at Jatav Bhawan in Village Aghapur), Noida Cost - Rs. 31.25 Lacs
Which can be uploaded by date 09.12.2020 upto 5.00PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 10.12.2020 at 11.00AM.		
(B)	1.	30/GM/SM(WC-6)/2020-21, Name of Work:- D/o Sector-117 (Rising and Maintenance of Drain wall towards road along 18m, 24m and 30m wide road), Noida Cost - Rs. 70.53 Lacs
	2.	36/GM/SM(WC-2)/2020-21, Name of Work:- D/o Village (P.L.C. Pavement on damage road, R/o Drain & fixing of Precast slab over drain, streetjali etc in Village Atta), Noida Cost - Rs. 52.33 Lacs
Which can be uploaded by date 03.12.2020 upto 5.00PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 04.12.2020 at 11.00AM.		

General Manager
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Russia sees record number of virus deaths again

Moscow: Russian authorities have registered a record number of coronavirus deaths for a second straight day.

The government coronavirus task force reported 507 new deaths on Wednesday, the country's highest daily toll.

The previous record of 491 deaths was reported on Tuesday. A total of 37,538 people have died from the coronavirus in Russia, according to the task force.

Russia has been swept by a rapid resurgence of the outbreak this fall, with numbers of confirmed infections and deaths hitting new highs almost daily and significantly exceeding those reported in the spring.

US lawmaker expresses concern over Chinese construction along Indian border

Washington: Expressing concern over reports of China's illegal construction activities along the Indian border in Ladakh, an influential US lawmaker has said that America will always continue to stand with India and oppose any "revisionist efforts" by the Chinese government or anyone else to challenge the peace and stability in the region.

India and China are engaged in a bitter stand-off on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh since May.

"I am aware of and concerned with the public reports surrounding Chinese military construction along the disputed border with India. If these

reports are true, and I hope they are not, China's continued military provocations will continue to escalate tensions in the region," Democratic congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said on Tuesday.

"The United States will always continue to stand with our Indian partners in the Indo-Pacific region while opposing any revisionist efforts by the Chinese government or anyone else to challenge peace and stability," he said.

The Indian-American Congressman from Illinois issued the statement in response to reports of satellite images showing Chinese construction activities in eastern Ladakh.

EU says first virus vaccinations possible by Christmas

Brussels: A top European Union official said on Wednesday that the first citizens in the 27 nation bloc could be vaccinated against the coronavirus by Christmas, but she warned that member countries must urgently prepare their logistical chains for the rollout of hundreds of millions of doses of the vaccines.

Claiming that "there's finally light at the end of the tunnel," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told EU lawmakers that "the first European citizens might already be vaccinated before the end of December." The commission, the EU's executive arm, has agreements with six potential vaccine suppliers and is working on a seventh contract.

Switzerland sets post-Brexit quota for British migrants

Geneva: The Swiss government says up to 3,500 migrants from Britain will be given permits to live and work in the Alpine nation next year, when Britain's post-Brexit transition with the European Union expires.

Britain's departure from the EU means that it isn't covered by Switzerland's freedom of movement agreements with the 27-nation bloc.

The Swiss government said Wednesday up to 1,100 British citizens will receive long-term residency permits.

A further quota of up to 1,400 short-term residency permits valid for up to one year will also be made available.

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT, JAMMU
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE), DIVISION REASI
Fax: 01991-244323 E-mail: phereasi001@gmail.com

Notice Inviting e-Tender
e-Nit No. PHERSI/73 of 2020-21 Date: - 19/11/2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) Item Rate basis are invited for reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of reputed, which should be uploaded on the e-Procurement web portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> up to last bidding date: - 11-12-2020 up to 16.30 PM for the subject work referred below and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed NIT /Tender Documents/PWD Form No:- 25 double are applicable. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-Procurement Portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/ Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-challan/Treasury Receipt to be deposited in MH:0215-WSS (Revenue Head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank Branch REASI in CD Bank Account No. 002901020000829, IFSC CODE JAKA0REASSI in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE), Division REASI and the proof of having made such payment shall have to be uploaded in Cover:-

S.No. 1 Name of Work :- A). RETROFITTING AND AUGMENTATION OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME MANOON UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION INCLUDING CIVIL, ELECTRO-MECHANICAL COMPONENTS, CONDUCTING COMPLETE NECESSARY SURVEY, SOIL TESTS & DESIGN AS REQUIRED AT SELECTED SITE, AS PER THE PARAMETERS/SPECIFICATIONS
Adv. Cost of Work (s) in Lacs :- 265.78. Earnest Money In Rs. :- 531560/- Class of Contractor :- "A". Cost of Document :- 5000/- . Period of completion :- 6 months, MH of Account :- JJM
S.No. 2 Name of Work :- B) Operation & Maintenance of critical components as per SBD for a period of three years.
i) 1st year, ii) 2nd year, iii) 3rd year
Adv. Cost of Work (s) in Lacs :- Inclusive in A). Earnest Money In Rs. :- Class of Contractor :- Cost of Document :-
Period of completion :- 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year, MH of Account :-
Position of funds :- Available.
No. DIP/J-7582/20 Sd/- Executive Engineer
Date: 24-11-2020 Jal Shakti Division Reasi.

The Executive Engineer, Rig Division, Agartala, West Tripura invites e-tender against press Nle-T No. 15/EE/RIG/2020-21 dated 20/11/2020 against DNleT No. 18/ACE/PWD(DWS)/ 2020-21 (Estimated costs ₹2,38,51,929.75), DNleT No. 19/ ACE/PWD(DWS)/2020-21 (Estimated cost: ₹2,38,51,929.75), DNleT No. 20/ACE/PWD(DWS)/2020-21 (Estimated cost: ₹2,38,51,929.75) & DNleT No. 21/ACE/PWD(DWS)/2020-21 (Estimated cost: ₹2,38,51,929.75), Time of completion - 300 (Three Hundred) days. Last date of bidding for bids 29/12/2020 upto 15.00 hrs.

For more details, please visit website: www.tripuratenders.gov.in & www.eprocure.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rig Division, Agartala,
ICA/C-2230/20-21 P.N. Complex, West Tripura

SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, YAMUNA NAGAR	CONSTRUCTION OF INDOOR BADMINTON HALL IN GYMKHANA CLUB AT SECTOR -17, HUDA, JAGADHRAM IN JAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT (RE-INVITE) + 1 OTHER WORK	30.11.2020 15.12.2020	1134.02 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	pwd-eeepd-yamanagar@hry.nic.in/017-32-237834
2	PWD B&R, ROHTAK	ANNUAL REPAIR ESTIMATE FOR CENTRAL STORE, AUGMENTATION OPERATION THEATRE & NEURO SURGERY, 50 BEDDED PRIVATE WARD & GENERAL HOSPITAL (WARD & O.T) IN PGIMS ROHTAK FOR THE YEAR 2020-21. + 3 OTHER WORKS	24.11.2020 14.12.2020	47 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-282871 pwd-eeepd-rohtak@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD FROM VILLAGE NATHORE UPTO BANI TO BACHER ROAD IN KM-0 TO 1.81 IN SIRSADISTT. (C.M. ANNOUNCEMENT CODE NO. 25411 DATED 08.03.2020.)	24.11.2020 08.12.2020	101.72 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-222959/ pwd-eeepd2-sirsa@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, YAMUNA NAGAR	RE-INVITE UP-GRADATION OF MADHO BAS TO ALAHAH UPTO BLOCK BOUNDARY (MRL-02) IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT (PMGSY-III)	30.11.2020 15.12.2020	104.28 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	pwd-eeepd-yamanagar@hry.nic.in/017-32-237834
5	PWD B&R, HISAR	UPGRADATION BY SPECIAL REPAIR OF RESEARCH LABORATORY IN PWD B&R OFFICE CAMPUS AT HISAR.	26.11.2020 09.12.2020	149.88 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-239887 pwd-eeepd3-hisar@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R, HISAR	WIDENING & STRENGTHENING OF HISAR MIRZAPUR NIYANA ROAD IN HISAR DISTT. (ROAD ID 4845) (SEC. MILL GATE TO KAINCHI CHOWK) RD 0.00 TO 0.700 + 3 OTHER WORKS	24.11.2020 07.12.2020	961.09 LAKH	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-237889
7	PWD B&R, PANCHKULA	RE-INVITING OF TENDER FOR THE WORK OF JUMP OF NH-73 (NEW NH-7) FROM RD 153.853 TO 160.353 (BARWALA BYPASS) IN PANCHKULA DISTT. (AFFECTED PORTION FROM RD 157.753 TO 158.203 ALONGWITH JUNCTION)	01.12.2020 07.12.2020	222.37 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2920477 pwd-eeepd-panchkula@hry.nic.in
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONIPAT	1.CONST.ABEAUTIFICATION OF NAGA WALI SAROVER AT VILLAGE KHANDA BLOCK KHARHODA DISTT. SONIPAT	25.11.2020 04.12.2020	35.15 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ, REWARI	CONST. OF 19 NO'S AWC AT VARIOUS VILLAGE, DISTT. REWARI	01.12.2020 15.12.2020	160.55 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-222260, 9416421261 prexeengr.rwr@hry.nic.in
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICER, MATANHAIL	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK MATANHAIL & DISTT-JHAJJAR.	25.11.2020 15.12.2020	377.89 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416050161
11	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVN,SIWANI	MIRCHPUR - PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION (FHTC) AND LAYING OF PIPE LINE IN UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION VILLAGE MIRCHPUR DISTT. HISAR "PROVIDING AND LAYING OF DI PIPE LINE IN STREETS AND PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSE HOLD TAP CONNECTION IN VILLAGE MIRCHPUR AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO + 2 OTHER WORKS	23.11.2020 01.12.2020	89.16 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01663-256145 / eehansi@gmail.com
12	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVN,SIWANI	CHEHAR KALAN & DHANI KHERA - CONSTRUCTION OF BOOSTING STATION, LAYING OF PIPE LINE WITH FHTC IN VILLAGE CHEHAR KALAN & DHANI KHERA DISTT. BHUWANI, (UNDER CM ANNOUNCEMENT CODE NO. 25353 DATED 07.03.2020 UNDER JJM) + 2 OTHER WORKS	20.11.2020 09.12.2020	93.30 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01255-277066 eesiwani @pbedharyana.gov.in
13	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVN,SIWANI	BIDHWAN- PROVIDING FHTC, RENOVATION OF WATER WORKS, REPLACEMENT OF PUMPING MACHINERY AND LAYING OF DI PIPE LINE UNDER JJM CATEGORY-II (JJM) IN VILLAGE BIDHWAN, "LAYING OF DI PIPE LINE, MAKING FHTC CONNECTIONS AND REPLACEMENT OF PANEL BOARD IN VILLAGE BIDHWAN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO." + 1 OTHER WORKS	23.11.2020 14.12.2020	186.14 LACS	tender ID 2020_HRY_151476_1 + 1 other	01255-277066 eesiwani @pbedharyana.gov.in
14	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING KURUKSHETRA	KURUKSHETRA: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL OF DETAIL REPORT CONSTRUCTION OF 25 MLD SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT KURUKSHETRA, DINT FOR RAISING HEIGHT OF EXISTING BOUNDARY WALL FIXING OF IRON GRILL/RAILING CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO. ADDITIONAL ROOM IN LAB INCLUDING PAINTING WORK AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO	21.11.2020 27.11.2020	32.51 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
15	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING KURUKSHETRA	NALWI - PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION, LAYING OF DI PIPE LINE IN BALANCE STREETS AT VILLAGE NALWI AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION + 1 OTHER WORK	21.11.2020 27.11.2020	20.77 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
16	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA KURUKSHETRA	REPAIR OF PATCHES OF SYL CANAL FROM K.M. 13.000 TO 15.000 (CLOSURE WORK), + 6 OTHER WORKS	24.11.2020 07.12.2020	358.45 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01744-239164 xenwsdvnkrra@gmail.com
17	IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (ADAMPUR W/S DIVISION, HISAR)	REHABILITATION OF BALAK MINOR FROM RD 2000 TO 23500 UNDER CM AWC. CODE NO. 17610 DT. 27.11.2016	CLOSING DATE 07.12.2020	419.78 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-230030 xenwsdvn@gmail.com
18	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA CHARKHI DADRI.	ENHANCEMENT OF CAPACITY OF VILLAGE POND KOTIA OFF TAKING FROM K.M. 5.500-R OF AULANT DISTY + 4 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 01.12.2020	28.93 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01250-220264 xenmgckd11@gmail.com
19	FOREST DEPARTMENT CHARKHI DADRI	RANGE OFFICE CONSTRUCTION AT BADHRA + 2 OTHER WORKS	21.11.2020 01.12.2020	56.87 LACS	http://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_151386_1 + 2 OTHER	dfocarkhidadri@gmail.com 01250-297241
20	TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER, HARYANA, CHANDIGARH	ONLINE TENDER FOR SERVICES PROVIDING "PART-1 OF OUTSOURCE POLICY"	CLOSING DATE 15.12.2020	5.50 CRORE	haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	Sh. Ramesh Kumar Chahal, SAC(Accounts)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etendehry.nic.in RO NO. 84013

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

PUBLICATION NOTICE
in OA No. 1030/18 Date: 21.11.2020

Deutsche Bank AG (Applicant)
VS
KDR Services Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. (Respondent)

To,
DEFENDENT
1. KDR Services Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 70, Sai Enclave Dwaraka, Sect-23, Near PF Office, New Delhi-77
Also At: Flat No. 555, Sun View Apartment, PKT-8, Sect-11, Dwaraka Phase-I, New Delhi-110077

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 14,73,589/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Nine Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 22.03.2021 At 10:30 A.M.

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

By Order of the Tribunal For Registrar, DRT-II, DELHI.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work:
Sl. No. : [01]. Tender No. : Engg/39/2020-21. Name of the work : Repairs to Maintenance of Horticulture Assets in different location of the CLW township for the year 2020-21 ending upto 30.06.2021 under Zone-6 of Horticulture Superintendent at Chittaranjan. Tender value (₹) : 80,66,179.00 (Rupees eighty lakhs sixty six thousand one hundred seventy nine). Earnest money (₹) : 1,61,300.00 (Rupees one lakh sixty one thousand three hundred). Period of completion (in months): 08 (eight) months. NOTE: (i) Date of closing : 15.12.2020 at 13.00 hrs. (ii) Complete details can be seen in the Railways website : www.ireps.gov.in (iii) Contact Number : 9136640202.

Divisional Engineer
AD76 - 168 CLW/Chittaranjan
Like us on : www.facebook.com/chwrrailways

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

PUBLICATION NOTICE
in OA No. 684/19 Date: 02.09.2020

Deutsche Bank AG (Applicant)
VS
M/s Ayib Engineers Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. (Respondent)

To,
DEFENDENT
1. M/s Ayib Engineers Pvt. Ltd., Through its directors Mr. Arvinder Singh / Mr. Pushpender Singh, K-229, Site-5, Kasna Ind. Area Greater Noida-201308 UP
2. Mr. Ayander Singh, Director, M/s Ayib Engineers Pvt. Ltd., K-229, Site-5, Kasna Ind. Area Greater Noida-201308 UP
3. Mr. Pushpender Singh, K-229, Site-5, Kasna Ind. Area Greater Noida-201308 UP
Also At: C-243, Sect-37, Greater Noida-201307 UP

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 22,49,902/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Two Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 03.12.2020 At 10:30 A.M.

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

By Order of the Tribunal For Registrar, DRT-II, DELHI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

- 1) CB_MAHINDRA TRACO 49 REG. NO. UP16ET6955 YOM 2017
- 2) VE1110FB EICHR VECV REG. NO. DL1GC4601 YOM 2015
- 3) EICHER 1110 PRO REG. NO. UP15ET2981-YOM -2019
- 4) T1618CBGD REG. NO. UP14HT5694-YOM-2019
- 5) TATA LPT 2518 GOODS REG. NO. UP21BN1882 YOM 2011

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION". INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 07 DAYS AT

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK
3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT : RAJESH ANTI / DEEPAK KUMAR KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.
CONT.NO. 9711173320/9839215099

LVB to become DBS Bank India from Friday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Crisis-hit Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) will merge into the Indian arm of Singapore-based DBS Bank on Friday, leading to removal of all restrictions, including withdrawal cap of ₹25,000, which the RBI had placed on the lender earlier this month.

The RBI notified the effective date of merger soon after the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of LVB with DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL).

All the branches of LVB will function as branches of DBIL with effect from November 27, 2020. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement.

"Customers, including depositors of the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd will be able to operate their accounts as customers of DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL) with effect from November 27, 2020. Consequently the moratorium on the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. will cease to be operative from that date," it

said.

DBIL is making necessary arrangements to ensure that service, as usual, is provided to customers of LVB, the central bank added. The RBI had superseded LVB's board on November 17 after the private sector lender was placed under a moratorium. Meanwhile, the government issued a gazette notification which notified the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (Amalgamation with DBS Bank India Limited) Scheme, 2020.

All employees of LVB shall continue in service and be deemed to have been appointed at the same remuneration and on the same terms and conditions of service as were applicable immediately before the close of business on November 17, 2020, the gazette notification issued by the Department of Financial Services said.

Earlier in the day, the Union Cabinet approved the merger of LVB with DBIL, providing comfort to 20 lakh customers of the bank which was put under the moratorium.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank shares bounce back, jump nearly 5%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Lakshmi Vilas Bank bounced back on Wednesday after falling for almost a week, rising by nearly 5 per cent following the government approval for merger of the crisis-ridden bank with DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL). In early trade on Wednesday, the stock had tanked 4.79 per cent to ₹6.95, its lower circuit limit as well as one-year low, on the BSE. However, it recovered all its lost ground in the afternoon trade, gaining 4.79 per cent to close at ₹7.65 -- its upper circuit limit. On the NSE, the scrip rose 4.79 per cent to close at ₹7.65. Earlier in the day, it had fallen 4.79 per cent to ₹6.95.

Kerala, West Bengal accept Centre's borrowing option to meet GST shortfall

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kerala and West Bengal have accepted the Centre's borrowing proposal and will get ₹10,197 crore through the special window to meet GST revenue shortfall.

These are among the states that had opposed the borrowing plan.

"Governments of Kerala and West Bengal have communicated their acceptance of Option-1 to meet the revenue shortfall arising out of GST implementation, states are also entitled to get unconditional permission to borrow the final instalment of 0.50 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) out of the 2 per cent additional borrowings permitted by the Centre under Atmanirbhar Abhiyaan.

This is over and above the special window of Rs 1.1 lakh crore.

On receipt of the choice of Option-1 from Kerala and West Bengal governments, the Centre has granted additional borrowing permission of Rs 4,522 crore to Kerala and Rs 6,787 crore to West Bengal.

Markets tumble from record highs on profit-booking; Sensex sinks 695 pts

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity markets' record run screeched to a halt on Wednesday as investors pocketed gains in banking, finance and IT counters amid a mixed trend overseas.

Snapping a three-day winning streak, the 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 694.92 points or 1.56 per cent to finish at 43,828.10. The index touched a lifetime high of 44,825.37 in the opening session. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty touched a record intra-day peak of 13,145.85, before ending 196.75 points or 1.51 per cent down at 12,858.40.

Kotak Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 3.22 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Sun Pharma, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, Infosys and Tech Mahindra.

Only three index components closed in the green -- ONGC, PowerGrid and IndusInd Bank, jumping up to 6.25 per cent. Global equities were mixed after the US Dow Jones Industrial Average breached the 30,000-mark for the first time in the overnight

session on COVID-19 vaccine optimism.

Reports that US President-elect Joe Biden would appoint former Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen as Treasury Secretary also cheered investors.

"The market rally which was led by developments on

vaccine and FPI inflows came to a halt today due to profit booking across sectors in the second half of the trading session.

While western markets continued its positivity, being encouraged by news on vaccine developments and ease in the US political risk.

Rupee rises 10 paise to 73.91 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rising for the fourth straight session, the rupee appreciated by 10 paise to close at nearly a month high of 73.91 against the US dollar on Wednesday as positive development on the coronavirus vaccine front enthused investor sentiment.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.98 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.88 and a low of 74.02.

The local unit finally closed at 73.91 against the

American currency, registering a rise of 10 paise over its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee had climbed 10 paise to close at 74.01 against the US dollar.

The domestic unit had closed at 73.87 against the greenback on October 28.

Traders said risk appetite increased on news that US President-elect Joe Biden plans to nominate former Federal Reserve chairwoman Janet Yellen as treasury secretary.

Moreover, a weak American currency in the overseas market also supported the rupee.

I-T refunds worth ₹1.36L cr issued to 41.25L taxpayers till November 24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Dept has issued refunds worth over ₹1.36 lakh crore to over 41 lakh taxpayers so far this fiscal. This includes personal income tax (PIT) refunds amounting to ₹36,028 crore and corporate tax refunds of over ₹1 lakh crore during this period. CBDT issues refunds of over ₹1,36,962 crore to more than 41.25 lakh taxpayers between 1st April, 2020 to 24th November, 2020. Income tax refunds of ₹36,028 crore have been issued in 39,28,067 cases & corporate tax refunds of ₹1,00,934 crore have been issued in 1,96,880 cases," the I-T Department tweeted.

'Govt should incentivise production, usage of eco-friendly cement'

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government should incentivise the manufacturing and usage of eco-friendly cement, according to a stakeholder in the sector. Himanshu Verma, Founder & Chairman of Navrattan Group said that the Centre, along with the cement industry, must push harder for an eco-friendly alternative to regular Portland cement. "Along with creating more public awareness, I would also suggest that the government should incentivise the manufacture and usage of such cement so as to give people more reasons to indulge in this practice," he said.

Verma was of the view

that eco-friendly cement is the future of the industry.

"We are at the crossroads of the future, with Covid-19 pandemic, global warming, environmental degradation, etc. The only way out of it is to go green," said the Chairman of the green cement manufacturer. He also noted that along with incentives, the government should reach out to the manufacturers with proper regulations. On the demand scenario of eco-friendly cements, Verma said that Indian cement industry is the second-largest producer in the world and considering that cement buying is not an "impulse-buy" commodity, its rising demand in both urban and rural milieu is

a strong indicator of a robust economic activity nationally. For September and October 2020, the industry reported consecutive double-digit growth, he said.

"By 2030, the cement consumption is expected to be more than double. The present production capacity will have to work overtime to match that demand and, in doing so, it is highly likely that India will become the world's largest producer of concrete," he said.

He noted that India will be producing more cement than China by 2030 which may also lead to more threat of pollution. Keeping the downside in mind, he hopes that people would go for eco-friendly cement.

Banking operations to be hit on Nov 26 due to farm strike

Chennai: Banking operations will be affected across the country on Thursday with about 4.5 lakh bank employees joining the nationwide strike called by the central trade unions, said a top official of the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA).

The strike was called to protest against the "anti-people policies" of the Central government.

"Employees of 12 public sector banks, nine private banks, nine foreign banks, all Regional Rural Banks and most of the Cooperative Banks will be participating in the strike," AIBEA General Secretary C.H. Venkatchalam told IANS.

India TWS market grows 723 pc to 6 mn units in Q3 2020: Counterpoint

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's TWS (True Wireless Stereo, commonly known as earbuds) market clocked its highest-ever growth of 723 per cent year-on-year in the September 2020 quarter, with shipments of about 6 million units, according to Counterpoint Research. "It is one of the few segments which managed to defy the impact of economic slowdown, reaching its highest ever growth in shipments for a single quarter," it said in a report.

Rapz debuts earbuds into wireless mkt

New Delhi: Rapz has introduced itself into the lifestyle wireless audio market with the launch of wireless earbuds in two designs, bluetooth neckband earphones and wireless bluetooth earbuds, both rendering equal amount of satisfactory experience. Commenting on the brand launch, Rohit Agarwal, Rapz CEO, said, "Mostly wireless earbuds are found expensive in the market. Rapz commits cost efficiency products with style."

50% tech startups expect pre-Covid level revenue in 6 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian tech start-ups are now witnessing a gradual road to recovery, with over 50 per cent of them saying that they expect revenue to reach pre-Covid level in less than six months, according to a Nasscom survey released on Wednesday.

Revenue acceleration and funding has improved the cash availability with startups, showed the findings of the "Nasscom Start-up Pulse Survey II".

The IT industry body revisited its first tech startup pulse survey, conducted back in April-May 2020, to understand what the current perspectives are, what has changed and what the next six months look like for the tech start-up ecosystem in the country.

The results showed that 43 per cent of tech start-ups now have a runway for more than six months, compared to eight per cent in the earlier survey.

"The Indian start-up ecosystem has set a global benchmark in remaining resilient during this disruptive year," Debjani Ghosh, President, Nasscom, said in a statement.

"Setting an example for many other industries across

50% tech startups expect pre-Covid level revenue in 6 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

the globe to follow and learn from how Indian start-ups converted challenges into opportunities.

A large tech start-ups pool, strong innovation focus and entrepreneur's zeal have been the growth drivers of this ecosystem."

The research showed that there has been an increased interest from venture capital and funding agencies to invest in seed-early stage start-ups.

Government initiatives such as Atmanirbhar Bharat, digitalisation of India, a greater focus on sustainable business models is attracting VC interest for Indian tech start-ups, Nasscom said.

Almost 25 per cent of the surveyed start-ups have been able to raise funds or find prospective investors as compared to seven per cent in the earlier survey.

Sectors like edtech, healthtech and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) continue to attract investor interests.

While the ecosystem continues to be cautious, it is increasingly looking at hiring talent with the right competencies. As per the findings of the survey, hiring freeze at tech start-ups dropped by 20 per cent.

India IT, business services market to reach \$13bn this year: IDC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The IT and Business Services market in India is expected to grow annually by 5.4 per cent to reach \$13 billion by the end of the year, an IDC report said on Wednesday.

In the first half (January-June period), the India IT and Business Services market grew by 5.3 per cent (on-year) as

compared to the 8.9 per cent growth in the first half last year, according to the IDC's 'Worldwide Semiannual Services Tracker-IH20'.

When it comes to only IT Services, the market contributed 77.4 per cent in the first half this year and grew by 5.9 per cent (on-year) compared to the 9.3 per cent growth in IH2019.

"In IH20, the role of IT

Services vendors gained higher prominence, as organisations increasingly approached them to help ensure business continuity by putting in place various technologies, solutions, best practices and frameworks," said Garima Goenka, Market Analyst, IT Services, IDC India.

Apart from ensuring business continuity, the role of IT service providers has also

been towards helping organisations to achieve a higher degree of tech resilience, adaptability and digital transformation maturity, to become future-ready.

According to the IDC, the IT Services market will begin picking up momentum gradually from 2021 onwards and is projected to grow at a CAGR of 7.2 per cent between 2019-2024, to be valued at \$13.4 bil-

lion by the end of 2024."

IT investments across all the major sectors such as BFSI, healthcare, telecom, IT/ITes, government and manufacturing increased considerably to improve overall experience and maintain business continuity and resiliency," said Shweta Baidya, Senior Research Manager, Enterprise Software and ICT Services, IDC India.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Phoolwati**, W/o: Sanjay Kumar, R/o: H. No. 407, Gali No. 12, Vill Saboli, Delhi has been reported missing since 03.10.2020 from her house. In this regard DD No. 44-A dated 03.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi. The description of missing lady is as under:

Name: Phoolwati, **Age:** About 28 Years, **Height:** 4'8", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Green Colour Suit and Salwar.

If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station Harsh Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-22342073, 8750870734

DP/353/NE/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Manvati W/o Unknown R/O Village Utina, Chhatisgarh has been found since 08.11.2020 from the jurisdiction of P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 67A dated 08.11.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. Now she is stay at Old Age Home, Budhpur, Alipur, Delhi Her physical description is as under:-

Age: About 60-65 Years, **Height:** 4'6", **Complexion:** Black, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Green colour saree, red colour jarsi, black colour sal/dupatta and hawai chappal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this found female, may inform SHO, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi at E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: SHO
011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
North-West Distt., Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639
Ph. No. 011-27495198, 27497179

DP/509/NW/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING



The general public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Anjali D/o Narendra R/o N-28/B-593, CSA Colony WPIA, Delhi** has been missing since 28.06.2020 from her house. In this regard, **FIR No. 280/20, dated 28.06.2020** has been registered at **PS Ashok Vihar, New Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:

Name: Anjali, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 17 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Pink colour kurti, blue colour palazzo and cream colour slipper on her feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/Ashok Vihar, New Delhi.
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Ashok Vihar, New Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-27243066, 27220021

DP/513/NW/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Rajkumari**, D/o Suresh, R/o H. No. 276, Railway Board Shadi Nagar, Azadpur, Delhi, **Age:** 21 years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Gray Colour Suit and Gray Colour Salwar, Gray Colour Dupatta, Brown Colour Chappal in her feet has been missing from Jurisdiction of P.S. Adarsh Nagar since **05.11.2020**. In this regard a vide **DD No. 92A**, dated **06.11.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi**.

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

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
PS Adarsh Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27672452, 8750870229

DP/516/NW/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Poonam W/o Jittu R/o D-86/1, Gali No. 2, Budh Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi has been missing since 09.11.2020 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 52A dated 16.11.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Begumpur, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 24 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **Hair:** Black Long, **Wearing:** Green colour suit and legging & badami colour hawai chappal in feet.

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

Phone: SHO
011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Begumpur, Delhi
Rohini Distt., Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639
Ph. No. 011-27579033, 27579030

DP/517/RD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Indresh Bundela D/o Sh. Roop Singh R/o SE-28, Singhal Village, Delhi**. **Age:** 16 yrs, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** wheatish, **face:** round, **build:** thin, **Hair:** black. **Wearing:** Firozi Coolour Pajami, Sky blue colour kurti & Badami Colour sleeper in feet is missing since 22.11.2020 from the area of PS Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.

In this regard a **FIR No. 694/2020 dated: 22.11.2020 U/s 363 IPC** has been registered at **PS Shalimar Bagh, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-230111334
Ph.: 011-23014046
011-23015218

S.H.O.,
P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27495198, 27495527

DP/519/NW/20

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Vishnu, S/o Vinod, R/o Village Pacheta, PS Kelaras, Distt. Murena, Madhya Pradesh**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 404/2020 Dt. 18.08.2020, u/s 363 IPC**, at **P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Vishnu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Vishnu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vishnu** of case **FIR No. 404/2020 Dt. 18.08.2020, u/s 363 IPC**, at **P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear on this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.01.2021**

By Order
Ms. Richa Sharma,
Metropolitan Magistrate (07),
Room No. 06, Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/586/ON/2020-(Court Matter).

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely:** Arpan Kumar, **S/o:** Rama Shankar, **R/o:** C-6, Rama Vihar Gali No. 11, Neelkanth Apartment, Delhi, **Age:** 21 Years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Orange Colour Shirt & Blue Colour Jeans & Chappal in Feet has been missing/ kidnapped since 15.11.2020 from his house. In this regard **FIR/DD No. 156A, Dated 16.11.2020**, has been lodged at **P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped boy please inform the undersigned.

Web-site: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27581223

DP/525/RD/2020

Trend
Slazer

Never forget why you started: Rao

Actor **RAJKUMMAR RAO** has shared words of wisdom in his latest post on social media.

"Never forget why you started," Rajkumar captioned an image he recently posted on Instagram.

Rajkumar's latest film *Ludo* released digitally. The Anurag Basu directorial is a dark humour anthology comprising four stories.

Abhishek Bachchan, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Rohit Saraf, Aditya Roy Kapur, Pankaj Tripathi and Sanya Malhotra are also seen playing important characters in the film.

He has *Badhaai Do* and *Roohi Afza* coming up.



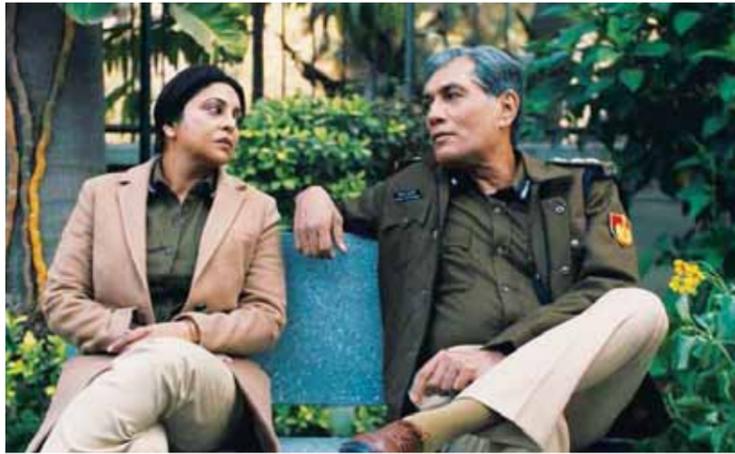
Slowly but surely, India and Indianness are foraying into the world of showbiz in the West, and much of it has to do with the country's growing presence in the OTT space. The success of Netflix's *Delhi Crime* winning the 'Best Drama Series' award at the 48th International Emmy Awards is, as Shefali Shah rightly said, "a cherry on the sundae", but Indian stories and talent of the digital space have been making a strong impact the way Bollywood or our mainstream cinema never really did.

The show becomes the first Indian programme to win an International Emmy. Writer-director Richie Mehta's seven-episode series has Shefali Shah in the central role of DCP Vartika Chaturvedi, and narrates the story of investigation in the aftermath of the heinous Delhi gang-rape of December 2012.

"I am completely ecstatic, euphoric and all the possible superlatives in the thesaurus that I can recollect now. It's just amazing! I feel so proud to be a part of *Delhi Crime*. This win is like a cherry on the sundae but irrespective for me, *Delhi Crime* has always been a winner since the day I started work on it. I knew that this show is a very special one. The Emmy has put us on the global

AN INTERNATIONAL HIT

With *Delhi Crime* winning the 48th International Emmy Award, Indian stories and the talent pool on the OTT space are gradually making a strong impact globally, the way our mainstream cinema never did



platform and we feel extremely proud of the honour," Shefali said.

"This is a BIG one for us, a big one for India. Thank you for the endless love and support that has flowed our way for the show. I am so honoured to be a part of something that is so real and relevant that it put us on the global map. Thank you for the nominations and the experience, Emmys. Congratulations to the supremely deserving team behind *Delhi Crime*," she added.

In his acceptance speech, writer-director Mehta thanked all the producers, the OTT platform Netflix that streams the show, the casting crew and the cast, with a special mention of Shefali Shah, his parents and wife, the Sundance Film Festival, and the Delhi police team headed by "Neeraj Kumar and the amazing Chhaya Sharma" that helped them bring the show

alive. "The project was led by women, it was financed and put together and released by women, this crime was solved by women, this is for the courage of those women and all the women who not only endure the violence that so many men inflict on them but then are tasked with solving the problem," said Mehta.

He paid a special tribute to the victim and her mother. "Finally the fearless and tireless hero of all mothers and her daughter. Not a day goes by when I don't think about you both and what the world subjected you two to. And I hope none of us ever forget that," he said.

The fictionalised crime drama series also features Rasika Dugal, Adil Hussain, Rajesh Tailang, Avijit Dutt, Gopal Dutt, Jaya Bhattacharya, Denzil Smith and Yashaswini Dayama in pivotal roles.

"*Delhi Crime* will always be close to the heart for how the narrative examines the lives of women in a patriarchal society through (characters) Vartika, Neeti, Chandni, while reminding us that we as a society allowed a heinous crime like the 2012 rape case to happen," said Rasika.

—With inputs from agencies

WE'RE OUR OWN ENEMIES

Actor **WINSTON DUKE** talks about how the characters in the horror film, *Us*, explain that monsters are just some ghostly creatures we create in our minds, rather they're very much like us. By **TEAM VIVA**

What did you make of the US script?

I thought it was really bold and creative, and the most original piece I had read around that time. I felt so privileged to even be asked to look at the material. Well, it being Jordan Peele's was an added bonus. I have been his fan since his sketch comedy days, the early days on Mad TV, and his own show, *Key & Peele*. To see him transition into the narrative storytelling realm, I felt, 'Of course! He's been a genius for years. Can't wait!'

To know it came from him, and to consume that material at the time, I sat there quiet for a few minutes, thinking, 'I saw this, I saw that, this means that, this means this... Oh my goodness, it's a big conversation.' I wanted to be part of that conversation. And that is why I jumped right on to the film. More than anything else, I said, 'I want to be a part of the conversation that this film evokes.'

Did Jordan suggest you horror or any other genre films to watch before making the film?

I think, for each of us, we wanted something totally different out of the experience. Mine was, because I wasn't very familiar with the genre, an aversion to horror as a genre for a while. I enjoyed the scary films, the parody ones, because I understood that. All these tropes definitely didn't benefit people who looked like me, so I never really got attached to the genre. But after reading the script, I knew I wanted to be a part of this new world because it turned everything on its head.

Was there something you wanted to bring to Gabe Wilson?

I wanted Gabe to seem the closest to the audience through his ability to both be in it and also stand outside it and make it funny. He's able to turn a moment that feels really traumatic and terrible and find some semblance of humour in it.

I also wanted Gabe to be the perfect avatar for the audience and a construct that reminded the audience of themselves. I wanted them to talk about Gabe when they went home and see themselves in him with a blind comfort. Gabe is so comfortable and privileged. The fact that he thinks he can solve it all with a baseball bat! It's fascinating. He aspires to be like his friends who are so much more comfortable. It's his ambition and tied into



'I WANTED GABE TO SEEM THE CLOSEST TO THE AUDIENCE THROUGH HIS ABILITY TO BOTH BE IN IT AND ALSO STAND OUTSIDE IT AND MAKE IT FUNNY. HE'S ABLE TO TURN A MOMENT THAT FEELS REALLY TRAUMATIC AND TERRIBLE AND FIND SOME SEMBLANCE OF HUMOUR IN IT'



his need to ascend to the American dream. Then you realise that the American dream is so flawed and insecure, their house is literally made of glass and it doesn't protect you. You see it and you say, 'they are us.'

You also had to play another completely different character than Gabe. How did you work out the differences?

We rarely did both on one day. I think we only did that on one or two days that I was filming because it was so taxing. Jordan made that possible with the

schedule. He'd never book it for both on one day. It was really helpful to have someone in your corner supporting you with a schedule. He'd schedule certain things later in the shoot, so you have time to prepare. I think for Lupita, a lot of the climax for her happened at the end of shooting, which helped her have all the experiences beforehand, put them in her body and then demonstrate it.

Do you think Jordan's history as a performer helps him be a director of actors?

—With inputs from agencies

Deeply. He understands the process, how we need it and gives us a lot of room for it. He respects it and creates space for us to do whatever we need to do. He doesn't try to force you into his process. He's like a gardener and he understands he has different flowers. Some need more sunlight and water, some need less.

You were working with Evan and Shahadi. How were they as fellow performers?

They were brilliant! They came prepared and ready to act, play and be daring. It was really good to just watch them be free and learn what fearlessness looks like. As kids, they've got nothing to be afraid of. We were all very pleasant on set so they felt comfortable. They wanted to have lunch with us everyday and most days, we did. Both Evan and Shahadi were so committed to their roles, always showing something new. It was a great collaborative effort. Jordan relied on a lot of different people to bring a lot of dimension and character to these roles. It was a cast of greatness.

Filming something like this, you have a lot of intensity. Is it something that sticks with you?

It was hard to let go. I think I was going through a lot of stress. I went on to do two other projects immediately after this. I don't think I shed the characters of *Us* before I went to do the other jobs to do my regular process of taking them off. I didn't realise that until New Years, when I finally had a vacation and got to sit and meditate and realise I'd never removed Gabe from my person. I'd been walking around with so much baggage, no wonder I was so stressed! I literally have felt like I'm fighting for my life.

Us loosely falls into horror. But how does it differ within the genre?

I think there is so much commentary on it. In particular, we've been saying a lot about how we're our worst enemies. It's very interesting because our monsters aren't creatures. They don't have wings, they're not ghosts or werewolves. They're not things, they're people. They're your monsters. They're not just "them." They're "us."

(*Us* premieres on November 29 at 1 pm and 9 pm on Sony PIX.)

TB continues to be one of the most devastating public health issues in our country. With just under 40 per cent of diagnosed cases in people under 30, there is an urgent need to clear misconceptions around it and drive a perception change. MTV Nishedh Alone Together conveys this message in a unique and impactful way.



—Sania Mirza

Miss World 2017 MANUSHI CHHILLAR, who will make her Bollywood debut through Prithviraj, opposite Akshay Kumar, says she's a vegetarian and loves it.



On International Meatless Day, she said, "For me, being a vegetarian was more of a personal choice. It has been and will always be a way of life for me because my parents are vegetarians and I have inculcated this through them. However, they never forced this on me. I made my choice after I realised that it suits for me remarkably and makes me feel fitter, healthier. Plant-based diet works better for me & I am a firm believer of it."

Bieber upset with Grammys

Singer **JUSTIN BIEBER** has earned four Grammy Award nominations for his album *Changes*, including Best Pop Solo Performance (for *Yummy*), Best Pop Duo/Group Performance (*Intentions* featuring Quavo), Best Pop Vocal Album, & Best Country Duo/Group Performance (for his feature on Dan + Shay's *10,000 Hours*).

Bieber, post announcement, wrote a letter to the Academy on Instagram, talking about how his mission to make an R&B album was not honoured properly. "To the Grammys," he wrote, "I am flattered to be acknowledged & appreciated for my artistry. I am very meticulous & intentional about my music. But I set out to make an R&B album. *Changes* is an R&B album. Alas, it isn't being acknowledged as that."

'I have no regrets'

From the art of acting he exuded in *Paar*, *Sparsh*, *Pestonjee*, *Jumoon*, *Mirch Masala* or *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro*, to the unforgettable screen presence of mainstream roles in *Masoom*, *A Wednesday*, *Jalwa*, *The Dirty Picture* or the *Ishqiya* films, 70-year-old Bollywood veteran Naseeruddin Shah has been there, done that.



The much-feted actor has been equally at home on screens big and small (some feel his role in the TV serial *Mirza Ghalib* is his best ever), and has recently forayed the OTT space with the series *Bandish Bandits*, too.

In a career spanning over four decades, there have been instances when he failed to create magic on screen but he says that he has no regrets. "I don't have a single regret in life. Yes, I have made mistakes but I have overcome them. I have put them behind me and moved on with learnings. I would be a fool to keep regrets in life. I have acted in several ghastly films. I ate some of them. I might have not enjoyed working for those films but I don't regret having done them. Each and every decision of mine has taught me something or the other," Shah said.

—IANS

The *Dev Deepavali*, literally translates to "the Diwali of gods" or "the festival of fights of gods", is the festival of Kartik Purnima celebrated in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. It falls on the full moon of the Hindu month of Kartika and takes place 15 days after Diwali. On this day, the gods are believed to descend to earth to bathe in the Ganges. The main rituals performed by devotees consist of the *Kartik snan* (taking a holy bath in the Ganges during Kartika) and *deep daan* (offering of oil lighted lamps) to Ganga in the evening.

Karmic events, recently, did the first-of-its-kind installation *Glory of Benaras* at Vegas Mall. They recreated the divine 'ghats of Benaras' in the mall. Temple structure, intricately designed carvings, pillars, water bodies, twinkling lamps and ornate bells all form a part of the huge installation.

Harsh V Bansal, director of the mall, says, "Diwali on the ghats of Benaras is the most mesmerising sight to behold this year. We wanted to make sure that the Mall gives a one of a kind experience to our patrons. We invested in this enthralling structure, especially to give an unusual experience that the mall industry has never done before."

Gunwant Singh, MD, Karmic Events Pvt Ltd, says, "The temple is about 68 ft in length, 40 ft in width and 40+ ft in height. The installation was made possible because of 140 skilled artisans, who worked with dedication for 40 days and handcrafted the entire structure. The creation was ideated to make sure that our patrons feel the same spirituality and positivity they would feel on the ghats of Benaras."



CHHATTISGARH FIGHTS MALNUTRITION

The *Mukhyamantri Suposhan Yojana*, which was launched to curb malnutrition and anaemia, has been a huge success in Bijapur district. There has been a drastic 10 per cent fall in cases

One out of every three children in India is malnourished, making us one of the leading nations in terms of malnourished children. According to the 2018 Global Hunger Index, India ranked 103 out of the 119 qualifying countries, with a score of 31.1, which is high enough to ring the bells for serious concern for hunger deprivation. The nation houses 46.6 million stunted children, one-third globally, as per the Global Nutrition Report 2018. Approximately half of all the under-five child mortality in India is credited to undernutrition.

The crisis of malnutrition is alarming and needs immediate attention. Any leading nation can't accomplish the economic and social development goals of the society, without addressing the basic issue of malnutrition and laying an emphasis over making its populace mentally, physically and emotionally healthy.

Chhattisgarh steps up in its battle against malnutrition

For a heavily forested and tribal-dominated state of Chhattisgarh, the issue of malnutrition came as a challenge in front of the newly formed state government led by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Under his leadership, the Chief Minister's *Suposhan Abhiyan* was launched on October 2, 2019 in the state to eradicate malnutrition from its roots.

Decrease in malnourished children in the state

According to the data received from the weight festival in the scheme launching last year, about 4,92,000 children were malnourished in the state, out of which more than 67,000 children have become free from it. Thus, there has been a 13.79 per cent decrease in malnourished children, which is a major achievement in the state's war against malnutrition.

Bijapur Suposhan Mission

Malnutrition has been an enigma in the Bijapur district of the state since time immemorial with the dominant presence of anaemia among women of the region. Scientists claim that the initial 1,000 days of an individual's lifespan, from the day of conception till s/he turns two, is crucial for physical and cognitive development. But a majority of children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and infant mothers of the district are anemic with decreasing nutritional levels. Thereby, a malnourished mother is more likely to give birth to malnourished children, forming a vicious cycle with the birth of underweight children and the pattern continuing for ages thereafter.



Concerning the figures of the Weight festival 2019, a total of 3,632 children have been categorised as seriously malnourished and 7,100 children fall under the category of moderately malnourished in the district. Bijapur stands at a malnutrition percentage of 38.50 per cent, which is both disturbing yet challenging. The district has a population of 2,55,230 citizens, out of which 49.6 per cent i.e. (1,26,594) are women, according to the 2011 census.

As per the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) 2015-16, there are 86,970 anemic women aged between 15 and 49 years, constituting for 68.7 per cent of anemic women in the district, out of which, the percentile of anemic pregnant women stands at 47.9 per cent. 51.3 per cent of infants from the age group of six months to 59 months are anemic. The alarming figures of malnutrition, maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate and anaemia, reckoned the district administration to come up with this mission to combat malnutrition.

Benefits under the mission

Under this campaign, supplementary nutritious food in the form of

eggs, *ladoos*, chickpea, jaggery and nutritious biscuits are provided to the identified children, women, lactating mothers, school dropouts and anemic women aged between 15 to 49 years. All the children and school dropout girls are provided with warm nutritious food. With this, 27,883 children, 4,663 lactating mothers, 10,811 anemic women aged between 15 to 49 years, 2,751 school dropout girls, with a whopping total of 46,108 people of the district have been benefitted.

Establishment of Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres in Bijapur

Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRC) are being established in the district hospital and four development blocks, with the collaboration of Health Department under the scheme, for the speedy recovery and health improvement of severely malnourished children. Additionally, with the aid of one district hospital, five community centres and 10 primary health centres, health check-ups are conducted regularly for pregnant and lactating mothers and malnourished children of the district.

Reduction in malnutrition levels

within 13 months in the district

The mission started bearing fruitful results within 13 months with the revival of 2,779 severely/moderately malnourished children, getting free from the cycles of undernourishment. Due to the constant efforts and the objective set out by the CM to eradicate malnutrition from its roots, a drastic 10 per cent reduction has been witnessed in the levels of malnourishment in the district.

The malnourishment rate has come down from 38.50 per cent to 28.52 per cent with the number of malnourished children decreasing from 10,732 to 7,953. The anganwadi workers of the district are provided with regular training for the successful implementation of the scheme. Additionally, kitchen gardens are being established in all the anganwadi centres with 276 (fixed wire fencing) and 819 kitchen gardens being established in the workers and assistants premises. Papaya and drumsticks are being planted in the gardens of the beneficiaries to encourage them to avail proper nutrition. Awareness is created through social participation of the Self Help Groups in the gram panchayats of the villages, where infor-

mation is disseminated regarding proper nutrition and health.

Distribution of dry ration material amid lockdown

Amid the closure of all the anganwadi and mini anganwadi centres for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in the state, distribution of dry ration material such as wheat flour, rice, pulses, gram, potatoes and soybeans had been ensured. Additionally, children were also weighed regularly by anganwadi workers by visiting their homes.

Bijapur is one fine example of the successful implementation of the *Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyan* in the state. The World Bank has also appreciated the control and prevention of COVID in the state and the distribution of take away ration conducted by anganwadi workers in the state.

Eradication of malnutrition is a community campaign and involves citizens participation and cooperation for the achievement of its goals. It is a time taking process but Chhattisgarh will fulfill its goals in terms of providing people with nourishment and proper nutrition.

Union Minister inaugurates automated tower car parking

The Union Power Minister RK Singh and LG Anil Bajjal in the presence of BJP Delhi President Adesh Gupta, LOP Delhi Legislative Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Mayor Anamika inaugurated Delhi's first fully-automated tower car parking at Green Park near the Metro Station through video conferencing on Wednesday.

Singh congratulated SDMC for selecting the most feasible new-age parking system to overcome the parking in and around the Green Park. He further expressed confidence that the Tower Parking Project will certainly contain pollution in the area. He offered to provide expertise, consultancy and help of his Ministry in providing boost to the innovative actions in future. While giving detailed description of the projects being executed by his Ministry in and around Delhi, he expressed hope that the projects will go a long way in accelerating the pace of development in the city and providing facilities to the citizens.

Deputy Mayor Subash Bhadana, Chairman Standing Committee Rajdutt Gehlot, Leader of House Narendra Chawala, Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, DC South Zone G Sudhakar and other senior officials were also present.

Bajjal said that this sort of vertical parking is the most appropriate in congested markets and populated colonies as it requires just 1.50 sq metre space to park a car in comparison to 30 sq metre required in conventional parking. He said that all three MCDs should come up with effective parking area management to deal with the parking problem in their jurisdiction. While giving details of the project, he said that the new era steel structured modular designed tower parking is flexible and hence, can be installed at another place. It is eco-friendly, accommodates maximum number of cars in minimum space, allows faster parking and retrieval, has customised parking solutions, comprehensive fire safety, is fully

safe and has parking through lifts.

Bharti while welcoming Union Minister referred to the achievements and ongoing major projects of SDMC and said that SDMC has taken major steps to increase the number of parking sites. The tower parking project is another initiative to develop useful property over a limited sized plot. He further informed that the plot area of parking is 878 sq metre. The total cost of the project is ₹18.20 crore. The height of the towers is 39.50 metres and there are 17 floors in each tower, accommodating 17 cars on each side of the car lift, totaling to 34 cars in each tower. At a time, the tower can accommodate up to 136 cars. Each tower accommodates eight SUVs from the first level to the fourth level and 26 sedans from the fifth level to the 17th. The parking facility is available for 32 SUVs and 104 sedans in total in all the four towers.

He further informed that there is an automated ticket dispenser with boom barrier at entry and exit of the parking and there will be parking charges as per SDMC notified rates — ₹20 per hour, ₹100 for 24 hours, ₹1,200 day pass (monthly) and ₹2,000 day and night pass (monthly).

He added that the operation, maintenance cost and requirement of manual labor will be lower than the conventional parking. The retrieval time of the vehicle in the tower parking will be 150 seconds.

Anamika stated that the SDMC has been completing its project in spite of limited recourse and a paucity of funds. She said, "Such projects will prove to be beneficial in lessening the pollution levels and fuel consumption. Moreover, parking vehicles in the automated car parking will be easy and convenient than those in conventional parking. It will also suffice the car parking need of the residents." She added that the possibilities are also being explored to use the facade for generating revenue for using it for advertisement purposes.

MV Iyer assumes charge as director of GAIL



MV Iyer assumed charge as Director (Business Development) of GAIL. Earlier, he was working as the Executive Director (Projects) with the company.

An electrical engineer, Iyer has 33 years of rich experience in GAIL in projects execution amounting to ₹40,000 crores, including current projects worth ₹25,000 crores spanning 16 states, 150 districts and City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects in six cities.

He is also the director in one of the company's new joint venture Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL) for implementation of North East Gas Grid.



New NCR experience

A ground plan of night market under the *Madhuban Bapudham Yojana* is ready. By A NIRWAN

The road map of vehicle free zone night market has been prepared in NCR's *Madhuban Bapudham Yojana*, which is going to be developed in GDA's 1234 acre area. It is also preparing to open other types of commercial centres in this market besides street food dishes.

The market will also serve as a picnic for those who don't get enough family time as they reach home late. Due to this, plans to open a special type of night market by 11 pm are also being considered. The model is taken from Gangtok where markets are opened till late night for picnics and food. They also plan to build 198 shops and 25 kiosks to promote small shopkeepers. Apart from this, a commercial centre named Central Plaza will also be built on 150 acres

of land. GDA Secretary, Santosh Rai said that entry of any vehicle in this market will be prohibited so that people are roam around freely without any hindrances. Police will look after the law and order. In this regard, the police administration will be urged to create a checkpoint keeping safety in mind. Madhuban Bapudham police station has already been activated. A budget of ₹100 crore has been made for the construction of roads so that there is no problem for the people coming to this area. Parking for 400 vehicles will also be made. Apart from this, food corners will be developed and a separate wedding zone is being created for street food. Auditorium and conference hall will also be constructed there.

A smarter tomorrow

Almost half a dozen schools run by the Municipal Corporation in the city will be made smart schools soon. In all these schools, the details of all the activities related to the studies of the students will be kept through the schooling education app. The login details of the app will be with the concerned school principal. In the app, the data of all the students studying in the school will be fed and complete information about the status of their studies will also be available from the website. The special feature is that when a child's performance falls his information will be there in the app and the details of what steps the teacher has to take for qualitative improvement in that child will also be available.

In the marathon meeting held by Mayor Asha Sharma and Municipal Commissioner Mahendra Singh Tanwar with the principals of these schools in the municipal auditorium, the issue of implementing this app was discussed and it was decided to implement this app for qualitative improvement in education. The municipal administration feels that government

schools should also be smart so that parents admit their children in these schools instead of private ones.

Talking with the principal in the meeting, Asha said that the modern era demands teaching with new technology. Now new education system will be used and smart class will be run in all corporation schools. The teachers working in these schools will be trained with new teaching methods. Computer labs will be made in all schools and children will be taught through lab tabs. It was also said in the meeting that a list of children who have smart phones should be prepared and linked to the school app. Only children from class six to twelve will be linked with this app.

The mayor promised to provide all the facilities so that students passing out from these schools can take the name of Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation high. She said that there is no dearth of talent here, we have to motivate them to achieve their goal. Additional Municipal Commissioner RN Pandey was also present during the meeting.



Faculty of SRM-AP recognised by Stanford University



Dr Imran Pancha from the Department of Biology, SRM university-AP is recognised among the top two per cent scientists/researchers across the world by Stanford University researchers.

Recently, an article has been published in PLOS Biology by Stanford researchers on the highly cited researchers in 22 different fields and their subfields. In the biotechnology field, 1,074 scientists/faculty members were identified and Dr Imran is one amongst them. From India, only 77 scientists/faculty members could achieve this honour.

This is an admirable achievement for a young faculty. Dr P Sathyanarayanan, the President of SRM University-AP honoured Dr Imran for bringing this scientific lau-

rel to the university. Overall, of the top 1,60,000 scientists from different fields of Science & Technology, India hosts 2,313 scientists/faculty members. This list comprises of the prominent and illustrious scientists from India.

Dr Imran's primary research focus is to produce renewable energy from microalgae. His team is trying to develop integrated microalgal biorefinery to produce high-value compounds like phycobiliproteins, carotenoids along with biofuel and bio-fertilisers from microalgae. Apart from this, he is also interested to understand algal-bacterial interaction, particularly isolate and characterise the microalga associated bacteria and finding their role in growth enhancement and inhibition in microalgae.

Juve, Barca, Chelsea, Sevilla advance in CL

They are the first teams to make it out of the group stage, doing so with two games to spare

AFP ■ LONDON

Juventus, Chelsea and Sevilla all claimed last-gasp wins as they qualified for the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday, while Martin Braithwaite grabbed a double in Barcelona's 4-0 victory at Dynamo Kiev as they also secured a place in the knockout rounds.

They are the first teams to make it out of the group stage, doing so with two games to spare, on a night which saw Erling Braut Haaland, Neymar, Cristiano Ronaldo and Bruno Fernandes all get among the goals.

There was no Lionel Messi for Barcelona, with the Argentine rested for the trip to Ukraine, but Ronald Koeman's side got the job done to make it four wins from four in Group G.

All the goals came in the second half, with Sergino Dest opening the scoring before Danish striker Braithwaite added another and then converted a penalty to make it 3-0.

On as a substitute, Antoine Griezmann wrapped up the win on the night young centre-back Oscar Mingueza, Brazilian midfielder Matheus Fernandes and teenage

American winger Konrad de la Fuente were all blooded in the first team.

"We've achieved our objective," said Koeman. "We looked hungry and scored four goals. Important players were able to rest and the youngsters deserved their minutes."

LATE STRIKES

Juventus joined Barcelona in qualifying from Group G but the Italian champions needed a stoppage-time header by substitute Alvaro Morata to beat Ferencvaros 2-1 in Turin and seal their progress.

Albanian international Myrto Uzuni put the Hungarians ahead but Ronaldo drilled in the equaliser before half-time, meaning he has scored in 15 consecutive Champions League seasons.

Chelsea are through from Group E after edging Rennes 2-1 in France, with Olivier Giroud coming off the bench to head in an injury-time winner. Serhou Guirassy had cancelled out Callum Hudson-Odoi's breakaway opener.

Last season's Europa League winners Sevilla will not get to defend their trophy as they advanced to the last 16 of Europe's elite club competition and did so with a 2-1 win over Krasnodar in Russia, in a rare game played before a sizeable crowd.



Sevilla and Chelsea are level on 10 points but Frank Lampard's side go to Spain next week, when the winner will secure top spot.

Manchester United are in pole position in Group H after a first-half Fernandes brace set them on their way to a 4-1 victory over Istanbul Basaksehir that made up for a 2-1 defeat in Turkey last time out.

The opener by Fernandes was a thunderous strike from outside the box, while the second was a tap-in after a horrible error by Mert Gunok in the away goal.

Marcus Rashford added a penalty, but there was a fight-

back from the away side, with Deniz Turuc's free-kick crossing the line before David de Gea could claw it away.

Edin Visca crashed a shot off the bar, but Daniel James made sure of the victory on the counter-attack.

FRIGHTENING RECORD

Solskjaer's side are three points clear of both Paris Saint-Germain and RB Leipzig, after an early Neymar penalty gave the French side a 1-0 win over their German visitors. PSG go to Old Trafford next week.

Borussia Dortmund need just one more point to qualify from Group F following a 3-0 win over Club Brugge as the prolific Haaland netted twice either side of a Jadon Sancho free-kick in Germany.

Haaland has 16 goals for the season, and has now scored 16 Champions League goals in just 12 appearances — Messi had two goals and Ronaldo none after the same number of appearances.

In the group's other game, Lazio beat Zenit Saint-Petersburg 3-1 in Rome, a result which eliminated the Russians. Marco Parolo also netted for Lazio, with Artem Dzyuba scoring for Zenit.

Have great respect for Indian bowlers: Langer

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia coach Justin Langer on Wednesday said he has great respect for the formidable Indian bowling line-up but his team's batsmen have become familiar enough with their tactics they will throw up in the upcoming series.

Langer said the contest would likely be an exciting one thanks to the two teams being evenly-matched.

"Well, we know Jasprit Bumrah, world-class bowler, (Mohammed) Shami, really good opening combination. We have great respect for that and guys have seen a fair bit of them, through the IPL and the last couple of summers," Langer said in a virtual media conference on Wednesday.

"We have played 14 ODIs against India in the last few years and it's seven all," he added.

India are touring Australia with a lethal bowling attack, led by pace-spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, and comprising Mohammed Shami, Navdeep Saini and Shardul Thakur.

The spin department features Yuzvendra Chahal along with Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja.

Langer said the Australians would be ready for the challenge.

"...Our guys have seen a lot



of each other and that's what I love about the contest, you see which teams are growing, which players are growing. We have played a bit against each other now.

"So, we have great respect, great respect for their spinners, great respect for Bumrah, Shami, their other bowlers (Navdeep) Saini.

"Our guys know they are going to be on their toes all the time in all forms of the game against the Indian bowling attack. But they are working hard, they have seen a bit now and they will be ready for it," the 50-year-old asserted.

Langer sidestepped queries on India missing star opener

Rohit Sharma and pacer Ishant Sharma due to injury, saying that it was not his concern.

Rohit and Ishant, who suffered injuries during the IPL, are in danger of missing the Test series.

"It is not our business, we have our own challenges, we will come together for the first time as a group on the morning of the game, so it's up to India who they choose," he said.

"One thing, we have zero control or say in who India picks, they can pick whoever they want, we have our own challenges, so India whoever they put out on the park, we will be ready to take them on," he added.

KL 'would love to keep' in next three WCs

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India's white-ball vice-captain KL Rahul on Wednesday said he would be happy to keep wickets in the next three global ICC events if given an opportunity even though the team management has not yet spoken to him about it.

Rahul has now picked specialist wicketkeepers Rishabh

Pant and Sanju Samson as the No1 glovesman in the limited-overs format. Three ICC events — two back-to-back T20 World Cups followed by the marquee ODI World Cup — are scheduled in the next three years.

The 28-year-old's keeping does provide the team the option of having an extra batsman or bowler.

"It helps the team com-

ination a little more and it's something I would love to do...If the opportunity presents itself and I can keep in three World Cups, I would love to do it for my country," Rahul said ahead of the limited-overs series against Australia starting November 27.

Has the team management spoken to him about keeping in ICC events?



"Nothing has been told to me and we are not thinking that far as a team. Obviously World Cups are important and that is a long-term vision for every team and country," he said.

"I think for me, we are just taking one game at a time. So if I put up consistent performances with bat and gloves, it gives us an option of playing an extra bowler or an extra batter," said the stylish Karnataka batsman.

In the ODIs, Rahul has been batting at No 5 and has opened in the T20 Internationals, and he admitted that his position in the line-up will depend on formats.

"What the team wants from me and what combination sits better," said Rahul.

"Obviously, the last ODI series (against New Zealand) that we played, I batted at No 5, it's a role that I have enjoyed and (I am) happy to play whatever role the team gives me."

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's keeping was in a different league and the way he guided spinners

went a long way in India's white-ball success.

Would he be able to chide a Kuldeep Yadav or Yuzvendra Chahal like Dhoni could, if he takes upon a similar role?

"Look obviously, nobody can fill MS Dhoni's place. He has shown us the way and how wicketkeeper-batman role is performed."

"With Kuldeep, Yuzi (Yuzvendra Chahal) and Jaddu (Jadeja), we have a decent friendship and obviously I will go and give them a feedback as to what is a better length if they are doing something wrong and anybody in wicketkeeper's role will have that responsibility," he said.

Rahul loved the role of an ODI keeper against New Zealand and hopes to continue with the good work.

"I did one series in New Zealand and quite enjoyed it and hopefully I can be better at reading the game and give bowlers and captains some good feedback for the bowlers and the captain."

'There is no room for abuse, only banter'

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia's head coach Justin Langer on Wednesday asserted that there would be no room for abuse when his team takes on India in an upcoming series but he expects plenty of banter between the two evenly-matched sides.

Langer, who had a reputation of being an aggressive player himself, said that in the last couple of years, the Aussies have had lots of conversations about behaviours both on and off the field.

Australia have copped quite a bit of criticism for its players' win-at-all-cost mindset in the

past which even led to a thorough examination of the side's attitude and ethics.

"People say you get nervous coming to Australia, I'm not sure it's about the chatter. It's because they're coming up against very, very great players," Langer said in an online media interaction on Wednesday.

"If you're facing Warne (Shane Warne), Glenn McGrath or bowling against Steve Waugh, Adam Gilchrist or Ricky Ponting I think that makes you more nervous than a few words that might be spoken," he recalled.

"...Anyone who has watched the last couple of years we talk about our behaviours on and off

the field and we talked about there's no room for abuse. There's plenty of room for banter and having that competitive instinct."

Langer said that given the great cricketers, who will be playing the series, the competitive energy would be intense enough on its own.

"The captain Tim Paine has a great sense of humour, we love what VK (Virat Kohli) was doing, there's a great sense of theatre to it. At the end of the day, I can promise you the pressure on the cricket field has nothing to do with the words spoken, it's the person you're up against."

I am blessed with certain skills and power-hitting is not one of them: Rahul

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The tag of being a power-hitter is quite sought after in international cricket but India's K L Rahul has no qualms admitting that he does not fit the bill and neither does he crave for it. Known for his classical batting, Rahul said that even if he has to score at a high strike-rate of 160 to 170, he can do it minus the blitzkrieg.

"I wouldn't call my batting power-hitting, that's something I honestly feel like I have not been able to do or not what I am blessed with," Rahul said on the eve of the first ODI on Friday. "I am blessed with certain skills and I try and play the role I feel the team requires me to play at that particular moment. If that means scoring runs at 160-170 strike rate, I try to do that to the best of my ability and if it's the other way around, I will try to do that," he added. He hasn't played 50-over cricket regularly for India since for the past one year and is

happy that he is in a situation where he has been in good form as far as white-ball cricket is concerned. "...I have never got a long run like this. So yeah, it feels good that I am contributing to team's win and playing my role pretty well. Happy that I can put up consistent performances."

Please take notice that I Sarabji Kaur w/o Surjit Singh have lost of Original sale deed dated 13.07.1982 bearing waska No. 6090 in favour of S. Hardeep Singh S/o S. Sant Singh in respect of the measuring 45 Gaj, Composed in the khasra No. 961, 963 Situated in 'Parbat Nagar, Ludhiana. DDR dated 24.11.2020 was lodged with Sanj Kender PSC Division No.6, Ludhiana. LR No. 874102020. Smt. Gurpreet Kaur w/o Amrinder Singh is availing a loan facility from IDFC First Bank Ltd. against this property. If anyone has any objection please contact Mr. Himanshu Jindal Advocate M : 8968105533 within 15 days of the publication of this notice otherwise no claim shall be entertained.

DM ORDER

The UCO Bank, Branch New Anaj Mandi, Ambala City through its Authorized Officer has to take Physical Possession of Residential/Commercial/Industrial/Machinery of M/s Hari Ram & Co. Prop Mohinder Kumar At: Shop No. 4-5, Arya Market, Laxmi Gate, Cloth Market, Dev Samaj Road, Ambala City and Mr. Ram Lal S/o Ram Asara Mal R/o 2270/2, New No. 2796/A, Hari Palace Road, Ambala City of their mortgage property of House No. 2270/2796-A, Hari Palace Road, Ambala City in the name of Sh. Ram Lal S/o Sh. Ram Asara Mal. Tehsildar, Ambala is hereby deputed as Duty Magistrate for the said action and is directed that before taking this action, a notice of 15 days in two newspapers be got published, otherwise legal action, as per law, will be taken. A copy of the said News Papers should be submitted in this office within two days. Expenses will be borne by the Bank Authorities. If any stay order from any competent Court of Law is produced, action be taken accordingly by the Chief Manager of the Bank. Endst. No. 2105-07/Peshi Dated 15.09.2020. District Magistrate, Ambala

DM ORDER

The UCO Bank, Branch Ambala City through its Authorized Officer has to take Physical Possession of Residential/Commercial/Industrial/Machinery of Mrs. Ritu Bajaj W/o Sh. Davinder Bajaj and Mr. Davinder Bajaj both R/o H. No. 1808/4080, B/3, Kazimohalla, Ambala City of their mortgage property Equitable mortgage of residential House No. 1808/4080, B-3, Abadi Mohalla Kattarwara, Ambala City measuring 50 Sq. Yards vide sale deed No.8602 dated 13.02.2014 in the name of Smt. Ritu Bajaj W/o Sh. Davinder Bajaj. Tehsildar, Ambala is hereby deputed as Duty Magistrate for the said action and is directed that before taking this action, a notice of 15 days in two newspapers be got published, otherwise legal action, as per law, will be taken. A copy of the said News Papers should be submitted in this office within two days. Expenses will be borne by the Bank Authorities. If any stay order from any competent Court of Law is produced, action be taken accordingly by the Chief Manager of the Bank. Endst. No. 2098-01/Peshi Dated 15.09.2020. District Magistrate, Ambala

Punjab & Haryana High Court Advocates Co-Operative House Building (1st) Society Ltd., Sector 49-A, Chandigarh.

It is notified to the General Public that Sh. Mukesh Gupta S/o Sh. Man Singh Gupta R/o House No. 110, Sector 3, Part 2, Rewari, Haryana-123401 has entered into an agreement for purchase of leasehold flat no. 159 (Third Floor), Category-A, in Punjab & Haryana High Court Advocates Co-Operative House Building (1st) Society Ltd., Sector 49-A, Chandigarh (presently owned by Sh. Rakesh Kumar Saini S/o Sh. Bant Singh Saini R/o Flat No. 159 Third Floor, Advocate's Society, Sector 49-A, Chandigarh. Now he has applied for issuance of NOC for Sale & execution of Transfer of Lease Rights (Sale Deed) in his favour. In case anybody has any objection in respect of issue of NOC/Permission for Sale & execution of Transfer of Lease Rights (Sale Deed) he/she may submit the objections, if any in writing within 30 days of publication before the undersigned along with documentary evidence. President

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD, CHANDIGARH. Ph: 0172-4601827

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT, Chandigarh Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 1735 of HIG (L) Category in Sector 43-B, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of (i) Smt. Sangeeta Dhir W/o Late Sh. Manav Dhir S/o Late Sh. Manav Dhir S/o Late Sh. Sanju Dhir from the name of allottee/transferee Sh. Ankur Sekhri S/o Sh. Shiv Sekhri through his General Power Attorney Holder Sh. Piyush Malhotra S/o Sh. Manohar Lal Malhotra. It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that the Dwelling Unit No. 1735 of HIG (L) Category in Sector 43-B, Chandigarh stands in the name of allottee/transferee Sh. Ankur Sekhri S/o Sh. Shiv Sekhri. Now Sh. Ankur Sekhri S/o Sh. Shiv Sekhri through his General Power Attorney Holder Sh. Piyush Malhotra S/o Sh. Manohar Lal Malhotra has sold the above said dwelling unit to (i) Smt. Sangeeta Dhir W/o Late Sh. Sanju Dhir and (ii) Sh. Manav Dhir S/o Late Sh. Sanju Dhir vide Sale Deed Executed and registered in office of Sub Registrar Chandigarh on 13-11-2020. (i) Smt. Sangeeta Dhir W/o Late Sh. Sanju Dhir and (ii) Sh. Manav Dhir S/o Late Sh. Sanju Dhir have requested this office for transfer the above said dwelling unit in their name on the basis on sale deed. If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s). Secretary, Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh

State Bank of India THE BANKER TO EVERY INDIAN

Azad Market Branch, MEHAM Distt. ROHTAK

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) Under SARFAESI Act, 2002 Read with Security Interest (Rule-8(i))

Whereas the undersigned action under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with 2(rule 3) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002, issued demand notice u/s 13(2) in the following account/borrower/Guarantor on the dates mentioned here under below calling upon the Borrower/ Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the respective demand notice within 60 days of the date of the notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the respective Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred in him under section 13(4) of the said Ordinance read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, Azad Market Branch, MEHAM Distt. ROHTAK (State Bank of India now merged in State Bank of India) for the amount mentioned herein below besides interest and other charges/expenses against this each account.

The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act. In respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor & Loan A/c No.	Description of the immovable mortgage / Name of Property Owner	Date of demand notice	Amount as per demand notice	Date of possession notice
1.	M/s. Shiv Traders,	Equitable mortgage of commercial cum residential Property MC No. 1753 (Old No. 1044) Measuring 48 Sq. Yds. Situated at Ward No. 6, Near Rajiv Chowk, Thana Road, Meham within MC. Limit, Meham, Distt. ROHTAK in the Name of Sh. Bhupender Singh S/o Sh. Dhanraj, Vide Sale Deed No. 4214, Book No. 1, Volume No. 6, Page 56, dt. 14-03-2014 registered in the office of Joint Sub Registrar Meham and bounded as under: - East: - Property of Mitra master, West: - Shop Sh. Rakesh, North: - Property of Somnath, South: - City Thana Road,	08-04-2020	Rs. 17,44,833/- as on 25-03-2020	20-11-2020

this is without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank. (Authorized Officer) Date: - 25/11/2020

REGD. OFFICE: "RADHIKA", 2ND FLOOR, LAW GARDEN ROAD, NAVRANGPURA, AHMEDABAD-380009. BRANCH OFFICE: :3800-9, FIRST FLOOR, SECTOR -7, ABOVE CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, BEHIND GALAXY MALL, AMBALA CITY.

POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS, THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER OF HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED UNDER THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (54 OF 2002) AND IN EXERCISE OF POWERS CONFERRED UNDER SECTION 13(12) READ WITH RULES 3 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ISSUED DEMAND NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/S AS DETAILED HEREUNDER, CALLING UPON THE RESPECTIVE BORROWERS TO REPAY THE AMOUNT MENTIONED IN THE SAID NOTICE WITH ALL COSTS, CHARGES AND EXPENSES TILL ACTUAL DATE OF PAYMENT WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF THE SAID NOTICE. THE SAID BORROWER/S CO-BORROWERS HAVING FAILED TO REPAY THE AMOUNT, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO BORROWER/S-COBORROWERS AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL THAT THE UNDERSIGNED IN EXERCISE OF POWERS CONFERRED ON IT UNDER SECTION 13(4) OF THE SAID ACT RW RULE 8 OF THE SAID RULES HAS TAKEN SYMBOLIC POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREUNDER ON THE DATE MENTIONED ALONGWITH, THE BORROWERS IN PARTICULAR AND PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HEREBY CAUTIONED NOT TO DEAL WITH THE PROPERTY AND ANY DEALINGS WITH THE PROPERTY WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE CHARGE OF HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED FOR THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED HEREIN WITH FUTURE INTEREST, COSTS AND CHARGES FROM THE RESPECTIVE DATE. DETAILS OF BORROWER/ CO-BORROWERS/GUARANTORS, LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER, LOAN AMOUNT, DETAILS OF SECURITY, DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE, CLAIMED AMOUNT, DATE OF POSSESSION ARE GIVEN HEREIN BELOW

1) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER/CO-BORROWER/GUARANTOR; 2) LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER; 3) LOAN AMOUNT; 4) DETAILS OF SECURITIES; 5) DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE; 6) CLAIMED AMOUNT IN Rupees; 7) DATE OF POSSESSION

1) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER/CO-BORROWER/GUARANTOR: Prem Pal, Raj Kumar, Chran Dass, Bakar Singh, Angoori Devi & Sunita S, All at H.No 3025 Ward No 20, Krishna Nagar, Garmi Modal, Loan Kurukshetra 136118, 2) LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER: 672502; 3) LOAN AMOUNT: Rs.5041707 (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Forty One Thousand Seven Hundred Seven Only); 4) DETAILS OF SECURITY: All the Piece and Parcel of Property House No 3025, Ward No 20, Krishna Nagar Garmi, Modal Town Kurukshetra - 136118, As per the Document House Measuring 510 Sq Yrd. Ie. 17 Marla Composed In Rect No 34, Khasra No 10/2 MIM, Situated At Vaka Rakha Darran Kalan, Modal Town Amin Road ward No 8, Thanesar, Kurukshetra Property Name of Angoori Devi W/o Chran Dass Vide Sale Deed No 1595 Dated 02.5.2006 and vide Mutation No 13897. Property bounded as: East: Road; West: Plot No 51; North: Road; South: Plot No 41. 5) DEMAND NOTICE DATE: 17.08.2020; 6) AMOUNT CLAIMED: Rs. 8872938/- (Rupees Eight Eight Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred And Thirty Eight Only) as of 14.08.2020 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc; 7) DATE OF POSSESSION : 24.11.2020.

THE BORROWERS' ATTENTION IS INVITED TO PROVISIONS OF SUB-SECTION (8) OF SECTION 13 OF THE ACT, IN RESPECT OF TIME AVAILABLE TO REDEM THE SECURED ASSET.

FOR ANY QUERY PLEASE CONTACT MR.ASHISH MEHTA, PHONE: 9729438899 AND MR. VIKAS ANAND (911010384) (AUTHORISED OFFICER)

WEAR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, WATCH YOUR DISTANCE

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD, CHANDIGARH. Ph: 0172-4601826



PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Transfer/Mutation of Allotment/ Registration of D.U. No. 1477-1 of Category LIG in Sector 29-B, Chandigarh in the name(s) of Sh. Birdevinder Singh S/o Late Sh. Harbans Singh from the name of Sh. Harbans Singh S/o Sh. Labh Singh allottee/transferee on the basis of Registered WILL.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that 1. Sh. Birdevinder Singh S/o Late. Sh. Harbans Singh has applied after the death of its allottee/transferee Sh. Harbans Singh S/o Sh. Labh Singh to the Chandigarh Housing Board for transfer the Dwelling Unit No. 1477-1 of Category LIG in Sector 29-B, Chandigarh in his name. Sh. Harbans Singh S/o Sh. Labh Singh was expired on 02-06-2015 at Chandigarh and left behind a WILL which was registered with Sub-Registrar, Chandigarh on 09-03-2012 in his favour. He has further stated that the WILL of deceased allottee/transferee is the last WILL executed by him which has neither superseded nor cancelled till the death of the deceased.

If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the registration and allotment of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

Secretary, Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh WEAR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, WATCH YOUR DISTANCE

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD, CHANDIGARH. Ph: 0172-4601826



PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Mutation/Transfer of Ownership in respect of D.U. No. 105-B, Second Floor of Category-II in Sector 51-A, Chandigarh, in the name of Sh. Rohit Kumar S/o Late. Sh. Shish Pal Singh from the name of allottee/transferee Sh. Shish Pal Singh S/o Sh. Nabh Singh on the basis of Registered WILL.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that the property known as Dwelling Unit No. 105-B, Second Floor of Category-II in Sector 51-A, Chandigarh, stands in the name of Sh. Balish Chander S/o Sh. Ram Chand. It has been reported by Sh. Rohit Kumar S/o Late. Sh. Shish Pal Singh who has approached the Chandigarh Housing Board for transfer of the dwelling unit as mentioned above in his name that Sh. Shish Pal Singh S/o Sh. Nabh Singh expired on 02-06-2019 at Indus International Hospital Derabassi and had left behind a Registered WILL dated 26-06-2018 which was registered at Chandigarh in his favour and the same is the last WILL of the deceased made by him/her in full sense which has neither superseded nor cancelled till the death of the deceased. If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the registration and allotment of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimants.

Secretary, Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh WEAR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, WATCH YOUR DISTANCE