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REQUIEM FOR THE CONGRESS**WORLD 8**

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SPORT 12

IPL IS READY FOR EXPANSION: DRAVID

Happy Diwali

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

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IT'S A SPECIAL DIWALI FOR MANUSHI 10 VIVACITY

India retaliates, 8 Pak soldiers killed

Terror launch pads in Pak destroyed; 5 Indian jawans martyred, 4 civilians killed in Pak shelling

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Paying back Pakistan in the same coin, the Indian Army on Friday reportedly killed at least 7-8 Pakistani soldiers in strong retaliatory firing after four Indian soldiers, one BSF jawan and four civilians were killed and seven others received grievous injuries in heavy shelling by Pakistan across different sectors.

The report said that several Pakistan Army structures, including its ammunition and fuel dumps, were destroyed along the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri and Keran sectors of North Kashmir's Kupwara and Baramulla districts.

Radio intercepts tracked by the Indian Army across the LoC confirmed reports of heavy damages suffered by the Pakistan Army. Official sources revealed, two to three Special Service Group commandos of the Pakistan Army were also killed in India's counter attack.

On the Indian side, five Indian soldiers, including a BSF officer, attained martyrdom while four civilians were killed and seven others received injuries.



□ Radio intercepts tracked by the Indian Army across the LoC confirmed reports of heavy damages suffered by the Pakistan Army

□ Compared to previous year

high of 3,233 ceasefire violations, the Pakistan Army has so far committed 4,052 ceasefire violations this year. Out of these 128 violations were reported in November and 394 in October 2020

Compared to previous year

To prevent the Pakistan Army from aiding a heavily armed group of infiltrators sneak into the Indian territory, some of the launching pads in the area were destroyed.

Compared to previous year

Col Rajesh Kalia, a Srinagar-based Defence Spokesman in a written statement said, "Pakistan used mortars and other weapons and deliberately targeted civilian areas across multiple sectors of

Uri and Keran in North Kashmir. The Indian Army retaliated strongly, causing casualties and substantial damage to Pakistan Army's infrastructure across the LoC. Several ammunition dumps, FOL dumps and multiple launch pads have been damaged."

Around 1.45 pm, the Pakistani Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in sector in Sawjiani in Poonch," Defence Spokesman Lt-Col Devender Anand said, adding Indian troops retaliated in a befitting manner.

"The Sub Inspector has made supreme sacrifice in line of duty while facing heavy ceasefire violation from the enemy. The sub-officer was a resident of Rishikesh in Uttarakhand and joined the border force in 2004," a senior officer of the force said.

Before the tension mounted in the region, Defence spokesman Col Rajesh Kalia had claimed that Indian Army foiled an infiltration bid, which was aided by the ceasefire violation, along the LoC in the Keran sector on Friday.

"Suspicious movement was observed by our troops at the forward posts along the LoC in Keran sector (in north Kashmir's Kupwara district) today. The suspected infiltration bid was foiled by alert troops," he said.

This was the second infiltration attempt within a week. The earlier unsuccessful bid in Machil sector during the intervening night of November 7-8 was foiled in which three terrorists were killed. Four Army soldiers, including a Captain, and a BSF jawan also lost their lives during the operation.

Hospital authorities identified the slain civilians as Farooqa Begum, wife of Bashir Ahmad, Nadir Hussain, son of Peer Hussain and Tahir Jalaludin, son of Jalaludin all from Balkote Uri.

In Jammu region, ceasefire violation was also reported from Sawjiani area of Poonch in which seven civilians including porters received injuries.

Will contain Covid in Capital within 10 days, says Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ PATNA

D

elhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the Covid-19 situation in the national Capital should come under control in 7-10 days and that his Government is going to take several preventive measures in the coming days.

Kejriwal said the pollution

is the biggest reason

behind the surge in the number

of corona cases.

"The corona was under

control in Delhi until last week.

I want to appeal to the Supreme

Court and the Centre, and Punjab, Haryana, UP Governments along with all agencies to act on resolving the problem of pollution. There is a very easy and cost-effective solution available and so now no Government can say there is no alternative to the problem. The report says it just costs ₹30 per acre, which can be given out of a State's own budget," the Delhi CM said.

Kejriwal said pollution is

the "biggest" reason behind the

100mn Covid-19 shots by Dec in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 IN INDIA**TOTAL****CASES: 87,59,321****DEATHS: 1,29,075****RECOVERED:****81,48,146****ACTIVE: 4,80,175**

The country's largest vaccine maker, Serum Institute of India (SII), has ramped up production of AstraZeneca Covid-19 shot, aiming to have 100 million doses ready by December for an inoculation drive that could begin across India.

The vaccine-maker has already administered 1,600 volunteers with doses of Oxford University-AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine Covishield and kept them under observation for next 28 days.

Adar Poonawalla, chief executive officer of the SII said, "If final-stage trial data shows AstraZeneca's candidate gives effective protection from the virus, the Serum Institute of India Ltd, which is partnered to produce at least one billion doses, may get emergency authorisation from New Delhi by December." That initial amount will go to India, Poonawalla told a news agency.

A full approval early next year will allow distribution on a 50-50 basis with the South Asian nation and Covax, the World Health Organization-backed body that's purchasing shots for poor nations. SII,

which has tied up with five developers, has so far made 40 million doses of AstraZeneca's vaccine in the past two months and aims to start manufacturing Novavax's contender soon.

"We were a bit concerned it was a big risk," said Poonawalla. But both AstraZeneca - Oxford University and Novavax's shots "are looking pretty good."

AstraZeneca CEO Pascal Soriot has said he is preparing

for the possibility of large-scale vaccinations as early as December and once the UK grants its own emergency license, SII will submit same data to Indian counterparts.

Drugmakers are just now getting data that will show how well their vaccine candidates work, but there are plenty of hurdles remaining as the global race to find an effective shot against the pathogen reaches its final stages. Astra

and co-developer University of Oxford still need to see testing results. And even if their vaccine proves effective and gets a nod from regulators, there are questions over how the shot can be distributed.

Poonawalla reiterated that it will take until 2024 to vaccinate the entire world and two years to see a real reduction in infections, due to affordability and manufacturing hurdles.

Continued on Page 2

NDA MLAs to meet tomorrow to name Nitish as Bihar CM

PTI ■ PATNA

A joint meeting of the NDA legislative party will be held here on Sunday where Nitish Kumar will be elected as its leader, it was decided on Friday.

The decision was taken at an "informal" meeting of leaders of the four NDA constituents in Bihar — the JD(U), BJP, HAM and Vikash Sheel Insaaf Party (VIP) at the residence of the Chief Minister.

"The meeting will start at 12:30 pm on Sunday, November 15 where all further decisions will be taken," the Chief Minister who also heads the JD(U) told reporters later.

As decks were cleared for the formation of a new Government in Bihar with Nitish Kumar as the Chief Minister, the JD(U) chief handing over to Governor Phagu Chauhan the resignation of his ministry and the recommendation to dissolve the State Assembly, officials said. The Governor accepted the resignation and asked Nitish to

continue as the caretaker Chief Minister till the new NDA Government is sworn in.

"These formalities have to be completed before the formation of a new government. The cabinet's recommendations will be forwarded to the governor whose approval will be followed by other steps leading to the formation of a new government," Nitish said earlier.

Despite the BJP emerging as the largest party in the ruling alliance with 74 seats, 31 more than the JD(U), the top leadership of the saffron party, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has emphatically endorsed Nitish as the next Chief Minister.

He was declared the ruling coalition's CM candidate much before the election process had started. Though Nitish did not divulge more on what transpired during the meeting at his residence, sources said the issues discussed included the representation of each constituent in the cabinet and election of the Speaker.

PM may celebrate Diwali with soldiers on border

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to spend Diwali on Saturday with soldiers on the border. He may visit some forward bases in Rajasthan and Gujarat to boost the morale of the troops.

He will be continuing with his tradition of spending time with soldiers on Diwali ever since he took charge as the Prime Minister in 2014. This time round, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and Army Chief General MM Naravane may also accompany the Prime Minister, sources said here on Friday.

It said pollution levels in Delhi during the Diwali period are likely to remain in the higher end of the "very poor" category in the absence of emissions due to fireworks.

Stubble burning-induced impact on AQI is expected to increase from "negligible to moderate" in the next two days, said SAFAR, adding the biomass plume transport-level winds have become north-westerly and predicted to continue until Saturday which is not good.

Fire-related intrusion along with stagnant surface winds is acting adversely.

Wind speed is expected to

pick up thereafter and the wind direction will be east-southeasterly. There will be a significant improvement in air quality by November 16, he said.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the PM 2.5 concentration in Delhi on Diwali is likely to be the "lowest" in the last four years if no firecrackers are burnt.

It said pollution levels in Delhi during the Diwali period are likely to remain in the higher end of the "very poor" category in the absence of emissions due to fireworks.

Wind speed is expected to



People light lamps on the banks of river Saryu in Ayodhya on Friday

Delhi-NCR air very poor; favourable wind from Sun

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



There is no respite for Delhites from poor air quality as on Friday the national Capital recorded its air quality in the "very poor" category and it is likely to become "severe" on Diwali night, according to Government agencies.

Delhi recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 339.

It was 314 on Thursday. The neighbouring cities of Faridabad (319), Ghaziabad (382), Noida (337), Greater Noida (336) and Gurgaon (324), which fall in the National Capital Region (NCR), also recorded their AQI in the "very poor" category.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said a fresh western disturbance was likely to increase the wind speed and improve the air quality in Delhi-NCR post-Diwali.

Light rain is likely to occur on Sunday under the influence of a western disturbance. It remains to be seen if it is

enough to wash away pollutants, Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre, said.

"However, Delhi-NCR's air quality is likely to improve post-Diwali due to an increase in the wind speed. On Sunday, the maximum wind speed is expected to be around 12 to 15 kilometres per hour," he said.

VK Soni, the head of the IMD's environment research centre, said calm winds and firecrackers emissions may push the air quality to the "severe" zone on Diwali night.

Wind speed is expected to

up patrolling in the strategically important Straits of Malacca near Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This move was obviously aimed at sending a message to China that the Navy can choke the Malacca Straits if need be. More than 70 per cent of energy supplies of China pass through this sea lane and it knows that India is in a very strong position there.

Moreover, the second phase of the Malabar exercise comprising four Quad nations next week may take place in the seas around Andaman and Nicobar. The first phase from November 3 to 6 was held off Visakhapatnam with the navies of India, US, Australia and Japan carrying out the drills.

The next phase may see India deploying its aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya while the US may deploy its nuclear powered aircraft carrier Nimitz. China had objected to the inclusion of Australia in the Malabar exercise claiming it will militarise the coalition and have an impact on the Indo-Pacific region.

Its warships have stepped

Continued on Page 2

Lift ban on Chhath Puja at public places, Gupta tells Delhi Govt

New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Friday asked the Arvind Kejriwal government to honour the religious sentiments of people and lift the ban imposed on performing Chhath Puja at public places and river banks.

Gupta's assertion comes after the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Tuesday instructed officials to ensure that Chhath Puja this year is not performed at public places, river banks and temples in Delhi in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Delhi government banned Chhath to cover up its failures in making preparations for it. Gupta charged and questioned how would people living in small houses celebrate the festival.

"The Kejriwal government should immediately lift the ban on Chhath Puja

(at public places) honouring the religious sentiments of people and issue an order for it," he said at a press conference. No reaction was immediately available from the Aam Aadmi Party on the issue.

Gupta said 1,068 ghats are registered by Delhi government where Chhath Puja is held but it did not make any preparations for the festival and imposed a ban on it all of a sudden.

"People worship Sun God at river ghats, ponds and other water bodies on Chhath festival. How will people who live in small rented accommodations celebrate the festival?" he questioned.

Delhi BJP general secretary Dinesh Pratap Singh asserted that his party will not allow any injustice with Purvanchalis and demanded that the government allow celebration of Chhath Puja by issuing guidelines.

PTI

Maha infections drop to 4,132, deaths go up to 127

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In marginal fluctuation in infections and fatalities, Maharashtra on Friday recorded 4,132 fresh infected cases and 127 deaths in various parts of the State.

That the Covid-19 situation is very much under control in the state could be gauged from the fact that a day after it logged 4,496 infections and 122 deaths in the state, the infections dropped further by 336, while the deaths increased by five.

With 4,132 fresh infections, the total infections in the state jumped from 17,36,329 to 17,40,461. Similarly, with 127 new deaths, the Covid-19 toll rose from 45,682 to 45,809.

As 4,546 more people were discharged from various hospitals the number of people discharged from the hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 16,09,607.

The recovery rate in the state rose from 92.44 per cent to 92.48 per

cent. With 17 deaths, the Covid-19 in Mumbai climbed from 10,525 to 10,542, while the infected cases rose by 801 to trigger a jump in the total infections from 267,606 to 268,407.

Meanwhile, the number of "active cases" in the state came down one lakh mark as the total cases dropped from 84,627 to 84,082.

The fatality rate in the state stood at 2.63 per cent.

Currently, 8,10,267 people are in home quarantine while 6,177 people are in institutional quarantine.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,40,607 to 3,41,056, while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 7117 to 7131.

Thane district remained in the third spot -- after Pune and Mumbai -- after the total number of infections rose from 2,29,669 to 2,30,262, while the pandemic toll climbed from 5349 to 5361.

Shah likely to visit Manipur to discuss Naga issue

Imphal/Kohima: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to visit Manipur this month to discuss the politically significant Naga issue with various stakeholders, officials said on Friday.

An official of Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said that as a prelude to Shah's visit to Manipur, Assam Finance and Health Minister Hiranta Biswa Sarma hurriedly visited Kohima two days back and held a close door marathon meeting with the Chief Minister.

Though Sarma refused to disclose any point of his discussion with the Nagaland Chief Minister, sources close to the BJP leader said that he was assigned by Shah with the task of studying the political situation in reference to the Naga issue in Nagaland and also hold discussions with various personalities, political parties and groups including civil society groups. Sarma is also the convener of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), a conglomerate of various regional and national political parties of northeastern states.

Before visiting Nagaland, Sarma told the media in Guwahati that the Centre is working towards a final solution of the Naga issue which goes along the unique history and traditions of Naga society.

"I strongly feel if Naga leadership wants to sign the accord, this is the right time. I once again appeal to them that they should sign the agreement and lead Nagaland to a durable solution. The entire northeast is looking forward to it," said Sarma, who is often dealing with various important issues of the northeast region. IANS

Recoveries exceed new Covid cases in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: With the test positivity rate continuing to be under 10 per cent and the daily recoveries exceeding the daily new infections for the past few days, Kerala looks for sunny days ahead as far as Covid-19 pandemic is concerned.

In a statement issued here on Friday by the State Health Minister K.K. Shailaja it said while 5,804 new Covid cases were registered, after 58,221 samples were sent for testing in the past 24 hours, the total recovery was 6,201. IANS

100mn Covid-19...

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After talks with the Government, Poonawalla said he is confident in their plans to get initial vaccines to the vulnerable and frontline workers. The challenge will be in getting it to India's 1.3 billion population, especially in the vast countryside where past inoculation drives have struggled due to patchy health networks.

He said AstraZeneca has a significant edge over a rival candidate from Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE, which this week grabbed headlines after indicating it was more than 90 per cent effective in stopping Covid-19 infections. Expensive cold-chain infrastructure is needed to transport and store that vaccine at -70 degrees Celsius. Poonawalla said it was "just impossible" for most of the world to use at scale, compared to those his company will produce that can be stored at fridge temperatures. "I don't think even 90 per cent of the countries will be able to take it, because you just don't have deep freezers everywhere," he said of the Pfizer shot. "In a pandemic, always remember that simplicity is the key."

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UP begins preparation to stock Covid vaccines

Lucknow: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has started preparing to stock the Covid vaccine when it comes.

Dr AP Chaturvedi, State immunisation officer, said, "We do not know how many vaccine vials will be coming, but the infrastructure will be ready. Construction of depots is going on in 22 districts, while in 27 others, the repair work is in progress."

Two vaccine depots are coming up in Lucknow -- a district depot at the urban health post in Aishbagh and a divisional/state depot near the family welfare directorate in Chowk. Both these facilities are being ramped up.

Dr Rakesh Dubey, director general, family welfare, said, "The focus is on the maintenance of the cold chain and work in this regard is in progress at vaccine depots. The target is to have them ready by December 15."

In Prayagraj, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr G.S. Bajpai said, "We have identified a meeting hall of the Tej Bahadur Sapru (Beli) Hospital as the main vaccine storage centre in the district and its renovation process has begun."

"The district has around 1,365 private hospitals and clinics as well as 130 government hospitals and facilities registered with the CMO office and staff of these would be vaccinated first," he added.

In Meerut division, which comprises six districts of Meerut, Ghaziabad, Noida, Hapur, Bulandshahr and Baghpat, health officials have made adequate arrangements for storing Covid-19 vaccine at the storage centre of the Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College.

Divisional surveillance officer Dr. Ashok Talyani said the medical college can store vaccines for three months at the required temperature. IANS

PM may celebrate Diwali with...

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In this backdrop, the Navy chief reviewed the operational readiness of the force during the visit to Port Blair. It also houses the tri-service command of Army, Navy and IAF.

The Navy said Singh visited INS Baaz, the naval air station located at Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar Island. The visit was aimed to express solidarity with personnel on the occasion of Diwali.

The tri-service command chief Lt General Manoj Pande briefed the Navy chief on the operational preparedness and infrastructure aspects of the Command, including readiness in the prevalent security scenario.

During his interaction with personnel at INS Baaz, the Navy chief acknowledged their contribution in keeping the strategically important base operational at all times. Personnel from Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, DSC and GREF, as well as Defence civilians were present during this occasion.

The geo-strategically located Air Station, INS Baaz, overlooks critical International Sea Lanes passing through the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The airbase supports operations of a multitude of military aircraft, which enable surveil-

lance over the Southern Bay of Bengal, South Andaman Sea, Malacca Straits and the Southern Indian Ocean.

INS Baaz provides Aid to Civil Authorities, including Casualty Evacuation.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Search and Rescue also serves as a supporting base for operational turn-around facilities of ships deployed in the Nicobar Group of Islands.

As regards the Prime Minister's likely visit, it may be mentioned here after assuming charge of the top post in 2014, he celebrated Diwali then at the Siachen Glacier.

Last year, Modi visited Jammu & Kashmir's Rajouri district to celebrate Diwali with soldiers guarding the LoC. The year before, he was in Uttarakhand. In 2017, he spent the festival of lights with soldiers posted at Gurez sector of north Kashmir.

The proposed visit on Saturday will be the second time this year that Modi will interact with troops. In July, he made a surprise visit to a forward post in Ladakh at the height of a border confrontation with China following a clash on June 14 when 20 soldiers died for the country at Galwan Valley. He addressed the troops there.

The proposed visit on Saturday will be the second time this year that Modi will interact with troops. In July, he made a surprise visit to a forward post in Ladakh at the height of a border confrontation with China following a clash on June 14 when 20 soldiers died for the country at Galwan Valley. He addressed the troops there.

Karunya Lalay Kolektar (Aadivasi Vikaas) Jilala Durug (Ch.G.)

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क्रमांक/658/आजा.के./६/प्रयाग-टेल/139/2020-21 दुर्ग. दिनांक 6-11-2020

प्रयास आवासीय विद्यालय जिला दुर्ग में अव्यापन कार्य हेतु फैकल्टी की व्यवस्था के लिए पंचीकृत कार्यालय संस्थाओं से "रुचि की अग्रिमता" का आमंत्रण वर्ष 2020-21

:संचालित निजाति सूचना-

आदिम जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास द्वारा मुख्यमंत्री वाल भविष्य सुरक्षा योजना (यथा संशोधित वर्ष 2017) अंगर्हत प्रयास आवासीय विद्यालय हेतु हाईस्कूल उत्तरी विद्यालय/प्रवेशित/विद्यार्थियों के लिए वर्ष 2020-21 पर 2021-22 के शैक्षणिक सत्र में कामा 11वीं एवं 12वीं के मणित, जीव विज्ञान संकाय की शालेय विकास प्रदान करने के साथ-साथ अधिकल गारकी स्तर तथा साज़ स्तर की इंसानियरिंग तथा मैकेनिकल की परीक्षा यथा जैईई (भैंस/एडवर्स), एम्स, नीट, पीईटी तथा पीएमटी हेतु आयोजित प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी कराए जाने की योजना है।

इसके अंतर्गत निम्नांकित संस्थाओं के लिए "रुचि की अग्रिमता" प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित है:-

क्र. प्रयास विद्यालय का नाम विद्यार्थियों की संख्या (परिवर्तनीय) प्रस्ताव जहां जाता करना का नाम

1. 2 3 4

प्रस्ताव जानलाईन जाता किया जाना है। कार्यालय सहायक विकास द्वारा दुर्ग

1. प्रयास अवासीय विद्यालय जिला दुर्ग (गणित एवं जीव विज्ञान समूह)

प्रस्ताव जानलाईन जाता किया जाना है। कार्यालय सहायक विकास द्वारा दुर्ग

2. निष्ठारित प्रपत्र में प्रस्ताव जानलाईन प्राप्त करने अतिम रिक्ति- 28/11/2020

अपराह्न 5.00 बजे

2. निष्ठारित समय तक अनलाईन प्राप्त करने अतिम रिक्ति- 01/12/2020, अपराह्न 3.00 बजे

3. पात्र पाई गई संस्था का समिति के समक्ष तकनीकी मूल्यांकन - 03/12/2020, अपराह्न 3.00 बजे

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Delhi-NCR air very poor...

From Page 1

Hence, AQI is predicted to remain in the higher end of the "very poor" category to the lower end of the "severe" on Diwali night, it said. A spike in PM 2.5 in the wee hours of November 15 is likely in case of fire-related emissions, it said.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had on Wednesday ordered closure of hot mix plants and stone crushers in Delhi-NCR till November 17 in view of a likely increase in pollution levels during the festive season. It also asked the Governments of Punjab and Haryana to take immediate stringent actions to curb stubble burning and authorities in Delhi-NCR to strictly check biomass burning.

आदिम जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास व्लॉक 4 डी, भूतल इंद्रावती भवन, नया रायपुर (छ.ग.)

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BIO-DECOMPOSER

Use tech to curb farm fire: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said that the Delhi Government will formally file a petition in the AQC (Air Quality Commission) with the impact assessment report and appeal the commission to direct the other States to implement the bio-decomposer technique.

The Chief Minister said the technique, developed by the Pusa Agricultural Institute has been a success, and the impact assessment report across 24 villages in Delhi has shown that around 70-95 per cent of stubble had turned into manure, in as low as ₹30 per acre.

Kejriwal also shared the results of the bio-decomposer technique used in the farmlands in Delhi and urged the Centre and State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh to implement the same technique to prevent stubble burning.



Addressing a digital press briefing, Kejriwal said, "I want to congratulate you all on the occasion of Chhoti Diwali, and I pray to God for you and your family to stay healthy. For the last 10-12 years, the smoke from stubble burning in October and November reaches Delhi and travels across Northern India, which causes massive pollution in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. I would not go into the reasons but people across

North India suffer due to massive pollution from stubble burning every year. I have spoken to farmers across states such as Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, and Haryana, and they are the most distressed due to stubble burning. They suffer the most due to this pollution; just think about all the people living in a village in a state like Punjab, where stubble burning is practiced by the farmers."

In a bid to resolve this problem, they have developed

a bio-decomposer solution to convert the stubble into manure. When a farmer burns stubble, it destroys the good bacteria on the fields as well as the fertility and productivity of the soil. The bio-decomposer solution helps retain the good bacteria and improves the fertility of the soil along with preventing pollution.

"We sought after the Pusa Institute to implement the bio-decomposer technique, which they were experimenting with for 3-4 years.

We sprayed the solution on 2000 acres of farmlands in Delhi free of cost, starting October 13," he said.

"I have with me the report prepared by the scientists of the Pusa Research Institute, assessing the impact of the bio-decomposer technique in 24 villages across Delhi, on a sample basis. This is the physical verification report by the scientists, who visited the locations after 20 days of the solu-

tion being sprayed on the fields," he added.

According to the scientists, around 70-95 per cent of the stubble had decomposed into manure. The CM said, "We talked to the farmers, they are very happy with the results. We have the resolve to stubble burning with us, it is on the governments to act now. Would the other state governments implement it or continue to suffer from pollution?"

The Central Government has constituted an Air Quality Commission to monitor the pollution levels in Delhi-NCR. The Delhi Government will formally file a petition in the AQC with this report and will put forward its appeal for the AQC to direct the other states to implement the bio-decomposer technique. The CM said that he hopes this is the last year when the farmers and the people of these states have to suffer due to stubble burning.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Tourism in association with the Delhi Government is organising a virtual edition of Dilli ki Diwali, a community Diwali Celebration on November 14 to encourage people to celebrate a safe and cracker less Diwali.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia lauded the occasion and said, "We rarely leave any stone unturned when it comes to serving the people of Delhi as we want to provide them the best. 'Dilli ki Diwali' was conceptualised to engage the community and create a landmark event that can initiate a change of habit.

Given the current scenario, we wish to keep the sentiment of being part of a community, and the festival alive, without putting anyone's health in danger."

With an aim to prevent the air quality from deteriorating

Over two crore people, residing in Delhi from various parts of the nation will be a part of this grand Diwali celebration

Jhandewalan. People will be able to perform their own puja alongside the live telecast; strengthening the spirit of the community and establishing an optimistic outlook in these difficult and dark times. In a way, it will be a collective prayer for good health and well-being for all.

The live telecast that will be aired across different channels is for people to experience and participate virtually in the Diwali Puja set in the grand and pristine Akshardham Temple from the safety of their homes. They, too, can perform the rituals of the puja with their families, and friends in their homes, and neighbourhoods.

Keeping the twin purpose of the celebration in mind, 'Dilli ki Diwali' will allow Delhiites to enjoy the festival without adversely affecting the air quality index, and in turn their own health.

'Happiness classes raise students' spirits during lockdown'



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia celebrated Children's Day in a special way by attending a happiness curriculum class with the students of Delhi Government schools. The Deputy Chief Minister also interacted with the students, and discussed the impact of these happiness classes on the students' emotional wellbeing during the lockdown.

It was a virtual class conducted on zoom, and entirely student-led. Piyush Gururani, another student, said, "The mindfulness classes helped me to relax my mind. It took away my boredom," he said.

Similarly, for student Gurmeet Dhanjal from BPS KV, the lockdown helped her embrace mindfulness. She said, "We slowly learnt how to let go of any stress, or anxiety we were holding in. The stories that we engage within our classes teach us how to develop a more positive outlook in life." Dhanjal also said that though she misses going to school, through these classes, she's able to connect with her teachers and fellow students and remember the memories from their physical classes.

It taught me that this phase (of staying at home) is transient, and that I will eventually reunite with my friends." She also added that it taught her to value relationships over materialistic things, especially after seeing a lot of relatives who've lost their jobs during the crisis.

Sisodia said Childrens' Day is celebrated so the guardians, parents, and teachers can reflect on how they can make this world a better place for our children.

"It is especially noteworthy that these happiness classes, which have been happening for two years now, are being conducted in the midst of the Covid crisis, an extremely difficult situation for the students. I am happy to know that our students have now become teachers of the happiness curriculum, by engaging their family members, and even their friends, spreading the message of the class in their own unique way," he said.

The class kicked off with students interacting with Sisodia. The students shared their experiences of the classes creating a positive impact on their everyday lives, which has been spent at home with schools being shut since March.

Harshita Rawat, a student of Sarvoday Kanya Vidyalay (SKV), West Vinod Nagar, has taken to meditation daily for three minutes with her sister, and her mother. She said, "The online classes were a huge source of motivation for me during the lockdown at home."



Women buy jewellery at a shop on the occasion of Dhanteras in Karol Bagh, Delhi on Friday Ranjan Dimri | The Pioneer

RPF officers to be trained at National Police Academy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to ensure better coordination and co-operation between IRPFS (Indian Railway Protection Force Service) and IPS (Indian Police Service) officers when they are posted in the field units, training of IRPFS officers will now be held at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) at Hyderabad.

The IRPFS officers are recruited by UPSC through Civil Services Examination in Railway Protection Force (RPF). The batch strength of IRPFS probationers is about 5-6 every year. They undergo Foundation Courses at LBSNAA, Mussoorie and National Academy of Indian Railways (NAIR), Vadodara, besides undergoing profes-

sional training at Jagjivan Ram RPF Academy at Lucknow, Indian railways said in a statement.

Three batches of IRPFS officers, however, were trained alongside IPS officers earlier in 1998 and 1999 but the arrangement was discontinued in subsequent years, it said.

After inter ministerial consultations between Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Home Affairs, it has now been decided to re-start the initial training of IRPFS Probationers at SVPNPA along with the first phase of training of next batch of IPS Probationers (i.e. 73 RR) starting in the winter of 2020, it said.

The training in SVPNPA will equip the IRPFS officers to manage the railway security more effectively and professionally. This will also ensure

better co-ordination and co-operation between IRPFS and IPS officers when they are posted in the field units.

"The increasing significance of railway security in the national security set-up calls for

better professional competence of the RPF leadership which will be achieved if they train and work together with IPS officers from the start of their careers," the ministry said.

Last Metro on 10 pm tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On account of the Diwali festival, the last Metro train service on Saturday will start at 10:00 pm from terminal stations of all Metro Lines

"The last train on all lines including Airport Express Line (Shahid Sthal — New Bus Adda, Rithala, Samaypur Badli, Huda City Centre, Noida Electronic City, Dwarka Sector-21, Vaishali, Kirti Nagar, Inderlok, Mundka, Kashmere Gate, Raja Nahar Singh (Ballabhgarh), Majlis Park, Shiv Vihar, Botanical Garden, Janakpuri (W), New Delhi and Dwarka Sec-21 Metro stations of Airport Express Line) will start at 10:00 PM," a DMRC spokesperson said. Metro train services will run as usual for rest of the day on Diwali from 06:00 AM onwards on all lines and from 4:45 AM on Airport Express Line.

Virtual 'Dilli ki Diwali' to encourage Delhiites for firecracker-free festival

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Over two crore people, residing in Delhi from various parts of the nation will be a part of this grand Diwali celebration

Jhandewalan. People will be able to perform their own puja alongside the live telecast; strengthening the spirit of the community and establishing an optimistic outlook in these difficult and dark times. In a way, it will be a collective prayer for good health and well-being for all.

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WORLD Diabetes Day

14th Nov. 2020

Get your Blood Sugar checked at nearest Health Facility

Do you know?

1 in 10 people is living with Diabetes

Prevent Diabetes

- Adopt healthy eating habits
- Do regular physical activities
- Maintain normal body weight
- Avoid alcohol & tobacco consumption

Consult a Doctor if you have

- Unusual tiredness
- Unusual thirst & hunger
- Frequent urge to pass urine
- Slow healing of wounds
- Frequent infection

Complications

- Heart diseases
- Kidney failure
- Blindness
- Loss of sensation

Let's Pledge to take Control of our SUGAR LEVEL

National Health Mission, Haryana

Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana
www.prharyana.gov.in @Cmohry @DiprHaryana

WHO to open traditional med centre in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Friday announced setting up of a Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India, a move which Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed as impetus to the alternative drugs which during the Corona crisis have proved to be very effective in boosting immunity.

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the announcement in a video message at an event in which the Prime Minister dedicated two future-ready Ayurveda institutions in Jaipur and Jamnagar to the nation via video conferencing on the occasion of the 5th Ayurveda Day.

The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar (Gujarat) and the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur (Rajasthan) are both premier



institutions of Ayurveda in the country.

In his video message, Ghebreyesus said, "I am pleased to announce that we have agreed to open a WHO Global Centre of Traditional Medicine in India to strengthen the evidence, research, training and awareness of traditional and complementary medicine."

"This new centre will support WHO's efforts to implement the WHO traditional medicine strategy 2014-2023 which aims to support countries in developing policies and action plans to strengthen the role of traditional medicine as

part of their journey to universal health coverage and a healthier, fairer and safer world," he said.

Traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda can play an important role in integrated people-centric health services and healthcare, but they have not received enough attention, the WHO DG said.

Modi said Ayurveda is India's heritage whose expansion entails the welfare of humanity and all Indians will be happy to see that the country's traditional knowledge is enriching other countries.

"It is a matter of pride for all Indians that the WHO has chosen India for establishing its Global Centre for Traditional Medicine. Now work will be done in this direction from India," Modi said.

"I would like to thank the WHO and particularly its Director General Tedros for giving this responsibility to India. I am confident that just like India has emerged as the pharmacy of the world, in the same manner this centre for traditional medicine will become the centre for global well-being," he said.

Stressing on bringing ayurveda knowledge out of books, scriptures and home remedies and developing this ancient knowledge as per modern needs, Modi said new research is being done in the country by combining information received from modern science of the 21st century with India's ancient medical knowledge.

Noting that three years ago, the All India Ayurvedic

Institute was established here, he said Ayurveda is not just an alternative today but one of the key basis of the country's health policy.

Modi informed that work is on to develop the National Sowa-Rigpa Institute for research and other studies related to Sowa-Rigpa in Leh. The two institutions in Gujarat and Rajasthan which have been upgraded are also an extension of this development, he added.

He also called upon the Education Ministry and UGC to find new avenues in disciplines like Ayurveda Physics and Ayurveda Chemistry and urged startups and the private sector to study global trends and demands and ensure their participation in the sector.

Pointing out that during the coronavirus period the demand for Ayurvedic products increased rapidly all over the world, he said exports of Ayurvedic products increased by about 45 per cent in September this year compared to the previous year.

GAVI alliance to use AMC fund for buying one billion Covid vaccine doses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The GAVI alliance said on Friday that the funds for a so-called advance market commitment (AMC) will allow it to buy an initial one billion vaccine doses for 92 eligible countries including India which would not otherwise be able to afford them.

The European Commission, France, Spain, South Korea, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others had in recent weeks pledged another USD 360 million to the AMC, the alliance said, bringing total funding over the USD2 billion target for this year.

However, another USD 5 billion is needed in 2021, to procure Covid-19 vaccine doses as they come through development and are approved by regulators, it said in a statement on Friday.

"We've seen sovereign and private donors from across the

world dig deep and meet this target and help ensure that every country will get access to COVID vaccines, not just the wealthy few," GAVI chief Seth Berkley told reporters, adding that there was an "urgent need" to also finance treatments and diagnostics.

U.S. drugmaker Pfizer and its partner BioNTech, who this week said their experimental COVID-19 vaccine was 90% effective in initial trials, had expressed an interest in supplying doses to the COVAX facility, Berkley said.

"We continue to advance negotiations with a number of manufacturers in addition to those we've already announced who share our vision of fair and equitable distribution of vaccines," he added.

Berkley said USD 5.3 billion was also still needed for diagnostics and USD 6.1 billion for therapeutics by the end of 2021.

Covid-19 hampers India's fight against pneumonia, diarrhoea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 induced disruption of steady health service deliveries like immunisation programmes is threatening some of the progress India has made in ensuring that children under five years of age are protected against pneumonia and diarrhoea through vaccine shot, according to the 2020 annual Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report released recently.

Pneumonia is one of India's biggest killers for children under five. Along with diarrhoea, it claims the lives of over 2.3 lakh children yearly.

Prepared by the International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC) and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the report shows that India has made steady progress in eradicating the diseases through the years.

For instance, said the report, in 2019, India's immunization coverage against pneumococcal pneumonia increased by 9 per

cent and the coverage of Rotavirus Vaccine (RVV) increased by 18 per cent. India's '100-days agenda' to scale up RVV will protect India's birth cohort from life-threatening cases of rotavirus diarrhea.

However, in 2020, Covid-19 is threatening some of the progress made with the disruption of steady health service deliveries like immunization programs in India as well.

The report looked at how countries worldwide were faring based on 10 key interventions—including breastfeeding, vaccination, accessing appropriate health care providers, use of antibiotics, oral rehydration solution (ORS), and zinc supplementation.

While the report shows evidence of great progress in India, it's not all good news, especially on the diarrhea front.

As per the progress report, "India failed to reach all four targets for treatment, but treatment for diarrhea had the lowest coverage in India; only 51 per cent of children received oral rehy-

dration solution (ORS) and only 20 per cent of children received zinc. ORS and zinc, especially when co-packaged together, are highly effective treatments that are proven to reduce deaths from diarrhea in children."

One of the key findings was the need to strengthen our immunization delivery programs, especially in the midst of the pandemic. When health systems are strained, the most vulnerable populations are affected, and in this case, it is the lives of millions of children.

However, nearly every

country included in the report lagged in access to treatments against pneumonia and diarrhea. "While the world focuses on new innovations in vaccines to respond to the Covid-19 epidemic, we cannot afford to lose sight of the millions of children who die from preventable diseases

like pneumonia and diarrhea," IVAC senior advisor and professor in the department of international health, Mathuram Santosham, said.

BJP announces names of State incharges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP Friday night announced names of State Prabhari with BJP General Secretary Bhupendra Yadav given dual charge of Bihar and Gujarat as BJP vice-president Baijant Panda appointment in-charge of Assam and Delhi.

Another General Secretary Arun Singh gets Karnataka and

Rajasthan and party spokesman Sambit Patra takes Manipur.

General Secretary Kailash

Vijayvergia is given crucial state of West Bengal and UP is to Radhakrishnan Mohan Singh.

Similarly, sensitive J & K

been put in-charge of party GS Tarun Chug who is also to look after Ladakh.

Similarly, P Murlidhar

(MP), CT Ravi (Maharashtra),

Dileep Saikia (Jharkhand), CP Radhakrishnan (Kerala), Vinod Tawade (Haryana), V

Murlidhar (Andhra Pradesh)

and D Purandeshwari (Chhattisgarh) have been appointed in-charge of the

respective states by BJP president JP Nadda.

CBI arrests two I-T inspectors for bribery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday arrested two inspectors of the Income Tax Department on Friday from Hyderabad in a bribery case.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested two Inspectors of Income Tax, Aayaker Bhavan, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad on the allegations of accepting bribe of ₹80,000," the CBI said in a statement.

The arrests came after the agency registered a case against an Income Tax Inspector on the allegations that the accused demanded a bribe of ₹80,000 from the complainant for closing an Income tax matter pending against the complainant.

The then CBI laid a trap and caught the accused and also another Inspector of Income Tax while accepting the bribe of ₹ 30,000 and ₹ 50,000 respectively.

Searches at the premises of the accused persons led to recovery of incriminating documents and cash of about ₹5,00,000.

Both the arrested accused are being produced before the Special Judge for CBI Cases, Hyderabad, it said.

The arrested Income Tax Inspectors are Thota Purushotham Rao and Itta Upender Rao.

Meanwhile, the agency has registered a case against the then AGM, Regional Office, Syndicate Bank, Nizamabad; two former Chief Managers of Syndicate Bank, Chanda Nagar, Hyderabad and others including private persons and unknown persons.

It was alleged that a civil ₹ 5 crore as working capital and a similar amount as Bank Guarantee during the period 2016-17 to meet the expenses of his contract works.

According to farmers' leaders, centre has not given any assurance for resumption of goods train services in the state. Farmers' leaders said they will

Farmers' outfits meet Ministers to end stalemate over farm laws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

now hold a meeting in Chandigarh on November 18 to decide their next course of action. Farmers' leaders said that they will observe Black Diwali day on November 14, with continued silent protest at toll plazas and other locations in the state.

After the meeting, Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that in the meeting, it became clear that their demands and government's position are far from a point of reconciliation and can't be resolved immediately. "I'm thankful that they came & I have requested them for more such discussions," he said. "It was assured that the Government of India is always committed to protect the interest of farmers and is always open for discussions for the welfare of farmers.

The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and both sides agreed to continue to hold further discussions," agriculture ministry said in a statement.

According to farmers' leaders, centre has not given any assurance for resumption of goods train services in the state. Farmers' leaders said they will

Follow NGT's pollution protocol: Air quality panel to CPCB, States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Friday directed the top anti-pollution regulator CPCB and States concerned to ensure that National Green Tribunal's directions in view of the prevailing air quality scenario are strictly adhered.

The recently constituted commission said state pollution control boards, committees and other field-level functionaries have also been asked to ensure that there is no lapse in implementation of the NGT's directions.

"In pursuance of the NGT order dated November 9 and considering the concerns of air quality scenario in the NCR and its adverse health impact, the Commission directed CPCB, concerned state governments and authorities for strict compliance of the directions of NGT, with zero tolerance on violation," it said.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) from November 9 midnight to November 30 midnight, saying "celebration by crackers is for happiness and not to celebrate deaths and diseases".

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel had clarified that the direction will apply to all cities and towns in the country where the average of ambient air quality during November 2019 was in 'poor' and above categories.

"There will be total ban against sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers in the NCR from midnight of November 9-10, 2020, to the midnight of

(NCR) from November 9 midnight to November 30 midnight, to be reviewed thereafter," the NGT had said.

"The cities/towns where air quality is 'moderate' or below, only green crackers be sold, and the timings for use and bursting of crackers be restricted to two hours during festivals like Diwali, Chhath, New Year/Christmas Eve etc, as may be specified by the state concerned."

"At other places, restrictions are optional for the authorities but if there are more stringent measures under orders of the authorities, the same will prevail," it had said.

SC asks Telangana to follow NGT order on sale, use of firecrackers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday modified a Telangana High Court order imposing complete and immediate ban on sale of firecrackers in the State during Diwali, saying the directions of National Green Tribunal (NGT) on bursting of firecrackers keeping in mind the pollution level be followed.

The NGT, on November 9, imposed a total ban on sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers in the National Capital Region (NCR) till November 30 midnight.

It had said the direction of complete ban will apply to all cities and towns in the country where the average of ambient air quality during November 2019 was in 'poor' and above categories.

It, however, had said that in cities or towns where air quality is 'moderate' or below, only green crackers be sold.

The vacation bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna issued notice on the plea of TFWDA and said that it cannot stay the High Court's order without hearing the other side.

The plea said the high court order was violative of the right to livelihood of persons involved in the sale and manufacturing of firecrackers.

Fire Workers Dealers Association (TFWDA) in the top court.

The vacation bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna issued notice on the plea of TFWDA and said that it cannot stay the High Court's order without hearing the other side.

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Kodiyeri resigns as Kerala CPM secy

KOCHI: Two days ahead of his 66th birthday, Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, secretary of the Kerala CPI(M) stepped down from the post citing health reasons.

A crisp release issued by the State Secretariat of the CPI(M) on Friday claimed that Balakrishnan has been given leave by the party following his request that he may be relieved from the post of secretary as he needs to undergo medical treatment. Balakrishnan was elected party secretary in 2015.

But the decision to relieve Balakrishnan and entrusting the responsibility to A Vijayaraghavan, described as a sidekick of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, is being seen as

a sequel to the arrest and incarceration of the former's son Bineesh Kodiyeri by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with charges of money laundering and financing narcotics trade by Anoop Mohammed, a Bangalore based drug dealer. Bineesh has been sent to judicial custody after ten days of interrogation by the ED and is put up at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. His bail application would come up for hearing on November 18.

The timing of the CPI(M) to remove Balakrishnan (though leaders and the media release claim it as medical leave) at this juncture, when Kerala is in the midst of election to local self-government bodies have surprised the party cadre. Balakrishnan, who was elected as party secretary in 2015 was known as a tough taskmaster though he was considerate to the genuine needs and requirements of the cadre and allies. It was his tactical move which resulted in the Church dominated Kerala Congress (Mani) group dumping the UDF and joining the LDF recently.

Though Balakrishnan was known for his political acumen, his wife Vinodini and two sons Binoy and Bineesh through their flashy lifestyles proved to be his undoing. Elder son was held up by the Dubai Police in UAE following financial embezzlement to the tune of crores of rupees.

PNS

AIMIM is a vote cutter, says TMC as Owaisi eyes Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) deciding to take a plunge in the Bengal Assembly elections an alarmed Trinamool Congress has called it a "B-Team of the BJP" being put into service for cutting votes of other "secular" outfit.

Hours after Owaisi said that his party was game for contesting the next year's Assembly polls in Bengal senior TMC MP Saugato Roy said Owaisi's was a "vote-cutter" outfit and need not be given much importance.

"Owaisi's party is BJP's 'vote-cutter' party. Why are we giving so much importance to him? This was the third time that he contested elections in minority-dominated zones of Bihar and won 5 seats. What difference will 5 seats make? Also, his party appeals to the Urdu-speaking Muslims. He will not appeal to the Muslims of West Bengal who are mostly Bengali-speaking," Roy said even as another senior TMC leader conceded that MIM could play the spoilsport in Bengal should it become a closely contested election in a Bihar.

"TMC is the most popular and preferred party in the minority belts" --- which impact at least 123 out of 294 seats in the State, a TMC leader from the minority community said adding "our prospects may be hampered if MIM squeezes out 3-4 percent Muslim votes which is not impossible considering the fact that they have won 5 seats in Bihar --- a fact that will use during the poll campaigns in Bengal."

About 24 per cent Muslim voters in Bengal speak Bengali while remaining 6 percent are Urdu-speaking population. The TMC is aware of the fact the BJP would be in the final run put everything to polarize the atmosphere in the State.

China idols affect livelihood of Aligarh idol makers

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The traditional earthen Ganesh And Laxmi are on the verge of extinction because of the tough competition produced by other form China made idol which have flooded the market in Aligarh. These Gods are available in market at very cheap rates. However, in the rural areas and remote areas the traditional earthen Ganesh and Laxmi is still alive and people gave preference to tradition over technology.

On Deepawali occasion, various types of Idols beautifully and grand in looking are available in Aligarh market for sale. On Deepawali earthen Idols of Ganesh and Laxmi are worshipped because earthen idols are considered auspicious and good.

Family of Bhoop Singh in Sasnigate Area of Aligarh starts to make idols from early in the morning. Someone threshes earth/soil and other sieves and prepare soil ready for moulding. Ladies were busy to making the idols of Hanuman, Laxmi, Ganesh, Saraswati, Durga. Besides these they also prepare/make Krishna, Gujaria, elephant, horses, parrot and pigeon toys.

Working on field of Sasani gate one Idol making lady Sunita Devi told that we began manufacturing work a month prior to Deepawali. During rest of days we prepare other toys and statue to carry on our livelihood.

311 recruits inducted into MRC

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ WELLINGTON (NILGIRIS)

Madras Regimental Centre, Wellington, the iconic and oldest infantry battalion in the country saw on Friday induction of 311 young recruits as soldiers into various units of the Force spread across in the forward areas of India. The recruits underwent a year long basic and advanced grueling training in various aspects of the Army.

The attestation (equivalent to passing out parade) was held at the historic drill ground of Srinagesh Barracks situated amidst the picturesque Nilgiri Hills in the Western Ghats.

Brigadier Rajeshwar Singh, commandant, MRC Wellington reviewed the parade and took salute amidst heavy Covid-19 protocol.

Brigadier Rajeshwar Singh, himself a legendary soldier who has been honoured with Shaurya Chakra and Sena Medal, congratulated the recruits and appreciated the instructors and staff for achieving high standards of training and lauded the efforts of MRC to train smart and effective soldiers for Indian Army.

BOLLYWOOD-DRUG MAFIA NEXUS CASE

Arjun Rampal grilled for 8 hours, says 'I have nothing to do with drugs'

Australian friend Paul Bartel arrested

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In fresh trouble that began brewing for Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal ahead of his questioning that lasted for eight-long hours, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday arrested his Australian friend Paul Bartel in the much-discussed Bollywood-drug mafia nexus case.

Hours before Rampal appeared before the investigating agency for questioning, the NCB placed Bartel under arrest in the early hours of Friday. Bartel's arrest had followed an intense grilling that he was subjected to by the NCB on Thursday.

An architect by profession who resides in Bandra, Bartel is said to be Rampal's friend. The actor has known Bartel for a long time. He used to be a regular touch with Agisilos Demetria, the brother of actor's live-in friend Gabriella Demetria.

Rampal's grilling came after two rounds of questioning that the NCB subjected his live-partner Gabriella to, on Wednesday and Thursday.

Agisilos was arrested by the NCB from Lonavala near Pune on October 19. Agisilos is alleged to be a part of a larger drug syndicate operating in Bollywood, which is being investigated after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Forty-seven-year-old Arjun Rampal, who arrived at the NCB

headquarters in the afternoon, was grilled for eight hours in connection with the nature of his links with Agisilos and Bartel, the seizures made during the raid conducted at his Bandra residence for seven hours on Monday, the role of his live-partner Gabriella, a South African model in the nexus with the drug peddlers.

Talking to media persons after the questioning, Rampal said: "I am fully co-operating with the investigations. I have nothing to do with drugs. The medicine found at my residence (during Monday's raid) was prescribed by a doctor. The prescription has been found and handed over to the NCB officials. The NCB officials are doing a good job and I support them in their investigations.

Rampal's grilling came after two rounds of questioning that the NCB subjected his live-partner Gabriella to, on Wednesday and Thursday.

Agisilos' raid on Rampal's residence, the subsequent questioning of Gabriella, Bartel's arrest and Arjun Rampal's grilling should be seen in the context of the arrest of Gabriella's brother Agisilos Demetria made by the NCB in connection with the Bollywood-drug mafia nexus case.

Aligarh: 7,525 kg milk powder seized from paneer plant

BM-II DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, 322, 3rd FLOOR, SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH PLACE, GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI -110001

e-procurement Tender Notice

Sub:- Proposed Bus Terminus Cum Commercial Complex near Shivaji Stadium. SH: Construction of Bus Terminus Cum Commercial Complex near Shivaji Stadium. ID: 2020_NDMC_196562_1 Estimated cost : Rs. 52,82,84,838.00 Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 10.11.2020 Date and time for pre-bid meeting in the office of CE(C-II) Palika Kendra : 17.11.2020 at 3.30 P.M. Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 25.11.2020 at 4.00 P.M. Further details can be seen at <https://www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Note:- (i) To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with application services provider (NIC) is mandatory.
(ii) Kindly note that any change shall be communicated only through e-procurement system.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (BM-II)

The Food Safety Department successfully conducted a raid and arrested an adulterer. The team recovered 7525 kg dry milk powder from the paneer plant operated at Nagalia Gorella in Jattari under Tappal police station area. The paneer was also recovered from the spot. After filling the samples of both, the team sent the samples to Lucknow Lab. The plant operator also supplied paneer to Tappal, Khair in Noida and NCR.



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Sd/-
Executive Engineer (BM-II)



EAST BOUND FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS FROM 14.11.2020 TO 16.11.2020



In order to clear extra rush of passengers during festival season, Northern Railway in coordination with other Zonal Railways has planned to run following East bound Festival Special Trains from Delhi area from 14.11.2020 to 16.11.2020 as per the schedule given below:-

Spl Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Accommodation	Stoppages
LIST OF EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA ON 14.11.2020 (SATURDAY)						
02550	Anand Vihar (T)	06:45	Kamakhya	16:35	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Aligarh Jn, Tundla Jn, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Barpeta Road & Rangiya Jn Stations
04428	Anand Vihar (T)	09:00	Jogbani	13:15	Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn, Barauni Jn, Begusarai, Khagaria Jn, Naugachia, Katihar Jn, Purnia Jn, Araria Court & Forbesganj Stations
04470	Anand Vihar (T)	10:00	Raxaul Jn.	12:15	Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Lucknow, Sultanpur, Varanasi Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn, Sitamarhi Jn, & Sitanmarhi Stations
04434	Anand Vihar (T)	11:00	Jaynagar	13:35	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn, Bakhtiyarpur Jn, Mokameh Jn, Barauni Jn, Samastipur Jn, Darbhanga Jn & Madhubani Stations
04480	Anand Vihar (T)	11:00	Katihar Jn	09:20	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Patliputra & Barauni Jn. Stations
03258	Anand Vihar (T)	13:30	Danapur	07:30	Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Lucknow, Varanasi, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04424	Anand Vihar (T)	15:20	Katihar Jn	19:55	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Kurja Jn, Aligarh Jn, Hathras Jn, Tundla Jn, Firozabad, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn, Aishbagh, Badshahgarh, Barabanki Jn, Gonda Jn, Mankapur Jn, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Mairwa, Siwan Jn, Chhapra, Dighwara, Sonpur Jn, Hajipur Jn, Narkatagan Jn, Bettiah, Sagauli Jn, Bapudham Mothari, Chakia & Mehsa Stations
04030	Delhi Jn	13:45	Muzaffarpur Jn	08:00	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghazabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Gorakhpur, Aligarh Jn, Kausiya, Kibh, Kursela & Karagola Road Stations
09269	Porbandar (via Delhi Jn.)	16:30	Muzaffarpur Jn	18:10	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Abu Road, Marwar Jn., Beawar Ajmer Jn., Jaipur Jn., Bandi Jn., Alwar, Rewari Jn., Gurgaon, Delhi Cantt, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Jn., Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Siswa Bazar, Bagha, Narkatagan Jn., Bettiah, Sagauli Jn., Bapudham Mothari, Chakia & Mehsa Stations
04092	New Delhi	09:20	Jaynagar	11:15	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara & Patna Jn. Stations
04468	New Delhi	11:15	Rajgir	09:20	AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Lucknow (via Sultanpur), Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Chandauli Mjhwr, Bhabua Road, Kudra, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anupgra N Road, Rafiganj & Guraru Stations
02398	New Delhi	12:10	Gaya	03:20	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Aligarh Jn, Kanpur Central, Bharwari, Prayagraj Jn., Vindhya, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Chandauli Mjhwr, Bhabua Road, Kudra, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anupgra N Road, Rafiganj & Guraru Stations
02034	New Delhi	15:50	Kanpur Central	20:45	Executive A.C. Chair Car & A.C. Chair Car	Ghaziaabadi & Etawah Stations
02582	New Delhi	22:35	Manduadih	11:10	First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziaabadi, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn & Gyanpur Road Stations

LIST OF EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA ON 15.11.2020 (SUNDAY)

02550	Anand Vihar (T)	06:45	Kamakhya	16:35	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Aligarh Jn, Tundla Jn, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Barpeta Road & Rangiya Jn Stations
04428	Anand Vihar (T)	09:00	Jogbani	13:15	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved	



Stimulus or not?

It is way too optimistic to believe that the latest infusion of funds into the economy will help India emerge from the pandemic



While it was always felt that India should have gone big with its first stimulus package, some more educated economists believed that the Government was wise to not play its hand too soon. Is it the correct time now for the Government to infuse funds into the economy? It is apparent that officials in the Finance Ministry believe just that with the latest round of prod measures announced by Nirmala Sitharaman. Yet questions remain about their efficacy because of their selective, sectoral appeal. Definitely fertiliser, cement and steel companies as well as those into infrastructure building will be very happy. Also some kind of job creation

is expected. Under this scheme, every establishment that is registered with the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will be incentivised to hire people who were not registered with EPFO earlier as well as those who lost their jobs between March 1, 2020, to September 30, 2020. The Central Government will give a subsidy for new employees for establishments with up to 1,000 employees. Yet, the average income tax payer, the white collar worker, who has been hit the hardest by the pandemic, might still feel hard done by with the few direct relief measures announced. But as the Bihar elections made it very clear that Prime Minister Narendra Modi knows his audience well, so he is ensuring that those in lower income groups get much of the benefits. The Opposition will almost certainly protest but it has not brought any positive ideas to the table either, thus cementing its political irrelevance. One will have to wait and see if this is the spark that the economy needs to recover from months of stasis. Certainly, increased activity in infrastructure and the performance-linked incentives for manufacturing might push up growth curves and bring back jobs across the board. While incentives to clear the housing inventory and step up infrastructure are good, there also needs to be an acceptance by many that the good times of the past will not come back anytime soon. Sales will stay depressed for a while, as will salaries and while there might be some festive cheer about a vaccine, it may be several months, maybe even a couple of years before a reasonable number of Indians receive a shot. The stimulus believes in creating a demand but the consumer will be cautious for some time. However, it is the informal sector that has been the hardest hit and where direct cash transfers are still a patchy proposition. Modi may have spun an electoral magic but without a booming economy, employment and newer opportunities, particularly among the subaltern castes, he cannot sustain his popularity either.

As announced, the stimulus package was said to be of ₹29,87,641 crore (15 per cent of GDP till date) with the Government's contribution being nine per cent of GDP and the Reserve Bank of India's the remaining six per cent. But even if we calculate the account of the extra spend this year, it adds up to only ₹1,18,200 crore which is not even half of what Sitharaman promised. Also this only accounts for 0.6 per cent of GDP. The first package on March 27, the highlight of which was the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, was ₹1.08 lakh crore; the second announcement, which was made over a period of five days in May, added up another ₹1.08 lakh crore to the Centre's fiscal cost and the third package in October had a capital expenditure component of just ₹37,000 crore. Even after adding all the relief measures for the Coronavirus pandemic made by the Government, it would increase the Centre's actual fiscal outgo by under two per cent of GDP in 2020-21. Additionally, the expenditure in the form of production-linked incentives (PLIs) to 10 new sectors amounting to ₹1,45,980 crore will most likely kick in only in the next financial year. However, we all know that things could be a lot worse and in this festive season, we should remember that last Diwali nobody thought we would be here today. We can only hope that Diwali 2021 is the one where the economy and society are both looking up.

Obama's honesty

Former US President calls Rahul Gandhi 'nervous, unformed', reinforcing an image that the Congress leader ought to change



It is not the best of times to be Rahul Gandhi, what with the Congress hitting new lows both electorally and politically and all of it being attributed to his lustreless persona, directionless ideas and unchanging ways. The Gandhi scion continues to lose the battle of perception despite the many image makeovers he might have undergone. But the latest opinion of former US President Barack Obama has definitely done him in. In his new memoir, *Promised Land*, the Democrat leader, who has worked extensively with the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) while in office, made quite uncharitable and unflattering remarks about him.

Basing his observations on a short meeting he had with Rahul in 2017, he described him as having a "nervous unformed quality about him," like a student eager to impress the teacher but "lacking aptitude and passion to master the subject." Considering it comes from a world leader with proven liberal values and one who would be deeply invested in politicians sharing his vision, this comment definitely shows up Rahul as a reluctant leader forced into circumstances and explains much of his recalcitrance and abandonment of Congress affairs after the Lok Sabha debacle of 2019. This lends further grist to criticism about his ability to lead the party again, something that his mother Sonia Gandhi wants. His political opponents and their troll armies have long tried to undermine him, both as a leader of any standing and as a serious critic of the Government by giving him nicknames like "shehzada", "pappu" and so on. Even when he does make valid points, like questioning the Government about the ailing economy, or the plight of women or the poor handling of the pandemic, despite him raising the issue way before it turns into a major crisis for the country, his detractors are dismissive of his voice. Plus, Opposition unity has suffered badly because of his non-serious nature with senior leaders like Mamata Banerjee and Chandrababu Naidu refusing to deal with his immaturity. But this book has just unmoved his efforts at being serious through the year of the pandemic at least. For Obama's words are sincere and precise and unlike the vacuous name-calling by trolls, are actually trenchant, projecting the reality of Rahul as it is. And it rings more true as the former US President had a few good words for the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in comparison. He found him, like former US Secretary of Defence Bob Gates, to be among those who have a "kind of impassive integrity." Clearly, this draws more attention to Singh being the "accidental and silent" Prime Minister, who had to kowtow to the Congress first family. The "told you so" comments are predictably flooding the Internet.

However, Rahul is not the only politician to have been at the receiving end of Obama's biting wit as he has described Russian President Vladimir Putin as "physically unremarkable." This demolishes the carefully constructed belief of the latter being the epitome of hypermasculinity in his country, particularly after his widely-publicised photo shoot in which the bare-chested leader can be seen riding a horse in Siberia, giving him instant mythical status in Russia. He has also compared Putin to "tough, street-smart ward bosses who used to run Chicago." He recalls the former President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy as "bold and opportunistic" with "his chest thrust out like a bantam cock's." And even though he has kind words for the US President-elect Joe Biden and calls him an honest, loyal and decent man, Obama does say that he sensed Biden "might get prickly if he thought he wasn't given his due — a quality that might flare up when dealing with a much younger boss." Obama is not bound by diplomatic niceties of his office anymore but as a statesman, he has made an honest assessment of leadership and left us to deduce what its components should be by exposing shortcomings. If anything, Obama's observation should be Rahul's wake-up call. For his own good.

Requiem for the Congress

To articulate the party's political philosophy when market capitalism increasingly sets the global agenda, the Gandhi siblings need to be familiar with its history



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The outcome of the Bihar Legislative Assembly election seems to suggest that the Indian National Congress is on a course of terminal decline. The familiar qualifying refrain, "barring a miracle", does not seem to apply here given the magnitude of its non-performance. It won only 19 of the 70 seats, which is a shade over 27 per cent, of the 243 it contested. Its utterly poor show pulled down the Rashtriya Janata Dal-led alliance, the *Mahagatbandhan* (MGB), despite the RJD's brave show, emerging as the largest single party with 75 seats, with the BJP a whisker short at 74. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 125 seats against the MGB's 110.

The Congress won a little over 27 per cent of the seats it contested, while the RJD won a trifle above 53 per cent and the three Left parties, which bagged 17 seats — with the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) getting 11 — a little more than 58 per cent. This is a dismal outcome for a party that had led India's struggle for independence from British rule and given the country a stable Government for the first 20 years as a free nation. It enjoyed unchallenged power during this period when it assiduously nurtured India's infant democracy, enabling it to strike deep roots.

Congress leaders have contended that the 70 seats their party contested were in areas where they had traditionally fared very poorly. In the 2010 Assembly polls, the BJP-Janata Dal (United) alliance won 65 of these. They led in 67 of the 70, which were Assembly segments of various Lok Sabha constituencies, in the parliamentary elections of 2019 they fought together. The question of the matter is: Why did the Congress contest these? Why, recognising its pathetic lack of workers and organisational strength on the ground, did it not contest fewer seats and concentrate all its strength in these? Significantly, it had won 27 of the 41 seats it had contested in the 2015 Assembly elections. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that it was ambition-driven optimism, without any basis in reality, that had prodded the party. Obviously, none in the latter's decision-making parlour had read *Macbeth* saying in Shakespeare's play of the same name, "I have no



spur/ To prick the sides of my intent, but only/ Vaulting ambition. Which o'erleaps itself/ And falls on th'other?" And now, lying on the other, the party is alternating between licking its wounds and offering explanations.

The impact of this over-arching strategic blunder was aggravated by several factors. Apart from a few ineffective appearances, the Congress's top leaders like Rahul, Priyanka and Sonia Gandhi were generally missing from the scene. One, however, wonders whether it would have made any difference if they had been more visible and vocal. It is well-known that Sonia Gandhi is ill. While enjoying a certain acceptability among leaders of most Opposition parties, she lacks the command over Hindi required to strike a chord with the masses. This stands out as a major liability *vis-a-vis* Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who can sweep crowds off their feet with his strident oratory and has an uncanny ability to connect with people. It is no secret that it was his speeches in a string of public rallies in the last phase of the campaign that turned the tide in the NDA's favour.

Rightly or wrongly, Rahul Gandhi remains burdened with the "*pappu*" image, an indifferent public speaker, and is seen as a part-time politician who vanishes after periodic appearances, generating much speculation about his whereabouts. The same goes for Priyanka Gandhi. Consider the Hathras

rape incident. The duo burst into the forefront of the movement, demanding justice for the victim and her family, and then dropped out of sight. The argument that they had no occasion to stage another dramatic public appearance does not hold. A successful politician must know how to create such occasions.

This is particularly so because a politician's image is increasingly important in a world where issues are too complex, and their solutions too technical, for ordinary voters to decide between the plans on offer. They tend to vote for the person who, they feel, can deliver. The appearance of capability is an important determinant of a leader's acceptability.

Can Rahul and Priyanka change the way the public seems to perceive them? Images tend to stick to people but can be overcome given foresight, determination, effort and, of course, success. When Indira Gandhi first came to power, she was regarded as a protégé of the Syndicate and a pushover. If memory serves, Ram Manohar Lohia called her a "*gungi Gudiyai*" or a dumb doll. Yet she worsted the Syndicate on the issue of who should India's President be — ensuring the victory of her candidate, VV Giri, over the Syndicate's nominee, N Sanjiva Reddy — swept the Lok Sabha elections of 1971, played a critical role in Bangladesh's liberation and established herself as a widely-accepted national leader. But for the Emergency, which remains a permanent blot on her

escutcheon, she might have been remembered as India's greatest Prime Minister.

Indira Gandhi established her position after becoming Prime Minister. Rahul and/or Priyanka Gandhi have to do so before assuming that office. It will be very difficult to do so through political action because the opportunities a Prime Minister can utilise by virtue of being in power — such as making populist moves like bank nationalisation, which Indira Gandhi resorted to — are not available to those in the Opposition. The latter can utilise the mistakes a Government makes. One, however, needs a certain political stature to lead effective movements against a Government and one cannot gain political stature unless one can lead effective movements.

Stature is critically important. The movement against corruption that, surging through 1973-74, drove Indira Gandhi to the wall and prompted her to resort to the draconian step of declaring the Emergency, was led by Jayaprakash Narayan who, albeit no longer in politics then, was widely respected for his role in the freedom movement, in India's socialist politics, and land redistribution through land gifts (*Bhoodan*) movement.

Can Rahul and Priyanka build up a credible stature for themselves? To start with, they need not disappear from the public eye every now and then, and begin making knowledgeable statements about not only current events but the

Congress's political philosophy and the political, economic, social, cultural and other policies arising therefrom. These have not been adequately articulated in the recent years though the party has moved far away from the resolution adopted at its Avadi session in 1955, calling for the "establishment of a socialist pattern of society where the principal means of production are under social ownership or control" and there is "equitable distribution of the national wealth."

The economic trajectory the party adopted under PV Narasimha Rao's prime ministership, and continued to pursue under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's watch, marked a radical departure from the course advocated at Avadi. The Congress, however, has yet to come out with a comprehensive articulation of its economic policy and its dialectic with concepts of social justice, consumer rights, democracy, the environment and human freedom. Nor has it gone beyond shibboleths and come out with a coherent formulation of its stand on human rights and secularism.

Without a philosophy, a political party lacks a compass for its policies and remains vulnerable to making compromises that, while serving ephemeral, undermine its long-term credibility.

To articulate the party's political philosophy when market capitalism increasingly sets the global agenda, the Gandhi siblings need to be familiar with the history and the ideology of their party as well as the history of political and economic thought, and the contours of various ideologies like Marxism, *laissez faire* capitalism, Hindutva and the principles of integral humanism expounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.

As of now, one cannot visualise them doing so. Nor can one see a credible alternative leadership emerging within the Congress and of the latter becoming an effective political player at the national level. Recall the scant regard paid to the letter to Sonia Gandhi in August by 23 Congress leaders calling for root-and-branch reforms in the party, and their subsequent marginalisation. Without a change, one will be left with sharing William Wordsworth's lament in *On the Extinction of the Venetian Republic*, "Men are we, and must grieve when even the shade/ Of that which once was great is passed away."

(The writer is Consultant Editor, *The Pioneer*, and an author)

SOUND BITE

There are millions who have lost their jobs and livelihoods. Unless money is put in their hands, they will not be able to contribute to the revival of demand and the consequent revival of the economy.

Congress leader
—P Chidambaram

Despite 450 years of exploitative Portuguese rule, Goa managed to keep its culture intact. India was already independent and for 14 years we had continued in exploitative Portuguese rule.

Goa Chief Minister
—Pramod Sawant

We do see the economy continuing on a solid path of recovery, but the main risk we see to that is the further spread of disease here in the US.

US Fed Reserve Chairman
—Jerome Powell

You cannot express in words what fun it is to be back on the golf course or a cricket ground, having fun and playing with friends.

Former cricketer
—Kapil Dev

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Long-term bonds

Sir — On November 12, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a ₹2.65 lakh crore stimulus package to boost the COVID-hit economy. The *Aatmanirbhar Bharat 3.0* stimulus package includes a subsidy scheme to give an impetus to job creation and an additional outlay for the urban housing scheme as well as measures aimed at 26 sectors worst hit by the lockdown. The Government should also revive public sector bakeries to set up big food processing and bakery units in each district of the country and produce packaged food to be served in trains and for mid-day meal programmes.

Huge funds required for setting up such big public sector units in large numbers can be acquired through long-term low interest bonds. The interest should be exempted from taxation. As per the recommendations by the Raja Chelliah Tax Reforms Committee, those with incomes exceeding more than ₹30 lakh should be required to compulsorily invest 20 per cent of their income per annum in these bonds. Apart from generating a huge number of employ-

ment opportunities, the move will profit the public exchequer. **Madhu Agrawal**
Chandni Chowk

Telangana HC steps in

Sir — Responding to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by advocate P Indra Prakash, a division bench of the Telangana High Court, comprising Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan and B Vijaysen Reddy, has ordered the Government to "immediately" impose curbs on the shops selling fireworks throughout the State. The judges observed that festivals do serve an important social function. However, it is the duty of the State Government to ensure that people's lives are not put at risk. This decision comes after States like Rajasthan, Delhi

court need to intervene when it should be the Government, both Central and States, that should work together to find a long-term solution. The idea of a green Diwali is welcome but this won't decrease the level of pollution that we are already witnessing. Strict measures need to be taken and followed through to clean up the toxic air we breathe.

Melville D'Souza

Mumbai

Multi-party Opposition

Sir — India is witnessing a trend of political parties with different viewpoints coming together with the only aim of bringing down the ruling Government. For example, the Samajwadi Party's alliance with Bahujan Samaj Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal in Uttar Pradesh or the Grand Alliance of Rashtriya Janata Dal, Congress and the Left parties in Bihar. Such incoherent groups are not able to present before the electorate any credible alternative. Hence, the BJP continues to draw more votes.

BP Srivastava

Noide

and West Bengal banned the sale of firecrackers, keeping in view the high level of air pollution and the rising number of COVID-19 cases. The problem of air pollution isn't new to India and every winter the conversation around it gains traction only to be forgotten once again. So, why is there no political will to address such a crucial matter? Why does a

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Don't play politics over cracker ban

Many States have come up with their own norms.

Even so, some States, looking at the issue through a selfish lens, are doing a flip-flop



RAJEEV AHUJA

After the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned the sale and bursting of crackers in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) till November 30, firecracker traders in Delhi were up in arms against the Government for having issued licences for the sale of fireworks in the first place. Did the Government not have the foresight to stop issuing licences? It is no secret that the air quality in Delhi-NCR goes for a toss during this time of the year, especially post-Dussehra and Diwali. It doesn't require much insight to see this coming and take preventive action, including non-issuance of licences for firecracker traders. But every year, all Governments deal with it as if it's a new issue. Why is this so? Bursting of crackers during weddings and festivals in India is a long-standing tradition. Hence it is a touchy issue. Any restraint is highly unpopular and has implications for the industry and employment as well. And so, all governments are reluctant to take a clear and tough stand on it. Now, with the country being in the middle of the Coronavirus pandemic, the issue of air pollution has acquired an added seriousness. Health authorities have already warned us that air pollution can aggravate the ongoing crisis. Couldn't the Delhi Government and the governments of the States surrounding the national Capital have anticipated this and shown some foresight?

Outside of Delhi-NCR, the ban by the NGT is applicable in towns and cities where the air quality is in the "poor" category. However, the tribunal allowed the sale and use of "green" crackers in areas where the air quality is "moderate" or "better." But even in such places, the tribunal has restricted the use of firecrackers to only two hours during festivals like Diwali, Chhath, Christmas and New Year's Eve. Many State Governments have come up with their own guidelines, restricting the use of firecrackers. Even so, some States, looking at the issue through a political lens, are doing a flip-flop. The ban has been imposed on both the demand and supply of crackers. On the demand side, it is a pity that some people still need to be stopped from bursting crackers at a time when the contagion has forced us all to reset our lifestyles.

While most people voluntarily exercise restraint, there remains a sizeable section of the population that would need to be restrained. Left to themselves, these people can create havoc for others. Given their mental make-up and their geographical scatter, the demand side enforcement of the ban by Government agencies is likely to be challenging. When looked at from the supply side, the ban has come too late in the day. The stocks that have already been produced will find their way into the market and get sold and used. It shouldn't come as a surprise if compliance remains tepid. The enforcement of the ban has to be made everybody's business. This is where some advance and longer-term planning would have helped.

Bursting of crackers that create so much air and noise pollution has to be treated as a social menace. A negative association between the bursting of crackers and the welfare of the people at large has to be drawn and reinforced time and again. There is a need to create a social norm around it to build pressure against those who resort to the firing of crackers. A collective action needs to be activated against this practice. Further, the law and order agencies need to engage civil society in the monitoring and reporting of violations of the prohibition. This just goes to show that a sophisticated approach is needed for dealing with the issue.

The bursting of firecrackers is only one of the sources of air pollution in major towns and cities and that, too, a transient one. Dealing with the other sources of air pollution such as vehicular emissions, dust from construction sites, burning of solid waste and so forth require a similar approach even before the Graded Response Action Plan kicks in. Some sources of air pollution such as the burning of crop residue don't have affordable technological fixes yet. The Government needs to work closely with research organisations and the industry to get cheap and sustainable technological solutions to the farmers. Where these solutions already exist, the Government needs to facilitate their early adoption by working closely with the industry and civil society.

Dealing with the challenge of air pollution requires changing peoples' choices and practices. This cannot happen without the Government's active engagement with the industry and civil society. Its role is not confined to merely being a referee or a regulator. It has a facilitator's role as well. Further, different layers of Government — Central, State, and local authorities — need to work in tandem. Delhi-NCR is probably the worst-affected by the coordination failure between the different State Governments and offices. This failure is seen across a slew of development challenges. The education system needs to do much more in conditioning children about the interdependence and interconnectedness of various sectors in controlling air pollution. People have to be taught early on about the limits to individual freedom and free will. They have to take socially responsible decisions when their actions adversely affect others. They have to respect the rights of others to clean air and health.

(The writer is a development economist and author)

analysis

07

POINT COUNTER POINT

FAMILY-RUN PARTIES ARE THE BIGGEST THREAT TO DEMOCRACY. THE ONLY MANTRA FOR OUR WIN WAS SABKA SAATH, SABKA VIKAS AND SABKA VISHWAS

—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



LEFT PARTIES DON'T HAVE A DYNASTIC RULE. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW MANY BJP LEADERS' SONS AND DAUGHTERS ARE IN POLITICS IN BIHAR.

—CPI LEADER ATUL ANJAN

Manage land records better

The real constraint lies in discrepancies and the huge pendency of disputes about authenticity and completeness of ownership documents



SUBHASH CHANDRA PANDEY

Providing error-free, tamper-proof and effortlessly accessible land records has been a major and prolonged governance challenge in the country. Land is a State subject and the project for computerisation of land records has been dragging on for decades due to a systemic lack of capacity, will and resources. Under the Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme, the Rural Development Ministry provides financial assistance to States for computerisation of records, survey, resurvey and computerisation of registration of plots. This involves preparation of cadastral maps, record of land rights, tracing changes in the rights and right-holders over time, deeds for registration of property transfers and other plot records.

By July 31 this year, the computerisation of land records was more than 90 per cent complete in 23 States and Union Territories (UTs). Digitisation of cadastral maps was more than 90 per cent done in 19 States and UTs, computerisation of registration was more than 90 per cent finished in 22 States and UTs while integration of the registration office with the revenue office was more than 90 per cent accomplished in 16 States and UTs. This is a historic effort towards rural transformation.

In a major initiative to use drones and satellites to digitally map the entire rural landscape, the Ministry launched a new Central scheme, Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA), on the National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24.

The Geological Survey of India has been asked to create a network of Continuously Operating Reference System (CORS) stations to utilise modern surveying technology. This will be based on global satellite positioning systems and drones for accuracy and real-time data acquisition. SVAMITVA will be gradually implemented to cover all villages (over 6.65 lakh) by March 2024 and one lakh villages have been targeted by March 2021. SVAMITVA is a national scale-up of Haryana's trail-blazing project of mapping villages to create a record of rights for "abadi" (inhabited) areas using a drone survey.

On October 11, an initial batch of one lakh beneficiaries from 763 villages from six States received an SMS link sent on their mobile phone to download their property cards, followed by the physical distribution of these cards by respective State Governments. Each card will have a unique identity number similar to the Aadhaar card. Acceptable proof of property ownership rights plays a big role in a country's development and these property cards would make accessing bank loans easier. This will further loosen the grip of the informal credit system.

SVAMITVA will help start-ups provide drone technology as they will get more business. Real Time Kinematic (RTK) and Post-Processing Kinematic (PPK) drone technologies are to be used for the mapping. The RTK technology uses the real-time satellite navigation technique to enhance the precision of position data derived from satellite-based positioning systems. The PPK technique is used to correct location data after drone data has been captured and uploaded. A number of agri-based start-ups are coming up and the field is ripe for innovation and employment. Drone-based surveillance has already been successfully used for monitoring crowd movement and better traffic management. It is imperative that the SVAMIT-

IT WOULD PERHAPS BE PREMATURE TO THINK ABOUT EVOLVING A MODEL LAND TENANCY LAW OR PROPOSING A COMMON TEMPLATE OF LAND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BY THE CENTRE BUT CERTAINLY A SYSTEM OF SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR ACCELERATING MODERNISATION OF THE RECORD SYSTEM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

VA scheme is not confined to rural areas and is accelerated to include urban areas, too, as fast as the States cooperate. After all, drones and satellites can only help create authentic records of locations. Who owns what rights on a particular piece of land cannot be decided by the technology service provider. So the rather broken mechanism for resolving title disputes needs to be fixed in parallel. That explains why covering all villages is targeted by March 2024.

It would be a big advancement in the governance system if the whole country is digitally mapped and each square metre is assigned a unique identification code. Spinoffs of a unique addressing system are limited only by the imagination. The enormous benefits of the unique addressing system for governance and business will include valuable inputs for distribution of population, homesteads, farmed areas, wetlands, forests and so on and better planning and implementation of projects.

Such a system will be useful in monitoring unauthorised constructions and encroachments as well. Petty corruption and local vested interests that patronise such activities can be checked through randomised selection of inspections by higher authorities.

The real constraint lies in discrepancies and the huge pendency of disputes about authenticity and completeness of land records. It is a big burden on the administrative system and courts. There is no ready central repository of statistics on cases pending with Tehsildars, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, District Magistrates, Divisional Commissioners, Revenue Ministers and Revenue Boards. Over 98 lakh civil cases were pending in

courts on November 12. Of these, 60 per cent were more than one year old, 34 per cent were over three years old and 20 per cent cases were over five years old. How many of them are land related is not known.

The fact that land record digitisation is over 90 per cent complete in 23 States and UTs is heartening but also indicates the enormous challenge that lies ahead. There are just too many departments and agencies involved in management of lands and superstructures thereon. There is an urban-rural divide handled by different Ministries and Departments even as more and more rural areas get commercialised and urbanised. Some areas develop a vested interest in remaining officially "rural" even though these are not just adjacent but deep inside big cities. *Lal Dora* lands in Delhi and "villages" in Delhi-NCR make an interesting study of what is rural and urban in terms of differential regulations and its costs to broader public interest.

Historically, Revenue Departments in States are primary custodians of land management, especially agricultural plots. Forest and urban land management is with the Forest Department, Urban Development Department, municipal bodies and area development authorities. In some States, separate Panchayati Raj departments maintain records of village lands and properties. Then there are special authorities for management of charitable endowments and Waqf properties. Some States have separated survey and settlement functions and given them to specialised agencies.

The Centre has a rather limited role in these transformative reforms as land is a State subject. It provides some financial assistance and shares best practices across the country. Some additional measures are needed to speed up progress. For historical reasons, the land laws rooted in a colonial legacy differ widely across States. Post-Independence laws for implementing abolition of the *zamindari* system, "land to the tiller", rights of share-croppers, land ceiling, consolidation, reforming revenue system have been differently implemented. It would perhaps be premature to think about evolving a model land tenancy law or proposing a common template of land management system by the Centre but certainly a system of special incentives for accelerating modernisation of the record system should be considered.

Annual State rankings may also be considered. States are competing in annual ranking in terms of the Ease of Doing Business (EOB) in the spirit of cooperative federalism. Ease of registering property, ease of verifying title and ease of recording and verifying charges on immovable property are contributory factors for promoting EOBD for corporations and Ease of Living for ordinary citizens.

The need to speed up modernisation of the land records system can hardly be overemphasised. Together with schemes like PM-KISAN and the new agric-reform laws, incentivising digital payments and online trade of farm produce will strengthen the process of gradual formalisation and digitalisation of economic activities and boost officially-recorded economic growth.

(The writer is former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry)



Miles to go before we achieve gender parity

In India, women's struggle to gain working space continues. They form only 19.9 per cent of the total labour force, much below the halfway mark



ARCHANA DATTA

During the present pandemic, a handful of women political leaders earned applause for their effective containment strategies. In a crisis, their humility, inclusiveness, decisiveness and empathy touched the right chord with their beleaguered compatriots. It certainly unsettled the existing presumptions about leadership, which is often associated with "macho" qualities.

Roshee Lamichhane, Professor, Kathmandu University School of Management, rues that "gender stereotyping is deeply ingrained in the very process of child rearing, which, often metamorphoses a girl into a submissive creature, and endows a boy with overbearing character traits." Saira Shah Halim, a social activist, author and film-maker, says that "the school curriculum and textbooks further sustain the rigid construction of gendered roles and condition the young minds with many clichés. For instance, D stands for a doctor, depicting a man, N for a nurse, with the image of a woman and that father goes to office and mother cooks at home and such gender expectations act as a deterrent in nurturing aspirations, choices or freedoms for many girls." She further

says that "even emotional responses are gender-specific, such as aggression, anger and violence are signs of manly behaviour, and consequently, women bear the brunt, despite a host of protective laws, as malefactors often find social support."

The role of socio-religious forces cannot be undermined in fostering an inequitable power play in gender relations. The sacred Hindu literature, *Manu Smriti*, whose tenets still hold sway, spoke of imposing "tight control over women's autonomy" and ordained women to be under the protective care of male guardians like a father, husband and son in different phases of their lives. Festivals like Karva Chauth, Raksha Bandhan, Shiv Ratri, etc are perhaps the outcome of such diktats. Some States in India are now mulling a law against inter-faith marriages or the so-called "love jihad", possibly another attempt to impose a patriarchal writ on sisters and daughters in the name of saving family honour.

The popular entertainment industry is no less responsible in keeping alive gendered myths through its scripts, casting and dialogues. In 2014, a UN-sponsored study in the 10 most-profitable global film industries, including India, found that films often prop up beliefs that masculine traits and behaviour are more valued than feminine ones. In Hindi movies, women were only in 11.9 per cent of the films as central characters (2015-2017), which was only about seven per cent in the 70s, according to a study by the IBM and two Delhi-based institutions.

Researchers from Illinois, New York and Princeton Universities also found that girls as young as six years old tend to believe that brilliance is reserved for men, while a University of Warwick study says that "girls feel the need to play down their intelligence to not intimidate boys, pretending to be less intelligent than they actually are, not speaking out against harassment, and withdrawing from hobbies, sports and activities that might seem unfeminine."

Undoubtedly, trying to live up to such unreal ideas of masculinity and femininity leads to a tragic loss of potential in young people, especially in women.

In the US, women comprise half of the labour force, but only 26 per cent of them are employed in computer and math jobs, and occupy fewer seats in the C-suite than men, particularly in male-dominated professions like finance and technology. They earn almost 60 per cent of advanced degrees, but bring home less pay, due to "occupational sorting", as men go for higher-paying jobs than women. While gender gap in pay is a universal reality, the recent case of the Princeton university paying lesser to its women professors proves that even renowned institutions are not immune to gender prejudices.

In India, women's struggle to gain working space continues, being only 19.9 per cent of the total labour force, much below the halfway mark says the World Bank. Women remain poorly represented in core sectors of the economy like oil and gas (seven per cent), automotive (10 per cent), pharmaceutical and healthcare (11 per cent) and information technology (28 per cent). They earn, on average, 65.5 per cent less than their male colleagues for the same work, says a *India Skills Report 2020*.

In the STEM disciplines, women constitute nearly 43 per cent of the total enrolments but only three per cent enrol in PhD in science and six per cent in engineering and technology. A meagre 14 per cent of them work as scientists, engineers, technologists in research development institutions.

A 2018 IMF study indicated that women are prone to being displaced by technology as they perform more routine tasks, and about 11 per cent of them are likely to suffer from job losses for want of the required STEM skills by 2030. Kelly's Workforce insights reveals that about 81 per cent women in the STEM sector confronted a subtle gender bias in performance evaluations. A large proportion of them felt that they would not be offered top positions and faced exclusion because of the presence of fewer women peers and leaders.

While commenting on prevalence of sexism in academia, Lamichhane says that issues like women's looks and their linkage with career prospects remain contested, but

such a purported perception, often makes an impact on employees' quest to look attractive. This proclivity has gravely impacted the sanctity of meritocracy and commodified the looks of women, while it is not a debatable issue at all for male employees.

Nevertheless, a recent lab research finding on the prehistoric skeletal remains excavated from the Andes Mountains has upset the applecart for gender stereotyping, which confirmed that women in large numbers used to be the big game hunters, and not gatherers alone, demolishing the millennial-old belief. Hasn't this put into question the origin of gender binaries?

Sadly, the WHO and John Hopkins University's joint study affirms the existence of all-pervasive "gender stereotypes around the world regardless of their country's level of development". Yet, many women, known and unknown, dared to defy the status quo and carved a new path for themselves. The milestone for bridging the gender gap may be a century away, a long journey, but not unachievable.

(The writer is a retired Indian Information Service Officer, and a media educator)

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पत्र सं. 730, e-Tender Notice दिनांक: 12.11.2020
Office of the Executive Engineer (M) Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi invited online bid from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No. 13/EE(M)/2020-21
Name of work: Hiring of No. 01. 26 + 1 seated, Model 2017 or later bus for Tiloth Power House Uttarkashi.
Estimated cost: 19,72,206.00 (excluding taxes)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 13.11.2020 at 16:00 hrs.
Last date of submission of bid on website: 04.12.2020 at 16:00 hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Executive Engineer (M)

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during on-going Festival Season, Railways have decided to run the following Festival Special trains as per details given below:-

04121/04122 Prayagraj-Anand Vihar Terminal-Prayagraj Superfast Train

Train No. 04121	STATIONS	Train No. 04122
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
--- 23:25	Prayagraj	22:00 ---
09:05 ---	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:45 ---

Days of run : 04121 Ex. Prayagraj on 22.11.2020 (Sunday) and

04122 Ex. Anand Vihar Terminal on 23.11.2020 (Monday)

Accommodation : AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved);

Stoppages: Fatehpur, Kanpur Central, Tundla & Ghaziabad Stations.

04002/04001 Anand Vihar Terminal-Patna Jn.-Anand Vihar Terminal Express Train

Train No. 04002	STATIONS	Train No. 04001
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
--- 21:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:30 ---
11:30 ---	Patna Jn.	14:30 ---

Days of run : 04002 Ex. Anand Vihar Terminal on 17.11.2020 &

18.11.2020 (Tuesday, Wednesday) and 04001 Ex. Patna Jn. on

18.11.2020 & 19.11.2020 (Wednesday, Thursday)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved);

Stoppages: Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn. & Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn. Stations.

04014/04013 Delhi Jn.-Saharsa-Delhi Jn. Express Train

Train No. 04014	STATIONS	Train No. 04013
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
--- 22:15	Delhi Jn.	19:20 ---
19:55 ---	Saharsa	22:15 ---

Days of run : 04014 Ex. Delhi Jn. on 17.11.2020 (Tuesday) and

04013 Ex. Saharsa on 18.11.2020 (Wednesday)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved);

Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Barauni & Khagaria Stations.

04016/04015 New Delhi -Jaynagar-New Delhi Express Train

Train No. 04016	STATIONS	Train No. 04015
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
--- 23:55	New Delhi	22:00 ---
22:45 ---	Jaynagar	00:35 ---

Days of run : 04016 Ex. New Delhi on 17.11.2020 (Tuesday) and

04015 Ex. Jaynagar on 19.11.2020 (Thursday)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)

Stoppages: Kanpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations.

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 your tickets from Railway Counters or authorised rail 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

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RO No. 738 e-Tender Notice Date: 13.11.2020

Office of Executive Engineer (E&M), Dakpathar Barrage, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below.

e-Tender No 07/EE(E&M)/DKP BRG/2020-21

Name of work: SITC of CCTV surveillance system at Dakpathar Barrage.

Estimated cost (In Lakh): 21.74 (GST extra)

Date of availability of bid Document on website: 14.11.2020

Last date for submission on website: 04.12.2020

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal

["https://uktenders.gov.in".](http://uktenders.gov.in)

Executive Engineer (E&M)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

I-T relief to help realty developers liquidate unsold inventory: Fin Min

New Delhi: The government's move to allow primary or first sale of housing units costing up to Rs 2 crore at a price 20 per cent below the stamp duty circle rate would enable real estate developers to liquidate their unsold inventory and also benefit homebuyers, the finance ministry said on Friday.

The Aatmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday included income tax relief measures for real estate developers and homebuyers for primary purchase/sale of residential units of value up to Rs 2 crore for the period from November 12, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in respect of only primary sale of residential units of value up to Rs 2 crore.

"Consequential relief by increasing the safe harbour from 10 per cent to 20 per cent shall also be allowed to buyers of these residential units under section 56(2)(x) of the Act for the said period," the ministry said in a statement. So far, the law restricted the differential between circle rate and agree-

ment value at 10 per cent.

The I-T relief announced on Thursday would mean that tax would not have to be paid if, for example, the circle rate of a property in Rs 100 and the purchase/sale value is up to Rs 80. Therefore, for these transactions, circle rate shall be deemed as sale/purchase consideration only if the variation between the agreement value and the circle rate is more than 20 per cent.

This relaxation, which is applicable till June 2021, would help builders clear their unsold stock, which is estimated at around 7 lakh units in major seven to eight cities.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said it is sure to provide a breather to the industry. PTI

FHRAI says ECLGS extension is welcome, but hospitality sector needs specific stimulus package

New Delhi: Apex hospitality industry body Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) on Friday welcomed the extension of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) but said the hospitality sector requires specific stimulus package to come out of distress.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday announced the extension of ECLGS till March 31, 2021.

"The ECLGS is the only respite that the hospitality industry has received from the government so far. We cannot stress on this enough; hospitality is not like other industries," FHRAI VP Gurbaxish Singh Kohli said.

He added that it is highly capital- and labour-intensive sector, and without a specific stimulus, the sector will continue to bleed.

Travel, tourism and hospitality are the worst-affected sectors, not only in India but across the world, he added.

"We once again request the government to understand the industry's fragility at present and offer us the much-needed support," Kohli said.

The FHRAI also said the extension offers only a marginal benefit to the industry.

"The government has allowed businesses to avail loan restructuring to help them recover from the hit they took during the lockdown."

The hospitality industry is also eligible for it. PTI

"In order to boost demand in the real-estate sector and to

Insurance policy for treatment of vector-borne diseases like dengue, malaria on anvil

New Delhi: Health and general insurers will soon be permitted to offer specific insurance cover to the public for treatment of vector-borne diseases like dengue, malaria and chikungunya.

Regulator IRDAI on Friday came out with an exposure draft on Standard Vector Borne Disease Health Policy under which general and health insurers will be encouraged to offer such policies for one year.

The objective is to make available a standard product addressing the needs of the public for getting health insurance coverage to specified vector-borne diseases, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said. PTI

NTPC develops Geo-polymer aggregate from fly ash

New Delhi: NTPC Ltd, India's largest power producer has successfully developed Geo-polymer coarse aggregate from fly ash. The development will help in replacing natural aggregates reducing the impact on environment.

NTPC's research project on production of Geo-polymer coarse aggregate from fly ash has met the statutory parameters of Indian Standards and confirmed by National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM).

NTPC has successfully developed Geo-polymer coarse aggregates as a replacement to natural aggregates. The technical parameters as per Indian standards for its suitability to use in concrete works were tested by NCCBM, Hyderabad and the results are in acceptable range. The development is NTPC's R&D achievement in expanding the horizon in ash utilisation.

India's demand for these aggregate touches close to 2000 million metric tons mark every year. The aggregate developed by NTPC from fly ash will help in reducing carbon emission and has great potential for reduction of water consumption.

Sebi lays down uniform structure for imposing fine for non-compliance with disclosure requirement

New Delhi: In order to ensure effective enforcement of continuous disclosure obligations by issuers of listed debt securities, Sebi on Friday came out with uniform structure for imposing fines for non-compliance with disclosure requirements.

The stock exchanges will levy fine and take action in case of non-compliance with continuous disclosure requirements by issuers of listed non-convertible debt securities (NCDs), non-convertible redeemable preference shares (NCRPS) and commercial papers, Sebi said in a circular.

The fine ranging from Rs 1,000-50,000 per day could be levied for non-compliance with disclosure norms related to payment obligations. PTI

in meeting the demand to a great extent and also will reduce the impact on environment caused by natural aggregates which require quarrying of natural stone.

In India, every year, approximately 258 MMT of ash is produced by the coal fired thermal power plants. Out of this around 78% of the ash is utilised and the balance remains unutilised which remain in ash dykes. NTPC is exploring alternate ways to utilise the remaining ash which includes the current research project to generate aggregates using more than 90% ash.

The Geo-polymer aggregates finds its extensive usage in construction industry turning the ash eco-friendly. These aggregates are extremely environment friendly and does not require any cement for application in concrete where the fly ash based Geopolymer mortar acts as the binding agent. The Geo-polymer aggregates will help in reducing carbon emission and has great potential for reduction of water consumption.

India's demand for these aggregate touches close to 2000 million metric tons mark every year. The aggregate developed by NTPC from fly ash will help

Sensex returns to winning mode as bank stocks recover; ends Samvat 2076 with 11 pc gains

Mumbai: Domestic equity benchmarks eked out modest gains on Friday after a day's pause as banking and finance stocks found firmer ground amid mixed global cues. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 85.81 points or 0.20 per cent higher at 43,443. The broader NSE Nifty rose 29.15 points or 0.23 per cent to 12,79.95.

Both the benchmarks closed Hindu calendar year Samvat 2076 with smart gains. The Sensex rallied 4,384.94 points or 11.22 per cent, while the Nifty soared 1,136.05 points or 9.80 per cent. Markets will have a special one-hour Muhurat trading session on Diwali (Saturday) to mark the beginning of Samvat 2077. Bajaj Finserv was the top gainer in the Sensex pack on Friday, rising 3.32 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, SBI and UltraTech Cement.

On the other hand, L&T, HDFC twins, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, TCS and M&M were among the major laggards, slumping up to 2.04 per cent. PTI

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 74.63 a dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.47 and a low of 74.71.

The local unit finally closed at 74.62 against the American currency, registering a rise of 2 paise over its previous close. On weekly basis, the rupee lost 54 paise or 0.72 per cent. PTI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOURA SRINAGAR - 190011 Email: ammoimports@skims.ac.in, Fax: 0194-2403403 IMPORTS SECTION

NOTICE

Subject :- Procurement of State of Art Endoscopy Tower Image 1S (TIPCAM1) Rubina on proprietary basis from M/S Karl Storz SE & Co KG Germany.

SKIMS intends to procure State of Art Endoscopy Tower Image 1S (TIPCAM1) Rubina on proprietary basis from (M/S Karl Storz SE & Co KG Germany) from M/S Karl Storz Endoscopy India Pvt Ltd for the department of Urology SKIMS being their proprietary item as claimed by the company.

In this connection, objections (if any) from companies manufacturing / marketing, such equipment capable of delivering the same result as intended from the above equipment, regarding the proprietary nature of the above item should be communicated within 15 days on the above mentioned email id/fax after which the claim of the company who has claimed for the proprietorship of the said item shall be accepted.

NO: SIMS- 324-Endoscopy Rubina-2020-3578-83-5678-80 Sd/- Asstt. Materials Management Officer Imports.

Indiabulls Integrated Services Limited (CIN: L51101HR2007PLC077999)

Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2020 (Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	3 months ended	Year to date figures for current period ended	3 months ended
		30 Sept 2020 Unaudited	30 Sept 2020 Unaudited	30 Sept 2019 Unaudited
1	Total Income from Operations	47.17	108.32	93.30
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(32.10)	(41.06)	(55.40)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items))	(32.10)	(41.06)	(55.40)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items))	(34.85)	(47.45)	(54.60)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(15.83)	163.85	(810.18)
6	Equity Share Capital	17.87	17.87	17.87
7	Earnings per Share (EPS) before extraordinary items - Basic (Amount in Rs.) - Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(3.94)	(5.86)	(6.13)
8	Earnings per Share (EPS) after extraordinary items - Basic (Amount in Rs.) - Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(3.94)	(5.86)	(6.13)

Notes:
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 13 November 2020.
2) Key Standalone Financial Information:

(Rs. in Crores)

Particulars	3 months ended	Year to date figures for current period ended	3 months ended
	30 Sept 2020 Unaudited	30 Sept 2020 Unaudited	30 Sept 2019 Unaudited
Total Income	0.46	3.54	1.13
(Loss) / Profit before Tax	(23.09)	(30.92)	(5.97)
Net (Loss) / Profit after Tax	(23.09)	(30.92)	(4.97)

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website ([https://www.indiabullsintegratedservices.com](http://www.indiabullsintegratedservices.com)) and on the website of BSE ([https://www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and NSE ([https://www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com)).

Registered Office: Plot No. 448-451 Udyog Vihar, Phase-V Gurugram, Haryana 122016

Place : Gurugram
Date : 13 November 2020

GENERAL MANAGER

ALPHA CORP DEVELOPMENT PRIVATE LIMITED

Registered Office: Upper Basement, Alpha Mall, MBM Farm, GT Road, Sultan Wind, Sub Urban, Amritsar - 143002 (Punjab)

CIN: U45201PB2003PTC045680 Email: secretarial@alphacorp.in, Tel: 0124-4831111, Website: www.alphacorp.in

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

(All amounts in Indian Rupees in lakhs unless stated otherwise)

S. No.	Particulars	Half year ended September 30, 2020 (Unaudited) (refer note 2)	Half year ended September 30, 2019 (Unaudited) (refer note 2)	Year ended March 31, 2020 (Audited)
1	Income from operations			
	(a) Revenue from real estate operations	1,291.24	3,673.53	10,443.25
	(b) Other Operating revenue	111.91	133.71	1,216.24
	Total income from operations	1,403.15	3,807.24	11,659.49
2	Expenditure			
	(a) Cost of land/ development rights	1.14	-	19.00
	(b) Increase/ decrease in project work in progress	621.87	1,914.82	5,692.85
	(c) Project approval charges	2.93	26.88	(30770)
	(d) Employees cost	433.39	795.86	1,614.36
	(e) Depreciation and amortization expense	109.30	110.53	229.12
	(f) Subcontractor, material and labour charges	77.90	47.46	191.46
	(g) Other expenses	313.92	481.85	1,106.59
	Total expenditure	1,560.45	3,377.40	8,545.68
3	Profit/ (loss) from operations before other income, finance costs (1-2)	(157.30)	429.84	3,113.81
4	Other Income	517.98	895.66	1,614.17
5	Profit/ (loss) from operations before finance costs and exceptional items (3-4)	360.68	1,325.50	4,727.98
6	Finance costs	1,876.10	2,598.19	



FATIMA SANA SHAIKH
I am getting work, in spite of people not seen much of my work, which means people have a certain amount of confidence in me. The success of the film is never in our hands but our performance is. If people like it, you will get work. So I am trying hard to deliver my best.



MANUSHI CHHILLAR
It is a super special Diwali for me and my family this year. My family is my biggest anchor and Diwali for me has always been about being grateful for the unconditional love that they shower on me. So, this Diwali became all the more special because I finally got to meet my mother after eight months.



AR RAHMAN
It was a great honour working with such a stalwart. He (Yash Chopra) had this child-like enthusiasm about everything. You expect certain things from such an experienced person, but then he always picks the most innovative idea! He had that extra quality in him to pick new things and yet ground it in tradition.



GURU RANDHAWA
I enjoy the festival of lights. Diwali brings so much of positivity and light in our lives. I remember as a kid, my family and friends in Gurdaspur would light up with candles and lamps. We would wait to step out in the evening to play with our friends. It is one of my fondest memories.



DILJIT DOSANJH
We are feeling lucky that our film *Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari* is the first one to release in theatres after the lockdown. I think it has created history in that sense. If the audience will come to watch, then it will again create history. It's a family film, so I hope people would come to watch it.

SHORT CIRCUITS

FESTIVE VIBE 30 MINUTES

LIGHTS WILL GUIDE YOU HOME

The pandemic turns Diwali celebrations into a low key, homely affair for B-Towners as they plan to avoid card parties

Diwali celebrations this year will be a low-key affair for most Bollywood celebrities owing to the ongoing pandemic. For some, the global health crisis has barred them from reuniting with their families in their hometowns. For others, Diwali will be more of a low-key homely affair as they plan to avoid attending big parties to ensure social distancing.

Aparshakti Khurana is rooting for a green Diwali this year owing to health scare of COVID patients. "As much as we all want this Diwali to be like other Diwalis, we have to remember that we are in the middle of a pandemic. Therefore, we should wear masks and take other precautionary measures. Also, I always encouraged a green Diwali but this year the need is more than ever because there are COVID patients for whom pollution can be dangerous. So, being empathetic about the people around us is how we should celebrate this Diwali," he said.

Ishita Dutta will be celebrating the festival of lights at home with family members. "Generally for Diwali there are a lot of parties in the city where friends and families get together but this year is going



to be very different so we are keeping it very low key. We are doing a small pre-Diwali party at home where only family members will be present. We will make sweets at home and decorate the house. Even if we are not going out, we will still dress up at home, light *diyas* and make *rangolis* to keep up with the festive spirit. But we will not burst crackers as I'm totally against it," she said.

For Manav Kaul, this Diwali brings the pain of not being able to meet his fami-

ly in his hometown as he is unable to travel. The actor shared, "Due to the pandemic, this Diwali I can't visit and spend time with my mother, who stays in Indore with my brother. I like Diwali with less noise, so hopefully people won't use loud firecrackers. I will be at home and will cook for my friends. That will be my Diwali with lots of light and good music."

Manma Sharma is missing her mega Diwali shopping and is upset as she won't be able to hug her near and

dear ones while wishing them on the festival owing to social distancing. The singer expressed, "I have always loved Diwali! I love *phooljhari*, sweets and shopping. This time I really missed out on the freedom of shopping due to the pandemic. I did a little bit of shopping but did not enjoy it like I do every year. Another sad part is that I won't be able to embrace my loved ones while wishing them Happy Diwali as I will have to follow social distancing."

The singer added, "I really want this pandemic to go away very soon and once that happens, I would want to celebrate the real Diwali once again."

The celebrations, however, remain unaffected for those who generally stay away from ringing in the festival of lights in a big way. Talking about the same, actor Aahana Kumra shared, "My Diwali will be the same this year apart from the fact that I usually go and visit friends. This year I will be home and I have already done all the lighting, *rangoli* and other decoration to prepare my home. I am not somebody who likes to hop around too much. So this year will be not much different for me." —IANS

ATS HEIGHTS PRIVATE LIMITED

Regd. Off: 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
CIN: U70200DL2010PTC205410; Phone No.: 0120-7111500; Fax No.: 0120-7111550
Email Id: compliances@atsgreens.com; Website: www.atsgreens.com

ANNEXURE I

Format for publishing financial results in newspapers
[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]

(Amount in Lakhs)

Particulars	For the half year ended		For the year ended	
	30.09.2020	30.09.2019	31.03.2020	31.03.2019
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1 Total Income from Operations	1.93	9.35	14.52	19.29
2 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	(17.46)	(93.29)	(223.25)	(721.56)
3 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	(17.46)	(93.29)	(223.25)	(721.56)
4 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	(17.46)	(57.94)	386.00	(21,504.89)
5 Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after Tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)]	(17.46)	(57.94)	386.00	(21,504.89)
6 Paid-up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7 Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(1,452.74)	(1,879.21)	(1,435.28)	(1,821.28)
8 Net worth	(1,451.74)	(1,878.21)	(1,434.28)	(1,820.28)
9 Paid-up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	60,154.07	57,487.65	56,811.75	57,161.37
10 Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares				
11 Debt Equity Ratio*	(41.94)	(30.61)	(39.61)	(31.40)
12 Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) - 1. Basic: 2. Diluted:				
13 Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
14 Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
15 Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.05)
16 Interest Service Coverage Ratio*	(0.00)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.08)

Note:

- a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of half yearly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the half yearly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.
- b) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).
- c) #Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules/AS Rules, whichever is applicable.
- d) *The pertinent items need to be disclosed, if the said disclosure is required as per Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
- e) Previous periods figures have been reclassified wherever necessary.

Getamber Anand

Updesh Singh Tomar

Sd/-
Director

Sd/-
Company Secretary

Date: 12.11.2020

Place: Noida



BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED

CIN: L01403AS1999PLC005741
Regd. Office: Debendra Nagar, Jhoom Basti, P.O. Badarpurghat, Distt. Karimganj, Assam-788803
Corp. Office: 281, Deepali Pitampura, New Delhi-110034
Tel No.: 0361-2464670/71, Fax: +91-361-2464672

Website: www.barakcement.com; E-Mail Id: cs@barakcement.com

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

(Rs. in Lakhs)

PARTICULARS	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
	Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Quarter Ended	Year Ended	Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Quarter Ended	Year Ended
	30.09.2020	30.09.2020	30.09.2019	31.03.2020	30.09.2020	30.09.2020	30.09.2019	31.03.2020
Total income from operations (net)	2,703.84	4,935.07	3,878.32	15,633.13	3,177.15	5,534.26	4,126.20	16,340.14
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	(37.50)	(117.36)	86.27	437.79	121.83	51.14	60.19	140.30
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and extraordinary items)	(37.50)	(117.36)	86.27	437.79	121.83	51.14	60.21	140.30
Net Profit for the period after Tax (After exceptional and extraordinary items)	(37.50)	(117.36)	65.30	422.31	121.83	51.14	39.24	60.74
Total Comprehensive Income for the period	(37.50)	(117.36)	65.30	409.04	121.83	51.14	39.24	594.47
Paid Up Equity Share Capital (face value of Rs. 10/- per share)	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised) Basic : Diluted:	(0.17)	(0.53)	0.29	1.91	0.55	0.23	0.18	2.74

NOTES:

1. The above Unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and have been approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 12th November, 2020. Limited review of the results as required under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation 2015, have been carried out by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com)
3. Figures of the previous period have been regrouped/rearranged, wherever necessary.

Place : New Delhi

Date : 13th November, 2020

For and on behalf of Board
BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED
Sd/-
Kamakhy Chamarria
Vice Chairman & Managing Director

SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN



General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Babita W/o Selender R/o H.No. H-184, Sec. 2, DSIIDC, Bawana, Delhi Age : 35 years, Height : 5'2", Face : Long, Complexion : Wheatish, Build : Thin, wearing grey colour suit and black colour salwar, has been missing since 03.11.2020 from her house. In this regard DD No. 58-A dated 04.11.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Bawana, Delhi.

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

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 24368639,
Tel: 24368638/24368641

SHO : P.S. Bawana, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27752534,
27751949
DP/58610/20

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that a unidentified person Namely: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Vagabond, Age: about 60 years, Height: 5'4", Face: Oval, Complexion : Wheatish, Built: Thin, identification : A Mole on

Wisemore Advisory Private Limited

CIN : U74999HR2017PTC085774

Regd Office : AR1017B, The Aralias, DLF Golf Links, Gurgaon, Haryana-122009

Statement of unaudited financial results for the period ended 30th September, 2020

(Amounts in INR thousand, except share and per share data, unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	6 months ended 30 September 2020		6 months ended 30 September 2019		Year ended 31 March 2020
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
Total Income from Operations	300	1,500	1,800		
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(392,088)	(326,172)	(647,929)		
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(392,088)	(326,172)	(647,929)		
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(392,088)	(326,172)	(647,929)		
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	1,045,036	(326,172)	(1,191,048)		
Paid up Equity Share Capital	869,169	813,342	869,169		
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	895,994	715,834	(149,042)		
Equity component of compulsory convertible debentures	-	-	-		
Net worth**	1,765,163	1,529,176	720,127		
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt*	4,672,182	3,959,041	4,280,198		
Debt Equity Ratio *	2.65	2.59	5.94		
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)					
1. Basic :	(4.81)	(4.02)	(7.94)		
2. Diluted :	(4.81)	(4.02)	(7.94)		
Debenture Redemption Reserve *	-	-	-		
Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	-	-	-		
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	-	-	-		

Disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) and 52(7) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

- Credit Rating: CARE BB (CE)

- Change in credit rating: Rating by Care rating changed to "Under credit watch with development implications"

- Asset Coverage Ratio: 156.43% (March 31, 2020: 126.02%)

- Debt Equity ratio: mentioned above

- Debt Service Coverage Ratio: mentioned above

- Interest Service Coverage Ratio: mentioned above

- Previous due date for the payment of interest/ repayment of principal of non convertible debt securities and whether the same has been paid or not (as on 30 September, 2020)

Previous due date for the payment of interest: None

Previous due date for the payment of principal: None

- Next due date for the payment of interest/ repayment of principal of non convertible debt securities (as on 30 September, 2020)

Next due date for the payment of interest: January 30, 2022

Next due date for the payment of principal: January 30, 2022

- Outstanding redeemable preference shares (Quantity and Value): Not Applicable

- Net Worth * (30 September, 2020 INR 17,65,163) (31 March, 2020 INR 7,20,127)*

- Net profit after tax: mentioned above

- Earning per share: mentioned above

- Debenture Redemption Reserve: NIL (March 31, 2020 - NIL)

- There are no material deviation in the use of proceeds of issue of Non Convertible Debentures from the objects stated in the offer document (Regulations 52(7))

Notes :

1 Ratios have been computed as follows :

- Earning per Share (Basic & Diluted) = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares

- Debt Equity Ratio = (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital + share premium + quasi equity i.e. Short term borrowing but excluding unamortized fees)

- Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, prior period items, tax, extraordinary items and depreciation / Total Interest Expense

- Debt Service Coverage Ratio = [(PAT based on Project Revenues realised + Depreciation + Interest (Interest, Guarantee Fees, other financing costs payable under " Debenture and Project Documents)) / (Interest + Principal Repayment+Guarantees fee.)]

- Asset Coverage Ratio = (Total Assets-Current Liabilities excluding maturities of long term borrowings) / Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders)

* As per Debenture Trust Deed dated 29th March, 2017.

* Networth represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus. Reserves and Surplus includes Debenture redemption reserve, Securities premium account and Profit and Loss account balance.

2 The statement has been prepared in accordance with recognition and measurement principles laid down in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" ("Ind AS 34") as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the "Act") read with Rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and relevant rules issued thereunder and other recognized accounting practices and policies.

3 The company is in the business of Providing management consultancy services. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of IND AS - 108 "Operating Segments".

4 The above reviewed financial results have been approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 12th November 2020.

5 CARE Ratings has assigned long term issuer rating and rating for the outstanding non-convertible debentures of the Company to "CARE BB (CE)" with stable outlook

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Vaishali Nigam Sinha, Managing Director, DIN- 02299472

LACY LIMITED

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS SUNRISE DISTILLERIES LIMITED)

CIN : L15511DL1988PLC021272; Ph. No: 011-27132054

Regd. Off: Registered Office: Flat No. 211, Antish Bhawan 22 KG Marg Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001

Extract of Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter ended on September 30, 2020

(₹ in Lakhs)

Particulars	Standalone					
	Quarter ended (30/09/2020)	Preceding 3 Months Ended (30/06/2020)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (30/09/2019)	Half year ended (30/09/2020)	Year to date figures for the Half year ended (30/09/2019)	Year Ended (31/03/2020)
Total Income from Operations (net)	-	3.29	15.16	3.29	17.50	124.85
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(0.70)	1.37	1.11	0.67	1.98	1.98
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(0.70)	1.37	1.11	0.67	1.98	1.98
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period	(0.70)	1.01	0.82	0.50	1.47	1.98
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	(0.70)	0.01	0.82	0.50	1.47	1.98
Paid-up equity share capital	[Face value Rs. 10 per share]	49.60	49.60	49.60	49.60	49.60
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserves as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous Year)	694.67	695.19	695.91	694.67	695.91	694.17
Earnings per share - (after extraordinary items)- (of Rs. 10/- each)	(0.14)	0.20	0.16	0.10	0.19	0.05
Diluted earnings per share- (after exceptional items)- (of Rs. 10/- each)	(0.14)	0.20	0.16	0.10	0.19	0.05

Notes :

The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Standalone results for the quarter and half year ended on September 30, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on September 30, 2020 are available on the Stock Exchange website www.msei.in and on the website of the Company www.lacylimited.com

The above unaudited results have been taken on record at the board meeting held on November 13, 2020.

For LACY LIMITED

(Formerly Known as Sunrise Distilleries Limited)

Sd/-

Nitish Kumar

Managing Director

DIN: 08307836

Place : Delhi

Date : 13/11/2020

(₹ in Lakhs)

RATHI BARS LIMITED

Regd. Office : A-247, Mohan Co-operative Indl. Estate, New Delhi-110017

Ph. +91-11-43165400

E-mail : contact@rathisteels.com, Web: www.rathisteels.com,

CIN No: L74899DL1993PLC054781

Statement of Standalone Unaudited Results for the Quarter/ Half Year ended 30th Sep., 2020 (₹ in Lacs)

Particulars Quarter Ended Half Year Ended Year Ended

30-09-20 30-06-20 30-09-19 30/09/20 30/09/19 31-03-20

(Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Audited)

1 Total Revenue From operations

2 Net Profit/Loss for the Period (Before Tax)

3 Net Profit/Loss for the Period (After Tax)

4 Total Comprehensive Income

5 Equity Share Capital

6 Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserves)

7 Earning Per Share(of Rs. 10 Each)

Basic :

Diluted :

* Not Annualised

1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange's websites i.e. 'www.bseindia.com' and also at the website of the Company at www.rathisteels.com.

2 The Company does not have any Exceptional and Extraordinary item to report during the above periods.

3 The Company has not discontinued any of its operations during the above periods.

4 Tax expenses / Provision for Taxation has been made on annual basis only.

5 The figures of previous year / Quarters have been re-arranged/re-grouped wherever felt necessary.

By order of the Board

For RATHI BARS LIMITED

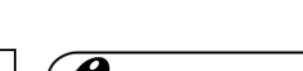
Sd.,

Anurag Rathi

Whole Time Director

DIN : 0063345

(Rs. In Lacs)



Branch Office: ICICI Bank limited, SP- 24, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai-600058

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

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

