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**JOHN ABRAHAM
CHRONICLES
HIS PAIN STORY
10 VIVACITY**

Army enhancing LAC infra as parleys linger

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
In the absence of any breakthrough in the standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh despite several rounds of talks, the Indian Army is rapidly enhancing its infrastructure, including pre-fabricated heated huts to sustain troops in winter months. These upgraded huts have adequate facilities like water and hygiene facilities.

Not willing to take any chances against the backdrop of little progress in reducing tension, the Army over the last few months was ramping up its logistical supplies. This process was undertaken to take care of troops which will remain deployed for the next few months at the LAC in Ladakh.

While the Army has sufficient stocks of winter clothing and boots, it has now completed the ongoing efforts to establish upgraded living facilities for troops deployed in Eastern Ladakh. This area receives up to 40 feet of snow after November every year and where temperatures fall up to minus 30-40 degrees.

The stand-off sites are located at a height of more than 15,000 feet in most of the places in Eastern Ladakh. Due to paucity of oxygen at such heights, the Army has taken precautions to deploy only acclimatised soldiers well versed in surviving at such



Indian Army sets up upgraded living facilities for troops in Eastern Ladakh

heights.

In fact, many additional troops brought to Ladakh after situation worsened in the wake of a bloody brawl in the Galwan valley in June are veterans of the Siachen glacier.

Giving details of the facilities now in place, officials on Wednesday here termed them as "excellent" and said the project was undertaken to ensure operational efficiency deployed in winters in that sector.

They said the altitudes in Ladakh range from High to Super High Altitude. Coupled with the wind chill factor, tem-

peratures dip down to minus 30-40 degrees. In addition, road access also gets affected for brief period of time.

Apart from the smart camps with integrated facilities which have been built over the years, additional state of the art habitat with integrated arrangements for electricity, water, heating facilities, health and hygiene have been recently created to accommodate the troops.

Also, troops in front line are accommodated in heated tents as per tactical considerations of their deployment. In

addition, adequate civil infrastructure has also been identified to cater for any emergent requirements.

Incidentally, the Chinese have also improved their lodging facilities at the LAC as they are also digging in for a long winter deployment. In October, personnel affiliated with state-run Chinese media had circulated visuals of the preparations being made in the region by the Chinese army ahead of winter. This included the provision of solar and wind-power facilities and 24-hour hot water supply.

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Prefabricated heated huts with facilities for troops to sustain winter months set up

Kejriwal calls all-party meet on Covid

Delhi has seen a spurt in number of cases in last couple of weeks; over 660 ICU beds to be added in various Delhi Government hospitals soon

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has called an all-party meeting on Thursday to discuss the Covid-19 situation in the national Capital, which has been seeing a spurt in the number of cases in the last couple of weeks with the city recording 104 deaths in a day on November 12, the highest in five months, officials said on Wednesday.

Also, the CM said, over 660 ICU beds will be added in various Delhi Government hospitals in the next few days for Covid management. Despite such a huge surge in Covid-19 cases, doctors have managed the situation well, Kejriwal said.

Leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), BJP, Congress and other parties have been invited for the meeting.

"The Chief Minister will hold an all-party meeting to discuss the Covid-19 situation in Delhi. The meeting will be held at 11 am on Thursday," an official said.

On Thursday, Kejriwal will hold the all-party meeting to



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during his visit to GTB Hospital to meet Covid-19 patients in New Delhi on Wednesday

discuss the Covid-19 situation in the city, even as Opposition parties said that they would raise issues like "inadequate" testing and press for proper enforcement of precautionary measures.

With medical facilities under strain, as many as 45 doctors and 160 paramedics of the paramilitary forces have also arrived in the national Capital to serve the people.

Delhi has been witnessing a spurt in coronavirus cases since October 28 when daily cases breached the 5,000-mark for the first time. Single-day

rise in cases crossed the 8,000-mark on November 11.

On Tuesday, Delhi record-

ed 6,396 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the infection tally to over 4.95 lakh, while 99 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 7,812. The city had recorded 104 deaths in a day on November 12, the highest in five months.

Interacting with reporters after visiting GTB Hospital in East Delhi along with national Capital's Health Minister Satyendar Jain, the Kejriwal said, "We had a meeting with doctors at GTB Hospital and they have agreed to add 238 ICU beds in the next two days. In all, 663 ICU beds shall be added in various Delhi hospitals in the next few days."

Random testing in Noida for travellers from Delhi begins

PTI ■ NOIDA

Gautam Buddha Nagar health officials were on Wednesday deployed at two key Noida-Delhi borders where they started random Covid-19 testing of people coming from the national Capital.

The random testing of inward coming people was announced by District Magistrate Suhas L Y on Tuesday after a meeting with senior administration and health officials amid a spike in Covid-19 cases in Delhi.

Gautam Buddha Nagar Chief Medical Officer Deepak Ohri said teams of health officials are present at the borders at Delhi-Noida-Direct (DND) flyway and at Chilla — the two key entry points to Noida from the national Capital.

"We are conducting rapid antigen-based tests on people randomly so that traffic movement is not impacted. This is being done to check virus car-

riers and ensure that infection is contained in Gautam Buddha Nagar," Ohri, who was himself present at DND, told reporters.

Several health officials wearing personal protection equipment (PPE) are at the border locations along with policemen where they have set up desks for the rapid antigen-based test, which gives results in 15 minutes. Further action is taken based on the test result.

"If anyone is found positive, they are sent back to Delhi. Only those testing negative are allowed to enter Noida," Ohri said, adding all facilities for test and logistics are available at the borders.

He said a similar campaign will be carried out on Wednesday at Ashok Nagar, adjoining Delhi, and at Botanical Garden Metro Station, in Noida on Thursday.

Suhas had on Tuesday said only a few randomly selected commuters shall be tested.

Continued on Page 2

Twitter submits written apology for 'Ladakh in China' blunder

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Social media giant Twitter has Apologised to a parliamentary committee for wrong geo-tagging of India's map and showing Ladakh as part of China. Twitter has promised to correct the error by the month-end.

The committee's chairperson Meenakshi Lekhi said on Wednesday that the Twitter's submitted an affidavit signed by Damien Karien, Chief Privacy Officer of Twitter Inc.

The Joint Committee of Parliament on Data Protection Bill had slammed Twitter for showing Ladakh as part of China, saying it amounted to treason and had sought an explanation by the US-based parent of the social media platform in form of an affidavit.

In its affidavit submitted before the parliamentary panel, Twitter has reportedly said the issue was "caused due to a software error combined with imperfect data resulting in an incorrect geo-tag."

Continue on Page 2

Avoid indiscriminate use of plasma therapy, warns ICMR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As demand for plasma from recovered Covid-19 patients across the country continues to soar, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Wednesday cautioned that indiscriminate use of Convalescent Plasma Therapy (CPT) for treating virus infection should be avoided, suggesting it did not reduce mortality in Covid patients.

The CPT is one of several investigational therapies being tried in India in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Maharashtra, Odisha and Delhi, the three worst-affected States in India, have not only backed the therapy but have also set up plasma banks as well.

However, the country's apex medical research body did not prohibit its complete use. Instead, it issued Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) on plasma therapy and advised States to desist from its indiscriminate use.

"ICMR conducted an open-label phase II multicen-

tre randomised controlled trial in India across 39 public and private hospitals on use of convalescent plasma in the management of cases with moderate Covid-19 disease (PLACID Trial).

"It was concluded that, CPT did not lead to reduction in progression to severe Covid19 or all cause mortality

in the group that received CPT as compared to the group that did not receive CPT," said the ICMR in its new advisory.

"PLACID is the world's largest pragmatic trial on CPT conducted in 464 moderately ill laboratory confirmed Covid-19 affected adults in real-world setting wherein no benefit of use of CPT could be estab-

Demand for CPT from recovered patients across country continues to soar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Lakshmi Vilas Bank has enough liquidity to pay back its 20-lakh depositors and will complete the proposed merger with the Singaporean lender DBS before the deadline, the RBI-appointed administrator said on Wednesday.

The RBI on Tuesday superseded the Lakshmi Vilas Bank board and placed the 94-year-old Chennai based lender under a 30-day moratorium ending December 16, after its net worth turned negative and a quarter of its advances became dud loans and it failed to get capital despite many attempts.

The regulator also appointed the former non-executive chairman of Canara Bank TN Manoharan as the administrator of the crippled private sector lender for the 30-day moratorium period.

LVB is the third bank to be placed under moratorium since September last year.

Depositors' money safe: Lakshmi Vilas Bank administrator

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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Continued on Page 2



A health worker takes samples from a commuter during a campaign to conduct random Covid-19 rapid antigen-based testing of people coming from the national Capital at Delhi-Noida border on Wednesday

CAPSULE

UNHAPPY CONGRESSMEN FREE TO LEAVE: ADHIR
Kolkata: Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Wednesday slammed party colleague Kapil Sibal over his Bihar poll debacle introspection remark, saying those unhappy with the party's functioning are free to leave instead of embarrassing it in public. Chowdhury stung Sibal for "giving sermons from AC rooms" and said disgruntled members may join other parties or float their own outfits. **P4**

PULWAMA: 12 CIVILIANS HURT IN GRENADE ATTACK
Srinagar: Twelve civilians sustained injuries in a grenade attack by terrorists on a team of security force personnel in Pulwama district of Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday, police said. The incident took place in the Kakapora area of Pulwama, a police official said. He said the grenade missed the intended target and exploded on the road. **P5**

Stolen Ram, Lakshman, Sita idols back from UK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stolen over 20 years ago, three-foot-tall bronze idols of Lord Ram, Lakshman and goddess Sita of Vijayanagara period are now back from the United Kingdom to their home in Tamil Nadu.

Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlad Patel on Tuesday virtually handed over the artifacts to the Tamil Nadu Government at the headquarters of the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) here. The statues were stolen from the Vishnu Temple at Nagapatnam in 1978. They were restored to the Indian Government after a collector voluntarily offered to hand it back on discovering their true history.

The unnamed collector, who had acquired the statues in good faith, was informed about their dubious provenance by the London Met Police. On September 15, London Metropolitan Police handed over the statues to the High



Commission of India, London after they were recovered.

Patel praised the positive role played by the ASI, especially over the last six years, in getting back the masterpieces of the country's cultural heritage.

In August last year, the High Commission of India, London, was informed by India Pride Project that four antique idols of Lord Ram, Goddess Sita, Lakshman and Hanuman, were stolen from a temple built in Vijayanagara period in Tamil

Nadu and smuggled out of India, may be to the United Kingdom.

Forty-three of the 56 artifacts that have been restored after India's Independence were handed during the NDA Government, as per the ASI.

RJD raps Nitish for giving berth to tainted leader, seeks sacking

PTI ■ PATNA

Bihar's main Opposition RJD and its allies on Wednesday attacked Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for appointing JD(U)'s Mewalal Choudhary as the Education Minister even though he faces corruption charges and was suspended from the party over the issue, and demanded he be sacked.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said Choudhary, a former vice chancellor of an agriculture university and a first-time Minister, faces serious charges under the IPC including cheating (section 420), and criminal conspiracy (120B).

"Has Chief Minister Nitish Kumar awarded Mewalal Choudhary for corruption and given him the freedom to loot?" he asked in a tweet.

Continued on Page 2

No major change in Delhi's air this week but mercury to drop

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality is unlikely to see any significant change in the next three to four days, said weather experts and Government agencies on Wednesday.

Although Delhi's air quality deteriorated marginally and was recorded in the "poor" category on Wednesday as a change in the wind direction increased the share of stubble burning in the city's pollution slightly, the AQI is again going to improve to the "moderate" category by Friday owing to favourable wind speed, said VK Soni, the head of the India Meteorological Department's environment research centre.

The IMD said the minimum temperature in Delhi is

predicted to drop to 9 degrees Celsius by Saturday, as cold winds have started blowing from hilly regions, which have witnessed a fresh bout of snowfall. On Wednesday morning, it was 10.6 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal.

The city's air quality index (AQI) was recorded in the "moderate" category in the morning on Wednesday. However, pollution levels increased by a bit as the day progressed. The 24-hour average AQI stood at 211. It was 171 on Tuesday.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good"; 51 and 100 "satisfactory"; 101 and 200 "moderate"; 201 and 300 "poor"; 301 and 400 "very poor"; and 401 and 500 "severe".

Continued on Page 2

Deaths in Maha go up to 100, infections 5,011

By RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After the downward Covid-19 trend witnessed for the past five days, the Coronavirus deaths shot up to 100 on Wednesday, while 5,011 people tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of Maharashtra.

A day after the Covid-19 deaths plunged to 68 deaths and infections dropped to 2840, there was once again a spurt in the deaths and infections in the state.

With 100 fresh deaths reported on Wednesday, the total Covid-19 toll in Maharashtra mounted from 46,102 to 46,202.

Similarly, with 5,011 fresh infections, the total infections in the state jumped from 17,52,509 to 17,57,520.

As 6,608 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 16,30,111. The recovery rate in the state rose marginally from 92.64 per cent to 92.75 per cent.

Of the 100 deaths reported, Pune accounted for a maximum of 19 deaths, followed by 16 deaths in Mumbai, 8 each in Solapur and Nagpur,



7 in Nashik, 6 in Bhandara, 5 each in Thane and Chandrapur, 4 in Satara, 3 each in Raigad, Jalgaon, Beed and Yavatmal, 2 in Palghar and one death each in Nandurbar,

Kolhapur, Sangli, Latur, Osmanabad, Nanded and Buldhana. In addition, one person from outside the state died in Maharashtra.

With 16 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 in Mumbai climbed from 10,599 to 10,615, while the infected cases rose by 871 to trigger a jump in the total infections from 270,660 to 271,531. Meanwhile, the number of 'active cases' total cases rose from 81,925 to 80,221. The fatality rate in the state stood at 2.63 per cent.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases

increase from 3,42,547 to 3,43,213, while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 7176 to 7195.

Thane district remained in the third spot --after Pune and Mumbai -- after the total number of infections rose from 2,31,813 to 2,32,411, while the pandemic toll climbed from 5401 to 5406.

Currently, 7,50,992 people are in home quarantine while 5354 people are in institutional quarantine.

In a related development, out of 99,00,878 samples sent to laboratories, 17,57,520 have tested positive (17.75 cent) for COVID-19 until Wednesday.

Yogi gives credit to people for containing Covid in UP

By P. ■ LUCKNOW

A day after the World Health Organisation (WHO) appreciated the Uttar Pradesh Government for the action taken by it to control Covid-19, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave its credit to the people of the State and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving guidance.



Presiding over a high-level Unlock review meeting at his official residence here on Wednesday, the CM said that many countries and some States of India were now witnessing the second wave of COVID-19 and keeping this in view, a high level of alertness should be maintained and availability of ICU beds should also be reviewed.

Directing officials to strengthen the COVID-19 treatment system, the CM said that contact tracing and surveillance should be continued as before along with an extensive contact tracing of people coming from other states.

The CM said that as long as there was no effective medicine or vaccine for novel coronavirus infection, vigilance was the only protection.

Appealing to the people to celebrate Chhath inside their homes, the CM said that they could perform all the rituals of the festival inside their house by filling water in tubs and large vessels.

The CM also said that the coordinated efforts of Team-11 had given better results and the pace of its work should be con-

tinued in the same manner.

Directing the Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC) to keep operating at full capacity, the CM said that the role of the ICCC was very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

He also asked the officials to conduct Covid testing on a random basis.

Directing officials to implement an effective system at paddy purchase centres so that the farmers did not have to wait to sell their produce, the CM said that arrangement should be made to issue slips to them. He also said that the farmers should get their payments within 72 hours.

The CM also directed officials to assess the damages to crops of the farmers due to excessive rains and make arrangements for giving compensation to the affected farmers immediately.

He also ordered a district-wise review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Uttar Pradesh Labour (Employment Exchange and Job) Commission.

Avoid...

From Page 1

"It is speculated that convalescent plasma having low concentration of specific antibody against SARS-CoV-2 may be less beneficial for treating Covid-19 patients as compared to plasma with high concentration of such antibodies," said the guidance note.

"This ICMR advisory, therefore, embraces the principle that a potential donor for convalescent plasma should have sufficient concentration of antibody working against Covid-19," it added.

The ICMR's advisory noted that a potential donor of CPT can be a male and female—who have never been pregnant can only donate plasma, it said. The donor should be in the age group of 18-65 years who after 14 days of symptom resolution – testing negative for Covid-19 is not necessary, can donate plasma. For the potential recipient, the ICMR said that donor can be in the early stage of Covid-19 and the therapy should be administered between 3-7 days from onset of symptoms, but not later than 10 days. There should be no IgG antibody against Covid-19 by appropriate test and informed consent has to be taken.

It also highlights that presence of antibodies against Covid-19 in a potential recipient makes transfusing convalescent plasma a futile intervention. "CPT, therefore, should only be used, as advised by ICMR NTF, for management of Covid-19 when specific criteria are fulfilled," it said.

The advisory came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting to assess the Covid situation in Delhi wherein it was discussed to issue SoP for plasma therapy and plasma administration for treatment of Covid-19 patients immediately.

5 lakh challans issued to mask rule violators in Delhi

New Delhi: Intensifying their vigil in markets and public places, the Delhi Police issued 1,712 'challans' on Wednesday for violation mask rules, taking the total figure on this count till date to 492,380.

Fines for violating mask rules tops the number of challans issued on various other violations like spitting or social distancing violation.

The total number of challans issued for spitting has been 3,326 and a total of 36,855 challans were issued to those found violating social distancing norms till date, according to the Delhi Police data.

A total of 532,573 challans have been issued for various violations of Covid guidelines.

The Delhi Police is also recording the violation to eliminate any dispute or claim by the offender later. Major emphasis is being kept on busy markets, like Sadaj Bazar, Lajpat Nagar, Sarojini Nagar and many others, which attract heavy footfall.

November is turning out to be the most challenging month for the national capital in managing the Covid-19 pandemic. As the city added a humongous amount of cases and deaths amid the festive season, an alarming 20 per cent of cases and 16 per cent of deaths have occurred in only 17 days of this month so far.

As per official records, 103,228 cases and 1,250 deaths

due to corona have been reported between November 1-16 while 4,147 patients recovered during the same period. Last seven days alone saw 44,210 cases and 823 fatalities.

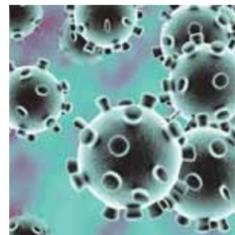


Avoid travelling to Delhi, NCR: Chandigarh admin

Chandigarh: The Chandigarh administration on Wednesday advised the residents of the UT to avoid travelling to the national capital and the National Capital Region (NCR) to prevent themselves from getting infected with coronavirus.

Keeping in view the rising Covid-19 cases in the city and its adjoining states, a strategy to contain the spread has been implemented by the administration by increasing testing, stepping up contact tracing and isolating positive cases, an official statement said.

For people coming back from Delhi, the administration has set up free voluntary testing facility in various hospitals



and dispensaries.

Those travelling by bus will avail the free Covid testing facility at the inter-state bus terminus in Sector 17.

The number of Covid-19 cases has seen a steep spike in the national capital and its adjoining areas in the recent days.

Twitter submits written apology for 'Ladakh...

From Page 1

"In the last few weeks, we have worked towards resolving the geo-tag issue in a manner wherein Leh as well as other cities in the Union Territory of Ladakh will now accurately show with their respective city name, State and country."

"In addition to this, we are also reviewing the geo-tag for various other cities in Jammu & Kashmir. This work is already in progress and we are targeting November 30, 2020 to complete this exercise," it added.

Appearing before the panel, chaired by Lekhi, representatives of Twitter India had "begged apology", but they were told by the members that it was a criminal offence that questioned the sovereignty of the country and an affidavit

must be submitted by Twitter Inc, not by its 'marketing arm' Twitter India.

"Twitter has now given us a written apology on an affidavit for Ladakh being shown in China," Lekhi said.

"They have apologised for hurting Indian sentiments and have sworn to correct the error by November 30, 2020," she added. Twitter had come under heavy criticism and faced a backlash from social media users after its geotagging feature displayed "Jammu & Kashmir, the People's Republic of China" in a live broadcast from Leh's Hall of Fame, a war memorial for fallen soldiers in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The Indian Government on October 22 had warned Twitter about its location set-

ting that showed Leh in China, saying any disrespect towards the country's sovereignty and integrity is totally unacceptable.

Army enhancing LAC infra as parleys linger

From Page 1

At present, more than one lakh soldiers from both the sides are positioned at the 1,700 km long LAC in Ladakh. They are backed by tanks and heavy artillery guns stationed closer to the LAC.

The current stand-off is the first time that soldiers will be deployed in the forward areas of the LAC through Ladakh's harsh winter.

Besides providing state of the art facilities to the troops, the armed forces have also shored up energy supply by ensuring that the fuel dumps at strategic locations in the region are well stocked.

Random...

From Page 1

"This is being done in order to assess the spread of infection and would help in issuing advisories to employers and organisations, where a large number of people work and commute between Gautam Buddha Nagar and adjacent areas, so that the spread of infection is contained to a large extent," he said.

Gautam Buddha Nagar has recorded 20,566 cases of Covid-19 including 73 deaths, with 1,236 active cases, according to official data on Tuesday.

However, Delhi has recorded over one lakh new coronavirus cases and around 1,200 deaths between November 1 and November 16 while nearly 94,000 patients recovered during the same period, according to official data.

The national Capital has witnessed a sudden spike in Covid-19 cases since October 28 when the daily rise breached the 5,000-mark for the first time and it crossed the 8,000-mark on November 11.

No major change in Delhi's air this...

From Page 1

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, stubble burning accounted for eight per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution on Wednesday. It was three per cent on Tuesday.

Around 800 fire points were observed in Punjab, Haryana and western Pakistan. However, their impact on Delhi-NCR's air quality will not be significant, Soni said.

The Central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi also said Delhi-NCR's air quality is likely to remain in the "moderate" and the lower-end of the "poor" category on Thursday and Friday.

On Wednesday, the prominent surface wind direction was northwesterly and the maximum wind speed 10 kmph, it said.

The minimum and maxi-

mum temperatures settled at 10.6 degrees Celsius and 25.4 degrees Celsius respectively.

Delhi's ventilation index — a product of mixing depth and average wind speed — was around 5,000 square metre per second on Wednesday and is likely to be 7,500 square metre per second on Thursday.

Mixing depth is the vertical height in which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed.

A ventilation index lower than 6,000 square metre per second, with the average wind speed less than 10 kmph, is unfavourable for dispersal of pollutants.

The minimum temperature this month, barring on November 16, has remained 2-3 degrees below normal in the absence of a cloud cover, according to IMD officials.

67-yr-old man dies as neighbour's bathroom wall collapses in Delhi

New Delhi: A 67-year-old man died after the bathroom wall of his neighbour's house in South Delhi's Vasant Kunj area collapsed in the lawn of the deceased. His son also sustained severe injuries and has been admitted to the hospital. The owner of the neighbours house, an ex-serviceman, has been arrested.

"The incident happened on Monday when the bathroom wall of the 4th floor collapsed and the debris fell on the lawn of the adjacent house. Two persons who were present in the lawn sustained injuries and both were taken by their relatives to the Indian Spinal Injury Centre where one of them succumbed to his injuries," said DCP South West, Devender Arya.

The deceased has been identified as Partap Singh Tanwar, who along with his son, Sidharth, ran an engineering instrument company.

"The owner of the building, Pankaj Singh, is an ex-serviceman presently working with a private company in Gurugram. He has been arrested in this case," the officer added.

RJD raps Nitish...

From Page 1

Choudhary, 67, was suspended from the Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) in 2017 after an FIR was registered against him over alleged irregularities in appointments during his tenure as the Vice Chancellor of the Bihar Agriculture University, Sabour in Bhagalpur district.

The FIR was registered against him in February that year on the basis of a report by

the then VC over some anomalies in the appointment of Assistant Professors and junior scientists.

The BJP which was in the opposition during the grand alliance Ministry then had strongly raised the issue against Choudhary. Choudhary had left the job to contest the 2015 Bihar polls on a JD(U) ticket and was elected from Tarapur Assembly seat in Munger district. He retained his seat in the just-concluded State polls and has been made the Education

Minister.

The probe has brought to light alleged irregularities in the appointment of 161 Assistant Professors and Junior Scientists in 2012. Tejashwi also took a swipe at the new NDA government for not appointing any Muslim in the cabinet.

They have made an accused, absconding in several cases of corruption, the Education Minister. But there is no minister from the minority community, Tejashwi said.

Depositors'...

From Page 1

First it was the cooperative bank PMC in 2019 and then private sector lender Yes Bank this March. While Yes bank has successfully been revived under the guidance of State Bank, the PMC resolution is still a far cry.

"We're closely monitoring the availability of cash in currency chests and also coordinating with the regulator to ensure that at no branch —

there will be any shortage of currency even if a significant number of depositors turn up to withdraw the permissible amount. "We have the full backing of the regulator to ensure that there is no cash shortfall. Nobody needs to get panicky about the safety of their money," Manoharan told reporters in a concall that lasted over 90 minutes.

Reacting to the development the LVB counter tanked 20 per cent to Rs 12.40 on the

BSE against the benchmark Sensex gaining 0.52 per cent to close above the 44,000-mount for the first time.

Manoharan said LVB has Rs 20,070 crore in deposits as of today, of which Rs 14,000 crore are term-deposits and Rs 6,070 crore savings and current account deposits from 20-odd-lakh depositors. Its loan book stood at Rs 17,000 crore, Manoharan said, adding while deposits have come down to Rs 20,070 crore as of today from Rs

20,973 crore as of September-end, advances have increased to Rs 17,325 crore from Rs 16,622 crore as of September-end.

Manoharan also said that since last evening when the moratorium was clamped the bank saw only Rs 10 crore withdrawal through ATMs.

"There is no run on the bank and the bank has enough liquidity. No depositor need to get worried about the safety of the money," he reiterated.

When asked what makes him so confident of the merger getting through as many institutional investors have already threatened to challenge the RBI proposal to completely write off the value of all LVB shares to zero upon merger and an automatic delisting, Manoharan said the RBI will listen to every stakeholder before coming out with the final merger scheme on November 20 as the current one is only a draft.

"The regulator will hear everybody concerned before issuing the final merger scheme. Also, we will not bypass any regulations. Every regulation will be complied to," he added.

Retail investors own 45 per cent of the bank now but according to the present scheme, stand to lose every penny of their investment. With 4.99 per cent stake, the single largest institutional investor is Indiabulls Housing Finance with which it tried to merge in April 2019 but was scuttled by the RBI in October that year.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग खण्ड-अशोकनगर
क्रमांक 4815/व.ले.लि./2020-21/का.यं.लो.स्वा.यां.वि/अशोकनगर, दिनांक 11.11.2020

निविदा विज्ञापन क्रमांक 108 से 111 /व.ले.लि/ 2020-21

निम्नलिखित कार्य की निविदाएं ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति से पोर्टल <https://www.mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर अशोकनगर जिले के विभिन्न विकासखण्डों के विभिन्न ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत पाईप लाईन, घरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं विद्युत संयोजन कार्य हेतु निविदाएं निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित हैं।

स.क्र.	निविदा क्रमांक /दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	विकासखण्ड	ग्रामों/पञ्चे की संख्या	निविदा की कुल लागत रु. (लाख में)	धरोहर राशि (EMD)	निविदा प्रयत्न का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
1.	108/ 12.11.2020	2020_PHEID_114285_1	अशोकनगर	13	490.79	490792	रु. 15000/-	6 माह वर्षा काल सहित	नवीन केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली
2.	109/ 12.11.2020	2020_PHEID_114268_1	ईसागढ	07	294.33	294326	रु. 15000/-	6 माह वर्षा काल सहित	नवीन केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली
3.	110/ 12.11.2020	2020_PHEID_114304_1	ईसागढ	08	201.39	201393	रु. 15000/-	6 माह वर्षा काल सहित	नवीन केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली
4.	111/ 12.11.2020	2020_PHEID_114307_1	मुगावली	12	233.44	233441	रु. 15000/-	6 माह वर्षा काल सहित	नवीन केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली

निविदा में संशोधन की स्थिति में वेबसाईट पर ही संशोधन देखा जा सकेगा। विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना व अन्य जानकारी उक्त वेबसाईट पर देखी जा सकती है।

ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि : 24.11.2020 17:30 बजे
ऑनलाईन निविदा दर डालने की अंतिम तिथि : 24.11.2020 17:30 बजे
ऑनलाईन निविदा दर खोलने की तिथि : 26.11.2020 11:00 बजे

निविदा फार्म ऊपर दिये वेबसाईट पर (online system) ऑनलाईन भुगतान कर ही क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा एवं उससे संबंधित जानकारी ऊपर दशाई गई वेबसाईट पर देखें।

सदस्य
सचिव जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन तथा कार्यपालन यंत्री,
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग
खण्ड-अशोकनगर जिला-अशोकनगर

G-15615/20 जब तक कोरोना की दवाई नहीं तब तक हिलाई नहीं।

SPECIAL BRANCH
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL
NO.SB/ Store /2020-25 (470), Bhopal, Dated 16-11-2020

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> -

S.No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Deep Search Metal Detector	6	2,000/-	18,750/-	1st Tender
2	Explosive Vapour Detector	6	12,500/-	3,00,000/-	1st Tender
3	BDDS Vehicle	2	10,000/-	1,50,000/-	1st Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)

3. Bios shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

4. **Tender Schedule:**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: sec24-sb@mppolice.gov.in	24/11/2020 up to 1700 hrs.
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	25/11/2020 at 1200 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	07/12/2020 at 1000 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	16/12/2020 up to 1700 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	17/12/2020 up to 1700 hrs.
vi	Demonstration from	22/12/2020 at 1200 hrs.

A.I.G of Police
Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755-2443654

G-15602/20 दो गज दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Lovesh Ahlagh is the owner of Entire First and Second Floor with roof rights of Property no 2827 (old no 1346) Ward No III measuring 115.00 sq.yds.) at Dabhi Wara, Ashok Bazar, Mori Gate, Delhi-06 vide Gift Deed dated 25/9/20 (Doc. No. 5872) executed by Rakesh Alagh and Mukesh Alagh. According to him, he has lost one original Sale Deed dated 30/3/00 (Doc. No. 1648) executed by Jaginder Sethi and Arun Sethi in favour of Rakesh Alagh and Mukesh Alagh being a part of chain of the said property read with FIR dated 17/6/2014. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable) registered or otherwise, gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise however, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan for purchase of the said Property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, CSC, Pkt-E,
Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-110091
Office: 011-43052822
Mobile: 9810063351
E: kamalkantgupta74@gmail.com

Govt to build high-tech unique business park

First-of-its kind business hub will be set up on 150 acre at Rani Khera

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will set up a high-tech business park at Rani Khera on 150-acre land, which will be just 15 minutes drive away from the IGI airport. This first-of-its-kind business park will have various IT services, large size workspaces on every floor, generous landscape, pedestrian plazas, adequate parking facility and high-tech industry services among others.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday

chaired a meeting of the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (DSIIDC) and directed to complete the first phase of this work within the stipulated timeline.

The Government is also working to install modern technology to treat the industrial waste coming out from the treatment plants. Kejriwal directed the officials to conclude all the works in a time-bound manner.

The officials of the DSIIDC presented the detailed plan for

the construction of the business park. Cabinet Minister of Industries Satyendar Jain and other senior officials were also present in the meeting.

The Delhi government will develop this first-of-its-kind business park in seven different phases. The first phase of the work will be completed by 31 August 2022. In the first phase, a multistoried building of 15 lakh square feet would be built.

In the meeting, DSIIDC also presented a detailed report on the various ongoing development projects. In this meeting, the CM directed the officials to ensure that industrial waste coming out from the common effluent treatment plants should be treated with modern technology.



Devotees purchase puja materials for Chhath in New Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

LG's nod for only 50 people at marriage functions in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Anil Bajjal on Wednesday approved the proposal to allow only 50 people to attend wedding functions in the national capital.

The decision came a day after the Delhi Government sent a proposal on Tuesday to the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G), the Government seeking to permit only 50 people to attend wedding functions now against the earlier limit of 200 people.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) also issued a statement saying that in closed and open spaces, a maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity will be allowed with a ceiling of 50 persons. Wearing of face masks, maintaining social distanced provision for thermal scanning

and use of hand wash or sanitizer will continue to be mandatory, it said.

"All protocols as stipulated in 'Standard Operating Procedure' as appended to the DDMA order earlier shall continue to apply in all marriage related gatherings in NCT of Delhi," it added. All District Magistrates of Delhi, their counterpart Deputy Commissioners of Police and all authorities concerned shall ensure strict compliance of this order and shall adequately inform and sensitize the field functionaries about these instructions for strict compliance, it added.

Delhi has witnessed a spurt in novel coronavirus cases since October 28 when the daily rise breached the 5,000-mark for the first time and it crossed the 8,000-mark on November 11.

Cancel Chinese company's contract collecting waste in G'gram, demand Councillors

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Ecogreen, a Chinese company that collects door-to-door waste in Gurugram since 2017, is now in big trouble as the councillors of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) have demanded the cancellation of the waste management company contract during the house meeting of the MCG which took place at Community Centre at Tyagiwada in Badshahpur on Wednesday.

"The contract cancellation demand raised by the councillors has been passed during the house meet. Soon a meeting will be held with the MCG officials and the matter will also be present before the state government, said Mayor, Madhu Azad.

During the meeting the councillors created a huge ruckus over stern action against the Chinese firm and said that the company has not done any work in three years and has not yet set up a waste to energy plant.

"The company had to set up an energy plant within three year and had demanded Rs 700 crore for this in which Rs 200 crore was paid by the corporation but still the plant was not in operation. The councillors of Gurugram have repeatedly voiced their concerns over the operation of Ecogreen. We think they are not doing their job properly. Therefore, in the meeting we have asked the MCG officials to cancel their contract," councillor RS Rathi said.

Apart from this, the Councillors also opposed the payment of Rs 2 crore every month by the Corporation as Faridabad's tipping (garbage)

fees.

The meeting of the House started at 11 am and no agenda could be reached till 1 am, due to two hours of ruckus. The House was able to commence proceedings only after the House agreed to stop all payments of Eco Green Energy.

"Despite spending crores of rupees, the city is not being clean. The cleaning officer and staff are responsible for this. Several stretches are encroached by the encroachers. But action is being taken by the MCG officials," said Councillor Ashwani Kumar.

In the meeting, the councillors raised the issue of not installing street lights, breaking the FD (fixed deposits) of the corporation, spending more than Rs 100 crore, transferring land in the last House meeting to benefit the builders and the possession of hawkers in the street vending zone. Councillors also accused the corporation officials of not considering their issues.

"The waste to energy plant had not been established yet. Councillors asked to stop paying to the company and recover the fine. So, we have decided that Ecogreen will not be paid," the Mayor said.

In August 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies (ULB), Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG), and Municipal Corporation of Faridabad (MCF), Ecogreen Energy Private Limited, in the presence of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for the collection of waste in both districts as well as the operation of the waste-to-energy (WTE) plant in the Bandhwari landfill.

Kejriwal visits GTB hospital to review corona situation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday visited the GTB hospital of the Delhi Government to review the preparedness and facilities in the wake of rising corona cases in Delhi.

The Chief Minister said in a review meeting held with the doctors and the hospital administration, the doctors have agreed to increase the strength of the ICU beds by 232, which means that the

total number of ICU beds in GTB hospital will become 400.

"Around 663 beds will be increased in other Delhi government hospitals in the next few days. Apart from this, with the Centre ensuring 750 additional ICU beds, around 1400 beds will be increased across hospitals in Delhi in the next few days. Even with a huge spike in cases today, the doctors and nurses of Delhi are doing a commendable job for the treatment of corona patients," he said.



Briefing the media after the visit, Kejriwal said, "The corona cases have been rising in Delhi for the past few days, but overall, there is a sufficient number of beds in the hospitals in Delhi. If we leave some

big private hospitals, there are an adequate number of beds available in government and private hospitals. However, there is a dearth of ICU beds in Delhi and we are making efforts to increase ICU beds. I have just convened a meeting with the doctors and the administration of the GTB hospital, the doctors here have agreed to increase 232 ICU beds in the next two days."

Health Minister Satyendar Jain has also convened a meeting with other hospitals, and we

will increase around 663 ICU beds in other Delhi government hospitals in the next few days. "The Central government has assured us that the DRDO will increase another 750 ICU beds in the Central government hospitals, which means that we will have 1400 additional ICU beds in the next few days."

"Firstly, we have to take steps to decrease the number of Corona cases in Delhi, and secondly, we have to provide the best treatment to the Corona

patients in Delhi. I agree that Delhi has the maximum number of Corona cases, but if we look at big cities across the world such as Italy, France, New York, Sweden, etc. the videos that surfaced when there were a high number of daily cases in these cities showed people lying on the roads and they were not able to avail beds in the hospitals. At that time, when New York reported 6300 cases in a single day, there were around 550 deaths. Our doctors have done a commendable job," he added.

Man held for taking ₹6.70 crore home loans on forged documents

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has arrested a man for allegedly taking three home loans worth Rs 6.70 crores by forging the documents of a house that he had taken on rent in one of the post localities in east Delhi.

Police said that the accused identified as Sachin Sharma was arrested on Tuesday and produced before the court.

According to Dr O P Mishra, the Joint Commissioner of Police, EOW, the matter came to notice after owner of the property approached police and registered their complaint against the accused.

"In her complaint, the woman alleged that in 2014, she had given her property at Surajmal Vihar to Rahul Sharma, Sachin Sharma and Mange Ram Sharma on rent

and on its expiry in 2016, both Rahul and Sachin Sharma entered into a lease deed with her and continued to reside as tenants at her property," said the Joint CP.

"In July 2016, the complainant's husband received a call from officials of a finance firm informing them that Rahul Sharma had taken a loan worth Rs. 2.25 Crore against the security of her property and that he is untraceable," said the Joint CP.

"She also discovered later that besides the mentioned loan, Rahul, Sachin and Mange Ram Sharma in connivance with others had also obtained a loan of Rs. 2.19 Crores and Rs 2.25 Crores from a bank and another from finance company respectively against her same property in March-April 2015," said the Joint CP.

"Based on her complaint, a case was registered and during investigation, it surfaced that

accused Sachin in conspiracy with his father Mange Ram Sharma and other accused persons had prepared three parallel forged chain of title documents of the said property at Surajmal Vihar," he said.

"The accused persons also prepared fake Death Certificate in the name of one Rita Babbar to take one of the home loans. Both Mange Ram Sharma and Rahul Sharma took home loans from a bank as well as from two finance company. While Mange Ram passed away in 2015, the home loan taken from one of the finance Company was disbursed," the Joint CP said.

"During investigation, the analysis of bank accounts of Mange Ram Sharma revealed that accused Sachin was operating the accounts of Mange Ram Sharma who died in 2015. Sachin had withdrawn the loan money from the bank accounts of deceased," he said,

Gahlot launches 20 Maruti Eco Vans for women safety

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Transport Minister of Delhi Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday inaugurated the operation of 20 Maruti Eco Vans which have been deputed for enforcement purpose as well as women safety.

"Women Safety especially while travelling through public transport is a major concern these days. Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) operates over 3762 buses on a daily basis through which lakhs of passengers, including several women passengers, commute. To address the concern of Women Safety while travelling in their buses, DTC has deployed Bus Marshals of which a significant number are female marshals, which gives confidence to women passengers as well as their families," office of Gahlot said in a statement.

With the objective to fur-

ther strengthen its enforcement mechanism as well as women safety initiatives, DTC is deploying special enforcement teams who would be conducting checks in the buses plying on various routes at the Terminals and Bus Queue Shelters, it added.

These vans have been provided to DTC under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative by IGL, CCTV, GPS and panic buttons are already being installed in DTC buses. In case of emergency, whenever a panic button is operated, a signal would be sent to Command and Control Centre (CCC) which will be further conveyed to traffic police, ambulance and fire services etc. 'Depot Control Room' (DCR) will immediately depute the nearest Eco van to the spot through Regional Control Room it said.

MoU inked for measures to raise revenue

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government and Centre for Effective Governance of Indian States (CEGIS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday for carrying out a detailed study of measures for State revenue augmentation.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said, "It is an important step in the Delhi Government's resolve to bring in tax reforms. We have tied up with CEGIS who will provide us with high-end analysis to move forward. They will provide us with comprehensive data analysis related to GST, vehicle tax, stamp duty, excise duty, along with comparative state analysis for benchmarking to further improve our tax revenue capacity."

Sisodia said, "The people of Delhi will benefit extensively as based on the outcome of the study, Delhi may see newer tax reforms and enforcement measures in the near future."

The MoU was signed between CEGIS and the planning department, in the presence of Sisodia and Jasmine Shah, Vice Chairperson, Dialogue and Development Commission.

At the meeting, Sisodia said the Delhi Government has given relief to businesses and the citizens of Delhi by taking significant tax reforms since the beginning.

"The Delhi government has faced challenges in increasing its revenues. Therefore, with the long-term MoU, CEGIS will offer technical and analytical support for data analytics, and implementation of policies in priority areas of the government to improve the governance and public service delivery in Delhi, he said.

Reduce Yamuna's pollution by March 2023: CM to DJB

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday

directed the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials to reduce pollution in the Yamuna by 90 per cent by March 2023.

The direction came in a meeting chaired by the chief minister Arvind Kejriwal with the officials of the DJB on swift implementation of a concrete plan to clean the River and reduce pollution.

In the meeting, the DJB officials presented a detailed action plan on the reuse of around 400 MGD, against the existing capacity of 90 MGD of water. Various steps will be taken to improve the quality of the existing 'Sewage Treatment Plant' (STPs) including upgrading all the equipment in the STPs.

Water Minister Satyendar Jain, CEO DJB Nikhil Kumar, and senior officials of the DJB were present in the meeting.

"The DJB gave a detailed presentation on four major interventions devised for the cleaning up of river Yamuna. First, the Delhi government

will set up a modern technology to treat around 150 MGD of polluted water coming from the states of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh by natural wetlands and aeration method. Second, the wastewater in the small or big drains will be tapped into STPs. Third, steps will be taken to improve the quality of the existing STPs including upgrading all the equipment and use innovative processes. Fourth, all the sludge and the septage from the septic tanks across Delhi, will be collected by the DJB and reused in the

bio-gas plants to generate electricity and gas," the government said in a statement.

There are five major outfalls carrying wastewater into the Yamuna, including Najafgarh drain, Shahdara drain, Barapullah drain, Delhi Gate drain, Mori Gate drain. The Najafgarh and Shahdara drain apart from Delhi wastewater also receives polluted water from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The STPs and the drains will be treated as per the Yamuna cleaning plan of the Delhi government to prevent

polluted water to flow into the Yamuna, it said.

The DJB also presented an action plan to reduce 90 per cent of pollution in the river Yamuna by March 2023 and all the steps will have different milestones to be completed by March 2021, 2022, and 2023.

"The STPs treat around 525 MGD of water before it flows into drains, out of which only 90 MGD is reused for different purposes. An action plan to reuse 436 MGD of water against the earlier reuse of 90 MGD has already been presented by the DJB before the CM. This 436 MGD water will be reused in water bodies, lakes, irrigation, gardening, forests, groundwater recharge, etc," it added.



Stubble burning: Atishi writes letter to chairperson of AQC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and MLA Atishi on Wednesday said that she has written a letter to the chairperson of the Air Quality Commission (AQC), showcasing how stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana relates to the increase and decrease in pollution in Delhi.

The instances of stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana have come down to around 100 from 2000-3000,

which has improved the air quality in Delhi, she said, adding that the AAP wants to appeal to the Air Quality Commission (AQC) as well as the Supreme Court to take a suo-moto cognizance of the matter and file cases of criminal negligence against the CMs of Haryana and Punjab, who have put entire North India in a public health emergency.

Addressing the media, Atishi said, "In the last three days, we have witnessed blue skies because the incidents of

stubble burning went down to 2000-3000 to 90-100. It is clear that the toxic haze that the Delhiites face is due to stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana. The question that now arises is who is responsible for taking action on the same."

The AAP leader said that due to the criminal negligence of Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana, the people of Delhi NCR have been suffering for the last 1.5 months from pollution due to stubble burning.

Out of turn promotion for cop for tracing 76 missing kids

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner, DSN Shrivastava, has granted "Out-of-Turn Promotion" (OTP) to Women Head Constable Seema Dhaka posted at Samaypur Badli police station in Outer North District of national Capital.

Police said Dhaka has traced as many as 76 missing children and 56 of them are below the age of 14 years. "She is the first police personnel of the Delhi Police, who has been

given OTP for tracing missing children under the incentive scheme. These missing children have been traced not only from Delhi, but from other states as far as Punjab and West Bengal," said police.

According to Dr Eish Singhal, the Public Relation Officer (PRO), Delhi Police, in order to motivate the police personnel to trace or recover the children, who have gone missing from their home, the CP has issued an incentive scheme on 5th August 2020



which stated that "...any Constable/Head Constable who recovers 50 or more missing children below the age of 14 years (15 children out of them of the age group less than 08 years) within a period of 12 calendar months will be considered for the grant of out of turn promotion."

"Further, those who trace more than 15 children in the same period shall be given 'Asadharan Karya Puraskar'. This order has brought a sea change in tracing or recovery

of missing children and more and more children have been traced since August," said Dr Singhal.

"The police have unequivocally lauded that 1440 children have been traced since August, while the number of missing children 1222 which is far less than recovery. This is possible due to renewed emphasis on tracing missing children by announcing the incentive scheme," said Dr Singhal.

"By recovering the children, the police have not only brought back joy in the aggrieved families, but also prevented a young impressionable mind to be misused or exploited for undesirable activities. These 76 children were reported missing from various police stations of Delhi and Seema Dhaka had put sincere and painstaking efforts and traced them within a span of two and half months from Delhi and other States, said Dr Singhal.

BIHAR POLL DEBACLE

Adhir flays Sibal for introspection call



PNS ■ NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

Infighting within the Congress intensified on Wednesday with Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury slamming party colleague Kapil Sibal over his Bihar poll debacle introspection remark, saying those unhappy with the party's functioning are free to leave instead of embarrassing it in public. He lashed out at Sibal for "giving sermons from AC rooms" and said disgruntled members may join other parties or float their own outfits.

But then even former Finance Minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram went public saying the party may have contested more seats in Bihar than it should have. "The Congress was given 25 seats where the BJP or its allies had been winning for 20 years. The Congress should have refused to contest from these seats."

The party should have fielded only 45 candidates," he said against the backdrop of Congress being billed as the weakest link in the RJD-led mahagathbandhan.

He, however, said: "I am more worried about the by-poll



results in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. These results show that the party either has no organisational presence on the ground or has been weakened considerably."

For his part, wondering why Sibal was not seen campaigning during the Bihar elections, Chowdhury said, "Speaking without doing anything doesn't mean introspection."

"Kapil Sibal could have raised the issues inside a party forum instead of making such embarrassing remarks in public. He is a senior leader and has access to the party's top brass."

"Those who are unhappy with the functioning of the party have the freedom to form a new party or join one if they feel that the Congress is not the right place for them," Chowdhury, a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), told reporters here.

His comments came in the backdrop of Sibal criticising the Congress leadership

for the party's abysmal performance in the Bihar elections, where it bagged only 19 of the 70 seats it contested. Sibal was part of a group of 23 senior Congress leaders who had written to party chief Sonia Gandhi in August, giving suggestions on ways to revive the grand old party.

"He seems to be very concerned about the Congress and its need for introspection. Earlier also he had spoken about it in public. But he was not seen campaigning for the party in the elections in Bihar or other states that went to polls last year."

"Instead of giving sermons sitting in AC rooms, he should work on the ground. Lecturing others without doing anything won't help. Only calling for introspection without doing anything on our own is of no use," Chowdhury said.

Senior Congress leader from Bihar, Tariq Anwar, an AICC general secretary, had earlier called for introspection.

Besides Chowdhury, other senior Congress leaders have also lashed out at those calling for introspection. While Rajasthan Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot had criticised Sibal, saying his statements had hurt the sentiments of party workers across the country, senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid has termed such colleagues "doubting Thomases" and said they suffer from periodic pangs of anxiety.

NIA raids PFI offices in Bengaluru

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at 43 locations in Bengaluru city including four offices of Social Democratic Party of India, political wing of Popular Front of India (PFI), relating to rioting and violent attacks on D J Halli and K G Halli Police Stations in Bengaluru on August 11 this year. The searches yielded incriminating materials including weapons.

The cases pertain to large scale rioting by people armed with lethal weapons causing injuries to police personnel, destruction of public and private property including DJ Halli and KG Halli police station buildings and public and private vehicles. The riot led to fear and panic in the nearby areas and was intended to cause terror in the society.

"During the searches, incriminating materials relating to SDPI / PFI as well as certain instruments for attacks like sword, knife and iron rods among others were seized. The NIA said in a statement here.

Further investigation is going on in both the cases, the agency further said.

So far, 124 accused persons have been arrested in DJ Halli Police Station case and another 169 have been nabbed in connection with KG Halli Police Station case, it added.

The cases, FIR No. 195/2020, DJ Halli Police Station dated August 12 and FIR No. 229/ 2020, Police Station KG Halli of August 12 were re-registered as RC- 34/ 2020/ NIA/DLI and RC-35/ 2020/ NIA/ DLI respectively.

32% jump in daily Covid-19 infections in India in 24 hours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With a 32 per cent one-day jump in the number of new coronavirus infections, India recorded 38,617 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the case load over 89 lakh on Wednesday.

India also saw 474 Covid-related deaths during the period, taking its overall fatalities to 1,30,993. So far, the country has recorded a total of 89.12 lakh Covid cases so far since the January outbreak.

However, in a breather, India's daily Covid-19 recoveries have outpaced the new infections for over 1.5 months now, while less than 50,000 fresh coronavirus cases have been reported for 11 straight days, said the Union Health Ministry.

A total 44,739 COVID-19 patients recovered the previous day as against 38,617 new cases, it said.

This translates to a net reduction of 6,122 in the active Covid-19 caseload which now stands at 4,46,805 and comprises merely 5.01 per cent of the total cases as on date, it said.

"India has continued the



unbroken trend of the daily new recoveries outpacing the daily new additions for more than 1.5 months. The country also reported less than 50,000 new daily cases for the eleventh continuous day," the Ministry said.

"Apart from the successful dissemination of COVID appropriate behaviour among the varied population groups, this trend assumes wider significance as many countries in Europe and America continue to see a surge in their Covid-19 positive numbers," it said.

The total recoveries surged to 83,35,109 on Wednesday, pushing the national recovery rate to 93.52 per cent.

According to the ministry,

10 States and Union Territories (UT) contributed 74.98 per cent of the new recoveries. Kerala saw the highest number of recoveries at 6,620. Maharashtra registered 5,123 daily recoveries, while Delhi reported 4,421 recoveries.

Ten states and UTs contributed 76.15 per cent of the 38,617 new cases. Delhi recorded 6,396 cases, Kerala 5,792 and West Bengal 3,654. Of the 474 fatalities reported the previous day, 78.9 per cent were from 10 States and UTs.

With 99 deaths, Delhi reported 20.89 per cent of the new fatalities followed by Maharashtra (68 deaths) and West Bengal 52.

SC issues notice on pleas against election of Jaishankar to RS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notices on a batch of petitions challenging the election of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Rajya Sabha from Gujarat.

The pleas have also raised the issue of Election Commission's power on issuance of separate notifications for holding by-polls for casual and regular vacancies in Rajya Sabha.

One of the petitions against Jaishankar has been filed by Congress leader Gaurav Pandya.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian took note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal that a date be fixed for hearing these matters.

"We will give you short date and it will be listed on non-miscellaneous day," the bench said in a hearing conducted via video conferencing.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Jaishankar, accepted the notice.

Earlier, the top court had said that it would like to give an authoritative pronouncement on the issue of EC's power on issuance of separate notifications for holding by-polls for regular and casual elections to fill vacancies in Rajya Sabha.

The pleas pertained to 2019 Rajya Sabha by-poll on two seats from Gujarat and both seats were won by BJP candidates.

Earlier, the apex court had said that there was no authoritative judgement of the Supreme Court as to whether the election to more than one vacancy should be held separately or jointly.

SC allows UP Govt to fill up 69K posts for teachers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the Uttar Pradesh Government to fill up vacancies for 69,000 assistant basic teachers in the State as per the results it declared in May this year.

U U Lalit dismissed a batch of petitions including the one filed by the Uttar Pradesh Prathamik Shiksha Mitra Association' challenging the Allahabad High Court decision to uphold the cut off marks for selection of assistant basic teachers in the States.

The association and several other individual 'Shiksha Mitras' had challenged the UP government's order of January 7, 2019 by which the qualifying marks for the Assistant Teacher Recruitment Examination 2019 were fixed at 65 and 60 for general and reserved categories respectively.

Riyadh-New Delhi GoAir flight makes medical emergency landing at Karachi Int'l airport



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A GoAir flight was diverted and landed in Karachi International airport on November 17, due to a medical emergency with a passenger on board suffered cardiac arrest and later died. The original flight route was Riyadh-New Delhi.

A 30-year-old male passenger fainted and died of cardiac arrest on board flight G8-6658A. "The passenger was administered all possible medical help on board. He was declared dead after landing at Karachi, Pakistan," an official said. After the emergency, the aircraft landed at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi early on November 18 and the body of the deceased has been brought to the national capital. There were 179 passengers in the plane.

In a statement on Wednesday, GoAir said the

plane was diverted to Karachi airport due to a medical emergency onboard as a passenger reported unwell.

The airline's staff immediately attended to the passenger and he was administered with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) till landing at Karachi airport, the release said.

"Upon arrival, a dedicated medical services team along with doctors and the airline's staff attended to the passenger, however, it was observed that the passenger had unfortunately succumbed, in spite of being administered with all necessary medical assistance," the statement said.

GoAir also said that it rendered all the requisite assistance to the passengers onboard and also provided the required assistance to the family of the deceased.

Rajnath unveils Constitution awareness programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to spread awareness about the Indian Constitution, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday inaugurated a month-long nationwide Constitution Day Youth Club activities programme, organised by the National Cadet Corps(NCC) through video conferencing.

The Minister exhorted the youths of the country to understand the spirit of the constitution and work sincerely to realize its ideals. He said our Constitution was shaped after years of intense discussions and deliberations. The preamble of our constitution begins with "We" and it thus, depends upon all of us how we take our country and our system forward.

He said we need to make



people aware of their rights as enshrined in the constitution but at the same time make them aware of their duties also as both rights and duties are linked to each other. Without fulfilling duties one cannot enjoy his or her rights, he added.

Rajnath said through this campaign, people should be made aware that the Constitution guides their lives through its core values of discipline, unity in diversity, freedom, equality, sovereignty and social solidarity. This is necessary to build a 'New India', he added.

The month-long campaign will be undertaken by the youth organisations of the country i.e. National Cadet Corps(NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), The Bharat Scouts and Guides, Hindustan Scouts and Guides Association and Red Cross.

The objectives of the campaign are to spread awareness amongst the masses, about the basic tenets and the spirit of the Indian Constitution, to include awareness of fundamental duties enshrined in the constitution of India, Qualities of responsible and productive citizen, Importance of the Constitution of India and to spread the message of BR Ambedkar on equality and affirmative actions.

Bengaluru, Faridabad, Indore selected as part of G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Four Indian cities including Bengaluru, Faridabad, Indore and Hyderabad have been selected to develop a roadmap for adopting new technology as part of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance. These are among the 36 cities across the world that have pledged to adopt new technologies to help the government in managing the COVID-19 pandemic despite constrained resources. Apart from Bengaluru, Faridabad, Indore and Hyderabad, cities such as London, Moscow, Toronto, Brasilia, Belfast, Manila, San Jose, Lisbon, Istanbul, Dubai and Melbourne have also been selected.

In a statement on Tuesday,



the World Economic Forum (WEF) said COVID-19 is accelerating adoption of new technologies by cities as governments struggle to manage the growing pandemic with constrained resources. The statement said the WEF has selected 36 cities from 22 countries and six continents to pio-

neer a new global policy roadmap for smart cities developed by the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance.

The policy is designed to give cities the procedures, laws and regulations they need to use new technology responsibly, the statement said.

The G20 Global Smart Cities alliance has recruited a group of 36 "pioneer cities" that will collaborate with global experts to enhance their policies in areas such as privacy protection and cybersecurity to improve services for differently-abled people and better broadband coverage.

Nitish's richest colleague and Edu Min faces 4 serious cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the midst of a controversy, Bihar's Education Minister Mewa Lal Choudhary, the richest Minister in the Nitish Kumar Government Cabinet with assets worth ₹12.31 crore, has himself declared one criminal case and four serious cases against him.

Besides Choudhary, animal husbandry and fisheries minister Mukesh Sahni has declared five criminal cases and three cases of serious nature under the IPC. BJP's Jibesh Kumar has also declared five criminal cases and four cases of serious nature under the IPC. There are five others who have self-declared criminal cases of varying nature against them.

According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), six (43 per cent) of the ministers have declared serious criminal cases against themselves, according to the ADR. Serious criminal

cases are non-bailable offences with over five years of imprisonment. Eight or 57 per cent of the ministers face criminal cases, it said. The ADR said that affidavits of two out of six ministers analysed from the JD(U), four out of six ministers analysed from the BJP, one minister analysed from the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and one from the Vikassheel Insaan Party show criminal cases against them.

As many as 13 (93 per cent) ministers are crorepatris with their average assets pegged at Rs 3.93 crores while six (43 per cent) of them have declared serious criminal cases against themselves. Ashok Choudhary, is the minister with the lowest declared total assets worth Rs 72.89 lakh, it said. As many as 13 (93 per cent) are crorepatris with their average assets pegged at Rs 3.93 crores, the report said.

According to the report, eight of the 14 newly sworn-in ministers in Bihar have

declared criminal cases against themselves. Four (29 per cent) ministers have declared their educational qualification to be between 8th and 12th standard, while 10 (71 per cent) ministers have declared having an educational qualification of graduate or above, the poll rights body said.

A total of six (43 per cent) ministers have declared their age to be between 41-50 years, while eight (57 per cent) ministers have declared their age to be between 51-75 years. Out of 14 ministers, two are women, it added. A 14-member council of ministers, headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, was on Monday sworn in by Governor Phagu Chauhan.

The Bihar assembly elections for 243 sets took place on October 28 (for 71 seats), November 3 (for 94 seats) and November 7 (for 78 seats). The National Democratic Alliance won the elections after securing majority.

India pulled out of RCEP as concerns not addressed: Jaishankar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India pulled out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) last year as joining it would have resulted in fairly negative consequences for the country's economy, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday.

In an address at an online discussion organised by the Centre for European Policy Studies, Jaishankar also forcefully pressed for reform of the United Nations, saying one or two countries must not be allowed to halt the process for their "perpetual gain".

On the proposed free trade agreement between India and the European Union, Jaishankar said New Delhi was looking for a "fair and balanced" pact.

Asked about the RCEP, the external affairs minister said India withdrew from it as a number of key concerns flagged by it were not addressed.

His comments came three days after 15 Asia-Pacific economies signed the RCEP agreement creating the world's largest free trade area.

"Essentially, we saw that a number of our key concerns were not addressed. We had to then take a call whether you enter a trade agreement if your

major concerns are not addressed or do you take a call saying this is not in my interest," Jaishankar said during an online discussion organised by the Centre for European Policy Studies.

"We took a call that given the way it is currently, it is not in our interest to enter this agreement because it would have fairly immediate negative consequences for our own economy," he said.

The RCEP deal sealed on Sunday comprised 10 member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and five of the bloc's dialogue partners -- China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

"Because you are negotiating does not mean you have to suspend your ability to calculate at the end of the negotiation. I think we made those calculations. Very frankly, what we did with regard to RCEP is not a generic position vis-a-vis trade," said Jaishankar.

India was part of the RCEP negotiations for nearly seven years. The unresolved issues included inadequate protection against import surge, lack of credible assurances to India on market access, non-tariff barriers and possible circumvention of rules of origin by cer-

tain countries. Referring to the long-pending India-EU free trade agreement (FTA), Jaishankar said: "We want a fair and balanced FTA," but added that what is fair and balanced is a subject of negotiation.

"I recognise that an FTA with Europe is not an easy negotiation, probably in the world, it must be the most difficult negotiation. It is a very high standard FTA," he said.

The FTA talks have been stalled since May 2013, when both sides failed to bridge substantial gaps on crucial issues, including data security status for the IT sector. Launched in June 2007, negotiations for the proposed agreement have witnessed many hurdles as both sides have major differences on crucial issues.

NGT raps Haryana Govt for using forest land to develop police training centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal Wednesday rapped the Haryana Government for using forest land to develop a police training centre at Bhandsi in Gurgaon.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed Chief Secretary of Haryana to take appropriate remedial action in

accordance with law within three months, including meaningful legal action against the erring officers and ensuring that such illegalities are not repeated.

"There is blatant violation of law in using forest land for non-forest purposes without requisite prior clearance. No State governed by

rule of law ought to shut its eyes to such patent illegalities," the bench said.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSIIDC	UP-GRADATION OF EXISTING CETP OF 16MLD TO 26MLD (ADDITION OF A 10MLD MODULE) CAPACITY BASED ON SBR TECHNOLOGY ALONGWITH O&M OF 60 MONTHS AT IE BARHI, DISTT SONEPAT (HARYANA).	19.11.2020 09.12.2020	2542 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	(9991220009) ia.barhi@hsiidc.org.in
2	DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM CENTRAL INSTRUMENTATION LABORATORY, GUSSEK, HISAR	MULTIPURPOSE VERSATILE X-RAY DIFFRACTION (XRD) SYSTEM (01)	19.11.2020 10.12.2020	1.50 LACS	http://www.gjust.ac.in/	01662-263105 uwdg@jhrh@gmail.com
3	HAFAED PANCHKULA	REPAIR / RENOVATION OF GODOWNS, BOUNDARY WALL, DISTRICT MANAGER OFFICE AND RESIDENCE, CONSTRUCTION OF DRAIN, DISMANTLING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF MANAGER OFFICE WITH PH. ELI. WORK, SEPTIC TANK, SINKAGE PIT AND UNDERGROUND WATER TANK IN HAFAED COMPLEX JAGADHRI (YAMUNA NAGAR) - 3 OTHER WORKS	20.11.2020 04.12.2020	9.68 LACS	www.hafed.gov.in	(0172)-2590520-26 hafed@hry.nic.in
4	GURGAON TECHNOLOGY PARK LIMITED	PROVIDING AND FIXING OF 40HP SEWERAGE SUBMERSIBLE PUMPIE MAKE JASCO, 150MM DIASALUMINIUM CABLE, 200MM I/D MS PIPE ELBOW, COLLAR FLANGE, REDUCER 6" X 8", REND AND BLANK FLANGE IN SECTOR-34, GTPL GURUGRAM COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECT TO THE SATISFACTION OF ENGINEER-IN-CHARGE	12.11.2020 27.11.2020	10000/-	Gtplinfocity.com	8826910868 GTPL34@GMAIL.COM
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6	MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY ROHTAK	FOR APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN VENDOR FOR THE SUPPLY OF FOREIGN JOURNALS IN THE YEAR 2021, 2022 & 2023 FOR VIVEKANANDA LIBRARY	17.11.2020 08.12.2020	70 LACS	www.mdu.ac.in	01262-293004, 02 librarian@mdurohtak.ac.in; s@mdurohtak.ac.in

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This is to bring to the notice of the general public that two ID Card of Mr. Tarun Verma and Snehalini Sharma issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID card no. 14802, 17179 has been found missing and/or lost on 17/11/2020. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager/Dept. Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Ltd. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no. 14802, 17179. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own cross, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment. ICICI Bank Limited.
Date: 13/10/2020

UP minor rape victim dies after being set ablaze

Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh): A 15-year-old Dalit girl, who was allegedly set on fire in Bulandshahr, has died in Delhi's RML Hospital, the police said on Wednesday. The incident happened on Tuesday and the girl succumbed in the night.



The girl was earlier allegedly raped by a local resident and the family was being pressured to withdraw her complaint. The FIR filed by the family says seven people entered their home and set her ablaze using petrol. In a video of the victim in a hospital, she can be heard purportedly saying, "There was an ongoing case of molestation by the same people who came today."

He said seven people have been booked and three have been arrested.

According to the victim's family, those accused of setting her on fire are relatives and acquaintances of the accused, who is in jail for allegedly raping the minor, under the POCSCO and SC/SC Act.

Meanwhile, the victim's uncle said, "We were being threatened to withdraw the rape case and accept the decision in the Panchayat. On Monday night, I received a call from an unknown number. They told the family to withdraw the case or face consequences. At 9.30 a.m. Tuesday, when the girl's parents were not at home, we were told that she was set on fire."

Rape accused's body found in Pilibhit Reserve

Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh): The highly decomposed body of a 25-year-old rape accused was found in Barahi forest range of the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR).

Pilibhit Superintendent of Police (SP) Jai Prakash Yadav said, "Police have been looking for the accused for long. Even his father Jagdish Kashyap had no clue about his whereabouts."

The accused, Anuj Kashyap, had been booked on September 6 for kidnapping and rape of a 22-year-old woman. Ram Sevak, SHO, Madhotanda, said that the skull was found detached from the neck, indicating amputation. The body had been located on Monday evening by locals who had gone to the core forest area to collect firewood.

Lucknow Police commissioner replaced

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has removed Lucknow Police Commissioner Sujit Pandey for his alleged failure to control crime in the State capital.

Pandey has been replaced by D.K. Thakur who was posted in the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) till now. Thakur took charge of his new assignment at 1 a.m. on Wednesday after Pandey was given marching orders around midnight.

Sujit Pandey, who was the first Police Commissioner of Lucknow when the Commissionerate system was introduced in January this year, has been posted as Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Arms Training Centre in Sitapur.

Rape victim kills self after blackmail, police inaction

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

A law student of Aligarh law college, resident of Bulandshahr who was kidnapped, gangraped and blackmailed for a month commits suicide, after getting no help from the police department.

Police made the first move three weeks after the FIR was lodged and arrested one culprit, suspended two policemen who were involved in the investigation, a day after the girl died.

SSP Bulandshahr, Santosh Singh said that the victim was a resident of Bulandshahr and was a student of Aligarh law college. She filed an application against the accused on October 03. According to her, the main accused was Mohd Qamruddin, also a student of Aligarh law college who used to harass and threaten her.

He further said that in the

suicide note the girl mentioned about the main accused apologising for his behaviour after the complaint. She further wrote in the note that Qamruddin asked her to meet him outside her village on October 16. She accused Qamruddin, his uncle Mubeen and friend Mohd Abrar for taking her away to a house in Aligarh and gang raped by the three. She lodged an FIR for being gang raped on October 24.

She further mentioned in her note that they threatened her to made the gangrape video viral.

Even after all this, the police investigation did not reach to a conclusion and could not prove the allegations. The disappointed victim who did not get any help hanged herself after going through all this hardship. All this happened because the police was not taking any action on the accused.

Pulwama: 12 civilians hurt in grenade attack

Jammu: Ahead of the District Development Council polls, beginning from November 28, unidentified terrorists on Wednesday evening targeted security forces by lobbing a grenade in which at least 12 civilians received injuries in the Kakapora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Local reports said the grenade missed the target and exploded on the road. The entire area was cordoned off and searches were launched to track down the footprints of a grenade thrower. According to a police spokesman, "at about 5.45 p.m a CRPF bunker of 41 Bn was targeted by the terrorists near Kakapora area of Pulwama. Local police teams and other security personnel rushed to the spot". The police spokesman said, "the grenade missed the intended target and exploded on road."

Maha Cong slams BJP's 'Cong part of Gupkar alliance' charge

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Congress on Wednesday slammed the Opposition BJP over its former Chief Minister and senior party leader Devendra Fadnavis' claim that the Sonia Gandhi-led party was backing the Gupkar agenda and demanded to know why the BJP did not quit the Jammu & Kashmir Government in 2017 when then Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti made controversial statements about Indian tri-colour.

Reacting to Fadnavis' charge that the Congress was part of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) which was demanding the reintroduction of Article 370 in the Constitution, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president and senior State minister Balasaheb Thorat charged that Fadnavis Fadnavis was trying to "mislead" people with a "false allegation" about his party's involvement in the PAGD.

"The Congress was at the forefront of the independence struggle. Indira Gandhi,

Rajiv Gandhi and other leaders have laid down their lives for the country. Patriotism in the Congress' DNA. No one should teach patriotism, least of it an organisation that supported the British during the freedom struggle. Mehbooba has made a controversial statement about national tricolour. Fadnavis, who is part of RSS that had hoisted the national flag for 52 long years, is now talking about Mehbooba's controversial remark," Thorat said.

Thorat reminded that Mehbooba had made a similar controversial statement about the Indian national flag when she was the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir in 2017. "At that time, the BJP was part of the Mehbooba government in J & K. Then the Congress had demanded the resignation of Mehbooba as the chief minister then. Why did the BJP not quit the J & K government? The same BJP is now speaking against Mehbooba and making all kinds of false allegations against the Congress," the State Congress chief said.

State Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant came down heavily against

Fadnavis for the BJP's "double-speak". Through a tweet, Sawant asked the senior BJP leader: "Hon'ble Fadnavis ji, do you have any explanation for the remarks of Mehbooba Mufti in 2017 when you were in power with her and she was CM? BJP did not leave the alliance then."

Sawant recalled that the Congress had on July 30, 2017 demanded then Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's resignation over her flag remarks, saying no had the right to insult the tricolour.

"At that time, the Congress had said that Mehbooba had hurt the sentiments of the people and asked the BJP to explain what kind of freedom is being advocated by their coalition partner (PDP) in the Jammu and Kashmir government and the chief minister," Sawant said.

"At that time, we had said that Mehbooba has no right to quote the example of the national flag in any form and hurt the nationalist sentiments by insulting it, what so ever may be her reasoning or context," Sawant said.

Shah, Nadda to visit Bengal multiple times till polls

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Taking the poll plunge tad early the BJP has decided to bring two of its topmost leaders to Bengal every month.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda have decided to take turns visiting Bengal several times every month till the end of the next year's Assembly elections for which the saffron outfit has set a "bull's eye-target" of "200-plus" seats out 294.

"We have been told that our national president JP Nadda ji will visit Bengal thrice and Amit Shah ji will come to our State twice every ... but the dates have not been finalized... We will announce the dates of their visit subsequently... naturally the party workers will be energized by their visit," State BJP president Dilip Ghosh said.

The party top brass have handpicked senior BJP leaders

Sunil Deodhar, Vinod Tawde, Dushyant Gautam, Harish Dwivedi and Vinod Sonkar to supervise organization and campaigning in North Bengal, Rarh Banga (Purulia-Bankura-Birbhum districts), Krishnagar-Nabadwip, Midnapore and Kolkata organisational zones in that order.

Meanwhile, reacting to the BJP's declaration of winning 200-plus seats Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that the saffron outfit was trying to create disturbance in an otherwise peaceful state by importing outsiders who have no inkling of Bengali culture.

"Outsiders (read BJP central leaders) are being sent to Bengal to disturb the peace in this State," Banerjee said while her party MP Sukhendu Shekhar Roy called BJP's 200-plus seat target a "day dream."

Congress, LF approach Muslim religious leaders against AIMIM

Kolkata: The Left Front and Congress are chalking out ways to counter the emergence of all India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) in Bengal.

"We have chalked out a detailed plan," a Congress leader said at the end of two-hour meeting with the Left Front leadership adding the alliance partners would reach out to the Muslim leaders and eminent personalities besides conducting special outreach programme on the National Minorities Day on December 18.

In fact Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee president Adhir Chowdhury and state Opposition Leader Abdul Mannan met Muslim religious leader Toha Siddique of Furfura Sharief and appealed to the community to stand by the secular forces.

Calling the AIMIM a B Team of the BJP Chowdhury also the Congress leader in Lok Sabha said, "We met Toha

Siddique and appealed to the minority community through his force who are B-team of the BJP."

Alleging that AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's sole aim was to divide the minority votes in Bengal, Chowdhury iterated "AIMIM is the B-team of the BJP, whose sole aim is to divide the Muslim votes and cause damage to the secular parties."

AIMIM have been eyeing 35 out of the 76 seats which the Left-Congress alliance had won from Malda, Murshidabad and North Dinajpur in 2016 Assembly elections. "AIMIM's main target is not Trinamool Congress --- and definitely not the BJP --- but the Left-Congress alliance which are really fighting the saffron communalism in India," a senior Congress leader said. According to pollsters the minorities create a deciding edge in about 125 seats in the State.

COMMUNAL TENSIONS, HATE SPREAD CASE

Mumbai cops summon Kangana, Rangoli for questioning next week

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After their failure to appear before them for questioning on two earlier occasions, the Mumbai police on Wednesday issued third summons to Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel to appear before them on November and 23 and 24 in connection with the investigations into an FIR registered against them for allegedly creating "hatred" and "communal tensions" among Hindus and Muslims.

In fresh summons issued to the two sisters, the Bandra police summoned Kangana to appear before them on November 23, while they asked Rangoli to remain present at the police station for questioning on November 24.

This time around, the Bandra police have also summoned Kangana's aide Amruta Dutta for questioning in the same case on November 25.

The Bandra police had issued first summons to Kangana and her sister Rangoli on October 26 and 27. However, the two sisters had bought time from the police by saying that they would not be able to respond to the summons as they were busy with their brother's wedding.

Subsequently, the Bandra police issued fresh summons to Kangana and Rangoli to appear before them on November 10 and 11.

Apart from facing the charge creating "hatred" and "communal tensions" between Hindus and Muslims, the two sisters also face the allegation of attempting to trigger disaffection among the people against the Maharashtra government. In addition, Munawwarali Sahil A Sayyed - on whose complaint a case has been registered against Kangana and Rangoli - has also accused the two sisters of indulging in sedition (section 124 A of IPC). Complainant Sayyed's was recorded by the Bandra police last month.

It may be recalled that on October 17, the Bandra police had registered FIR against Kangana and Rangoli after Metropolitan Magistrate Jaidev Ghule of Bandra 12th court ordered investigations under section 156(3) of CrPC into a complaint filed against Kangana and her sister Rangoli Chandel by Bollywood casting director and fitness trainer Munawwarali alias Sahil A. Sayyed.

Sayyed had among other things alleged that both Kangana and Rangoli had ad-

ded to create "hatred" and "communal tensions" between Hindus and Muslims and that Kangana had tried to lower the image of Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and created disaffection among the people against the Maharashtra government.

"Perused the complaint, heard the advocate of the complainant along with the documents filed on record. On prima facie perusal of complaint and submission I have found a cognizable offence has been committed by the accused," Magistrate Ghule had noted, while directing the Bandra police to register an FIR against Kangana and her sister Rangoli.

"All allegations are based upon comment on electronic media that is twitter and inter-

views. The accused used social media like twitter and thorough investigation is necessary by the expert. All offences alleged and levelled against the accused are cognizable. Search and seizure is necessary in this case, in such circumstances I have found it to be proper to pass order under Section 156(3) of CrPC," the Magistrate had ruled.

Among other things, the section 156(3) of CrPC read with section 190 empowers to Magistrate - upon receiving a complaint of facts and upon information received from any person other than a police officer, or upon his own knowledge that such an offence has been committed any magistrate empowered under 190 can order an investigation into a complaint.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown S/o unknown** residence is **unknown** about **65 years** of age was found Unconscious at Roadside near Gurdwara Rakabganj on 03.11.2020. He got admitted in Casualty ward of Dr. RML Hospital by PCR. During the treatment he was expired on 14.11.2020. In this regard a **DD No. 52/20**, dated **14.11.2020** has been registered at **Police Station North Avenue, New Delhi**.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** 65 years, **Height:** 5'8" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Build:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Gray Kurta, blue Pant.
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.
SHO
P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi
Ph. No. - 011-2309301, 23093294
Mob. No. 9654013325
DP/163/NDD/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown** was found **Unconscious Condition on 25.10.2020** at **Azad Pur Mandi near Peer Baba Bus Stand, Delhi**. Admitted in **BJRM Hospital, Jahangir Puri, Delhi**. Vide **MLC No. 165962/20**. During the treatment the doctors declared him **dead**. Dead Body has been preserved in Babu Jagjivan Ram Hospital, Jahangirpuri, Delhi mortuary for identification. In this regard **DD No. 34A, dated 25.10.2020** has been lodged at **Police Station, Mahendra Park, Delhi**. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 45-50 Years, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Build: Thin, Complexion: Fair, ID Mark: Tattoo DS on right Forearm, Wearing: Pink & Grey coloured lining T-shirt and grey colour underwear.
If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.
SHO
Police Station, Mahendra Park, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27632501, 8750870227
DP/503/NW/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

The Deputy Chief Engineer/Const./Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tenders under One-Packet System for the following work:

Name of works and location	Description and drawing of test piles, foundation (open/piles), substructure & super structure (PSC/Steel) in connection with construction of 07 nos. Road over Bridges on Jind-Panipat, Jind-Sonepat, Rohtak-Panipat and Delhi-Ambala section of Northern Railway".
Completion period of the work	12 (Twelve) months
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 33.21 lakh.
Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 6,6400/- only
Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on 10.12.2020 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 10.12.2020.
Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	Tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in from 18.11.2020 to 10.12.2020. Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 26.11.2020 to 10.12.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
No: 476-A-Acs-Design&Drawing-ROBs/RUBS-CSB	Dated: 18.11.2020 2579/2020
Serving Customers With A Smile	

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Faizan is the owner of Plot of Land Area Measuring 60 Sq. Yds. Part of Khosra No. 32/11, 2/2, 19/2, 20/1/1, 22/1 situated at Waka Mouja Fatehpur Chandila (Friends Colony), Tehsil & Distt. Faridabad vide Sale Deed dated 17/7/20 (Doc. No. 1548) executed by Seema Devi According to him, he has lost one original Sale Deed dated 11.06.2009 executed by Mrs. Rajesh & Mr. Kishan Singh in favour of Dinesh Pandey (Doc. No. 3987) being a part of chain of the said property read with FIR dated 31/10/20. All person's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/ registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan for purchase of the said Property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, CSC, Pkt-E, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-110091
Office: 011-43052822
Mobile: 9810063351
E: kamalkantgupta74@gmail.com

Death of 2 more cows in Aligarh Nagar Nigam gaushala to be probed

Aligarh: two more cows have died in the Gaushala (dstitute gaushala shelter site) of the Nagar Nigam located at Baraula Bypass. The number of dead cows has risen to 7 in two days. The condition of a bull is critical. The Nagar Nigam administration is planning for the investigation soon after the arrival of Nagar Nigam Commissioner Premaranjan Singh.

5 cows died in the Gaushala at Baraula Bypass. Sick cows are being treated by veterinarians after the traumatic event. Meanwhile, the death of two sick cows one by one has created tension in the Nagar Nigam office. The condition of a bull is critical. Treatment of some other sick cows is going on. Many municipal officials including Assistant Municipal Commissioner Raj Bahadur Singh went to the Gaushala and were busy fixing the arrangements there. From cleanliness to broken railings are being repaired.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of female, **Age: Approx 25-30 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5', ID Mark: "OM" & "K" tattoo on left hand and "Heart & "R" tattoo on right hand, was wearing Red Suit with Golden design and Blue Pajami, was found in Najafgarh-Vikaspuri**

Ganda Nala, near Machhi Market, Vikaspuri, Chander Vihar, Delhi at 04:45 P.M. In this regard a **FIR No. 1093/20 U/s 302/201 IPC, dated 15.11.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.
SHO
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710
DP/528/OD/2020

BJP's challenge in J&K

By contesting the Kashmir local body polls unitedly and tactically, the Gupkar alliance has public goodwill on its side



The BJP's gameplan in the Valley, ever since the abrogation of Article 370 and in keeping with its organisational formula, has been to build an alternative political structure conducive to its narrative. One that had necessitated its crackdown on existing elected leaders, all of whom had supported integration with India but insisted on a special status, and justified their detention as "anti-nationals." Former Chief Ministers, Ministers, MPs and MLAs were out of sight for a year. Then it hoped to supplant mainstream leaders by seeding local ones, following the ground-up, pyramidal method, as true representatives and prioritised empowerment of local bodies. It began its doorstep connect, telling people that the big parties had availed the benefits of Kashmir's erstwhile special status and funds but had not passed them on to or done nothing for the people. In fact, Union Home Minister Amit Shah went so far as to say that the people had lost out on the dividends of democratic governance. The BJP systematically went about propping "friendly" candidates and hoping that with the mainstream parties at bay, it could chaperone any electoral exercise on its terms and get a mandate. But that was not to be. As the BJP found itself at the receiving end of a popular counter-challenge, it had to let go of the Valley's leaders. People rejected attempted electoral processes, making them conditional on the release of their chosen representatives. Only 7,528 of the 19,582 *panch* and *sarpanch* seats in Kashmir went to polls in 2018 and the BJP couldn't fill over 12,000 seats that are still empty, affecting local administration. Now there is an undeclared civil disobedience, with more local youth drawn to militancy and local businesses resorting to economic boycotts. There has been a spike in hitback killings of BJP leaders and *sarpanches*. The BJP's attempt to raise a mainstream party, the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP), drawing rejects from the big parties, lacks credibility. Rather late in the day, the Government realised that it could not show transformative intent till it got some kind of mediatory presence of local parties. Which is why it released mainstream leaders and decided to hold elections to District Development Councils (DDCs) and the remaining panchayat seats. What it didn't realise was that the political vacuum it created did not have enough suction power for it and had ended up lionising National Conference leaders Farooq and Omar Abdullah and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti instead. All of them had been BJP allies before and are now its sworn enemies post the abrogation and downgrading of Kashmir as a Union Territory. And all of them have, despite their differences and incendiary speeches, decided to contest the DDC elections as a common front, sharing seats depending on their mutual strengths. The Gupkar alliance, driven by the NC and PDP, also comprises the People's Conference, Awami Ittehad, Awami National Conference, CPI(M) and J&K People's Movement. They are fighting for the restoration of Article 370 and statehood, a tall order really, but emotional enough to submerge the BJP's pet development agenda with that of Kashmiri identity. They have claimed the high moral ground by choosing to fight the BJP democratically, through elections, and even making common cause with Jammu and Ladakh. The Dogras of Hindu-dominated Jammu and Ladakh are not too happy about their local culture and privileges being swept away under the new land rules, which allow outsiders to buy non-agricultural land. The implied demographic colonisation will certainly find some resonance as a poll plank.

This explains Shah's belligerence, once again slandering the "Gupkari gang" as anti-India, intent on foreign intervention in Kashmir. He even called out the Congress for aligning with it, though the latter insisted that it was not part of the alliance but was contesting on its own. This was not just bluster but a careful strategy. At one time, the BJP was counting on a political boycott and minimal voter turnout to sail through and have its way. But now with all mainstream parties participating, its leaders appearing like martyrs to a cause, the BJP suddenly has an electoral challenge at hand with them fighting unitedly and tactically. Understandably, it is trying hard to split the negative vote. The JKAP can hardly play spoiler. So by buttonholing the Congress for betraying the national will on scrapping of Article 370 and siding with the alliance, it clearly wants a four-cornered contest. There was talk of Congress joining the alliance but realistically, the party, given the sentiment on Kashmir, won't go beyond a seat adjustment of sorts. Its spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said as much. Clearly, the BJP has been outsmarted by the alliance. It had not bargained for its constituents going against their grain to participate in a political process that would legitimise the Centre's move to scrap special status. But Kashmir parties have realised that their movement would be defeated if they allow the BJP to capture the political space uncontested. A neat BJP win would push them further to the fringes. Besides, elections would also be an opportunity for them to rebuild their votebases, something which had drifted away hopelessly. And should the verdict go their way, it would help them become politically relevant and deservedly get a position to call the shots. The PDP is apparently in talks with Sikh groups, Gaddi and Sippi (Dogra) leaders, Kashmiri Pandits, Gujjar, Bakerwal as well as Scheduled Caste and OBC leaders to craft an umbrella appeal, aware that the BJP has justified the reintegration on the ground of helping tribals, women and Dalits. In the end, the BJP has misread the pulse and created its own enemy.

Champion Lewis

Lewis Hamilton can rewrite the Formula 1 record book but he is quietly changing the dynamics off the field too



A former sports minister of India derided motorsports because he was truly unaware of the physicality, the mental effort, competitiveness and the technical nous that a driver needs to be a winner. In winning the race and his seventh World Drivers Championship at Istanbul this past Sunday, Lewis Hamilton displayed all those properties in spades. And while this race may not have had the drama of his first championship in 2008, where he won by a single point, overtaking German driver Timo Glock and denying Ferrari's Brazilian driver Felipe Massa a chance to hold the title aloft at his home Grand Prix, the way Lewis won proved that sticking the best driver in the best car isn't enough.

More importantly, Lewis also proved wrong the theory that Formula 1 drivers have to have immense family wealth and a connection with the top echelons of motorsports to succeed. A mixed-race child, who grew up in government housing in a lower middle-class part of England, he is now the winningest driver in the sport and has equalled Michael Schumacher's seven world titles. If he resigns with Mercedes-AMG next year, as he is almost certain to do, it is a matter of when and not if he will win 100 Formula 1 races and a potential eight world titles. However, as Michael Schumacher himself said in an interview over a decade ago, records are meant to be broken and one day even Lewis' success might be under threat. In this severely disrupted year, Formula 1 races have been fascinating to watch. Lewis, once famous for his partying ways, dedicated himself to racecraft and admitted that he had barely met friends or family except enjoying the company of his pet bulldog, Roscoe. But he is not just a champion on the race track, he has taken a strong stand on issues such as racism through the 'Black Lives Matter' movement. He got his team, Mercedes-AMG, to change its cars and associated infrastructure from the traditional silver livery to a black livery as well as got his fellow drivers to kneel at the start of the season, proving that some athletes and sports stars can provide leadership. After winning the race in Istanbul, he called out Formula 1 for ignoring human rights issues in many countries it races in as well as the need for the sport to become more sustainable. Lewis Hamilton is not just a star on the race track, he is a star off the track as well.

Apolitical nobility

The serving US military top brass has shown admirable restraint in not kowtowing to the political establishment, especially one that has thrown caution to the winds



BHOPINDER SINGH

In the United States of America, the civilian post of Defence Secretary is a political appointment even though it is usually held by former combatants, who have the domain experience and perspective. Yet it calls for trapeze jugglery as the former Defence Secretary and legendary warrior-scholar, General James Mattis, noted, "Remember that the Defence Department stays outside of politics for a reason. There's a long-standing tradition, why you do not want the military to be engaged in politics." With such apolitical and professional instincts, the likes of James Mattis were not expected to survive long with the infamous Donald Trump fickleness. And they didn't - Mattis joined the revolving door of axed veterans, who couldn't lower their discourse to match the President's impetuosity and crassness.

Mattis's predecessor as Secretary of Defence, Ash Carter, was an international affairs academician, who had spent over 37 years in the Pentagon working across the political divide, and he always believed that the "profession of arms is honour and trust" and that Trump's brazenly political expectations, interference and insistence would infect the apolitical ways of the US military. Recently, Trump fired his fourth Secretary of Defence Mark Esper and appointed his fifth, Christopher Miller. As the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Department of Defence, the fifth appointee in less than four years is a self-explanatory narrative of Trump's whimsicality, impatience and unprofessionalism. Except that the timing of this particular change, just after Biden's electoral debacle, but before Biden's formal take-over, has sent dangerous signals - because with Trump, anything is possible.

Given his vanity and desperation, fears that he could deploy the US military, in a last-ditch effort of his final two-month tenure, are real. For long, Trump has dangled and invoked the military as a political prop for self-aggrandisement and even as a tool for domestic governance. What gives credence to conspiracy theorists is the tentative relationship that Mark Esper had with the Commander-in-Chief, Trump, especially when the former combatant had disagreed with the idea of using the military during civil unrest. Embarrassingly for



Trump, Esper opposed the Insurrection Act of 1807 by stating the institutional belief, "I say this not only as Secretary of Defence, but also as a former soldier, and a former member of the National Guard. The option to use active duty forces in a law enforcement role should only be used as a matter of last resort, and only in the most urgent and dire of situations." Earlier also, Esper had weighed in favour with the professional view of the "uninformed" fraternity in disuading Trump from hastening the process of troops withdrawal from Syria and Afghanistan - as this urgency was Trump's personal and political commitment, but contrary to the institutional and sovereign interests. However, for Trump, who can readily trade military values of restraint and apolitical stances in favour of his political self-interest, professionals like Esper are a burden and not an asset. Replacing Esper with a professionally lacklustre but an avowedly Trumployalist has not helped optics either.

Even though the Trump tenure has compromised and forced many casual liberties on the US military ecosystem, it would not be a cakewalk to get the institution to "fall in line" politically, despite these unprecedented changes. The US military folk have repeatedly shown the spine, moral courage and constitutionality in words and actions to "call out" signs of danger. Foremost among them has been

EVEN THOUGH THE TRUMP TENURE HAS COMPROMISED AND FORCED MANY CASUAL LIBERTIES ON THE US MILITARY ECOSYSTEM, IT WOULD NOT BE A CAKEWALK TO GET THE INSTITUTION TO 'FALL IN LINE' POLITICALLY. THE MILITARY FOLK HAVE REPEATEDLY SHOWN SPINE AND MORAL COURAGE

General Mike Milley, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, who had earlier unknowingly become victim of a political "photo-op" by Trump during the civic protests, pursuant to which he issued a very public and honest regret that his presence had created an unwanted and wrong perception of military involvement in domestic politics. Later, Milley went further and bluntly denied that he gave permission to use his image in the Trump re-election campaign. Now, as Milley watched the ensuing drama of the untimely change of Secretary of Defence - which is essentially beyond his professional mandate or control - he still chose to word a very deliberate and reassuring message when he said in the midst of the new Secretary of Defence Christopher Miller, "We do not take an oath to a King or a Queen, a tyrant or a dictator. We do not take an oath to an individual!" Milley passionately beseeched that duty was only to the Constitution, which he called the "moral north star" for the institution. His statement that the military "will protect and defend that document regardless of the personal price" was immensely loaded and cautionary against any attempt to politicise or misuse the military. Milley joined the ranks of his illustrious predecessor Marine General Joseph Dunford in managing the political expectations of Trump, whenever things started going adrift.

Esper had alluded to the necessary public perceptions of apolitical anchorage when it came to matters military, when he had spoken about getting "ambushed" in the photo-op. "Look, I do everything I can to try and stay apolitical and try to stay out of situations that may appear political," he said, adding, "Sometimes, I'm successful, and sometimes I'm not as successful." This time that effort to stay steadfast, without succumbing to politicisation of the US military, has led to his ouster but in that sacrifice, Esper may have saved the US military from unimaginable portents of a partisan force. The serving top brass of the US military themselves have shown admirable restraint in not kowtowing to the political establishment, especially with a dispensation that has thrown caution to the winds in terms of diluting, denigrating and politicising the institution. The military invests incalculable emotions in professional character or what we call *izzat*. As General Norman Schwarzkopf of Operation Desert Storm fame once said, "Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without strategy." In this melee, it is that apolitical nobility and almost Chetwodian ethos that have been upheld by the US military's top brass, despite the price to some.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

SOUND BITE

There are pros and cons to India joining the RCEP. But the debate has never taken place in Parliament or among the people or involving the Opposition parties.



Congress leader — P Chidambaram

Few countries would be willing to join a coalition that excludes players like China. They all want to do business with Beijing.



Singaporean PM — Lee Hsien Loong

I got so angry that my (mental health) story was twisted into so many different things. Did I go and get help? Yes I did. But I'm not ashamed. I feel better and understand things now.



Singer and actor — Selena Gomez

I think there are a couple of teams; CSK certainly needs a little bit of restructuring ahead of next year's Indian Premier League.



Former India fast bowler — Ajit Agarkar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pak's pathetic bid

Sir — The timing of the intense exchange of fire along the Line of Control (LoC), following ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces and Islamabad's release of a "dossier" with so-called evidence of terror against it allegedly sponsored by India, has led to speculation about the intention of our neighbouring nation's leadership. The exchange of fire along the LoC on November 13 killed nine people on the Indian side while retaliatory firing by the Indian armed forces destroyed several bunkers and logistic facilities on the Pakistani side.

There is speculation that both developments were part of Islamabad's trite efforts to influence the incoming US administration, led by President-elect Joe Biden, on the Kashmir issue and Indo-Pakistan relations. The administration of President Donald Trump had imposed some of the harshest sanctions on Pakistan, including the suspension of security assistance worth billions of dollars since 2018 for its support to terrorist groups.

Maybe that is why Pakistan is trying to taint India's image too. Thankfully, its "terror dossier" found few takers in the world

Political parties need to clean up their act

The Supreme Court has declined to pass orders on the plea by retired civil servant SN Shukla, representing a non-governmental organisation (NGO), for barring tainted politicians from contesting elections. The court refused, shifting the onus of enacting laws to bar criminal politicians from contesting polls to the Parliament.

The Supreme Court has taken the right decision. The main role of the courts is to interpret the law as it exists. Convictions and acquittals should be based on the violation or observance of laws. Lawmakers, cutting across party lines, are likely to oppose any idea to bar criminals from contesting polls. If consensus prevails among the lawmakers to cleanse the political space and keep it free from tainted politicians, it may not be difficult for the Parliament to pass the necessary law.

It is naive to expect political parties not to give tickets to people with criminal records, especially "bahubalis (henchmen)" they have used symbolically from time to time to garner votes for themselves.



Expedient disposal of criminal cases with convictions can keep tainted people away from the political arena. The apex court's ruling should kickstart a debate on the move to enact laws to bar people with criminal records and cases from contesting polls. The Representation of People's Act needs to be amended.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

community. Its latest gambit has come at a time when Prime Minister Imran Khan is grappling with pressing domestic issues, from severe economic distress, joblessness to greater cohesive efforts by the Opposition to unseat him.

Khan should focus on setting his own house in order instead of making futile attempts to stir the Kashmir pot, just to keep his

seat. That's not working anymore.
N Sadhasiva Reddy
Bengaluru

Keep schools shut

Sir — Schools provide the ideal environment for the spread of COVID-19. Studies have shown that children and teenagers can catch and spread COVID-19 just as easily as adults. Moreover,

children, once infected, carry high viral and extremely contagious loads, which they can pass on to their parents and others. If schools were to reopen without the necessary Coronavirus precautions and protocols in place, it is highly likely that students would play a much larger role in spreading this pandemic than has occurred previously. Second, everyone needs to

know the basics. The school community — students, parents, school staff and all people these groups are connected to — needs basic information on COVID-19 transmission and how to reduce it through established procedures. Moreover, many Government schools do not have access to sufficient running water to ensure that the children can wash their hands frequently. In addition, there are a very limited number of functional toilets in most Government-run schools. Who will ensure that the children are washing their hands frequently or wearing their masks all the time and maintaining social distancing?

Which parent would like to take the risk of sending their son/daughter to school when the pandemic has not yet died down? The right time for re-opening schools would be January, once the winter is over and the expected surge of cases is on the wane. The Education Ministers of various States should take a note of this.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Adopt politics of principles

We need to shun those leaders who have a price tag because they can compromise at any time and in any situation, provided the sum is right



VIJAY BAHADUR PATHAK

Every person on this Earth is an independent political unit, because politics influences all walks of life and its impact can be felt everywhere. Theoretically, politics is pure because it is meant to bring prosperity and positivity. But it has become tainted as it is being influenced by caste, creed and religion. It is believed that voting is by and large fair and not manipulated. But the truth is that manipulation still continues. An electoral process gets influenced much before the voter enters the polling booth because caste and creed guide his/her voting decision rather than the welfare of society. This can best be summarised in words of Deen Dayal Upadhyay who said, "Voting without principle leads to irrational politics." This is true because unprincipled politics leads to exploitation of all values of life — social, economic and religious.

To prevent such an unfortunate situation, the foundation of politics has to be re-evaluated, reformed and reconstructed. This is possible only if transformation begins from the villages as they are where the soul of India lives. However, change is possible only if the politics of principle takes the place of opportunism, money power, muscle power and other trappings that lead to corruption.

We need to shun those leaders who have a price tag because they can compromise at any time and in any situation, provided the figure is right. Rejecting such leaders is the cornerstone of principled politics. This requires introspection because the problem is not outside, but within. There is a huge difference between our desires and what we practise. This distinction is the bulwark of a strong democracy. However, there is a dichotomy. We want our democracy to be flourishing, mature and progressive but our voting is influenced by hatred, vengeance, caste, religion, sect, relationship with a particular person, selfishness or profit. This duplicity is the root of political degeneration.

We need to keep in mind that the person, who is contesting the election, is not the only one who is political but every individual voting for him/her is a political unit, too. The statement of Greek philosopher Aristotle that "man is a political and social animal" is very relevant here. Therefore, every person has a role in spreading political purity. There is a need to discipline oneself. The spirit should be that we are making a choice not to rule, but to prevent and eliminate negative politics. This route is difficult because it can lead to both, defeat and victory. But in both cases there should be a sense of satisfaction. Because, if one wins and is able to transform politics then it is good for society. And if one fails, this should give one the satisfaction that s/he tried to bring change. This is no less than a victory. But the fact remains that politics should be principled and a small section of people does support this line of thinking. If one sticks to it, this number will swell and one day India will witness political change.

In India, as in other democracies, transparent voting forms the bulwark of democracy. But our voting is influenced by caste and religion. This is a negative way of voting and we end up electing a corrupt person with a criminal record as our representative. If s/he is corrupt, we have ourselves to blame because we elected that person. This can be best summed up through a Hindi proverb which says, "Boya ped babul ka, aam kahan se hoye (How can we expect a harvest of mangoes when we have planted an Acacia tree)?" Or, as the Biblical proverb says, "As you sow, so shall you reap."

We elect a criminal to be our leader and then we expect him/her to do something good for society. It is just wishful thinking on our part to expect a corrupt MP/MLA to shed his/her personal greed and ambition and start working for the betterment of society.

In a democracy, the responsibility of nation-building lies with the people, too. If the Parliament is the temple of democracy, the gram panchayats are its power centres. It is the panchayat which is the root of our democracy because this is the place where India's heart lives. But unfortunately we neglect these power centres. A beginning has to be made from these village units and for that we need to change the thinking process of our democracy and village empowerment. The politics of money should be replaced with politics of transparency. In Uttar Pradesh, the panchayat elections were usually contested on an individual basis. Money and local influence used to play an important role in the election of members and the village head. The time has come to boycott those who wish to become *pradhans* on the basis of muscle and money power. One way to cleanse the system is to give party symbols to those who are contesting panchayat elections. The beginning will be made by the BJP, which has decided to field candidates at the village-level elections. Other political parties can follow suit, too.

It is believed that India's nationwide thinking cannot be "one" because this country is a nation with different beliefs and lifestyles. However, unity in diversity is a greater truth than India. In spite of different foods, religions, cultures and life philosophies, the entire nation is "one" because the desire to build a prosperous, capable and empowered India is one.

(The writer is vice-president of UP BJP and MLC)

WE ARE YET TO HEAR THE PARTY'S VIEWS ON OUR RECENT PERFORMANCE IN BIHAR. MAYBE THEY THINK ALL IS WELL AND IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL.

—CONGRESS LEADER
KAPIL SIBAL

POINT COUNTERPOINT



HAD KAPIL SIBAL GONE TO BIHAR AND MP, HE COULD HAVE PROVED THAT WHAT HE IS SAYING IS CORRECT. MERE TALK WILL ACHIEVE NOTHING.

—CONGRESS LEADER
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Time for a hate-free world

Faith needs to be negotiated with empathy for the marginalised and the culturally-different by breaking through the glass ceiling of Europeanism and replacing it with cosmopolitanism



PRASENUJIT BISWAS

Sigmund Freud's diagnostic work, entitled *Civilization and its Discontents*, explains how civilisations spawn neurotic responses. The French principle of *laïcité* (secularism) places the huge demand of strict separation between State and religion. Freud's theory of neurotic response arises from the inability to follow such difficult and hard commands of civilisations. Essentially it means that France, as a State, has no other way but to respond with angst to the terrorist act of killing of a teacher, which precisely is an act of Freudian discontent, may be even neurosis. The subject of neurosis is necessarily misplaced or displaced. France's specific problem with its principle of *laïcité* is that it finds the core values of Islam incongruent with the French national ethos. If freedom of expression in secularism involves the right to offend symbols of other religions by calling them antithetical to French national culture, it marks the effacement of a minority religion like Islam in the public space. This is how France cannot uphold a true *laïcité* by overriding the faith of erstwhile colonised Arabs from the Maghreb and other minorities, who comprise a diverse Muslim populace. So *laïcité* takes the form of political secularism that creates a hierarchy in which it decides which religious faith is acceptable and which one is not. Secularism, then, acts as a rule of the majority over minority faiths. This creates an apparent conflict between the majority world view and minority religions.

Placing the burden of tolerance on a particular religion after offending its symbols is certainly unwarranted in a secular State. This is a failure to establish equality between religions as well as a failure to ensure freedom of conscience. This also justifies reactive violence on a populace for their failure to come to terms with the offence committed on their faith. The French version of secularism, placing the demand on the State to remain strictly separated from religion, cannot heal the wounds of history of the erstwhile colonised.

The long history of colonisation of Black Africans and Arabs by France impacts the present shape of French secularism to create marginality and radical Islam together in the people from erstwhile French colonies. Political secularism lives through such contrarian moments of extremism and radical religious politics arising from a history of colonisation. Here, one needs to draw a distinction between "political secularism" and "secularism of values." Secularism of values differs from political secularism as it promotes an attitude of "neither pro, nor anti-religion." Political secularism polarises this secularism of values into something that is anti or against some practices of a particular religious group.

An attitude of neutrality towards religion does not stop the French State from turning against it, or turning selectively in favour of a religion. This brings into picture the logic of uniformity of symbols in public space that does not allow a difference of religious symbols. Political secularism relegates religions to the private, or at most to community spaces.

If the freedom of every religion in France is taken literally in *laïcité*, why is it so very hard for Muslims to follow their symbols or to ensure their faith? Derogation of the Prophet in any way cannot be considered as consistent with the practice of hard secularist neutrality. Secular neutrality of "neither for nor against" is supposed to remain neutral to the way a religion practises its belief. Instead of such a principled stance, what the French *laïcité* does is to allow the way a religion is reflected in the mirror of French State or public.

In effect, exercise of legal indemnity towards



FRANCE HAS TO OVERCOME THE PRESENT ANTAGONISM BY BUILDING MORE BRIDGES WITH MUSLIMS ON ITS SOIL AND DISPELLING THE IMAGE OF BEING AT WAR WITH ISLAM. MACRON CANNOT AFFORD TO BECOME A MASCOT OF RIGHT-WING ISLAMOPHOBES. A LIBERAL STATE ULTIMATELY NEEDS TO ACCOMMODATE DIFFERENCES AND RETURN TO UNIFYING NATIONALISM THAT PROMOTES LOVE AND CO-BELONGING



a distortion of symbols or image of a faith is a licence to undermine the specific character and practices of a particular faith or religion. This is projecting a wrong image of a religion in the public space. Taken to its extreme, French secularism posits religious identities into an adversary by allowing an underlying "war on religion" or by allowing a derogation of religious symbols. Such an outcome cannot be fully legit in a pluralist democracy. Seemingly France tweaks its legal, political and juridical concepts attached to secularism to legitimise constraints upon those religions that are considered as outliers. Hence the law of secularism is no guarantee for religious freedom, it rather is a way of tweaking and moderating religious expressions within limits of French neutrality.

Are certain identities, then, to be treated as antithetical to the principles of *laïcité*? Is treating every religion in an equal manner a way of cutting it to size by downplaying its core belief structure? In French President Emmanuel Macron's language, "no totem or taboo", referring to religious symbols. Is it then, a hard secular knock at others? Is there a secularism-inspired separation of the self and other as part of State policy? This is a denial or acceptance of the select values of religion, mixed with the secular cause, a certain fragmentation of *laïcité* itself. Rejection of the turban or the hijab interestingly turns an outsider's gaze on French secularism that continuously undercuts the line of strict separation.

This creates a political issue of adjustment between a religious victim's perception of being denigrated and the demand placed on him/her to not show difference of identity in the public sphere. This also turns French *laïcité* into a "misuse of secularism to stigmatise people." Clearly President Macron's statement, "Islam is a religion in crisis all over the world" or a highly visible crackdown on Islam as a religion border on a near anti-

Islam positioning that goes against the grain of neutrality and freedom of conscience.

A *mea culpa* anti-Islam version of French secularism has its internal victims. The French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM) stated, "We are sometimes targets of anti-Muslim acts but others are also victims of hostile acts. In the face of these provocations, we must remain decent, serene and clear-sighted." If the public sphere is not supposed to carry the remnants of any such *mea culpa* version from any side, as per French secularism, the exact opposite has happened. Stigmatisation, racial othering and lampooning of the doctrines of faith assume the garb of French *laïcité*. So what remains unresolved is this lack of criticism against an anti-Islam stance of President Macron, often known as "Macronism."

This Macronist secularism misdirected against a religion arises from the French President's political secularism that wrecks equality of faiths. It further causes an emotional and grief-based solidarity that provides a fulcrum for new laws for monitoring schools and mosques in Muslim areas of France. Acquiescence by Saudi Arabia to the Macronist stance on Islam in terms of his "counter-terrorism and deradicalisation" measures strengthens the pre-emptive fixing of the guilt on Muslim immigrants in France, especially if they are of Arab origin.

The deficits of *laïcité* cannot be supplemented by such externalisation of an anti-Islam stance. Should secularism turn Islamophobic, it brings back an image of an anti-Semite European world view, which ultimately undermines the secularism of values by a version of political secularism.

France has to overcome the present antagonism by building more bridges with Muslims on its soil and dispelling the image of being at war with Islam. Macron cannot afford to become a mas-

cot of Right-wing Islamophobes. A liberal State ultimately needs to accommodate differences and return to unifying nationalism that promotes love and co-belonging. Faith needs to be negotiated with a special ecumenism and empathy for the marginalised and the culturally-different by breaking through the glass ceiling of Europeanism and replacing it with cosmopolitanism.

Cosmopolitanism in Europe places the demand of adopting a value-neutral position to both one's own religion as well as to other religions. Catholic churches of France, irked by a certain mockery of their faith, filed cases on *Charlie Hebdo*, but, unlike Islamists, never indulged in terror attacks. However, Islamists and certain conservative clerics create an atmosphere of backlash on the slightest slight of their religious symbols. Islamic nation States, too, are particularly intransigent towards people of different faiths and compel them to comply with codes of Islam in everyday life.

The value-neutral and secular cosmopolitan European culture allows for acceptance of symbols of religious traditions as a universal heritage of mankind. The French version of secularism insists on the separation of the sphere of faith from the sphere of common and shared public life, that is supposed to extol virtues of tolerance and unconditional respect for the other. It is here that reactions to freedom of aesthetic and artistic representation of religious symbols and prophets is supposed to be beyond any dogmatic condemnation.

France stands for not restricting freedom of satirisation or artistic freedom to be unconstrained by religious dogmas. It is here that French *laïcité* ensures that France will not side with any faith, be it Islam, be it Sikhism or Christianity in allowing freedom of choice, conscience and individuality to all people.

(The writer is a philosopher and political analyst based in Shillong)

The Forest Rights Act is not serving its purpose

The law's implementation suffers due to the lackadaisical and target-oriented approach of the Tribal Affairs Ministry, which is just content with settling claims



VK BAHUGUNA

States were declared as reserved and protected areas. In 1989, the Government set up a dispute settlement mechanism at the district level with a committee consisting of a Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Forest Officers and the Sub-Divisional Tribal Welfare Officer. But this committee remained either non-functional or did not do its job. The problem kept festering, with rival political interests taking centrestage after the Supreme Court's order in 2003 on eviction of all encroachments on forest lands. After the General Election of 2004, the United Progressive Alliance enacted the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. It recognised that forest rights on the ancestral lands of the tribals and their habitat were not adequately provided, resulting in historical injustice to the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, who are integral to the very survival of the ecosystem.

For the last 14 years, the process of vesting forest rights is under way

under the provisions of the Forest Act. As per the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, as on June 30, a total of 42,52,124 claims had been filed. Of this 41,03,001 were individual claims and 1,49,123 were community ones. A total of 19,09,249 individual claims comprising over 16.69 lakh hectares (ha) of forests were settled and vested with the people. And 76,383 community claims over 35.22 lakh ha of forests were vested with the beneficiaries. Thus forest rights of tribal people and traditional forest dwellers on around 52 lakh ha of forests stand settled.

Now the question is, what is happening to these people? In the tribal belt of Madhya Pradesh, in the districts of Jabalpur, Seoni, Mandla, Umeria, Balaghat and Dindori, I met representatives of local NGOs, Jai Bharati Siksha Kendra, Kalyan Ashram and Bharat Vikas Parishad and a large number of tribal people, and discussed the implementation of the Act. On the positive side, in well-stocked forests, where *mahua*, *chironji* and so on are available, the people have raised their



income. At one place in Dabra Khurd in Jabalpur district, the management of 42 forest resources out of 75 has been transferred to 12 village communities. But these 3,500 ha of forests, from the point of view of the management, have become a no man's land as neither is the forest department doing anything, nor do the communities have the wherewithal to manage them because of lack of funds and capacity. The proposal for the creation of a Van Dhan Centre by communities is being tossed between the Collector's Office and the Divisional Forest Officer. Another

proposal of the Dabra village community for preparation of the micro plan, as per the provision of the Act, has not been forwarded by the Tribal Welfare Department of Madhya Pradesh to the Centre, for funding under the tribal sub-plan, in the last two-and-a-half years.

Grassroot workers put this down to corruption in the Tribal Welfare Department where a huge amount of funds remains unutilised. Hence, out of frustration, social workers are leaving these communities in the lurch.

The villagers of Dabra Khurd are asking for *tendu patta* auction rights because in the existing process, the Joint Forest Management (JFM) committees get a part of the sale money and not the Community Rights Committees. The viability of continuing JFM committees in these areas is being questioned and there is talk of replacing it with a better, people-centric strategy.

There is confusion in these villages regarding the management of forests as the local forest officers feel that they

are not allowed to operate in these areas and the people also do not approach them due to lack of mutual trust. While the local Chief Conservator of Forests has agreed to hold a meeting with the people to develop a model for the management of Non-Timber Forest Products, politics is making the people root for more individual rights. They are not focussing on managing community rights. It is ironical that 86 per cent of the growers in India are marginal farmers with less than two ha of land. The basic aim of the enactment of this Act has, therefore, succeeded only partially.

The Act's implementation suffers due to the lackadaisical and target-oriented approach of the Tribal Affairs Ministry. It is just content with settling claims. The objective of this Act is to help both, the people and the ecosystem they are a part of. The Union Government must consider making the Forest Department responsible for preparing a micro plan and building the capacity of the people for managing the forests.

One major decision warranted is to continue JFM in other forest areas with second-generation reforms but in areas where the forest right Act is being implemented, it should be replaced with community forest management, with the communities having the freedom to manage the resources with the technical support of the Forest Department.

Grassroot level NGOs should be made stakeholders for more transparency and to support the communities in capacity-building. The basic flaws in the Act's implementation must be rectified by making the Forest Department the nodal agency for the execution of management and development of resources jointly with communities. This is so that a single point delivery system with accountability exists.

There is a need for policy intervention by the Centre so that 52 lakh ha of forests produce sufficient resources for the people while remaining ecologically viable.

(The writer is a former civil servant)

Trump fires top Homeland Security official

Sacked official had contradicted Prez claims of election fraud



President Donald Trump has fired a top Homeland Security official who contradicted his claims of voter fraud and asserted that the November 3 election was the most secure one in America's history.

Washington: President Donald Trump has fired a top Homeland Security official who contradicted his claims of voter fraud and asserted that the November 3 election was the most secure one in America's history.

Trump, who has launched a slew of lawsuits in key states, but has not provided any evidence to back his claims of fraud, announced on Twitter on Tuesday that he has fired Christopher Krebs, director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) at the Department of Homeland Security.

“The recent statement by Chris Krebs on the security of the 2020 Election was highly inaccurate, in that there were massive improprieties and fraud - including dead people voting, poll watchers not allowed into polling locations, ‘glitches’ in the voting machines which changed votes from Trump to Biden, late voting and many more,” Trump said in a tweet, repeating unsubstantiated claims of election fraud.

“Therefore, effective immediately, Chris Krebs has been terminated as Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency,” he said.

Krebs is the latest official to be dismissed by the US president following his defeat, with Defence Secretary Mark Esper also shown the door amid reports Trump doubted the Pentagon chief's loyalty.

There is speculation that before Trump leaves office in January, CIA director Gina Haspel and FBI director Christopher Wray may also be sacked.

Following his dismissal, Krebs, a former Microsoft executive appeared to have no regrets.

“Honored to serve. We did it right. Defend Today, Secure Tomorrow. #Protect2020,” he tweeted, President Trump said that the only thing secure about the election was that it was virtually impenetrable by foreign powers.

“On that, the Trump administration takes great credit. Unfortunately, the Radical Left Democrats, Dominion, and others, were perhaps more successful!” he said. **PTI**

Deadline near for hand tally of presidential race in Georgia

Atlanta: Election officials across Georgia are staring down a Wednesday deadline to complete a hand tally of the presidential race in the state. The hand recount of nearly 5 million votes stems from an audit required by a new state law and wasn't in response to any suspected problems with the state's results or an official recount request. The law requires the audit to be done before the counties' certified results can be certified by the state.

The deadline for the counties to complete the audit is 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, ahead of the Friday deadline for state certification. The hand count is meant to ensure that the state's new election machines accurately tabulated the votes and isn't expected to change the

overall outcome, state election officials have repeatedly said.

Going into the count, Democrat Joe Biden led Republican President Donald Trump by a margin of about 14,000 votes. Previously uncounted ballots discovered in two counties during the hand count will reduce that margin to about 13,000, said Gabriel Sterling, who oversaw the implementation of the state's new voting system for the secretary of state's office.

Once the results are certified, if the margin between the candidates remains within 0.5 per cent, the losing campaign can request a recount.

That would be done using scanners that read and tally the votes and would be paid for by the state, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has said. **AP**

China has no theological basis to pick the next Dalai Lama: US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

China has no theological basis to pick the next Dalai Lama, according to a top US diplomat, asserting that the Tibetan Buddhists have successfully picked their spiritual leader for hundreds of years.

“I travelled to Dharamshala, India to speak to the Tibetan community that were assembled there in exile and to tell them that the US is opposed to China picking the next Dalai Lama,” Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Samuel D Brownback told reporters on Tuesday during a conference call, recalling his visit to India in October.

“They have no right to do that. They have no theological basis to do that. The Tibetan Buddhists have successfully picked their leader for hundreds of years, if not longer, and they have the right to do

that now,” he said in response to a question. Brownback said the US supports that religious communities have the right to pick their own leadership.

“That certainly includes the next Dalai Lama. So we've pushed back against that. We're going to continue to push back against that. We think that's completely wrong of the Chinese Communist Party to assert that they have that right,” he said.

The 14th Dalai Lama, now 85, has been living in India ever since he fled Tibet in 1959 following a Chinese crackdown on an uprising by the local population. The Tibetan government-in-exile operates from Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh. Over 1,60,000 Tibetans live in India.

Brownback accused China of one of the worst religious persecution situations in the world today, if not the worst.

“It will not help them in their fight on terrorism,” he said, adding, that the Chinese are trying to sell it to the world that this is an effort to prevent terrorism, but they're going to create more terrorists.

“The answer to terrorism isn't locking up everybody. The answer to terrorism is religious freedom, allowing people to freely practice their faith, and they won't fight you as much. If the Chinese weren't at war with faith, they would have a more open society, but they'd also have a more satisfied citizenry that seeks to practice their faith and be left alone and left in peace,” he said.

He called on China to stop their war on faith, which will not be successful anyway, but against the Uyghurs, against the Tibetan Buddhists, against the Christian house church, against the Catholic Church, against Falun Gong.

UK's Labour roiled by feud over anti-Semitism and Corbyn

London: The leader of Britain's main opposition Labour Party said on Wednesday that he won't readmit ex-Labour chief Jeremy Corbyn to the party's parliamentary caucus, accusing Corbyn of weakening efforts to stamp out anti-Semitism.

Labour leader Keir Starmer said his predecessor had “undermined and set back our work in restoring trust and confidence in the Labour Party's ability to tackle anti-Semitism.” Corbyn will continue to sit in Parliament, but as an independent lawmaker. Labour has been grappling with allegations that anti-Semitism was allowed to fester under Corbyn, a long-time supporter of Palestinians and a critic of Israel who led the party for almost five years from 2015.

Corbyn was suspended from the party last month in the wake of a scathing report by Britain's equalities watchdog. The Equality and Human Rights Commission said Labour officials had failed to stamp out anti-Semitism and committed “unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination.”

After the report was released, Corbyn accused opponents of exaggerating the problem for “political reasons” — a statement that got him suspended from the party.

On Tuesday, Corbyn issued a statement saying that concerns about anti-Semitism in Labour were not exaggerated, and the party must “never tolerate anti-Semitism or belittle concerns about it.” **AP**

Burkina Faso moves ahead with vote despite extremist attacks

Kaya, (Burkina Faso): A change in Burkina Faso's electoral code means results from this month's election will be considered valid even if people can't vote in parts of the West African country that are overrun by Islamic extremist violence.

Candidates like Tegawende Ouédraogo, who ran and lost in 2015, fear the change could cost them the election. The 38-year-old is based in one of the hardest hit areas in the country, Sanmatenga province.

The province accounts for almost 10% of the more than 2,000 fatalities due to violence this year, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project and thousands of people might not be

able to vote. “When a tire bursts, people run away. There might be rumors of attacks and people will not go to polling stations,” he said.

Burkina Faso will go to the polls on November 22 to vote in presidential and legislative elections marred by ongoing violence. Attacks linked to Islamic militants have ravaged the once peaceful nation, forcing more than 1 million people from their homes and making swaths of land inaccessible. It now threatens to undermine the legitimacy of the elections.

Burkina Faso's main political parties voted to change the law in July, making the election valid based on the areas where

people can vote, instead of previously requiring ballots to be cast across the country. Candidates whose supporters are mainly in villages unreachable due to violence fear they won't get the numbers they need to win legislative seats.

The new law signifies the government's inability to secure the nation said, Chrysogone Zougmore, president of the Burkinabe Movement for Human Rights, a local advocacy group.

“In certain regions, a lot of Burkinabe will be denied their right to vote,” he said. Communities in the hardest hit regions, in the Sahel, north and the east, already feel marginalized, which could exacerbate tensions, he said. **AP**

Pak parliamentary committee passes CPEC Authority Bill

Islamabad: A parliamentary committee has cleared with majority vote the “China Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2020” which was blocked by the Opposition members during the last meeting, a media report said on Wednesday.

The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Planning and Development presided over by ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leader Junaid Akbar took up the government bill on Tuesday. After a detailed discussion, the committee agreed to decide the fate of the bill through voting.

The Opposition members said their objections over the creation of the CPEC Authority

(CPECA) had not been addressed and the creation of a new authority would affect CPEC projects instead of expediting them.

The USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is fully funded by Beijing under the multi-billion One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. India has protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar said the CPECA would have no powers as all work would be carried out by the line ministries and added that the authority's operations would not be in conflict with the working of the line ministries. **PTI**

Taiwan refuses to renew pro-China news channel's licence

Taipei: Taiwan's government refused to renew the broadcast license of a leading pro-China cable news channel on Wednesday, prompting complaints of political interference.

The National Communications Commission cited repeated violations of rules on accurate reporting in saying it had rejected CTITV's application to renew its license. The channel is owned by the Want Want China Times media group, which also publishes one of Taiwan's main newspapers and has long been associated with a Beijing-friendly political view, partly attributed to its extensive business interests in China. **AP**

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Kolkata's Pride

SUPPLY OF STORES

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 10/20-21, Dtd. 17.11.2020
Principal CMM, Metro Railway, Kolkata, 33/1, J.L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071 on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender for following items already uploaded in website www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details/description/drawing/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online.

Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Tender Closing date & time
02205100	20 KVA uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for AFC & PC system	27 Nos.	24.11.2020 at 14.00 hrs.
02205217	Central Server Web Server Server Farm Server Farm with virtualization support SAN Storage System with 16 GBPS redundant controller Racks and backup device with media 48 port layer-3 switch Unified threat management SAP SQL anywhere advanced edition 1st year ATS on SQL anywhere advanced edition Latest stable version of RHEL OS	2 Nos. 1 No. 1 No. 1 No. 1 No. 2 Nos. 2 Nos. 2 Nos. 7 Nos.	27.11.2020 at 14.00 hrs.
02205136A	1.1 KV Grade 3C x 50 Sq. mm. XLPE insulated copper cable 1.1 KV Grade 4C x 50 Sq. mm XLPE insulated copper cable	4000 Mtrs. 2000	01.12.2020 at 14.00 hrs.

Principal CMM, Metro Railway, Kolkata
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Iraq, Saudi Arabia reopen key border crossing after decades

Baghdad: Iraq and Saudi Arabia have reopened the main border crossing for trade between the two nations after three decades of closure, Iraq's border authority said on Wednesday.

The Arar crossing was shuttered in 1990s, following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait after which Riyadh cut all ties with Iraq. The crossing remained closed, reflecting the unease in Baghdad-Riyadh ties with successive governments.

But diplomatic ties were restored in 2015, following several high-level meetings that led first to the reopening of Riyadh's embassy in Baghdad. Later, in 2017, a bilateral coordination council was established to improve ties.

Arar's reopening represents a key step toward firming relations and deepening Iraq-Saudi economic cooperation. **AP**

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

E-TENDER NO. 2020RS1742TC
CORRIGENDUM NO. 4

1.0 Tender will be closed at 15.00 hours on 18.12.2020 instead of 19.11.2020.
2.0 All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

Director, Railway Stores (W),
Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi
for and on behalf of President of India.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Thai police gird for trouble after chaotic political protest

Bangkok: Police in Thailand's capital braced for possible trouble Wednesday, a day after a protest outside Parliament by pro-democracy demonstrators was marred by violence that left 55 people injured, including as many as six with gunshot wounds.

The protesters, enraged at what they regard as disproportionate use of force against them by police who employed chemical-laced water cannons and tear gas, gathered for another protest late Wednesday in central Bangkok.

Tuesday's protest was held as a joint session of the House and Senate debated seven

motions for amending the constitution. A vote on the motions was taking place Wednesday. Any that are passed will have to go through second and third votes after at least a month.

According to Erawan emergency services, 55 people at Tuesday's protest were sent to hospitals, the largest number suffering from the effects of tear gas. It said four remained hospitalized Wednesday, including three of the six people it said had suffered gunshot wounds. The circumstances of the shootings were not announced.

Some of the injuries occurred during a brawl between the pro-democracy protesters and stone-throwing royalists who oppose constitutional change.

It was the worst violence during months of actions by the pro-democracy protesters, though police had previously employed water cannons at least twice. The protest movement has been staging increasingly determined mass rallies of thousands of people around the country.

Police at a news conference Wednesday spoke of only two people with gunshot wounds, and indicated that they were not responsible for them. **AP**

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INFORMATION REGARDING 38TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING (VC) / OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM)

Dear Members,

The 38th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of **ADDI Industries Limited** ("the Company") will be held on **Wednesday, 23rd December, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.** through Video Conference ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") facility without the physical presence of the members at a common venue to transact the businesses as set out in the notice of AGM in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act) and Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with Circular No. 14/2020 dated 08th April, 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated 13th April, 2020 and Circular No. 20/2020 dated 05th May, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated 12th May, 2020 issued by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The Company has engaged the services of Central Depository Securities Limited (CDSL) as the authorised agency to provide the facility of attending AGM through VC / OAVM, Remote e-voting before AGM and e-voting during AGM.

In accordance with the aforesaid Circular(s), the Notice of 38th AGM and Annual Report for the Financial Year 2019-20 will be sent only through electronic mode to those members, whose e-mail address is registered / available with the Company / Depository Participant(s). The aforesaid documents will be available on the website of the Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and on the website of CDSL at www.evoting.cdsli.com

The members will have an opportunity to cast their vote electronically on the businesses set out in the AGM Notice through remote e-voting / e-voting during the AGM. The detailed procedure for remote e-voting / e-voting during the AGM by Members holding shares in Physical mode and Members, who have not registered their e-mail address with the Company will be provided in the Notice of AGM.

Members who have not registered their e-mail address with the Company/ Depository Participant(s) are requested to register their e-mail address as per Instructions given below for the purpose of obtaining e-voting User ID & Password, Notice of AGM and Annual Report 2019-20 and updation of Bank Account Details:

Physical Holding	Please send scanned copy of duly signed request letter to Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA), Beetal Financial Computer Services Pvt. Ltd. through an e-mail beetalra@gmail.com providing Folio No., Name of Shareholder along with scanned copy of the Share Certificate (front and back), self-attested scanned copy of the PAN Card and any one of the following documents viz., Aadhaar Card, Driving Licence, Voter Card, Passport or Utility bill in support of the address proof of the Member as registered with the Company for the purpose of obtaining e-voting User ID & Password, Notice of AGM and Annual Report 2019-20.
Demat Holding	Please update e-mail address / Bank Account Details with your Depository Participants (DP).

Addi Industries Limited
Sd/-
Twinkle Bhardwaj
(Company Secretary)
M. No.: A57698

Date: 18.11.2020
Place: New Delhi

Around the Globe

Copenhagen: The Danish minister in charge of farming resigned Wednesday as he took the blame for the government ordering the culling of all farmed mink without having the necessary legislation in place first. The culling was ordered after a mutated version of the coronavirus was found in some farms and had infected people. There is no evidence that the mutated version is more dangerous but the Government moved quickly out of safety, though it lacked the legal basis to order the killing of healthy animals too.

LEGAL NOTICE

I, on behalf of my clients (1) Satyapal Gupta S/o Sh. Pyare Lal Gupta and (2) Neelam Gupta W/o Satyapal Gupta both R/o B-901, Mayurdwaj Apartment, Geeta colony Delhi hereby notify to all concerned that my clients have disinherited and disowned their son Mr. Abhishek Gupta and his wife namely Ms. Ayushi Jain from all their movable, immovable properties and bank account, business, and other assets. Above said Mr. Abhishek Gupta and Ms. Ayushi Jain do not obey my clients and is out of the control of my clients and have been living separately from my clients. Anybody dealing with him will do so at his own cost and risk.

Arvind Nagar (Advocate)
Office Plot No. 3,
Hasanapur I, P Extension,
Delhi-110092

IN THE COURT OF Ms. Shefali Barnava Tandon, Administrative Civil Judge-Cum-ARC(Central), Room No.323, 3rd Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.
SC No.104/2020
SMT. SAROJ AGGARWAL & ANR. V/S THE STATE
1. SMT. Saroj Agarwal W/o Late Sh. Nand Lal Kedia @Nand Lal Agrawal R/O 1026/3, Behind Novelty Cinema, Tilak Bazaar, Delhi-110006.
PRESENTLY RESIDING AT: 19, Mangla Mata Road, Bada Akhda, Bhrampur, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
2. Ms. Garima Agarwal D/o Late Sh. Nand Lal Kedia @ Nand Lal Agrawal R/O 1026/3, Behind Novelty Cinema, Tilak Bazaar, Delhi-110006. PRESENTLY RESIDING AT: 19, Mangla Mata Road, Bada Akhda, Bhrampur, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

.....Petitioners
FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925 TO,
All Concerned
Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs XXX. As per record to be standing in the name of Late Sh. Nand Lal Kedia @Nand Lal Agrawal deceased.
Whereas the 30.01.2021 at 10' o'clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing or the application notice is hereby given to this concerned. Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 12.11.2020.
ACJ/ARC (Central)
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.

AXIS BANK

Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001.
Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Indraprastha, Ghaziabad-201012, Retail Asset Centre Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd, SCO-8, Huda Shopping Centre, Sec. 16, Faridabad, Haryana-121002, Retail Asset Centre Gurgaon: Axis Bank Ltd - ASC Gurgaon, S6-107, DLF Galleria Complex, Near Post Office, DLF City Phase 4, Gurgaon-122009, Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025 Registered Office: Trishul, 3rd floor, opposite Samarshwar Temple, Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ here under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower/ Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice 2. Date of Possession 3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) till 25-07-2019 (Plus further unapplied interest)
1. Mr. Vijay Kumar Pal, S/o - Sh. Ram Charan Pal, R/o- H. No. 2543, Sec-7A Chowk, Sector-7, Faridabad Haryana -121006 Also At: Mr. Vijay Kumar Pal, S/o - Sh. Ram Charan Pal At - Shiv Sweet and Cakes, 2398, Sector -7 A, Sector -7 Faridabad Haryana -121006 Also At: Mr. Vijay Kumar Pal, S/o - Sh. Ram Charan Pal, House No 784, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Faridabad Haryana -121006	Residential Property at House No - 784, (Ground and First Floor), area measuring 250 Sq. Yrds. consist of 9 rooms in Sector -08, Urban Estate, Tehsil-Ballabhgarh Faridabad Haryana along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under (According to sale Deed): East: As Per Sale Deed West: As Per Sale Deed North: As Per Sale Deed South: As Per Sale Deed	1.25-July-19 2.17-Nov-2020 3. Rs.1,25,29,317/-
1. Mr. Malli Sahu, W/o- Vijay Kumar Pal, R/o- H. No. 2543, Sec-7A, Chowk, Sector-7, Faridabad Haryana -121006 Also At: Mrs. Malli Sahu, W/O - Vijay Kumar Pal, House No - 784, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Faridabad Haryana -121006	Residential Property at House No - 784, (Ground and First Floor), area measuring 250 Sq. Yrds. consist of 9 rooms in Sector -08, Urban Estate, Tehsil-Ballabhgarh Faridabad Haryana along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and in the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under (According to sale Deed): East: As Per Sale Deed West: As Per Sale Deed North: As Per Sale Deed South: As Per Sale Deed	1.25-July-19 2.17-Nov-2020 3. Rs.1,25,29,317/-

The above-mentioned Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: 19-11-2020
Place: Delhi

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.,

MARKETS MAINTAIN RECORD RUN Sensex ends above 44,000 for first time

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks scaled record highs for the third straight session on Wednesday as investors accumulated banking, auto and engineering stocks amid firm global cues and unabated foreign fund inflows. The BSE Sensex vaulted 227.34 points or 0.52 per cent to close above the 44,000-level for the first time at 44,180.05. Intra-day, it touched its lifetime high of 44,215.49.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 64.05 points or 0.50 per cent to end at its all-time high of 12,938.25, after making an intra-day record of 12,948.85.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, soaring 10.76 per cent, followed by L&T, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv, SBI, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Kotak Bank and Axis Bank.

On the other hand, HUL, ITC, Titan, TCS, Bharti Airtel and Infosys were among the losers, shedding up to 2.07 per cent. According to traders, largely positive cues from global markets and persistent foreign fund inflows buoyed market sentiment. Foreign institutional investors remained net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth Rs 4,905.35 crore on Tuesday, according to provisional exchange data.

Global equities held steady after the recent rally fuelled by encouraging COVID-19 vaccine trials, though the steadily rising coronavirus cases weighed on risk sentiment.

Domestic equities continued to maintain their northward move mainly led by rebound in financials and automobiles, said Arjun Yash Mahajan, Head Institutional Business at Reliance Securities.

₹ rises for 3rd day, up 27 paise to 74.19 per \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee continued its winning run for the third session in a row on Wednesday, surging 27 paise to settle at 74.19 against the US dollar amid unabated foreign fund inflows and a weak greenback overseas.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 74.49 against the US dollar and touched an intra-day high of 74.09 and a low of 74.52. It finally closed at 74.19 against the greenback, registering a rise of 27 paise over its previous close.

Vedanta Ltd-Vedanta Resources SPV bids for BPCL

Major foreign player too in race

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mining conglomerate Vedanta has put in a preliminary expression of interest (EoI) for buying the government's stake in Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL), for which a major foreign player too is said to be in race.

A special purpose vehicle floated by the BSE-listed Vedanta Ltd and its London-based parent Vedanta Resources submitted an EoI before the close of deadline on November 16.

"Vedanta's EoI for BPCL is to evaluate potential synergies with our existing oil and gas business," the company said in a statement. "The EoI is at a preliminary stage and exploratory in nature."

Sources in the department handling the sale said the EoI has been put in by a special purpose vehicle or SPV floated by Vedanta Ltd and Vedanta Resources.

They also stated that a

major foreign player was among the three-four entities whose EoIs were received by the close of the bidding on November 16.

The other potential investors are foreign funds but their identity was not immediately disclosed.

The government is selling its entire 52.98 per cent stake in India's second largest fuel retailer as part of plans to raise a record Rs 2.1 lakh crore from disinvestment proceeds in 2020-21 (April 2020 to March 2021).

But share price of BPCL has plunged by nearly a fourth since the time the strategic sale was approved in November last year.

At Wednesday's closing price of Rs 383.20 on BSE, the government's 52.98 per cent stake in BPCL is worth just over Rs 44,000 crore. Also, the acquirer would have to make an open offer for buying another 26 per cent stake from the public, which would cost about

Rs 21,600 crore.

Vedanta's interest in BPCL stems from its USD 8.67 billion acquisition of oil producer Cairn India nearly a decade back.

The company produces oil from oilfields in Rajasthan which are used in refineries such as those operated by BPCL to turn them into petrol, diesel and other fuels.

The government had at the close of bidding stated that "multiple"

EoIs had been received. It, however, did not reveal the identity of the bidders.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey, secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), which is handling the strategic sale, had tweeted on November 16 that the transaction advisors for the sale of government's 52.98 per cent stake in BPCL have reported receiving "multiple expressions of interest."

"The transaction will move to the second stage after scrutiny by TA," he had said. TA stands for transaction advisor.

INBRIEF

OMCs HOLD FUEL PRICES REVISION DESPITE STRONG CRUDE

New Delhi: Oil marketing companies (OMCs) did not revise the retail prices of petrol and diesel on Wednesday even though global crude has remained firmly close to \$44 a barrel. So, petrol price in the national capital continues to be ₹81.06 per litre. In Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the fuel was sold for ₹87.74, ₹84.14, and ₹82.59 per litre respectively. Diesel prices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata were ₹70.46, ₹76.86, ₹75.95 and ₹73.99 respectively. With no revision on Wednesday, petrol prices have now remained at the same level for 57 days while diesel prices have been at the same level for 47 days.

MICROSOFT INTRODUCES 365 PROJECT OPERATIONS IN INDIA

New Delhi: Microsoft on Wednesday announced the general availability of its Dynamics 365 Project Operations solution in India, which will enable service organizations to enhance project management. The solution has been developed to help service-based businesses in unifying operational workflows to provide visibility, collaboration, and insights to drive success across teams, from prospects to payments to profit. Microsoft India COO Rajiv Sodhi told reporters in a virtual briefing. He added that the solution uses real-time analytics to connect and empower leadership, sales, resourcing, project management, and accounting teams with the visibility needed to deliver services to customers on-time and on-budget.

"Service organizations are looking for flexible and scalable ways to address their functional requirements. The solution will help organizations in winning new deals, tracking and managing projects throughout their lifecycle, retaining best people, and increasing profit margins," Sodhi said.

TUPPERWARE INDIA LAUNCHES RETAIL KIOSK IN GURUGRAM

Gurugram: Tupperware, a global premium homeware and direct selling brand, has launched its brand store in Ardee mall in Gurugram, raising its national count of outlets to 71. Tupperware India MD Deepak Chhabra said, "While our consumers trust us completely for the quality, they wish to touch and feel the product and review a diverse range of product categories, so they understand the functionality better and embrace its innovative design and utilise it to its full potential."

Domestic air passenger volume falls 57 pc to 52.71 lakh in October

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic air passenger volume fell 57.21 per cent to 52.71 lakh in October over the year ago period, as airlines continued to operate at a much lower capacity, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) data showed on Wednesday.

The number of total passengers carried by domestic airlines in October last year stood at 1.23 crore.

However, passenger load factor (PLF) showed some recovery in October due to increase in demand after easing of lockdown restrictions

and onset of festive season, DGCA said. The average load factor of nine domestic airlines, which operated flights during the month, was at 59.2 per cent, with scheduled commuter airline Star Air clocking the best PLF at 71.6 per cent.

State-run helicopter operator Pawan Hans Ltd had the lowest PLF at 21.9 per cent in the previous month. Air India flew 4.94 lakh passengers during October, while IndiGo, the largest carrier by market share, flew 29.7 lakh passengers. Passenger volume of SpiceJet and GoAir stood at 7.04 lakh and 3.95 lakh, respectively, during the month.

PM to inaugurate Bengaluru Tech Summit on November 19

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi would inaugurate Karnataka's flagship annual technology event - Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020 (BTS2020) - on Thursday via video-conferencing. The event is to take place from November 19 to 21.

It is being organised by the government of Karnataka along with Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, the state government's Vision Group on information technology, biotechnology and startup, and Software Technology Parks of India.

"We have made elaborate arrangements to make BTS a grand success as the event ses-

sions are going 100 per cent virtual," Deputy Chief Minister and the Minister for IT, BT and S&T C N Ashwath Narayan said after visiting the BTS2020 facilitating centre set up here. Australia Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Vice-President of Switzerland Guy Parmelin would be among those addressing the virtual event. Over 25 nations are participating in the 23rd edition of the event along with thought leaders, industry captains, technocrats, researchers, innovators, investors, policy-makers and educators from India and different parts of the world, the officials said.

"The event will have the participation of more than 200

Indian companies setting up their virtual exhibition, more than 4,000 delegates, 270 speakers, around 75 panel discussions and more than 50,000 participants every day," an official statement said.

This year, the theme of the summit is 'Next is Now'.

The summit would deliberate on key challenges emerging in the post-pandemic world with a focus on the impact of prominent technologies and innovations on the domains of information technology and electronics and biotechnology.

Some of the key focus areas of the summit are aerospace and defence technologies, healthcare, future of work, startup for public good,

World's biggest shipper remains wary of pandemic

PTI ■ COPENHAGEN

The world's biggest shipping company, Denmark's A.P. Moller-Maersk, said Wednesday that global container volumes increased by around 1 per cent in the third quarter, a faster rebound than expected earlier in the year.

However, global demand for containers is expected to contract by 4-5% this year due to Covid-19.

The company said its third quarter revenue decreased by 1.4% to \$9.9 billion while its profit rose to \$947 million from \$520 million during the same period a year earlier.

CEO Soeren Skou

had managed to simplify the organization of its shipping unit and had closed the acquisition of KGH Customs Services, a Sweden-based specialist in trade and customs management services in Europe.

In a statement, the group said it looked "confidently past the extraordinary 2020."

"However we remain well aware of the high level of uncertainty the pandemic and associated lock downs continue to pose in the coming quarters," the company said.

A.P. Moller-Maersk is based in Copenhagen, operates in 130 countries and employs roughly 80,000 people.

I-T refunds worth ₹1.36 lakh cr issued to 40.19 L taxpayers till November 17

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax department has issued refunds worth over ₹1.36 lakh crore to over 40 lakh taxpayers so far this fiscal. This includes Personal income tax (PIT) refunds amounting to ₹35,750 crore

and corporate tax refunds of over ₹1 lakh crore during this period.

"CBDT issues refunds of over ₹1,36,066 crore to more than 40.19 lakh taxpayers between 1st April, 2020 to 17th November, 2020.

Income tax refunds of ₹35,750 crore have been issued in 38,23,304 cases and corporate tax refunds of ₹1,00,316 crore have been issued in 1,95,518 cases," the I-T department tweeted.

Apple to reduce App Store commission by half for most developers

PTI ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Facing flak for App Stores 30 per cent standard commission for paid app revenue and in-app purchases, Apple on Wednesday unveiled a new developer programme that will reduce the charge by half for small businesses that earn up to \$1 million in revenue from January 1. Apple said the new "App Store Small Business Programme" will benefit the vast majority of developers who sell digital goods and services on the store, providing them with a reduced commission on paid apps and in-app purchases.

To be launched on January 1,

the programme comes at an important time as small and independent developers continue working to innovate and thrive during a period of unprecedented global economic challenge. The programme's reduced commission means small developers and aspiring entrepreneurs will have more resources to invest in and grow their businesses in the App Store ecosystem. "We're launching this programme to help small business owners write the next chapter of creativity and prosperity on the App Store, and to build the kind of quality apps our customers love," Apple's CEO Tim Cook said in a statement.

Pradhan calls for reducing imports of finished steel goods

New Delhi: Union Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday called for reducing imports of finished steel goods.

He urged the industry to leverage technology and resources available in the

country. "We are the second largest producer of steel in the world, (but) for our own consumption we have to import finished goods," Pradhan said while addressing the "Virtual National Mining Summit 2020,"

organised by industry body PHD Chamber.

He said sufficient raw materials are available in the country, while the technology to produce various steel products is already available. "...Today even

many MSMEs are importing their raw material, be it scrap or low grade metals. The import cost is cheap compared to producing them in the country. We will work to address this issue also," he added.

PTI

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Minakshi W/o Krishan Kumar, Rio Flat No. 2003 Sector -B, Pocket-2, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-70 am the owner of DDA Flat No. 4429 Sector-2, Pocket-586 on Third floor with Scooter Garage Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, Vide DDA File No. 125/677/98/SFS/NK/200. My original documents viz. 1. Allocation Letter 2. 5th & Final Demand Letter 3. Possession Slip 4. Demand Notes 5. NOC for Electricity & Water Connection of above said flat have been misplaced. An Information Report of this effect has been lodged in Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 71627/2020 on 06.11.2020. Any person(s) claiming any right, Interest having acquisition or found in Possession of the said original Documents may contact 9811687523

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

OA No. 1390/18 Dated: 05-11-2020

Union Bank of India Versus Applicant

Maa Kalka Traders & Ors. Respondent

To, Defendant.

1. Maa Kalka Traders

Through its Proprietor Suresh Chauhan X-137, Raghunagar, Gali No. 1, Near Tagore Gali, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110021

2. Suresh Chauhan S/o Inder Chauhan R/o H-3/13, 2nd Floor, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051

3. Ritu Chauhan W/o Suresh Chauhan R/o H-3/13, 2nd Floor, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 51,28,727/-(Rupee Fifty One Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred & Twenty Seven only) against you & whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 20.11.2021 at 10.30 A.M.

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

By Order of the Tribunal For Registrar DRT-I, Delhi

WESTERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

With reference to Tender Notice No. BCT/20-21/268 dtd. 10/11/2020 sr. no. 03 the name of work is read as follows:

Existing: VR-JRS Section:- Laying of Geo-Grid & Geo Textile with deep screening of track by BCM & other associated works in connection with increasing speed upto 160 kmph under ADEN-ST

Revised: JRS-ST Section:- Laying of Geo-Grid & Geo-Textile with deep screening of track by BCM & other associated works in connection with increasing speed upto 160kmph under ADEN-ST 042

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सेक्टरल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Central Bank of India

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

REGIONAL OFFICE: Jawahar Market, Model Town, Rohtak - 124 001(HR)

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS Online on or before 03.12.2020 upto 5:00 PM

E-auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (b) & (2) 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 Authorized Officer of Central Bank of India, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "What ever there is basis".

Branch/Type of Account	Name of Account/Owner of Property	Details of Property	Reserve price Rs.	EMD Rs.	Bid Increase Amount
Bahadurgarh/ Cent Trade	M/s. Ram Electric Co. (Prop. Mrs. Shanti Singhal W/o Mr. Jai Bhagwan Singhal) / Smt. Shanti Singhal	Equitable Mortgage of Commercial Property bearing shop No. 2151/2 measuring 45 Sq. Yards situated at Chah Indara, Dr. H C Sen Road, Kauria Pul, bhagirath Place, New Delhi - 110 006, vide registered Sale Deed No. 5133, Book No. 1 Volume 7609 Page 72-78 dated 15.09.1997 registered with Sub Registrar I, New Delhi in the name of Smt. Shanti Singhal W/o Sh. Jai Bhagwan Singhal resident of Kothi No. 20, Road No. 23, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi - 110 076. Bounded as: East :Gali, West :Property No. 2152, North :Property No. 2165, South :Gali	50.00 lakh	5.00 lakh	0.20 Lakh

Demand Notice date and amount: Rs. 1,24,52,816.00 as on 30.08.2017 + further interest & other charge thereon. **E-AUCTION DATE: 04.12.2020 E-AUCTION TIME: 2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM**

TERMS & CONDITIONS: The e-Auction is being held on "As is where is & As is what is Basis." 1. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ effecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/ rights/ dues. 2. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. 3. The interested bidders shall submit their EMD through Web Portal: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be obtainable free of cost by registering name with <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be payable through RTGS / NEFT in the account through portal or Account No. 1268172955, Name of the A/C: REGIONAL OFFICE ACCOUNT, Name of the Beneficiary: AUTHORIZED OFFICER, IFSC Code: CBIN0280394. Please note that the Banker Cheque / Demand draft shall be submitted to Branch Office through RTGS/ NEFT (Online) on or before 03.09.2020 on or before 5:00 PM. For further information please contact at Branch Office Bahadurgarh (9813526993) & Authorized Officer (9370588927), Regional Office, Rohtak (8901508220 Recovery). For more details visit the bank website www.centralbankofindia.co.in.

STATUTORY NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 READ WITH RULE 6, 7, 8 & 9 OF THE SECURITIES INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Borrower/s Guarantor/s are requested to participate & Co-operate for processing of proposed sale auction so that we may receive maximum sale proceeds. If you have any interested buyer for the above mentioned property/ies your buyer is entitled to put the bid for purchase of the property/ies as per the terms of auctions.

Authorised Officer CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

Date: 18.11.2020, Place : Rohtak

अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति कल्याण विभाग

मुख्यमंत्री अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति सिविल सेवा प्रोत्साहन योजना

संघ लोक सेवा आयोग, नई दिल्ली द्वारा आयोजित सिविल सेवा (प्रारम्भिक) परीक्षा, 2020 में उत्तीर्ण होने वाले बिहार राज्य के अधिसूचित अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति के स्थायी निवासी अभ्यर्थियों के लिए आवश्यक सूचना

राज्य सरकार द्वारा लागू की गई योजना के तहत संघ लोक सेवा आयोग, नई दिल्ली द्वारा आयोजित सिविल सेवा (प्रारम्भिक) परीक्षा, 2020 में उत्तीर्ण होने वाले बिहार राज्य के अधिसूचित अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति के स्थायी निवासी अभ्यर्थियों को एकमुश्त ₹1,00,000/- (एक लाख रुपये) मात्र की प्रोत्साहन राशि प्रदान करने हेतु ऑनलाईन आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

- अभ्यर्थी के लिए अहर्ता एवं शर्तें :-
 - बिहार राज्य का स्थायी निवासी होना चाहिए।
 - बिहार सरकार द्वारा अधिसूचित अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति की श्रेणी में होना चाहिए।
 - संघ लोक सेवा आयोग, नई दिल्ली द्वारा आयोजित सिविल सेवा (प्रारम्भिक) परीक्षा, 2020 में उत्तीर्ण होना चाहिए।
 - किसी भी अभ्यर्थी को इस (संघ लोक सेवा आयोग, नई दिल्ली द्वारा आयोजित सिविल सेवा (प्रारम्भिक) परीक्षा) योजना का लाभ एक ही बार देय होगा।
 - पूर्व से किसी भी सरकारी/लोक उपक्रम/राज्य सरकार द्वारा वित्त संपोषित संस्थान की सेवा में कार्यरत/नियोजित अभ्यर्थी को इस योजना का लाभ नहीं दिया जाएगा।
- आवेदन की प्रक्रिया :-
 - विभागीय वेबसाइट-<http://scstwelfare.bih.nic.in/> पर निर्धारित तिथि 20.12.2020 तक ऑनलाईन आवेदन समर्पित किया जा सकता है। निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के बाद प्राप्त आवेदन अमान्य समझे जाएंगे। किसी अन्य माध्यम से कोई भी आवेदन पत्र स्वीकार नहीं किए जाएंगे एवं ऐसे आवेदन पत्रों को निरस्त कर दिया जाएगा।
 - निबंधन हेतु अभ्यर्थी द्वारा अनिवार्य रूप से फोटो, हस्ताक्षर, एडमिट कार्ड की स्व-अभिप्रमाणित प्रति, जाति प्रमाण-पत्र (सक्षम प्राधिकार द्वारा निर्गत), आधार कार्ड, आवासीय प्रमाण-पत्र (सक्षम प्राधिकार द्वारा निर्गत), स्वयं के नाम के Active बैंक खाता (जिसमें खाता संख्या एवं आईएफएसएल कोड स्पष्ट रूप से अंकित हो) या हस्ताक्षरित रद्द चेक की Scanned प्रति ऑनलाईन पोर्टल पर अपलोड करनी आवश्यक होगी।
 - अभ्यर्थी के पास सक्रिय ई-मेल आई-डी होनी चाहिए।
 - ऑन-लाईन माध्यम से आवेदन करते समय अभ्यर्थियों को वांछित सभी सूचनाएँ सही-सही अंकित करनी होंगी। इसमें किसी भी तरह की त्रुटि की जिम्मेवारी अभ्यर्थी की होगी।
 - यदि किसी अभ्यर्थी के द्वारा गलत सूचना देकर इस योजना के तहत अनुमान्य राशि प्राप्त की जाती है तो उसके विरुद्ध वैधानिक कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

ऑनलाईन आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि:-20.12.2020 तक है।

- आवेदन करने की प्रक्रिया एवं विस्तृत जानकारी विभागीय वेबसाइट- <http://scstwelfare.bih.nic.in/> पर देखी जा सकती है।
- विशेष जानकारी के लिए विभागीय दूरभाष संख्या-0612-2215235 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

उप निदेशक (मु)

PR- 008533 (SC & ST Welfare) 2020-21

Trend Slazer

John chronicles his pain story

Actor JOHN ABRAHAM has used social media to share proof that when it comes to fitness, there is no gain without pain.

He shared a post-workout picture where he flaunts muscles. "I'm smiling inside :) #postworkout #goodpain," he captioned the image.

Last week, John encouraged fitness enthusiasts by sharing photographs of his workout session on social media.

He shared pictures from the gym on his verified Instagram account where he can be seen lifting weights. The actor showed off biceps and triceps in black and white photographs.



FLUSH THE TOXINS

The concept of 'hygiene' has been redefined due to the pandemic. On World Toilet Day, we examine how the term has assumed a different meaning this year

The novel Coronavirus has given a new twist to the word 'hygiene' globally. While earlier, it was considered to be synonymous with cleanliness, things have changed now. Words like contamination, disinfectants and sanitisation have become a part of our everyday vocabulary. The pandemic has shown us how serious gaps existed in the way 'hygiene' was maintained prior to its outbreak. In the post-pandemic world, things are going to be a lot more focussed and holistic as far as global hygiene practices and norms are concerned.

In the past, 'sharing is caring' was the common philosophy. People shared clothes, food, seats on public transport or armrests in a film theatre. Now, 'distancing is caring' is the norm that we all strictly adhere to. Forget seats, it is not even advisable to sit beside anyone in a public vehicle or premises. A visit to the local grocery store or railway station is a good enough indicator of how things have changed. Elevators no longer have push buttons, temperature guns are aimed at you from a distance to check body temperature and your hands are sprayed with sanitisers before touching anyone. These are some of the most visible and commonly followed protocols in the new world. However, there is another key area of focus which deserves greater attention than ever, and that is personal and toilet hygiene.

COVID-19 is a respiratory tract infection which first enters a healthy person's body when they inadvertently inhale the contaminated respiratory droplets released by an infected person. Since the virus can survive outside the human body for different durations

depending on the material it attaches itself to, it can also enter a healthy person's body when the person touches a contaminated surface. That's where public toilets are garnering a lot of attention. In most places, whether they are shopping malls or office complexes or roadside public washrooms, there is usually a lot of mess and lack of hygiene. Floors can be dirty and there is usually the stink in the air. In the wake of the pandemic, everyone is beginning to take note of this problem and most people are now wary of using public washrooms as they are deemed to be unhygienic. To deal with the undesirable scenario of having to visit the common washrooms, people are increasingly carrying their own tissue papers, toilet seat disinfectant sprays, liquid soaps and hand sanitisers from trusted brands.

From the sanitation point of view also, things have changed tremendously. There is a lot of awareness about do's and don'ts in public toilets. For instance, sanitation workers managing these washrooms are now mandated to wear PPE suits during their presence in the washrooms. Additionally, they must wear face shields and gloves at all times to avoid directly touching any contaminated surfaces. In places like malls, multiplexes, airports and railway stations, multiple cleaning rounds are now being undertaken on an hourly or even greater frequency unlike the past when two-three rounds a day were considered to be sufficient.

The key to effective toilet hygiene lies in understanding how the virus can spread through contamination in public washrooms and adhering to practices that help us prevent such situations.

'THE KEY TO EFFECTIVE TOILET HYGIENE LIES IN UNDERSTANDING HOW THE VIRUS CAN SPREAD THROUGH CONTAMINATION IN PUBLIC WASHROOMS AND ADHERING TO PRACTICES THAT HELP US PREVENT SUCH SITUATIONS'

Whenever someone flushes in a public toilet, there is an aerosol cloud created which might contain some of the contaminated respiratory droplets from an infected person. It can hover around the toilet seat and infect a healthy user who subsequently uses the same toilet. To prevent this from happening, the ideal practice is to put down the lid on the toilet seat and then flush it. Also, it is absolutely mandatory to wear face masks even when one is inside the toilet and alone. This can keep the user safe from infection caused by the contaminated droplets present in the air inside the washrooms. Not only that, spitting inside the washrooms is also strictly prohibited now and violators of the protocols often end up paying steep fines.

Majority of people now stay away from public washrooms in markets and shopping malls or theatres, but if you are on a long trip or in the office, usage of the washroom becomes almost unavoidable. In such scenarios, it is important to pay attention to small but highly beneficial user tips. To begin with, you must not touch the door handle with bare hands to enter the washroom or the toilet stall. In case, you need to sit on the toilet seat, inspect it carefully before doing so. If you spot any dampness, wet seat, urine or blood drops etc, use toilet paper to wipe off the surface in a way that your hands don't touch the surface in any manner and dispose that wad of toilet paper in the waste basket. The best option would be to thoroughly spray the toilet seat with a high-quality toilet seat disinfectant spray capable of killing harmful microbes such as virus or bacteria present on the surface. You need to

wait only for a few seconds after spraying the seat while the spray kills the germs and then you can confidently use it.

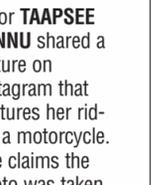
Similarly, there are also easy disinfectant sprays, wipes and hand sanitisers available in the market that can be used to make other surfaces germ free. There might be times when despite all the precautions, it becomes unavoidable or you accidentally touch any surfaces such as taps, door handles, counters or walls in a public washroom. In such situations, you should thoroughly wash your hands using a soap and running water for 20 seconds in the manner prescribed by the World Health Organisation. Alternatively, good hand sanitisers with 60 per cent or higher alcohol content can also be used to disinfect your hands. This has to be done before touching your eyes, nose, mouth or any part of the face as the virus can get transferred through touch.

While these are practices which have been helping us keep ourselves protected from the pandemic, there are also various innovations and design changes being integrated to address this issue nowadays. For instance, sensor-driven taps, lights, soap dispensers, automatic flushes, doors and toilet lids are going to constitute the smart toilets of the future. The focus of hygiene practices in the post-pandemic world is to use equipment that helps us avoid contact with contaminated surfaces or infected people. Smart, contactless processes and an unwavering focus on personal as well as community hygiene will eventually help us prevail over the disease.

(The writer Vikas Bagaria is the founder of Pee Safe.)

'Every film has a certain set of audience. For me its important for a film to entertain its core audience. If it fails to do so, then it doesn't achieve its purpose. All my films have reached to its set of audience who have loved what we have tried to say about life, society and women empowerment. This is very gratifying for me.'

—Bhumi Pednekar



Actor TAAPSEE PANNU shared a picture on Instagram that captures her riding a motorcycle. She claims the photo was taken

right before she was fined for not wearing a helmet while riding the vehicle.

"Just before I was fined for no helmet," she wrote as caption, with the tags #BikeLove, #RashmiRocket, and #ShootThrills.

Rashmi Rocket is Taapsee's forthcoming film, which casts her as a runner from the Rann of Kutch who fights for her identity and becomes an athlete. Actor Priyanshu Panyuli will be seen playing Taapsee's husband.

'My mental health story was twisted'

Singer SELENA GOMEZ says her mental health story was twisted a lot, which made her angry.

In an interview with her mother Mandy Teeefey for a newsletter Selena opened up about going public with her mental health struggles.

The singer-actor further said, "I got so angry that my story was twisted into so many different things. The first time I posted it on social media, I was like, 'I claim my own story, so if you don't hear it from me, then it's not true.' Did I go and get help? Yes I did. But I'm not ashamed. I feel better and I feel like I can understand a lot of things now."

An ode to women

The sports docu-series, *Being Serena*, is an intimate, first-person account of the life and success of Grand Slam champion SERENA WILLIAMS



Discovery Plus has come up with its latest Emmy nominated sports docu-series that follows pivotal moments in the life of former world tennis champion, Serena Williams. Titled *Being Serena*, the five-episode documentary series produced by HBO Sports and IMG's Original Content, showcases game

changing moments in her professional and personal life, tracking her pregnancy, motherhood, comeback and more.

Serena's success story goes well beyond her 23 singles women's grand slam titles, 39 grand slams overall and four Olympic Gold Medals. Since her return to the court

after embracing motherhood, Serena rose to dominance once again, qualifying for four grand slam finals between 2018 and 2019. While not serving in the court, Serena she supports minorities and women by funding their businesses through her VC Serena Ventures.

Speaking on the occasion, Serena said, "The documentary is very close to my heart - it captured my life during some of the most unforgettable and challenging moments in a really honest way. It is a tribute to all the women who have gotten back to work - or in my case back on the court - after becoming a mother. I am excited that my fans in India will have a chance to see my story."

Speaking on the India launch of the series, Issac John, Digital Head, APAC - Discovery, said, "Serena is not only a talented sporting hero but she has also lived an exemplary life off the court, making her a true role model. One doesn't have to be a tennis fan to be awed by her incredible resilience and grit. We are delighted to provide Indian audiences with this never-seen-before access into the life and the journey of a living legend."

Apart from her grand slam success, she has also been bestowed with various other awards which include Sports Illustrated's Sportsperson of the Year honours in 2015 and a four-time awardee of the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year, first in 2002 and most recently in 2015.



A musical odyssey

The animated musical comedy, *Trolls World Tour*, is set for a big screen release as singer NEETI MOHAN lends her voice to its Hindi-dubbed version

While the year has trolled each one of us in style, saving the best for the last, *Trolls World Tour* is all set to take over the theatres with its English and Hindi edition. Ending the year on a great note for Indian audiences, cinephiles are set to see the animated musical comedy on the big screen. The film will feature singer Neeti Mohan who will lend her voice to the lead character Poppy in the second installment of the film. With Anna Kendrick regaling audiences in the English version of the film, Neeti will sing three songs for the film - *Koi Geet Gao*, *Iss Pal Ko Jio*, *Trolls Toh Karengi Fun*.

Commenting on lending her voice to the film, the singer said, "Poppy sends across the message that every girl is a queen. She is a free-spirited soul who is a 'go getter' and the character inspires the audiences to a great extent. Which is why getting the chance to be 'Poppy Mohan' was a great thing. The dubbing experience was challenging as it's not easy to translate songs or dialogues to another language. Despite that, I had a blast recording those three songs and I feel that this is an experience that's going to last forever."

Commenting on the film, Nitin Bikhchandani, General Manager, NBCUniversal Media

LLC, said, "Owing to its prominent elements of comedy and music, this is a special film, especially for the Indian market. The first part of the film was received with great response from the audiences and the second part promises to be even grander. All I can say is, the film has been worth the wait."

It is directed by Walt Dohrn, who served as co-director on *Trolls* and is produced by returning producer Gina Shay. It is co-directed by David P. Smith and co-produced by Kelly Cooney Cilella, both of whom worked on the first *Trolls*.

(The film releases on November 19.)

Kerala through the lens

CM PINARAYI VIJAYAN released a coffee table book with Raghu Rai's photographs on Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan released a coffee table book on Thiruvananthapuram with a collection of images by eminent photographer Raghu Rai for Kerala Tourism as part of the capital city heritage project, yesterday.

A stunning visual treat — Thiruvananthapuram — the artist's impression explores the city's culture, heritage and life through a fascinating collection of shots viewed through the lens of Raghu Rai, coupled with graphic descriptions by writer Lekshmi Rajeev.

"This is a fantastic work that has tapped fully the mesmerising power of photography to capture the images of the city," said Vijayan, while releasing the compendium through a video conference.

State Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran, who presided over the function held at Mascot Hotel, said, "This outstanding work would add considerable strength to the capital city heritage project."

Dr Shashi Tharoor, MP, and Raghu Rai also joined the ceremony online. Rai said, "City of festivals, it was an unforgettable experience to capture the images of Thiruvananthapuram with its vibrant life and culture." He added that he has plans to write a book on Kerala, too.

A visual statement on the city, the 190-page work encapsulates its



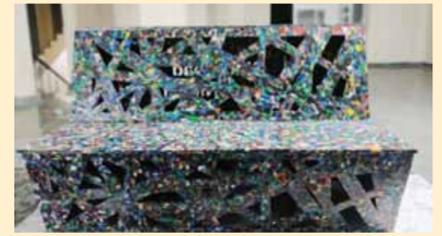
history, culture and heritage. While most similar collections have their emphasis on nature, this work has its accent on human life in the city.

Apart from the capital city, the Tourism Department has been implementing heritage projects to protect and preserve historical and

cultural assets of Alappuzha, Muziris and Thalassery, said Tourism Secretary Rani George IAS.

M Vijayakumar, Chairman KTDC, P Bala Kiran IAS, Tourism Director, and V K Karthika, Editor & Publisher, Amazon Westland, attended the online event.

IN SHORT



The Municipal Corporation has started manufacturing various types of products from waste plastics. The waste plastic manufacturing unit has been set up near Airport Road, Karhaida, Mohan Nagar. The unit has prepared a benchmark made of plastic as a model. These benches will be set up in various municipal parks. In the first phase, 75 benches will be prepared daily. Apart from this, the work of making planters, pots, gates, dustbins, buckets and tiles and much more will also start very soon. The Municipal Commissioner Mahendra Singh Tanwar claimed that Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation has become the first corporation of the year not only in Uttar Pradesh but all over India to manufacture various products from plastic waste. He said, "We have employed local artists in this project. This will give these artists an opportunity to show their skills as well as a chance to get employment."



An on-duty RPF staff recovered a mobile phone from a sitting chair at Rabintra Sadan metro station. After a while, he received a call on that recovered mobile phone, where the caller claimed that he was the owner of the phone. The caller was advised to contact station master's office of Rabintra Sadan station. The on-duty RPF staff deposited the phone to the station master's office. After sometime, a person arrived and after proper verification and completing all the formalities, the recovered mobile phone was handed over to him.

MoS PMO addresses programme for pensioners

The Union Minister of State (I/C) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) is trying to make the pensioners 'atmanirbhar'. They are doing it by promoting the Digital Life Certificate for pensioners, which can be given from the comfort of one's home. Earlier, due to the difficulties faced by the pensioners in submitting the Life Certificate because of COVID-19 pandemic, the government has relaxed the existing timeline for submission from November 1 to December 31.

'Lifestyle modifications are must in this period of global health crisis as one should liberate oneself from nagging thoughts'

society and their valuable experiences can bring positive changes to the society. The key to happiness is being grateful for all that we have. Endorsing the thoughts on building positivity in life, Dr Jitendra also said, "Lifestyle modifications are must in this period of global health crisis as one should liberate oneself from nagging thoughts. One should add life to the years and not years to the life."

Dr Kshatrapati Shivaji, Secretary (Pension and Pensioners' Welfare) and Sanjiv Narain Mathur, Joint Secretary (Pension and Pensioners' Welfare) along with other senior officials and office bearers of the Pensioners' Associations were present in this digital event.

The programme was aimed to sensitise senior pensioner on mental well-being during the pandemic. The DoPPW has been taking extra efforts for organising programmes for addressing pensioners' health issues.

While appreciating the session, he said that senior citizens always have a lot to offer to the

KIIT wins Asian award



The Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University has won the THE Awards Asia 2020 declared by the Times Higher Education (THE) on Tuesday. KIIT, which has been declared winner in the category 'Workplace of the Year', is the only institute in India to get such a prestigious recognition. It got this recognition "for its unstint-

KIIT RECEIVED THE RECOGNITION FOR ITS UNSTINTING COMMITMENT TO ITS STAFF AND STUDENTS, IN PARTICULAR TO ITS EARLY CAREER FACULTY

ing commitment to its staff and students, in particular to its early career faculty."

KIIT is known for its decentralised governance, where prominent staff are provided with ample autonomy and power to deliver their assignments. It is the only self-financing university which is above family domination. All senior functionaries are renowned academicians and they are chosen through a transparent process with merit as the only criteria.

Staff and faculty members gave all the credits to Founder, Dr Achyuta Samanta for the achievement. Dr Samanta has given a lot of importance on working comfortably with freedom both in financial and administrative aspects. He has created an ambience and work culture where faculty and staff could work with free hand to deliver their assignments. As a result, KIIT has been a student, parent, people and environment-friendly campus since its inception.

The judging panel, joined by guest experts, evaluated hundreds of institutions that have launched initiatives to support students, teachers, researchers and local communities before declaring KIIT the winner.

Dr Annadurai inaugurates ICePhaST-2020 virtually

The International Conference on Electronics, Photonics and Smart Technologies (ICePhaST-2020) was organised by the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering through virtual platform.

The event was inaugurated by honourable chief guest Padmashri Dr Myswamy Annadurai, former director of Indian Space Research Organisation Satellite Centre, (ISAC), Vice President-Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology, Chairman-National Design and Research Forum, India, who delivered a technical talk on "Smart technologies in emerging space programme."

The talk completely motivated young and budding researchers in the field of photonics and optical based satellites. Faculty members, researchers and students of SRM IST were very proud, content and excited to have the chief guest on the virtual conference.

The three foreign delegates, professor Hiroshi Inokawa, Shizuoka University, Japan, professor Chennupati Jagadish, Australian National University, Australia and professor Stephen CR and University of Michigan, USA, provided the guest of honour address during the inauguration. Professor Hiroshi Inokawa expressed the contentment



the long term technical relationship with SRM IST and elaborated the importance of organising conferences under the photonics banner.

Professor Chennupati Jagadish and professor Stephen CR and showed the interest of long term research collaborations with the department of

Electronics and Communication Engineering, SRMIST.

The presidential address was delivered by Dr Sandeep Sancheti, vice chancellor, SRMIST, conveyed that several programmes of this dimensions are conducted by the department of ECE, SRMIST, Kattankulathur. The ICePhaST-2020 conference proceedings were released by Dr C Muthamizhchelvan, ProVC, Engineering and Technology, SRMIST and congratulated the team for meticulous planning and execution. The gathering was felicitated by Dr TV Gopal, Dean, College of Engineering and Technology, SRMIST.

CISF organises investiture ceremony



A small-scale investiture ceremony was organised at CISF Headquarters in New Delhi, observing all the necessary COVID-19 preventive measures. The officers and personnel of CISF were honoured with police medals. During the ceremony, Rajesh Ranjan, DG, CISF decorated the following officers and personnel:

- 1) Pradip Kumar Bharti, DIG Independence Day 2019
- 2) Ganga Shankar, Sr Commandant Independence Day 2018
- 3) Apoorv Pandey, Sr Commandant Independence Day 2018
- 4) Anil Damor, Sr Commandant Independence Day 2019
- 5) Md Abdus Salam, Assistant Commandant Republic Day 2020
- 6) Yadukul Bhusan, Assistant Commandant Independence Day 2020
- 7) Mahendra Pratap Singh, Inspector Independence Day 2020

President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service: awarded on Republic Day 2020
H S Karmyal, Assistant Commandant

Police Medal for Meritorious Service: awarded on Independence Day- 2018, 2019, 2020 and Republic Day 2020

1) Pradip Kumar Bharti, DIG Independence Day 2019

2) Ganga Shankar, Sr Commandant

President's Fire Service Medal For Distinguished Service
P Vinod, Dy. Commandant/ Fire, Independence Day 2019

The DG, CISF congratulated all the medal winners for winning the laurels for the Force.



Dr Reddy assumes charge as VIT VC

Dr SV Kota Reddy assumed charge as VC of the VIT-AP University. Dr D Subhakar handed over the charge to the new incumbent at a simple function. While speaking at the gathering, he urged the faculty members to focus on innovative research and asked the staff to extend full support.

Dr Reddy has a Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Bombay. On this occasion, he held a meeting with heads of the departments and gave directions for smooth

delivery of services to the students. He advised the university to strictly follow the directions of the government from time to time.

Professor Jagadish Chandra Muduganti, Dean Academics and Dr CLV Sivakumar, Registrar, informed the VC about initiatives taken by the university to serve the student community better, particularly strategies followed to deliver the online classes, combating difficulties created by pandemic for physical delivery.

GM Northern Railway meets dept heads

Ashutosh Gagal, General Manager, Northern Railway, held a performance review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway through video conferencing. Detailed discussions were conducted on the issues relating to — safety, rail fractures and rail joint problems during winter, train operations in foggy weather, digitisation of railway, material management and scrap disposal.

The GM advised on focusing efforts on the maintenance of track, welds of joints, signaling systems and rolling stock assets for unhindered running of trains during the cold foggy winter months. He added that the frontline staff are the eyes and ears of the railways, attention should be given to their periodic training and sensitisation to use of gadgets.

He took stock of the works being undertaken to remove bottlenecks to enhance speed of trains. Improvement of level crossings, turnouts, doubling, electrification, replacement of rails construction of ROB and RUBs were some of the points



touched upon. He called upon the concerned departments to expedite the processes. He also advised to maintain the adequate stock pile of materials needed for repair and maintenance of assets along with the timely disposal of scrap. He insisted on completion of digitisation of all railway records to bring in more transparency and clarity on land ownership issues.

He expressed his concern over the rising cases of signal cable cutting by outsiders. He

was informed that such cases are being dealt with heavy hand and prosecuted under Railways Act, signaling systems have been made fog conducive and detonators have been provided.

Expressing satisfaction on the performance of the various departments, Gagal shared that there has been no consequential train accident reported in the zone, the punctuality has been high and efforts are on to complete the engineering works.

Germany reach all-time Löw

Die Mannschaft suffer heaviest loss in 89 years after Spain beat them 6-0 to qualify for Nations League finals



Mikel Oyarzabal celebrates with Spanish teammate José Gaya after scoring his side's sixth goal against Germany during Nations League clash @EURO2020

AFP ■ SEVILLE
Ferran Torres grabbed a hat-trick as Spain condemned Germany to their worst defeat in 89 years on Tuesday, winning 6-0 in Seville to qualify for the UEFA Nations League finals and join France, who came from behind to beat Sweden 4-2.

Manchester City forward Torres was the star for Spain, who were as brilliant as Germany were bad. The result raises further questions about Germany coach Joachim Löw, who was already under pressure coming into this game. "This has been a black day for us," admitted Löw after Germany's heaviest defeat since losing 6-0 to Austria in 1931. They came into their final game in League A, Group 4 on top, a point clear of Spain, and so only needed a draw at an empty La Cartuja to qualify for the finals in October next year. But Alvaro Morata headed Spain in front in the 17th minute before Torres crashed in the second on 33 minutes after Dani Olmo's header hit

the Nations League finals after France clinched their place by beating Portugal at the weekend.

WIN WITH LATE GOAL
The World Cup holders finished off their League A, Group 3 campaign by beating Sweden behind closed doors at the Stade de France as Olivier Giroud continued his remarkable scoring record for Les Bleus with a brace.

Viktor Claesson's deflected early strike gave Sweden the lead, but Giroud soon equalised and Benjamin Pavard put France ahead before half-time. Giroud then headed in Kylian Mbappe's cross to make it 3-1 before the hour mark, and Kingsley Coman scored France's final goal at the death after Robin Quaison had netted Sweden's second.

Having recently overtaken Michel Platini's tally of 41 goals for Les Bleus, Giroud is now on 44 and is closing in on Thierry Henry's overall record mark of 51.

The 34-year-old remains a key player for France despite being on the periphery with his club Chelsea, for whom he has started just once this season, in the League Cup.

Sweden finish bottom of the group behind Croatia and are relegated to the second-tier League B for the next edition of the competition.

That is despite 10-man Croatia losing 3-2 at home to Portugal in Split, with Manchester City defender Ruben Dias getting a 90th-minute winner for the 2019 Nations League champions.

Chelsea's Mateo Kovacic had scored twice for Croatia, either side of Dias's first of the night and a Joao Felix effort for Portugal, who featured Cristiano Ronaldo wearing the captain's armband.

The remaining two spots in the Nations League semi-finals will be decided on Wednesday, with Italy and Belgium currently in pole position.



Bumrah, Shami likely to be rotated in Aus T20s

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's premier strike bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami are unlikely to play all the upcoming six white-ball games against Australia as the team management would like to keep them battle-ready for the four-Test series starting December 17.

India are starting their two month tour of Australia with three ODIs followed by as many T20s — to be played between November 27 to December 8 in Sydney and Canberra.

If sources in BCCI are to be believed, Bumrah and Shami's workload management is paramount for head coach Ravi Shastri and bowling coach Bharath Arun in case Ishant Sharma is not available for the first Test.

"This is a chance that Shami and Bumrah will be rotated during the white-ball series. Shami has been seen primarily bowling with pink and red balls during net sessions, which is an indicator of where his and team's priorities lie.

It may be possible that both Bumrah and Shami will play the ODIs where they can bowl their 10 over quota and then switch to Test match mode by playing the warm-up games which will help them get the overs under their belt before the Day-Night game at Adelaide Oval.

In fact, there is a pink ball warm-up game at the SCG from December 11-13 where India's likely 11 is set to play in the dress rehearsal.

In that case, the T20 first XI might feature Deepak Chahar, Thangarasu 'Yorker' Natarajan and Navdeep Saini as the pace trio with Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar in the spin attack.

Eng aim for fans' return in 2021 India Test series

LONDON: A five-match Test series against India will headline England's bumper home summer in 2021 as the country's cricket board on Wednesday unveiled a provisional fixture with plans to get crowds back into the stadiums.

The matches against India are scheduled for August-September.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) seems eager to stage the return of fans into the playing arena from the next season onwards depending on the Covid-19 situation.

"We had an amazing summer of international cricket this year with some memorable performances, and we know how much enjoyment it brought to people whilst staying at home,"

international summer, with matches at Trent Bridge, Lord's, Headingley, the Kia Oval and Old Trafford.

The series is due to get underway on August 4 at Trent Bridge, with following matches taking place at Lord's, Headingley and The Oval, before finishing up in Manchester on September 14.

Before the assignments against India, Sri Lanka are due to play three ODIs from June 29 to July 4, with Pakistan arriving for three T20s and three ODIs between July 8 and 20.

The ODIs will be played in Cardiff, Lord's and Birmingham on July 8, 10 and 13, while the T20s will be in Nottingham, Leeds and Manchester on July 16, 18 and 20 respectively. **PTI**

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during on-going festival season, Northern Railway in coordination with other Zonal Railways has planned to run following East bound Festival Special Trains from Delhi area stations from 19.11.2020 to 22.11.2020 as per the schedule given below:-

Festival Spl. No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Accommodation	Stoppages
LIST OF EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA ON 19.11.2020 (THURSDAY)						
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, Danapur, Patliputra, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn, Mansi Jn, Naugachia, Katihar Jn, Barsoi Jn, 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)	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Barauni Jn, Begusarai, Khagaria, Naugachia, Katihar, Purnia Jn, Arariya Court & Forbesganj Stations
04024	Anand Vihar (T)	10:00	Katihar Jn.	09:30	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn. & Naugachia Stations
04488	Anand Vihar (T)	11:15	Jaynagar	11:50	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna Jn., Mokameh Jn., Barauni, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
04026	Anand Vihar (T)	12:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:30	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gorakhpur, Chhapra & Hajipur Jn Stations
03258	Anand Vihar (T)	13:30	Danapur	07:30	Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations
04424	Anand Vihar (T)	15:20	Katihar Jn	19:55	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Khurja Jn, Aligarh Jn, Hathras Jn, Tundla Jn, Firozabad, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn, Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn, Gonda Jn, Mankapur Jn, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Mainwa, Siwan Jn, Chhapra, Dighwara, Sonpur Jn, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn, Dholi, Khudiram B Pusa, Samastipur Jn, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn, Mansi Jn, Thana Bihpur Jn, Naugachia, Kibh, Kursela & Karagola Road Stations
04426	Anand Vihar (T)	16:25	Raxaul Jn	22:10	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Pilkhua, Hapur, Amroha, Moradabad, Raja Ka Sahasr, Chandausi Jn, Aonla, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Alamnagar, Lucknow, Nihalgarh, Musafir Khana, Sultanpur, Lambhua, Sri Krishna Nagar, Jaunpur City, Varanasi Jn, Varanasi City, Aunrihar Jn, Nandganj, Ghazipur City, Yusufpur, Ballia, Suraimanpur, Chhapra, Dighwara, Parmanandpur, Sonpur Jn, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn, Runnisaidpur, Sitamarhi, Bairagnia & Ghorasahan Stations
04028	Anand Vihar (T)	18:00	Katihar Jn	17:30	AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn & Naugachia Stations
05530	Anand Vihar (T)	23:45	Saharsa Jn.	03:05	Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Chandausi Jn., Sitapur, Gonda Jn., Mankapur Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Bagaha, Harinagar, Narkataganj Jn., Bettiah, Sagauli Jn., Bapudham Motihar, Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn., & S Bhakhtiyarpur 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, Vindhychal, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Chandauli Majhwar, Bhabua Road, Kudra, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugraha N Road, Rafiganj & Guraru Stations
04004	New Delhi	18:00	Patna Jn.	13:00	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly, Gauriganj, Amethi, Partappgarh Jn., Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations
04408	New Delhi	19:25	Darbhanga	17:00	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan Jn, Chhapra, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn & Samastipur Jn Stations
02582	New Delhi	22:35	Manduadih	11:10	First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn & Gyanpur Road Stations

Festival Spl. No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Accommodation	Stoppages
LIST OF EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA ON 20.11.2020 (FRIDAY)						
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, Danapur, Patliputra, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn, Mansi Jn, Naugachia, Katihar Jn, Barsoi Jn, Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Barpeta Road & Rangiya Jn Stations
04012	Anand Vihar (T)	07:30	Jogbani	08:15	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn, Tundla Jn, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn, Mirzapur, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Dildarnagar Jn, Danapur, Patliputra, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn, Naugachia, Katihar Jn, Purnia Jn, Arariya Court & Forbesganj Stations
04436	Anand Vihar (T)	10:50	Saharsa	10:30	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn, Samastipur Jn, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai & Khagaria Jn Stations
03258	Anand Vihar (T)	13:30	Danapur	07:30	Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04424	Anand Vihar (T)	15:20	Katihar Jn	19:55	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Khurja Jn, Aligarh Jn, Hathras Jn, Tundla Jn, Firozabad, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn, Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn, Gonda Jn, Mankapur Jn, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Mainwa, Siwan Jn, Chhapra, Dighwara, Sonpur Jn, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn, Dholi, Khudiram B Pusa, Samastipur Jn, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn, Mansi Jn, Thana Bihpur Jn, Naugachia, Kibh, Kursela & Karagola Road Stations
04426	Anand Vihar (T)	16:25	Raxaul Jn	22:10	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Pilkhua, Hapur, Amroha, Moradabad, Raja Ka Sahasr, Chandausi Jn, Aonla, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Alamnagar, Lucknow, Nihalgarh, Musafir Khana, Sultanpur, Lambhua, Sri Krishna Nagar, Jaunpur City, Varanasi Jn, Varanasi City, Aunrihar Jn, Nandganj, Ghazipur City, Yusufpur, Ballia, Suraimanpur, Chhapra, Dighwara, Parmanandpur, Sonpur Jn, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn, Runnisaidpur, Sitamarhi, Bairagnia & Ghorasahan Stations
04090	Anand Vihar (T)	16:55	Bhagalpur	11:00	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Aligarh Jn, Tundla Jn, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn, Vindhychal, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Dildarnagar Jn, Buxar, Dumraon, Bihiya, Ara, Bihta, Danapur, Patna Jn, Rajendranagar T, Kiul Jn, Jamalpur Jn & Sultanganj Stations
04404	Anand Vihar (T)	18:35	Bhagalpur	15:00	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Patna Jn, Mokameh Jn, Kiul Jn, Jamalpur Jn & Sultanganj Stations
02596	Anand Vihar (T)	20:00	Gorakhpur	07:50	AC 3 Tier	Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda Jn & Basti 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, Vindhychal, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Chandauli Mjhr, Bhabua Road, Kudra, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugraha N Road, Rafiganj & Guraru Stations
04410	New Delhi	14:55	Patna Jn	09:00	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara & Danapur Stations
04406	New Delhi	19:25	Barauni	15:00	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan Jn, Chhapra & Hajipur Jn Stations
02582	New Delhi	22:35	Manduadih	11:10	First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn & Gyanpur Road Stations
04084	Delhi Jn	23:00	Katihar Jn	22:00	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur Jn, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn & Naugachia Stations

Festival Spl. No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Accommodation	Stoppages
LIST OF EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA ON 21.11.2020 (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, Danapur, Patliputra, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn, Mansi Jn, Naugachia, Katihar Jn, Barsoi Jn, 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)	Ghaziabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn, Samstipur Jn, Darbhanga Jn & Madhubani 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, S Bhakhtiyarpur Jn, Mokameh Jn, Barauni Jn, Samstipur Jn, Darbhanga Jn & Madhubani Stations
03258	Anand Vihar (T)	13:30	Danapur	07:30	Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04424	Anand Vihar (T)	15:20	Katihar Jn	19:55	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Khurja Jn, Aligarh Jn, Hathras Jn, Tundla Jn, Firozabad, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn, Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn, Gonda Jn, Mankapur Jn, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Mainwa, Siwan Jn, Chhapra, Dighwara, Sonpur Jn, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn, Dholi, Khudiram B Pusa, Samastipur Jn, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn, Mansi Jn, Thana Bihpur Jn, Naugachia, Kibh, Kursela & Karagola Road Stations
04092	New Delhi	09:20	Jaynagar	11:15	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda Jn, Basti, Gorakhpur, Narkataganj Jn, Raxaul Jn, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga Jn & Madhubani 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, Vindhychal, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Chandauli Mjhr, Bhabua Road, Kudra, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugraha N Road, Rafiganj & Guraru Stations
02582	New Delhi	22:35	Manduadih	11:10	First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn & Gyanpur Road Stations
04030	Delhi Jn	13:45	Muzaffarpur Jn	08:00	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra & Hajipur Stations

Festival Spl. No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Accommodation	Stoppages
LIST OF EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA ON 22.11.2020 (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 Jn, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn, Mansi Jn, Naugachia, Katihar Jn, Barsoi Jn, Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Barpeta Road & Rangiya Jn Stations
04432	Anand Vihar (T)	11:10	Saharsa	11:30	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn, Chhapra, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn, Samastipur Jn, Dalsingh Sarai, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn & S Bhakhtiyarpur Stations
03258	Anand Vihar (T)	13:30	Danapur	07:30	Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04424	Anand Vihar (T)	15:20	Katihar Jn	19:55	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Khurja Jn, Aligarh Jn, Hathras Jn, Tundla Jn, Firozabad, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn, Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn, Gonda Jn, Mankapur Jn, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Mainwa, Siwan Jn, Chhapra, Dighwara, Sonpur Jn, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn, Dholi, Khudiram B Pusa, Samastipur Jn, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn, Mansi Jn, Thana Bihpur Jn, Naugachia, Kibh, Kursela & Karagola Road Stations
04426	Anand Vihar (T)	16:25	Raxaul Jn	22:10	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Pilkhua, Hapur, Amroha, Moradabad, Raja Ka Sahasr, Chandausi Jn, Aonla, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Alamnagar, Lucknow, Nihalgarh, Musafir Khana, Sultanpur, Lambhua, Sri Krishna Nagar, Jaunpur City, Varanasi Jn, Varanasi City, Aunrihar Jn, Nandganj, Ghazipur City, Yusufpur, Ballia, Suraimanpur, Chhapra, Dighwara, Parmanandpur, Sonpur Jn, Hajipur Jn, Muzaffarpur Jn, Runnisaidpur, Sitamarhi, Bairagnia & Ghorasahan Stations
04422	Anand Vihar (T)	11:10	Lucknow	04:20	AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier	Ghaziabad, Moradabad & Bareilly 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, Vindhychal, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Chandauli Mjhr, Bhabua Road, Kudra, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugraha N Road, Rafiganj & Guraru Stations
04410	New Delhi	14:55	Patna Jn	09:00	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara & Danapur Stations
04004	New Delhi	18:00	Patna Jn	13:00	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly, Gauriganj, Amethi, Partappgarh Jn, Varanasi, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar & Ara Stations
02582	New Delhi	22:35	Manduadih	11:10	First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn & Gyanpur Road Stations
05116	Delhi Jn	14:00	Chhapra	13:20	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Delhi Shahdara, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Amroha, Moradabad, Chandausi Jn, Aonla, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Faizabad Jn, Akbarpur, Shahganj Jn, Jaunpur Jn, Kirakat, Dohri, Aunrihar Jn, Ghazipur City, Yusufpur & Ballia Stations
04412	Delhi Jn	23:00	Saharsa	20:00	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur Jn, Barauni Jn & Khagaria Jn Stations

Passengers are requested to note that all these Festival Special Trains will have reserved accommodation only. Passengers are therefore requested to get their accommodation (berths/seats) booked beforehand. Passengers having reserved tickets will only be allowed to enter the platform to board the trains.

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.

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

Security Helpline No.
182

Integrated Helpline No.
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