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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Clash of civilisations does exist in France

Unlike our ancestors who were habituated to conflict, the contemporary world abhors strife. At different levels — locally, nationally and internationally — concerned citizens and Governments have established institutions and formulated laws to minimise, if not prevent, disagreements from degenerating into destruction and bloodshed. It is not for nothing that after the bitter experiences of two world wars in the previous century, mankind is more comfortable with cold wars rather than actual physical strife. And when warfare does indeed happen — as it does frequently in different parts of the globe — the endeavour is to ensure that they stay localised.

In the past 25 years, thanks to the work of a Harvard professor Samuel Huntington, the term "clash of civilisations" has entered the global lexicon. Although the idea was rubbished by the dominant cosmopolitan community that saw the future in globalisation and the blurring of national and other identities and the slow emergence of a global citizenry, the dread of primordial loyalties resurfacing is all too real. Nationalism, once the favourite point of reference for nearly a hundred years since the mid-19th century, has now become an object of dread for those who see it interfering with the aspirations of global capitalism. Along with it has occurred a revitalisation of religious identities — perhaps inevitable in a rapidly changing world on the lookout for certitudes and moral guidance — which, in turn, has become the basis for both conflict and enlarged identities.

To invoke larger global trends in the context of some stray killings and acts of terror in France may well be regarded as over-stretching an argument. In many ways that is so because the issue — already overwhelmed by the renewed lockdown in Europe over the never-ending Covid-19 pandemic — may well disappear in a few weeks or months. Yet, there is a nagging fear that the tensions generated in its wake may well spiral out of control.

The recent French experience necessitates a reconsideration. If France is so insistent on the primacy of its own values within its own national borders, it should ideally have little time for the EU's ingrained policy of assessing the world through its own prism... If France believes that Turkey and the rest of the Muslim world should refrain from charging it with Islamophobia, it should distance itself from the EU pipe dream of recasting the world in its own image. There is a clash of civilisations. The point is to contain it to acceptable bounds

a non-believer. For that purported "insult", a believer took the law into his own hands and decapitated the schoolteacher. By the laws of France, the teaching methods of the schoolteacher did not violate the laws of the country, but the act of revenge by the self-anointed warrior of Islam undoubtedly did. Moreover, since the killing was exemplary and aimed at warning others — just as the murder of Charlie Hebdo staff a few years ago was — to desist from offending Islam, it became necessary for President Macron of France to intervene and tell the world in categorical terms what they may not have known.

First, Macron emphasised that offending someone else's beliefs is not construed as an offence in France and that it was upheld by the traditions of the country dating back to the revolution of 1789. Secondly, by implication, Macron reminded everyone that Islamic laws — used by the killer as a sanction for the horrible murder — do not apply to France.

The fallout of the murder and the strong stand taken by Macron are well known and doesn't merit repetition. One point, however, is significant.

The most important of this is the notion of national sovereignty. At one time, the right of each nation to conduct its own affairs was deemed inviolable — and this was the basis of the anti-imperialist movements. However, in recent times, the lines have become blurred. From China and the United States to the European Union (of which France is an integral part), there is emerging a desire for universal values. A parallel movement is that of radical Islamism which has its eye on a global Caliphate. The recent French experience necessitates a reconsideration. If France is so insistent on the primacy of its own values within its own national borders, it should ideally have little time for the EU's ingrained policy of assessing the world through its own prism. Even within Europe where many member-states have domestic laws against variants of hate speech, there is no consensus over the right to offend the sacred. If France believes that Turkey and the rest of the Muslim world should refrain from charging it with Islamophobia, it should distance itself from the EU pipe dream of recasting the world in its own image.

There is a clash of civilisations. The point is to contain it to acceptable bounds.

Politics on Pulwama exposed, says Modi

Pak admission shames conspiracy theorists: PM

PTI ■ KEVADIYA (GUJARAT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the truth of last year's Pulwama terror attack, in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed, has been accepted in Pakistan Parliament.

His statement comes two days after Pakistan's Science and Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry admitted his country's role in the Pulwama attack during a debate in their National Assembly.

Modi also said that when the entire nation was mourning the brave soldiers' death in Pulwama attack, some people indulged in "dirty politics" for their political gains.

Without mentioning China, the PM said that Indian soldiers are giving a befitting reply to those eyeing to grab the country's land.

He was speaking at Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district after paying tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity on his 145th birth anniversary.

"The country cannot forget the unwarranted statements

made after the Pulwama attack. Dirty politics laced with selfishness and arrogance was at its peak when the country was suffering from immense pain," Modi said.

"But the real face of such people has been exposed after the truth was accepted in the Parliament of our neighbouring country," he said in his address on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

During a debate in Pakistan's National Assembly on Thursday, Chaudhry had said, "Humne Hindustan ko ghus ke maara (We hit India in their home). Our success in Pulwama, is a success of this nation under the leadership of Imran Khan. You and we are all part of that success."

The PM said he remained silent despite all the "accusations and filthy words" used against him after the Pulwama terror attack.

"Politics done after Pulwama attack shows that people can cross any limit for their political gains. I want to urge such political parties not to indulge in this kind of politics as it affects the morale of our security forces," the Prime

Minister said.

"For your political gains, you should not play into the hands of anti-national forces, knowingly or unknowingly," he added.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary, at the Statue of Unity, in Kevadiya on Saturday

Tharoor dismisses BJP's demand for Cong apology

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stinging attack on the Opposition over questions posed to the Government after the Pulwama terror attack in February last year, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor dismissed BJP demand for an apology from his party.

Tharoor said he was "still trying to figure out what the Congress is supposed to apologise for..."

"I am still trying to figure out what the Congress is supposed to apologise for. For expecting the Government to keep our soldiers safe? For rallying around the flag rather

than politicising a national tragedy? For expressing condolences to the families of our martyrs?" he said.

Congress national spokesperson Pawan Khera, meanwhile, denied that his party ever questioned the Modi Government on Pulwama attack, but he too raised the issue of safety of the jawans.

"No such questions were raised against the Government," he said, adding, "How were 40 soldiers were martyred, this raises the question on their safety. Such a query becomes the right of every Indian." The terror attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama on February 14, 2019, had claimed the lives of 40.

BJP's free vaccine promise no violation of model code: EC

Says inclusion of welfare measures in manifestoes doesn't constitute violation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has said that the free Covid-19 vaccine promise made by the BJP in the run-up to the Bihar election is not a violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). Responding to a complaint by RTI activist on October 28, the EC said it has found no violation of the provisions of the model code in the issue. "...no violation of any of the provisions of Model Code of Conduct has been observed..." the EC said.

The EC has cited three provisions from the MCC which include that the "State election manifestos should not contain anything repugnant to the Constitution; should avoid making promises that vitiate the purity of the electoral process or exert undue influence on the voter and trust of the voters should be sought only on promises that can be fulfilled."

The EC's clean chit came in



response to a representation by RTI activist Saket Gokhale, alleging that the announcement was a gross violation of the Union Government's powers, and an attempt to mislead voters, given that the vaccine policy is not decided yet. The EC had taken the same stand on a complaint received during the Lok Sabha elections last year against the Congress's NYAY scheme that guaranteed a minimum income of ₹6,000 per month, or ₹72,000 a year, for 25 crore people.

The EC's letter adds that manifestos are always issued by particular parties for a particular election. The EC cited certain guidelines for election manifestos contained in Part VIII of the Model Code of Conduct to conclude that the free vaccine promise was not violative of it.

Nath moves SC to regain 'star'

Claims EC order to remove his star campaigner status illegal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has moved the Supreme Court challenging an order of the Election Commission revoking his star campaigner status over

multiple violations of Model Code of Conduct.

Senior lawyer and Congress Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha said the former Chief Minister has challenged the EC's decision on various grounds and an urgent hearing on his plea would be sought. The plea has been filed through advocate-on-record Varun Chopra and the defects pointed out in it by the apex court registry have been cured, said Tankha.

Nath in his plea states that



EC had already passed an order on October 26 on the same complaint by BJP and had advised the Congress leader to not use such words. However,

"punishing him again" by an October 30 order is "completely in teeth of principles of fair play and res judicata."

However, Nath has claimed in his plea that such an order is "illegal" and in "violation of his and the Congress' constitutional and statutory rights."

The petitioner has claimed that Election Commission of India did not issue any notice to Nath before passing the order to take away his star campaigner status.

Early winter in Delhi! Capital sees coldest Oct in 58 years

New Delhi: The month of October was the coldest in 58 years in the national Capital, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data.

The mean minimum temperature in October this year was 17.2 degrees Celsius, the lowest since 1962, when it was 16.9 degrees Celsius, the IMD said. Normally, Delhi records a mean minimum temperature of 19.1 degrees Celsius in October.

On Thursday, Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 12.5 degrees Celsius — the lowest in the month of October in 26 years. The last time Delhi recorded such a low



temperature was in 1994. The national Capital had recorded a low of 12.3 degrees Celsius on October 31, 1994, according to the IMD data. The normal minimum

temperature for this time of the year is 15-16 degrees Celsius, the IMD said.

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting center, said the absence of cloud cover is a major reason for such low minimum temperatures this time.

Clouds trap some of the outgoing infrared radiation and radiate it back downward, warming the ground. Another reason is calm winds, which allow formation of mist and fog, Srivastava said.

Delhi had recorded its all-time low temperature of 9.4 degrees Celsius on October 31, 1937, he said. PTI

CAPSULE

DELHI AIR 'VERY POOR', TO IMPROVE IN 2 DAYS

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality recorded a marginal improvement but remained in the "very poor" category on Saturday morning, while a Government forecasting agency said it is likely to get better due to a favourable wind speed.

TRIBUTES TO INDIRA ON DEATH ANNIVERSARY

New Delhi: The nation on Saturday paid homage to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 36th death anniversary, recalling her contribution. Taking to Twitter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Tributes to our former PM Smt Indira Gandhi Ji on her death anniversary."

JUMBO ELECTROCUTED TO DEATH IN BENGAL

Kolkata/Jalpaiguri: An elephant was electrocuted to death after coming in contact with an electric fence in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district on Saturday, forest officials said. One person was arrested by the police for erecting the electric fence, Chief Wildlife Warden VK Yadav told reporters.

TRIPURA: 90-YEAR-OLD WOMAN GANGRAPED

Agartala: A 90-year-old woman has been allegedly gangraped by two men in her house in Tripura, police said on Saturday.

CPM, CONGRESS JOIN HANDS FOR WB POLLS

New Delhi: The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has approved a tie up with the Congress for the upcoming Assembly election in West Bengal. CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said on Saturday.

Sean Connery, 'original' Bond, no more

AP ■ LONDON

Sean Connery, the charismatic Scottish actor who rose to international superstardom as the suave secret agent James Bond and then abandoned the role to carve out an Oscar-winning career in other rugged roles, has died. He was 90.

Connery's wife and two sons said he "died peacefully in his sleep surrounded by family" in the Bahamas, where he lived. Son Jason Connery said his father had been "unwell for some time."

Bond producers Michael G Wilson and Barbara Broccoli said they were "devastated" by the news. They said Connery's "gritty and witty portrayal of

the sexy and charismatic secret agent" was largely responsible for the success of the film series.

"He was and shall always be remembered as the original James Bond whose indelible entrance into cinema history began when he announced those unforgettable words — "The name's Bond... James Bond," they said in a statement.

Daniel Craig, the current Bond, said Connery "defined an era and a style" and that the "wit and charm he portrayed on screen could be measured in mega watts."

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the country was mourning "one of her best loved sons."

Connery, was a com-



SEAN CONNERY
AUGUST 25, 1930 — OCTOBER 31, 2020

manding screen presence for some 40 years. He was in his early 30s — and little known — when he starred in the first Bond thriller, 1962's "Dr. No," based on the Ian Fleming novel.

Condemned as immoral by the Vatican and the Kremlin, but screened at the White House for Bond fan John F. Kennedy, "Dr No" was a box office hit and launched a franchise that long outlasted its Cold War origins.

United Artists couldn't wait to make more films about the British secret agent, with ever more elaborate stunts and gadgets, along with more exotic locales and more prominent co-stars, among them Lotte Lenya and Jill St. John.

HOME THEATRE

Shabana Azmi's talent is wasted here



KAALI KHUHI
Netflix
*ing: Shabana Azmi, Sanjeeda Sheikh, Riva Arora, Satyadeep Misra, Leela Samson, Hetvi Bhanushali
Rated: 5/10

Just because there is a ghost in the movie, it doesn't make it scary. Sadly, most horror films are based on two premises — either the things that go bump in the night are flesh eating ugly as sin, (remember Ramsay Brothers ghosts?), blood dripping creatures or the ghost is just out for revenge. In *Kaali Khuhi*, it is the latter. This means that there are bodies that are falling left, right and centre and nothing else much.

It is another matter that Terrie Samundra, who has written and directed this one, has added a rather sad and horrible reason for this ghost to take revenge — female foeticide. The positives here are the subject of the film, which is

hard-hitting and the atmosphere that Samundra has managed to create — a non-descript village in Punjab, the sprawling fields, the early morning mist, the heavy rains and a well that has non-existent water. All this adds to the creepiness. Beyond this, there is nothing much here that will hold one's interest as the first half will leave one wondering what is happening. It is only after 45 minutes into the film that one will get some clarity which makes one wonder why such a long build up?

Even Shabana Azmi's talents are wasted here. There is nothing much for her to do here but appear to be part scared about what is coming and part trying to appear that all is well in a village that has a horrible practice of throwing newborn girl child into a well. Hence the title *Kaali Khuhi*. Despite this, she is the one who holds the film together.

Overall, a watchable movie.

— Shalini Saksena

Cute, sweet and fun

HOLIDATE
Netflix
*ing: Emma Roberts, Luke Bracey, Manish Dayal, Frances Fisher
Rated: 6/10

Are you the kind of person who loves to watch rom-coms with happily-ever after? If the answer is a resounding yes, then *Holidate* is a movie that is right up your alley even though we know how it is going to end. While there is nothing new that the movie has to offer — a single girl who is heart-broken and the family pushing her to date and parades a slew of eligible men — yet the way the movie progresses, it is sweet, cut and fun to watch even though we as Indians may not subscribe to the concept. Our mothers one the other hand, may have a totally different take on this.

Nothing gets you going like watching a romance film with clear undertones of comic timing even if there are a couple of moments that

will make one cringe or blush given whether one is a prude or is open-minded.

Believe it or not, a romantic movie is definitely what we need in these testing times. *Holidate* will leave the viewer feeling warm and fuzzy however cliched the story may be.

Emma Roberts as Sloane is cute and shines here. However, one didn't have to show the other women around her to be weird or strange. Take an example: Her aunt, a cougar, who will go after any man even the man Sloane's mother has chosen has her intended. But however weird or strange these other women may be, they are fun to watch as they meander through the film. They add the fun element to the movie.

Luke Bracey, Jackson, plays the Hemsworthy charm with aplomb to Roberts' aversion to crowds and dressing up. Together they look cute making this film watchable.

— Shalini Saksena



The horror is in your head



HIS HOUSE
Netflix
*ing: Wunmi Mosaku, Sope Dirisu, Matt Smith
Rated: 5.5/10

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you committed a crime and the evil followed you home and made a home for itself in your head? The result would be devastating and the guilt would eventually eat one alive and kill in the end. *His House* is not your typical horror movie where the ghost goes bump in the night to scare you away. This ghost has an agenda — an eye for an eye — death for death. And it all begins with the couple fleeing from war-torn Sudan and seeking asylum in Britain.

How does one win against the ghost that is in one's head? How does one move forward and live with what one did just so that he and his wife could flee and survive while many

from his village died? These are some of the questions that haunt the house where this couple lives. In that sense is it really the house that is haunted? Is the couple really the 'good people' like the husband keeps repeating so that they can stay in Britain and not be sent back?

His House explores all these questions with the haunting and horror explodes around the husband. He does his best to blend in — wears grays, eats with fork and knife instead of hands and insists he is home here in Britain. All the while, the wife wants to go back to Sudan even at the cost of letting the ghost take her husband in exchange for the little girl she lost.

Do the couple manage to overcome their differences? Are they finally at peace with themselves? Has ghost been vanquished? Watch this one.

— Shalini Saksena

TELLY TALE

MANISH KHANNA GOES BALD

Zee TV has presented several successful shows over the past 27 years and won its audience over with out-of-the-box and extraordinary content. Now, yet another compelling narrative is set to take the channel's audience on a trip full of fantasy with the second season of its immensely successful and intriguing show *Brahmarakshas*. Produced by Balaji Telefilms, the show will feature popular television actress Nikki Sharma alongside Pearl V. Puri essaying the lead characters of the show. Featuring alongside them will be the popular TV actor Manish Khanna, who is yet again all set to stun viewers with his impressive dedication towards his work and performance in a new role.

Essaying the character of a *tantric*, Manish is a notable name in the television industry and is known for playing varied positive as well as negative characters across a span of shows. Last seen essaying the negative character of Dushyant in *Kumkum Bhagya*, the actor has once again bagged another grey role, the preparations for which seem to be quite high and intense. Bowing to the needs and demands of his character, Manish decided to spot a clean bald look in order to bring out the best of his role.



Talking about the preparations that went in, the actor said: "My character has an evil shade to it which we felt was very necessary to depict in my appearance. From beards to moustaches to different wigs, we must have tried something like 15-20 looks before I finally decided to just drop the whole extra effort and go completely bald. And that worked very well! In fact, the appearance was much scarier than we imagined, and it perfectly reflects the character. I am quite content with this decision because I believe that adding fake touches to one's look doesn't showcase authenticity. Moreover, I feel they cause a hindrance to my performance as well and currently I am extremely comfortable shooting with this look."

While Manish is all set to once again channel the evilness within him for his new role, *Brahmarakshas 2* will depict the journey of an ordinary young girl — Kalindi, whose destiny gets entwined with an evil force and a drastic twist of fate has her drawing all her inner strength to combat the

wicked *Brahmarakshas*. Set against the backdrop of Songadh, while the latter garners its strength from kidnapping brides on the day of their wedding and casting a dark spell over the town, Kalindi's only source of strength is her love for her partner, Angad (played by Pearl V. Puri). As she navigates and manoeuvres her way through the world of evil and her own ordinary life, Kalindi finds herself fighting a tough battle to protect the people she truly cares for!

DAYA BEN ON INDIA'S BEST DANCER

Sony Entertainment Television's dance reality show has raised the dance competition quotient high with exceptional dance performances, especially with the finale getting closer. This weekend will be



super fun with Tarak Mehta special episode where the whole cast of *Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashma* will be seen enjoying the performances as well as celebrating 3000 episodes of the show. While Daya Ben was definitely missed, after looking at the performance of Rutuja Junnarkar and choreographer Ashish Patil on the song *Baby Doll*, everyone was surprised with Rutuja's next to real portrayal of Daya Ben!

Rutuja Junnarkar who hails from Pune stunned everyone when she performed her act as Daya Ben. Jethalal aka Dilip Joshi was left speechless, he said: "For a second I thought that Disha ji (Daya Ben) was dancing here. The way she entered the stage and danced, it was exactly how Disha Vakhani enacts. From the outfit and small nuances that they kept in mind during their performance, I really believed that Disha ji is performing here!"

Asit Kumarr Modi who was so impressed with the performance, said: "Kya expression hai! Jab expression ke saath dance hota hai to bohot mazza aata hai. Jo garba ke saath saath aapne beech main alag alag steps kiye hain, jo aksar humari daya Bhabhi karti hain... kuch karte karte alag jagah par beh jaati hain. Main aaj is manch se ek cheez leke jaana chahta hu — aap ye Daya Bhabhi (Rutuja) ko humare show main de dijiye!" Amidst huge fanfare and applause, Asit Modi continued: "Humare Disha Vakani ne jo mehnat ki thi ye kirdaar ke liye, aur aaj bhi hum sab mehsos kar rahe hain, unki kami humare show main, toh agar kabhi bhi aisa laga, to main aap se (Rutuja) gujarish karunga... kya laga

hai jetha bhai?" To which Dilip Joshi was quick to respond: "Full marks! *Chalo ek chota audition le hi lo... mauka bhi hai aur dastoor bhi!*"

Geeta Kapur said: "I was about to ask Ashish after the act why did he not bring Rutuja on the stage as I only saw Daya Bhabhi dancing. Daya's character is very important and strongly played by Disha Vakhani, her body language, the way she brought out her jaw to get into the character, she is not like that but she literally put life into that character. I still love the fact that she has gone to her *maayke* and has not yet come back and till date *aapne unki jagah kisi ko nahi di. Aur agar aap ye offer kar rahe hai Rutuja ko, then I am very grateful. Rutuja, aapki mehnat zaroor rang layegi. Yeh mehnat na, has to pay off some day.*"

On Asit Kumarr Modi's request, since the entire team has been waiting for an opportunity to see *garba* played by Jethalal and Daya Ben, Rutuja and Dilip Joshi obliged and set the stage on fire with their *garba* performance on *Chogada!*

RAJVEER IS THE NEW NEEL

Zee TV's popular fiction drama, *Qurban Hua*, has been entertaining audiences with interesting twists and turns in the life of Neel and Chahat, who have tied the nuptial knot with vested interests arising out of fierce loyalty to their respective families. While Neel wants to get to Chahat's father — Dr Baig, the gynaecologist he holds responsible for his pregnant sister's death, Chahat is convinced she can get to the bottom of the case and clear her father's name by being a part of Neel's family.

In the upcoming episodes of the show, viewers are in for a shocking twist. While Chahat will be seen keeping the *Karwa Chauth* fast for Neel, Neel will meet with an accident in a factory wherein a splash of Lava will burn his face and parts of his body. Everybody will assume that they have lost Neel forever, but audiences will discover that Neel is rescued in the nick of time and having undergone multiple cosmetic surgeries, will emerge as a man of altered appearance. Consequently, actor Rajveer Singh will step into the shoes of Karan Jotwani as Neel.

Ecstatic to join the show as the male lead, Rajveer said: "I am extremely excited, as this is the kind of role I haven't explored before. Taking over a well-established character comes with a fair share of responsibilities and of course the pressure to live up to the image of the character built by the previous actor. Joining an already established show leaves me with enough to research and learn about my character and the dynamics he shares with various other characters. So, I will use that to my advantage and bring a sense of freshness to the character. This is my first project after the lockdown so I am looking forward to my new avatar and I do hope the fans of the show will like and accept me as their new Neel."

'I was born to be an artist'

EISHA SINGH, who played the lead in the first episode of the new season of *Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya*, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her role, how she got into acting and upcoming projects

What is your role in *Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya*?

I play Preet a girl who is already engaged. She enjoys life and loves her parents a lot. She is independent in her thinking and wants to fulfill her father's dream of opening franchises of his restaurant across India. That way she is very ambitious.

How is this different from Zara Siddiqui in *Ishq Subhan Allah* on Zee TV?

The main obvious difference of course is that Zara is from a Muslim family. Preet belongs to a Punjabi family. Zara is all about fighting for Muslim women's rights. Preet is more focused on realising her dad's dream.

What were some of the things that you had to prepare for in *Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya*?

I am not the kind to prepare for the character in advance. I read the script and go to the sets and go with my instincts on what feels right when I am finally in front of the camera. Also, for Preet, I didn't have much time to prepare. She has these layers that unravel which I learnt as the episode progressed. I had a different perspective on my character. The director and writer have a different one. So, the best thing was not to prep in advance. On the sets, once a scene was explained to me, I would close my eyes and think how she would behave and go with it and build my character.

What got you interested in acting?

It was not one thing. I knew from the very beginning that I would not be able to do a 9 am to 5 pm job. I was born to act. Being an artist, I can live so many personalities. I can play so many professions. I am the tailor of my life. If I am playing Zara or Preet, I am me, Eisha yet I am not. I am playing someone else. I can experiment with different things in my life through my characters. I don't always have to be me. I can do so much more as an actor.

Did you think that Dhaani of *Ishq Ka Rang Saaf* would become so popular?

Not at all. I was 16 when I gave the audition for the show. I played a 20-year-old widow in the show and how she dealt with people who continuously targeted her because I was a widow. I was not sure whether people would accept me in this role. I too was not convinced whether I would be able to do justice to this role. But luckily for me everything fell into place. People loved Dhaani. I too learnt a lot along the way.

Was it tough to play a widow at such a young age?

It was extremely tough. I had



I am not the kind to prepare for the character in advance. I read the script and go to the sets and go with my instincts on what feels right when I am finally in front of the camera. Also, for Preet, I didn't have much time to prepare. She has these layers that unravel which I learnt as the episode progressed

no idea about the struggles of a widow. My maternal grandmother was a widow but she was in her 70s. I had no clue what young widows go through and how society looks at them and treats them. But when I actually got to play Dhaani did I realise the harsh reality of life and would cry when I would hear the real-life horror stories of these young women who have every right to live a colourful life but the society doesn't let them and puts so many restrictions on them — can't eat certain kinds of food, can't laugh or have dreams and ambitions.

What next? I want to know the same. I am not sure where I will go from here. There are a few projects. But for now, I am at home taking a break.

COVID TALLY REACHES 62,328 IN STATE

12 DEATHS, 413 FRESH CASES REPORTED ON SATURDAY

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The number of the Covid-19 patients in Uttarakhand mounted to 62,328 on Saturday with the State health department reporting 413 fresh cases of the disease. The department also reported the death of 12 patients of the disease after which the death toll from the disease climbed to 1,023 on the day.

The authorities discharged 152 patients of the disease from different hospitals of the State after their complete recovery. A total of 56,923 patients have so far recovered from the disease in the State. The recovery percentage from the disease is now 91.33 and the rate of sample positivity is 6.09 percent. The state crossed a major landmark on Friday when it surpassed 10 lakh swab tests for Covid-19.



Five patients of Covid-19 were reported dead at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh on Saturday. Similarly three patients succumbed at Government

Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital on the day. Two patients of the disease were reported dead at Sushila Tiwari government hospital, Haldwani while one patient each died at Military hospital Pithoragarh and Mahant Indresh hospital Dehradun on Saturday.

The health department reported 95 cases of the disease from Dehradun district, 65 from Rudraprayag district, 52 from Pauri, 45 from Tehri, 33 from Haridwar, 32 from Nainital, 29 from Chamoli, 20 from Uttarkashi, 17 from Udham Singh Nagar, 11 from Bageshwar, nine from Almora, three from Pithoragarh and one from Champawat on the day.

Out of the 152 patients discharged on Saturday, 81 are from Dehradun, 19 from

Nainital and 18 from Uttarkashi district. Uttarakhand now has 3,883 active patients of the disease. Dehradun district with 773 active cases is at top of table while with 487 active cases Pauri district is on second position. Haridwar has 432, Nainital 392, Rudraprayag 297, Udham Singh Nagar 276, Tehri 264, Uttarkashi 222, Pithoragarh 203, Chamoli 199, Bageshwar 128, and Almora 114 active cases of the disease. With 96 active cases of Covid-19, Champawat is now at the bottom of the table.

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Appoint additional doctors, nurses & staff in STGMC & AIIMS-R

PNS ■ NAINITAL

Hearing on various PILs seeking improvement of facilities in Covid hospitals and quarantine centres, the Uttarakhand high court has directed the State Government to appoint additional doctors, nurses and other staff in Sushila Tiwari Government Medical College hospital and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh.

Further, the court also directed the Government to

form mobile enforcement patrolling units to enforce the wearing of masks and social distancing in public. Directing the state government to follow the recommendations of the monitoring committees, the division bench of acting chief justice Ravikumari Malimath and justice Ravindra Maithani set the next date for the hearing of the matter on November 25.

During the hearing on Saturday, the

monitoring committees presented their recommendations in the court. It will be recalled that advocate Dushyant Mainali, Dehradun resident Sachidanand Dabral and advocate DK Joshi had filed separate PILs seeking better facilities in quarantine centres and Covid hospitals. In the past, in the matter of the condition of quarantine centres, the district legal service authority secretary

had submitted his detailed report in the court. It was stated in the report that all quarantine centres in the state were in an undesirable condition and that adequate arrangements had not been made by the government for the returnees in such centres.

Taking cognisance of this, the high court had formed district monitoring committees for regular monitoring of Covid hospitals and sought recommendations from them.

Need to unite in fight against corruption: CM



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel made efforts to facilitate equal development of all sections of society. He also worked to strengthen the administrative system and the police. People of the State also need to unite and fight against corruption.

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said this while speaking at the ceremonial parade held on the occasion of National Unity Day at the police lines here on Saturday.

On the occasion, the chief minister also presented a trophy and cheque for Rs 1 lakh to the Pokhri police station for being selected as the State's best police

station. He also awarded various medals to personnel of the police for commendable work in the spheres of fire fighting, investigation and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the CM said Patel struggled long for the nation's independence. After independence, with his strong will power he was able to unite and merge the princely states with the nation.

Unity is vital for the strength of any nation, state and force. The strength of society also increases with unity, said Rawat. He said with the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Patel's vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat' is being achieved. The fight

which the nation fought against Covid under the PM's leadership has become an example for the world.

Today, the nation has succeeded to a considerable extent in tackling the Covid pandemic. Every section of society cooperated fully for protection from Covid. However, till Covid is brought fully under control, all need to maintain full alertness. The CM further stressed on the need for uniting in the fight against corruption.

Mafia elements are trying to make inroads in the state whether it be through their illegal activities focused on drugs, mining or forests. The people need to unite and fight against

such elements. The State Government is committed to rid the state of the mafia and Patel's life will provide inspiration and strength in this endeavour, added the CM.

The director general of police, Anil Kumar Raturi also addressed the gathering on the occasion. MP Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah, Vidhan Sabha speaker Prem Chand Agarwal, MLAs Harbans Kapoor, Munna Singh Chauhan, Ganesh Joshi, Khajan Das, Dehradun mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama', additional chief secretary Radha Raturi and director general (crime, law and order) Ashok Kumar were also among those present on the occasion.

Respect ideals of statehood movement: Pritam Singh

Says development plan should keep basic sentiments of statehood movement at core

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Pritam Singh has said that the development of Uttarakhand should be according to the basic sentiments of the statehood movement.

He was addressing a cere-

mony organised to felicitate the newly appointed spokesperson of 'Chinhit Rajya Andolankari Samiti' Mahesh Joshi at Congress Bhawan here on Saturday.

Congratulating Joshi, Singh said everyone played a role in creation of a separate state and the role played by women and

youth was of paramount importance. He said the people of the state reeling under lack of basic facilities like health and education fought a protracted battle for creation of Uttarakhand. Launching an attack on the BJP government of Uttarakhand, the PCC chief said that it has failed in every front and the state government is forced to borrow for paying the salaries of the employees.

He said the people of the state are suffering from lack of health facilities and by increas-

ing unemployment. He said that the BJP is ignoring the very issues on which it won the assembly elections of 2017.

The PCC president said that the people of the State who returned to their homes during the pandemic are now suffering from economic hardships.

He said that the Trivendra Singh Rawat government which made lofty talks about reverse migration has no policy nor any will to tackle the issue of migration.

Kisan Adhikar Diwas' observed by State Cong

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State unit of Uttarakhand Congress observed the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel and martyrdom day of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as 'Kisan Adhikar Diwas' on Saturday. To mark the day programmes were held in all parts of the State.

In these programmes the speakers highlighted the plight of farmers and blamed the union government for it.

They also attacked the Government for adopting anti farmer policies. In Dehradun a programme was organised at Gandhi Park in which the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Pritam Singh, former cabinet ministers Hira Singh Bisht, Surver Singh Sajwan, Matbar Singh Kandari, vice president of state Congress Surya Kant Dhasmana, former MLA Rajkumar, Jeet Ram and large number of Congress leaders and workers took part.

DASAUNI: CHAUHAN'S REMARK INSULT OF COURT

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Taking strong exception to State spokesperson of BJP Munna Singh Chauhan's comment that the allegations of corruption on Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat are a criminal conspiracy of the Congress Party, the spokesperson of the Uttarakhand Congress, Garima Dasauni has said that the statement is an insult of judiciary.

She said that the statement shows that the BJP

spokesperson has no faith in the judicial system of the country. The Congress leader said that since Chauhan is the state spokesperson of a national party, the High Court should take the cognizance of the statement and send him contempt notice.

She added that the way the BJP leaders are celebrating the Supreme Court order gives an impression that CM Rawat has been absolved from all the allegations of corruption which is far from reality.

Mandi Samiti to set up wholesale vegetables & fruits markets in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Considering that most of the local vendors depend on Niranjapur Mandi for the supply of vegetables and fruits, the Dehradun Mandi Samiti is planning to set up various wholesale vegetables and fruits markets by December to make the supply easily available to local vendors of the city.

About three months back when the Niranjapur Mandi was closed for days after many wholesalers tested positive for Covid-19, several vegetables and fruits vendors had to buy supplies from the wholesale market of Rishikesh and Haridwar due to the lack of options in Dehradun. This led to a hike in the prices of vegetables and fruits in the city. Therefore to avoid such a situation in future, the president of Mandi Samiti, Rajesh Sharma informed that the committee has marked some places in the city for setting up these wholesale markets which would be comparatively smaller than Niranjapur Mandi.

According to him, the plans to set up the new Mandis are currently under discussion and the committee will soon announce more details regarding the same. However, he stated that the committee is considering setting up few wholesale markets by the end of this year.

Moreover, Sharma recently announced that Mandi Samiti will double the charges of its shops in order to increase the revenue of the committee but the charges are still the same. Reportedly, the charges of the shops in the Mandi have not been increased for decades.

Talking about this, Sharma said that the Mandi Samiti has sent the proposal regarding the same to its head office in Rudrapur and only after the approval, the increased charges will be implemented in the Mandi. He further added that the Samiti is also planning to make cold storages and more godowns but the detailed information will be revealed in the next few days.



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PM starts seaplane service Boards 1st flight to Sabarmati

Kevadiya (Gujarat): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the country's first seaplane service in Gujarat and undertook a journey on its inaugural flight from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad.

The 45-minute seaplane service -- launched on the 145th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel -- connects the Statue of Unity at Kevadia with the Sabarmati riverfront 200 km away. The seaplane service was started by Spicejet aviation company.

Modi also inaugurated a Water Aerodrome on the Sabarmati Riverfront in

Ahmedabad. It is a part of a series of Water Aerodromes planned to bring the last-mile connectivity in the country.

Earlier, during his address on Sardar Patel's birth anniversary, Modi said: "Today, seaplane service from the Sardar Sarovar to Sabarmati riverfront is also going to be launched. To see the Statue of Unity, the countrymen will now also have the option of seaplane service. All these efforts are going to give a big boost to tourism in this area."

The seaplanes with their ability to land and take-off from water surface help connect geographies or regions that otherwise are a challenge

owing to tough topography and help bring the remotest parts of India into the mainstream aviation network without the high cost incurred on building airports and runways.

These smaller fixed-wing airplanes can land on lakes, and dams, and even gravel and grass, thus offering easy access to numerous tourist spots.

The service will be provided incentives and benefits under the central government's 'Udaan' scheme, which is getting implemented as per a tripartite agreement between the Gujarat government, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the Airports Authority of India.

Bihar Dy CM Sushil Modi slammed for campaigning despite being Covid +ve

Patna: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi has landed in a controversy after it emerged he was involved in election campaigning despite testing Covid positive 9 days ago.

Modi was involved in road show in Danapur in favour of the BJP candidate on Friday evening and he is also campaigning in Peerpaiti, Bhagalpur, Bakhtiyarpur-Khusrupur and Fatuha in Patna district on Saturday.

Modi tested Covid positive on October 22 and was admitted in Patna AIIMS. As per Covid norms of health department any person found infected should undergo isolation for 14 days.

RJD leader and state spokesperson Chitraranjan Gagan countered Sushil Kumar Modi and said: "Was he really infected with coronavirus or he was admitted in hospital to gain sympathy of voters? BJP leaders are one by one

infected with coronavirus."

"As he claims that he was having coronavirus and hospitalised in Patna AIIMS. The doctors have asked him to under go home quarantine for 14 days. Why he is doing election campaign and spreading the virus to others? Who gives him freedom to roam in public and put others' lives in danger?" Gagan said.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) went a step ahead and alleged that the BJP-led NDA government is responsible for "murder" of devotees of Durga and its leaders are spreading coronavirus to "kill" common people.

"This is bizarre to know that a person at a responsible post is involved in spreading coronavirus in public. Sushil Modi doesn't care about common people. His irresponsible act is completely unacceptable. He himself declared that he had tested Corona pos-

itive. NCP urges the Election Commission to take cognisance in this matter and initiate immediate action against him," said Sudip Pandey, Bhojपुर super star and NCP general secretary of Mumbai Mahanagar.

"He is a Deputy CM of Bihar and if he falls ill during campaign, he will get best medical facilities. But what about common people who may get infected after coming in contact with him? Everyone knows the kind of medical facilities available for common people," Pandey said.

During lockdown, the NDA government where he is holding Deputy CM's post had refused migrant labourers to enter into the territories of Bihar. On that occasion, he along with other NDA leaders were apprehensive about Covid-19 virus spreading in Bihar if they would allow them to enter inside," he alleged.

Covid: 455 test positive, 864 recover in J&K

Srinagar: A total of 455 people on Saturday tested Covid-19 positive in Jammu and Kashmir while 864 others were discharged from various hospitals after recovery, officials said.

A statement by the Information and Public Relations Department said that out of 455 who tested positive on Saturday, 161 are from Jammu division and 294 are from Kashmir division. So far, 94,785 have been infected with coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir out of which 86,888 have completely recovered.

Besides, 1,478 have been killed by the dreaded virus so far including 7 patients who succumbed on Saturday. The number of active cases is 6,419 out of which 1,860 are from Jammu division while 4,559 are from Kashmir division.

Kerala Sports Council complicit in gold scam: BJP

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The gold smuggling case that rocked Kerala politics took a new course on Saturday with K Surendran, BJP state chief, alleging that the Kerala Sports Council, an organisation under the department of youth and sports affairs, was acting as a conduit for gold smuggling activities.

He shocked the film fraternity in the State with the allegation that a CPI(M) led drug cartel was deciding the day-to-day affairs of the film sector.

"Official vehicles belonging to the Kerala Sports Council had been used to ferry smuggled gold from Thiruvananthapuram airport to various places in the

State. A car belonging to the KSC had transported smuggled materials from Kerala to Karnataka. The KSC car had gone to Bangalore from Thiruvananthapuram on July 5 when the smuggling was reported to have taken place," said Surendran.

He said both Mercy Kuttan, president of KSC and her personal assistant were appointed by the CPI(M). "Both these are political appointments and a thorough probe should be ordered by the central agencies into the affairs of KSC," said Surendran.

The BJP leader said Bineesh Kodyiyer, son of CPI(M) secretary Kosiyeeri Balakrishnan, has major

stakes in Kerala Cricket Association. Bineesh owns two cricket clubs in Thalassery, the cradle of Kerala cricket and wields influence in the functioning of the sports body.

The woes of the CPI(M) aggravated further on Saturday as Manu Manoj, a party local leader in Idukki was arrested in connection with the suicide of a 16-year-old girl in the district. The Dalit teenager who has been molested and abused by Manoj much against her wish set herself ablaze last week and was admitted to a hospital with 65 per cent burns. She said in her death statement that it was because of Manoj's torturing that she took the extreme measure.

CPM alleges agencies misused for silencing Opp, attacks Centre

KOCHI: A day after it was taken aback by the Enforcement Directorate arrested M Sivsankar, the former principal secretary of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on charges of gold smuggling and money laundering and Bineesh Kodyiyer, son of party strongman Kosiyeeri Balakrishnan, allegedly for financing narcotics trafficking, the CPI(M) launched an all out attack against the Centre for misusing its investigative agencies for silencing the opposition.

S Ramachandran Pillai, polit bureau member of the party, told media persons that Bineesh Kodyiyer was being victimised by the BJP-led Government at the Centre. "Bineesh Kodyiyer is innocent and the central agencies are tormenting him as part of political vendetta. Bineesh is a nice young youth and the CPI(M) does not have any ties with him. He is the son of Kodyiyer Balakrishnan and the party would in no way come to the aid of Bineesh. He himself will prove his innocence," said Pillai, one of the fr-

runners for the chief minister's post in the eventuality of Vijayan's tenure is cut short.

Pillai blasted the Central investigating agencies to leak out reports damning the CPI(M) leaders and the Kerala Government. "This is being done to appease their political masters and this is unheard of in the history of the country," said Pillai.

MA Baby, polit bureau member, said the arrests of Sivsankar and Bineesh reflect the fear in the minds of the RSS and BJP leadership about the success of the opposition parties under the patronage of the Left forces in the upcoming elections including that of Bihar. "The dreams of the RSS and the BJP to have a Communist-free nation is collapsing and that is the reason behind hoisting of fake cases against the CPI(M) leaders and their relations. But the politically mature and intelligent people in the State would see through the ulterior designs of the Sangh Parivar and taught them an apt lesson," Baby told reporters.

Gang of cyber thug busted, 3 held

Aligarh: Kwarsi police have arrested three people, including two Nigerians of the international cyber thug gang in the connection of cheating people by making them facebook friends from Delhi. The gang looted ₹31.23 lakh from a teacher in the Kishanpur area of Aligarh. On the complaint of this teacher, the police intercepted this gang. The cheated money has been transferred to Nigeria through Western Union money transfer. The fraudsters have so far collected more than ₹1.5 crore.

In a press conference held in Police line auditorium, Village SP, Shubham Patel told that Bhagwati Dutt Sharma, resident of Kishanpur Dayal Nagar, is a teacher by profession. On August 5, he complained that some foreigners on Facebook had cheated him of ₹31.23 lakh (between March 2019 to mid-July 2020) during the last one year by making him a friend on Facebook.

J&K Govt tapping potential of youth to accelerate growth

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir Government has now set its eyes on tapping the potential of a 'burgeoning' Army of unemployed youth looking for opportunities to shape their career dreams and contribute in the accelerated growth of the economy.

According to the rough estimates at least 65 percent population is below the age group of 35 in Jammu and Kashmir and over 5 lakh unemployed youth are struggling to earn their livelihood for want of better career opportunities. In comparison to the national average unemployment rate of 13.8%, J&K has a 25% rate, which is almost double the national rate. To address the burning issue a day long workshop on Youth

Engagement and Outreach in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at SKICC on Saturday.

The Workshop was attended by top Industry Heads from Ashok Leyland, ICICI foundation, Bombay Stock Exchange, Universities, IIMs/IITs and Policy Analysts from across the country.

Addressing the gathering of Policy Analysts and Corporate heads of different organisations during the inaugural session of the event, the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said that the idea behind this Youth Engagement and Outreach workshop is to create institutional mechanisms to empower and groom our youngsters and to make them valuable for J&K as well as the country. He said, "The Youth of J&K will be benefited from the

programme through creation of opportunities in the field of Sports, Livelihood generation, Recreation, Education, Counselling to effectively support and encourage young individuals to shape their future as per their aspirations."

He said, "Kashmir offers abundant raw material for Agro & Food Processing, strategic location which is truly blessed by nature in its abundance, home to handloom and handicraft, responsive governance, minimum government, timely policy reforms & rapid single window clearances and industrial infrastructure."

It also has Strategic advantages which includes an area Spread over 2 lakh square kilometres with the country's major tourist and spiritual destinations, including Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, Gulmarg, Patni

Top, Shri Amarnathi Shrine; three perennial rivers Chenab, Jhelum and Ravi; leading producer of Apple, Walnut, Almond, Saffron; Major producer of Wool, Figs, Berries, over 57 industrial estates; International airports, 65% of the population in the age group between 15-59 years; over 7 lakh MSME units, over 10.25% of India's total Hydel Power production; Major handloom and handicraft industry with total exports of over 5000 crore over the last 5 years.

We have so much to offer and there is a lot that I expect this group to contribute for the accelerated economic growth, the Lt Governor maintained. To fix the lag, we have before us Mission 2025 under which we have to bring opportunities to 80% of our J&K youth, he added.

Maha deaths drop to 74 on Saturday

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Covid-19 daily death tally plummeted to more than a five months' low of 74 in Maharashtra on Saturday, as the infections dropped further to 5,548 in various parts of the state.

The Covid-19 deaths in Maharashtra went down below the 100 mark for the third time in less than a week and that too after a gap of more than five months. Earlier on October 26, the daily Covid-19 toll had dropped to 84 and two days later on October 28, 91 deaths were reported in the state.

The daily tally of below-100 deaths on three occasions in less than a week should be seen in the context of the fact that the previous low of 97 deaths was witnessed way back on May 26.

With 74 fresh deaths, the

total number of deaths in the state rose from 43,837 to 43,911. Similarly with 5548 fresh infections, the total infected cases jumped from 16,72,858 to 16,78,406.

As 7303 more people were discharged from various hospitals in the state, the number of people discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 15,10,353. The recovery rate in the state rose from 89.85 per cent to 89.99 per cent.

Of the 74 deaths reported on Saturday, Mumbai accounted for a maximum of 32 deaths, while there were seven deaths in Pune, 6 in Thane, 4 in Nagpur, 3 each in Solapur, Sangli and Nanded, 2 each in Jalgaon, Akola, Jalna, Yavatmal and Chandrapur and one death each in Palghar, Raigad, Nashik, Parbhani, Beed and

Buldhana.

With 32 deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 10,261 to 10,293 while the infected cases shot up by 992 to trigger a jump in the infections from 256,505 to 2,57,497.

Meanwhile, the mortality rate in the state stood at 2.62 per cent. The number of 'active cases' in the state dropped from 1,25,418 to 1,23,585.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,33,106 to 3,33,962 while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 6,671 to 6,678.

Thane district remained in the third spot -- after Pune and Mumbai -- after the total number of infections rose from 2,22,507 to 2,23,197 while the pandemic toll climbed from 5,331 to 5,337.

Ganja worth ₹60L seized, two held

Aligarh: The Aligarh police have arrested two smugglers after recovering ganja(drug) worth ₹ 60 lakh being transported from Odisha in a truck to Badaun. This success has been achieved during vehicle checking. A secret cabin was built in the truck and 425 kg of ganja were kept in it. The police sent both the smugglers to jail and informed the Badaun police.

90-year-old woman gangraped in Tripura

Agartala: A 90-year-old woman has been allegedly gang-raped by two men in her house in Tripura, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place at Barhaldi village in Kancharpur subdivision of North Tripura district on October 24 but her relatives lodged a police complaint on October 29, a senior police officer said.

The two men accused of raping the woman are absconding and a manhunt has been launched to nab them, Superintendent of Police Bhanupada Chakraborty said.

"One of the accused used to call the woman 'grandmother', who was living alone in her house. On the night of the incident, he and another man broke into the house and raped the elderly woman," the officer said. The woman had fallen ill after the incident but she did not inform the police. When her relatives came to know of the incident, they lodged the complaint five days later, he said.

Respect for women to be inculcated in UP school boys

Lucknow: With the aim to teach boys in Uttar Pradesh that they should respect a woman, the Yogi Adityanath Government has gone in for a paradigm shift in the syllabus for basic and secondary education.

The plan is being implemented under 'Mission Shakti' which is aimed to give more importance and empower the 'half-population'. The state government is moving towards making women self-reliant, confident, and ensuring their safety and respect.

In the first phase of the campaign till October 25, the higher education department has created awareness among 5,57,883 students in 6,349 colleges through webinar, awareness programmes and competitions.

A micro plan is being prepared for the second phase of the campaign under which a dedicated portal will be launched and information about the programmes being run by all the departments will be uploaded on it. The portal will provide all the necessary information and schemes being run for women and girls.

Moreover, the maximum participation of women in public welfare schemes will be ensured. Imparting skill development training for increasing employment opportunities will also be emphasised.

The decision to include women empowerment in the curriculum of Basic Education and Secondary Education has been hailed by parents.

Social worker Varsha Verma said that this is an important decision of the Yogi government which will change

the thinking of boys. In the culture of India where Goddess 'Shakti' is worshipped, there will be real respect for girls. With this decision, the seeds of moral values will be sown in the students. The syllabus will inform about the life of great women personalities of India, success stories, gender equality and security-related issues.

Under Mission Shakti, awareness programmes were organised in various colleges of Uttar Pradesh for nine days. The programmes were organised in 6,349 colleges in which 5,57,383 girls and boys, and 1,46,177 teachers took an oath to ensure women's safety and respect.

Meanwhile, 4,46,355 female students from 3,007 colleges were given training in martial arts through both online and offline workshops.

Apart from this, 2,57,407 girls participated in Essay, Poster, Slogan and Quiz competitions. 2,42,036 girl students and 14,364 teachers from 2,731 colleges participated in physical health enhancement and nutrition awareness programmes. In a webinar related to gender equality, domestic violence protection, POCOSO Act, women's helpline, 1,783 experts in 2,986 colleges informed 3,13,996 students about these issues.

Anshumali Sharma, Special Officer and State Liaison Officer, NSS, Department of Higher Education, said that under Mission Shakti, programmes were organized by the Higher Education Department on issues related to gender equality, protection from domestic violence, POCOSO and women helpline in various colleges.



Dust rises from dilapidated Subhash Road dug up in past for civic works in Dehradun. Mangesh Kumar | Pioneer

Exporters not able to fulfil orders of America and other European countries

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The exporters of Aligarh are not able to fulfill orders from American, Europe, Australian and African countries in time. The main reason is the lack of shipping containers for shipping hardware, locks and electrical products abroad. There is a waiting list of a minimum of 15 days for the shipping containers. There are many obstacles to sending

goods by air as well. On the other hand, the businessmen of America and Europe, who are preparing for Christmas, are demanding for the goods before 15 November 2020.

Christmas is celebrated with much fanfare in many countries of the world including America and Europe.

The construction, painting, repairing and decoration of new houses take place on a wide scale before the festival.

Mizoram-Assam border row enters 4th day, blockade continues

Aizawl/Guwahati: As the blockade on National Highway 306, the lifeline of Mizoram, entered the fourth day on Saturday, the Mizoram Government ferried fuel and cooking gas from neighbouring Manipur and Tripura. The fresh deadlock at its border with Assam has been continuing since Wednesday despite a series of top level meetings, officials said on Saturday.

In Guwahati, Assam Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday that solving the vexed interstate border disputes of Assam with other northeastern states is top of the agenda for the party.

He said the Central government would take up the issue after the Assam polls that are five to six months away.

Mizoram's Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister K. Lalrinliana said that two trucks have been sent to Manipur to bring LPG cylinders and five more oil tankers are being sent to the state.

The department's Director Lalhriatuzali Ralte said that with the help of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, similar efforts are on to bring trans-

port fuel and LPG from Tripura.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla also held his second meeting, through video conference, with the Chief Secretaries of Assam and Mizoram.

A senior official in Aizawl said on Saturday that Bhalla urged both Assam Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna and his Mizoram counterpart Lalnunmawia Chuango to take steps to withdraw security personnel from the inter-state border.

While the Assam Chief Secretary said that he has instructed Cachar Deputy Commissioner (DC) Keerthi Jalli to ensure that the blockade is lifted, the Mizoram Chief Secretary informed that a few policemen deployed along the border would not be withdrawn till people on the Assam side stopped the activities that could "harm public harmony and create panic".

The inter-state border trouble resurfaced after a fortnight on Wednesday along Assam's Cachar and Karimganj districts, which share mountainous borders with two Mizoram districts Mamit and Kolasib.

The DCs of Karimganj and Mamit districts and Cachar and

Kolasib districts were to hold separate meetings in Assam on Saturday but the first meeting that was held proved to be inconclusive, while the Kolasib DC did not turn up for the meeting.

Karimganj DC Anbamuthan M.P. after the meeting said that Mamit DC Lalrozama categorically told the meeting that they would not withdraw their forces from Assam.

Due to the National Highway 306 blockade at Lailapur (in Cachar district), around 200 Mizoram bound goods-laden vehicles are stuck while around 100 Assam bound vehicles from Mizoram returned to the state.

Also, the agitators in southern Assam refused to call off their blockade - now into its fourth day - of National Highway 306, seeking withdrawal of security personnel from Assam's territory.

Mizoram Home Minister Lalchamliana said that his government would not withdraw its forces from the state border with Assam till normalcy returns. Lalchamliana's announcement came nine days after senior officials of the two neighbouring states held a series of meetings and the Mizoram government officials, according to the Assam

government, reportedly agreed to withdraw their forces gradually from Assam's territory.

Assam's Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, Gyanendra Pratap Singh, who had reached southern Assam, held a series of meetings to normalise the situation.

Festering since October 9, the situation along the 164.6-km Assam-Mizoram border took an ugly turn when around 20 shops and houses were burnt and over 50 people sustained injuries in the attacks and counter-attacks by people on either side on October 17. Before the current standoff Union Home Ministry Joint Secretary (North East), Satyendra Kumar Garg had visited southern Assam and Mizoram earlier this month and held meetings with the Home Secretaries of Assam and Mizoram where it was agreed that both sides will maintain the status quo and hold regular talks to prevent any untoward incident.

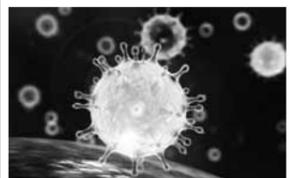
Union Home Minister Amit Shah also spoke to Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga several times to normalise the situation.

1,445 new corona cases in Telangana, recovers outnumber infections

Hyderabad: Telangana registered 1,445 more coronavirus cases, taking its overall tally to 2.38 lakh, while 1,486 more COVID-19 patients recovered, officials said on Saturday.

Hyderabad accounted for highest 286 infections reported in the past 24 hours, followed by Medchal Malkajgiri district 122, Rangareddy 107, Nalgonda 102, Bhadradi Kothagudem 90, Khammam 77, Karimnagar 65, Warangal Urban 53, Siddipet 43, Jagtial 35, Mehboobnagar 28, Sangareddy 27, and Rajanna Sircilla 26.

Six more COVID-19 patients died in the southern state, raising its death toll to 1,336. Telangana's Covid-19 fatality rate now stands at 0.56 per cent compared with India's 1.5 per cent.



Ayurvedic drugs cured Covid-19 in 6 days: AIIA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Doctors from Delhi-based All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) under the Union Ayush Ministry have found that immunity enhancer herbal drugs like Fifatrol and Ayush kwatha not only improved the health of a coronavirus-infected patient but also turned the virus negative in just six days of treatment.

The patient was given Ayush Kwatha, Seshmani Vati and Lakshmilavasa rasa also besides Fifatrol, an immune enhancer tablets developed by Delhi-based AIMIL Pharma. In fact, Fifatrol has found a mention among around 200 technologies and research activities evaluated by experts in a recently released 'Compendium of Indian Technologies for Combating COVID-19 (Tracing, Testing & Treating)', compiled by National Research Development Corporation.

From the day one of admission, the patient was given tablets of Fifatrol and other ayurvedic formulations Ayush Kwatha, Seshmani Vati and Lakshmilavasa rasa. The patient recovered well and was discharged within six days after he was found Covid-19 negative.

The lead author of the report, Dr Sishir Kumar Mandal from the AIIA says that

appetite, smell and taste, all symptoms of Covid-19.

The present case study proves efficacy of Ayurveda interventions in mild-to-moderate case of Covid-19 infection in a very short period with complete regression of the symptoms. "The treatment was personalized, holistic, and purely based on Ayurvedic principles, and no conventional medicines were used. With this case study, it can be inferred that Ayurveda has vast potential to address the Covid-19 and such other pandemics; a large sample-sized, multicenter randomized and controlled clinical studies are the need of the hour," he said.

The evidence-based case showcasing successful management of the Covid-19 in ayush sector shows that the dimensions of the pandemic require an urgent harnessing of all knowledge systems as therapeutic strategy available globally as so far, no cure specific to coronavirus has been developed either in modern western medicine or in traditional medicines, said an official from the Ayush Ministry.

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Prez, PM recall Sardar Patel's 'iron-willed leadership'

New Delhi: India on Saturday observed 'National Unity Day' to commemorate the 145th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, with the President, the Prime Minister and a host of other dignitaries recalling his "iron-willed leadership and patriotism" and paying rich tributes to him.

A series of events were held across the country to mark the day and government officials, security personnel and others took a pledge "to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and also strive hard to spread this message".

President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah paid floral tributes to Patel, the first deputy prime minister and home minister who is credited with unifying the country post Independence.

While the PM offered flowers at the 'Statue of Unity' monument in Kevadiya in Gujarat, the others paid tributes at his statue located at Patel Chowk in Delhi.

On the occasion, Prime



President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Home Minister Amit Shah arrive to pay homage to India's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 145th birth anniversary, at Patel Chowk in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Minister Modi also launched a seaplane service between the Statue of Unity and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.

He also addressed probationary civil servants and said Sardar Patel used to call bureaucrats the "steel frame".

"The role of a steel frame is not just to support the system, but also to remind the country that they will fulfil the respon-

sibility of taking the country forward successfully amid big crisis and difficulties like a facilitator," Modi said.

"I would also request that whatever decision a civil servant takes should be in the national interest and aimed at strengthening the unity and sovereignty of the country and keeping India's constitutional spirit high," the prime minister

said. In a social media post, Vice President Naidu said his fervent wish was to make every child familiar with the life and contribution of Patel. Similarly every civil servant must read his speeches and every politician must imbibe Patel's great qualities like integrity, firmness and keeping people's interest at heart, he said.

"His love for motherland, leadership qualities, simplicity, honesty, integrity, down-to-earth nature, pragmatic approach to resolving knotty problems, earthly wisdom, discipline, and organising skills will always remain an inspiration for every Indian," he said.

Naidu recalled that Patel earned the reputation of 'Iron Man' because of the manner in which he brought about and maintained internal stability as the home minister in the wake of the Partition.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Shah said the country's first home minister is an epitome of national unity and lives in the heart of every Indian.

He said Sardar Patel unit-

ed the nation post Independence, which was scattered in hundreds of princely states, and laid the foundation of today's strong India.

"The country can never forget his great contribution, decisive leadership and unparalleled commitment towards the motherland," he said.

The home minister also said that from uniting India to reconstruction of the Somnath Temple, Sardar Patel devoted each and every moment of his life, for the unity and integration of the country.

"Iron willed leadership, devotion and patriotism of Sardar Patel ji will continue to guide us.

"On behalf of a grateful nation, I pay my respects to Sardar Patel, a great patriot and Iron Man of India," he said. Later, Shah also administered the 'National Unity Day' pledge to government officials, security personnel and others. "I solemnly pledge that I dedicate myself to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and also strive hard to spread this message among my fellow countrymen. PTI

Raj Govt introduces 3 Bills to negate Union farm laws

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the Congress-led Punjab Legislative Assembly passed four bills to counter the Centre's controversial farm laws, the Ashok Gehlot Government in Rajasthan on Saturday followed suit and introduced three bills to negate the central acts.

Apart from a few other amendments in the bills, three new sections have been added as special provisions for Rajasthan, providing for punishment for harassment of farmers and powers to the state government to give directions. The bill proposes punishment of imprisonment from three to seven years with or without a fine of Rs five lakh if any person, company or corporate house or any other asso-

ciation or body of persons harasses farmers. On the first day of the assembly session, Rajasthan's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal introduced the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions and Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020 and the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation and Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020.

A number of provisions to protect the interests of farmers, including sale or purchase of a crop under farming agreement on a price equal or greater than minimum support price and

imprisonment of three to seven years for harassment of farmers, have been included in the bills.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, has a specific provision to safeguard Minimum Support Price and seeks punishment for harassment of farmers and powers for the State government to give directions. The Bill proposes punishment of imprisonment from three to seven years with or without a fine of Rs 5 lakh if any person, company or corporate house or any other association or body of persons harasses farmers. The Congress leadership has suggested that states where it is in power should pass laws of their own to counter the

central legislations that had triggered farmers' protests in several parts of the country. In the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, a provision states, "Provided further that no Farming Agreement for the sale or purchase of a crop shall be valid unless the price paid for such agricultural produce is equal to, or greater than, the prevailing Minimum Support Prices, announced by the Central Government for that crop."

"There has been extraordinary outrage amongst the farmers, farm labourers and all others engaged in incidental and ancillary agricultural activities. Since the direct consequences of the Central Act would be to nul-

lify the minimum support price mechanism that has stood the test of time and introduce several other infirmities and distortions operating to the grave detriment and prejudice of agriculture and the communities associated with it," the statement of the bill said.

"The Parliament has also introduced a mechanism for production, trade and commerce in agricultural produce through this Central Act, that is vulnerable to encroachment and manipulation by vested corporate interests through provisions such as contract farming minus a guarantee of minimum support price and leaving the farmer open to the vagaries of market forces for getting a remunerative price for agricultural produce, fruits and veg-

etables. No check has been provided against exploitation of farmers," it said. In the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation and Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, one of the proposed amendments pertains to regulation of notified agriculture produce, which says that the state government may notify a Fee/Cess/Cesses/Charges on notified agricultural produce, brought or bought or sold, by a corporate or trader for trade and commerce in a trade area.

After the House was adjourned, deputy leader of opposition Rajendra Rathore told reporters that the BJP will oppose the bills and will prove during the debate on Monday that the central laws are in favour of farmers.

NMC issues list of requirements to set up new medical colleges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In its first major regulation since it was constituted recently, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has come out with a detailed list of requirements needed for setting a new medical college and also for those existing ones - which plan to increase their intake. A notification has been issued by the Union Health Ministry in this regard which will be applicable to medical colleges being established from the 2021-22 academic session. During the transitional period, the established medical colleges will be governed by the relevant regulations existing prior to the current notification.

"The new standards have been defined keeping the functional requirements of the institution(s). These allow optimization and flexibility in utilizing available resources, and harnessing modern educational technology tools to facilitate moving towards quality education, even when resources are relatively scarce," said the notification titled as "Minimum Requirements For Annual MBBS Admissions Regulations (2020).

ED raids premises of Ahmedabad-based firms in Ardor Group bank fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out searches at six residential/office premises of an Ahmedabad-based consultancy firms/builder group, True Value Group and Vipul & Manish Associates, in connection with the bank fraud case of Ardor Group of Companies.

The searches were launched against these firms on Thursday and continued till Friday. This resulted in seizure of huge cash in Indian currency worth Rs 5.99 crore and foreign currency along with various incriminating documents, the ED said in a statement here on Saturday.

The ED initiated investi-

gation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the basis of six FIRs registered by the CBI, Anti-Corruption Branch, Gandhinagar and an FIR by CBI, Bank Security and Fraud Cell (BS&FC), Mumbai under sections Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy and cheating under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The Ardor Group of Companies and its Directors, in alleged connivance with unknown Bank officials, had cheated and caused wrongful loss to the consortium of Banks amounting to Rs 488 crore.

"Investigation conducted so far under PMLA resulted into identification of assets

totalling to Rs 204.27 crore. These assets being the part of proceeds of crime have been provisionally attached under PMLA," the agency said.

Investigation also revealed that Vipul & Manish Associates and True Value Management Consultant Pvt. Ltd. floated numerous dummy companies and made their relative and associate persons directors of these companies to do circular trading with purpose to inflate books of accounts of Ardor Group Companies to facilitate them to obtain huge funds from consortium of banks which later became non-performing asset (NPA), it further said, adding further investigation is under progress.

Mini strokes a wake-up call for major stroke: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Many of the mini or minor strokes can lead to a major stroke in the first month itself, neurologists have warned and cautioned that it should serve as a wake-up call.

Nearly 30 per cent of stroke victims usually have previously experienced mini-stroke which is medically known as transient ischemic attacks (TIA).

"Since the symptoms of mini-stroke go away completely - sometimes very quickly - mostly patients and relatives heave the sigh of relief thinking that everything is safe. But, it should be seen as an important warning sign as a mini-stroke or TIA could be a strong indication that a more severe stroke is on the way," said Dr Rajinder K Dhamija, head of the neurology department at

the Lady Hardinge Hospital in Delhi.

Hence, immediate treatment of TIA and evaluation to find out mechanisms causing these TIA's is important, he said.

A brain stroke happens when an artery in the brain or neck gets blocked or bleeds, as it causes disruption or cessation of the blood supply to the brain. The clot or blockage obstructs blood and oxygen from reaching the brain's tissues.

Worldwide stroke is a leading cause of death and disability, despite the fact that up to 80 percent of strokes are preventable. One in four people experiences a stroke during their lifetime.

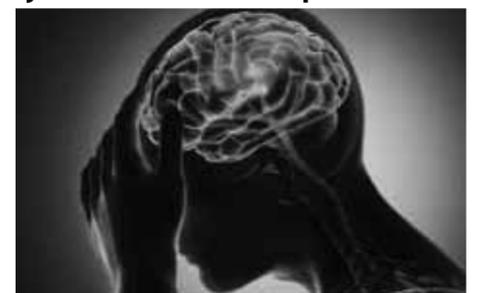
TIA symptoms include weakness or numbness of the face, arm, or leg on one side of the body, slurred speech, and

How to minimize your stroke risk

- Be physically active
- Consume a healthy diet
- Limit sodium intake;
- Quit smoking and limit alcohol consumption
- Control cholesterol levels
- Control blood pressure ;
- Manage underlying health conditions
- Be aggressive about treating a transient ischemic attack (TIA, or mini-stroke)

sudden difficulty talking. A sudden severe headache, loss of vision, and a loss of balance could also indicate a minor stroke.

Unlike a stroke, which can make the symptoms permanent, symptoms of a mini-stroke go away completely after a short period, say from min-



utes to an hour with no lasting damage.

In western countries, TIA clinics have been set up to handle such cases, said Dr Dhamija even as he shared that in Indians and Asians, usually there is blockage of intracranial vessels inside the brain causing brain attack or stroke whereas

in Caucasians, a blockage is more common in carotid arteries which lie in the neck and supply blood and nutrients to the brain.

Brain attacks aka strokes can be prevented through lifestyle changes and proper management of chronic conditions like Diabetes, Hypertension and increased Cholesterol.

NAFED invites bid for supply of 15K tonnes Onions by Nov 20

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Cooperative Nafed on Saturday invited bids from importers for supply of 15,000 tonnes of red onions by November 20 in order to boost the domestic availability and check price rise. The cooperative has asked bidders to supply 40 to 60 mm size of red onions from any country of origin at Rs 50 per kg by November 20. They can bid for a minimum quantity of 2,000 tonnes to be supplied in multiple lots of 500 tonnes, it said.

The bidding will close on November 4 and received bids will be opened on the same day. The shipments are to be delivered at Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Kandla ports, it added. "We have floated tenders for supply of 15,000 tonnes of imported red onions. This will help increase the domestic supply situation," Nafed Additional Managing Director S K Singh said.

The bids will be evaluated based on volumes, quality and early date of shipment. Bidders have to supply fresh, well dried and cured onions, he added. Since the buffer stock of onion, which Nafed manages on behalf of the government, is



gradually getting depleted, the cooperative has been asked to augment domestic supplies with imported onions to continue with ongoing market intervention.

Last year, Nafed had not only imported on its own some quantities but also distributed onions imported by state-run MMTC. This year, it wants to get the supplies from importers so that shipments could arrive fast and improve the domestic supply situation. Even the size of onion Nafed has specified for supply is what Indians normally consume. Last year, big size onions were imported but there were hardly any takers for that.

So far, Nafed has offloaded around 37,000 tonnes of onion from the buffer stock of near-

ly 1 lakh tonnes in select mandis and retail markets so that to check retail prices which have skyrocketed to over Rs 80 per kg in some parts of the country due to damage to the kharif crop in the wake of heavy rains in the key growing states.

On October 30, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal had said that private traders have already imported 7,000 tonnes of onion and another 25,000 tonnes are expected to arrive before Diwali.

The government hopes that the several measures taken recently including ban on export of onion and stock limits on traders will help ease pressure on prices during the festival period.

UP Govt approves proposal to reduce Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary area to half

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) of the Union Environment Ministry has approved the long-pending proposal of the Uttar Pradesh Government to reduce Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary area to half from 2,073 square kilometer (Sq Km) noting that the area has several towns and agriculture fields which need to be excluded from the protection zone.

The NBWL in a meeting held recently after giving nod, also asked the Yogi Government to notify the new area within next 30 days.

The move followed an order from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) which in February 2020 hearing a petition had directed the Centre and the UP Government to ensure that the proposal for rationalization of the boundaries of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary is completed as early as possible.

The Uttar Pradesh Government had entrusted Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, under the Union Government for the assessment of wildlife habitats with special focus on swamp deer in Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.

The WII gave go ahead for reduction in area, noting that there

were many areas as big as towns, like Chandpur in Bijnor, large part of Amroha etc, which are part of the sanctuary. Other areas have also witnessed intense human activity, including agricultural fields. "All such areas have been excluded in the proposal and we have recommended the inclusion of 187.62 sq km near the northern boundaries of the sanctuary which is frequented by swamp deer, for which, the sanctuary was made in the first place," said the WII.

The Chief Wild Life Warden of the UP Government informed that after rationalization, the area of the sanctuary would be reduced to 1094.9 sq.km. "The State Government would take action for addition of 187.62 sq. km to the sanctuary or notify as Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ)," said the Standing Committee of the NBWL.

Gaurav Bansal, petitioner in the case who had been fighting for the notification of the sanctuary for the last four years was of the opinion that in present form, the sanctuary was quite "haphazard with too much of human interference."

Over the decades, the interference has only expanded bringing man-animal conflict to the fore. With the rationalisation of the area, the sanctuary will be more protected now."

Amit Shah to hold BJP organisational meetings during two-day Bengal visit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kolkata: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Will hold organisational meetings with BJP activists in Bankura and Kolkata during his two-day visit to West Bengal from November 5, a senior party leader said on Saturday.

A preparatory meeting was organised by the state BJP in the evening, party sources said. "Amit Shah Ji will arrive at Andal airport in Paschim Bardhaman district on the night of November 4. He will visit Bankura the next day and hold an organisational meeting with BJP leaders of the two Medinipur districts, Birbhum, Purulia and Bankura.

"He will visit Kolkata on November 6 and hold a meeting with the state leaders," West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh said.

There is a proposal of Shah holding a press conference in Kolkata but nothing has been finalised yet, party sources said.

Asked whether Shah's visit is purely organisational or he will look into the allegations of worsening law and order situation in West Bengal, state BJP general secretary Sayantan Basu said they will take up the matter of political killings with him.

"It was during Amit Shah Ji's tenure as the BJP chief that we have tasted so much success in West Bengal. He is now the Union home minister. Every day, our party workers are getting killed. We will take up the matter of political killings with him," Basu said. Shah, along with BJP

national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, vice-president Mukul Roy and state chief Dilip Ghosh, will interact with booth and district-level leaders, sources said. This will be Shah's first visit to the state since the COVID-19 outbreak. He had visited the state on March 1.

The home minister's visit next week assumes significance with Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar criticising the "worsening" law and order situation in the state.

State BJP leaders have also been demanding the imposition of President's Rule, citing "breakdown of the rule of law".

Dhankhar had on Thursday met Shah in New Delhi and discussed the 'state of affairs' in West Bengal. Shah's visit comes just days after the party's state unit witnessed a major organisational change, as general secretary (organisation) Subrata Chattopadhyay was removed and his deputy Amitava Chakraborty was elevated to the post by the central leadership. After having a limited presence in the politically polarised state for decades, the BJP emerged as the main rival of the ruling Trinamool Congress, winning 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal in the 2019 general election.

With the BJP's strength increasing manifold in the state in the last few years, where it has never been in power, party leaders have exuded confidence that the party will end Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's 10-year rule in the assembly elections. PTI

Joe betrayed Americans for last 47 years: Trump

Washington: US President Donald Trump has accused his rival and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden of being a corrupt career politician who has done nothing but betray the Americans for the last 47 years.

Trump is known to make unsubstantiated allegations against his rival, often making untrue claims. There is no evidence of Biden ever being tainted by corruption.

Addressing a rally in Rochester in Minnesota on Friday, Trump, 74, said Biden has obsession for power.

"Biden is a grimy, sleazy and corrupt career politician who has done nothing but betrayed you for 47 long years. He will look you in the eyes, and then turn right around and stab you in the back. The only thing he cares about is political power," Trump said.

A Democratic stronghold, Trump is seeking to wrest Minnesota for the Republicans for decades. He is currently trailing behind Biden with five percentage points.



Making a strong case for his re-election, Trump told his supporters that giving him a decisive victory on November 3 is the only way to defend their dignity.

"There is only one way to defend your family and your country. There is only one way to preserve, protect and defend the American Way of Life: you must show up and vote on November 3," he said.

"On November 3, vote to defeat Biden and Save American Freedom," Trump said, alleging that his opponent will continue his 47 years of cruelly betraying African-Americans.

Biden called them super-predators, ripped apart their

communities, and did everything in his power to wipe out the Black middle class, said the president.

Noting that Biden's plan will delay the COVID-19 vaccine, postpone therapies, crash the economy, and shut down the entire country, Trump asserted that under his plan, the administration will deliver a safe vaccine to the American People in just a few short weeks!

"We will wipe out the China Plague once and for all! A vote for Republicans is a vote for the American Dream, and the party of Abraham Lincoln!" he said.

The US is the worst-affected nation by the coronavirus, with the total number of infections and deaths standing at 9,034,925 and 229,544 respectively, according to Johns Hopkins University.

"Over the next four years, we will make America into the Manufacturing Superpower of the World, and we will end our reliance on China once and for all," he said. **PTI**

Biden looks to restore, expand Obama administration policies

Washington: Joe Biden is promising to take the country on a very different path from what it has seen over the past four years under President Donald Trump, on issues ranging from the coronavirus and health care to the environment, education and more.

The Democratic presidential nominee is promising to reverse Trump policy moves on things such as withdrawing the US from the Paris climate agreement and weakening protections against environmental pollution. While Trump wants to kill the Affordable Care Act, Biden is proposing to expand "Obamacare" by adding a public option to cover more Americans.

Here's what we know about what a Biden presidency might look like.

ECONOMY, TAXES AND THE DEBT

Biden argues that the economy cannot fully recover until COVID-19 is contained. For the long-term recovery,

the former vice president is pitching sweeping federal action to avoid an extended recession and to address long-standing wealth inequality that disproportionately affects non-white Americans. **AP**

'OBAMACARE' SIGN-UPS BEGIN AS MILLIONS MORE ARE UNINSURED

Washington: Millions of Americans who have lost health insurance in an economy shaken by the coronavirus can sign up for taxpayer-subsidized coverage starting Sunday. It's not a new COVID relief program from the government but the return of annual sign-up season under the Affordable Care Act, better known as "Obamacare." Open enrollment runs through December 15. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which runs HealthCare.gov, says premiums are down slightly on average for 2021 and most people will have at least three insurers from which to pick plans. **AP**

Indonesian leader condemns France attacks, Macron's comments

AP ■ JAKARTA

Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Saturday strongly condemned terrorist attacks in Paris and Nice and comments by French President Emmanuel Macron that were deemed offensive toward Islam and the global Muslim community.

Widodo, the leader of the world's most populous Muslim nation, told a televised news conference from the presidential palace in the capital, Jakarta, that his government strongly condemns the recent vigilantism in France against a teacher who was beheaded near Paris and a knife attack at a church in Nice that killed three people.

Flanked by religious leaders and Cabinet ministers, Widodo also condemned comments made by Macron at an Oct 21 national memorial for the teacher as an insult to Islam. Macron had said that the teacher, Samuel Paty, "was the victim of a conspiracy of stupidity, hate, lies... Hate of the other... Hate of what we profoundly are."

France attack: Assailant's family demands answers

Sfax: A third suspect is in French custody on Saturday in connection with an Islamic extremist knife attack that killed three people in a Nice church, as the family of the suspected Tunisian assailant demanded to see video footage of what happened.

Investigators in France, Tunisia and Italy are trying to determine the motive of chief suspect Ibrahim Issaoui and whether he acted alone and whether he premeditated Thursday's attack on the Notre Dame Basilica.

Authorities have labeled the attack, which took place amid growing tensions around cartoons published by a French newspaper mocking the Prophet Muhammad, an act of Islamist terrorism, Issaoui, who transited through Italy last month en route to France, is in critical condition in a French hospital after being wounded by police as they arrested him.

A 35-year-old man who had met with Issaoui in Nice was arrested overnight, a judicial official said on Saturday. A 47-year-old man who had met with Issaoui the night before the attack was already in custody, bringing the number of detained suspects to three. Their connection to the attack remains unclear. A previously unknown Tunisian extremist group claimed responsibility for the attack, and Tunisian and French authorities are investigating whether the claim is legitimate. **AP**

Nagorno-Karabakh fighting: Armenia asks Moscow for help

Yerevan (Armenia): Armenia's leader urged Russia on Saturday to consider providing security assistance to end the fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, the biggest escalation in the decades-long conflict between his country and Azerbaijan.

Following more than a month of intense fighting in which Azerbaijani troops forged into the separatist territory, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian asked Russia's President Vladimir Putin to quickly discuss possible security aid to his country.

There was no immediate response from the Kremlin.

The request came as Azerbaijani troops forged deeper into Nagorno-Karabakh and both sides accused each of breaking a mutual pledge not to target residential areas hours after it was made.

Russia, which has a military base in Armenia and has signed a pact obliging it to protect its ally in case of foreign aggression, faces a delicate balancing act of trying to maintain good ties with Azerbaijan and avoid a showdown with Turkey. **AP**



Participants march through a street during a pride parade in Taipei, Taiwan on Saturday

Unrest erupts in police shooting of Black man near Portland

Vancouver (US): Tensions boiled over into unrest following a vigil for a Black man shot and killed by law enforcement in a city near Portland, Oregon, in southwestern Washington state.

Mourners gathered late Friday in Hazel Dell, an unincorporated area of Vancouver, Washington, where family and friends say Kevin E. Peterson Jr., 21, was shot Thursday night. The city is about 12 miles (19 kilometers) north of Portland.

Hundreds of people gathered for the vigil Friday evening, with some holding signs reading, "Honk for Black Lives. White silence is violence" and "Scream his name." Nearby, tensions flared between left and right-wing protesters. Video recorded by journalists in a parking lot showed two groups of people shouting at each other. Also, some armed demonstrators gathered near a building they told reporters they were protecting.

The crowds ultimately fizzled out near the vigil but a group of hundreds of protesters later marched through downtown Vancouver. Windows were shattered, flags were burned and federal agents clothed in riot gear surrounded a building — warning people that trespassing on federal property would be subject to arrest.

Family and friends had described Peterson as a former high school football player and the proud father of an infant daughter. **AP**

Tanzania's Opp demands new election, mass protests

Dodoma: Tanzania's two main opposition parties are calling for a re-run of Wednesday's election after alleging widespread fraud, and they are urging people into the streets for peaceful protests on Monday.

The joint statement on Saturday by the CHADEMA and ACT Wazalendo parties comes hours after populist President John Magufuli was declared the winner of a second five-year term. The ruling party also secured nearly every seat in parliament, giving it the power to change the country's constitution.

"What happened on October 28 was not an election but a butchering of democracy," CHADEMA chair Freeman Mbowe told reporters, asserting that more than 20 people were killed during the vote.

"We demand the election repeated with immediate effect and the dissolving of the national electoral commission." The opposition has alleged widespread irregularities before and during the vote in the East African nation. **PTI**

Around the Globe

Basra: At least three people were killed and more than 50 injured in a gas pipeline explosion in southern Iraq, police sources said on Saturday. The military said in a statement that the cause of the blast was not known. It said nine Shiite militia fighters were among the wounded and two children had been killed. Police sources said the blast, near the southern city of Samawa, 270 km (170 miles) south of Baghdad, occurred along a stretch of pipeline that goes near a militia camp. Gas officials said the pipe there had seen leaks in the past.

Kyiv: Nearly three months after Belarus' authoritarian president's re-election to a sixth term in a vote widely seen as rigged, demonstrators keep swarming the streets of Belarusian cities to demand his resignation in the most massive and sustained wave of protests the ex-Soviet nation has ever seen.

Izmir (Turkey): Rescue teams on Saturday plowed through concrete blocks and the debris of eight collapsed buildings in search of survivors of a powerful earthquake that struck Turkey's Aegean coast and north of the Greek island of Samos, killing at least 27 people.

Washington: An American citizen kidnapped in the West African nation of Niger this past week has been rescued in a U.S. Military operation in neighboring Nigeria, a U.S. Official told The Associated Press on Saturday. Philippe Nathan Walton was taken from his farm in Massalata in southern Niger early Tuesday morning by armed kidnappers who demanded a ransom from the man's father.

गाजियाबाद विकास प्राधिकरण
(ISO 9001 : 2015 एवं ISO 14001 : 2015 प्रमाणित संस्था)
विकास पथ, गाजियाबाद
पत्रांक : 524/4/पीएन-टी/2020-21 दिनांक: 28.10.2020
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
उपाय, गाजियाबाद विकास प्राधिकरण की ओर से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा क्रम संख्या-1 से 3 तक अंकित कार्यों की ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त विवरण पथ शर्तें गाजियाबाद विकास प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.gdaghaziabad.com पर उपलब्ध है एवं UPLC की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर निविदा विक्रय की तिथि में उपलब्ध होगी। सम्बन्धित निविदाओं को ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना में उनके सम्मुख दर्शायी गयी तिथियों पर डाउनलोड व अपलोड किया जा सकता है एवं प्राप्त ई-निविदाओं को उनके सम्मुख दर्शायी गयी तिथियों पर खोला जायेगा। निविदा में कोई भी संशोधन/परिष्कारण/परिवर्तन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं को वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जायेगा।
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एक सुन्दर शहर हमारा संकल्प

WESTERN RAILWAY E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/25/2020 Date 29.10.2020

S.N.	Short Description of item	Quantity	T.O.D.
675	Tar Plastic Compound	8725kg	18.11.2020
676	Thin Walled E Beam Cable of Various Sizes	151200 Mtr.	20.11.2020
677	Over Head O.T. Light COVID O.T.	1 No.	20.11.2020
678	Smoke Evacuator for COVID O.T.	2 Nos.	20.11.2020
679	Spare Part Kit set for Distributor Valve	908 Set	23.11.2020
680	Security Disc	1681 Nos.	23.11.2020
681	Glass Unit for Fixed window	83 Nos.	23.11.2020
682	R-Charger	462 Nos.	24.11.2020
683	Starer Lead Acid Battery Capcity 8V-290 AH	90 Nos.	25.11.2020
684	Set of Labyrinth Ring Bearing Cap	49 Set	25.11.2020
685	Pin with Split Pin	1562 Nos.	26.11.2020
686	Mirror complete	182 Nos.	26.11.2020
687	Upgradation of Old Auto CAD 2019 LT Version Software	12 Nos.	27.11.2020
688	Turn Over Back Rest Stopper	1461 Nos.	27.11.2020
689	Step Rail L.H.	311 Nos.	27.11.2020
690	Sealed Window Glass Unit for Lavatory Window	201 Nos.	27.11.2020
691	Stainless Steel Handle	3480 Nos.	27.11.2020
692	Traction Center	6 Nos.	27.11.2020
693	Traction lever	20 Nos.	27.11.2020
694	Mirror (Standard Quality) out Side Wash Basin	446 Nos.	27.11.2020
695	Glass Unit for Fixed Window	207 Nos.	27.11.2020
696	Rubber Profile for Window Glass	1339 Mtr.	27.11.2020
697	Set of Main gear Drive Assly.	10 Set	27.11.2020
Reverse Auction			
13	Copper Contact Wire Joint Less 107 Sq.mm	130000 Mtr.	01.12.2020

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

For Principal Chief Materials Manager 399
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CENTRAL RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT AT NOTICE NO.E-37/2020, DT. 29/10/2020

Description	Qty.	T.O.D.
M.S Fabricated Impeller	59 Nos	23/11/2020
Secondary Spring for LHB Coaches	857 Nos.	27/11/2020
Densified Resins Compreg Plywood 12mm	7996 Nos.	30/11/2020
Intermediate Gear Bearing	41 Sets	30/11/2020
IOH Maintenance Kit	21 Sets	07/12/2020

Regarding detail notice & Tender Conditions please visit www.ireps.gov.in
Principal Chief Materials Manager
RPF Security Helpline 182 • Railway Helpline 139

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

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 18.11.2020 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the "Tender Document"), for recovery of Rs. 255,43,24,228/- (Rupees Two Hundred Fifty Five Crore Forty Three Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Eight only), i.e. Rs. 103,94,28,406/- (Rupees One Hundred Three Crore Ninety Four Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Sixty only), Rs. 75,80,86,784/- (Rupees Seventy Five Crore Eighty Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Four only) and Rs. 75,68,09,038/- (Rupees Seventy Five Crore Sixty Eight Lakh Nine Thousand Thirty Eight only) towards Loan Account Nos. LAP0240519, LAP0240520 and LAP0240522 respectively, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 28.10.2020 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 29.10.2020 legal expenses and other charges along with pending Tax Deducted at Source of Rs. 2,09,66,038/- (Rupees Two Crore Nine Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Thirty Eight only), i.e. Rs. 81,86,87,07/- (Rupees Eighty One Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy only), Rs. 63,89,584/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four only) and Rs. 63,89,584/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four only), towards Loan Account Nos. LAP0240519, LAP0240520 and LAP0240522 respectively, due to the Secured Creditor from BLISS HOUSE PVT. LTD., BLISS AGRI AND ECO TOURISM PVT. LTD., IMAGINE HABILIT PVT. LTD., IMAGINE RESIDENCE PVT. LTD. B. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR) AND R. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR).

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be Rs. 156,46,00,000/- (Rupees One Hundred Fifty Six Crore Forty Six Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 15,64,60,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Crore Sixty Four Lakh Sixty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 114509001412 with ICICI Bank Ltd. (IFSC: ICIC0001145), having its branch at B1 and B2, Vanija Nikunj, Enkay Tower, Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon - 122015 (Haryana) before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES)
ALL THAT PIECES OR PARCELS OF LAND/ PROPERTIES AS UNDER TOGETHER WITH ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE STRUCTURES, BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, FITTINGS, STANDING AND/ OR PLANT AND MACHINERY INSTALLED/ TO BE INSTALLED AND/ OR CONSTRUCTED/ TO BE CONSTRUCTED THEREON AND ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE RIGHTS, TITLE AND/ OR INTEREST OF BLISS HOUSE PVT. LTD. THEREIN:
50% UNDIVIDED SHARE OF PLOT NO. 20 (ADMEASURING ABOUT 2,443 SQ. MTR. EQUIVALENT TO 2,443 SQ. YD.) (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS PLOT NO. 9, BLOCK NO. 48), SITUATED AT DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE, SARDAR PATEL MARG, NEW DELHI - 110003, OWNED BY BLISS HOUSE PVT. LTD. AND BUTTED AND BOUNDED BY IN THE:

NORTH BY : PLOT NO. 19 SOUTH BY : PLOT NO. 21
EAST BY : SERVICE ROAD WEST BY : SARDAR PATEL MARG
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshousingfinance.com and www.auctofocus.in

Date : 30.10.2020
Place : NEW DELHI

Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HPGCL HISAR	NIT NO. 41/ROTARY-II/M&P-594/RGTPP/2020-21 DT. 26.10.2020. WORK OF OVERHAULING OF FANS, RAHS AND ASSOCIATED DUCTING INSTALLED IN UNIT-II, RGTPP DURING FORTHCOMING OVERHAULING OF 600 MW UNIT-II, RGTPP, KHEDAR, HISAR.	CLOSING DATE 06.11.2020	1.28 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9355084343 xenmp.rgtppl@hpgcl.org.in
2	HPGCL HISAR	NIT NO. 43/HEATER JACKET-II/M&P-597/RGTPP/2020-21 DT. 26.10.2020. WORK OF FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF HEATER JACKETS IN ESP HOPPERS INSTALLED IN UNIT-II DURING FORTHCOMING OVERHAULING OF 600 MW UNIT-II, RGTPP, KHEDAR, HISAR.	CLOSING DATE 06.11.2020	14372/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9355084343 xenmp.rgtppl@hpgcl.org.in
3	HPGCL HISAR	NIT NO. 44/ECT-II/M&P-598/RGTPP/2020-21 DT. 26.10.2020. HEALTH ASSESSMENT STUDY BY EDDY CURRENT TESTING OF TUBES OF CONDENSER OF UNIT-II, RGTPP DURING FORTHCOMING OVERHAULING OF 600 MW UNIT-II, RGTPP, KHEDAR, HISAR.	CLOSING DATE 06.11.2020	9351/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9355084343 xenmp.rgtppl@hpgcl.org.in
4	HPGCL PANIPAT	(NIT NO.04/2020-21/CMPD-II/916) SUB- CONSTRUCTION OF BRICK LINED DRAIN AT RAW WATER PUMP HOUSES OF UNIT-6 AND UNIT-7&8 AT PTPS, PANIPAT	CLOSING DATE 13.11.2020	2.32 LACS	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
5	HPGCL PANIPAT	(EOI NO. CH-11/2020-21/PTP/BMD-V/F-485) SUB-EXPRESSION IF INTEREST (EOI) FOR CARRYING FEASIBILITY STUDY OF 01 UNIT OF 250 MW PTPS UNIT-7 OR 8 FOR OPERATION OF UNIT AT TECHNICAL MINIMUM LEVEL BELOW 70% LOAD.	CLOSING DATE 09.11.2020	NIL	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
6	HPGCL PANIPAT	(NIT NO.03/2020-21/CMPD-II/915) SUB- DEWATERING & DE-SILTATION OF SUMP & MISC. WORKS OF RAW WATER SUMP OF UNIT-7&8 AT PTPS, PANIPAT	CLOSING DATE 13.11.2020	3.10 LACS	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
7	HARTRON	RATE CONTRACT OF THE A3 SIZE DIGITAL PRINTER CUM COPIER ON BEHALF OF VARIOUS GOVT. DEPARTMENTS/ORGANIZATIONS.	30.10.2020 30.11.2020	1 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2562456 agmhardwaredivision@gmail.com
8	HVPNL, SIRSA	MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR/RECTIFICATION OF SCADA SYSTEM AT 220KV S/STN. CHORMAR.	23.10.2020 03.11.2020	3.75 LACS	https://www.hvpng.org.in	0172-2583789 prohvpng@gmail.com
9	HVPNL, SIRSA	PAINTING OF RUSTED STEEL STRUCTURE AT 220/132KV S/STN. HVPNL, SIRSA.	23.10.2020 03.11.2020	4.91 LACS	https://www.hvpng.org.in	0172-2583789 prohvpng@gmail.com
10	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, FARRUKHNAGAR	CONSTRUCTION OF IPB ROAD FROM HOUSE OF CHARAN TO HOUSE OF SURESH SAINI AND HOUSE OF RANDHIR TO HOUSE OF JANKI WARD NUMBER 10 MC FARRUKHNAGAR + 6 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 06.11.2020	76769/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicgep/app	7988081914 secymcfarrukhnagar@gmail.com
11	KARNAL SMART CITY	TOTAL 4 NOS. WORKS/GOODS/ SERVICES IN KARNAL CITY UNDER KARNAL SMART CITY PROJECT	30.10.2020 20.11.2020	-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	smartcitykarnal@gmail.com
12	VITA HDCCF	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACTING OF EXTERNAL AGENCY FOR OUTSOURCING OF MANPOWER	03.11.2020 24.11.2020	NA	www.vitaindia.org.in	vitaindia@gmail.com
13	HVPNL, KARNAL	REPLACEMENT OF OLD/OBSOLETE 11 KV VCB'S AT 132 KV S/STN., HVPNL, KARNAL	26.10.2020 06.11.2020	1.19 LACS	WWW.HVPNL.ORG.IN	0172-2583789 prohvpng@gmail.com
14	HVPNL, KARNAL	REPLACEMENT OF OLD/OBSOLETE 11 KV VCB'S PANEL BOARD SET OF 132/11 KV, 10/16 MVA T-3 T/F AT 132 KV S/STN., HVPNL, NILOKHERI	29.10.2020 09.11.2020	1.29 LACS	WWW.HVPNL.ORG.IN	0172-2583789 prohvpng@gmail.com
15	HVPNL, KARNAL	PROVIDING 33KV 1X5.436 MVAR CAPACITOR BANK FOR 132/33 KV, 20/25 MVA T/F T-2 AT 132 KV S/STN. HVPNL, SAGGA	26.10.2020 06.11.2020	1.83 LACS	WWW.HVPNL.ORG.IN	0172-2583789 prohvpng@gmail.com
16	HVPNL, KARNAL	PROVIDING 33KV 1X5.436 MVAR CAPACITOR BANK FOR 132/33 KV, 20/25 MVA T/F T-2 AT 132 KV S/STN. HVPNL, SAGGA	26.10.2020 06.11.2020	1.83 LACS	WWW.HVPNL.ORG.IN	0172-2583789 prohvpng@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **RO NO. 83521**

Nafed floats bids for supply of red onions

15,000 TONNES TO BE IMPORTED BY NOVEMBER 20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cooperative Nafed on Saturday invited bids from importers for supply of 15,000 tonnes of red onions by November 20 in order to boost the domestic availability and check price rise.

The cooperative has asked bidders to supply 40 to 60 mm size of red onions from any country of origin at ₹50 per kg by November 20. They can bid for a minimum quantity of 2,000 tonnes to be supplied in multiple lots of 500 tonnes, it said.

The bidding will close on November 4 and received bids will be opened on the same day. The shipments are to be delivered at Jawaharlal Nehru Port

and Kandla ports, it added.

"We have floated tenders for supply of 15,000 tonnes of imported red onions. This will help increase the domestic supply situation," Nafed Additional Managing Director S K Singh told PTI.

The bids will be evaluated based on volumes, quality and early date of shipment. Bidders have to supply fresh, well dried and cured onions, he added.

Since the buffer stock of onion, which Nafed manages on behalf of the government, is gradually getting depleted, the cooperative has been asked to augment domestic supplies with imported onions to continue with ongoing market intervention.

Last year, Nafed had not only imported on its own some quantities but also distributed onions imported by state-run MMTC.

This year, it wants to get the supplies from importers so

that shipments could arrive fast and improve the domestic supply situation.

Even the size of onion Nafed has specified for supply is what Indians normally consume.

Last year, big size onions were imported but there were hardly any takers for that.

So far, Nafed has offloaded around 37,000 tonnes of onion from the buffer stock of nearly 1 lakh tonnes in select mandis and retail markets so that to check retail prices which have skyrocketed to over Rs 80 per kg in some parts of the country due to damage to the kharif crop in the wake of heavy rains in the key growing states.

On October 30, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal had said that private traders have already imported 7,000 tonnes of onion and another 25,000 tonnes are expected to arrive before Diwali.

US presidential polls vs Q2 results to induce volatility in equities

IANS ■ MUMBAI

Volatility is expected to prevail over the Indian equity markets as sentiments battle between overhang of US presidential elections and healthy domestic Q2 earnings results, analysts said.

The market at best will move in a "very tight range with risk aversion measures taken by the investors".

Besides, fears of a slower global recovery due to rising Covid-19 cases in Europe and the US are also expected to put pressure on the Indian stocks.

"The US presidential elections are due on November 3. The results of the elections are usually declared on the night of the polling day," said Deepak Jasani, Head-Retail Research, at HDFC Securities.

"In case of any delay in the announcement of a clear winner, the markets will keep reacting adversely as they hate uncertainty and sooner the announcement happens, the faster the expectation build-up on the next stimulus package," Jasani added. He pointed out that Nifty has shown signs of

'breaking down'; however, continuing weakness in the western markets is necessary for it to accelerate the downmove.

"A break of 11,452-11,505 could result in a faster down move. On the other hand, a move above 11,762-11,775 will rekindle hopes for continued upmove," Jasani said.

According to Siddhartha Khemka, Head-Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services: "Going ahead, the market is likely to remain under pressure till the overhang of the US elections and the surging Covid cases in Europe continue. US elections would dominate the global markets next week alongside Fed and BoE meetings."

2nd wave: Fears of slower global recovery, US polls to weaken rupee

New Delhi: Fears of a slower global recovery due to rising cases of Covid-19 infections in Europe and the US will cast pressure on the Indian rupee next week. Additionally, the rupee is expected to get weaker on account of uncertainties prevailing on the back of upcoming US Presidential Election which will be held on Nov 3.

"The continuation of the pandemic in absence of a vaccine is creating havoc and is playing out in the FX market. The fear that economic conditions are going to get worse before they get better, is keeping the dollar strong against EM currencies," said Rahul Gupta, Head of Research-Currency at Emkay Global Financial Services.

"Adding to this mood is the uncertainty of the US presidential election outcome. So, next week the chances of USDINR trading above 74 are higher and expect the spot pair to trade within 73.50-74.50," IANS

India could cut oil import bill further as Saudi looks at crude discounts

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

India's oil import bill may fall further in the remaining period of the current fiscal with Saudi Arabia looking at giving discount in crude it sells to Asian Buyers.

Analysts tracking the development said that the benchmark Dubai prices of oil have fallen and so have the gross refining margins. If this holds, a 10-20 cents per barrel discount on Saudi light crude would be available from December onwards.

The development is positive for India that imports maximum oil from Saudi Arabia after Iraq. Any discount on oil prices is expected to set the ball rolling for cheaper oil imports from other oil producing countries as well.

India imports 85 per cent of its domestic oil requirements. So any change in oil prices results in big savings for the country.

For India, good news is also coming from global devel-

India imported 227 million tonnes of crude for \$101.4 billion in 2019-20

opments in the oil market where prices are expected to remain soft in the absence of any big pick up in demand due to the Covid-19 pandemic while the market remains over-supplied with oil.

The benchmark Brent crude prices witnessed a drop in the preceding week, falling from a level of \$42 a barrel to just about \$38 a barrel now.

India imported 227 million tonnes of crude for \$101.4 billion in 2019-20. The import bill in the April-September period of the current fiscal (FY21) has already fallen by about 58 per cent to \$22 billion as compared to an import bill of \$52.6 billion in the first half of FY20 due to lower oil prices.

ICICI Bank Q2 net profit rises over 6-folds to ₹4,251 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ICICI Bank on Saturday reported an over six-fold jump in its standalone net profit at ₹4,251 crore for the second quarter ended September 2020. The bank had posted a net profit of ₹655 crore during the same period of the previous fiscal year.

Total income (standalone) in July-September 2020 stood at ₹23,650.77 crore, up from ₹22,759.52 crore in the same period a year earlier, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing.

On asset front, there was an improvement with gross non-performing assets (NPAs) falling to 5.17 per cent of gross advances as of September 30, 2020, against 5.37 per cent a year ago.

In value terms, gross NPAs or bad loans stood at ₹38,989.19 crore as against ₹45,638.79 crore. Net NPAs fell to 1 per cent (₹7,187.51 crore) from 1.60 per cent (₹10,916.40 crore). On consolidated basis, the bank's net profit was up over four-times at ₹4,882 crore in Q2 FY21 against Rs 1,131 crore in Q2 FY20. "The consolidated profit after tax in Q2 2020 had a one-time additional charge due to re-measurement of accumulated deferred tax assets at the revised marginal tax rate. The consolidated return on equity was 14.2 per cent in Q2 2021," it said in the filing. Income (consolidated) increased to Rs 39,321.42 crore during the quarter from Rs 37,424.78 crore a year earlier.

Privatisation-bound BPCL postpones key expansion projects

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Privatisation-bound PSU refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has delayed expansion plans for its refinery projects, pending its share sell off programme that will see government completely exiting from the company and handing over its management to a strategic investor.

BPCL has plans to expand its Bina refinery and take efficiency improvement measures at Mumbai refinery. But investment decisions on both the projects are now left for the new owners in the company that is expected to take control after the current bidding process ends, sources said that a senior BPCL officials told

analysts at a recent post results conference call.

The Bina Refinery expansion involves taking up its capacity from present 7.8 million tonne to 15 mt over next five years with an investment of over Rs 30,000 crore. Plan is also to set up a petrochemicals unit with a 1.5 mtpa naphtha cracker. With regard to Mumbai refinery the plan is to connect the unit with an ethylene cracker plant set up at an alternate location. These expansion plan will now be kept on the back burner till clarity emerged over the company's new owners. Government is selling its entire 53.29 per cent stake in BPCL to a strategic investor to mobilise over Rs 50,000 crore as disinvestment receipt.

ED arrests man under PMLA in ₹750 cr bank loan fraud

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested a person in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged ₹750 crore bank loan fraud committed by mis-using credit facilities, the central probe agency said on Saturday.

It said Sai Chandrasekar was arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on Friday following which a local court here sent him to seven days ED custody. The money laundering case against Chandrasekar pertains to a probe initiated by the agency against Virkanan Awasty, Vinod Sirohi and KPMG India Pvt Ltd, it said in a statement.

Sitharaman insisted on my transfer from MoF: Garg

New Delhi: Former Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg has claimed that Nirmala Sitharaman asked for and insisted on his transfer from the Ministry of Finance in June 2019 itself, within a month of taking over as the Union Finance Minister.

Giving reasons for taking voluntary retirement from government service last year, Garg wrote in a blog: "Quite frankly,

I did not share a good and productive working relationship with the new Finance Minister and I did not want to work anywhere outside the Ministry of Finance." Profusely praising late Arun Jaitley as the Finance Minister, Garg said that with the new incumbent Sitharaman "it became quite apparent very early that working with her was going to be quite difficult and it may not be conducive to

undertaking necessary reforms for the attainment of the objective of building a \$10 trillion economy of India." Garg said that Sitharaman had "pre-conceived notions" about him. "She, for reasons not very clearly known to me, came with some pre-conceived notions about me. She did not seem to have confidence in me. She was not quite comfortable working with me as well."

Piyush Goyal conducted Rastriya Ekta Diwas pledge

Kolkata: Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution administered Rastriya Ekta Diwas Pledge virtually to all the members of Indian Railways today i.e. on 29.10.2020. Manoj Joshi, GM and senior officers as well as other staff of Metro Railway took this pledge with him. Metro men have vowed to preserve the unity, integrity and security of India and uphold the spirit of unification of the country which was made possible by the vision and actions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Pradeep Kumar / Nilima Kadian, D- 12/4 Koyla Vihar, Ardee City, Gurgaon Haryana. A/c No- LBDEL00001655298	Shop No- UD- 246- D, AD Measuring Area Is 272 Sq Feet & UG- 218D, AD Measuring Area Is 272 Sq Feet Block- B, Sushant Shopping Arcade, Sushant Lok-1 Gurgaon Haryana	09-Oct-2020, Rs. 2,10,94,579/-	30/08/2008

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : 31-10-2020
Place : Delhi NCR
Authorized Officer Secured Creditor

Vigilance seminar on 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India' in CLW

Chittaranjan: A Vigilance Seminar on "VIGILANT INDIA, PROSPEROUS INDIA" was organised today at Administrative Meeting Room, on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 which was started from 27th Oct 2020. Shri Praveen Kumar Mishra, General Manager graced the seminar as Chief Guest. Sr Officers of CLW

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT (CO-ORDINATION BRANCH) DELHI SECRETARIAT, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110 002 PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for information of the General Public that as per the provision of **Section 135 B of the Representation of the People Act 1951**, every person employed in any business, trade, industrial undertaking or any other establishment in National Capital Territory of Delhi and **entitled to vote and residing in Baroda Assembly Constituency of Haryana** shall be granted a holiday on the day of poll i.e. **03.11.2020 (Tuesday)** so that he/she can cast his/her vote during **Bye-election to 33-Baroda Assembly Constituency of Haryana**.

No deduction or abatement of the wages shall be made on account of above holiday and if any person is employed on the basis that he/she would not ordinarily receive wages for such a day, he/she nonetheless be paid wages as he/she would have drawn had not a holiday been granted to him/her on that day.

Any contravention of the above provisions is punishable as per the Provisions of section 135 B (3) of the Representation of People act, 1951.

Sd/-
(Amitabh Kundoo)
Dy. Secretary (GAD)

DIP/Shabdarth/0399/20-21

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 60 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found unconscious on 26.10.2020 at 11:30 p.m. near VIP COVID Screening Centre. The unidentified person was admitted to Dr RML hospital, where he was declared dead by the doctors. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No: 25-A dated 26.10.2020 at PS North Avenue, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Male, **Age:** about 60 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Hair:** Small and Brown-white colour, **Wearing:** Cream colour kurta and pajama. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/North Avenue, New Delhi.

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

SHO
P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-23093040, 23093294

DP/150/ND/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY 'E'-TENDER NOTICE

DyCSTE/SPL/TJK, Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002 acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E- tenders in **Two packet system** from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:

1 Name of work	Outdoor and Indoor Work with part supply of Signaling materials in Connection with the work of Replacement of signaling gears with Distributed EI at Delhi Sarai Rohilla - DEE station of Delhi Division, Northern Railway
2 Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 11,39,11,170.84 (Rs. Eleven Crore Thirty Nine Lakh Eleven Thousand One hundred Seventy and Paise Sixty Four Only)
3 Earnest money	Rs. 7,19,600/- (To be submitted online)
4 Completion period	10 Months from the date of issue of letter of Acceptance
5 Website address and Date and Time where tender available	www.ireps.gov.in
6 Closing date	11:00 Hrs. on date: 25.11.2020
7 Date of Opening of tender	11:30 Hrs. on date: 25.11.2020
8 Validity of offer	60 days from the date of opening of tender.

(Tenders without earnest money will be summarily rejected)
Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date & time only. Bids are to be submitted online only. Manual bids/offers are not allowed against this tender, and any manual offer received shall be ignored.

The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E - Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. Necessary changes, corrigendum / addendum, if required, would be posted on this website only.

No. 256-Sig/SPL/TJK/218/DEE Dated : 31.10.2020 2402/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

ATLAS JEWELLERY INDIA LIMITED ATLAS
CIN : L74140DL1989PLC131289
Reg. Off.: DT-719, 7/F Floor, DLF Tower B, Plot No. 11, Jasola District, New Delhi-110025
Phone: 011-40541077/41041143, Telefax: 011-40541077, Email: info@atlasjewelleryindia.com
Web: www.atlasjewelleryindia.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 under SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 (LODR), the reconvened meeting of the Board of Directors of the company will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 inter alia to consider and approve the unaudited financial results for the Q2' quarter and half year ended 30.09.2020 along with Limited Review Report of the statutory auditors for the corresponding period.

A copy of said Notice and Un-Audited Financial Results shall also be available on the company's website at www.atlasjewelleryindia.com and may also be available on the website of the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com.

Pursuant to this, the Code has decided that the close period (i.e. closure of trading window) under the "ATLAS Code of conduct for prevention of insider trading" would commence from Saturday, 31 October, 2020 and ends on 48 hours after the results are made public (both days inclusive).

By the Order of the Board
FOR ATLAS JEWELLERY INDIA LIMITED
Sd/-
Chandan Mahapatra
(Company Secretary & CFO)

Date : 31.10.2020
Place : New Delhi

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

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/ charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 18.11.2020 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 273,23,35,275/- (Rupees Two Hundred Seventy Three Crore Twenty Three Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Five Only), i.e. Rs. 97,79,95,948/- (Rupees Ninety Seven Crore Seventy Nine Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Eight Only), Rs. 81,97,62,726/- (Rupees Eighty One Crore Ninety Seven Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Six Only) and Rs. 93,45,76,601/- (Rupees Ninety Three Crore Forty Five Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty One Only) towards Loan Account Nos. S000240450, S000240451 and S000240667 respectively, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 28.10.2020 with applicable future interest, in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f 29.10.2020 legal expenses and other charges along with pending Tax Deducted at Source of Rs. 1,41,24,244/- (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty Four Only), i.e. Rs. 76,13,16,77/- (Rupees Seventy Six Lakh Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty Seven Only), Rs. 63,81,625/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Only) and Rs. 1,29,452/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two Only), due to the Secured Creditor from BLISS VILLA (DELHI) PVT. LTD., B. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR) and R. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR).

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property(ies) will be 186,15,00,000/- (Rupees One Hundred Eighty Six Crore Fifteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be 18,61,50,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Crore Sixty One Lakh Fifty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 114505001412 with ICICI Bank Ltd. (IFSC: ICIC0001145), having its branch at B1 and B2, Vanija Nikunji, Enkay Tower, Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon - 122015 (Haryana) before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES)

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

PLOT NO. 49 (MEASURING ABOUT 1,031.29 SQ. MTR. I.E. 1,233.30 SQ. YD.), BLOCK NO. 48, DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE, NOW KNOWN AS PROPERTY NO. 18, SITUATED AT KAUTILYA MARG, NEW DELHI - 110021, OWNED BY BLISS VILLA (DELHI) PVT. LTD. AND BUTTED AND BOUNDED BY IN THE:

NORTH BY : PLOT NO. 6
SOUTH BY : PLOT NO. 20 (VIETNAM EMBASSY)
EAST BY : KAUTILYA MARG
WEST BY : OTHER'S PROPERTY

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshousingfinance.com and www.auctionfocus.in

Sd/
Authorized Officer
Date : 30.10.2020
Place : NEW DELHI
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED



Ishan has gotten better in every game, and once he gets going, he's hard to get rid of. He came in the playing XI at No 4 and then came out to open and just blew us away

We fell short of reading the wicket. We weren't upto the mark right from the start and those wickets in the Powerplay took down the momentum from us

In the last two games Stokes has been exceptional. He has good innovation, and hits the ball in weird areas. He is a valuable player, one of the best in the world

Gayle is a huge part of our dressing room. Not only because of his consistency but to have somebody like that is very inspiring. He keeps the dressing room positive

Mumbai high

Boult, Bumrah & Kishan ensure defending champions top-2 finish in league stage with 9 wicket win over Delhi Capitals

PTI ■ DUBAI

Mumbai Indians ensured a top-two finish in the Indian Premier League points table with a clinical nine-wicket decimation of an already battered Delhi Capitals, who wilted under relentless pressure from Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah.

While Boult (3/21 in 4 overs) dealt telling opening blows, Jasprit Bumrah (3/17 in 4 overs) broke the backbone of the Delhi Capitals middle-order, choking them to 110 for 9.

The defending champions coasted to victory in 14.2 overs, taking their points tally to 18 and will have two shots in the play-offs to get into the final.

Delhi Capitals, who had won seven out of their first nine games, have now lost four on the bounce and with a match left are in danger of missing out on the play-offs with an ever deteriorating net-run-rate of minus 0.159.

While batting, Delhi Capitals consumed 62 dot balls, which effectively meant that more than half of



their stipulated 20 overs had gone without scoring.

A target of 111 can't be defended nine out of 10 times and the pocket dynamo Ishan Kishan scored 72 not out off 43 balls to make the chase look like a walk in the park.

Not for once did Delhi Capitals look like being in control as they made the Dubai strip and the MI bowling attack look doubly menacing with some of the best batsmen abdicating their responsibilities of playing fearless cricket.

Boult was brilliant upfront removing openers Shikhar Dhawan (0) and Prithvi Shaw (10 off 11 balls) in the powerplay which pegged the Delhi Capitals back.

Captain Shreyas Iyer (25 off 29 balls) and Rishabh Pant (21 off 24 balls) then compounded their team's worries as they failed to regain the lost momentum.

The duo, for the umpteenth time, looked like playing for themselves and



Jasprit Bumrah celebrates after he dismisses Rishabh Pant | IPL20.com

the intent was missing which affected the morale of the batsmen coming down the order.

Quinton de Kock effected a 'MS Dhoni-esque' stumping off Rahul Chahar to see Iyer's return to the hut after which came Bumrah's devastating spell.

A ball pitched on length was climbing up while moving a shade away which Marcus Stoinis edged to the wicketkeeper.

Pant's misery ended when Bumrah came round the wicket and fired one from wide off the crease that came in with the angle to trap him leg before.

He then tormented Harshal Patel, who played and missed a

Rohit is getting better, will be back soon: Pollard

DUBAI: Mumbai Indians stand-in captain Kieron Pollard on Saturday informed that regular skipper Rohit Sharma's injured left hamstring is on the mend and he is expected to be back soon for the team.

Rohit sustained a recurrent left hamstring injury against Kings XI Punjab (October 18), which also prompted the national selection committee to leave him out of the Australia-bound Indian team.

"Rohit is getting better and hopefully he'll be back soon," Pollard said without putting a date on his comeback.

There was a possibility of Rohit returning to action on November 3 during Mumbai Indians' last league game against Sunrisers Hyderabad, but the match is now inconsequential with the defending champions having ensured a top-two finish.

The stop-gap captain seemed pretty happy after MI's



MI skipper Rohit Sharma | IPL20.com

16 wins from 17 games under his leadership over the years.

"We need to play another couple of good games and get to the final. This isn't supposed to be our year (MI wins trophies in odd years only), but it's been working for us so far," Pollard said cheekily.

few before being adjudged leg-before, a decision that couldn't be reviewed as Pant had consumed it during his dismissal.

If Delhi Capitals miss out on a play-off berth, Iyer-Pant duo will have to accept their responsibility as premier international players in this DC line-up.

Iyer has scored 414 runs in 13 games but mostly coming in at No 3, his strike-rate of less than 125 has left a lot to be desired.

Pant has been even worse and with each passing match, his wretched form is perhaps a vindication of Sunil Joshi-led national selection committee's decision to drop him from the white ball squads for the Australia tour.

In 10 games, he has scored only 274 runs at a below-par strike rate of 112.29 and more importantly failed to score a 50 even when he batted at No 4 in most of the games.

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Mumbai Indians pacer Jasprit Bumrah poses with Purple cap after becoming IPL 2020 leading wicket-taker (23 wickets level with DC's Kagiso Rabada) | @mipattan



Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals' players pose for photo together after end of IPL match on Saturday | @DelhiCapitals



Delhi Capitals co-owner Parth Jindal and his wife Anushree Jasani watch IPL match in Dubai on Saturday | IPL20.com

POINTS TABLE

	P	W	L	NRR	PTS	
1	MI (Q)	13	9	4	+1.296	18
2	RCB	12	7	5	+0.048	14
3	DC	13	7	6	-0.159	14
4	KXIP	13	6	7	-0.133	12
5	RR	13	6	7	-0.377	12
6	KKR	13	6	7	-0.467	12
7	SRH	12	5	7	+0.396	10
8	CSK	13	5	8	-0.532	10

Do-or-die game for KXIP



Chris Gayle reacts after he completes his fifty | IPL20.com

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Their play-off chances hanging in balance, Kings XI Punjab will leave no stone unturned as they take on Chennai Super Kings in a must-win game here on Sunday.

KXIP's chances of a top four finish took a serious hit after Rajasthan Royals handed them a seven-wicket loss, snapping their impressive five match-winning streak.

The defeat means KXIP's fate is not solely in their hands as even a win against CSK will not ensure them a play-off spot. The Punjab outfit will need other results to go their way.

If Sunrisers Hyderabad (10 points from 12 games) win both their remaining matches and the loser of the Delhi Capitals (14) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (14) game finishes higher on the points table — either in terms of

points or by virtue of a superior net run rate — than KXIP, then KL Rahul and his men will not qualify.

However, if Sunrisers are beaten in any match, then KXIP, who are currently placed fourth with 12 points from 13 outings with a net run rate of -0.133, will have a good chance of qualifying provided they win against CSK on Sunday.

On the other hand, CSK, already out of the reckoning for the first time ever, will aim to end their dismal campaign on a positive note.

The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led team, languishing at the bottom of the points table, head in to the clash after notching up back-to-back wins over RCB and Kolkata Knight Riders.

With skipper Rahul, the leading run-scorer of the tournament, and the flamboyant Chris Gayle coming good and the marauding Nicholas Pooran to follow at No 4, KXIP will fancy their chances at the

Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

It remains to be seen if Mayank Agarwal, who has missed three games, returns to the side.

KXIP's bowling has been instrumental in their recent wins. However, against the Royals they leaked runs and were unable to pick wickets and

Rublev enters his 5th final in 2020

VIENNA: Andrey Rublev advanced to his fifth final of the season Saturday after Kevin Anderson pulled out in the second set of their semifinal at the Erste Bank Open.

The fifth-seeded Rublev led 6-4, 4-1 when Anderson quit the match with a right thigh issue.

In Sunday's final, Rublev will play Daniel Evans or Lorenzo Sonego, who beat Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-1 in Friday's quarterfinals.

Anderson, who won the event in 2018, wore tape on his thigh from the start of the match. He first got a medical timeout after losing the opening game of the second set and asked for treatment again at 3-0 before playing just two more games.

It was the second time this week that Rublev's opponent quit their match, after Jannik Sinner pulled out after three games with a foot injury in the second round. AP

Royals, KKR battle to end each other's campaign

PTI ■ DUBAI

They have just given their playoffs qualification hopes a lift and Rajasthan Royals will look to sustain the momentum against Kolkata Knight Riders in another must-win game here on Sunday.

Besides a victory in their last league game, the inaugural edition winners will also need other results to go their way if they are to make the playoffs of the lucrative event, in its 13th edition now.

The best-case scenario for RR would be Kings XI Punjab losing their last match and Sunrisers Hyderabad winning no more than one in their last two outings.

In that case, RR will go through with 14 points, without net run rate coming into play.

However, RR's first task is to do what is within its control — win the match against the Knight Riders and then hope for the best. Given the tight situation, the bigger the margin of win, the better it will be for the Steve

Smith-led side.

The Royals can certainly look forward to their batting at the Dubai International Stadium. Their talismanic England all-rounder Ben Stokes has just won a Man-of-the-Match award, having made a breezy half century after

picking up two wickets, in the team's win over Kings XI Punjab on Friday.

The 2019 World Cup final hero getting his mojo back, at such a crucial juncture of the tournament, is great news for the Royals. And, needless to say, a bad one for KKR as the leading all-rounder can singlehandedly influence the outcome of a game.

Sanju Samson rediscovering his touch must have also gladdened the hearts of the RR team management. The wicket-keeper-batsman had started the tournament on an explosive note before going off the rails midway, only to come back all guns blazing against KXIP.

Skipper Smith can play according to the situation and opener Robin Uthappa can put any attack to the



sword on his day.

No opposition takes Jos Buttler lightly and then there is Rahul Tewatia and young Riyan Parag down the order, beefing up RR's batting.

Jofra Archer has been the standout performer with the ball and he will again shoulder RR's responsibility in bowling.

While they have as many points as RR and KXIP, KKR's road to the playoffs looks the toughest, thanks to their

abysmal net run rate. Their only chance of qualification is if they beat Royals and finish on 14 points, with none of the other contenders reaching that tally. That seems improbable, the last two successive losses badly hurting their prospects.

Nevertheless, the likes of Shubman Gill, Nitish Rana, captain Eoin Morgan in batting and Varun Chakravarthy, Pat Cummins and Kamlesh Nagarkoti with ball would like to give it their all.

Sunrisers restrict RCB to 120/7

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Sunrisers Hyderabad produced a brilliant bowling effort to restrict a batting-heavy Royal Challengers Bangalore to a modest 120 for seven in an Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

SRH strangled RCB by picking up wickets at regular intervals after opting to bowl.

Young Devdutt Padikkal (5) and skipper Virat Kohli (7) departed in quick succession, falling to Sandeep Sharma (2/20). Sandeep has now dismissed Kohli seven times in IPL.

AB de Villiers made a run-a-ball 24 before perishing and then Josh Philippe (32) again got a start but failed to capitalise. He was caught by Manish Pandey off Rashid Khan (1/24) in the next over as RCB slumped to 76 for four in 11.4 overs.

RCB were done in by some



incisive bowling from SRH bowlers upfront, resulting in lack of partnerships, which is the vital for any team to post a decent total on the board.

RCB's struggle with the bat can be gauged from the fact that they hit only nine boundaries and a six in their entire innings despite having the likes of Padikkal, Kohli, De Villiers and Chris Morris up their ranks.

After the early blows,

Washington Sundar (21) and Gurkeerat Singh (15 not out) tried to resurrect the innings with a 30-run fifth-wicket stand but they never got the momentum.

Towards the end, both Sundar and Morris departed in quick succession to add misery to RCB's woes.

It was clinical performance from SRH bowlers as RCB batsmen struggled to get going after the early dismissals.

Hazard stunner gives Real win over Huesca



AFP ■ MADRID

Eden Hazard scored his first goal for Real Madrid in over a year and his team appear to turn a corner as they beat newly-promoted Huesca 4-1 in La Liga on Saturday.

Hazard has had a terrible time with injuries since joining Madrid for 100 million euros (US\$113 million) from Chelsea in 2019 but the Belgian will hope his stunning strike from distance at the Alfredo di Stefano can kick-start his career in Spain.

Karim Benzema and Fede Valverde made the win secure before Huesca scored through David Ferreira, only for Benzema to add his second and Madrid's fourth in injury-time.

Zinedine Zidane's side jump above Real Sociedad to the top of the table to cap an encouraging week, which began with a Clasico win over Barcelona at Camp Nou and finishes with them moving nine points clear of the Catalans, who play away at Alaves later on Saturday.

In between, Madrid came too close for comfort to another damaging defeat in the Champions League but two late goals salvaged a draw at Borussia Monchengladbach that in the end felt like a win.

Huesca, who are yet to win this season, might feel the scoreline was harsh after they squandered early chances.

Madrid will hope the dip that put Zidane under pressure earlier this month is over.

Zidane will have been particularly delighted with Hazard, whose goal was his first for Madrid since he scored against Granada in October last year, and his second overall in La Liga.

Ankle surgery kept Hazard out for the majority of last season and he was not fit for the start of this one, with Madrid only describing his latest setback as a "muscle injury".

But he made his first appearance off the bench in the Champions League in mid-week and against Huesca

marked his first start with a brilliant goal in the first half.

Until then, Huesca had been the better team but Hazard's strike turned the contest in the 40th minute, when he received the ball on the half-turn and swerved a superb shot into the corner from 30 yards out.

Benzema made it two, chesting down Lucas Vazquez's cross at the back post and driving in, before Valverde struck a sweet half-volley into the corner.

Ferreiro gave Huesca brief hope with 16 minutes left but Madrid were never overly troubled and Benzema rounded off the win in injury-time, converting a smart header back from Rodrygo.

Cádiz won at Eibar 2-0 to extend its impressive return to the Spanish league after 14 years in the lower divisions.

Cádiz moved into second place in the standings behind leader Real Sociedad on goal difference.



Whatever you're going through in your life, don't ever give up
— Mariah Carey



FROM THE INSIDE

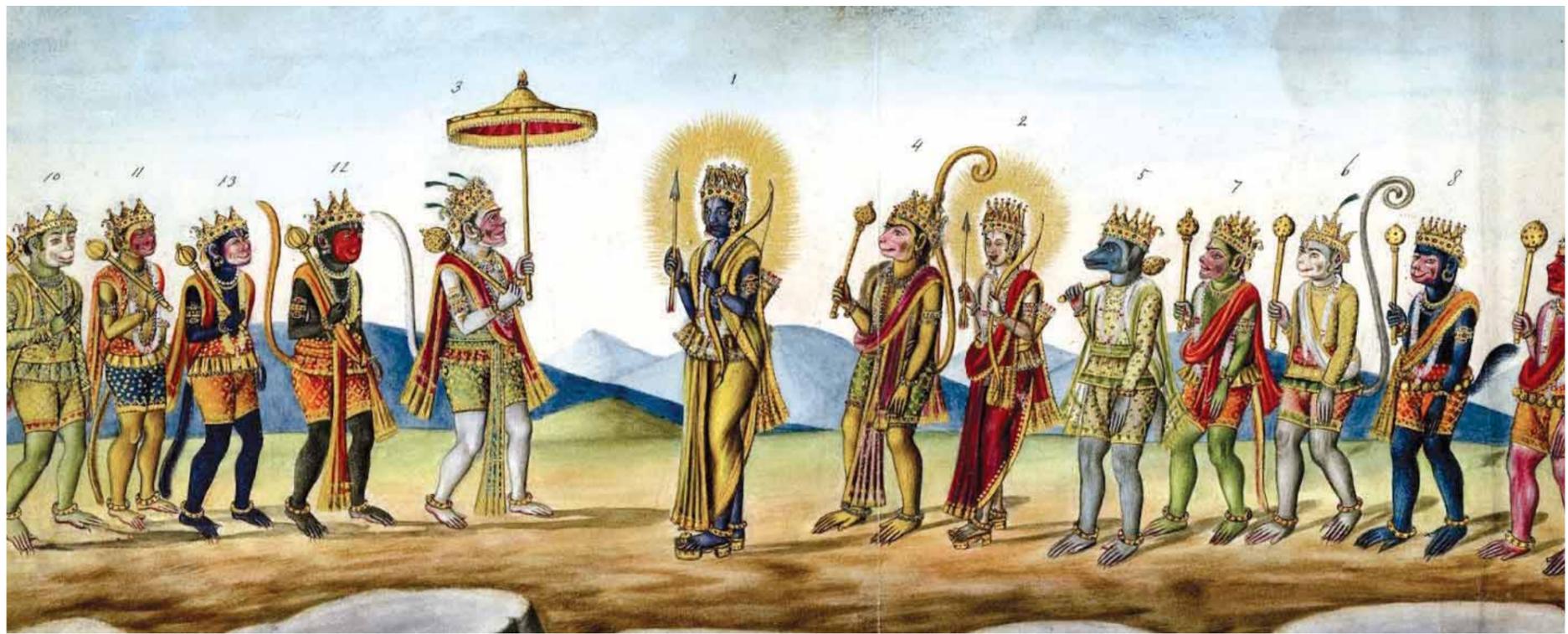
Maya: The ultimate illusion

The essence of spirituality was summarised by Adi Shankaracharya in one page. Over time, we learnt to associate it with *maya*



Astrology can be baffling

An accurate reading of the placement of planets in one's natal chart can reveal what the future holds for that person



BEING RAM: THE RELEVANCE OF THE RAMAYANA TODAY

Whether we choose to draw inspiration from Valmiki's original work or from Tulsidas's worshipful rendition, the fact is that the legend of prince Ram lives in us. It is kept alive because of our anxieties, writes MADHAVI S MAHADEVAN

Even with an abundance of religious festivals, thirty-six at a conservative estimate, *Vijaydashmi* or Dussehra has remained special. Marking the end of *Navratri*, it celebrates the victory of good over evil. A double victory — of the goddess Durga over the buffalo demon Mahishasura and of the legendary prince Ram over Raavan, the ten-headed king of Lanka. Anyone who has witnessed the burning of the enormous effigies of Raavan, his two *rakshasa* brothers, Kumbhakarna and Meghnad, cannot forget the high-octane drama that is a fitting finale to the preceding nine nights when one of the world's oldest epics, the *Ramayana*, is dramatised in parts of North India as the *Ramlila*.

Attributed to the sage Valmiki, composed between 200 BCE-200 CE, the *Ramayana* (Ram's Journey), a 24,000 verse poem in Sanskrit, is one of ancient India's principal literary works, a cornerstone of art and culture in, not just the subcontinent, but across Southeast Asia. The story, compressed, is about Ram, a righteous, dutiful prince, who struggles to rescue his wife Sita from the clutches of her abductor, Raavan.

Ram's difficulties, however, begin much earlier, on the eve of his coronation when, due to the machinations of his stepmother, he is exiled for fourteen years. The couple go to the forest accompanied by Ram's younger brother Lakshman. When both brothers spurn the overtures of the *rakshasi* Surpanakha, she incites her brother Raavan, the all-powerful king, who abducts Sita and imprisons her on his distant island kingdom. In his efforts to rescue Sita, Ram is helped by the armies of the monkey king Sugreev, and his minister Hanuman. A terrible battle follows, Raavan is killed. Reunited with Sita, Ram returns to Ayodhya to assume kingship.

While Valmiki planted the tree, the *Ramayana*, with over 300 transcriptions, has grown into a forest. Among its offshoots in the Gangetic plain is the *Ramcharitmanas*. Composed by the 16th century Vaishnava saint, Tulsidas, the *chaupais* (quatrain verses of poetry popular in the medieval period) in Awadhi *bhasha*, are still recited in Hindu homes. Whereas high literary quality marks Valmiki's work, the *Ramcharitmanas* is regarded as a 'holy book'; Ram occupies a pedestal as *maryada purushottam*, the man who practised righteousness to perfection.

While its piety has given comfort to many, the *Ramcharitmanas* has also inspired a colourful annual ritual, the *Ramlila*, a theatrical event of immense popularity that had its first performance, it is said, in Varanasi around 480 years ago. Later, as Hindu immigrants crossed overseas, the *Ramlila* tradition travelled to Fiji, Mauritius, South Africa, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. Within India, although the *Ramayana*

has versions in several regional languages, *Ramlila* performances are almost exclusive to the north.

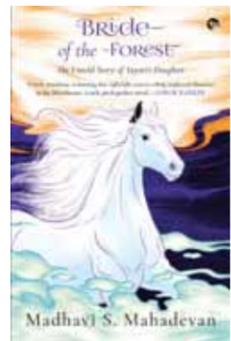
The story's episodic structure lends itself to enactment. Individual episodes bear titles like *Van Gaman* (Departure for the Forest), *Sita Apharan* (The Kidnapping of Sita), *Lanka Dahan* (The Burning of Lanka), *Raavan Vadh* (The Killing of Raavan). Though similar to the original, these amateur dramatisations can be a purist's worst nightmare come true. Using local talent for every aspect of the production — from lights and music to scripting, direction and acting — they frequently combine Bollywood style entertainment. Songs, dances and over-the-top dialogues are interspersed with reiterations of the messages of the *Ramcharitmanas*.

For instance, in the scene where Surpanakha makes overtures to Ram and Lakshman, she may sashay onstage to the song *Yeh mera dil pyaar ka diwana* (from the film *Don*). The next episode, showing the decadence of Lanka, may have the demon king, dressed in black and gold, quaffing wine and regaling his inebriated court with Urdu poetry. Zing is added to speech through rhyming, as when Hanuman proclaims his loyalty to Ram: *Hanuman aapka wafadaar hei, sahayata karne ko taiyaar hei*.

The didactic quality of the *Ramcharitmanas*, the razzmatazz of the *Ramlila* have contributed to the legend's popularity, but, in the last hundred years, movie-making has become instrumental in the spread of the meta-narrative. Dadasaheb Phalke who made India's first film, *Raja Harishchandra* (1913) also made *Lanka Dahan* (1917). However, the credit for, arguably, the most accomplished and, in their time, extremely successful screen adaptations of the epic belongs to Vijay Bhatt who made *Bharat Milap* (1942) and *Ram Rajya* (1943). The latter, supposedly, was one of the two films that Mahatma Gandhi ever watched. In recent times, the crown for record viewership goes to the televised version of the *Ramayana*, first aired in 1987 and, more recently, in April 2020 when it garnered, according to Doordarshan, 7.7 crore viewers. Following the re-tecast, the social media was inundated with memes and discussions, such as Manthara being voted the world's favourite villain, proving that the story is evergreen.

This begs the question: What does the legend of Ram offer modern audiences?

Among millennials, age bracket 25-40 years, the oldest were children when the 1987 telecast kept entire families glued to their TV sets. In subsequent years, as the country shed its socialist image and opted for more liberal economic policies, they entered the job market. Better educated than previous generations, internet-savvy, they have preferred the rapid growth promised by the private sector, irrespective of frequent job



WHAT MAKES THE RAMAYANA, IN PARTICULAR, INTERESTING IS THE WAY IT HUMANISES ITS HERO RAM: AS A MAN WHO, EVEN AT THE WORST OF TIMES, CHOOSES TO MAINTAIN HIS COMPOSURE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, ACTS WITH INTELLIGENCE, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT. THE LIFE LESSONS ARE CUSTOM-MADE FOR INDIAN REALITIES, PREDICATED ON THE NOTION THAT THE LIFE YOU LIVE ISN'T ALWAYS THE ONE YOU WANT, BUT THE ONE YOU ARE GIVEN



changes, over the slow-but-stable progression of government employment. Leveraging technology in the pursuit of their professional and personal aspirations, they have focussed on creativity and value-addition. Economically better off than their parents, owning a home and a car has become de rigeur, as has been affording their children a more comfortable lifestyle.

While the family remains a core concern, millennials are aware that having more choices has improved their quality of life. However, they are wary of being trapped by the 'hedonic treadmill'. While increased awareness of the world has meant that they are more individualistic in their choices, there is a concern about the environment, a respect for diversity, a growing egalitarianism. Articulate on social media, they are ready, through collective power, to generate dissent over societal ills, to push for change.

However, as newer realities emerge, hope has given way to anxiety. The economic slowdown, hugely exacerbated by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, has already led (according to a CMIE report) to 21 million salaried job losses. In these circumstances, difficult decisions need to be taken. As disquiet builds up and a certain amount of introspection is inevitable, the legend of Ram becomes less about myth and more about examining the civilisational values it propagates.

Whether we choose to draw inspiration from Valmiki's original work or from Tulsidas's worshipful rendition, the fact is that the legend lives in us. Just as it nurtures us, it is kept alive because of our anxieties. As audiences of longstanding, we are in the narrative, seeing something of ourselves in its characters and something identifiable about them in us. What makes the *Ramayana*, in particular, interesting is the way it humanises its hero Ram: as a man who, even at the worst of times, chooses to maintain his composure and, consequently, acts with intelligence, courage and commitment. The life lessons are custom-made for Indian realities, predicated on the notion that the life you live isn't always the one you want, but the one you are given.

Ergo, opting to conduct oneself with dignity, decency and decorum is praiseworthy. It starts with the awareness of *dharma* — knowing what one's duty is to oneself, family and society. The advice, though not always simple, is sound: follow the path of truth and righteousness, work for unity within the family and in society, respect diverse cultures, use your judgement to filter good advice from bad, don't speak ill of others, keep your word, control your senses if you want to avoid sorrow, be compassionate. Understand that life can change its course in a split second; accept what you cannot control but do your best, via the right attitude and action, to deal with it. Finally, it is adversity that brings one closer to the Self.

While the wisdom of these tenets is respected, there are aspects of the legend that make millennials uncomfortable. (Devotees are different as they see all Ram's actions as godly acts.) There are three instances when Ram's behaviour appears questionable: the deceitful killing of Vali, the killing of the Shambuka, the *shudra* ascetic who performed *tapas* and the rejection of Sita. The last two appear in the seventh chapter of the *Ramayana*, *Uttara Kanda*, believed to be a later addition. Ram's treatment of Sita, in particular, is condemned. Nothing new in that: through folk narratives, women have always shown sympathy with Sita's pain.

However, millennials' views, focussed on the injustice, are gender neutral. Says Teesta, a thirty-five-year old Food Quality and Supply Chain Management professional, 'The *agni-pariksha* Sita had to undergo was uncalled for... synonymous with the disrespect and distrust of a man towards his wife. The foundation of any relationship is trust. Ram misjudged and misconstrued his wife to defeat this very basis. He is a man of principles, an ideal son and brother, but not perfect — not in today's context.'

Sanjay Rao, a thirty-year-old commercial pilot differs. 'He was the ideal man, but the people he ruled were not. It was they who made the allegations. As their king he had to take notice and act... though he sent Sita away to the forest, he remained constant to her, in an age when kings were allowed several wives.'

A third view is articulated by Tilak, a thirty-six year old investment banker: 'The trial-by-fire, though unpleasant, established Sita's blamelessness, but casting her away, because of a smear campaign, is unacceptable... She was pregnant at the time... If he felt that his credentials as a ruler were under a shadow, he could have considered stepping down, asked Bharat to continue, as he had been regent for fourteen years, or appointed Lakshman. That would have been more honourable and taught his people a well-deserved lesson.'

Epics are relevant for the questions they raise. While these don't change, every age finds new answers. Mythological time being immutable, we celebrate the victory of good over evil with every Dussehra, and welcome the victor home with every Diwali. Perhaps, as this year's *diyas* are lit, it's time to acknowledge that *Ram rajya* — a society built on virtues, morality and fairness — is what we create.

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THE ULTIMATE ILLUSION

The essence of spirituality was summarised by Adi Shankaracharya in one page. But, over time, we learnt to associate it with the word *maya*, says HINGORI

What is *maya*? Well the word literally means illusion, but what does it entail? The answer lies in the question when you realise that there is only one true reality. So, what is this reality? As stated countless times over in ancient scriptures and by sages, proved again by the intellectuals of today, what we perceive as reality and definite around us, isn't truly so. And if you believe this, then *maya* too is *maya*! It is a play of our mind.

The 'one reality' I spoke of can only be called so if it can be defined and if that definition remains constant. But, nothing is constant. Quantum physics explains this using the fourth dimension, time, which is ever changing. Since every object, molecule and atom is defined by at least four dimensions if not more, one of them being time, then everything is constantly changing, and nothing is ever really the same.

Let's dive deeper into the scriptures. They say there is only one true reality, although known by several names — the *Brahman*, the infinite consciousness or the consciousness supreme. It exists beyond the physical realm we perceive to be the truth. It experiences no emotions, nothing is right or wrong. Simply put, it is the state of nothingness. At this point, you are probably challenging the veracity of this idea of the 'reality' as you feel the mobile phone in your hand, hear the sounds of activity around you. The idea of 'nothingness' being reality seems ridiculous, but it truly isn't. Imagine you dozed off and found yourself dreaming of mountains and rivers, fresh green forests, the wind, people. In the dream, you were deeply engrossed in the conversations and pleasure, peace and excitement, and the view, the sensations. When you wake up that dream dissolves and along with it every sensation. That is what *maya* is. The physical world we live in is really only a dream. We are merely reflections and mirages that have conversations; feel pain, anxiety, happiness and love; eventually only to 'wake up' to the reality that is nothingness. It is this state of illusion that the scriptures state we are living in.

A question arises here, why does it all feel so real if it isn't, and if it is just a dream, how are we all living the same one? This is a tricky concept to understand. There is a fitting quote I once read in the *Yog Vashisht*, "The world is a stage, the mind is its magical actor, the soul is a silent spectator watching the show in the light of its own intellect." The consciousness supreme is an infinite reality that remains absolutely still, neither expanding nor shrinking, while our minds are smaller, finite entities. The infinite reality reflects itself in



the finite entity creating the 'dream' we all live in. Since it is one supreme consciousness reflecting itself onto all our minds that creates the dream we see or the world we live in, each of us dreams the same dreams, so to say. Imagine you have an empty pot of clay. What does it contain? Nothing to some, and to some it holds air. What surrounds this pot? Again, nothing, or perhaps air. Now if you break this pot, the air within merges with that outside and you see no difference. The pot here is *Maya*. It separates the finite from the infinite creating an illusion that they are disjointed when in reality they are the same, they are one.

It may seem terrifying to abandon everything you've ever believed and accept that we are just characters of a dream; and that what we feel, we don't really feel and what we see, we don't really see. The question arises, how does one achieve this awakening?

As explained by Guru Vashisht, the path to this wisdom lies with the four gatekeepers at the entrance to the realm of freedom, *mukti* or *moksha*. These are self-control, self-enquiry, contentment and good company.

The quest for the eternal, unchanging freedom is achieved through the conquest of one's mind because in wis-

SELF-ENQUIRY OR GYAN IS A PROCESS OF CLEARING THE IGNORANCE AND DELUSION. ONCE CLEAR, THEY ARE UNAFFECTED BY THE GOING-ONS IN THE WORLD. YOU FIND PEACE AND BLISS — PEACE BECAUSE NOTHING TOUCHES YOU AND BLISS BECAUSE THE HEART EXPERIENCES THE TRUTH

dom there is self-control and peace. It is not attained by rites, rituals or pilgrimages. Self-control is the conquest of the mind where you can look within and accept yourself as you are, seeing the divinity within you. It is about being emotionless, without compromising on empathy. If there is peace and serenity, there will always be anger and the same goes for happiness and pain. Emotions can be compared with a seesaw. The best place to sit is at the centre on the fulcrum. It is indeed difficult for those who give in to temptations and lean towards their cravings. However, with the right effort and guidance this effort yields unparalleled results that cannot be experienced by only the five senses.

Self-enquiry or *gyan* is a process of clearing the ignorance and delusion. Once clear, they are unaffected by the going-ons in the world. You find peace and bliss — peace because nothing touches you and bliss because the heart experiences the truth. It is enquiry that gives freedom from delusion and detachment. There is no limit to the curiosity that unleashes when you look within and begin to recognise the divinity within you. The biggest question for which you seek an answer is "Who am I?" — You are the supreme

consciousness and the supreme consciousness is you. But this is a discussion for another time.

The company of righteous, wise and enlightened people expands the intellect helping you eschew ignorance and psychological distress. While it takes time to really understand the truth and even longer to realise it, stimulating conversations keep our minds open and receptive. It is said that *satsang* (good company) is superior to all forms of religious practices like charity, austerity, pilgrimage and the performance of religious rites.

It requires significant will and perseverance to achieve all four of the above gatekeepers. You will realise, the moment you embark on this path, that everything will start coming together for you, just as a frame of a jigsaw puzzle helps finding the pieces within it. Having said this, unfortunately these gatekeepers come with no guaranteed outcomes even though they assure your journey in the right direction — so in the absence of milestones, at least you will have a compass. This path is one of faith, perseverance and acceptance.

But the first step to achieving any of the gatekeepers is recognising the concept of *maya*. An easy way is this, you say: "Good morning, *maya*" everyday as you begin your day, knowing that what follows will all exist within *maya*. As you go through your day, each time you receive a bout of awareness and remember that you are living in *maya*, say out loud, "oops, *maya* once again". Do this every time you find yourself wrapped in emotions too. As time goes by, and if you do this sincerely of course, you will find yourself aware of your existence being within *maya* about a hundred times a day, it becomes a habit, a part of your everyday life.

As it is for everything in life, you must believe in the realm beyond *maya* to be able to recognise it, there are no halfway houses. It is easier said than done. For all you know, it could be a bedtime story for children, born in another time. A story perhaps you may see it as, however it is far removed from fiction. Yet even in the scriptures they have factored in that those who are living in ignorance may discard the learning. And so I recommend you trust their experience and embark on your journey, then trust your instincts. Be aware of subtle shifts that may occur — perhaps some coincidences, sensations that defy conventional logic, perhaps behaviour shifts without any context or even a call out of the blue. Notice the patterns, make the connections between seemingly random events, and you will know that you are on the right path.

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HIDDENSOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

As we enter the last lap



Living with Coronavirus has been a part of our life for months now and despite many proposed solutions, the question how to deal with the pandemic still remains unanswered. But one thing that we all must realise is that this is certainly going to come to an end. And probably in the next few months. It is this hope that has to be nursed even if reports suggest that there is a second surge or a third surge or whatever. Yes, we have all reached the end of the tether and this is a worrisome trend. Already we are witnessing desperate steps being taken by many as anxieties are taking their toll on reason. Even the slightest trigger leads to explosion in many cases. What we need to remember is that though our patience is wearing out, that is the one thing we need today to survive in these difficult times. Even if our mind is getting wayward, there is need to exercise maximum patience. Mind is the issue and we have to tame the mind. Our predicament is like that of a long distance runner into his last lap. It is this last lap that creates maximum anxiety and coping with this anxiety is the most important requirement in order to win. If we let our patience wear out in the last lap and commit blunder out of sheer frustration, we stand to lose. This is what is happening. Out of sheer desperation, people are throwing all caution to winds. It has to be understood that maximum caution is needed in this last lap. The lifestyle disruption that stretched rather long has now reached the brink. While the festive season tempts us to venture out, the last round calls for extreme caution. The *mantra*, then should be to celebrate with care in the present times. As roads and streets are getting overcrowded, social distancing has gone for a toss. People are coming out in droves and masks seem to be a forgotten habit. This may prove dear. The protocols that we were following in the earlier days of the pandemic still need to be followed, rather, more so. Complacency may be dangerous. It is going to be a test of human patience. This patience comes from faith. Faith that we shall survive. It seems as if people are losing faith and embracing recklessness. It is not just a question of one's own life. It is putting life of others to jeopardy. The fight against coronavirus is a war of attrition and more than strategy, the resilience is needed. The battle can be won by default, that is to hang around doggedly. True, the present generation did not experience a situation like this, but that is no reason for not acquiring mental toughness. Our lifestyle changed drastically in the last few decades. As we outsourced everything, our metamorphosis from human beings to couch potatoes of television era to mouse potatoes of computer era and then to slouch potatoes of the social media is complete. A large section of humanity has forgotten the basic problem solving skills, the thinking mind has become a vestige. Even small problems appear big. It is time to reinvent, rather rediscover human potential and practice the art of hanging around in crisis. Patience in the wake of adversity is the best solution. Staying on the wicket was what good cricketers adopted when chips were down. Life, after all, is a test match, not a T-20. So play defensively, on the backfoot.

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Stop complaining, act now

There will always be stuff in life beyond one's control, that would divert and derail them from the goal. All one has to do is stay focused, says NANDAN GAUTAM

Krish looked hassled while filling the exit clearance form. It was his last working day in the organisation. I thought it was the pain of documentation that was troubling him.

"So Krish, what next?" I asked. "I don't have anything in hand. I am leaving because the manager and organisation did not bother to solve my problems." Krish said. His response was cold. I could sense frustration, anger and aggression in his tone as well as in his body language.

Significant learning that I have gained working as an HR Professional is to let

people talk their heart out. Krish, it turned out, had hundreds of points to complain about. For Krish, everything was wrong, everyone was wrong, but Krish himself.

This incident took me back to an important lesson I learned before my graduation. January of 2000, after my last paper for medical entrance (MBBS), I was sure that my dream of becoming a doctor would remain a dream. I was not going to make it this year too.

From the time I started preparations, I used to dread the competitive landscape of medical entrance. Two thousand-odd seats out of four lakh applicants; it was tough. "Ordinary people like me can never crack these exams," I used to tell myself.

That day too, with my mind full of excuses, I came back home where an uncle, who happened to be a doctor himself, asked me about the exam. I vented out my frustrations, which was a long list. When I was done, my uncle asked me a question that changed my life. "Ketan, how many seats do you need?" he asked. "One," I responded. "The go get it, stop giving yourself excuses," he said. That is when I understood that there will

always be stuff beyond my control. Things to divert me, derail me; but I have to stay focused. I should not care and spend energies on things outside my circle of influence. There is nothing, you or I can do to change the things beyond my circle of influence.

We tend to wait for that perfect moment when we wish that everything would fall in place. And when that happens, we will give it our best shot. That never happens. Look back at your life, you will get your answers.

Three years after this hit me, I completed my graduation with a gold medal, got through merit-based M.Sc courses and studied at one of the best B schools in India.

I changed, the way I looked at the world changed; so did the results. That is why perhaps I could relate with what Krish was undergoing. While he had his problem statement, I could see the answers lying within him. Krish was in the "Why me" zone. He had to shift to "How to" and "What next" for things to change. He just had to accept things that were outside his circle of influence and commit to focusing on what was within his circle of influence.

We all have been in this situation. Ask the following ques-

tions to yourself when stuck in a similar situation:

- What facts or signals have you been ignoring or turning a blind eye to? Did you reach where you are in a day or over-time?

- What could you have done differently when you first realised the problem?

- What new did you learn about yourself from the situation?

- What are you going to lose if you stay like this and don't change?

- What is that one thing you will do today? What will be that one small action you can take today to move forward?

Remember, you and only you are responsible for where you are in your career. Own up your current state, establish where you want to be, have an action plan. Results will follow!

Otherwise, you can choose to wait for that perfect moment when all the variable of the world will come into perfect alignment and make way for you to act and succeed.

Krish waited for sixteen years, how long are you going to wait?

The writer is an HR practitioner, a coach, an author, and a speaker

God is a friend, but...

Bhagwad Gita is an excellent guide to learn what kind of relationship one should have with God, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

God is our friend. Lord Krishna states this fact in the verse #5.24 of the *Bhagwad Gita*. However, we shouldn't make the same mistake as Arjuna did, for which he had to apologise profusely to the Lord. (11.42) How do we deal with our friends? Who do we choose as a friend? My understanding in this matter is to divide people in three categories. Those, who are superior to us should be treated with respect. Those equal to us should be treated as friends. And those inferior to us should be treated with compassion.

Based on this yardstick, God cannot be chosen as a friend, because, He is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient, whereas we are His parts. (15.7) Similarly, our dealings with our friends will leave much to be desired if we adopt the same attitude towards God. Arjuna had to seek forgiveness for joking with the Lord, the moment he realised who God actually was.

In fact, *Gita* is an excellent guide to learn what kind of relationship one should have with God. The very first requirement is to follow God's instructions. Personally, I find my nature to be a deterrent. Because I wish to become exceedingly dear to God. (12.20) I am trying to get linked with God in many ways. (14.26) I try to chant "Ram" throughout the day. When I am not chanting, I try to remember Him, which is quite frequent, because my life is centered around God.

I don't know if I have become a regular practitioner of yoga as described in the verse #9.22, but I am trying to get there. My wife and I have been worshipping God in His *Laddu Gopal* form for more than three decades. (9.29) We have a regular *pooja ghar* in our residence. We don't worship God as is done in a regular temple, which is quite elab-



orate, but we honour God and feel His presence. Regarding taking shelter with God as instructed by Lord Krishna in the verse #18.62, I am trying to follow God's instructions in the verse #18.65, in which He states that we should develop God consciousness, become His devotee, make sacrifices for Him and offer obeisance to Him.

I try to be as devoted to God (8.22) as my nature permits. Fighting my nature is a big battle for me, because changing my nature has not been easy. I believe that this is a common problem. There is a popular saying which goes like this: "Nature and signature don't change." They do if we are determined.

Lord Krishna has spoken about four kinds of virtuous people, who worship God (7.16) These are: a distressed person, an inquisitive man, a seeker of truth and a wise person. I find myself in all the four categories. In this "*dukhalaya*" (place of miseries) (8.15), there are plenty of occasions when I feel distressed. Sure enough I turn to God for guidance and help. Who else can do that better. Fortunately, I am never disappointed; My Lord does respond; He helps. I have plenty of material needs and who else other than God to turn to.

Being a writer, I need to learn more spiritual truths for which I surely have to turn to God; He gives me realisations. And after more than two decades of writing, I can consider myself somewhat of a wise man, whom God uses as an instrument, empowering me to write.

To sum it up, I can state with conviction that God is indeed a friend but not in the conventional sense; He is more like a well-wisher. This became clear to Arjuna, when Lord Krishna preached to him from the verse #18.64 to 18.72. Similarly, I am under no illusion that I can treat God as a friend. Being a part of God, I am more than happy to remain that only.

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Bid to whip up angst against farm laws abortive

Thanks to our Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking revolutionary steps to improve the agriculture sector and to provide new opportunities to farmers for their prosperity. The farmers got freedom from many legal restrictions and we have moved strongly towards the Prime Minister's determination to double their income.

These reforms were needed for a long time, but despite hollow promises, the previous Governments could not muster courage to implement them.

Today, those who have questioned the reformative efforts of the Government should be asked why they could not take any major and important decision in the interest of farmers even after ruling the country for six decades. Was their political compulsion behind this or some other reasons?

Efforts are being made to create an atmosphere of confusion in the country regarding the minimum support price (MSP). The canard of discontinuation of procurement by the Government at the MSP is being instilled in the minds of the uninformed people.

Also, it is being said the farmers will have no option but to sell their produce outside the market at less than the MSP. First of all, I would like to correct the misinformation. We have clarified many times that the MSP declaration will continue and the Government procurement on the MSP will continue in the future. The MSP or procurement at MSP has nothing to do with the new legislation. Those who question the Government regarding the MSP should know that only after the formation of the NDA Government under the leadership of Modi, the MSP is being determined by adding at least fifty per cent profit to the cost of the produce, as per the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee. The



Government of India declares the MSP of 22 crops.

One of the biggest outcomes of agricultural reforms in the country is that for the first time after Independence, farmers have got freedom from the clutches of middlemen. Till now the farmers were obliged to sell their produce in mandi and only about 30,000 to 40,000 licensed traders doing business in the mandis across the country used to fix the prices of the produce.

Through the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, farmers have not only got freedom to sell produce anywhere, but in today's technological era, a more con-

venient mechanism has been created to sell produce through e-trading. Through this agrarian reform, the farmers can also earn more profit on their produce by saving tax and transportation costs.

The question is being raised again and again that the new provisions will abolish the Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC). Here again, I want to make it clear that the APMC mandis will continue to work. The only difference is now farmers have freedom to sell their produce outside mandis also. These amendments will also provide an opportunity to the mandis to develop their infrastructure and farmers will get

more facilities. Similarly, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 aims to connect farmers directly with traders, companies, processing units and exporters. The farmers will get remunerative prices in every circumstances as the price of their produce is fixed before the sowing through the agricultural agreement.

Here, I would also like to clarify that the farmers will get additional benefits under the terms of the agreement along with the minimum price. The confusion is being spread that the land of the farmers will be handed over to the industrial-

ists and traders. On the contrary, the truth is that in contract farming, there will be agreement between a farmer and a businessman to assure the price of produce at least at MSP. There is no issue of land in this case. No trader can take loan on a farmer's land nor can any recovery be made against the farmer's land. This law protects the interests of farmers in a much better way than the existing contract farming act of the States.

Provision has been made to make payment of produce to the farmers within three days of sale. Simultaneously, it has also been provisioned to settle the dispute at the local level within 30 days to preclude

court cases. With this step of the Government, farmers will be protected against the risk of price fluctuations in the market due to fixation of the price of the produce before sowing. Along with this, farmers will be able to access state-of-the-art technology, advanced manure, seeds and equipment.

Under the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020, a provision has been made to remove grains, pulses, oilseeds, onions, potatoes, etc, from the list of essential commodities. This will increase the capacity of storage and processing and farmers can sell their crops in the market at a reasonable price.

Till now farmers have been

worried about the loss of perishable crops like potato and onion. With the new provisions, the farmers will be able to grow these crops with more confidence. The canard is being spread here that hoarding will increase and traders will earn profits by selling products at inflated rate. This apprehension is unfounded; the Government has retained control of the stock limit as before on increasing the price beyond a limit.

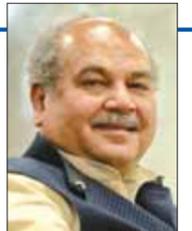
Disagreement in politics is the right of the Opposition but for that, one should not play with future of the farmers. Those swayed by the cry of the Opposition against the revolutionary farm laws should verify facts and read the manifesto of the Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections that promised to abolish the mandi Act and remove ban on export and inter-State trade in agricultural produce.

In the same manifesto, they had promised to establish farmers' markets in big villages and towns to provide freedom to farmers to sell their produce. In the same manifesto, the assurance of amendment in the Essential Commodities Act was made. When the same issues are covered in the new provisions, the moot question is why the atmosphere of confusion is being created by protesting against the same.

Today after a long period, a serious effort has been made in the interest of farmers and for improving their condition. Full provision has been made in these Acts to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce and all their interests are protected. I will ask political parties to think once again in the interest of the farmers and the nation before whipping up a false opinion.

(The writer is Union Minister, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development, and Food Processing Industries)

Disagreement in politics is the right of the Opposition, but playing with the future of farmers is not healthy politics. Those swayed by the cry of the Opposition should question the Congress whose 2019 LS polls manifesto promised to abolish the mandi Act and remove ban on inter-State trade in agricultural produce



NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR

PERSPECTIVE

Pregnant silence in Iran over US presidential polls

Top officials in Iran say the upcoming US presidential election doesn't matter, but nearly everyone else there seems to be holding their breath.

The race for the White House could mean another four years of President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign. Or it could bring Joe Biden, who has raised the possibility of the US returning to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

In the upper levels of Iran's Islamic Republic, overseen by 81-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, anti-Americanism is as deeply entrenched as at any time since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, with Presidents from both parties seen as equally repugnant. "America has a deep-rooted enmity against the Iranian nation and whether Trump is elected or Biden, it will not have any impact on the US main policy to strike the Iranian nation," Parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf said in September, according to the semi-official Fars news agency.

However noticeably, Khamenei himself hasn't commented on the election, even as public interest has soared. State-run radio rebroadcast a BBC Farsi-language service simulcast of the presidential debates live — even as Iran continues to target journalists for the British broadcaster.

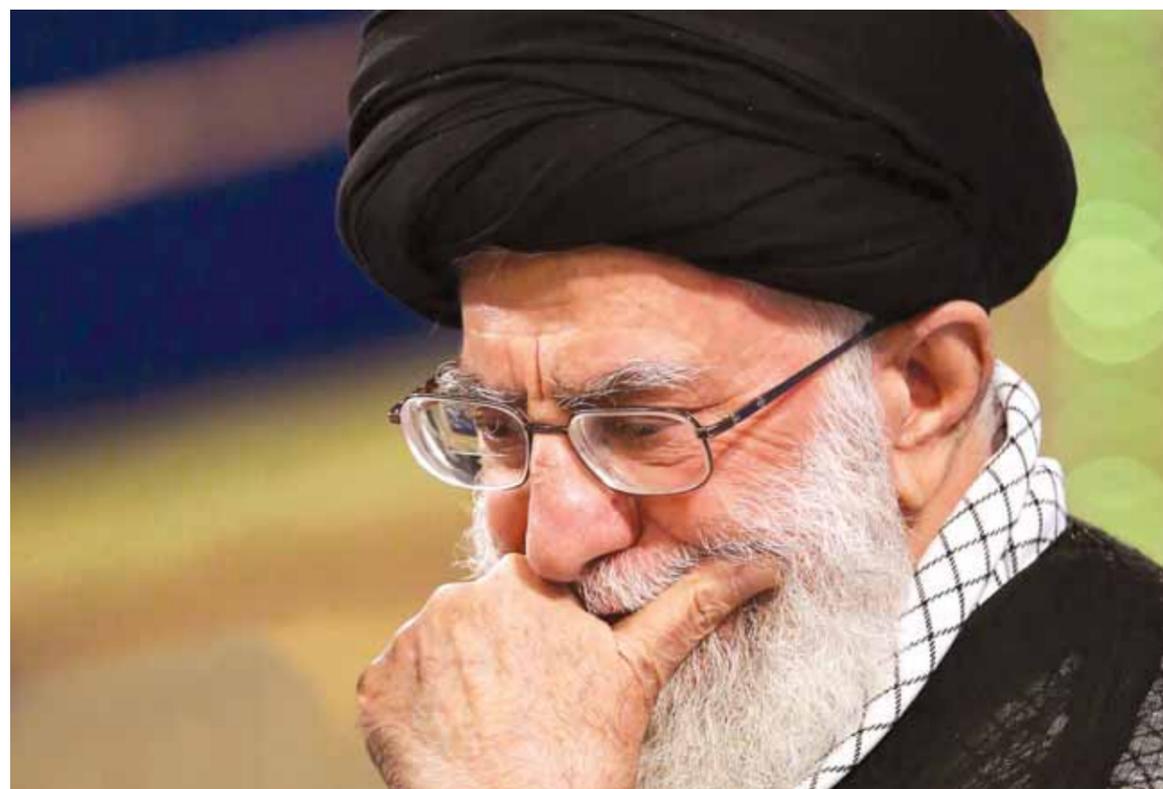
That interest allegedly includes Iran's security apparatus as well. US officials accuse the Islamic Republic of sending emails to voters seeking to intimidate them into voting for Trump. It may have been an attempt to link the President to apparent election interference in order to sow chaos, like Russia's interference in America's 2016 election. Tehran denies being involved.

The Iranian public is paying attention. The state-owned polling centre ISPA said this month that 55 per cent of people believe the outcome of the election will affect Iran "a lot." Over half expected Trump would win, while a fifth said Biden. ISPA said it surveyed over 1,600 people by telephone, and did not provide a margin of error.

Trump's re-election would mean the extension of his pressure campaign, including sanctions on Khamenei and other senior officials. Some of the sanctions are largely symbolic — Khamenei has only once travelled to America and doesn't hold any US bank accounts — but others have devastated the economy and sent the local currency into freefall. As a hedge, Iranians have poured money into foreign currency, real estate, precious metals and the stock market — which hit a record high in August.

Trump on the campaign trail has hit on that and his decision to launch a drone strike that killed a top Iranian general in January — a move that led Tehran to launch a retaliatory ballistic missile strike, wounding dozens of American troops.

To cheers, Trump has described the general, Qassem Soleimani, as "the world's No. 1 terrorist," likely due to his being blamed for the improvised explosive devices that maimed US troops in Iraq and for supporting Syria's President Bashar Assad. Many Iranians revered Soleimani for fighting against the Islamic State group and in the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, and millions flooded the streets for his funeral processions. "The first call I get when we win will be from the head of Iran, let's make a deal. Their economy is crashing," Trump told a campaign rally in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on



In this May 28, 2018 file photo released by an official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei listens to a speaker during a meeting with a group of university students in Tehran, Iran. Top officials in Iran say the upcoming US election doesn't matter, but nearly everyone else there seems to be holding their breath. It could mean another four years of President Donald Trump's 'maximum pressure' campaign of crippling sanctions

Monday. "They will call and I want them to do well, but they cannot have a nuclear weapon."

Biden has left open the possibility of returning to the nuclear deal, in which Tehran agreed to limit its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. The other signatories — Britain, France, Germany,

Russia and China — have remained committed to the agreement and allowed a UN arms embargo to expire as part of the deal, despite a White House push to keep it in place.

After Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018 and restored crippling sanctions, Iran began publicly abandon-

ing the agreement's limits on enrichment. It now has at least 2,105 kilograms (2.32 tons) of low-enriched uranium, according to a September report by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Experts typically say 1,050 kilograms (1.15 tons) of low-enriched uranium is enough material to be re-enriched for one nuclear

weapon.

Iran insists its nuclear programme is peaceful and still allows IAEA inspectors to monitor its atomic sites. But experts say the "breakout time" needed for Iran to build one nuclear weapon if it chooses to do so has dropped from one year under the deal to as little as three months.

Iran in the past also has threatened to abandon a nuclear nonproliferation treaty or expel international inspectors. It recently began construction at an underground nuclear site, likely building a new centrifuge assembly plant after a reported sabotage attack there earlier this year.

"America First" has made

America alone," Biden said at a televised ABC town hall this month, playing on a longtime Trump slogan. "You have Iran closer to having enough nuclear material to build a bomb."

What a return to the deal means, however, is in question. Biden's campaign website says he would use "hard-nosed diplomacy and support from our allies to strengthen and extend it." One criticism of the accord was its narrow focus on the nuclear programme, despite concerns by the U.S., Israel and its Gulf Arab allies over Iran's ballistic missile programme and its presence in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria.

Iran maintains that its ballistic missile programme is vital for deterring potential attacks and non-negotiable. It is also unlikely to cease its military activities in Syria and Iraq, where it spent considerable blood and treasure in the war against the Islamic State group.

But ensuring the survival of the Islamic Republic, particularly amid the coronavirus pandemic, may require the same flexibility that saw Iran agree to negotiations with the US in the first place. Iran will hold a presidential election in June, but any decision to re-engage with Washington would have to be made by the supreme leader.

"Khamenei's revolutionary path actually leads to America — that is, by seeking a stable, safe, and meticulously measured relationship with the United States, he believes he can guarantee the survival of both the regime and its revolutionary content and orientation," wrote Mehdi Khalaji, a Qom-trained Shia theologian who is an analyst at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "Tehran's objective is therefore a scandalous paradox: Deal with America to remain anti-American." AP



TRUST IN DREAMS, FOR IN THEM IS HIDDEN THE GATE TO ETERNITY —KAHLIL GIBRAN



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



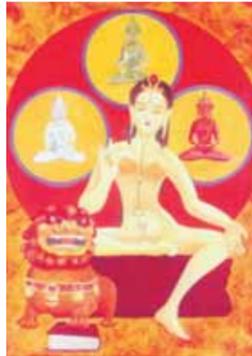
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week health will show positive changes. You will feel energetic. Your efforts regarding your health regimen are beginning to show results. You are filled with positive energy throughout the week. Those who have recovered from a serious ailment must follow-up with another check-up. On the career front, there is a wake-up call for you. You achieve success because of your creativity in a business project and gain victory by being persistent in a competitive situation. Those involved in competition are advised to keep an eye out for any fraud. On the personal front, it is important to feel free and unburdened to move ahead positively in personal aspects. This week you need to be expressive in a relationship.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This is the time when you are at your best — physically, mentally, and emotionally. Health vitality, and inner vibrancy fill you with energy and inspiration. Creative ideas will occupy your mind and make you shine. Mental peace is assured. On the career front, there could be a phase in your life which will ask to bring some desirable changes in your career. You might not be satisfied with your current job. Switching to a new job is likely. You may opt business, instead of a job. There is a possibility that you will face an uncontrolled loss of income. Do not avoid reality, if this comes about. On the personal front, you are likely to come across some analytical minds. You in a highly competitive phase. Make sure you don't engage in silly debates. Do not ignore your personal life.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Parrot Green
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 19

This week you will reap the results of your past efforts. Even if you are heavily stressed regarding your time and energy, take time to think positively. Remember that when you make a point to be generous — whether with time, energy, or money — that too is an investment in your future. On the career front, you may be inspired to start a new creative project. You see new potential in allowing your creativity to flow. If you are looking for a job, a suitable offer matching your profile may surprise you. On the relationship front, if you are in love and decide to make that someone your life partner, take the approval of your parents. You will be able to maintain relations with your seniors at home and take their blessings.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you enjoy happiness, good health, and worldly pleasures. You tend to be enthusiastic. Consider carefully what others ask of you. You are inspired by everything around you. Connecting to Yoga, meditation, cosmic healing, learning new interests is on the cards. Regular walks or Yoga can be therapeutic for you this week. On the career front, some distractions are on the card. A rift over two choices may play on the mind. You must make choice between work and entertainment. It is a good time to check your priorities and responsibilities. You should act decisively for better work conditions and outputs. On the relationship front, avoid getting into moods and fads. Look hard at yourself as to whether you are being realistic with regards to love.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you may feel that your mind is working overtime. And that your drive to make things happen is ignited. Your analytical and reasoning powers are very strong, and you will not listen to others. You believe that what you say or what you do is right. Do not find faults in others. It is not that you don't care about others, but you connect to other people through an intellectual understanding rather than an emotional understanding. Career-wise, some good news is on the cards. Out of the blue opportunity in career may surprise you. On the personal front, fraud, clashes in love matters could be experienced this week. Lack of communication and understanding could be harmful at this point. Separation, divorce or similar situations could make you worried.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You are a quiet and keen observer this week. Staying positive will change your perception about life. You feel healthier than ever. Spiritually, things will move along well, and you will be hopeful about the future. Professionally, you want your time and space and may spend time in isolation for a bit. If you are feeling exhausted and tired, now is the time to seek rest. Perhaps, the trauma of losing your job, financial and health worries, stress and conflict with your colleagues are overpowering you. You find most of the answers in your isolation, talking to yourself. Relationship-wise, the beginning of love, happiness and compassion is on the cards. Start of a new relationship, be it a friendship or a romance will bring a smile to your face.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you make efforts and enjoy the fruits of good health. If you are thinking on the lines of self-improvement, this is the best time to do so. Plan some creative work. Get busy to avoid stress. Take proper sleep, adequate rest, and a good diet. Do not hesitate to share your feelings with friends or ask for help from them. On the career front, this is a very good time to start planning long term, even if you are in your twenties. Get the career counselling; focus on your skills and potentials. Money is very likely to be headed for an upswing. On the relationship front, someone you care about may be away for a while. Existing relationship too may suffer due to lack of understanding. Conflict is likely to happen.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Health issues may crop up. You may face problems, one after another, on the health front. You need to get in touch with some health professional to understand why you are feeling this way and work to release yourself from these restrictions. Accept and surrender to your present circumstances. On the professional front, you are in mood to enjoy and want to have a blast. You may spend time to just pamper yourself and to feel good and look good. Money is not a problem. Earning will be good. This is a good time to work on home décor and spend on domestic luxury items. On the love front, messages of love and affection are likely to come your way. Your romantic aspirations are likely to get fulfilled, as you get closer to the one you secretly admire.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Running away from reality does not suit your personality. If dealing with a health problem, your health care practitioner may not be the best one to help. Consider other professionals for a review. Rejuvenate yourself in natural surroundings. Leave the stress behind. On the career front, you are ready to fix any unfinished business in your life. You are decisive and determined. You have reviewed and learnt from your past experiences. All the pieces of the puzzle of your life are finally coming together as one. On the personal front, you should listen to your mind than your heart. You find that your drive to make things happen is ignited. At home, your bossy attitude could make others irritated, and you may be left alone.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This is a good week. You will encounter new experiences and welcoming hosts who will embrace you and invite you into their world, no matter where you go. Everything will fall into place, and you can be one with the situation. Career-wise, an enhanced status, promotion or designation is on the cards. You can take important decision related to career or relationship, as you are very sound and grounded. You are hard-working and very focused. Expect some stressful moments today. Your abundance of energy and self-confidence will give you a boost to move ahead. On the personal front, you are charged with some extra energy. Mental force, intellectual and critical reasoning are at the peak. Romantic life remains satisfactory, but you can certainly do with some more excitement.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You can solve many problems with your wisdom. With your experience and maturity, you may be able to take hold of your life. Instead of being innovative, you need to adapt to the existing set of beliefs and systems that are already in place. Professionally, you may be your own worst enemy. Do not expect the entire system to change just because you believe it should be different. How you speak your mind is as important as what you say. Be sure that your behaviour is impeccable. Try to cut your expenses. Patience is the key to success. On the relationship front, if you're feeling suspicious for some reason about your partner, make a point to talk about this even if it's difficult. Being passive-aggressive is only going to make things worse.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You will have to make some efforts to improve your health situation. You need to exercise more under expert guidance or a nutritional expert to make sure that you are eating better. Nothing will change by wishing things were different. Take control. This can be a very creative time for you. Enjoy yourself and this play will deepen and enrich your life. Career-wise, the working environment will be friendly, consistent and that would increase your efficiency. You will enjoy working as a team and come out with productive results. You will be able to win the support of your seniors. On the relationship front, true love, commitment, and all the good things that most of us hope concerning love and relationship are easily available for you.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Astrology can be baffling

Late 2001, I entered the room of an astrologer friend. Finding him busy reading the astrological chart of somebody visiting him, I said sorry and then turned back. He stopped me from leaving and asked me for my opinion on the critical chart instead. The word critical somehow got registered firmly in my mind. So, my first attention was on looking at the criticality of the chart. After having a good look, I observed: "The person appears to be going through an unprecedented situation in life. I will not be surprised if he is faced with a criminal case of serious consequences. There seems to be a role of a woman in the whole episode, possibly his wife, who seems to have tacit support of his mother. Is somebody behind bars, I asked?"

The person who had come to seek guidance seemed baffled with such a quick observation. He looked curiously towards my astrologer friend, as if asking him whether he had shared the details with me. The astrologer friend instantly pointed out that no information had been shared. It appeared that the person could not believe his observation. He asked me: "What is the basis

of your observation?"

Well, it is very simple. Saturn the *lagna* sub-lord, representing the person concerned, is in the 5th house identified with love life. Saturn is opposite the Sun identified with government agencies as well as Venus, the planet reflecting a female and carnal desires. Cusp-wise Venus is in the 10th house identified with his profession, meaning that she would be someone associated with his works. Sun, incidentally is the 12th lord positioned in the friend signifying 11th house. 12th being 8th from 5th implies that he would be put through an unprecedented situation because of some unforeseen happening to his girlfriend. Neptune in the 2nd house identified with family, is placed adverse to Saturn, Sun, mind signifying Moon and Venus. The obvious implication is that the girl's presence in his life was an embarrassment to his family members. Saturn aspects Jupiter, the 4th and 7th lord, respectively signifying the mother and wife, and which is placed adverse to Rahu and Mars. All put together makes him vulnerable to be confronted with unforeseen circumstances, difficult to withstand, when time becomes adverse.



The possibility of his wife and even his mother being involved in the process was there.

Let us now look at the transit. Saturn has moved to the 9th house, where from it extends its friendly aspect to the Sun and Venus. Remember, if planets are placed adverse to each other in the birth chart, whenever they become supportive to each other during transit, they join hands to create mischief. Incidentally, Mars in transit is passing through the 3rd house, opposite transit Saturn, its dire enemy, thus, creating ground for some criminal offence.

In the *dasha chakra*, he was running Mars *dasha* and Rahu *antardasha*. Mars being lord of 3rd house (one's own initiatives and dealings) and 8th house (great difficulties) remains the most disadvantageous planet for the Virgo born native. Mars is in the 12th house in his birth chart. It points to loss of reputation and unforeseen expenses, as well as serious difficulty to his love life, if any in existence. Mars is placed adverse to Rahu in the birth chart. Rahu occupies the constellation owned by Jupiter in the 7th house, which again is opposite Mars. It implies that the partner's fire will get so much enraged that she may

lose sense of reasons and direction. So, Mars — Rahu period had to put him through challenging situation. In progression chart, the *lagna* had touched Neptune of the birth chart, which was placed adverse to Venus which made him susceptible to be faced with unforeseen circumstances.

The person concerned was satisfied with my detailed explanation, which saved my astrologer friend the embarrassment of being charged with breach of trust. He then asked: "When do I get out of this shit?" "The situation may begin to ease out soon, most likely beginning October 12, when sub-sub period of Venus begins. For, Venus being lord of 2nd (union with family) occupies the constellation owned by Mercury in the 11th house identified with fulfilment of desires.

It was later revealed that his wife and mother could not digest his relationship with a lady colleague. Later his love mate was murdered. And his wife had been arrested on the charge of having conspired the brutal murder of that woman.

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