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# sunday pioneer

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**USUAL SUSPECTS**

SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## West Bengal politics is at a crucial stage

Unlike some Western democracies where the attachment to political parties tend to be lifelong, there is considerable fluidity in political affiliations for activists. This is partly because — with the exception of the Congress, the BJP, Communists and a handful of regional parties — the party system in India is still evolving and is disproportionately dependent on individuals. Additionally, since politics is all about the quest for power and influence — and I don't mean this in a pejorative way — individuals see political parties as vehicles for the fulfilment of their goals. Consequently, the political eclipse of any political party invariably sees a movement of people between parties. Today, to take an example, the erstwhile followers of Ram Manohar Lohia are to be found in nearly all the political parties. That is because the Indian socialists have a terrible record of creating and nurturing political parties.

Impending elections are normally the occasion for activists to switch loyalties. Such defections are also regarded as barometers of public opinion, since local leaders with an eye on their own political futures tend to try and move to the side most likely to win. In January 1977, it was the defection of Jagjivan Ram, HN Bahuguna and Nandini Sathpaty from the Congress that triggered a political avalanche which culminated in the political defeat of Indira Gandhi.

It is difficult at this stage to anticipate the likely impact of the resignation of Suwendu Adhikari from the Mamata Banerjee Government in West Bengal. The resignation was preceded by months of strained relationship centred on the role of the Chief Minister's nephew Abhishek Banerjee in the political dispensation. Adhikari, along with other old-time associates of the Trinamool Congress chief, have resented to growing power of Abhishek and his attempts to undermine them. Mukul Roy, once the de-facto number two man in the TMC, left and joined the BJP in 2017. Now Adhikari, who

If Suwendu Adhikari needs the BJP to demonstrate his political relevance in the State, the BJP needs to prevail all over East and West Midnapore to add to its pre-existing strength. Those in the BJP who believe that defectors from other parties should be discouraged because the party is well placed to win on its existing strength are clearly being unrealistic. There are important gaps in support the BJP must fill — the urban cluster around Kolkata being important examples — if it hopes to form a Government in 2021 in Kolkata

considerably, with the lion's share of it going to the BJP.

There are still many problems that the BJP has to overcome if it is to upstage the TMC in next summer's Assembly election. The most important of these is to ensure that the 40 per cent support it received in 2019 is not only intact but supplemented by additional votes. This is a challenging prospect because regional parties such as the TMC tend to perform better in Assembly elections than in elections to the Lok Sabha. The Left, which performed disastrously in 2019 and failed to win any Lok Sabha seats from the State — the first occasion since 1952 — is also hopeful that its alliance with the Congress will add to their kitty in the Assembly poll. In such a situation, the BJP — apart from holding its own — has two options.

First, it needs to chip away at the TMC's existing voter base. In 2019, the BJP failed to make deep inroads in East Midnapore district, the bastion of the Adhikari family. The members of the Adhikari family won their seats in Tamluk and Contai. Additionally, the TMC won the Ghatal seat. If the Adhikaris shift their loyalty to the BJP, the saffron party will be better placed to consolidate its hold all along the perimeter of West Bengal. If Suwendu Adhikari needs the BJP to demonstrate his political relevance in the State, the BJP needs to prevail all over East and West Midnapore to add to its pre-existing strength. Those in the BJP who believe that defectors from other parties should be discouraged because the party is well placed to win on its existing strength are clearly being unrealistic. There are important gaps in support the BJP must fill — the urban cluster around Kolkata being important examples — if it hopes to form a Government in 2021 in Kolkata.

Secondly, for the BJP, the impression that the TMC is crumbling under the weight of its own contradictions is important. In any election there is a bandwagon effect whereby undecided and wavering voters swing to the party that seems to have the clear edge. In West Bengal the Muslim community — whose voter strength is anywhere between 27 and 30 per cent — plays a crucial role. This section has been outside the reach of the BJP and it forms the bulwark of support for the TMC, except in three districts where the Congress has influence. In the event it seems Mamata is crumbling, there will be a temptation on the part of Muslim voters to either swing to the Left-Congress alliance or support those Muslim parties that are campaigning aggressively to give Muslims an independent voice.

Alternatively, sensing the BJP threat, the Muslim community may choose to back the TMC as a solid bloc. However, even positing non-TMC options before Muslim voters will become difficult if the perception battle favours the incumbent.

These are the reasons why the next few acts in the Suwendu Adhikari drama need to be closely observed. West Bengal politics is at a very crucial phase.

## Farmers dig in heels, Shah reaches out

Farmers stay put along Delhi borders, HM says Govt ready for talks any time

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A day after inviting the agitating farmers for talks on December 3, the Centre on Saturday held out an olive branch to the farmers, who refused to budge from their stand, with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah saying that the Government is ready for dialogue any time and appealed to them to shift to the Burari ground in the national Capital to stage their protests against the farm laws.

"The Government is ready to deliberate on every problem and demand of the farmers... Some farmers' unions and farmers have demanded that talks be held immediately instead of December 3. So, I assure everyone that the Central Government is ready to hold discussions with you as soon as you shift to the ground (in Burari)...the Government has made proper arrangement for you in Burari in Delhi, where you can stage your demonstrations," he said.

Farmers after holding parleys with their leaders and their speeches at Tikri and Singhu borders, announced that they will stay put and not proceed towards the Nirankari Ground and will sit on dharna at borders.

"It is a plan to imprison us



Farmers gather at the Singhu border as part of their Delhi Chalo protest against Centres new farm laws in New Delhi on Saturday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

in one ground as earlier the Delhi Police has demanded nine grounds to be made as temporary prison in Delhi for the protesting farmers. So we have decided to protest at the border as most of the farmers are still coming from Punjab,

Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to join the movement," said Sukhbir Panwar, a farmer from Fatehabad district in Haryana.

Thousands of farmers marching from Punjab as part of their "Delhi Chalo" campaign

against the farm laws, braved water cannons and tear gas shells in Haryana to reach Delhi on Friday. They were, however, not allowed into the national Capital. As the protests continued, the Centre, which looks after the national Capital's

law and order, relented and fixed a place for their agitation.

Hundreds of the protesters, however, refused to go to the outer Delhi protest venue and have remained camped at several places on the outskirts of the national Capital.

### UP farmers reach Delhi border to lend support to 'Delhi Chalo'

**New Delhi:** Some groups of farmers from Uttar Pradesh gathered at the Ghazipur border with their vehicles on Saturday afternoon, lending support to the agitation by their counterparts from Punjab against the Centre's new farm laws. A senior Delhi Police officer said 200 farmers arrived at UP Gate (Ghazipur border) as part of "Delhi Chalo" march call given by farmer organisations in Punjab and police officials were talking to them.

Thousands of farmers from Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan on Saturday stayed put at the Delhi-Haryana Singhu and Tikri border points on the third consecutive day. The farmers on Saturday also refused to move towards the Nirankari ground to hold demonstration. Following the rise in number of farmers at Tikri and Singhu border, the Delhi Police re-installed barricades to maintain law & order.

## Marine Commandos deployed at Pangong

### India preparing for long haul at LAC, bolsters its readiness

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As several rounds of talks to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) have failed so far, India is preparing for a long haul and has bolstered its readiness by deploying crack commandos of the Navy at some stand-off points.

While the Army has already positioned its Special Forces and para-commandos, the elite Marine commandos (MARCOS) of the Navy have also joined in by patrolling the Pangong Tso (lake). This lake in Eastern Ladakh is one of the four or five face-off sites where the Indian and Chinese troops are in eyeball to eyeball situation for the past seven months.

Having taken positions at



the lake, these commandos may also be rotated at the other flash points, sources said here on Saturday. This will enable them to familiarise themselves with the weather, topography and how to survive in harsh winters. Incidentally, the temperature has already dipped to minus 10 degrees C in several parts of Ladakh and will plummet to minus 30 degrees in the coming weeks.

The Army has already supplied more than adequate prefabricated huts for the troops now readying themselves for deployment in the winter months. More than one lakh troops from India and China

are now positioned at the LAC in the 1,700 km long LAC in Ladakh. China has also ramped up its logistical support for its troops for a long winter there.

The MARCOS commandos are one of the world's best trained and were seen in action during the initial phase of Mumbai terror attack in 2008.

Some teams of the MARCOS are already working alongside the Indian Army commandos in Jammu & Kashmir as part of the anti-terror operations. The Navy commandos are guard some of the key water bodies in Kashmir.

## J&K voters defy boycott call, DDC polls record 51% turnout

3.62L vote to elect 43 candidates; Pak refugees allowed to vote for first time

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Celebrating the festival of democracy at the grassroots level, more than 51 per cent voters on Saturday stepped out of their homes ignoring poll boycott calls and chilly weather conditions to cast their vote in the maiden District Development Council and Panchayat bypolls being held for the first time after the reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories and the Abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A in August 2019.

The other highlight of the polls was healthy participation of the Pakistani refugees and women electorate in large numbers. The Pak refugees were deprived of their voting rights as long as J&K enjoyed



Voters undergo thermal screening as they arrive to cast their votes for the first phase of District Development Council elections at Hariganwan area of Gundi in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir on Saturday

PTI

the special status.

Addressing a press conference after the first phase of polling ended, State Election Commissioner KK Sharma said, "The first phase of DDC polls passed off peacefully across the Union Territory of J&K in which over 3.62 lakh voters participated". He said barring one single incident of stone throwing by a youth no other major incident of poll related violence was reported

from anywhere during the polling hours.

Sharma added, "Around 46.6 per cent women and 54 per cent male electorate came out to vote during the day". He said Kashmir region recorded little over 40.65 per cent polling while Jammu region recorded over 64 per cent voter turnout. Significantly, terror infested Pulwama district recorded the lowest voter turnout of 6.7 per cent.

## Modi reviews vaccine progress first-hand

### PM visits facilities of Zydus Cadila, Bharat Biotech, Serum Institute of India in three cities

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As part of his effort to review the progress of Covid-19 vaccine development, its launch and distribution, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday visited major vaccine

manufacturing institutions — Zydus Biotech Park in Ahmedabad, Bharat Biotech facility in Hyderabad and Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune — and interacted with the scientists there to get "a first-hand perspective of the prepa-

rations, challenges and roadmap in India's endeavour to vaccinate its citizens".

Modi began his day-long three-city tour in the morning by flying first to Ahmedabad and thereafter heading to Zydus Cadila's Vaccine Technology Centre located at

Changodar Park, where he went around the place and interacted with the team of scientists behind the ongoing vaccine development effort "to know more about the indigenous DNA based vaccine being developed there". Zydus Cadila is developing its Covid-19 vaccine candidate ZyCoV-D.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the Zydus Biotech Park to review the development of Covid-19 vaccine, in Ahmedabad on Saturday

PTI

### CAPSULE

#### PAWAN BANSAL MADE CONGRESS TREASURER

**New Delhi:** Congress president Sonia Gandhi has appointed Pawan Kumar Bansal as the party treasurer following the demise of senior leader Ahmed Patel, a statement said on Saturday. Bansal, a former union minister, is the AICC in-charge of administration.



#### UP GUV OK'S RELIGIOUS CONVERSION ORDINANCE

**Lucknow:** Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel on Saturday gave assent to an ordinance against forcible or fraudulent religious conversions that provides for imprisonment up to 10 years and a maximum fine of Rs 50,000 under different categories.

#### AIR QUALITY SLIPS TO 'POOR' LEVEL AGAIN IN NCR

**Noida:** The air quality remained "moderate" in Faridabad but slipped to "poor" level in Gurgaon, Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad on Saturday.

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL	
CASES: 93,90,791	
DEATHS: 1,36,705	
RECOVERED: 87,99,249	
ACTIVE: 4,52,688	

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	18,14,515	46,986	16,76,564
Karnataka	8,82,608	11,750	8,46,082
Andhra Pradesh	8,67,063	6,981	8,48,511
Tamil Nadu	7,79,046	11,694	7,56,279
Kerala	5,93,958	2,197	5,26,797
Delhi	5,61,742	8,998	5,16,166
Uttar Pradesh	5,39,899	7,718	5,06,938
West Bengal	4,77,446	8,322	4,44,587
Odisha	3,17,789	1,783	3,10,549
Telangana	2,68,418	1,451	2,56,330
Rajasthan	2,62,805	2,274	2,31,780
Chhattisgarh	2,34,725	2,830	2,10,917
Bihar	2,34,553	1,253	2,27,714
Haryana	2,30,713	2,375	2,08,422
Assam	2,12,483	980	2,08,187
Gujarat	2,06,714	3,953	1,88,069



## HOME THEATRE

# Only for kiddies

### THE CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES: PART TWO

**Netflix**

**\*ing: Kurt Russell, Goldie Hawn, Judah Lewis, Darby Camp, Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Julian Dennison, Tyrese Gibson**  
**Rated: 6/10**

If an adult is watching this, it will be difficult to get past the strange language the elves speak or the near bizarreness of the entire storyline. But first, they are Santa's elves; they can speak whatever they want as long as Santa Claus understands the

same. Second, it is a Christmas movie. What else is one going to expect but a good Santa Claus and Mrs Claus. An evil elf who is hell bent on destroying Christmas forever. Imagine the catastrophe in the child's life if there was no Christmas, no gifts, no stocking to hang, no gingerbread house or cookies; it is akin to a Diwali with no crackers.

Having said that, the kids are going to love this movie. The elves are cute and you want to cuddle them even if one of them is evil. The entire Santa's village is a sight to behold – a



giant Christmas tree in the middle of the square with lights twinkling, guns firing snow at regular intervals (it is a secret village in the North Pole that no one is supposed to know about so it has a shield cover), hot chocolate you revive you instantly and most importantly the idea of a Christmas with healthy food – broccoli cake!


Santa's sleigh is another high point. It is like a high-speed sledge with reindeers managing to dodge the evil elf's hyenas or

so they look like. Totally something out of a sci-fi film.

Then there is Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn, one of Hollywood's most enduring duos who have been together for 37 years. Goldie here has a much bigger part to play than the cameo she did in the original one. She maintains the holiday spirit and does magic at the span of her fingers. The film rests on their shoulders and while one can see the familiarity and ease, they have with each other, the plot doesn't really help them steer it to safety.

Over all it is a movie that the children will love; the adults can give this one a miss

— Shalini Saksena



## पशुपालन विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड

*"जब तक दवाई नही, तब तक दिलाई नही"*

### स्वस्थ पशु, खुशहाल पशुपालक

**राष्ट्रीय पशु रोग नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम**

♦ **खुरपका मुहपका रोग का नियंत्रण हेतु निःशुल्क टीकाकरण**  
दिनांक 23 सितम्बर, 2020 से 15 नवम्बर, 2020 तक संचालित

**राष्ट्रव्यापी कृत्रिम गर्भाधान कार्यक्रम**

❖ **गोवंशीय व महिषवंशीय पशुओं का निःशुल्क कृत्रिम गर्भाधान**  
दिनांक 01 अगस्त, 2020 से 31 मई, 2021 तक संचालित

**स्वरोजगारपरक योजनाएं**

❖ गाय पालन योजना (अनुंजाति/जनजाति हेतु)  
❖ बकरीपालन योजना (अनुंजाति/जनजाति हेतु)  
❖ कुक्कुट पालन योजना (अनुंजाति/जनजाति हेतु)  
❖ महिला बकरी पालन योजना

**अधिक जानकारी के लिये अपने नजदीकी पशुचिकित्सालय/पशु सेवा केन्द्र से सम्पर्क करें।**

**सचिव, पशुपालन** निदेशक, पशुपालन विभाग

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Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold on "as is where is", "As is what is" and "whatever there is" through e-auction on the following terms & conditions. E-auction provided by the service provider **M/s MSTC Ltd** through the website [www.msfccommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi/index.jsp](https://www.msfccommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi/index.jsp) through different lots.

The details of E-Auction also available at [www.canarabank.com](http://www.canarabank.com), [www.tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in), Date and Time of E-auction: 30.12.2020 between 11:30 AM TO 01:30 PM (with auto extension of 10 minutes)

S. No.	Name of the Borrower /Guarantor	Brief Description of Properties/Possession Type	Liabilities	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount in Multiple	Branch Name Person to Contact Mob.no
1.	<b>Borrower:</b> Sri Vijendra Singh S/o Sri Bachchi Singh Village Jhandi Chaur (East) Kotdwar Distt. Pauri Garhwal Uttarakhand-246149, <b>Guarantors:</b> 1. Sri Someshwar S/o Sri Bachchi Das Village and post Jhandi Chaur East Kotdwar, Distt. Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand- 246149, 2. Smt. Ganeshi Devi W/o Sri Bachchan Singh, Village and Post Jhandi Chaur East Kotdwar Distt. Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand- 246149, 3. Sri Bachchan Singh S/o Sri Mukund Singh, Village and Post Jhandi Chaur East Kotdwar, Distt. Pauri Garhwal Uttarakhand- 246149.	All that of Land and Building in the name of Sri Vijendra Singh S/o Sri Bachchan Singh situated at, Khatoni Khata no. 81, Khasra no. 35 (Ka), Village and Post Jhandichaur (East), Kotdwar, Pauri Garhwal having Total Area 3443.20 Sq. ft. Bounded by: East: Property of Sri Vijendra Singh, West: Property of Sri Madan Singh, North: Property of Sri Uday Singh, South: 8 ft. Wide Road.	<b>Rs. 6,69,954.00/-</b> as on 15.10.2019 + Interest w.e.f. 16.10.2019 + Expense-Recoveries after 15.10.2019 in A/c 2181619003999 and <b>Rs. 8,28,338.85/-</b> as on 19.09.2019 + Interest w.e.f. 20.09.2019 + Expense- Recoveries after 19.09.2019 in A/c 2181619004024	Rs. 59.50 Lacs Rs. 5.95 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Kotdwar I Ph. No. 9456591021
2.	<b>Borrower:</b> 1. M/s Goyal Brick Field Prop. Sh. Pawan Kumar Goyal S/o Sh. Harendra Kumar Goyal Present Address: Mohalla Qila, Landhora, Pargana Mangalour, Tehsil Roorkee, Distt. Haridwar (UK), Pin Code 247667, 2. Smt. Mithlesh Goyal W/o Sh. Pawan Kumar Goyal Present Address: Mohalla Qila, Landhora, Pargana Mangalour, Tehsil Roorkee, Distt. Haridwar (UK), Pin Code 247667.	All that part and parcel of the Residential Property in the name of Smt. Mithlesh Goyal w/o Sh. Pawan Kumar Goyal, of one ahaat of house north facing, bearing house no 126, situated at mohalla Qila Landhaura under nagar Panchayat landaura, Pargana Manglour Tehsil Roorkee Distt Haridwar. Total Area 427.50 Sq. Mtrs. <b>Bounded &amp; butted as under:</b> East: House of Sh. Satendra Sharma and Smt. Rajkumari, West: Property of Sh. Rakesh, North: Rasta Wide 15', South: House of Sh. Sunil Walia.	<b>Rs. 23,99,049.00</b> as on 28.02.2019 along with interest and costs etc. from 01.03.2019	Rs. 85.00 Lacs Rs. 8.50 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Roorkee (e-Syndicate) Ph. No. 941113678
3.	<b>Borrower:</b> Sri Rishipal Singh S/o Sri Omprakash Ram Vihar Colony, Jamalpur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of EMT of Residential House in the name of Sri Rishipal Singh S/o Sri Omprakash situated at Plot No. 397 Khasra no.355 Min Gram Jwala-pur Khasra Jwalapur, Distt. Haridwar having measuring Area 924 Sq.ft., Boundaries: East- Road 20 feet, West- Part of Plot No. 396 & 397, North: Land of Narang and Plot No.398, South- Part of Plot 395 and 394A	<b>Rs. 5,03,669.81</b> as on 16.07.2019 + Interest w.e.f. 01.07.2019 + Expense- Recoveries after 16.07.2019 in A/c No. 5097285000013, and <b>Rs. 10,000.00</b> as on 16.07.2019 + Interest w.e.f. 28.06.2019 + Expenses - Recoveries after 16.07.2019 in A/c No. 5097619000026	Rs. 18.09 Lacs Rs. 1.81 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Jwalapur Ph. No. 9456591083
4.	<b>Borrower:</b> 1. M/s J. P. Enterprises Prop Sh. Mukesh Garg S/o Late Jai Prakash Garg, 401/2, 32 Civil Lines, Sunehri Bhawan, Roorkee, District Haridwar Uttarakhand 247667, 2. Smt. Neeru Garg W/o Sh. Mukesh Garg, 401/2, 32 Civil Lines, Sunehri Bhawan, Roorkee, District Haridwar Uttarakhand 247667.	All that part and parcel of the Residential House in the name of Sh. Mukesh Garg S/o Late Sh. Jai Prakash Garg situated at Khasra No. 477, Vill. Panilya Chaudpur, Pargana Bhagwanpur, Tehsil Roorkee, Distt Haridwar. Total Area 3393.88 Sq. Ft. <b>Bounded &amp; butted as under:</b> East: 7' wide Rasta, West: Property of Vipin Sharma, North: Gali After Rampal, South: Property of Pratap Singh.	<b>Rs. 33,35,816.67</b> as on 31.03.2018 along with interest and costs etc.	Rs. 47.50 Lacs Rs. 4.75 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Roorkee (e-Syndicate) Ph. No. 941113678
5.	<b>Borrower:</b> 1. M/s. Zenith remedies pvt ltd, VKH No. 242, Village bahadarpur khadar, Roorkee road, Laksar Haridwar, 2. M/s. Zenith remedies pvt ltd, Sahdev Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Opp. Bikaner Sweets, Shahdara, New Delhi, <b>Guarantor:</b> 1. Mr. vaibhav bhutani, sahdev gali, vishwas nagar, Opp. Bikaner sweets shahdara, New Delhi, 2. Mr. Satya narain bhutani , sahdev gali, vishwas nagar, Opp. Bikaner sweets, shahdara, New Delhi.	All that part and parcel of the Industrial Unit owned by M/s Zenith Remedies pvt Ltd situated at Khasra No. 242 Bhadarpur Khadar Pargana Mangalore Tehsil Laksar Distt Haridwar U.K. measuring 2050 Sq. Mtrs. <b>Boundaries as under:</b> East: Rasta, West: School, North: Roorkee Laksar Road, South: Others.	<b>Rs. 71,80,372.48</b> along with interest from 18.06.2018 and costs etc	Rs. 171.00 Lacs Rs. 17.10 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Haridwar Main (e-Syndicate) Ph. No. 941113682
6.	<b>Borrower:</b> 1. Sh. Irfan S/o Sh. Gaffoor Ahmad R/o H No 12, Plot No. 6, Idgah Road Jwalapur, Distt Haridwar U.K. 2. Smt. Khurshida W/o Sh. Irfan R/o H No 12, Plot No. 6, Idgah Road Jwalapur, Distt Haridwar U.K. <b>Guarantor:</b> Sh. Nassem S/o Sh. Mohd Yasin, Mohalla Panwdhoe, Babar Colony Jwalapur, Haridwar, U.K.	Residential Property in the name of Sh. Irfan S/o Sh. Gaffoor Ahmad, Plot No. 06 situated at Eidgah Road, Village Jwalapur Distt Haridwar U.K. Total Area: 1178 Sq. Ft. <b>Boundries:</b> East- Land of Shekh Ji, West- Way, North- Land others, South- Land Hasim.	<b>Rs. 5,46,042.46</b> as on 30.09.2014 along with interest from 01.10.2014	Rs. 22.47 Lacs Rs. 2.25 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Haridwar Main (e-Syndicate) Ph. No. 941113682
7.	<b>Borrower:</b> 1. M/s Bala Ji Creation prop. Sri Rajveer Singh S/o Sri Jagat Singh, R/o Main Bazar Laksar, Distt. Haridwar-247661, Uttarakhand, 2. Sri Rajveer Singh S/o Sri Jagat Singh, R/o Main Bazar Laksar, Distt. Haridwar-247661, Uttarakhand.	Emt of Commercial Land and building in the Name of Sri Rajveer Singh S/o Jagat Singh situated at Ward No. 06, Main bazaar, Nagar Palika Laksar, Distt. Haridwar Having measuring Area 202.96 Sq. ft., Boundaries: East: Palival Telecom, West: Shop of Sukkha, North: Road of 15 feet in width, South: Drain.	<b>Rs. 15,43,288.00</b> as on 16.07.2019 + Interest w.e.f. 01.07.2019 + Expenses -Recoveries after 16.07.2019	Rs. 8.32 Lacs Rs. 0.84 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Laksar Ph. No. 9456591063
8.	<b>Borrower:</b> 1. M/s Goyal Traders Prop. Sri Nishant Kumar S/o Sri Ashok Kumar, R/o Chaudhary Complex near Aggarwal medical Centre Haridwar, Road, Laksar Distt. Haridwar- 247663, 2. Sri Amar Kumar S/o Sri Anand Mittal, R/o Ward No. 9, Society Road Keshav Nagar Railway Line Laksar, Distt- Haridwar-247663, 3. Smt. Kamlesh W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar, R/o Keshav Nagar, Society Road, Railway Line, Near Sugar Mills, Laksar, Distt- Haridwar-247663.	All that part and parcel of the Residential House property in the Name of Smt. Kamlesh W/o Sri Ashok Kumar. measuring area 833 sq feet i.e. 77.469 Sq. mt. Khasra No. 235/2/3. Location Keshav Nagar Ward No. 8, Railway Line near Sugar Mill Laksar Haridwar-247663. <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Open Property of Seller, West: Open Property of Sugar Mill, North: Road of 12 feet in width, South: Road of 12 feet.	<b>Rs. 15,37,860.00</b> as on 31.08.2018 + Interest w.e.f. 01.09.2018 + Expenses-Recoveries after 31.08.2018	Rs. 8.58 Lacs Rs. 0.86 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Laksar Ph. No. 9456591063
9.	<b>Borrower:</b> Mr. Tehsin Ahmed S/o Late Zahoor Ahmed Present Address: Mohalla Kaitwada, Jwalapur, Distt. Haridwar-249401, Uttarakhand, <b>Guarantor:</b> Mr. Sajad Hussain Present Address: Village Ikkar Khurd, Jwalapur, Haridwar.	All that of residential property in the name of Mr. Tehsin Ahmed situated at Mohalla Kaitwada, Jwalapur Tehsil & Distt Haridwar within limits of Nagar Nigam Haridwar. Total area 859 Sq. Ft. <b>Bounded:</b> East: Rasta 15ft. Wide, West: Property of Seller, North: Property of Sh. Shamsher Khan, South: Property of Sh. Tahsin Ahmed.	<b>Rs. 2,40,880/-</b> as on 30.09.2019 + Interest and costs etc. from 01.10.2019	Rs. 44.22 Lacs Rs. 4.43 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Haridwar Kankhal (e-Syndicate) Ph. No. 941113681
10.	<b>Borrower:</b> 1. Ms. Sonu, Present Address: H. No. 45, Mohalla Kadach, Jawalpur, Haridwar, 2. Mr. Virender Kumar, Present Address: H. No. 45, Mohalla Kadach, Jawalpur, Haridwar, <b>Guarantor:</b> Mr. Narender Kumar, Present Address: H. No. 45, Mohalla Kadach, Jawalpur Haridwar.	All that of Residential property in the name of Ms. Sonu and Mr. Virender Kumar, having area of 594 Sq. Ft. Situated at Khata No. 814, Mohalla Karach, Jawalpur, Pargana Jawalpur, Teh & Distt. Haridwar within limits of Nagar Nigam Haridwar. <b>Bounded by:</b> East: Land of Maniram, West: 8 ft. Wide way, North: Land of Priithi, South: 6 ft. Wide way.	<b>Rs. 12,04,909/-</b> as on 30.09.2019 + interest & cost etc. From 01.10.2019	Rs. 15.87 Lacs Rs. 1.59 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Haridwar Kankhal (e-Syndicate) Ph. No. 941113681
11.	<b>Borrower:</b> 1. M/s Adarsh Printing Press Prop. Sri Sushil Kumar, S/o Sri Tarasem Lal, Haridwar Road, Laksar-247663, Uttarakhand, 2. Sri Sushil Kumar, S/o Sri Tarasem Lal, Haridwar Road, Laksar, Haridwar, Uttarakhand-247663, 3. Mrs. Sapna Sharma W/o Sri Sushil Kumar, Ward No. 9, Nagar Panchayat Laksar, Haridwar.	<b>Property No. 1.</b> All that part and parcel of the residential Property in the name of Mr. Sushil Kumar Sharma S/o Sri Tarasem Lal, bearing survey no. 352 measuring area 503.5 sq. feet, located at keshav Nagar ward No. 9, Nagar Panchayat Laksar, Tehsil Laksar, Distt- Haridwar. <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Property of Mr. Sushil Kumar Sharma, West: Public Road, North: Open Plot of Mr. Anil Kumar, South: Open Plot of Mr. Vijay Kumar.	<b>Rs. 5,48,327.00</b> as on 17.05.2019 + Interest w.e.f. 01.05.2019 + Expenses -Recoveries after 17.05.2019	Rs. 8.28 Lacs Rs. 0.83 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Laksar Ph. No. 9456591063
12.	<b>Borrower:</b> M/s Lion Gym And Fitness Prop. Sri Lalit Kumar S/o Sri Naresh Kumar, Narsan Kalan, Tehsil Roorkee Distt. Haridwar 247670 Uttarakhand. <b>Proprietor:</b> Sh. Lalit Kumar S/o Sh. Naresh Kumar, Narsan Kalan, Tehsil Roorkee, Distt. Haridwar-247670, Uttarakhand. <b>Mortgager:</b> Smt. Rajesh Devi W/o Sri Naresh Kumar Khasra No-77M Village Ladpur Khurd Pargana Manglore Tehsil Roorkee, Distt. Haridwar 247670 Uttarakhand	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Emt of Residential House in the name of Smt Rajesh Devi W/o Naresh Kumar situated at Khasra no.77M, Village Ladpur Khurd, Pargana Manglore, Tehsil Roorkee, Pin 247670 Distt. Haridwar having measuring Area 208.17 Sq.mt. <b>Boundaries:</b> East- Sri Arun Kumar, West- Agriculture Land, North- Plot Sri Arun Kumar, South- Road.	<b>Rs. 5,24,534.76</b> as on 16.07.2019 + Interest w.e.f. 01.07.2019 + Expense - Recoveries after 16.07.2019 in the Ac. No. 2200285000042 and <b>Rs. 7,03,792.27</b> as on 16.07.2019 + Interest w.e.f. 04.07.2019 + Expense - Recoveries after 16.07.2019 in the Ac. No. 2200768000029.	Rs. 30.11 Lacs Rs. 3.01 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Roorkee I Ph. No. 9456591029
13.	<b>Borrower:</b> M/s Anuj Kapoor Khatri Industries, Prop. Sri. Anuj Khatri S/o Sri. Ashwini Kumar, Village Susadi kalan, Pargana Mangalore, Tehsil Roorkee, Distt Haridwar, Uttarakhand.	Residential Property in the name Sh. Anuj Khatri S/o Sh. Ashwini Kumar, part of Khasra No. 419/2/5 measuring 159.91 Sq. mtrs or 1720.70 Sq Feet at Village Dhanderia, Tehsil Roorkee, Distt Haridwar, Boundaries: East: Rasta 5.63 meter wide, West: Plot of others, North: Plot of Rao Afjal Khan, South: Plot of Rao Afjal Khan. <b>Physical Possession</b>	<b>Rs. 21,23,583.30 (OCC Rs. 12,77,975.00 &amp; TL Rs. 8,45,608.30)</b> as on 03.12.2016 + Interest w.e.f. 01.12.2016 + costs	Rs. 19.89 Lacs Rs. 1.99 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Roorkee I Ph. No. 9456591029
14.	<b>Borrower:</b> Sh. Narender Kumar S/o Sh. Sumer Singh R/o House No. 20, Kaddach, Jwalapur, Haridwar U.K., <b>Guarantor:</b> Sh. Tufel Ahmad S/o Sh. Alim Ahmed R/o House No. 214, Mohalla Chouhanan, Jwalapur, Haridwar U.K.	All that of property sale deed no. 2551, area of land 594 sq. ft. in the name of Sh. Narender Kumar S/o Sh. Sumer Singh situated at Mohalla Karach Jwalapur Haridwar U.K. <b>Boundaries:</b> East- House of Mani Ram, West- Rasta 10 ft., North- House of Pirithvi Singh, South- Rasta 10 ft.	<b>Rs. 14,76,658.78</b> as on 30.06.2015 along with interest from 01.07.2015 and costs etc.	Rs. 20.16 Lacs Rs. 2.02 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Haridwar Main (e-Syndicate) Ph. No. 941113682
15.	<b>Borrower:</b> 1. Sh. Mansoor S/o Sh. Maskoor Ali, R/o 573 Mohalla Kaddach, Jwalapur, Distt. Haridwar U.K., 2. Sh. Nadeem Ali S/o Sh. Maskoor Ali, R/o 573 Mohalla Kaddach, Jwalapur, Distt. Haridwar U.K., <b>Guarantor:</b> Sh. Ram Prasad S/o Sh. Jamana Prasad, 356 New Vikas Colony, Ahamadpur Jwalapur U.K.	All that of property in the name of Sh. Mansoor S/o Sh. Maskoor Ali and Sh. Nadeem Ali S/o Sh. Maskoor Ali, Khasra No. 532M, Area of land 1375 sq. ft. situated at Village Sisona jaded Mustekam Pargana Bhagwanpur Tehsil Roorkee Distt Haridwar U.K. <b>Boundaries:</b> East- Rasta 18 ft., West- Remaining Part of Seller, North- Remaining Land of Seller, South- Rasta 18 ft.	<b>Rs. 21,44,040.02</b> as on 30.06.2015 along with interest from 01.07.2015 and costs etc.	Rs. 14.81 Lacs Rs. 1.48 Lacs Rs. 10,000/-	Canara Bank, Haridwar Main (e-Syndicate) Ph. No. 941113682

**"Outstanding Dues of Local Self Govt. (Prop. Tax, Water, Sewerage, Electricity, Bills etc.) Not Known to the Bank"**

**Other terms and conditions:** A. Auction / bidding shall only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website (<https://www.msfccommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi/index.jsp>). Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the E-auction sale proceedings. B. The property can be inspected with prior appointment with **Authorized Officer** on 24.12.2020 between 10.00 am to 5.00 PM. C. The property will be sold for the price which is more than reserve price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process. D. For downloading further details, Process, Compliance and terms & conditions, please visit: a. <https://www.canarabank.com>, b. website address of our e-auction service provider: <https://www.msfccommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi/index.jsp>. Bidder may visit <https://www.ibapi.in> where "Guidelines" for bidders are available with educational videos. Bidders have to complete following formalities well in Advance: **Step 1:** Bidder/purchaser Registration: Bidder to register on e-auction Platform (link given above) using his mobile number and email id **Step 2:** KYC Verification: Bidder to upload requisite KYC documents. KYC documents shall be verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days). **Step 3:** Transfer of EMD amount to Bidder Global EMD Wallet: Online/off-line transfer of fund using NEFT/Transfer, using challan generated on e-Auction Platform. **Step 4:** Bidding Process and Auction Results: Interested Registered Bidders can bid online on e-Auction Platform after completing Step 1, 2 and 3. Please note that Step 1 to 3 should be completed by bidder well in advance, before e-Auction date. Identifying bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and email address. Bids shall be submitted through online procedure only. E. After payment of EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before 29.12.2020 till 5.00PM to Canara Bank, RESPECTIVE BRANCH, by hand or by email. (1) Acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No. (2) Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount. (3) Bidders Name, Contact No., Address, E Mail Id. F. Auction price to be submitted shall be above the Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Rs. 10,000.00 (The amount can be decided by the Authorised Officer depending upon the value of the property with a minimum of Rs. 10000.00 as incremental value). The bidder who submit the highest bid (above the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the secured bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor. G. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid) on the same day or not later than next working day on declaring him / her as the successful bidder and the balance on / before 16th day. from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period as stated above, the deposit made by him / her shall be forfeited by the Authorized officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put for sale again. H. For sale proceeds of Rs. 50 lacs (Rupees Fifty lacs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the rate 1% on the Sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the Bank. I. All charges for conveyance, stamp duty/GST registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only. J. Authorized Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof. M. In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating e-auction, they can approach concerned branch who, as a facilitating centre, shall make necessary arrangements. L. **M/s MSTC Ltd, contact details : 03322901004, IBAPI help desk no. : 18001025026 (Toll free) and land line no. 011-41106131 and email id: [https://www.ibapi.in](mailto:https://www.ibapi.in)**

Date: 28.11.2020 Place: Dehradun Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

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# Special efforts needed to bring down Covid death rate, raise recovery rate: CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Special efforts must be undertaken to reduce the Covid death rate in the state. Issuing this instruction while chairing a video conference with all district magistrates on Saturday, chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said that the cause of the death of Covid-19 patients, be it comorbidities, reaching the hospital late or any other reason should be properly analysed. There should be no delay if any Covid patient needs to be referred to a higher centre.

Stressing on the need for more efforts to raise the recovery rate, the CM directed the DMs to increase testing more swiftly in the districts. Special focus should be laid on RT PCR test. If those who are found negative in antigen test are symptomatic their RT PCR should be conducted. Further, it should be ascertained that after the sample is taken, the people should receive the test report within 24 hours in urban areas and within 48 hours in mountainous areas. More efforts will have to be undertaken to control the positivity rate in Rudrapur, Pithoragarh and Dehradun districts, he said. Rawat further said that those being penalised for not wearing a mask in public should also be provided a mask. Stating that the intention is to protect people from



Covid and not collecting revenue from challans, he said that strict action will be taken against those issuing challans without providing masks. Considering the winter, the upcoming Kumbh Mela, Yog Mahotsavs and tourism, the next few months will be challenging. Considering this, public awareness campaigns should be conducted consistently in the districts for protection from Covid, he added. Chief secretary Om Prakash said that full planning should be done for Covid vaccination. The district and block task forces should hold meet-

ings regularly. Stating that all data should be kept on those with comorbidities, the aged, pregnant women, health and frontline workers, he said that if the aged and those with comorbidities develop symptoms, they should be encouraged to get hospitalised instead of staying in home isolation. The director general (Law and Order) Ashok Kumar informed that the police are undertaking awareness campaigns through various media in tourist spots and crowded places. Thermal screening is also being conducted. Health secretary Amit

Singh Negi informed that 99.89 per cent of high risk contacts in the state had been tested. Covid sampling is also being done consistently in tourist spots. He stressed that all the DMs and chief medical officers should also ensure that the non-Covid health facilities are also operating properly. Community health centres, primary health centres and other health facilities should be further strengthened. Adequate funds will be made available for this purpose. To raise awareness on wearing masks, these should be distributed through NCC cadets and NSS volunteers, he added.

## Covid-19- Death toll mounts to 1214 in U'khand

**13 deaths, 424 new cases reported on Saturday**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

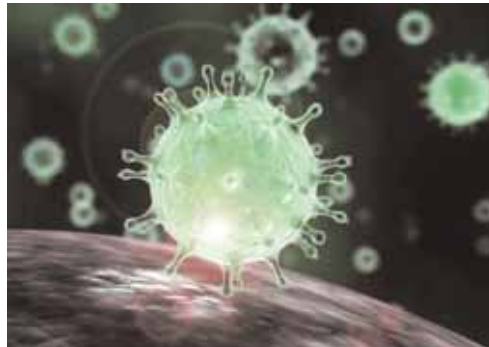
The death toll from the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) in Uttarakhand climbed to 1214 on Saturday with the state health department reporting 13 deaths from the disease. The department also reported 424 fresh cases of the disease on the day which further increased the tally of the disease to 73951 in the state. The authorities discharged 342 patients from different hospitals of the state after their complete recovery on Saturday. A total of 67197 patients have so far recovered from the disease in the state. The recovery percentage from the disease is now at 90.87 while the sample positivity rate

is 5.62 percent.

Four patients of the disease were reported dead at the Mahant Indresh hospital, Dehradun on Saturday. Three patients of the disease were reported dead at HNB Base Hospital, Srinagar while two patients died at District hospital Tehri on the day. One patient each was reported dead at Kailash hospital, Dehradun, Himalayan hospital Dehradun, Sushila Tiwari government hospital, Haldwani and Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital Dehradun on Saturday.

The governor of Uttarakhand Baby Rani Maurya was discharged from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh on Saturday. She was admitted here on 23 November for being found positive for Covid-19.

The authorities reported 163 fresh cases of the disease in Dehradun, 59 in Pithoragarh,



45 from Pauri, 30 from Haridwar, 21 each from Almora and Tehri, 20 from Chamoli, 19 from Champawat, 12 from Udham Singh Nagar, eight each from Bageshwar and Uttarkashi and seven from Rudrapur on Saturday. Uttarakhand now has 4876 active cases of the disease. Dehradun is at top of the table with 1465 active cases of the

disease while with 551 active cases, Haridwar is on second position. Pauri has 485, Nainital 452, Pithoragarh 399, Chamoli 301, Udham Singh Nagar, Tehri 243, Almora 185, Champawat 169, Rudrapur 122 and Uttarkashi 133 active cases of the disease. With 119 active cases of Covid-19, Bageshwar now is at the bottom of the table.

## GDMC hospital to start all OPDs from Dec 1

**The hospital was converted as a dedicated Covid-19 hospital in the month of March**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After a long break, the general OPDs of all the departments of Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) would start functioning from December 1. Initially only 25 patients in OPD of every department would be examined and later this number would be increased after a review on December 15. It is worth mentioning here that the GDMC hospital was converted as a dedicated Covid-19 hospital in the month of March only. After which the hospital was catering only the Covid-19 patients.

The decision to open the

OPDs of all the departments was taken in a meeting of all Head of Departments (HoDs) in the hospital on Saturday. The meeting was chaired by the Principal of GDMC, Dr Ashutosh Sayana.

He said that the OPDs of cardiology, skin, cancer and paediatrics were started by the hospital on November 2 after the number of active cases of the Covid-19 became less and now all OPDs would start operating. He added that OPDs would open on all week days while the OPDs of cardiology would function on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Dr Sayana said that all precautions would be taken and Covid-19



regulations would be strictly adhered to. The patients would have to take online appointments for the OPD. The facilities of X ray, ECG and pathology would be made available in the OPD building itself. The OPD of gynaecology which earlier was being operated in the old building has been shifted

to the new building. The meeting was attended by Medical Superintendent Dr K K Tamta, Dr Narayanjit Singh, Dr R S Bisht, Dr Chitra Joshi, Dr Abhay, Dr J S Rana, Dr Vijay Bhandari, Dr Sushil Ojha, Dr Anil Joshi, Dr Amar Upadhyaya and Mahendra Bhandari.

## BJP to win 60 seats, create history by forming Govt again in 2022: Gautam

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party national general secretary and State in-charge Dushyant Kumar Gautam has opined that the BJP will win 60 seats in the Vidhan Sabha election and create history by forming government again in Uttarakhand. Gautam said this while speaking at a meeting of the party's state office bearers, State government's ministers, MLAs and position holders at the BJP State office here on Saturday.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the most popular PM of India so far. The reason for this is the work he is doing at the national and international levels. Gautam told the party workers that the BJP was not formed to gain power but with the idea of considering the nation supreme and serving the nation and

society. Stating that the Uttarakhand government is doing considerably good work, he said that all the party workers have to take the achievements of the centre and state to the public.

The BJP State co-in-charge Rekha Verma also exhorted the party workers to prepare for the 2022 Vidhan Sabha elections. She pointed out that the BJP had been victorious in the polls held recently in 11 states including Bihar, adding that all have to work unitedly to secure another win for the party in Uttarakhand.

The BJP State president Banshidhar Bhagat said that all the party workers in the state always remain prepared for elections. Stating that the party will contest the 2022 assembly polls on the issue of development, he assured Gautam and Verma that by getting re-elected to form government in



2022, the BJP will break the trend of BJP and Congress

alternately forming government in Uttarakhand.

## Cong holds protest in Dehradun on farm Bills

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In protest against what it termed anti farmer Farm laws and the misbehaviour done with the agitating farmers in Delhi and Haryana by police the Uttarakhand Congress held a protest here on Saturday. The party also burned an effigy of the union government as a mark of the protest. Addressing the party workers at the Rajiv Bhawan, the Pradesh Congress

**Narendra Modi Government is more concerned about protecting the interests of capitalists and is apathetic towards farmers: Pritam**

Committee (PCC) President Pritam Singh said that by passing the farm bills in the par-

liament, the Narendra Modi government has proved that it is more concerned about protecting the interests of capitalists and apathetic towards farmers.

He also questioned the motive of the government by passing the farm bills during the time of Covid-19 pandemic. Launching an attack on the government for police action on farmers, the PCC president said that action reminds of the atrocities done by the Britishers

on Indians. He said that the Congress party strongly condemns the police action on farmers.

The Vice President of Uttarakhand Congress Surya Kant Dhasmana, state general secretary organisation Vijay Saraswat, former Cabinet ministers Surveer Singh Sajwan, Matbar Singh Kandari, Hira Singh Bisht, former MLA Rajkumar and large number of Congress workers were present on the occasion.

## Officials must work with sense of service: Maharaj

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State's Tourism and Culture minister Satpal Maharaj unveiled the foundation stones of various works totaling in cost to crores of rupees at a function in Tilwada, Rudrapur on Saturday. Addressing the officials and party workers on the occasion, the minister said that government officials should work with a sense of serving the public. Stating that party workers stive in the interest of the public, he said that their problems should be redressed on priority basis. He stressed that complaints should not be received from the workers about officials not listening to their problems, adding that apathy towards the workers will not be tolerated.

Referring to the work of the state government he said that concrete shape was being accorded to various employment generating schemes in spheres including tourism, pilgrimage like home stay scheme, adventure sports, encouraging local products and traditional Garhwali dishes among others.



Responding to a complaint about pipes of Lastar Bayan canal laying at Bangar, the minister spoke of timely action, while adding that work would also be done on pending flood protection works, irrigation canals and renovation of tourist spots.

The works for which the

foundation was unveiled by the minister included flood protection scheme costing Rs 198.87 lakh near Agastayamuni PG college, treatment of Mansua Gadera costing Rs 19.72 lakh, protection work at Kalimath temple costing Rs 19.50 lakh, protection work at Mahesh temple in Jakholi cost-

ing Rs 105 lakh, lift pump at Jakholi costing Rs 82.31 lakh and Agastayamuni lift pump costing Rs 221.57 lakh.

Local MLA Bharat Singh Chowdhary and other public representatives and officials were also present on the occasion.

**यूको बैंक**  
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)

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**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES [Rule-8(6)]**

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "AS is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 15.12.2020, for recovery of **Rs. 8,22,354.24/- as on 23.01.2020** inclusive of interest up to 31.07.2018 plus further interest and other incidental charges thereafter due to UCO Bank, the Secured Creditor from **Gyanesh Kumar Srivastava, Mrs Yasodha (Borrower)** The reserve price will be **Rs. 10,82,000/-** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 1,08,200/-**.

S. No.	Name of Borrower/ Guarantor & Address	Description of Immovable Property	Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice	Reserve Price	Earnest Money 10% of Reserve Price	Date and Time of E-Auction
1.	1) Gyanesh Kumar Srivastava S/o Jagdish Srivastava 2) Mrs Yasodha W/o Gyanesh Kumar Srivastava Ward No 5, Singh Colony, Gali No. 15, Rudrapur 263153	Plot/ Building Residential House at Khet No. 6/1, min area 16x30 feet i.e. 44.60 Sqm. Situated at Village - Jagatpur, Tehsil-Kichha, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar.	Rs. 8,22,354.24/- (Rupees Eight Lacs Twenty Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Four & Paise 24 Only) & interest charged upto 31.07.2018	Rs.10.82 Lakhs Plot / Building Residential House	Rs. 1,08,200	Date 15.12.2020 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

**Details of known encumbrances: Not Known to Bank Terms and condition:**

- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Detailed terms and conditions of the sale is available/published in the following websites/web portal: 1) <https://ibapi.in/>, 2) <https://mstcecommerce.com/>.
- The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".
- The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
- The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> on **15.12.2020** and starts at 10.00 am.
- It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and to make self-bid and participate in the auction.

**OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE**

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions.

- The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>. 2. The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are requested to register on portal (<https://www.mstcauction.com>) using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/ Purchasers have to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet by 14.12.2020 before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction 3. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be paid online through 3 mode i.e. NEFT/Cash/Transfer (After generation of Challan from <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>) in bidders Global EMD Wallet. NEFT transfer can be done from any Scheduled Commercial Bank, however for Cash/Transfer the bidder has to visit UCO Bank Branch. Payment of EMD by any other mode such as Cheques will not be accepted. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online, will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money Deposited shall not bear any interest.
- Platform (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com>) for e-Auction will be provided by eAuction service provider **M/S MSTC Limited** having its Registered office at 225-C, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700020 (contact Phone Or Toll free Numbers 079-41072412 411/413 or 1800-103- 5342) The intending Bidders/Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-auction service provider's website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>. This Service Provider will also provide online demonstration/ training on e-Auction on the portal. 5. The Sale Notice containing the General Terms and Conditions of sale is available / published in the following websites web page portal: (1) <https://www.ibapi.in/>, (2) <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/>. 6. The intending participants of e-auction may download free of cost, copies of the Sale Notice, Terms & Conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction related to this e-Auction from e-B-API portal (<https://www.ibapi.in/>). 7. Bidder's Global EMD Wallet should have sufficient balance (>=EMD amount) at the time of bidding 8. During the e-auction bidders will be allowed to offer higher bid in inter-se bidding over and above the last bid quoted and the minimum increase in the bid amount must be as mention above to the last higher bid of the bidders. Ten(10) minutes time will be allowed to bidders to quote successive higher bid and if no higher bid is offered by any bidder after the expiry of ten minutes to the last highest bid, the auction shall be closed. 9. It is the responsibility of intending Bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly. In case of any difficulty or need of assistance before or during e-Auction process may contact authorized representative of our e-Auction Service Provider (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com>). Details of which are available on the e-Auction portal. 10. After finalization of e-Auction by the Authorized Officer, only successful bidder will be informed by our above referred service provider through SMS/ email (On mobile no email address given by them/ registered with the service provider). 11. The secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price. 12. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% (twenty five percent) of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited, on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of auction in the form of Banker's Cheque/Demand Draft issued by a Scheduled Commercial Bank drawn in favor of "The Authorized Officer, UCO Bank Payable at Rajapalayam. In case of failure to deposit the amounts as above within the stipulated time, the amount deposited by successful bidder will be forfeited to the Bank and Authorized Officer shall have the liberty to conduct a fresh auction/sale of the property & the defaulting bidder shall not have any claim over the forfeited amount and the property. 13. Payment of sale consideration by the successful bidder to the bank will be subject to TDS under Section 194-IA of Income Tax Act 1961 and TDS is to be made by the successful bidder only at the time of deposit of remaining 75% of the bid amount /full deposit of BID amount 14. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel/adjoin/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final. 15. The sale certificate shall be issued in favour of successful bidder on deposit of full bid amount as per the provisions of the act 16. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The intending purchaser can inspect the property on 15.12.2020 between 10.00 AM and 3.00 PM Please contact **Mr. Vivek Ahuja, Senior Manager, Mob-9639834444**. 17. All statutory dues/attend charges/other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc shall have to be borne by the purchaser. 18. The Authorized Officer of the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned) not known to the bank. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. 19. The bidder should ensure proper internet connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons/contingencies affecting the e-auctions.

**Place : Rudrapur  
Date : 27.11.2020**

**Authorized Officer**



# UP Gov gives nod to Ordinance against forcible religious conversions

**Lucknow:** Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel on Saturday gave assent to an Ordinance against forcible or fraudulent religious conversions that provides for imprisonment up to 10 years and a maximum fine of Rs 50,000 under different categories.

The promulgation of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, came four days after the Yogi Adityanath government had

approved the draft of the legislation which also curbs religious conversions only for the sake of marriage.

The new law, however, did not go down well with the opposition Samajwadi Party. Hours after the governor's nod, SP president Akhilesh Yadav said his party will oppose the Bill when it comes up in the UP Legislature for passage.

"The Samajwadi Party is not in favour of any such law. We will oppose it (when it

comes up in the assembly)," the SP leader said in reply to a question at a press conference here.

According to the ordinance, a marriage will be declared "null and void" if the conversion of a woman is solely for that purpose and those wishing to change their religion after marriage need to apply to the district magistrate.

It also has a provision under which if someone returns to their original reli-

gion, it shall not be deemed a conversion.

While the onus to prove that the conversion has not been done forcibly will lie on the person accused of the act and the convert, it said.

In case of contravention of the law, the ordinance says that the court shall grant appropriate compensation payable by the accused to the victim of conversion which may extend to a maximum of Rs 5 lakh in addition to the fine.

The ordinance says no person shall convert, either directly or indirectly from one religion to another by use or practice of misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage nor shall any person abet, convince or conspire such conversion.

An aggrieved person, his/her parents, brother, sister, or any other person who is related to him/her by blood, marriage or adoption may

lodge an FIR about such conversion, according to the ordinance.

In cases of mass religious conversion, the registration of the social organisations will be cancelled, and strong action will be initiated against them.

If those previously convicted under the ordinance are caught again for the same offence, they shall be subjected to double punishment, it said.

Notwithstanding anything

contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, all the offences under this ordinance shall be cognisable and non bailable and triable by the sessions court, the ordinance said.

In recent weeks, BJP-run states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have revealed plans to enact laws to counter alleged attempts to convert Hindu women to Islam in the guise of marriage, which Hindu

activists refer to as "love jihad".

The Uttar Pradesh cabinet's approval to the ordinance followed the announcement by Adityanath that his government would come out with a law to deal with "love jihad".

Addressing bypoll rallies in Jaunpur and Deoria last month, Adityanath had used the Hindu funeral chant of 'Ram Naam Satya Hai' to threaten those who do not respect daughters and sisters. **PTI**

## Dalit man found hanging in Muzaffarnagar

**PTI ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP)**

A 26-year-old Dalit man was found hanging from a tree on Saturday at Manfora village under Jansath police station limits here, police said.

According to SHO Deepak Chaturvedi, the body identified as that of Vikram was brought down and sent for a post-mortem.

Police are investigating whether the Dalit man was murdered or he had died by suicide.

The SHO said they are awaiting the autopsy report.

According to the family of the deceased, Vikram was working as a labourer under one farmer Gulbir and had been missing for a day when he was found dead.

## Programme on financial management in Covid times held

**PNS ■ DEHRADUN**

The Vice Chancellor of the Doon University, A K Karnatak has said that financial literacy is an important subject in today's time and during the ongoing period of Covid-19 pandemic financial empowerment along with saving human existence is an important issue.

He was speaking after inaugurating a webinar on managing personal finance during Covid-19 times on Saturday. The programme was organised under the aegis of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and Doon University on the occasion of World Investor Week 2020.

The programme convenor and dean student welfare, H C Purohit welcomed the guests

on the occasion.

He said that more than 300 participants have registered in this free webinar in which teachers, employees and common investors are also participating.

The keynote Speaker on the occasion was Chief Advisory of Association of Mutual Fund in India Northern Territory, Suryakant Sharma. He said that Sharma said that next one year would be difficult for managing finances. He advised that apart from calculating basic expenses for next one year some money should be kept aside for social and family responsibilities. Sharma gave an elaborate account of different investment options during the present pandemic time.

## Not much time left for MLC poll

**Aligarh:** Not much hours remaining for the MLC election. The campaign will be allowed only upto November 29. After this, all kinds of the election campaign will stop. This time 16 candidates are fighting for teacher MLA, the candidate for graduate MLA is 22.

Independent candidates, along with SP, BJP and Congress, have put their full efforts in this remaining time. SP graduate candidate Aseem Yadav, teacher candidate Hevendra Chaudhary alias Hawwa Chaudhary, BJP's graduate candidate Manvendra Pratap Singh, teacher candidate Dinesh Vasishta, Congress graduate candidate Rajesh Dwivedi are also doing campaign day and night. **PNS**

## Rajasthan slashes RT-PCR Covid test by pvt labs at ₹800

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan government on Saturday fixed the rate for Covid-19 RT-PCR tests by private labs in the state to Rs 800, slashing it by Rs 400. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the government ordered the lowering of the Covid test rates from Rs 1,200 to Rs 800 following a drop in test kits' prices.

The state government issued the order slashing the Covid-19 test rate by private labs soon after the chief minister digitally inaugurated a 70-bed Covid-19 Intensive Care Unit in RUHS Hospital hee and disease testing labs in six towns.

Speaking during the programme, Gehlot said his government is making all efforts to strengthen the Covid-19 management infrastructure.

"People should not be worried by the rise in positive cases as they will do due to the increasing number of tests," he said.

He sought to assure people of "encouraging" recovery rate in the state, saying Rajasthan has a Covid death rate below one per cent -- one of the lowest in the country.

Gehlot said the corona infection must not be hidden at any stage because delaying treatment makes the disease fatal.

He said those who did not get themselves screened timely had to undergo treatment in hospital.

The chief minister said the health infrastructure has been strengthened throughout Rajasthan for maximum

screening and proper treatment of corona-infected persons and now RT-PCR testing facility is available in every district.

Defending a Covid-infected Health Minister Raghu Sharma's visit to newly set up ICU in RUHS Hospital, a dedicated Covid hospital, in Jaipur, the chief minister asked who else will conduct a visit if not the health minister.

Gehlot said after testing positive, the minister was admitted in the RUHS Hospital and he inspected the newly set up ICU there.

BJP had raised objections after the Covid-positive minister visited the hospital. The BJP leaders had accused him of putting the lives of others including the hospital staff at risk. **PTI**

## 18 new Covid cases in Mizoram; tally rises to 3,806

**Aizawl:** At least 18 people, including four security personnel, have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, taking the state's tally to 3,806, an official said on Saturday.

Ten cases were reported from Aizawl district and four cases each were reported from Serchhip and Lawngtlai districts, he said.

Three Border Security Force (BSF) jawans and an Assam Rifles jawan were among the newly infected people, the official said.

He said that five patients have developed symptoms of COVID-19 while the remaining 13 patients were asymptomatic. **PTI**

## Spl Exhibition on Constitution Day at Kevadia draws appreciation of Parliamentarians and legislators

**Gujarat:** Even as India celebrated the 71st Constitution Day with enthusiasm with nationwide reading of the Preamble led by the President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, a Special Exhibition on the Constitution Day at Kevadia in Gujarat, drew appreciation of Parliamentarians and Legislators.

This Exhibition, organized by the Bureau of Outreach Communication of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in collaboration with the Parliamentary Museum and Archives, as part of the 80th All India Conference of Presiding Officers at the Statue of Unity site in Gujarat, was inaugurated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla on Wednesday.

The Exhibition traced the journey of democratic tradition in the country, right from Vedic Times, through the Lichchavi republic to the making of Modern India.

The 1,600 sqft multi media exhibition had 50 panels of still exhibits besides Plasma display, interactive Digital Flip Book, RFID Card Reader, Interactive screen, Digital Touch Wall etc.

The Speaker appreciated the use of multi-media and said interactive exhibitions make information dissemination interesting. He said, the exhibition effectively captures the chronology of the framing of the Constitution and such exhi-



bition should be taken to different parts of the country to create awareness about our democratic tradition.

The framing of the Constitution of India has been dealt in detail making use of archival material. Rare film footage showing events associated with the framing of the Constitution, speeches made by important members of the Constituent Assembly like Dr. B R Ambedkar, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shyamaprasad Mukherjee among others, were so

urced from the archives of Films Division of India, Mumbai.

On one of the Plasma Displays, a visitor could choose to read the Preamble of the Constitution in different Indian languages. A Digital Flip Book gave glimpses of illustrations from the Constitution. A Digital Touch Wall gave infor-

mation about our various national symbols, while another digital screen displayed the chronology of framing of the Constitution. Another display wall described the influence of other Constitutions of the world in drafting the Constitution of India.

RFID Card Reader - an interactive display, where by placing the card bearing the name of the Member of the Constituent Assembly, his/her profile and contribution could be read on the screen was a special attraction.

Three category of cards were on display - Members of the Drafting Committee, Women Members of the Constituent Assembly and the Members of the Constituent Assembly from Gujarat with Hansa Mehta and Kanhaiyalal Munshi being the prominent figures.

Gujarat Governor Aharya Devvrat wrote in the visitors' book that "the gallery provides an insight into the tremendous efforts put in by hundreds of visionary leaders. The collection has beautifully shown the artifacts of the past and utilized every possible digital effort to project the same".

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal & Mines, Shri Prahalad Joshi and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal and Speakers of various State Assemblies were prominent among the dignitaries who visited the exhibition.

The archival display of signatures of Members of the Drafting Committee, key functionaries of the Government and Parliament, portraits of past and present Speakers etc were other prominent panels.

Another highlight of the exhibition was the section on State Assemblies, where a visitor could see and appreciate the architectural beauty and diversity of different State Assembly buildings.

Covid appropriate behaviour protocols were incorporated and special care taken to ensure sanitation, especially with respect to touch screen displays. The two-day All India Conference of Presiding Officers at Kevadia ended with resolve to strengthen institutions of democracy and spread awareness among public about the Constitution and democratic tradition of India.

## 2 held for molesting, attempting to throw woman off train

**Thane:** Two persons have been arrested for allegedly molesting a woman and attempting to throw her off a moving local train in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place late on Wednesday night, when the accused got into the ladies compartment of the local train and one of them molested the 21-year-old victim who was travelling to Kasara, inspector V D Shardul of Kalyan railway police station said.

When the victim resisted their advances, the accused tried to throw her off the moving train between Khardi and Umbarnali stations, the official said.

The victim managed to escape from the accused and she later lodged a complaint, he said. **PTI**

## K'taka CM's political secy hospitalised after 'suicide' attempt, stable

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's political secretary and relative N R Santosh, who was hospitalised following an alleged suicide attempt, is 'stable and cheerful' and may be discharged in a day or two, doctors treating him said on Saturday.

Responding to the incident, the state Congress demanded an investigation into the matter to enable the truth to come out and claimed that some confidential matters are linked to it.

An FIR has been registered against Santosh for allegedly attempting to kill himself, police sources said.

According to sources, Santosh is said to have attempted suicide by consuming sleeping pills on Friday night.

On finding him uncon-

scious at his Dollars Colony residence here, family members rushed him to the Ramaiah Memorial Hospital.

Santosh (31) was brought at about 8.30 pm with an alleged history of consumption of sleeping tablets at around 7 pm, the Hospital President Dr Naresh Shetty said in a statement.

Noting that on admission he was drowsy, the doctor said appropriate treatment was administered immediately and all investigations were carried out.

"He has been taking sleeping tablets occasionally for his sleep disturbance as per past history.

This morning, the patient is stable. He had his breakfast and is cheerful. The plan is to shift the patient to the ward post noon today.

He may be discharged in a day or two, based on his health status and recovery," the statement added.

Addressing the media, ICU specialist at the hospital Dr Deepak said Santosh was stable without any drowsiness and all his parameters BP, pulse and heart rate was good.

To a query, the doctor said Santhosh had taken sleeping pills alprazolam. Yediyurappa had rushed to the hospital late last night to inquire about Santosh's health.

"This morning, we walked together for 45 minutes. Even yesterday I saw him, he was happy. I don't know why this happened. I will find out and talk to his family," he said.

Meanwhile, the Sadashivanagar police have registered an FIR against Santosh, police sources said. **PTI**



An aerial view of Cyclone Nivar affected areas during Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's aerial survey on Saturday

**PTI**

## Weekly closure of markets resumes in Doon today

**PNS ■ DEHRADUN**

The weekly closure of shops and marketplaces on Sundays has returned in Dehradun from today as a measure to contain Covid-19 contagion in the city. The Dehradun district magistrate Ashish Kumar Srivastava has directed authorities to ensure the implementation of the weekly closure of shops on Sunday which was not followed in the city during the festive season. As informed by the city magistrate Kusum

Chauhan, the commercial establishments like petrol pumps, medical shops, vegetables and fruits shops and dairies are allowed to operate on Sunday and if any shops which do not fall under essential services will operate without the approval of the authorities, strict actions will be taken against the owners.

However, the officials informed that the home delivery services for any products including food will not be prohibited during the weekly clo-

sure of markets. Apart from this, Srivastava has also instructed the officials of the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) to sanitise all the main marketplaces of the city as the crowd on the weekly closure day would be less in the public places.

According to deputy municipal commissioner Rohitash Sharma, the municipal corporation is regularly sanitising the areas where it is required and as per the directions, the main marketplaces

will be sanitised on this Sunday too. Moreover, Srivastava has also directed additional district magistrates (ADMs) to ensure the implementation of the weekly closure on Sunday. He has ordered to take action under the Uttarakhand Epidemic Diseases Covid-19 Regulations 2020 against those who fail to follow the orders of the administration. Meanwhile, Srivastava also added that the administration is providing relaxation to the wedding ceremonies on Sunday which were planned already.

## Negi instructs police to find father of girl who allegedly committed suicide

**PNS ■ DEHRADUN**

The chairperson of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) Usha Negi has directed the Deputy Inspector General/Senior Superintendent of Police of Dehradun to find out the family of a girl who reportedly committed suicide earlier this month.

Recently, the commission had called the officers from the police station handling the case to get a thorough picture of the matter.

On Friday, two sub-inspectors arrived in SCPCR and presented the details of the case before Negi. They informed that the police have filed a case against the couple with whom the victim was living for the last many years. Negi informed that as per the police, the purported victim was left by her

father with the accused and his wife when the father was a guard in their rented house years back and since then, she was living with the family.

The victim's father had also left another daughter with the tenant of the house but she fled from there within a few days back to Bihar, as per Negi. According to the accused's statement, the father did return to take his daughter back after around four years but the now dead daughter refused going back, stated Negi. She said the police informed that on the day the victim allegedly tried to commit suicide, she went to a temple at 4 AM on the advice of a man living in the same building when she told him she was feeling scared. The daughter of a woman working in the temple

dropped her back to home around 7 AM when the victim told the family that she is feeling scared and hearing different types of noises, stated Negi.

As per the police, the family decided to call a priest and sent the victim to her room to get ready but when she did not return soon, the husband and wife went to look and found out that the victim was hanging from a noose tied to the ceiling fan, informed Negi. The family managed to enter the room and brought the girl down and admitted her in a private hospital but later shifted her to another hospital as the first one was expensive for the family, as per the police information to the commission. Subsequently, the victim died on November 8, informed Negi. Moreover, Negi said that staff at the private hos-

pital where the victim was initially admitted has stated verbally that there was no indication of any kind of sexual assault or foul play when the victim was admitted there.

However, she was disappointed that it was not considered crucial to take the advice of government doctors as the statements provided by private hospitals cannot be considered completely reliable in such matters. She has instructed authorities to ensure the involvement of government doctors in future cases. She has also directed the DIG/SSP to investigate all the people who talked or met the victim that day and also asked to find out about her father. She instructed him to submit the investigation report in commission within one month.

# Naidu calls for promoting cycling culture in cities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday called for promoting cycling culture and creating exclusive cycling tracks in cities and for that a mass movement to encourage cycling is required.

He urged the Government to integrate cycling into urban transport system and that the cities must plan city wide bicycle-sharing schemes, implement carbon credit to benefit cyclists and also promote E-Bicycles.

Naidu said cycling benefits include low-cost, zero pollution and improved health. Virtually delivering the key-note address at an International Webinar on 'Cycling in the post-Covid world', Naidu said there is a need to create a mass movement to encourage cycling through rigorous awareness campaigns and regular promotional events. Terming the webinar theme as timely and important, he called for collective global efforts to make the planet greener and safer.

Observing that the pandemic has changed the way we live, buy, utilise our time and commute, the Vice President pointed out that restrictions in many cities across the world have resulted in a reduction of motorized traffic and an increase in people choosing to walk or ride bicycles.

Pointing out that cycling was one of the best ways to reduce the risk associated with a sedentary lifestyle, he said that cycling provides several benefits in the form of zero dependence on energy sources, zero pollution, and improved health.

"Additionally, bicycles can



**The vice President advised urban planners and policymakers to have a re-look at their plans and policies and earmark exclusive cycling tracks**

provide critical support to the urban and rural poor who do not have access to the basic mobility", Naidu added.

Stating that the pandemic has provided a rare opportunity to promote and integrate cycling into the urban transport system, he advised urban planners and policymakers to have a re-look at their plans and policies and earmark exclusive cycling tracks.

Observing that many urban cycling networks in Europe, China and USA have seen a surge in traffic, Naidu said that there was a huge potential for promoting cycling in India and called for providing the necessary infrastructure.

Stating that traffic surveys revealed cycle trips account for more than 15% of trips in most towns, he said this was the right time to pro-

mote cycling as it reduces noise pollution, improves road safety and also helps in addressing the increasing energy import bill.

Quoting a recent study, he said it was estimated that the use of bicycles in place of two- and four-wheelers for short-distance trips in India could result in an annual benefit of USD 24.3 billion.

"However, the absence of a cycling ecosystem is preventing it from becoming the preferred mobility solution for all sections of society", the Vice President added.

Stressing the need to ensure that the post-COVID world is greener and more resilient, Naidu urged cities to plan city-wide bicycle-sharing schemes, implement Public Bike Sharing systems, create a mechanism for the carbon credit system to benefit cyclists and promote E Bicycles.

Ms. Raluca Fiser, President, World Cycling Alliance, Christophe Najdovski, Deputy Mayor, Paris and President, European Cyclists Federation, Dharmendra, Chairman, DDMC, Kunal Kumar, Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission, Kamal Kishore Yadav, CEO and Commissioner, Chandigarh Smart City and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

# ED attaches ex-babu's properties worth ₹27.8 cr under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday attached properties worth ₹27.86 crore of former IAS officer Babulal Agrawal under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in cases related to criminal misconduct and cheating by a public servant.

The attached assets include plant and machinery, balances in bank accounts and immovable properties of Agarwal and his family members.

The ED initiated investigation under PMLA on the basis of FIR registered by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Chhattisgarh under Prevention of Corruption Act, leading to disclosure of the disproportionate assets amassed by Agrawal and his family members following searches conducted by the Income Tax Department in February 2010.

The IT Department had then conducted searches at the premises of Agrawal, his CA Sunil Agrawal and his family members.

Further, three more FIRs were registered followed by chargesheets filed by the CBI against Agrawal and others. These FIRs were registered under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act.

"Investigation under PMLA revealed that Babu Lal Agrawal in connivance with his CA Sunil Agrawal and his brother Ashok Agrawal and Pawan Agrawal opened more than 400 bank accounts in the name of gullible villagers of Kharora and its nearby villages. Cash was deposited in these

accounts and several other accounts, 13 shell companies owned and operated by CA Sunil Agrawal, 26 Delhi and Kolkata-based other shell companies as well as the sister concerns of Prime Ispat Limited (a company owned and managed by family members of Babu Lal Agrawal) were used in placement and layering of this cash generated from corrupt means which was finally integrated in the form of share capital including share premium in Prime Ispat Limited (PIL)," the ED said in a statement.

Out of the above, the ED had already attached properties of PIL to the tune of ₹35.49 crore in the year 2017, it said.

Now, remaining plant and machinery to the tune of ₹26.16 crore has been attached. Besides this, bank balance of Rs 20.43 lacs lying in 291 bank accounts, a residential plot worth ₹39.52 lacs in the name of Xpress Mining Pvt. Ltd. (an entity owned and operated by family members of Agrawal), Rs 15 lacs recovered during the Income Tax search, balance of ₹4.75 lacs in the bank account of one firm Capstone, a residential plot worth ₹10.25 lacs in the name of another company Shri Ram Vihar (both partnership firms owned and operated by family members of Agrawal), cash of ₹39.81 lacs and two Kg gold recovered by CBI have been attached under PMLA.

Agrawal was arrested by ED on November 9 this year and he is in judicial custody till December 5. Further Investigation in the case is under progress, the agency added.

# Few misguided farmers will soon understand rationale behind Centre's farm laws: Goyal



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday expressed confidence that the few "misguided" farmers, who are protesting against the Centre's three farm laws, will understand the well-meaning intentions behind these changes while Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Saturday said that the Government is awaiting a proposal from the protesting farmers and then will make a decision based on that.

The Minister has been every day asking the farmers to call off the protests. He said that the Government is ready to hold talks with the farmers and

has invited them for another round of talks on December 3.

"I appeal to them to leave agitation in view of COVID-19 and winter. I am hopeful the farmers will agree to task," he said.

Thousands of farmers started entering the national capital on Friday as part of their 'Delhi Chalo' march against the Centre's new farm laws.

"It is little unfortunate that some political vested interests are misleading our farmers. But I am very confident that just like almost across the country, farmers have welcomed our new initiatives on the farm side, the few misguided farmers will also understand the well meaning inten-

tions behind these changes for the benefit of the farmers, and for a better future for our farmers," Goyal said.

He said that if pen or thermos manufacturers do not have any restriction on where and to whom to market their goods, farmers too deserve the same independence.

The Government, he said, is working at strengthening the hands of farmers by unshackling them from the constraints of the past. "We are preparing the country and our farmers to become stronger, to get the ability to market their own products anywhere in the country," the commerce and industry minister added.

# Commander Nishant Singh of crashed MIG-29K traceless even after 24 hours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Naval pilot Commander Nishant Singh is yet to be traced 48 hours after his MIG-29K fighter jet crashed into the Arabian Sea off Goa on Thursday evening.

However, the rescue teams managed to rescue the other pilot who along with Singh ejected from the jet before it went down.

Scores of warships, helicopters and aircraft of the Navy and other agencies were carrying out an extensive search and rescue mission on the spot where the plane crashed into the sea, officials said here on Saturday.

The twin-seater MIG-29K fighter jet crashed during routine sortie. These aircraft operate from the INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier.

This is the third mishap involving the MIG-29K in the last one and half years. At least 45 jets manufactured by Russia were inducted into the Navy some years back for flying from the aircraft carrier.

Giving details of the mishap, the navy had said on Friday a board of inquiry was ordered to ascertain the cause of the incident. "A MiG-29K trainer aircraft operating at sea met with an accident at about 1700 hrs on 26 November. One pilot has been recovered and search by air and surface units in progress for the second pilot. An inquiry has been ordered to investigate the incident," the Navy said.

The MIG-29Ks had recently participated in the prestigious Malabar series of maritime exercises with the navies of the US, Australia and Japan. The Indian aircraft carrier along with the US Navy's aircraft carrier Nimitz took part in the second phase of the four nation drill in the North Arabian Sea off Goa earlier this month.

The exercises focused around the Vikramaditya Carrier Battle Group of the Indian Navy and Nimitz Carrier Strike Group of the US Navy. The two carriers, along with other ships, submarine

and aircraft of the participating navies carried out high intensity naval operations over four days from November 17 onwards. These exercises also included cross-deck flying operations and advanced air defence exercises by MIG 29K fighters of INS Vikramaditya and F-18 fighters and E2C Hawkeye from Nimitz.

This is the third mishap of MiG-29K aircraft in the last one year. In February this year, a MiG 29K crashed after being hit by birds over Goa. Both pilots had steered the jet away from habitation before ejecting.

In November last year, a MiG-29K trainer aircraft crashed outside a village in Goa. Both the pilots had then ejected safely. In January 2018, a fighter jet crashed as it veered off the runway at the INS Hansa base in Goa.

The pilot escaped unharmed. The MIG-29Ks of the Navy are based at its base in Goa and operate from the lone aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

# After Nivar, another cyclone forming over Bay of Bengal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Nivar, another cyclone is forming over Bay of Bengal. According to the India Meteorological Department, it is "very likely" to concentrate into a depression in the next 48 hours and intensify further before moving towards the Tamil Nadu coast. Under its influence, various parts in southern States were likely to receive rainfall starting December 1, the IMD said in a series of tweets.

"A Low Pressure Area lies over South Andaman Sea SE (south east) Bay of Bengal and Equatorial Indian Ocean. It is



very likely to concentrate into a depression during next 48 hours and likely to intensify further thereafter," it said.

It is likely to move nearly westwards and reach south Tamil Nadu coast around

December 2, it said.

Under its influence, scattered to widespread rainfall activity was "very likely" over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep, south coastal

**IMD also forecasts isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall with moderate thunderstorm and lightning over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal during this period**

Andhra Pradesh and south Rayalaseema on Tuesday and Wednesday, the IMD said.

IMD has issued 'Orange' alert for Pathanamthitta and Idukki districts on December 1 and for Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts on December 2.

IMD also forecasts isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall with moderate thunderstorm and lightning over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal during this period.

Isolated heavy falls with moderate thunderstorm and lightning was also very likely over south coastal Andhra Pradesh during December 1 and 2 and over Rayalaseema and Lakshadweep area on Wednesday, it added.

# CBI raids 45 locations in 4 States in coal theft case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Saturday carried out multi-city search operation at 45 locations in four States after registering a case against alleged coal pilferer Anup Manjhi who was suspected to be colluding with two general managers and three security personnel of Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL) for the theft.

The searches were spread across West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

The CBI registered the case on Friday against Manjhi, ECL General Managers Amit Kumar Dhar (of then Kunustoria area now Pandaveswar area) and Jayesh Chandra Rai (Kajor area) besides ECL Chief of Security Tanmay Das, Area Security Inspector, Kunustoria, Dhananjay Rai and SSI and security in-charge Kajor area Debashish Mukherjee, they said.

It is alleged that accused Anup Manjhi alias Lala is involved in the illegal mining and theft of coal from leasehold mines of ECL in Kunustoria and Kajora areas, they further said.

The CBI case followed inputs from "reliable sources" indicating illegal excavation and theft of coal in the leasehold area of ECL in "connivance" with the officials of ECL, CISF and Railways, they said.

The vigilance department of the ECL and its Task Force had also noticed illegal mining from May 2020 and onwards with the



help of large excavation machines and vehicles for transportation that were seized by the team.

"Several instances of installation of illegal weighbridges in concrete form were also detected which confirms illegal coal mining and transportation from ECL areas in an organised manner at a very large scale," reads the FIR.

It is further revealed by the source that illegal mining is going on at the leasehold area of ECL behind Topsis village under Kunustoria Area and at Lachhipur Village under Kajora Area by the coal mafias in active connivance with officials of ECL and those of CISF, the FIR alleged.

The departmental raids on August 7, 2020 led to the recovery of over nine MT of stolen coal from the Railway siding of the Pandaveswar area. Similar recoveries were also made from other locations.

"It is learnt that this illegal activity is being run at Railway sidings by the criminals with

the active connivance of unknown Railway officials," the agency alleged in the FIR.

The CBI has alleged that Manjhi is the kingpin of most of the coal pilferage in the area arising out of illegal mining.

It appears that illegal coal mining in the ECL leasehold area is going on along with theft of coal from Railway sidings in an organised manner, the CBI said.

It alleged that the accused officials and security officers of ECL and CISF, in connivance with unidentified Railways officials, allowed Anup Manjhi alias Lala to misappropriate the national property entrusted to them, committing criminal breach of trust.

Dhananjay Roy, the security inspector of the state-run firm in the Kunustoria area in West Bengal's Pashchim Bardhaman district was taken ill when the search operation was underway, they said.

He was rushed to a hospital where he died, they added.

# Panwan Bansal appointed interim treasurer of Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Saturday appointed former Rajya Sabha MP Pawan Kumar Bansal as the interim treasurer of the All India Congress Committee (AICC). The post fell vacant after the sudden demise of veteran Congressman and sitting Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat, Ahmed Patel earlier this month.

Pawan Kumar Bansal's predecessor Ahmed Patel served as the AICC treasurer from August 2018 till his untimely demise earlier this week due to corona.

A four-time Lok Sabha MP from Chandigarh, Pawan Kumar Bansal also served one term as a Rajya Sabha MP for Punjab. In addition, Pawan Kumar Bansal has also served as a national spokesperson of the AICC and chairman of the party's research & reference cell in the past.

The 72-year old Congress leader handled the Minister of State (MoS) portfolio in Parliamentary Affairs, Finance and Water resources ministries during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenure. He was made the Railways Minister in UPA-2. Pawan Kumar Bansal resigned from the post in 2013 after his nephew was accused in a bribery case.

Towards the beginning of his political career, Bansal entered the limelight when he was appointed president of the Punjab unit of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC).

His appointment to the top job comes at a time when Congress is looking to challenge not just the BJP but other Opposition parties in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Responding to his appointment as AICC treasurer, Bansal said, "I thank Congress President Sonia Gandhi ji and Rahul ji for posing faith in me and discharging the duty with full responsibility shall be my endeavour."

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The high court observed that the oath required to be taken by the President, Vice President, Governors of the States or by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts does not require them to lay down their lives in the service of the country.

It is only the members of the armed forces who are required under the Constitution and other laws to take an oath of abiding by the command issued to them by the President or any officer set over them, even to the peril of their lives, a bench of Justices Rajiv Sahai Endlaw and Asha Menon said.

The court's observation came on a batch of 40 petitions challenging an order issued by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) granting the benefit of pro-rata pension only to Commissioned Officers of the Defence Services and not to the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs)/ Persons Below Officer Rank (PBORs).

# Members of armed forces deserve special treatment, should not be harassed: Delhi HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the armed forces, who take the oath of laying down their lives for the country, deserve special treatment and are not to be harassed unnecessarily and "made ping pong of" by being sent from one forum of adjudication to another, the Delhi High Court has said.

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The petitioners — NCOs/ PBORs who joined the Indian Air Force (IAF) as Airmen/ Corporals — said the MoD's order is discriminatory and claimed pro rata pension.

# Plea in SC against 'retrospective' change in tenure of SK Mishra as Enforcement Directorate director

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A petition has been filed before the Supreme Court seeking to quash the Centre's decision to "retrospectively" amend the tenure of Sanjay Kumar Mishra as the director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The petition, filed by advocate Prashant Bhushan for NGO Common Cause, also sought a direction to the central government to appoint a director for the agency "in a transparent manner and strictly in accordance with the law".

It has contended that the order issued by the Centre extending Mishra's tenure for one more year, was in violation of the provisions of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003.

The petition, which is likely to come up for hearing in the coming days, has alleged that the government employed a circuitous route to ensure Kumar got one more year as director of ED by way of retrospectively modifying the appointment order itself.

Mishra, an IRS officer, was appointed ED director for two years by an order dated November 19, 2018, the plea said.

However, the Central Government on November 13, 2020, issued an office order in which it was stated that the President has modified the 2018 order to the effect that a period of "two years" written in the 2018 order was modified to a period of "three years", it said. "The Centre has done indi-



rectly what could not have been done directly under the statute," the plea said.

The petition contended that the ED handles a large number of cases involving huge corruption, many of which are politically sensitive in nature, and the agency's director has powers akin to that of the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

It added that "such illegalities in the appointment of the Director of Enforcement will shake the confidence of citizens in the institution of Enforcement Directorate."

"Such an action will be totally against the laudable principles highlighting the need of impeccable integrity of persons holding high public offices and the consequent need for insulating the said offices from extraneous influences, as enshrined by the Supreme Court..." it said.

ED director's appointment is governed by the CVC Act which provides that no person below the rank of additional secretary to the government of India shall be eligible for appointment for the post and the director so appointed will continue to hold office for a period of not less than two years from the date on which he assumes office, the plea said.



# TRUMP SUFFERS ANOTHER JOLT US court rejects Pennsylvania lawsuit

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

In a fresh setback to US President Donald Trump's efforts to reverse the November 3 presidential election result in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, a court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by his team, observing that "voters, not lawyers choose the president."

The judgement came four days after Pennsylvania certified Trump's Democratic rival Joe Biden as the winner in the state which has 20 electoral college votes.

Trump, a Republican, has refused to accept defeat in the November 3 presidential election, and told reporters on Thursday that it would be "hard" to concede to Biden, a Democrat.

The President has said that he would leave the White House if the Electoral College declares Biden as the winner, but made clear he is not prepared to "concede" the election.

He has launched a slew of lawsuits in key states, but has not provided any evidence to back his claims of electoral fraud. Many of the lawsuits have been dismissed by courts.

The three-judge panel of the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday upheld a previous ruling that dismissed the Trump campaign's request for an injunction in the case in Pennsylvania to challenge the election results and slammed the lawsuit.

"Free, fair elections are the lifeblood of our democracy. Charges of unfairness are serious, but calling an election unfair does not make it so. Charges require specific allegations and then proof. We have neither here," Judge Stephanos Bibas said in his order. "The campaign cannot win this lawsuit," said Bibas, who was appointed by Trump.

He authored the order along with two other judges on the bench, Chief Circuit Judge Brooks Smith and Judge Michael Chagares, who were appointed by former Republican president George W Bush.

Trump has refused to concede the November 3 election to Biden and has filed multiple lawsuits challenging the poll results in several states.

Former vice president Biden was declared the winner of the US presidential election

on November 7 after flipping Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin to the Democrats' column.

Biden has 306 electoral votes to Trump's 232 votes. To win the race to the White House, the successful candidate should have at least 270 electoral votes out of the 538-member Electoral College.

Biden's tally is far more than the 270 needed to win the race for the White House, and he also leads the popular vote by more than six million.

In his Thanksgiving Day remarks, Trump, however, said it will be a mistake if the Electoral College were to elect Biden.

The president-elect leads by more than 80,000 votes in the battleground state of Pennsylvania.

Trump's lawyers Rudy Giuliani and Jenna Ellis said they will now appeal to the Supreme Court.

"The activist judicial machinery in Pennsylvania continues to cover up the allegations of massive fraud. We are very thankful to have had the opportunity to present proof and the facts to the PA state legislature. On to SCO-

TUS!" they said.

According to the local Philadelphia Inquirer, "Bibas pointed out that despite the campaign's speculative claims and fiery rhetoric, it never alleged - let alone offered any evidence to suggest - that any vote had been improperly counted or cast."

"Voters, not lawyers, choose the president. Ballots, not briefs, decide elections," alchemy cannot transmute lead into gold," Bibas wrote in his order.

The New York Times said many courts have used scathing language in tossing out a relentless barrage of lawsuits filed by the Trump campaign and its supporters, but even so, the Third Circuit's ruling was particularly blunt.

The court accused the Trump campaign of engaging in "repetitive litigation" and pointed out that the public interest strongly favoured "counting every lawful voter's vote, and not disenfranchising millions of Pennsylvania voters who voted by mail," the daily said.

Earlier in the day, Trump reiterated that he won the election and unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud.

"Biden can only enter the

White House as President if he can prove that his ridiculous "80,000,000 votes" were not fraudulently or illegally obtained. When you see what happened in Detroit, Atlanta, Philadelphia & Milwaukee, massive voter fraud, he's got a big unsolvable problem!" Trump tweeted.

"Big Tech and the Fake News Media have partnered to Suppress. Freedom of the Press is gone, a thing of the past. That's why they refuse to report the real facts and figures of the 2020 Election or even, where's Hunter!" he said in another tweet.

The Electoral College is scheduled to meet on December 14 and is expected to formally declare the 78-year-old Biden as the 46th US President.

Under the US electoral system, voters do not directly choose the president. Instead, they vote for 538 officials, who are allocated to American states based on their population size.

Earlier this week, Trump allowed the official start of Biden's transition to power without conceding defeat. Biden is due to be sworn in as president on January 20.

## Iran's supreme leader vows revenge over slain scientist

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's supreme leader on Saturday demanded the "definitive punishment" of those behind the killing of a scientist who led Tehran's disbanded military nuclear program, as the Islamic Republic blamed Israel for a slaying that has raised fears of reignited tensions across the Middle East.

After years of being in the shadows, the image of Mohsen Fakhriadeh suddenly was to be seen everywhere in Iranian media, as his widow spoke on state television and officials publicly demanded revenge on Israel for the scientist's slaying.

Israel, long suspected of killing Iranian scientists a decade ago amid earlier tensions over Tehran's nuclear program, has yet to comment on Fakhriadeh's killing Friday. However, the attack bore the hallmarks of a carefully planned, military-style ambush, the likes of which Israel has been accused of conducting before. The attack has renewed fears of Iran striking back against the US, Israel's closest ally in the region, as it did earlier this year when a U.S. drone strike killed a top Iranian general. The US military acknowledged moving an aircraft carrier back into the region, while an Iranian lawmaker suggested throwing out UN nuclear inspectors in response to the killing.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Fakhriadeh "the country's prominent and distinguished nuclear and defensive scientist." Khamenei, who has the final say on all matters of state, said Iran's first priority after the killing was the "definitive punishment of the perpetrators and those who ordered it." He did not elaborate.

Speaking earlier Saturday, President Hassan Rouhani blamed Israel for the killing. "We will respond to the assassination of Martyr Fakhriadeh in a proper time," Rouhani said. "The Iranian nation is smarter than falling into the trap of the Zionists. They are thinking to create chaos."

Both Rouhani and Khamenei said that Fakhriadeh's death would not stop the nuclear program. Iran's civilian atomic program has continued its experiments and now enriches a growing uranium stockpile up to 4.5% purity in response to the collapse of Iran's nuclear deal after the U.S.' 2018 withdrawal from the accord. That's still far below weapons-grade levels of 90%, though experts warn Iran now has enough low-enriched uranium for at least two atomic bombs if it chose to pursue them. Analysts have compared Fakhriadeh to being on par with Robert Oppenheimer, the scientist who led America's Manhattan Project in World War II that created the atom bomb.

Fakhriadeh headed Iran's so-called AMAD program that Israel and the West have alleged was a military operation looking at the feasibility of building a nuclear weapon. The International Atomic Energy Agency says that "structured program" ended in 2003. Iran long has maintained its nuclear programme is peaceful.

Fakhriadeh's widow appeared unnamed on state television in a black chador, saying his death would spark a thousand others to take up his work.

"He wanted to get martyred and his wish came true," she said.

Hard-line Iranian media has begun circulating memorial images showing Fakhriadeh standing alongside a machine-gun-cradling likeness of Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, whom the US killed in the January drone strike.

UK, EU resume face-to-face trade talks with time running out

AP ■ LONDON

Teams from Britain and the European Union resumed face-to-face talks on a post-Brexit trade deal Saturday, with both sides sounding gloomy about striking an agreement in the little time that remains.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier returned to London to meet his U.K. counterpart David Frost. Talks have been held virtually for the past week as Barnier completed a spell of self-isolation after a member of his team tested positive for the coronavirus.

COVID-19 is just one complication in negotiations that remain snagged over key issues including fishing rights and fair-competition rules. Barnier said Friday that the remote talks had made little progress and the "same significant divergences persist."

The U.K. left the EU early this year, but remained part of the bloc's economic embrace during an 11-month transition as the two sides tried to negotiate a new free-trade deal to take effect Jan. 1. Talks have already slipped past the mid-November date long seen as a deadline to secure a deal in time for it to be approved and ratified by lawmakers in Britain and the EU.

If there is no deal, New Year's Day will bring huge disruption, with the overnight imposition of tariffs and other barriers to U.K.-EU trade. That will hurt both sides, but the burden will fall most heavily on Britain, which does almost half its trade with the EU.



A crowd of protesters march in Bangkok, Thailand, on Saturday. Pro-democracy demonstrators are continuing their protests calling for the Government to step down and reforms to the constitution and the monarchy, despite legal charges being filed against them and the possibility of violence from their opponents or a military crackdown

## US imposes sanctions on Russian, Chinese companies for supporting Iranian missile programme

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has imposed sanctions on four companies from China and Russia for supporting Iran's missile programme that remains a "significant proliferation concern," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said.

The announcement was made on Friday as the US continues to take tough measures against Iran for continuing their activities related to nuclear arms.

"The US has sanctioned four entities in China and Russia for their support of Iran's missile programme, which remains a significant proliferation concern. We will continue to use all our sanctions tools to prevent Iran from advancing its missile capabilities," Pompeo said.

The companies are Chengdu Best New Materials Co Ltd and Zibo Elim Trade Co, Ltd. in

China and Nilco Group, which is also known as Nil Fam Khazar Company and Sanfers Holding and Joint Stock Company Elecon in Russia for transferring sensitive technology and items to Iran's missile programme.

President Donald Trump withdrew the US from the landmark Iran nuclear deal in 2018. After withdrawing from the Iranian nuclear deal, Trump has asked all countries to reduce their purchase of oil from Iran to zero or face secondary sanctions.

Iran insists its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes. Pompeo said all countries need to be vigilant to efforts by Iran to advance its missile programme. "These measures are part of our response to Iran's malign activities. These determinations underscore the continuing need for all countries to remain vigilant to efforts by Iran to advance its missile programme," Pompeo said.

## UK appoints vaccines minister to oversee Covid inoculations

AP ■ LONDON

The British Government appointed a vaccines minister on Saturday as it prepares to inoculate millions of people against the coronavirus, potentially starting within days.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Conservative lawmaker Nadhim Zahawi will oversee the country's biggest vaccine programme in decades.

The UK medicines regulator is currently assessing two vaccines — one developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, the other by Oxford University and AstraZeneca — to see if they are safe and effective.

The Guardian newspaper reported that hospitals have been told they could receive the first doses of the Pfizer shot the week of December 7, if it receives approval.

## Virus keeps Black Friday crowds thin, shoppers shift online

AP ■ NEW YORK

The raging coronavirus pandemic kept crowds thin at malls and stores across the country on Black Friday, but a surge in online shopping offered a beacon of hope for struggling retailers after months of slumping sales and businesses toppling into bankruptcy.

In normal times, Black Friday is the busiest shopping day of the year, drawing millions of people eager to get started on their holiday spending.

But these are not normal times: A spike in coronavirus cases is threatening the economy's fitful recovery from the sudden plunge in the spring. Crowds at stores were dramatically diminished as shoppers

shifted online. Game consoles, cookware, robotic vacuum cleaners, slippers and pajamas were popular among shoppers preparing to spend a lot of time indoors this winter. Many were still eager to get into the holiday spirit and delight their loved ones after a tough year.

Eric Kelly, a boxing gym owner, camped outside a store on Black Friday for the first time in his life, trying to score a PlayStation 5 for his 13-year-old twin sons as a reward for persevering through remote learning during the pandemic.

"They've been away from their friends," said Kelly, who failed to get the console at a GameStop in New York City's Union Square but said he would keep trying online. "They've done everything they

had to do in school and outside of school, so I have to award them for being exceptional kids."

Before Black Friday, GameStop teased that it would have a limited supply of the new \$500 PlayStation 5 game console for sale only at its stores, in contrast to other retailers that sold it only online.

Kelly said "people were on top of each other" in the line. At a Garden State Plaza mall in Paramus, New Jersey, police monitored a crowd outside a GameStop, but few people kept their distance.

GameStop said it was taking several safety precautions, including contactless pickup.

Many retailers beefed up their safety protocols to reassure wary customers about coming in on Black Friday. But

stores also catered to those shopping digitally by moving their doorbuster deals online and ramping up curbside pickup options.

"We have been intentional to try to not create the frenzy, the doorbusters, the long lines and the crowds you typically see on a Black Friday," said Stephen Lebovitz, CEO of CBL, which operates about 100 malls and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in November.

Several hundred shoppers lined up ahead of opening at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, which normally attracts several thousand on Black Friday. The mall spread out the Black Friday deals over eight days, and many retail tenants pivoted more to online and curbside pickup, said Jill Renslow, Mall

of America's senior vice president of business development.

"It feels good, and it's the right thing to do to keep everybody safe," Renslow said. "Everyone is shopping a little differently but that's OK."

Only a trickle of shoppers showed up at Macy's Herald Square in New York an hour after it opened, offering 50% off handbags and 60% off women's and men's coats. Workers sanitized door knobs and windows.

A Christmas tree towered over the largely empty streets around The Domain, the most popular outdoor mall in Austin, Texas. Store employees counted masked shoppers trickling in to stay within the state's 75% capacity limit.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and

## Biden to let health experts decide who will get a Covid-19 vaccine first: Gounder

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President-elect Joe Biden will let health experts decide who will get a Covid-19 vaccine in the country first, according to Dr Celine Gounder, a member of his coronavirus advisory board.

Since the risk for Covid-19 can vary among different groups of people, prioritisation for a vaccine will be tricky, and Biden will leave those decisions to health experts, the Indian-American infectious disease physician said. It is expected that there will likely be a limited supply of coronavirus vaccine doses available immediately after a vaccine is authorised by the US food and drug administration.

"Other than health care workers, others who will be first in line to get it will be people who do have chronic underlying medical conditions who are older, as well as communities of colour who have been disproportionately impacted by this pandemic," Gounder told CNN on Friday.

The country's death toll since the pandemic's start is now more than 264,000. And nearly another 60,000 people could lose their lives over the next three weeks, according to an ensemble forecast published by the US centers for disease control and prevention (CDC) this week. "Now among those groups is where it starts to get a little bit more contentious," she added. "How do you prioritise between the 85-year-old woman in a nursing home, versus the 65-year-old African American — especially when that 65-year-old may be as just as high-risk of significant disease?" The CDC's advisory committee for immunization

practices (ACIP) will recommend groups to receive the vaccine first. "That's where it gets a bit more political and frankly, this is where the President-elect is leaving it to the public health experts and scientists to figure out how best to allocate the limited supply first," said Gounder, who was named by Biden earlier this month to his coronavirus advisory board.

The ACIP called an emergency meeting for December 1, where they will vote on the very first group to get a vaccine.

"Because we know that the vaccine will be available in very limited doses, even if they prioritise health care workers and older people in their population, it's going to be really important to be a little more granular," said Rick Bright, another member of Biden's coronavirus advisory board.

"They're going to discuss that granularity in health care workers. If I only have so many doses available, how do I prioritise those health care workers first and make those recommendations to the states?" he said. Typically, the ACIP meets after a vaccine is authorised by the FDA to make recommen-

dations, but they are working proactively in anticipation of a quick decision by the FDA, the report said. "We foresee imminent authorisation if this vaccine is shown to be effective and safe in the near future and we want to be at the point where we are providing appropriate guidance to the states and jurisdictions for the use of these vaccines," ACIP chair Dr Jose Romero told CNN.

US pharmaceutical major Pfizer has applied to the FDA for emergency use authorisation for its vaccine. An independent panel of experts, the FDA's vaccines and related biological products advisory committee, is slated to meet on December 10 to discuss the application, the report said.

FDA officials say a decision should be made within a few weeks of the meeting and possibly much sooner. The US on Friday marked the 25th day in a row with more than 100,000 new cases. Hospitalisations hit a new high on Thursday — for the 17th consecutive day — with more than 90,400 Covid-19 patients nationwide, according to the Covid Tracking Project.

## Biden will be a President who represents the best in us: Kamala

Washington: Joe Biden will be a president who represents the best of America, his deputy and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has said, asserting that he is a leader the world will respect. Lavishing praise on the 78-year-old US President-elect, Harris on Friday said that Biden will be a president for all Americans.

"Know that" Biden "will be a president who represents the best in us. A leader the world will respect and our children can look up to," Harris said in a tweet. Harris, 56, the daughter of an Indian immigrant from Chennai, has created history by becoming the first Black American woman to be elected as the country's Vice President.

PTI

**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIV. NO. II, JAMMU**

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

e-NIT No. 108 of 2020-2021/Div-2 Dated 27-11-2020

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Construction Division No. II, Jammu Department Jammu on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, invite tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt. upto **1800 Hrs on 03-12-2020** for the following work.

**S.No. 1 Name of Work :-** Construction of road from Kanna Chahal to Dhoon by way of laying of Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick B.M, 25mm thick SDBC. (Under Languishing Scheme)

**Name of Division :-** PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu

**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):-** 102.99, **Cost of document (in Rs.) :-** 6000

**Earnest Money (in Rs.) :-** 205980/-, **Time Allowed for completion :-** 01 month, **Time & date of opening of tender :-** 04-12-2020 1400 Hrs

**Class of Contractor :-** Hot Mix Plant Holder/ "A" Class Contractor

**NOTE: Contractors who have got Contractors cards issued from Kashmir Province, it is mandatory for them to upload their verification certificate of Crime Branch alongwith other qualifying documents failing which their tenders will be declared non-responsive.**

**1/ Date of Publishing from :-** 27-11-2020

**2/ The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://ktenders.gov.in> from on 27-11-2020 to 03-12-2020 (1800 Hrs).**

**No. DIP/J-7887/20 Sd/- Executive Engineer**  
**Dated: 28.11.2020 PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

It is notified for the information of all concerned that the 02823/02824 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi - Bhubaneswar (via Tatanagar) Rajdhani Special Express will run **four days in a week** instead of daily as per the following detail :-

Train No. & Name	Frequency	Days of Run	Date from Originating Stations
02823 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani	4 days in a week	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	01.12.2020
02824 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani	4 days in a week	Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat	02.12.2020

**02823/02824 Bhubaneswar - New Delhi - Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Special (Four Days in a week)**

Train No. 02823	STATIONS	Train No. 02824
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.
-- 09:30	Bhubaneswar	17:25 --
10:00 10:02	Cuttack Jn.	16:40 16:42
11:38 11:40	Bhadrak	15:12 15:14
12:25 12:27	Balasore	14:02 14:04
13:40 13:50	Hijili	12:35 12:45
15:50 15:55	Tatanagar Jn.	10:35 10:40
17:58 18:00	Muri Jn.	08:25 08:27
19:15 19:20	Bokaro Steel City	07:35 07:40
20:33 20:38	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jn. Gomoh	06:30 06:35
21:36 21:38	Koderma	05:19 05:21
23:03 23:06	Gaya Jn.	04:05 04:08
01:15 01:25	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	02:05 02:15
05:17 05:22	Kanpur Central	21:50 21:55
10:45 --	New Delhi	-- 17:05

**Accommodation :-** First AC, AC 2Tier and AC 3Tier.

**Train No. 02823/24 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Special Express will run in the existing timings & stoppages of regular Time Tabled train No. 22823/24.**

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

**Beware of Touts** Always buy Train Tickets from Railway Counters/Authorized Railway Travel Agents only

**Note :-** For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139

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## Q2 GDP surprising resilience: Is it good enough to last?

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The surprise resilience shown by the manufacturing sector that restricted GDP contraction to only 7.5 per cent in September quarter could be a result of massive purge in costs such as employee cost by corporates and businesses, which could turn a potential headwind in future, economists at SBI wrote on Saturday.

India's July-September (Q2 of 2020-21 fiscal) GDP growth showed surprising resilience with contraction of only 7.5 per cent in real terms, while the market consensus was higher, wrote Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, State Bank of India, in Ecwrap.

With improvement in manufacturing, due to lifting of lockdown measures GDP contraction has slowed down significantly. Agriculture sector continued to perform well with growth at 3.4 per cent. Services remained in the negative territory, although the decline was contained as trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting showed recovery.

"The most astonishing number is the positive growth in manufacturing Q2. Despite being the worst affected sector in Q1 (due to lockdown), it is quite puzzling how manufacturing turned itself around," he wrote in the Ecwrap issue.

The IIP manufacturing and manufacturing GVA growth are highly correlated (almost more than 0.90) and this correlation collapsed in Q2 when IIP manufacturing declined by 6.7 per cent (average of July-September) while manufacturing GVA grew by 0.6 per cent. "We believe one possible reason for this could be stellar corporate GVA numbers in Q2 on the back of massive purge in costs. Further, we observed small companies, with turnover of up to Rs 500 crore, are more aggressive in cutting cost, displaying reduction in employee cost by 10-12 per cent," Ecwrap said.

This, it said, could turn a potential headwind in future in terms of a drag on consumption. "Additionally, there is evidence of inventory buildup that could act as a drag on future manufacturing growth." Interestingly, government

consumption expenditure has also nosedived in Q2, that is difficult to explain, as such expenditures are typically procyclical, Ecwrap said.

SBI economist said the absolute numbers of services sector in Q2FY21 is Rs 17.19 lakh crore, while in Q3FY20 it was Rs 17.35 lakh crore, only Rs 15,000 crore less. This indicates that the services sector has reached the pre-COVID-19 level.

"Is it because of behavioural changes during pandemic like massive transport of goods once the economy opened up and a massive boost to communication and broadcasting with people mostly working from home?" it asked.

One good thing is that the investment demand has improved with resumption in COVID-19-induced stalled projects. However, the patchy growth across sectors reflects in domestic demand figures, which are showing modest recovery sequentially.

The falling imports and continued contraction in investment suggest a poor domestic absorption and intermediate demand.

## Retail inflation for industrial workers rises to 5.91% in Oct

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation for industrial workers rose marginally to 5.91 per cent in October from 5.62 per cent in September this year mainly due to higher prices of certain food items.

"Year-on-year (retail) inflation based on all-items stood at 5.91 per cent for October, 2020 as compared to 5.62 per cent for the previous month and 7.62 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year," a labour ministry statement said.

Similarly, it stated that food inflation stood at 8.21 per cent in October against 7.51 per cent of the previous month (September 2020) and 8.60 per cent during the corresponding month (October 2019) a year ago.

The all-India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for October 2020 increased by 1.4 points and stood at 119.5 points.

On one-month percentage change, it increased by (+) 1.19 per cent between September and October, 2020 compared to (+) 0.93 per cent



increase between corresponding months of the previous year. The maximum upward pressure in the current index came from the food & beverages group contributing (+) 1.29 percentage points to the total change.

At item level, arhar dal, poultry (chicken), eggs (hen), goat meat, mustard oil, sunflower oil, brinjal, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, chillies green, gourd, ladyfinger, onion, peas, potato, electricity domestic, doctor's fee, bus fare, etc. Are responsible for the increase in index. However, it said that this increase was checked by wheat, fish fresh, tomato, apple, etc., putting downward pressure on the index. At centre level, Doom-Dooma Tinsukia,

Patna and Ramgarh recorded the maximum increase of 4 points each. Among others, 3 points increase was observed in 9 centres, 2 points in 24 centres and 1 point in 33 centres. Rest of 19 centres' indices remained stationary. Commenting on the index, Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said, "The increase in CPI-IW will have a positive effect on wages/salaries of industrial workers engaged in the organized sector besides government employees and pensioners." The CPI-IW is the single-most important price statistics which has financial implications. It is primarily used to regulate the dearness allowance of government employees and workers in industrial sectors.

## Punjab accepts Centre's borrowing option to meet GST shortfall

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress-ruled Punjab has accepted the Centre's borrowing proposal and will get Rs 8,359 crore through the special window to meet GST revenue shortfall.

"Government of Punjab has communicated acceptance of option 1 to meet the revenue shortfall arising out of GST implementation. The number of states which have chosen this option has gone up to 26. All the 3 Union Territories with Legislative Assembly (i.e. Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir and Puducherry) have also decided in favour of option 1," a finance ministry statement said.

The Centre has already borrowed Rs 24,000 crore on behalf of the states in four instalments and has passed it on to 23 states and three Union Territories on October 23, November 2, November 9 and November 23. From the next round of borrowings, Punjab, Kerala and West Bengal too would receive funds raised through this window. Earlier

this week, Kerala and West Bengal too had communicated to the Centre about accepting the borrowing option to meet GST revenue shortfall.

Under the terms of option 1, besides getting the facility of a special window for borrowings to meet the shortfall arising out of GST implementation, states are also entitled to get unconditional permission to borrow the final instalment of 0.50 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) out of the 2 per cent additional borrowings permitted by the Government of India, under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' mission. This is over and above the special window of Rs 1.1 lakh crore. On receipt of the choice of option 1 from the Government of Punjab, the Government of India has granted additional borrowing permission of Rs 3,033 crore to Punjab (0.5 per cent of Punjab's GSDP), the ministry added. Separately, Punjab will get Rs 8,359 crore through special borrowing window to meet the GST implementation shortfall.

## Sany India celebrates new milestone

**New Delhi:** Sany India, a leading manufacturer of construction equipment & heavy machinery which has been advocating and practising "Vocal for Local", has rolled out its 15000th machine from the company's India facility. Sany India South Asia managing director Deepak Garg said, "Rolling out the 15000th machine is a remarkable achievement that reaffirms our commitment to the domestic construction equipment market."

## Market's bull run may stay, 'too strong' derivatives data a concern

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

The bull run in the equity market is likely to continue in days ahead, but the only concern at this point is the "too strong" derivatives data, which may lead to a rapid sell-off in case of a course reversal, according to a report by Motilal Oswal Retail Research.

The report said that at current juncture, market is in bulls grip and dips are getting bought into quickly. Nifty's derivatives data is also positive

and it indicates continuation in ongoing momentum.

It however said FIIs index futures data signifies they are overbought in Indian market and any unwinding of longs or fresh shorting may lead to a correction in the market.

Thus, some cautious approach should be adopted at these levels it said.

"As far as levels are concerned, index is moving in uncharted territory and 13,500 would be a hurdle as per options data. On the flipside, major

support exists at 12,700 then 12,350 zones.

The only concern at current juncture is too strong derivatives data and in case of any reversal, the sell-off can be fast," said the report.

It was a historic month for the market as Nifty posted highest ever series on series gains (in absolute terms).

Bulls were aggressive from the start of the November series and kept the ball in their court throughout the series, said the report.

## GST officers arrest one for ₹129 cr tax evasion through illegal manufacture, supply of cigarettes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Officers of GST investigation arm DGGI have arrested a Haryana resident on charges of manufacturing and supplying cigarettes illegally and thereby evading taxes of over Rs 129 crore, the Finance Ministry has said.

"The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) Gurugram Zonal Unit (GZU), Haryana has arrested one Satyender Sharma, resident of Haryana, on charges of manufacturing and supplying illegally manufactured cigarettes without the requisite tax paying documents and without payment of applicable GST and cess," the ministry said in

a late night statement on Friday.

The total tax evasion of more than Rs 129 crore is pegged to have been committed by the accused, it added.

Investigation conducted across Delhi and Haryana revealed that Sharma manufactured and supplied cigarettes under his registered brands 'Nidhi Black' 'Gold queen' and 'E-10'.

"Apart from these, the investigation also revealed that Sharma was illegally manufacturing cigarettes under the brand names of 'Paris', 'Pine', 'Black Djarum' 'Esse Lights' which are international trademarks owned by other companies. All these cigarettes were being cleared clandestinely

without payment of applicable GST/ cess," the ministry said.

Sharma transported these illegally manufactured cigarettes to New Delhi for further supply across India, it added.

"Based on documentary evidence and statements recorded of all persons during investigation, it was ascertained that Satyender Sharma is the key person in running this racket of manufacturing cigarettes without payment of applicable GST as well as illegally manufacturing

cigarettes under international brand names," the ministry added. Sharma was arrested by DGGI officers on November 27.

## Another increase in prices of petrol, diesel

**New Delhi:** Petrol and diesel prices were increased by oil marketing companies on Saturday as global oil prices remained firm, reaching its highest levels this fiscal. Petrol prices increased by 24 paise to Rs 82.13 per litre on Saturday from Rs 81.89 per litre the previous day. Diesel prices, on the other hand, increased by a higher margin of 27 paise to Rs 72.13 a litre, up from Rs 71.86 a litre on Friday. Oil companies began increasing pump prices of the two petroleum products from last Friday after a nearly two-month-long hiatus in fuel price revision. **FIANS**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Chandni D/o Subodh R/o H.No. Bobby Ka Makan, Alipur, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 11.11.2020 from her house the area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 542/20 U/S 363** dated 13.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Alipur, Delhi.

The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under :-

**Name :** Chandni, **Father's Name :** Subodh, **Age :** 17 yrs., **Height :** 5'0", **Built:** Thin, **Face :** Oval, **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Hairs:** Black **Wearing :** Red Colour Suit & Salwar. **ID Mark:** Bali in Nose. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax : 011-24368639  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
DP/622/ON/2020

**SHO**  
**P.S., Alipur, Delhi**  
**Ph. : 011-27202290**  
**27202265, 7065036325**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

The general public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Akhatri Khatoon D/o Mohd. Momirul R/o Village- Bari Lal Ganj, PS Etahar, District - Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal. Presently at Vaniya Bhawan, Man Singh Road, New Delhi** has been missing since 12.11.2020 from the present address at about 6:00 p.m. In this regard, **DD No. 34A, dated 14.11.2020 has been registered at PS Tilak Marg, New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:

**Name:** Akhatri Khatoon, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** about 19 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Blue colour with white colour dotted suit, blue colour pajami, yellow colour dupatta and black colour slippers on her feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/Tilak Marg, New Delhi.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
DP/165/ND/2020

**SHO**  
**P.S. Tilak Marg, New Delhi.**  
**Ph. No. 011-23382100, 23385571**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

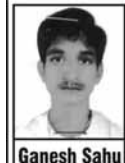


General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Najma, D/o Mohd. Aabid, R/o H.No. A-1201, J.J. Colony, Bawana, Delhi, Age: 17 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Strong, Hair: Black, wearing Navy Blue Suit & Pink colour Salwar, Blue Dupatta and Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from her house since 09.11.2020 at 12:00 PM. In this regard a **FIR No. 604/2020 U/S 363 IPC, dated 13.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.**

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax : 011-24368639  
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
DP/625/ON/2020

**SHO**  
**P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi**  
**Ph. No. : 011-27787592, 27787593**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a person namely **Ganesh Sahu, S/o: Shambhu Sahu, R/o: H. No. 104, Near DAV School, Gym Wali Gali, Budhpur, Delhi** has been reported missing since 11.11.2020 at 08:50 AM from his house. In this regard **DD No. 47A, dated 15.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Alipur, Delhi.**

The description of missing person is as under:

**Name:** Ganesh Sahu, **Age:** 23 Years, **Height:** 5'7", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Orange Shirt, Blue Jeans and Hawai Chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing person please inform P.S. Alipur, Delhi

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

**SHO**  
**Police Station Alipur, Delhi**  
**Ph. : 011-27202265, 7065036325**

DP/1627/ON/2020

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead on 11.11.2020 at Govt. Toilet, S.N. Marg, Delhi in the area of PS Lahori Gate, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 84A u/s 174 CrPc, Dated 11.11.2020** has been lodged at **P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi.** The dead body has been preserved in mortuary of Subzi Mandi, Delhi for 72 hrs for identification. The description of the dead body is given as under: **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 60 years, **Height:** 5'6" Feet, **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black Colour Jacket, White Colour Kurta and Grey Colour Dhoti. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

**S.H.O**  
**P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi**  
**Ph. : 011-23953776, 23958234**

DP/748/N/2020

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** approx. 35 years, **Height:** 5' 6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **ID:** Rajesh is written on his right hand, **Wearing:** Blue colour linedar Shirt and saleti/cream colour pant, who was found dead at **Nepali Park Kashmir Gate, Delhi.** In this regard a case **DD No. 46-A U/s 174 Cr. P.C. Dated 20.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

**Sd/- SHO**  
**P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi**  
**Tel.: 011-23967889**

DP/751/N/2020(UIDB)

## Manufacturing GVA growth in Q2 'surprising': SBI Report

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The manufacturing sector played a major role in narrowing down the India's GDP contraction in Q2 of FY21. An SBI Ecwrap report, however, dubbed the growth in manufacturing GVA as "astonishing" as the IIP manufacturing for the same period declined by 6.7 per cent. India's GDP in the July-September period contracted 7.5 per cent, compared with 23.9 per cent in the preceding quarter. The GVA in Q2 2020-21 from the manufacturing sector grew 0.6%, as compared with a degrowth of 0.6% in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

The report by Soumya

Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, State Bank of India, said: "Though the whole press release is full of surprising numbers, the most astonishing number is the positive growth in manufacturing in Q2." He noted that despite being the worst affected sector in Q1 (due to lockdown), it is quite puzzling how manufacturing turned itself around. The IIP manufacturing and manufacturing GVA growth are highly correlated (almost more than 0.90) and this correlation collapsed in Q2 when IIP manufacturing declined by 6.7% (average of July/August/September) while manufacturing GVA grew by 0.6%.

## Total FDI inflow during Q2 FY21 stands at \$28.1 bn

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The total foreign direct investment (FDI) during the second quarter of financial year 2020-21 stood at \$28.1 billion, out of which FDI equity inflows were \$23.44 billion. "This takes the FDI equity inflows during the financial year 2020-21 up to September 2020 to \$30,004 million, which is 15 per cent more than the corresponding period of 2019-20," said an official statement.

In rupee terms, the FDI equity inflows of Rs 2,24,613 crore are 23 per cent more than the last year. August 2020 was a significant month when FDI equity inflow of \$17.48 billion was reported in the country.

According to data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Mauritius and Singapore were the biggest sources of FDI in India with 29 per cent and 21 per cent contribution respectively.

## NCPEDP pushes for hike in Union Budget allocation for differently-abled

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) has said the budgetary allocation for people with disabilities has been too low in the past few years. It has urged the Central government to increase the allocation in the upcoming Union Budget.

In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the NCPEDP said, "Over the past few years the budgetary allocation for person with disabilities has been 0.04 per cent which is disheartening and inadequate to meet the needs of this particularly vulnerable and marginalised section of society."

It noted that people with disabilities have been the worst-hit by the Covid-19 pandemic this year.

"Loss of access to health-

care, support systems, education, livelihood and even basic food supplies are the new normal for the vast majority of India's differently-abled community. At this time especially and in the near future, access to support has become a survival issue."

Among its recommendations, the rights' body for the disabled people said the Union government should ensure inclusive tax policy measures for the differently-abled.

The NCPEDP said no GST should be levied on aids and appliances for persons with disabilities and no tax should be imposed on the purchase of cars and wheelchairs available in the national and international markets.

It also sought an increase in Standard Deduction under Section 80 U and 80 DD of Income Tax for persons with disabilities.

## JNPT says it is adhering to all green norms for Vadhavan port development

**Mumbai:** The country's leading container port JNPT on Saturday said it is adhering to the terms of reference issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for prior environmental clearance for development of Vadhavan port. The Govt had in February approved a proposal to set up a new major port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra at an investment of ₹65,544 crore. The new port will be developed on a landlord model under a special purpose vehicle with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust as the lead partner with equity participation equal to or more than 50% to implement the project. Of this, ₹16,140 crores will be implemented by the SPV in constructing basic infrastructure like breakwaters, rail line/yard and road connectivity, power and water line, internal roads and common amenities, as per JNPT.



# Time running out for India

With no Plan B in place, Men in Blue need their 'A' game to save ODI series

Australia vs India  
Live from 9:10am IST  
SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX NETWORK

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India's battered bowling unit will have little time to regroup and limited resources at its disposal in a desperate bid to perform a redemption act and save the ODI series against a turbo-charged Australia in the second game here on Sunday.

It wasn't just about the margin of defeat — by 66 runs — but the manner in which the home team exposed India's vacant cupboard of all-rounders that will give Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri numerous points to ponder.

Hardik Pandya's 76-ball-90 was at best a good innings but just like the Champions Trophy final in 2017, the sparkling knock was never going to help India win the contest.

Adding insult to injury the was Pandya's frank admission that he is not bowling anytime soon and even if he rolls his arm over, it is likely to be in 20-over World Cups.

So with no back-up all-rounders or a plan B in place, India will have to execute their plan A perfectly.

That leaves Kohli with bowlers who can't bat and a top-order where none can bowl.

Kohli did bowl an over or two but that is history as far as the skipper is concerned.

With Australia's top three — captain Aaron Finch, David



Warner and Steve Smith — hitting the straps right away, Jasprit Bumrah and company will have no option but to pick up the pieces and give a better account of themselves on a strip that promises to be a biter.

It is highly unlikely that India's combination will change unless both Yuzvendra Chahal and Navdeep Saini are declared unfit.

The duo collectively conceded 172 runs in 20 overs between them and the wiry wrist-spinner did leave the field after sustaining an on-field injury just after the completion of his spell.

Saini, on the other hand, has

ODIS AT SYDNEY					
Team	P	W	L	N/R	Success%
Australia	133	88	39	6	68.42
India	21	5	15	1	26.19
Aus v Ind	18	15	2	1	86.11

## HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS

Australia	376-9 in 50 overs vs Sri Lanka	08-03-2015
India	331-4 in 49.4 overs vs Australia	23-01-2016

## FOR THE RECORD

- Virat Kohli will become the eighth Indian and 43rd player overall to appear in 250 or more ODIs.
- David Warner who scored 907 runs in 19 innings of 20 matches, needs 93 runs to become 11th Australian to score over 1000 runs against India in ODIs.

Faisal Features

back spasms and Thangarasu Natarajan has been inducted in the 50-over squad as a cover.

In case they are ruled out, Shardul Thakur, with decent batting abilities could replace Saini and Kuldeep Yadav's inclusion will be a forced change.

For Australia, it is possible that highly-rated all-rounder Cameron Green will be rewarded with an ODI cap as Marcus Stoinis picked up a side strain during the first game.

While a five-bowler theory is certainly hurting India, some of the shot selections at the top of the order left a lot to be desired.

Especially Shreyas Iyer, whose dismissal was an embarrassing sight as he fended awkwardly to a well-directed bouncer from Josh Hazlewood.

For Mayank Agarwal too, extra bounce became his undoing but he is too good a player to fail consistently.

Skipper Kohli, the man who is revered by the Australian team, media and public at large, would love to play a signature ODI knock, glimpses of which were on display during his 21 in the first ODI.

The lack of a sixth bowling option will put tremendous pressure on Bumrah, whose erstwhile ODI form has deserted him since he came back from his stress injury.

While he was brilliant in the IPL, just like the New Zealand series in February, the Gujarat slinger looked pedestrian at best at the SCG.

An equaliser on Sunday will be easier said than done.

# India missing 'skill and character' of Dhoni: Holding

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

West Indies fast bowling great Michael Holding feels that despite a star-studded batting line-up, the Indian team is missing the "skill and character" that the peerless Mahendra Singh Dhoni used to display during big run chases.

The Indian team looked completely out of sorts as a unit in the opening ODI against Australia.

After a listless bowling display that helped the home side reach 374 for 6, the Men in Blue crumbled under pressure, slumping to a 66-run defeat.

"It was always going to be difficult for India to chase that down. One thing India will struggle with is the loss of Mahendra Singh Dhoni," Holding said in a YouTube chat show *Holding Nothing Back*.

The 66-year-old further said that India missed the composure and control of Dhoni, who retired from international cricket in August this year.

"Dhoni comes in to this Indian batting order halfway down and he usually takes control while chasing. India have chased so well in the past with MS Dhoni in the team."

"This batting line-up that they have got is still very talented — we saw some talented players and fantastic strokeplay. Hardik played a beautiful knock but they still need a player like Dhoni. Not just his skills but his strength of character," he added.

Holding said the Indian team felt more confident going about run chases with Dhoni in the side.

"They have never been afraid to win the toss and insert



the opposition because they know what MS Dhoni is capable of and their batting is capable of." Dhoni's calmness was a big factor in run-chases.

"We never see Dhoni panicking at any stage while India are chasing. He usually paces that chase so well because he knows his ability and he knows how to go about the chase."

The former pacer added that Dhoni not only assessed the situation well but also provided support and insights to the person batting alongside him.

"Whoever is batting with him, he is always talking with

them and helping them. Fantastic batting line-up, but MS Dhoni was a special man in the run-chase," Holding said.

The former cricketer turned commentator also slammed India's sloppy display on the field.

"India didn't help themselves with their fielding. The SCG is a big ground but the boundary rope was still in from the extremes of the boundary."

Kohli and company dropped at least four catches, missed a run out opportunity from several sloppy fielding efforts.

## India cop 20% fine for slow overrate

PTI ■ DUBAI

The Indian cricket team was fined 20 per cent of its match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against Australia in the series opening first ODI in Sydney.

India took an unprecedented four hours and six minutes to complete their 50 overs during their 66-run loss in the first ODI.

ICC match referee David Boon imposed the sanction after India was ruled to be one over short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration.

Even Steve Smith after the match conceded that it was the longest 50-over game he had been part of.

"It was the longest 50 overs in the field I've ever had, that's for sure."

"I don't know what to put that down to. Obviously a few people came on the field in the first innings which took a bit of time and I think they (India) went 45 minutes over the scheduled time and we were something similar," Smith said.

## If Hardik is unfit where's the replacement? asks Gambhir



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India opener Gautam Gambhir feels Virat Kohli's team will keep facing the problem of imbalance till it finds a suitable replacement for a half-fit Hardik Pandya as his nearest competitor Vijay Shankar is not of same level.

Pandya is playing currently as a specialist batsman and is not sure when he would be fully fit to bowl in ODI cricket.

Asked if there is a problem of balance, the hero of two World Cup triumphs couldn't agree more. "Big time and this has been happening what — since the last World Cup. If Hardik is not fit (to bowl), where is your sixth bowling

option," Gambhir was quoted as saying by *ESPNCricinfo*.

"It's only Vijay Shankar that I can think of but does he have the same impact batting at No 5 or 6. Can he give you seven or 8 overs, I have my doubts," the straight-talking Gambhir said.

According to Gambhir, this is the kind of problem which can't be sorted even if an opener of Rohit Sharma's calibre comes back. "You can talk (about) putting in Manish Pandey, even if and when Rohit comes back in the XI, the problem you are facing now you will be facing then. There is no one in the top six who can actually give you a couple of overs," he said.

While Marcus Stoinis and Glenn Maxwell are already in the playing XI as pace and spin bowlers all-rounders respectively, Australia have a number of back-up men with multiple skill-sets, including rookie Cameron Green, who is set to make his international debut.

"And if you see the Australian side, there is Moises Henriques, who can give you couple of overs, there is Sean Abbott who is bowling all-rounder. They have Daniel Sams who can both bowl and bat."

"From Indian point of view, if Hardik is unfit where is the replacement?"

## Bairstow takes Eng home

AFF ■ CAPE TOWN

Jonny Bairstow powered England to a five-wicket win over South Africa in the first T20I at Newlands in Cape Town on Friday.

Bairstow smashed 86 not out off 48 balls as England chased down a victory target of 180 with four balls to spare.

England were struggling at 34/3 before Bairstow and Ben Stokes (37) changed the momentum of the match with a fourth wicket stand of 85.

Even so, South Africa still had a realistic chance of winning as England went into the last four overs needing 51 runs.

But left-arm fast bowler Beuran Hendricks conceded 28 runs in the 17th over, including three wides which cost eight runs, as Bairstow and England captain Eoin Morgan went on the attack.

Morgan said the win was "extremely pleasing, given that we were pretty average apart from two or three players."

Morgan said England's bowlers "missed areas", although left-arm Sam Curran claimed a career-best three for 28 in South Africa's innings of 179/6.

And he was disappointed with the batting start, although he praised Bairstow and Stokes.



"Jonny and Ben rebuilding the way they did set up the win nicely," he told *SuperSport* television.

Bairstow batted at number four instead of opening as he often does in white-ball cricket.

"It's something you've got to enjoy," he said. "You learn to craft your innings in different ways."

Bairstow hit nine fours and four sixes, finishing the match in style with his fourth six which sailed into a building sight on the northern end of the ground.

## 7th Pak cricketer tests Covid +ve

AFF ■ WELLINGTON

A seventh Pakistan cricketer tested positive for Covid-19 as the team remained confined to their hotel in Christchurch on Saturday, unable to train and with a question mark over their New Zealand tour.

The Pakistanis, who only arrived four days ago, are already on a "final warning" for breaching New Zealand's tight quarantine restrictions, with the growing number of coronavirus cases adding pressure to preparations for their opening match on December 18.

Despite all members of the squad returning negative tests before flying to New Zealand, six came up positive after testing on day one in the country.

"One additional member of the Pakistan cricket squad has today tested positive," the Ministry of Health said in a statement on Saturday, confirming the seventh patient.

"The remainder of the results from the squad's day-three swab testing, apart from the six who have already returned a positive result, are negative."

All overseas arrivals to New Zealand must spend two weeks in quarantine.



The 53-man squad will undergo further tests on Monday and in the meantime they remain confined to their rooms after permission to train while in isolation was revoked by New Zealand authorities.

The ministry said exemptions allowing teams to train while in managed isolation "are very difficult to obtain" and Pakistan's exemption was put on hold after several players were caught flouting social distancing protocols inside the quarantine hotel.

## LAMICHHANE ALSO +VE

HOBART: One of T20 cricket's well-known journeymen, Sandeep Lamichhane has tested positive for Covid-19, the Nepalese leg-spinner said on Saturday, less than two weeks before the start of Big Bash League in which he'd signed to play for Hobart Hurricanes.

AFF ■ BRIGHTON

Liverpool were frustrated by VAR Las Pascal Gross's controversial late penalty rescued a dramatic 1-1 draw for Brighton at the Amex Stadium on Saturday.

Jurgen Klopp's side took the lead through Diogo Jota's second half strike after Brighton's Neal Maupay had missed a penalty in the first half.

But Liverpool were stunned in stoppage-time when Andrew Robertson's challenge on Danny Welbeck was ruled a penalty after Stuart Attwell overturned his initial decision.

Gross converted from the spot, leaving Klopp scathingly applauding the officials at the end of a disappointing week for Liverpool after their shock Champions League defeat at home to Atalanta.

Liverpool went back to the top of the table as a result of their draw, but the champions are just one point ahead of previous leaders Tottenham.

Tottenham would regain pole position if they avoid defeat at Chelsea on Sunday, while the Blues will go top if they win.

It was one of those days for Liverpool, who also saw goals correctly disallowed by VAR for offside against Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane.

There was more bad news for injury-ravaged Liverpool as James Milner was forced off in the second half.

With Virgil van Dijk and Joe Gomez injured and Joel Matip rested, Klopp's makeshift defence were

## VAR drama at Amex

Liverpool saw two goals disallowed by VAR before the Seagulls were awarded a late penalty to clinch 1-1 draw



exposed when Maupay's pass sent the unmarked Aaron Connolly racing through on goal.

But with just Liverpool 'keeper Alisson Becker to beat, Connolly lost his nerve and timidly guided his shot well wide.

Connolly's runs were causing Liverpool problems and when the Brighton forward made another well-timed incursion in the 20th minute, he was tripped in the penalty area by the panicked Neco Williams after he was caught out of position.

Maupay stepped up to take the spot-kick, but his side-foot effort went wide despite Alisson diving the wrong way.

It was a lucky escape for Liverpool and Maupay's misery was compounded when he limped off injured moments later.

Liverpool thought they had hit back with a sucker punch when Salah sprinted onto Firmino's pass and scuffed his shot past Brighton keeper Mat Ryan.

But VAR curtailed Salah's celebrations as he was ruled offside by the tightest of margins.

After a spluttering first half, Klopp's men finally found some rhythm following Jordan Henderson's introduction at the break.

In a warning that Brighton failed to heed, Jota turned to flash a shot narrowly wide and in the 60th minute the Portugal forward put Liverpool.

Robertson found Salah and his pass teed up Jota on the edge of the Brighton area.

Skipping past two Brighton defenders, Jota cleverly drilled low shot back into the bottom corner.

Jota has enjoyed a superb start to life with the Premier League champions, scoring nine times in 14 games since signing from Wolves in September.

Salah was substituted just after the goal, but he didn't seem happy with Klopp's move, gesticulating with his hands and ignoring the German when he walked past him to the bench.

Liverpool were seconds away from three points when Robertson went to clear in his own area as Welbeck closed in.

Robertson's foot made contact with Welbeck, but there were few appeals from Brighton before Attwell awarded a contentious penalty after consulting the pitchside monitor.

With Maupay off the pitch, Gross took this one and fired down the middle to salvage an unexpected point.

## CWI team arrives Dhaka to inspect Covid-19 arrangements

PTI ■ DHAKA

A two-member Cricket West Indies (CWI) team arrived in Dhaka on Saturday to take stock of the Covid-19 management plans put in place by the Bangladesh Cricket Board ahead of their series in January.

CWI director Dr Akshai Mansingh and the board's security manager Paul Slowwill, who arrived here to inspect the BCB's bio-security plans and health protocols, are also expected to travel to Chattogram. The duo will stay in the country till December 3.

"They arrived to come and see our Covid-19 management plan and the security plan ahead of their scheduled tour in January," BCB cricket operations chairman Akram Khan told *Cricbuzz*.

The two officials are likely to undergo a Covid-19 test on Saturday and begin their inspection, subject to clearance.

During the tour, West Indies are scheduled to play a full series comprising three Tests, as many ODIs and two T20Is.

The development comes close on the heels of CWI president Ricky Skerritt's recent statement that West Indies are keen to tour Bangladesh as scheduled, in January next year.

## I'm in race for Olympics: Saina

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Indian badminton star Saina Nehwal on Saturday said she's definitely in the race for the Tokyo Olympics but before that she has to get back to her rhythm and win tournaments.

The 2012 London Olympics Bronze medalist, who has slipped to 22nd in Badminton World Federation's Tokyo Olympics qualification rankings, has recently struggled with niggles and is likely to return to action in next year's Asian Tour.

"I know Olympics is in everyone's head. It's something very big but before that you have to think about so many tournaments. I've to get back to my rhythm and win against the players who are in top-20," Nehwal said on Saturday.

"There's some two-three months' of training before that. You have to be perfectly fine and play seven-eight tournaments, after that only I will think about the Olympics. But yes, I'm definitely in the race. I want to do well and I'm working hard for that."

A big fan of tennis superstar Roger Federer, the 30-year-old Saina said if the Swiss ace along with the likes of Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams can go strong at not so a young age, she too can.

"I can see great examples in Djokovic, Federer, Nadal, Serena doing so well. Why not you have to see how it goes? I'm a fighter and I will get back. When he can do it, why can't I?" she said.

"Yes, there were times when I felt



I have to 'stop playing' and 'I can't win anymore'. But then I thought I could push it."

"I love to fight. What will I do sitting at home. This is my life, this is my job," she added.

The former world number one, who recently pulled out of the Denmark Open that restarted the international calendar post Covid-19 pandemic halt, further said she can become the best in the world again.

"I'm doing well. Injuries play a big role and that happened to me. As of now, I feel good. I can do it, I can be the best in the world. It's always been there in my head. I've to correct my niggles. Improvement is definitely happening."

"That's how I play. I don't want to take that action suddenly. I want to see how badly I lose, if I'm not capable of playing anymore," she signed off.



# the pioneer agenda

You go through spells  
where you feel that  
maybe you're too  
sensitive for this world.  
I certainly felt that  
— Winona Ryder



FROM THE INSIDE

## Pebbles of a dead sea

Few know that Goa has a past that dates back to the saga of Parshuram in Hindu mythology and India's pre-Islamic era

2



4

## Mind balance is the key

It is important to work upon our mind-state before pursuing spiritual process, otherwise it will not offer desired results



As the world got busy battling the effects and impact of the virus, hackers saw this as an opportunity to exploit new vulnerabilities that emerged from a large numbers working from home, writes AJAY SINGH, as he explains various cyber risks faced by individuals and groups and suggests ways to tackle them

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to lockdowns across the world and made working from home an inevitable necessity. While this allows businesses to remain operational, it has exposed organisations to several new risks, particularly for those who fail to take the proper precautions. Even as the world got busy battling the effects and impact of the virus, hackers saw this as an opportunity to exploit new vulnerabilities that emerged from a large work force working from home.

Various reports around the world indicate a sharp increase in cybercrime even as Covid-19 has caused major disruptions and forced changes in the way we work. During this crisis, there has been a sudden surge in cybercrime in many countries with cybercriminals preying on new factors and vulnerabilities related to information systems that have come into play.

Scams, phishing websites, maps loaded with malware, and spam messages linked to the Coronavirus have been reported the world over. Dominic Raab, the British Foreign Secretary observed in early May that 'There will always be some who seek to exploit a crisis for their own criminal and hostile ends. We know that cyber criminals, and other malicious groups are targeting individuals, businesses, and other organisations by deploying Covid-19 related scams and phishing emails'. Since then cyber threats and attacks have only increased.

The lockdowns have not only made us work from home, but also shop-from-home, study-from-home, bank-from-home, attend meetings from home and so on. Studies have also shown a dramatic increase in the amount of time people are spending on-line. Fortunately, technologies like video conferencing, BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), VPN (Virtual Private Network), and collaborative platforms exist today that enable working from home. However, the exposure to cyber risk has grown exponentially and rather suddenly and existing security standards have been compromised. Cybercriminals have been quick to discover that employees working from home have weaker cybersecurity than when they operate from their offices. They have exploited new weaknesses in the various technologies used and have incessantly launched attacks.

Given that we are spending (and will continue to spend) a major part of our lives on-line, a comprehensive assessment of the cyber risks that we are exposed to as individuals, families, and businesses, is key to survive and thrive.

A large number of organisations have already announced that some office-based employees will be working from home in some form for the foreseeable future and perhaps even permanently. This shift to a work from home environment which initially was

considered as a temporary solution may become a regular practice. This necessitates a complete rethink on cyber risks and involves moving away from traditional cybersecurity approaches. Any policies and protocols related to cybersecurity which were introduced when companies switched to work-from-home may have served them in the short-term, but when it comes to long-term measures, a thorough re-evaluation needs to be conducted. With the easing of lockdown restrictions, when employees will no longer be confined to working from home, the larger questions of dealing with cyber risks of working-from-anywhere will become more relevant. The top of the cybersecurity agenda for individuals, businesses, and governments in the aftermath of coronavirus should therefore be to mitigate cyber risks and build a safer and more resilient cyber environment.

### INDIVIDUALS AND CYBER RISKS

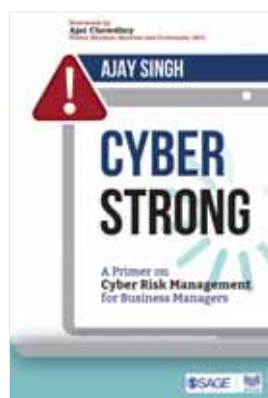
We have all been a target of cyber-attacks in some form or the other, for instance phishing attacks, phone calls or SMSs from cybercriminals, among others. They are after your personal data, passwords, social ids, bank information and social contacts... basically anything that can either fetch them a price for your data or can help them launch bigger attacks. Escaping a cyber-attack means that you have been vigilant, prepared or simply lucky enough to avoid one.

There are fortunately many things we can do as individuals to make our online existence safer while working from home or for that matter working from anywhere. Before looking at what we can do, consider the findings of the latest Norton Cyber Security Insights Report which suggests that:

- 30% of people cannot detect a phishing attack and another 13 percent cannot tell the difference between a real message and a phishing email. This implies that four in 10 are vulnerable.
- Eighty-six percent of people said they may have been a target of a phishing incident.
- 70% of consumers wish that their home Wi-Fi network could be made more secure. However, a mere 27% consider it likely that their home Wi-Fi network could be susceptible to attack.

This goes to show that cyber threats are greatly enhanced by the fact people are largely unaware of the cyber risks that they have to contend with and the counter measures they must adopt to mitigate the risks. Some of the basic things that contribute to maintain better cyber hygiene while working from home are:

- Instead of using personal devices, company-provided computers and laptops should be used
- A VPN software can be utilised to connect the organisation network
- Using different devices for work and leisure



THE LOCKDOWNS HAVE NOT ONLY MADE US WORK FROM HOME, BUT ALSO SHOP-FROM-HOME, STUDY-FROM-HOME, BANK-FROM-HOME, ATTEND MEETINGS FROM HOME AND SO ON. STUDIES HAVE ALSO SHOWN A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF TIME PEOPLE ARE SPENDING ON-LINE. FORTUNATELY, TECHNOLOGIES LIKE VIDEO CONFERENCING, BYOD (BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE), VPN (VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK), AND COLLABORATIVE PLATFORMS EXIST TODAY THAT ENABLE WORKING FROM HOME. HOWEVER, THE EXPOSURE TO CYBER RISK HAS GROWN EXPONENTIALLY

- Stopping remote access unless it is a necessity
- Default passwords should be changed
- Devices and online accounts should have strong passwords. For both personal and business accounts multi-factor authentication wherever available, should be utilised
- Meeting links should strictly not be shared publicly or through social media platforms
- Trusted apps or those recommended by one's employer should be used for work involving collaboration
- Regularly updating operating systems, antiviruses and other applications on computers and other devices
- Home Wi-Fi and admin passwords should be changed regularly, while avoiding open/free Wi-Fi networks
- Cyber-hygiene guidelines as laid out by one's employer should be strictly followed

### ORGANISATIONS AND CYBER RISKS

Today, almost all businesses regardless of the industry they are in and their size are vulnerable to cyber-attacks which can happen at any time, without warning. This is true across sectors and geographies. The pandemic has only accelerated the need to implement comprehensive cybersecurity programs after a thorough assessment of existing, new, and emerging cyber risks. The concept of a cyber 'perimeter' which was once confined to the walls of an organisation or a data centre has completely eroded. Security professionals have been forced to abandon the traditional castle-and-moat strategy used so effectively in the past due to the arrival of cloud computing and the use of portable devices by organisations coupled with the integration of personal devices into organisational systems. The cyber perimeter has interminably moved from the walls of the enterprise to what is today a flexible and extended virtual perimeter. This calls for a reassessment of cyber risks and requirements across the following four dimensions:

- **Technology dimension:** securing IT systems, applications, networks, data, and devices
- **People:** employees and others who are users and have access an organisation's system
- Policies, Procedures and Processes that are used to run business operations
- Laws, regulations, and compliance

In the near future as the pandemic continues, there are a few types of cyber-threats companies must specifically be prepared for and safeguard against:

**Ransomware:** Ransomware is a type of malware that is used to deny access to a computer system or data by encrypting the information and keeping it hostage until the ransom is paid. There has been an alarming rise

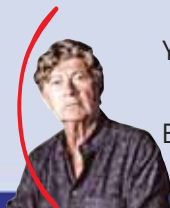
in Ransomware attacks in recent months. The deployment methods include socially engineered emails packed with malware, or a weblink that triggers a drive-by download. Some of the ways to protect your systems from Ransomware attacks include changing default passwords at all access points, training employees in identifying suspicious email links, keeping air-gapped up-to-date data back-ups, prohibiting the use of USB drives, and updating all operating systems and software in time.

**Phishing:** This is a type of social engineering attack where hackers attempt to steal login credentials such as passwords or deceive people in multiple ways into installing malware. Employee training to recognise phishing emails and the use of multi-factor authentication can help to prevent or mitigate damage from a cyber-attack which may result from a phishing exploit.

**Business email compromise:** During this pandemic, a large number of cases of business email compromise instances have been reported. Here, cybercriminals spoof emails (usually making them look like they are from legitimate sources) to redirect a payment intended for one of the company's suppliers to their own bank accounts. In a work from home scenario, where employees are not in front of each other to seek clarifications, these kinds of cyber-attacks are on the rise. Preventing such attacks calls for a high degree of vigilance and situational awareness among employees (especially those processing payments). Employees must be advised to be careful and alert to such attempts and double check before they initiate action. Organisations must also implement additional controls to prevent any mistakes in this regard.

**Bring Your Own Device (BYOD):** The use of personal devices like phones, laptops and tablets for office work has become common nowadays. As employees switched to working from home, there are many who also started to use their home devices for day to day work. While companies may have policies for onboarding these devices into the corporate network, there is often laxity and carelessness in observing the protocols. More so, during the pandemic. The absence of specific organisational cybersecurity protocols makes them a cyber risk. If any of these devices are compromised, they can provide hackers with an opening into a corporate's network and data which can be accessed and exploited. If employees continue to work from home and rely on personal devices for the foreseeable future, then a more robust protocol must be established which mandates the installation and updating of security software on personal devices that are used for office work.





YOU DON'T STUMBLE UPON  
YOUR HERITAGE. IT'S  
THERE, JUST WAITING TO  
BE EXPLORED AND SHARED  
— ROBBIE ROBERTSON

Photos: Worrel Kumar Bain and Reynold Machado

Goa and Portuguese colonisation of India are almost synonymous. Few know that Goa has a past that dates back to the saga of Parshuram in Hindu mythology and India's pre-Islamic era, writes **SOMEN SENGUPTA**. UNESCO World Heritage Week was recently celebrated in India from November 19 to November 25

**N**estled between the Western Ghats and Sahayadri Hills, and watered by two beautiful rivers named Mandovi and Zuari, this land was long isolated from the Indians. It was isolated not because of any physical feature or inaccessibility, but for its distinctive history and heritage that was seemingly "foreign" for British-ruled Indians. Goa, the coastal territory of Konkan heartland, was always a hidden pearl and a prized colonial nest for Portugal, a country that traded and ruled at many parts of the globe for several centuries.

Goa and Portuguese colonisation of India are almost synonymous. Few know Goa has a past that dates back to the saga of Parshuram in Hindu mythology and India's pre-Islamic era.

Hindu mythology says that this land was created from sea by Parashuram, the 6th incarnation of Vishnu. Parashuram, according to mythology, excavated this surface from sea with his arrow and gifted it to the Brahmins. In the ancient times, it was known as Govapuri and later Gomantak.

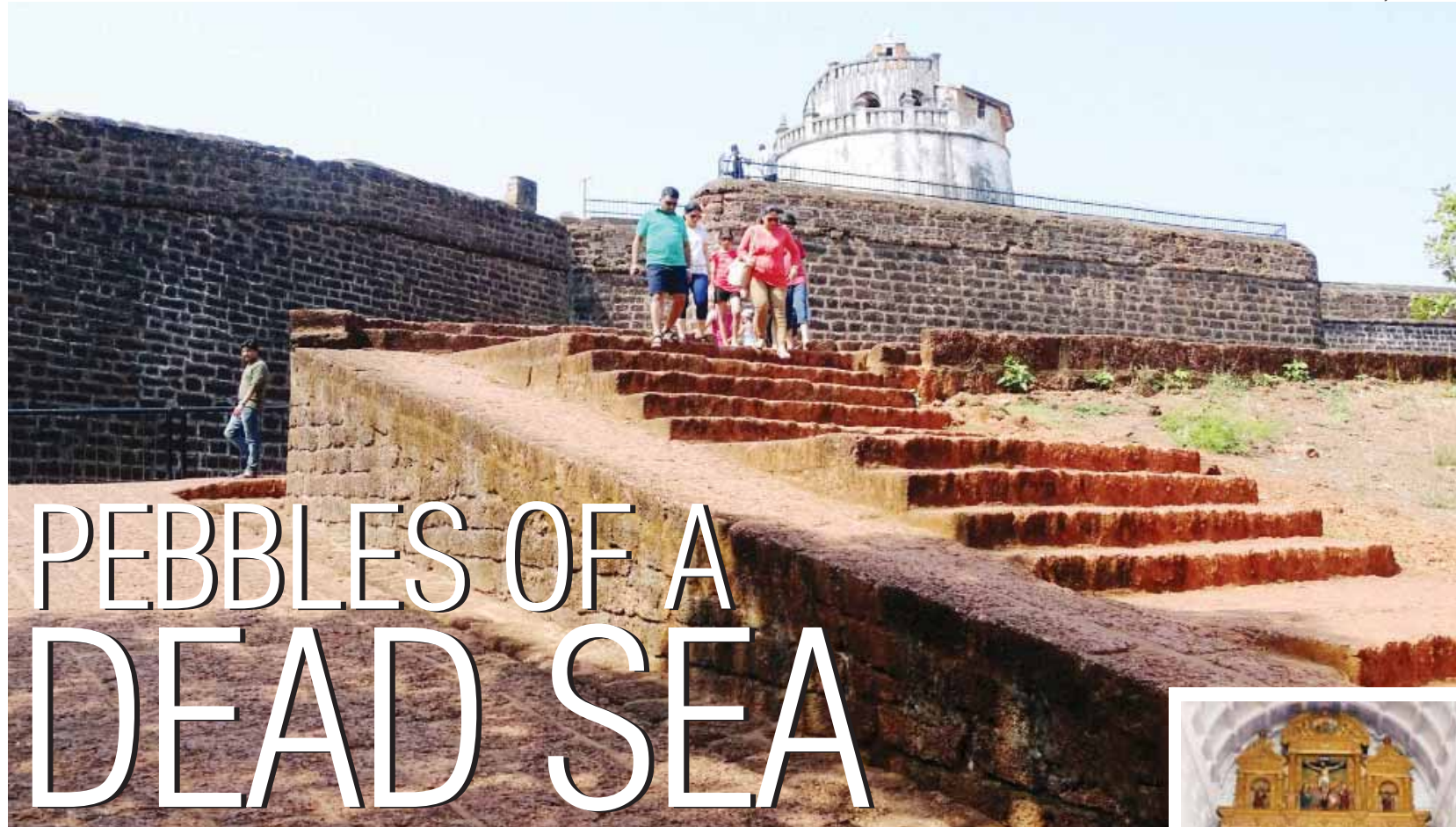
In 3rd century BC, it was a part of Maurya Empire and after that till the end of 750 AD almost all Hindu dynasties of Western India like Satavahanas, Chalukya and Rashtrakuta ruled this land. It fell into the hands of Muslims in 1312 and again in 1370, Hindu king of Vijaynagar conquered it. Hindu rule ended in 1470 when Adil Shah of Bijapur gained Goa.

This was the time when the fragrance of Goa's exotic spices began to attract the Portuguese, who had already arrived in Kerala in 1498, like a magnet. In 1510, 12 years after Vasco Da Gama arrived in Kerala as a trader, another Portuguese named Alfonso De Albuquerque showed his military might and became the ruler of Goa.

Soon after, they took over Diu in 1534 and Daman in 1559. A large part of Bengal was already under the Portuguese and with the new territory, they cemented a foundation of India's Portuguese colonisation. This prevailed till 1961, following which India reclaimed it after a soft military operation.

The conquest of Goa was perhaps the beginning of Portuguese dream to imprint their colonial stamp upon India. As a tyrannical race they soon got into conflict with local Indians, resulting in demolition of temples and forceful religious conversions. This was also the time when they tried to stop the practice of *sati* cult but failed. Soon the need was felt to protect Goa from other European powers, like British and Dutch East India Company, and even from the Maratha warrior, Shivaji, who attacked the Portuguese of Goa.

The need for military competence pushed the Portuguese to go for massive fortification. They got direct



# PEBBLES OF A DEAD SEA

support from Lisbon to expand their activities in India, such as expansion of Christianity, through the missionaries landing from Europe. Soon there was a visible change in the entire demography of Goa and tangible changes in architecture, language, food, dress, music and sports Goa came about. Goa gradually became a unique place within India.

This little Portugal of India gradually boomed in its own style and pace. Majestic churches, forts, printing press and above all a legend named "St Francis Xavier" turned Goa into an unparalleled place to which no other Portuguese colonies of India (be it those in Bengal or Gujarat) came a close match.

Towering among the past relic of that fascinating time is Fort Aguada that was built from 1609 to 1612 and still stands a living testimony at north Goa. This is one of the few forts of India, that was never conquered by enemies.

Built in sturdy brown laterite stone for the sake of combating the British, Dutch and Marathas, this is perhaps the best sample of Portuguese military architecture in India. *Aguada* means water, and this fort once had several sweet water streams flowing inside it, offering a great provision of drinking water both for its inhabitants and sailing ships that used to anchor near it. The fort strategically faces Candolim beach near river Mandovi. The upper part of the fort was used as water station and fort where as the lower part was used to berth Portuguese war ships. The huge water reservoir is assumed to store not less than 23,76,000 gallons of water.

The 1.3 metre thick fortification wall skirts the seashore and ascends the edge of bare rocky island. The massive grand stand of Fort Aguada once had 79 canons in place. A 13 mt high light house built in 1864 is the most iconic landmark of the fort. It often

THIS LITTLE PORTUGAL OF INDIA GRADUALLY BOOMED IN ITS OWN STYLE AND PACE. MAJESTIC CHURCHES, FORTS, PRINTING PRESS AND ABOVE ALL, A LEGEND NAMED "ST FRANCIS XAVIER" TURNED GOA INTO AN UNPARALLELED PLACE TO WHICH NO OTHER PORTUGUESE COLONIES OF INDIA (BE IT THOSE IN BENGAL OR GUJARAT) CAME A CLOSE MATCH



appears in many movies. St Lawrence church built in 1630 is situated inside the fort.

Though a large part of the fort is now dilapidated and submerged in water, its remains give enough idea of typical Portuguese style of fortification. Its well planned moats, gunpowder room, bastions, light house and escape passage all are still visible and very clearly mirror mystic timeline of the history.

Goa witnessed a silent revolution when India's first printing press was set up there, though accidentally. It is interesting to note that the first book printed in India was not in Bombay or Bengal Presidency, where historically almost all modern wonders landed from Europe.

It was in September 1556 when a printing press machine, which was originally meant to be delivered at Abyssinia or Ethiopia, arrived in Goa and placed in St Paul's college. From that machine, for the first time, a Spanish theologian named Juan De Bustamante printed a book of Theology named *Conclusions Philosophic*.

This machine was actually shipped from Portugal to Abyssinia of Africa. When the ship anchored at Goa on its way to Abyssinia, the relations between the two countries had declined as the king of Abyssinia detested the fact that Christian missionary had come to his country. So the machine was abandoned at Goa and it was sheer luck that India, as the first country of Asia, got to see the magic of printing machine. Unfortunately, after 1660, the machine went traceless. Today, a printing museum in Goa tells the story without showing any tangible relics.

Portuguese touch is palpable in every corner of old Goa, especially in its massive churches and cathedrals. Two most significant of those are Se Cathedral de Santa Catarina and Basílica de Bom Jesus. Both are UNESCO world heritage monuments and both are filled with stories of exciting history of Portuguese conquest of Goa and its religious history.

Se Cathedral is perhaps the most celebrated religious building of Goa. This is the largest church of India and even bigger than any in Portugal.

A classical example of Gothic Portuguese Manueline style of architec-



ture, this massive church of 250 ft in length and 187 ft wide was built between 1562 to 1619 during the golden era of Portuguese.

Dedicated to the feast of St Catherine of Alexandria, it was built to commemorate the victory of Portuguese over Muslims in 1510. The church exterior bears a Tuscan touch while the interiors are much of Corinthian. Its extraordinary Iberian façade, colourful mosaic floors, typical European ceiling and exotic wood carvings, all put together, create an outstanding piece of European architecture which is matchless on many counts. The laterite plinth and lime plaster of the church have survived the test of time.

Earlier, the church had two towers. One of which was grounded in 1776. The church has a bell called the Golden bell and a chapel known as Cross of Miracles. It is believed that in 1619, the vision of Christ had fallen there. This legend attracts a huge crowd all across the globe. It is the Cathedral of Arch Bishop of Goa. A convent adjacent to it houses a small yet good archaeological museum.

If Se Cathedral is famous for Cross of Miracle then Basílica de Bom Jesus (a smaller monument) is a bigger crowd puller as it holds the legend of St Francis Xavier, the man who is considered the "greatest figure in Asia after St Thomas the Apostle".

Goa's emergence as one of the holiest place in the Christian world is largely because of its association with a holy relic



of a man who died in 1552 in China.

Born in Spain and sent to India in 1542 by both the King of Portugal and Pope the third, Francis Xavier, spent 10 years in Goa serving leprosy cursed people and spreading the message of Christ. From 1510 to 1540, when Portuguese brutality over Indian masses was at its apex, he landed there as an apostle of peace and first gained confidence of local people by serving them. It was he who attracted a huge mass to Christianity that finally changed Goa to a very different demographic marquee in India.

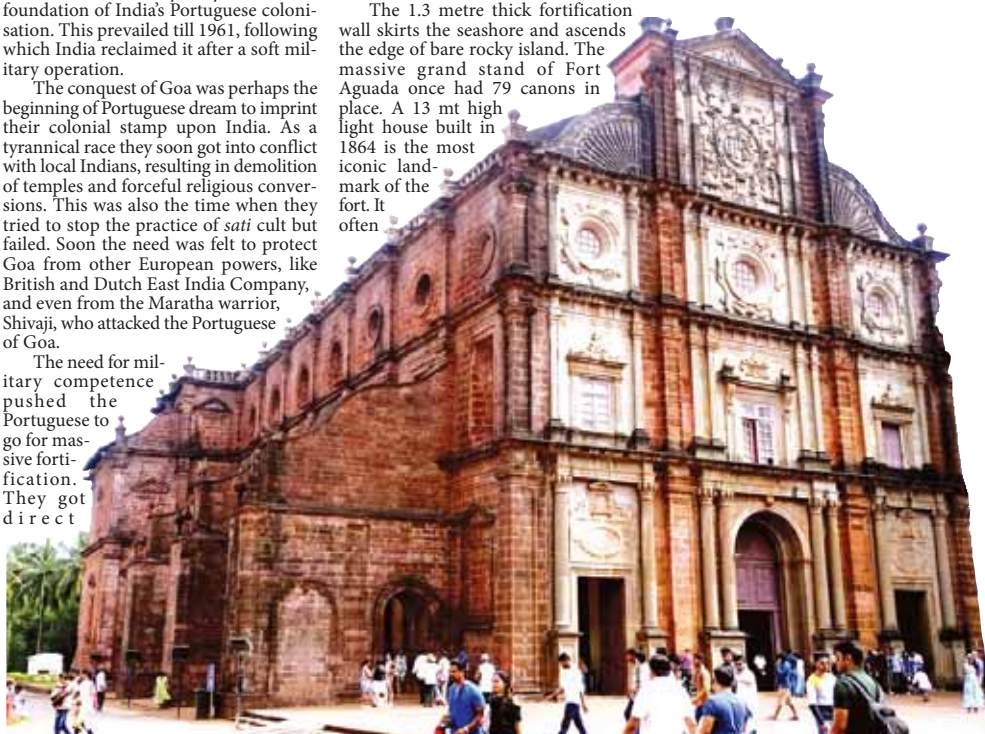
After his death in China, his body which was still intact after many months of his demise, was brought back to Goa on March 14, 1554 and kept in a casket gifted by Queen of Portugal Maria Sophia in 1560 at Basílica de Bom Jesus. The relic is placed on the right wall of the church and can be seen from a distance.

This attracts thousands of pilgrims across the world. Every 10 years the casket is taken down and people are allowed to get a closer look of the relic.

Over a period of time, however, several distortions have taken place. One finger of its feet was vandalised by a lady in 1554 and the right hand of the body was sent to Vatican in 1914, as demanded by Pope himself. This was a year after Xavier was crowned as Saint.

Basílica de Bom Jesus is a gem of architecture and perhaps, the most famous Portuguese footprint in Goa. Its bare exterior, made of brown laterite, offers an irresistible charm to mingle with history. Built between 1594 and 1605 in late Rene structure, it blends Doric, Ionic, Roman and Corinthian style of architecture. The façade contains Jesuit motif emblem "HIS" an abbreviation of Latin "*Iesus Hominum Salvator*" meaning "Jesus. Saviour of Men". The monument enshrines statue of St Ignatius Loyala and infant Jesus.

Cathedral, fort, lighthouse and old colonial buildings are now open to public and Government alike. The general panorama of old Goa runs like a motion picture visualising a saga much different from India's general history. Even though Portuguese are long gone the profound footprints are alive in every edifice of Parashuram's land.



FROM PAGE 1

## Working From Home? Beware of that cyber attack

**F**ocussing on the softer aspects of cybersecurity: Thus far, discussions around cyber security have largely focused on IT infrastructure, and the risks that software and hardware can pose to businesses. However, the pervasiveness of cyber threats like Ransomware, stealing of passwords, social engineering attacks like phishing

and Business Email, Compromise among others are forcing businesses to consider the softer and less tangible aspects of cyber security such as awareness, training and a security first culture. A heightened level of situational awareness in the context of responsible online behaviour, maintaining basic cybersecurity standards and

training is also necessary to ensure both new and existing employees are well versed in cyber risks.

### GOVERNMENT AND CYBER RISKS

Governments around the world have taken note of the alarming rise in cybercrime in recent months which coincide with the spread of the pandemic.

Indian citizens, commercial and legal entities faced nearly seven lakh cyber-attacks till August in the current year according to Government data. Recognising the rapidly increasing cyber risks, the Government of India issued guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) relating to their key roles and responsibilities for securing

applications/infrastructure and compliance. All Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government, State Governments (and their organisations) and all critical sectors are implementing a 'Cyber Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber-attacks and cyber terrorism'. Mumbai suffered a major power outage on October 12 which lasted several hours.

Today, authorities are investigating whether this was a cyber-attack.

Cyber risk is real, and it is potent. For all digital citizens and entities, it is a reality that will outlast the pandemic. The specific cybersecurity security challenges across industry sectors, governmental systems, public utilities are wide ranging. As cybersecurity experts say, you are never done as far as cybersecurity is concerned.

Cyber risks and threats keep evolving and so should cybersecurity measures and systems. This is one game you have to keep winning to survive and thrive in the digital world.

The writer is a Corporate Advisor and mentor. He has recently authored a book titled CyberStrong: A Primer on Cyber Risk Management for Business Managers, published by SAGE Publications India



## OTHErVOICE

# Development at the cost of forest: An ethical concern

Decision to give away 243 acres of Shivalik Elephant Reserve forest land for the expansion of Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun is a matter of grave concern, triggering a debate on development and environment



NIBEDITA PRIYADARSHINI JENA

The Uttarakhand Government's decision to give away 243 acres of Shivalik Elephant Reserve forest land for the expansion of Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun is a matter of serious concern which once again opens the debate on development and environment.

The State Government, considering the development motives in terms of economic and technological growth, has taken the decision of using the forest land. The encroachment is predicted to harm a cluster of things, yet certain immediate observable damage can be cited like the loss of 10,000 trees which can't be compensated, limiting the free movement of wild animals due to shrinkage of forest area. Moreover, the proposed, expanded airport will be under the 10 kilometres eco-sensitive zone of the Rajaji National Park.

Protesting against this decision, different polemics have been made, such as: Forest and wildlife are sources of revenue generation in the form of tourism and thus employment generation and this infringement will dismay the fragile ecosystem of Doon.

Nonetheless, all these arguments seem to be repetitively ordinary and thus anthropocentric, on the account of human benefit. There is a need for deeper analysis, based on ethical concerns.

Concerning the issue, the fundamental question needs to be raised at two different levels: How essential is to expand the airport and should environmentalists fight against this proposal for the well-being of humans or the well-being of the wilds or trees or for the entire environment itself?

On the first question, the necessity of the expansion of the airport in the name of development seems to be obscure. The Government's developmental plans should encompass the views of native indigenous of the area where the plan is supposed to be executed. However, here this has been flouted.

This leads to a further question on development for whom and at what cost? From a purely human-centric calculation cutting down of 10,000 trees doesn't necessarily enhance the economic status of the local people. Moreover, one can imagine the level of pollution that would harm them in future because of the deforestation and so-called modernity. Often major invisible harm is disguised in minor visible benefit. A developmental plan of the rule of power is imposed following solely technocratic conditions that in turn lead to the agony of humans as well as animals. Thus, morality is brought to fight against the unjust planning. Humans, animals and plants become the victims of the development project and it is essential to ethically examine the means (plans) and ends (consequences) before processing to execute it. In doing so, the Government can get a path to develop a new way of governing through which universal welfare can be achieved.

The second-level question is underpinned on the protection of the environment. Defending the protest of local people let's begin with invoking a stance of social ecologist in terms of "regional turn in environmental thinking" because as social ecologist L. Mumford says a strong regional centre of culture can be "the basis of active and securely grounded local life".

The local life is a broader concept that includes humans, animals and plants, all of them create a niche to accommodate each other for their wellbeing. Thus, protesting at an individualistic level grounding on the ethical concern directing towards individuals only would not be beneficial because it precludes either one of them — humans or animals or trees. Further, if we fight against the Government's decision to protect the forest for the well-being of humans, then the instrumental value is credited to the forest and thus the day is not far it to be used for a different purpose.

Rejection of anthropocentric option paves a path to ascribe intrinsic value to the forest through which absolute protection of forest can be demanded. However, the ascription of intrinsic value is in question to whom it should be ascribed — to individual animals or species/particular animal species or the entire ecosystem.

Supposed attribution of inherent value to individual animals precluding environment or to forest, excluding animals, leads to unpleasant consequences since both complement each other for their sustainability. Thus, there is a requirement for a holistic approach towards Doon's valley to protect native indigenous and the forest.

Implementation of an unexamined developmental project in the process of deforestation fails to satisfy all types of moral standards. Chopping thousands of trees and leaving innumerable animals homeless shows a lack of sense of "goodwill" and thus serves no adequate duties of humans towards the environment.

It also fails to bring an overall balance of good over evil — human suffering due to pollution and the scary behaviour of wild animals, as well as animals suffering due to the lack of food and dwelling place. Thus, this encroachment leads, in turn, to dire consequences. Furthermore, it prevents to show the virtuous character trait of the human.

The conditions of flourishing human life are not necessarily limited within the intra-human species, it needs the ethical capability as well to consider the entire ecosystem as an end in itself.

Arguing in favour of destroying natural "wild", which is not humanised, based on creating new forests through planting trees ignores the intrinsic value of natural wild which is unacceptable.

Instead of being driven by the instrumental reason to achieve instant non-sacrosanct ends, we humans, including the Government, ought to do actions involving rules, rights, compassion, etc, to protect the environment, including ourselves.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Bengaluru Central University)

# India must meet US on equal footing

What does the Joe Biden Administration's occupation of the Oval Office mean for India? This is pertinent especially after Trump's tight embrace of India. Though Trump-Modi friendship might not have translated into a trade pact — in all areas, particularly on the foreign policy and geo-strategic fronts in dealing with China or Pakistan, it supported India in becoming the alternative supply chain supplanting China, strengthening military relations, while refraining to interfere in India's internal matters.

Any change in the US policy towards India is unlikely, save some prodding on the Western understanding of human rights issues in the region, something which New Delhi should be prepared to deal with.

A little uncertainty exists on Biden's approach towards Pakistan, while he is strong on anti-terrorism front, the need of Islamabad for peace negotiations with Taliban will bring in a working relationship between the two nations, though a re-appearance of bonhomie is unlikely.

On the trade front, Arun K Singh, former Indian Ambassador to the US, has summed up the position, "era of post 1990s globalisation effectively ended with Trump's election in 2016". On climate change, New Delhi will be asked to do more from the Biden Administration, an approach he has indicated towards other nations.

Besides, there is strong probability of Republicans holding the Senate should also not be lost on us.

## India's significance for the US

It is insignificant to think if the Democrats or the Republicans will be more supportive to the Indian cause. It's the US national interest which

made Presidents from Clinton to Trump to deepen ties with India. With 17.7 per cent of the world's population, fifth largest economy, India is important for the US economy.

As the world's largest liberal democracy — among the few in the non-Western world even rare so in Asia — a responsible player in global politics, largest troop contributor to the UN peacekeeping missions, a nation which is looked at with trust and respect in comity of nations, all the more so by the developing world, India today stands at a formidable position with which every global player wishes to partner.

So, in the Asian century when the focus of the world has shifted to the Indo-Pacific economically, politically as well as on the geo-strategic front, while the US power wanes and is increasingly challenged by the rising China in all possible domains: trade and economy, technology, intelligence, military modernisation and in international institutions, who does the US look to?

If a decade or two back India could not be ignored, today, the US can simply not do without India; and Washington DC is well aware of that. Nobody knows this better than the 46th President of the US, a seasoned diplomat. In 2006, he argued India-US relationship is the single most important relationship that the US has to get right for its own safety's sake, declaring his dream of having India and the US as two closest nations in the world in 2020.

In 2008, he led the charge in the US Congress on approval of India-US Nuclear Agreement. As the Vice President in the Obama Administration, he further deepened ties with India.

In a policy paper during campaigning, Biden called India and the US as natural partners, while declaring the

strengthening of India-US relationship as high priority for his administration; mentioning that no common global challenge can be resolved without India and the US.

It pledged support to India in fight against terrorism, cross-border or otherwise, confronting "new threats" India faces in its own region and along its own borders, not allowing China to threaten India with impunity, while supporting a larger role for India in international institutions, including pushing India to become a permanent member of the UNSC.

## Chinese threat to the US

In the 2020 US report on China's military, which outlines the fast-paced military modernisation and capacity enhancement of PLA as it moves towards its goal to become a "world class military" by 2049 — understood to mean equal or superior to the US military — it's pointed out that the PLA is not intended to be "merely a showpiece of China's modernity. The report pointed out that China is not only going to keep the PLA focused solely on regional threats" but to have "an active role in advancing" China's foreign policy, particularly with respect to its "increasingly global interests and its aims to revise aspects of the international order".

In the World Economic Output report 2020, the IMF declared China has overtaken the US to become the world's largest economy in PPP terms. In China's recently concluded fifth plenary session, it seemed assured about reaching "high income level" in the next five years and doubling economic output by 2035, which is also the deadline for China to emerge as a global leader in innovation, becoming technological independent of the West by mobilising all of the nation's resources to make

breakthrough in key technologies from AI to quantum computing and semiconductor manufacturing.

To contain China is the top-most priority for the US, and the Biden Administration is going to achieve this by making a multilateral coalition of its allies and partners in Europe and Asia. And of them India is the most important peg in it. Indeed, the US ought to be thankful for the present situation brewing at the Indian border with the dragon, because a scenario where Indian interests with China converge can still be imagined, the same for the US is now impossible.

India might be China's immediate irritant, its real adversary is the US. So, to worry about the US support on China is in vain.

## Human rights, Kashmir and CAA

In his campaign, Biden had mentioned his disappointment with the Assam's NRC, CAA and need for full liberties to be returned in Kashmir. The progressive faction has been all the more critical on the front, Vice President Kamala Harris herself being vocal, so, questions will be raised.

In 1993, US political scientist late Samuel Huntington wrote that there is a wide-spread anti-western sentiment rising all over the world because of West's universal enforcement of its values.

The East Asian nations had created a united front against this, with the Japanese Prime Minister of the time Hosokawa saying western human rights concepts can't be "blindly applied to Asia".

The West's hypocrisy on the human rights front has also been time and again raised by the developing world. Why the US is not questioned over arrests of Muslims without charge after 9/11, Guantanamo Bay prisoners that are still rot-

ting in prisons of the US allies in West Asia, most horrible abuses of human rights in Abu Ghraib prison, Iraq, or over the police brutalities on the blacks, or how the UK suppressed the Irish and Scottish national movements?

While India embraced the Western liberal democracy and human right regime, it continues to suffer the destabilising and violent after-effects and grave unresolved issues of the externally created borders and gory partition, unlike the peaceful territories of the West.

It is difficult, therefore, to enforce the same level of liberties to the region bearing the scourge of externally funded and supported terrorism for decades, which threatens the security of the whole nation, with even the temple of Indian democracy not been spared. A discouragement towards democratic process is still being made in Kashmir by terrorists targeting political members. Similarly, a resolution of the post-partition refugee situation had to be undertaken.

India is a free and fair democracy with an independent judiciary, and it must confidently, firmly and calmly draw its red lines over non-interference in internal matters, something that rest of the Asia has been doing for long.

Our External Affairs Minister demonstrated it by not meeting a panel, including Congresswomen Pramila Jayapal. Were it done by even a middle level power, nobody would bat an eyelash. It's time India takes its rightful position in the world, with respect, it deserves, and as Huntington puts it: the US well knows when to concede to maintain "good relations" with friendly countries.

(The author is a public policy analyst and lawyer)

Any change in the US policy towards India is unlikely, save some prodding on the Western understanding of human rights issues in the region, something which New Delhi should be prepared to deal with. It's in the US national interest to have good relations with India. It's time India takes its rightful position in the world it deserves, and as Huntington puts it: the US well knows when to concede to maintain 'good relations' with friendly countries



SONAL SHUKLA

## PERSPECTIVE

# A new civil war in Ethiopia

Ethiopia, located in the Horn of Africa, is popularly known as the "Mecca of Coffee". Today it has seen one of the bloodiest conflicts in its northern region of Tigray wherein the federal forces are fighting with the local Tigray regional forces. The fierce fight that broke out in early November is simply a war between Addis Ababa, the central capital city, and the regional capital town of Mekele. It's a show of strength of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali against combative Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) based in the restive region.

Further, it is straight fight between the majority Oromo community (around 34.6 per cent) represented by the PM Abiy and the minority Tigrayans, barely 6 per cent of the total population of the country. Initially, the war in the Northern Province was planned for a limited scale, directly to target the TPLF, a militia cum political party, but now more than two weeks of military campaign has hinted a severe fight, showing no signs of talk, withdrawal and negotiation between the two warring groups.

The current crisis in Ethiopia has its roots in the recent past of the country. The TPLF was established in February 1975, more than 45 years ago in the Tigray Province. A year before i.e. 1974 witnessed a tumultuous political situation in the country as Emperor Haile Selassie was overthrown by the military.

Afterwards, a new military junta, popularly known as "The Derg", came into power in the country. The subsequent years brought home a devastating conflict, leading to the killing of thousands of young man and woman across the country. However, the Tigrayan region had to largely bear the brunt of the so-called "Red Terror", unleashed by the Leftist Derg junta. Sadly, Derg continued in power in Ethiopia till 1991, when it was finally ousted by the armed rebels. And incidentally, the TPLF was an integral part of a coalition of resistance forces that finally moved out the junta from the power corridors of Ethiopia.

Then TPLF leader Meles Zenawi became the interim President later and

also holds the historic record of being the first elected Prime Minister of the country in 1995. What it demonstrates is the consolidation of power by the minority Tigrayans over the majority of the public institutions of Ethiopia.

And the rest is a new history for this emerging African nation. The Tigrayans ruled the country for almost three decades from 1991 to 2018 by becoming an alliance partner of the ruling coalition known as the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF).

This coalition was the brainchild of the veteran Meles to bring together like-minded groups to capture power in Addis Ababa. The EPRDF earned both reputation and severe criticism from the Ethiopians in its entire period in power and even after. Many say that during its time, child mortality rate fell, and the famine was prevented. But others argue that the Tigrayan-led EPRDF was no other than an absolute authoritarian regime that ruled the country with an iron hand.

Unfortunately, the other coalition partners had hardly any voice in regard to making critical policy decisions and deciding future course of actions.

A new era has begun with the coming of Abiy to power in 2018 who is the first Oromo leader to come to occupy the seat of the head of the Ethiopian Government. He was a former military intelligence officer of the Government. In fact, years of protest that started after the departure of Tigray's powerful leader and former PM Meles in 2012, forced his successor Hailemariam Desalegn to finally resign after six years of misrule and anarchy across the country. He was the chairman of the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement. From the very beginning of his tenure, his role was ambivalent as he could hardly keep the powerful alliance partners under his control.

And most importantly, since he did not belong to the powerful Tigray community, it was absolutely difficult for him to exercise administrative control over them. Over the years, the Tigray ethnic group has massively expanded its sway

over the army, secret services and the bureaucracy. These circumstances offered an opportune moment for Abiy to get elected as the leader of the EPRDF. For years, the Ormos have been marginalised by the EPRDF, led by the Tigray community and its powerful leaders in Addis Ababa.

From the very beginning, he spoke the language of unity and promised his countrymen peace, development and progress. And this earned him praise even from his arch rivals in the Opposition political parties.

After assuming power, he released thousands of prisoners, unblocked a large number of media channels and privatised many Government owned enterprises. He reached out to Eritrea, Ethiopia's old rival on the northern border, and made peace with that country. And as a result, he was awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize which had brought home a chance of reclaiming Ethiopia's position in the African continent once again.

However, gradually his reform package has altered the long-drawn power relations of the country. And in the last two years, the Tigrayans have registered their displeasure with Addis Ababa. They say that they are being targeted for the wrongs committed in the past and the current Government is fast trying to marginalise the community and its leadership. Last year, Abiy dissolved the EPRDF, and formed the Prosperity Party, but the TPLF refused to join the new coalition. Thus, formally, the dominance of the TPLF has come to an end and it was made possible by the shrewd leadership of Prime Minister Abiy.

What has finally triggered the current crisis in Tigray is no other than the regional election that took place in the province in September. Actually, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Abiy Government postponed the much anticipated general election on August 21 across the country. But the TPLF leadership accused Abiy of unconstitutionally extending the term of his Government. In defiance of the federal Government's order, the TPLF conducted the election in its province. This

incident has raised tension between the Central Government and the regional Government of Tigray.

And on November 4, the forces loyal to the TPLF suddenly attacked the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defence Force based in Mekelle. After two days, the Abiy Government launched a massive military strike, saying the TPLF has crossed the "Red Line". And since then the war is on the restive region.

Meanwhile, as a precautionary measure, Sudan has closed down the border with Ethiopia to avoid immediate clash and refugee movement. Around the same time, Addis Ababa has declared the regional Government of Tigray as illegal and proposed to form an interim Government out there as per the country's Constitution.

The UN is urging for a peaceful and swift resolution of the conflict in Ethiopia. It seems impossible for now as TPLF leader Debrezion Gebremichael has remained defiant. By now more than 25,000 refugees have crossed over to neighbouring Sudan. On November 14, the TPLF forces launched multiple rocket attacks on Asmara, the capital city of neighboring Eritrea. And interestingly, Gebremichael has stated that Asmara was a "legitimate target" as its airbases are being used by the Ethiopian forces to carry out attacks on the TPLF fighters. This indicates that there is little chance of the warring parties to come down to the negotiation table unless there is a powerful mediating force.

This landlocked East African country is surely careening for a bloody civil war. And this might escalate to a broader regional conflict involving Eritrea and Sudan. The best course of action for Abiy could be an early dialogue and engagement of the regional leadership of Tigray province. Else, the new war could involve much more people, forces and the old militias of the region and across. It's better to avoid a chaos and settle for immediate peace.

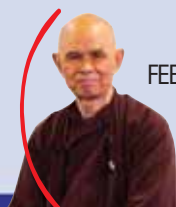
(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

The landlocked East African country is headed for a bloody civil war which might escalate into a broader regional conflict involving Eritrea and Sudan. The best course of action for Prime Minister Abiy could be an early dialogue with the regional leadership of Tigray province



MAKHAN SANKIA





FEELINGS COME AND GO LIKE CLOUDS  
IN A WINDY SKY. CONSCIOUS  
BREATHING IS MY ANCHOR  
— THICH NHAT HANH

tarot 4

November 29, 2020



**YOUR  
WEEK  
AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week you card foresees healing and rejuvenation. Those suffering from an injury or other physical ailments will find quick recovery. There are times in our lives when we must accept change and allow things to come to a natural end. Every negative note has its positive end too. On the career front, a comeback of your old and trusted employee who was supposed to be the backbone of your profession is indicated. Venues will open for those who wish to expand their business or start a new venture. Time spent on the academic pursuits will pay good results now. On the relationship front, love is difficult and confusing this week. Sticking to old beliefs may spoil your relations. It is advised to avoid the intervention of the third party.

**Lucky number** 19  
**Lucky colour** Sky Blue  
**Lucky day** Friday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

Those putting on weight must put their health on priority. You will finally understand the value of money and good health, and work out a plan to be in harmony with nature to maintain good health. Focus on walking, breathing and prayers for mental and physical healing. On the career front, unrelated issues would occupy mind space. You either have little time or are feeling lethargic about work. Hard work and efforts put in the last week are not so rewarding. This is a temporary phase. On the personal front, something special is likely to be celebrated this week. You feel emotionally contented and find a healthy relationship. You have full faith in your partner. This is the time when mutual understanding between the two is great and strengthening of relationship is indicated.

**Lucky number** 13  
**Lucky colour** Blue  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

You will feel healthy and free and may experience a change of perspective. Negativity replaces optimism. New possibilities are foreseen. You will learn the importance of solving your problems with rational and thorough thinking. This is also a time to utilise your creative energies. Professionally, a promotion is indicated which will make you confident and secure. You are self-disciplined and energetic. Those in business, your ideas and views are being respected and followed. This is the time when your intelligence, wisdom and experience will pay you rich dividends. On the personal front, your relationship will grow. You are romantic and love is in the air. Other relationships too are nurturing, and meaningful in your life.

**Lucky number** 9  
**Lucky colour** Green  
**Lucky day** Friday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week your inner and outer conflicts may bring upon negative effects to your healthy lifestyle and routine. Challenges are foreseen on the career front. This is a perfect time to clear the fog. This is also a good time to set your goals and targets and work towards them in the system. The win will come after a struggle. Your great insight may work in your favour. A break-through success is on the cards. On the relationship front, you will follow tradition instead of your heart. The conventions and traditions are overpowering you and you will try and seek answers from a guru or a senior person with regard to your emotions. This week you may be more inclined spiritually and worldly pleasures, love and emotions would take a back seat.

**Lucky number** 10  
**Lucky colour** Brown  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

There is a balance between mind, body and soul this week. You will be energetic, enthusiastic and full of life. Your farsightedness will pay you rich dividends. This is the time to enjoy good food and live a healthy life, both mentally and physically. On the career front, new job offers and opportunities in business will help you broaden your horizon. If expansion in the business is the plan, this is the right time. Go for it! Good finances, income and gains through the ancestral property are indicated. On the relationship front, those contemplating marriage may start browsing the market for a suitable bride or groom. Guard against temptations and addictions. A step towards spirituality may prove to be the saviour.

**Lucky number** 3  
**Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you may enjoy the nature's bounty and blessings of the Almighty. Cure of a very old or prolonged illness is on the cards. Those in urgent need of motivation and inspiration to lead a healthy and meaningful life will find a mentor. You feel empowered and embark on a new journey which is progressive and makes you feel comfortable. On the work front, this is the time to keep counting the blessings. You may be busy organising an auspicious ceremony at home/office. The career will boom and so will be your interaction with the outside world. On the personal front, confusion, misunderstanding with the partner is likely. You need to guard yourself against selfish motives, aggression and any haste decisions in this period. Patience is the key.

**Lucky number** 4  
**Lucky colour** Red  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week you will possess the power and energy to create a fresh lifecycle for yourself. You will have control over your desires and temptations that may harm your health. You realise the importance of the balancing factor in your life and your body is in tune with the five elements of nature. On the career front, you may have experienced setbacks that make you suspicious of the others. The turning point will come when you can leave the past behind you and develop a more open mind about the future. This is the time to think positive and move ahead. On the personal front, confrontation is likely between lovers. Do not let emotion get in the field. Rather, use fact and logic to make your decisions.

**Lucky number** 6  
**Lucky colour** Pink  
**Lucky day** Friday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

This week cards indicate excessive fear, phobia, and worry. Mental tension will remain, and this may reflect on your health. Headache, insomnia, and sleeplessness may cause unrest. Be careful of cold, cough and seasonal ailments too. This is the time to meditate, join yoga and take a break from the hectic schedule. On the career front, a little indiscretion may put your reputation in the firing line so be careful. At the work area, you may go unnoticed and feel neglected. This may cause tension and hamper your growth. Do not run away from responsibilities and commitments. Do not disclose your working plans till you accomplish them. On the personal front, your partner will be filled with an abundance of energy and enthusiasm while you feel demoralised, or hold low self-esteem.

**Lucky number** 12  
**Lucky colour** Golden  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week your satisfaction and contentment will play an important role for you to be in good health. You will enjoy worldly pleasures and relax. 'All is well' feeling gives you cool mind, contentment, positive aura and a glow on the face. On the work front, there is generosity in your temperament and ability to convince others with your communication. You care for the emotional wellbeing of others and respect your colleagues and juniors. They follow you, admire you, and respect your magnanimity. On the relationship front, there is love, fun and entertainment. You spend time together and present an expensive gift to your beloved and partner. Time is right to bring your romantic relationships out in the open, the family will accept your choice.

**Lucky number** 18  
**Lucky colour** Orange  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week you will adopt a moderate approach to life and be true to your commitments. You have understood that you need a routine and a careful regime if you want to achieve your goals. It is not necessarily a very interesting or exciting period. You are not hesitant to spend money in a gym, meditation, following nutritive diets etc to be in good health and fitness. These efforts will pay you well. On the work front, you will feel stability in your profession. Use experience and skills to achieve your desired goals. Advice from a senior person in job/business will be very helpful. On the personal front, you may get too emotional or possessive in your relationship, and that may become the cause of irritation and separation. You will be compassionate towards those dear to you.

**Lucky number** 21  
**Lucky colour** Magenta  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

In keeping with the ongoing festive spirit, you will be active and vibrant. Self-knowledge and mastery are the keys to success. You possess the inner light and consciousness, and sheer faith and experience from the past would help you become self-reliant. Through meditation, you are on the path to attain spiritual fulfilment and share this light with others. On the professional front, your wisdom and leadership will help you establish a niche for yourself. Your plans are now well underway and you are beginning to consider more opportunities to expand your current plans. On the personal front, you will find your relationships growing and developing to a satisfactory level. There is faith, understanding with each other.

**Lucky number** 2  
**Lucky colour** Indigo  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

Fatigue may take a toll this week. Issues — domestic or professional — will leave you disturbed. Restlessness or problem related to Blood Pressure may bother. Consult a doctor. You may require proper sleep and support of near and dear ones. A positive approach will help put life into you. On the career front, there is nothing new happening. Things are moving as usual. Fear of stagnating career or profession may bother you. This is a temporary phase. As the week progresses, you will find the positive results. With your wisdom and experience, you keep moving ahead and achieve the desired results. On the relationship front, you will enjoy the quiet powers inherent in you. You will be able to influence your partner by diplomatic conversation.

**Lucky number** 11  
**Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Monday

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**ASTROTURF**

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Mind balance is the key

Someone concerned about not being able to contain his wavering mind and habit tendencies, despite serious efforts towards that end, connected with me for necessary guidance. "Sir, for almost a decade now, I have been religiously pursuing Yoga-asana and meditation as guided by two acclaimed teachers in the field. So far, I have been able to just identify my fault lines. I have been trying to address them, with no sign of tangible success in immediate future. My monkey like mind keeps randomly flitting towards varying thoughts and ideas, and so I fail to do justice to my priority preferences. I don't know how to go about further. Kindly guide."

"Well, the purpose of spirituality is to understand the living realities of life, which when absorbed in the deep realms of mind help in making reasoned choices in life and conduct with ease and comfort. What is the fun in pursuing spiritual process, if it has not helped reform your thought process?" I asked. "Remember, all actions on your part, be it pursuing spiritual process or targeting material desires are conducted by mind. Better, give me an account of how you are pursuing the process so that the

missing link in the process could be figured out," I said. Looking at the account he shared, it appears that he keeps chanting *mantra* with focus on his energy centres. So, he has been mechanically working on energy plane. He, however, has cared the least to work upon his thought process. He has been reading many books written by realised people for necessary guidance, which makes him academically aware. But his mind, intensely engaged in wanton thoughts that don't allow him the mind-space and time necessary to absorb the educative inputs, but for which it will not find reflection in his conduct.

Here I recall the saying of a realised spiritual master: "You may enjoy the grace of the God, the holy men and teachers. But if you lack the grace of mind, you may go to rack and ruins". That makes it incumbent upon us to work upon our mind-state before pursuing spiritual process, otherwise it will not offer desired result. It may not be out of place to mention that there are five states of mind — Darkening, Scattering, Gathering up, One pointed and Concentrated. Ignorant minds are the darkening type. Minds flirting with



random thoughts are the scattering type. Those who realise that only a focused mind can lead to success, try to contain their wavering mind, which comes under gathering up type. As you graduate in the process further, you may become one pointed. They still remain subject to pushes and pulls. But relatively they are able to remain focused to their priority preferences for long. Those who are able to effortlessly remain focused for long is the call of a concentrated mind.

Those who wish to evolve spiritually, and even grow materially, preparatory to that, at least they should try to graduate to the stage of one pointedness, if not concentrated. I then suggested him to follow the three stage meditation process as suggested in my book titled: "God or No God; Awareness enriches life."

The man then asked: "Sir, I will purchase your book and follow the method you have suggested. But tell me, is my present mental predicament reflected in my chart? Do I have the potential to evolve spiritually?"

Look at the astrological pointers. You are born in an airy sign Libra with fiery planet Mars conjunct headless *Ketu* there in the *lagna*. Mars is also adversely

placed with respect to the two luminaries — the Sun and Moon. Moon is ill-disposed to Venus, which makes you too touchy and sensitive. You may get overexerted even on trivial issues and blow it out of proportion as would fiery Mars flaring up the air element mean. Read together with the implications of the ill-disposed luminaries, it speaks of a temperamental, moody, irritable, impulsive, and rash character, having a disoriented mind.

Now coming to spiritual potential, benevolent Jupiter over the head in the birth chart speaks high of your spiritual quotient. Seen at subtle level, *lagna* sub-lord *Rahu*, happens to be the lord of 5th cusp identified with merits accrued from the past. 9th sub-lord identified translation of acquired merits into fruits happens to be Moon, which occupies the sub-lordship of *Rahu*. All put together indicates seed of spiritually deeply ingrained in your mind. Positioning of Moon, however, calls for concerted efforts to organise your mind before expecting the desired results.

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