

**OPINION 6**  
LOVE  
AND WAR

**WORLD 8**  
REPORT FINDS AUS TROOPS  
UNLAWFULLY KILLED 39 AFGHANS

**SPORT 12**  
PEP SIGNS 2-YEAR CONTRACT  
EXTENSION AT MAN CITY

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I REPEAT MY  
CLOTHES:  
SUSHMITA SEN  
10 VIVACITY

## Pak court jails 26/11 butcher Saeed

JuD chief sentenced to 10-year imprisonment in two more terror financing cases

**PTI ■ LAHORE**  
Mumbai terror attack mas-  
termind and Jamat-ud-  
Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed  
was on Thursday sentenced to  
ten years in jail by an anti-ter-  
rorism court in Pakistan in two  
more terror financing cases.

Saeed, a UN designated  
terrorist whom the US has  
placed a USD 10 million bounty  
on, was arrested on July 17  
last year in the terror financing  
cases. He was sentenced to 11  
years in jail by an anti-terro-  
rism court in February this year  
in two terror financing cases.

The 70-year-old JuD chief  
is lodged at Lahore's high-  
security Kot Lakhpat jail.

"The Anti-Terrorism  
Court (ATC) of Lahore on  
Thursday sentenced four JuD  
leaders, including its chief  
Hafiz Saeed, in two more  
cases," a court official told PTI.

Saeed and his two close  
aides — Zafar Iqbal and Yahya  
Mujahid — have been sen-

tenced to ten and a half years  
each, while JuD chief's broth-  
er-in-law Abdul Rehman  
Makki was sentenced to six  
months imprisonment.

"Judge Arshad Hussain  
Bhutta of ATC Court No. 1  
heard the case filed by the  
Counter Terrorism Department  
in which the verdict has been

announced after the statements  
of witnesses were cross-exam-  
ined," the official said.

A total of 41 cases have  
been registered by the CTD

against the JuD leaders, out of  
which 24 have been decided  
while the rest are pending in  
the ATC courts. Four cases  
have been decided against

Saeed so far.

Thursday's sentencing  
comes weeks after Paris-based  
global money laundering and  
terrorist financing watchdog -  
the Financial Action Taskdog -  
the Financial Action Task Force  
— retained Pakistan on its  
grey list till February 2021 as  
Islamabad failed to fulfil the  
agency's six key obligations,  
including failure to take action  
against two of India's most  
wanted terrorists — Saeed and  
Maulana Masood Azhar.

Saeed-led JuD is the front  
organisation for the Lashkar-e-  
Toiba (LeT) which is responsi-  
ble for carrying out the 2008  
Mumbai attack that killed 166  
people, including six  
Americans.

The US Department of the  
Treasury has designated Saeed  
as a Specially Designated  
Global Terrorist. He was listed  
under the UN Security  
Council Resolution 1267 in  
December 2008.

The FATF had placed  
Pakistan on the grey list in June  
2018 and asked Islamabad to  
implement a plan of action to  
curb money laundering and  
terror financing by the end of  
2019 but the deadline was  
extended later on due to  
COVID-19 pandemic.

With Pakistan's contin-  
uation in the "grey list", the  
country may find it difficult to  
get financial aid from the  
International Monetary Fund  
(IMF), World Bank, Asian  
Development Bank (ADB) and  
the European Union, thus fur-  
ther enhancing problems for  
the cash-strapped nation.

## Now, pay ₹2K for not wearing mask in Delhi



Officials impose fine on violators of the face mask rule in New Delhi on Thursday  
Ranjana Dimri / Pioneer

## Govt reserves 80% ICU beds in private hospitals, doubles testing centres

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of surge in coro-  
navirus cases in the national  
Capital, the AAP  
Government braced itself for  
the occasion and on Thursday  
it announced several measures,  
including a steep ₹2,000 fine for  
not wearing masks, reservation  
of 80 per cent ICU beds in private  
hospitals, doubling testing  
centres in every district and  
postponement of non-critical  
surgeries at health facilities.

In the all-party meeting  
held on Thursday, all political  
parties have agreed to collec-  
tively serve the people of Delhi  
keeping their political differ-  
ences aside, said Delhi Chief  
Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Private hospitals have also  
been directed to increase the  
percentage of non-ICU Covid-  
19 beds from 50 per cent to 60  
per cent. The Government will  
increase the number of RT-

PCR test to 27,000 a day in  
Delhi and MBBS students and  
interns will be engaged to tack-  
le the Covid-19 situation.

Addressing an online  
media briefing, Kejriwal said  
the fine for not wearing masks  
has been raised from ₹500 to  
₹2,000. The hard line by the  
AAP Government comes days  
after Kejriwal repeatedly  
appealed to Delhiites to wear  
masks amid a surge in coro-  
navirus cases.

He announced the slew of  
measures after meeting Lt-  
Governor Anil Bajjal and  
apprising him of the decisions  
taken by the AAP Government.  
He also appealed to political,  
social and religious organisa-  
tions to distribute masks  
among people saying masks  
very much reduce the chances  
of coronavirus infection.

Arrangements are being  
made for over 1,400 ICU beds,  
including 663 in Delhi  
Government hospitals and 750  
at a Central Government facil-  
ity, Kejriwal said, adding 7,500  
normal and 446 ICU beds are  
currently available for Covid-  
19 patients in Delhi.

Continued on Page 2

## 4 JeM fidayeen shot, major attack foiled

**Huge cache of arms &  
ammunition found at  
encounter site near  
toll plaza in Jammu**

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ BAN TOLL  
PLAZA, NAGROTA, JAMMU

Four heavily-armed infiltra-  
tors believed to be the mem-  
bers of the fidayeen squad  
(suicide bombers) of Pakistan-  
based Jaish-e-Mohammad  
(JeM) were neutralised by the  
joint team of security forces  
during a three-hour long fierce  
gunfight early on Thursday  
near Ban Toll Plaza on the  
Jammu-Srinagar National  
Highway.

For the first time, the secu-  
rity forces used flamethrowers  
to neutralise the terrorists hid-  
ing behind the rice/sand bags  
inside the "mobile bunker" of  
a Kashmir-bound truck.

A huge consignment of  
arms and ammunition, includ-  
ing 11 AK-47 rifles, 29  
grenades, 3 kg RDX, mobile  
phones & radio handsets, med-  
icine and ration supplies were  
also recovered from the  
encounter site.



Security personnel inspect the site of encounter at Nagrota Ban toll plaza in Jammu on Thursday  
PTI

Two jawans of the special  
operations group of Jammu &  
Kashmir Police namely Sgt  
Mohd Ishaq Malik and Ct  
Kuldeep Raj received injuries.  
Lieutenant Governor Manoj  
Sinha visited Government  
Medical College Jammu to

enquire about their wellbeing.  
The terrorists were obvi-  
ously sent on a special mission  
to execute a bigger terror plot  
ahead of the District  
Development Council polls  
beginning November 28 in  
J&K.

J&K Director General of  
Police Dilbagh Singh said the  
forces have foiled an attempt  
made by the Pakistan-based  
terrorist outfit to sabotage  
peaceful conduct of District  
Development Council polls.  
Continued on Page 2

## Bihar Edu Minister resigns over graft charge, claims innocence

PTI ■ PATNA

JDU leader Mewa Lal  
Chaudhary, whose appoint-  
ment as the Education Minister  
of Bihar despite a corruption  
taint had brought the Nitish  
Kumar Government under  
heavy Opposition fire, resigned  
on Thursday barely hours after  
taking charge.

Soon after assuming  
charge, Chaudhary expressed  
dismay over the controversy  
and told journalists that he was  
neither convicted by a court  
nor named in any chargesheet  
filed by the investigating agency  
in connection with irregulari-  
ties that allegedly took place at  
an agriculture university a few



years ago while he was its vice  
chancellor.

His resignation was accept-  
ed by Governor Phagu  
Chauhan on the recommenda-  
tion of Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar, and Ashok Choudhary,  
who holds building construc-  
tion and other portfolios, has  
been asked to take the addi-  
tional charge "till further  
orders".

"I was nowhere directly  
involved in the appointments.  
As the VC, I was only the  
Chairman of the experts' com-  
mittee which was entrusted with  
the recruitments. Moreover,  
no court of law has held me  
guilty nor has any chargesheet  
been filed against me," said  
Chaudhary, who is under-  
stood to have been sum-  
moned by the chief minister  
twice before he agreed to step  
down.

Continued on Page 2

## 5 MBBS seats reserved for kids of Covid warriors to recognise sacrifice

**Quota from Central  
pool for 2020-2021**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has decid-  
ed to reserve five MBBS  
seats under the Central pool for  
wards of Covid-19 warriors for  
the academic year 2020-2021.  
Union Health Minister  
Harsh Vardhan said the move  
aims to honour the noble con-  
tribution made by Covid-19  
warriors who have lost their  
lives due to the infection or  
died on account of Covid-19  
related duty.

The Health Ministry has  
introduced a new category,

"Wards of Covid Warriors", in  
the guidelines for selection  
and nomination of candidates  
against central pool MBBS  
seats.

The selection will be made  
by the Medical Council  
Committee (MCC) through  
online application on the basis  
of rank obtained in the NEET-  
2020 conducted by National  
Testing Agency.

Vardhan said, "This will  
honour the solemn sacrifice of  
all Covid warriors who served  
with selfless dedication for the  
cause of duty and humanity."

Noting that the definition  
of "Covid warrior" has been  
laid down by the Government  
while announcing the insur-

ance package of Rs 50 lakh for  
them, the Minister said, "Covid  
warriors are all public health-  
care providers including com-  
munity health workers, who  
may have to be in direct con-  
tact and care of Covid-19  
patients and who may be at risk  
of being impacted by this."

"Private hospital staff and  
retired/volunteer/local urban  
bodies/contracted/ daily  
wage/ad-hoc/ outsourced staff  
requisitioned by States/Central  
hospitals/autonomous hospitals  
of Central/States/UTs, AIIMS  
and Institutes of National  
Importance (INIs)/ hospitals of  
Central Ministries drafted for  
Covid-19-related responsibili-  
ties are all included," he added.

## HEALTHCARE WORKERS, PEOPLE ABOVE 65 YRS TO BE GIVEN VACCINE ON PRIORITY: HEALTH MIN

New Delhi: Expressing confi-  
dence that a Covid-19 vaccine  
will be ready in the next three-  
four months, Union Health  
Minister Harsh Vardhan on  
Thursday said the Government  
has drawn up a meticulous pri-  
ority plan with healthcare  
workers and those above 65  
years on top of the list.

## Ahmedabad clamps night curfew amid Covid-19 resurgence

Ahmedabad: Ahmedabad has  
imposed night curfew from 9  
pm to 6 am after coronavirus  
cases kept rising in the city.  
The curfew will come into  
effect from Friday and will stay  
on indefinitely.  
The city in Gujarat report-  
ed a total of 46,022 till  
Tuesday.

## CAPSULE

**DOORSTEP REGISTRATION  
OF BUILDING WORKERS**  
New Delhi: Registration of  
construction workers for  
availing benefits under various  
Delhi Government schemes will  
now be done through doorstep  
delivery, Deputy Chief Minister  
Manish Sisodia announced on  
Thursday.

**5 KILLED IN PLASTIC  
FACTORY BLAST IN WB**  
Maldia: Five persons were killed  
and five others critically injured  
in a blast in a plastic factory in  
West Bengal's Maldia district on  
Thursday, police said. The  
incident took place in Sujapur  
area around 11.30 am, a senior  
police officer said. "Four factory  
workers were killed on the spot  
and one was brought dead to  
hospital. Five others have been  
critically injured in the explosion  
that ripped the establishment  
apart," he said.

**GOVT TO FINALISE DATA  
PROTECTION LAW SOON**  
Bengaluru: Union IT and  
Communications Minister Ravi  
Shankar Prasad on Thursday  
said the Government was very  
keen to promote India as a very  
big centre of the data economy  
and would finalise a data  
protection law very soon. "I'm  
very keen to promote India as a  
very big centre of the data  
economy. Data is going to drive  
the digital economy. It is also  
going to drive international  
commerce," said the Union IT  
and Communications Minister.

## BRICS' NDB to loan \$500 mn for RRTS

Loan has tenure  
of 25 years with  
8-yr grace period

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the continuing stand-  
off at the Line of Actual  
Control (LAC), the  
Government on Thursday  
signed a loan agreement worth  
\$500 million with the  
Shanghai-based New  
Development Bank (NDB) to  
fund part of the Delhi-  
Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional  
Rapid Transit System (RRTS)  
Project to boost connectivity  
between Delhi and Meerut in  
Uttar Pradesh.

The Ministry of Housing  
and Urban Affairs, Ministry of  
Finance (MoF), National  
Capital Region Transport  
Corporation Limited, and  
Chief Operations Officer Xian  
Zhu from NDB side, signed the  
loan agreement.

The loan has a tenure of 25  
years with an eight-year grace  
period. Approval from the  
NDB — a multilateral devel-  
opment bank established by the  
BRICS countries — for the loan  
came after a board meeting on  
September 29.

Earlier in September, the  
Centre had taken another loan

of \$500 million to fund the  
Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut  
RRTS corridor. The  
Government also plans to bor-  
row from the Asian  
Infrastructure Investment Bank  
(AIIB). Both NDB and AIIB  
are headquartered in China.

The funds will be used to  
finance rolling stock, signalling  
system, operational structures,  
residences for operational staff,  
train control and telecommu-  
nication system, among other  
works. Executed by the  
National Capital Region  
Transport Corporation, the 82-  
km-long corridor is estimated  
to cost \$3.7 billion. The total  
project cost is estimated at  
\$3,749 million, which will be  
financed by the NDB (\$500  
million), Asian Infrastructure  
Investment Bank (\$500 mil-  
lion), Asian Development Bank  
(\$1,049 million), Japan Fund  
for Poverty Reduction (\$3 mil-  
lion), and Government and  
Other sources (\$1,707 mn).

The RRTS project stretch-  
es over a distance of 82km  
between Delhi and Meerut and  
once ready, high-speed trains  
will run between the corridor  
reducing the travel time. The  
elevated corridor will have 24  
stations, and of the 82 km dis-  
tance, 11.5 km will be under-  
ground.

Continued on Page 2

## CBI can't probe sans State Govt's consent, rules SC

'Centre can't extend  
agency jurisdiction'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid frequent controversy  
over alleged politicisation  
of Central probe agencies, the  
Supreme Court on Wednesday  
ruled that the Central Bureau  
of Investigation (CBI) cannot  
take up an investigation with-  
out a State Government's con-  
sent. The court also said the  
Centre cannot extend the  
agency's jurisdiction to a State  
without permission either.

"As per law, State consent is  
a must and the Centre cannot  
extend CBI jurisdiction with-  
out the State's consent. The law  
is in tune with the federal  
structure of the Constitution,"  
the court said on a petition by  
officials accused in a corrup-  
tion case in Uttar Pradesh.

Accusing the CBI of carry-  
ing political witch-hunt on  
behalf of the Centre, eight  
Opposition-ruled States —  
Rajasthan, Bengal, Jharkhand,  
Kerala, Maharashtra,  
Chhattisgarh, Punjab and  
Mizoram — have withdrawn  
consent for CBI probes in their  
States.

Referring to the Delhi  
Special Police Establishment  
(DSPE) Act that regulates the  
CBI, Justices AM Khanwilkar  
and BR Gavai said, "Though  
Section 5 enables the Central  
Government to extend the  
powers and jurisdiction of  
members of the DSPE (CBI)  
beyond the Union Territories to  
a State, the same is not per-  
missible unless, a State grants  
its consent for such an exten-  
sion within the area of State  
concerned under Section 6 of  
the DSPE Act. Obviously, the  
provisions are in tune with the  
federal character of the  
Constitution, which has been  
held to be one of the basic  
structures of the Constitution."

The apex court's verdict  
was on appeals challenging a  
judgment passed by the  
Allahabad High Court in  
August 2019 in a case involv-  
ing Fertico Marketing and  
Investment Private Limited.

Continued on Page 2

## Covid-19 IN INDIA

**TOTAL**  
CASES: 89,82,369  
DEATHS: 1,31,843  
RECOVERED:  
84,07,254  
ACTIVE: 4,41,249



## Delhi's minimum temp plunges to 9.4° C, lowest of this season

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Cold winds blowing from  
snow-capped western  
Himalayas brought down the  
minimum temperature in the  
national Capital to 9.4 degrees  
Celsius on Thursday morning,  
three notches below normal  
and the lowest of the season.  
Delhi had recorded a low of  
10.6 degrees Celsius on  
Wednesday.

The IMD had earlier pre-  
dicted a drop in the minimum  
temperature in Delhi as cold  
winds have started blowing  
from hilly regions, which have

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	17,57,520	46,202	16,30,111
Karnataka	8,67,780	11,604	8,30,988
Andhra Pradesh	8,57,395	6,899	8,33,980
Tamil Nadu	7,64,989	11,550	7,39,532
Kerala	5,45,642	1,970	4,75,320
Uttar Pradesh	5,16,616	7,441	4,87,221
Delhi	5,03,084	7,943	4,52,683
West Bengal	4,45,505	7,873	4,11,759
Odisha	3,11,788	1,645	3,02,796
Telangana	2,60,834	1,419	2,46,733
Rajasthan	2,34,907	2,116	2,12,623
Bihar	2,29,474	1,209	2,22,492
Chhattisgarh	2,15,413	2,646	1,93,943
Assam	2,11,040	970	2,06,875
Haryana	2,09,251	2,113	1,87,559
Gujarat	1,92,982	3,830	1,76,575



witnessed a fresh bout of snow-  
fall. The minimum tempera-  
ture this month, barring on  
November 16, has remained 2-  
3 degree Celsius below normal  
in the absence of a cloud cover,  
according to IMD officials.

Normally, the Safdarjung  
Observatory, which provides  
representative data for the city,  
records a minimum of 12.3

degrees Celsius from November  
19 to November 21.

The average minimum  
temperature from November  
22 to November 26 is 11.3  
degrees Celsius, according to  
the India Meteorological  
Department (IMD).  
Kuldeep Srivastava, the  
head of the regional forecasting  
center of IMD, had earlier said  
the month of November this  
year is expected to be the col-  
dest in the last four to five years.  
Clouds trap some of the  
outgoing infrared radiation  
and radiate it back downward,  
warming the ground.

# Celebrate Chhath at home: Delhi CM urges people

# 1,500 illegal shanties razed in Gurugram

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday appealed to the people of Delhi to celebrate Chhath Puja inside their homes, so that they are not exposed to the risk of getting infected by Corona.

In the all-party meeting held on Wednesday, the chief minister said that in the wake of a surge in Corona cases in Delhi, all political parties have agreed to collectively serve the people of Delhi by leaving politics aside in this time of Corona calamity. He also said that non-emergency operations in hospitals across Delhi will be stalled for a few days in the wake of rising Corona cases.



“The Delhi government allocates a separate budget for this festival to be celebrated in Delhi since we have come into power. But right now, we are going through a pandemic, because of which we are taking this step. Please celebrate Chhath Puja in your home, and

do not celebrate it in public water ponds to prevent yourself and your family from getting infected from COVID,” he said. “Experts say the Corona will be transmitted through that water and hundreds of people will get infected. We

have only disallowed celebrating Chhath Puja in a public water pond or any water body in the open. We have not disallowed celebrating Chhath Puja. Let’s celebrate Chhath Puja by staying indoors,” he said.

The chief minister said that even with a huge spike in Corona cases in Delhi, the doctors, nurses, and all medical fraternity in Delhi are doing a commendable job for the treatment of Corona patients.

Kejriwal said, “To deliberate on the situation related to Corona in Delhi, an all-party meeting was convened today. Some great suggestions were received from all the parties, and we will work on implementing all the suggestions in Delhi. This is a difficult situa-

tion for Delhiites when Corona is on a surge and this is not the time to play politics. We have to keep politics, making political statements and remarks, and blaming each other aside, since this is the time to serve the people so that we are able to protect our people from Corona,” he said.

“The coming generations will remember us for our service to the people when Delhi was going through this difficult time. All the parties agreed to serve the people of the country, as Delhiites and as Indians. I am glad that all parties have supported this,” he said.

Delhi has 7461 beds in all the government and private hospitals across the national capital, and around 446 ICUs are available, Kejriwal said,

adding that the government has taken many significant decisions to increase the number of ICU beds in Delhi.

“The reservation of non-ICU beds in private hospitals has been increased from 50 to 60 per cent for a few days. All non-critical planned surgeries will be stalled or postponed for a few days. We will request the hospitals in this regard. As I said yesterday, we will increase around 663 beds in other Delhi government hospitals in the next few days, and the Central government has assured us an additional 750 beds in the Central government hospitals, which means that we will have around 1413 additional ICU beds in the next few days in Delhi,” he said.

**Gurugram:** A team of District Town Planner (DTP) carried out a demolition drive at an illegal 1,500 shanties spread over five acres of land in residential sectors-58 and 61 here on Thursday.

The demolition drive was conducted by the officials of the enforcement wing of the DTP and was carried out under heavy police protection.

Over 100 police officers were present at the spot to give cover to the officials. There was a stray incident of stone-pelting allegedly by those living in the shanties, said District Town Planner (enforcement) RS Bath, adding that the matter was quickly resolved by the police personnel present at the

spot. They had tried to stop the demolition drive by setting some slums on fire but were managed by the police force and the drive was completed till 5 p.m.

The police have also detained several people in an attempt to obstruct government work.

“We were receiving several complaints by the residents of nearby sectors about these illegal shanties. We will not flourish such illegal activities in Gurugram and will soon recommend strict actions against such people who are intentionally developing such illegal structures,” Bath said.

IAN S

## CBI can't...

From Page 1

Two State officials were also found to be involved in the case. The officials had argued that the general consent given by the State Government was not enough and separate permission was required if they were to be investigated.

The Allahabad High Court had noted that the Uttar Pradesh Government had retroactively granted consent against the two Government officials, who were later named in a charge-sheet, and that was sufficient.

Confirming the High Court order, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said, “In the result, we find no reason to interfere with the finding of the High Court with regard to not obtaining prior consent of the State Government.”

Several Opposition-ruled States have withdrawn general consent to the CBI to investigate cases, alleging that the BJP-led Government at the Centre is misusing the agency to harass political opponents.

The move means the CBI cannot carry out investigations in these States without seeking permission every time.

## Railways completes RFQ evaluations for PPP in passenger train operations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has completed the ‘Request for Qualifications’ (RFQ) evaluations for ‘Public Private Partnership’ (PPP) in passenger train operations project.

The railways ministry said that out of 120 applications, 102 applications have been found eligible to participate in the RFP stage.

Ministry of Railways (MOR) had invited RFQ for private participation in operation of passenger train services over 12 clusters comprising for more than 150 origin destination pair

of routes through introduction of 151 modern trains.

“This is the first major initiative of attracting private investment for running Passenger trains over railway network. The project would entail private sector investment of about Rs 30,000 crores,” it said.

The private entities for undertaking the project would be selected through a transparent two-stage competitive bidding process comprising of Request for Qualification (RFQ) and RFP, it said.

The RFQ for 12 clusters were published on 01 July 2020. The applications were opened on

October 7, 2020, the application due date. MoR has received excellent response.

“In all 120 applications have been received for the 12 Clusters, from 16 applicant firms. Cluster wise details of the applications received are attached herewith,” it added.

The ministry has completed the evaluation of Applications. Out of 120 applications, 102 applications are found eligible to participate in the RFP stage. “The results of evaluation of applications are attached herewith. The RFP documents will be made available to the qualified applicants very soon,” it added.

## Bihar Edu Minister resigns over graft charge...

From Page 1

Chaudhary had been named in an FIR lodged in 2017 pertaining to alleged irregularities in appointment of assistant teachers and junior scientists at the Bihar Agriculture University in Bhagalpur district.

Known to be close to the JD(U) boss, he was appointed as the VC when the varsity was established in 2010 and five years later, following expiry of his tenure, got elected from Tarapur Assembly seat on a party ticket which he retained in the recently held elections.

Chaudhary was also asked about stinging criticism by former Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, who was then in the opposition and had strongly demanded action against the Tarapur MLA in connection with the corruption case.

“I think he was misled by some people,” said Chaudhary about his mentor’s trusted lieutenant Sushil Kumar Modi who has been replaced by two lesser known BJP leaders Tar Kishore Prasad and Renu Devi.

He expressed anguish over suspicions being raised in some quarters over the death of his wife Neeta who succumbed to injuries sustained in a gas cylinder explosion last year. “I am going to send legal notices to those who are spreading canards against me. I will seek damages worth Rs 50 crore,” he fumed.

Chaudhary’s wife had represented Tarapur in 2010-15. After he retained the seat for the second consecutive term, he was sworn in as a member of the cabinet on Monday and allocated the education portfolio a day later.

TV footage of Chaudhary’s official residence showed hundreds of bouquets and sweet packets lying in the forecourt, with only a handful

of supporters roaming about desultorily.

Meanwhile, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, who had been targeting the newly installed Government over Chaudhary’s induction, came out with angry tweets over the ‘isteeke ka naatak’ (the drama enacted around the resignation).

“Respected Chief Minister, we have the people’s mandate to keep you on your toes...just one resignation is not enough. We shall be taking on you over issues like 19 lakh jobs and pay parity for contractual workers. Jai Bihar, Jai Hind,” Yadav tweeted in Hindi.

“Had I not said that you have become tired and, therefore, lost your power of judgement? You got a corrupt man appointed as minister, allowed him to take charge despite so much of condemnation and then got a drama enacted around his resignation. You are the real culprit...you will no longer be allowed to get away with your duplicity,” Yadav said in a series of tweets.

JD(U) MLC and spokesperson Neeraj Kumar, who was a Minister in the previous Government, however, said Chaudhary’s resignation was “yet another proof of Nitish Kumar’s zero tolerance for corruption.”

“I would now like RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav to take a leaf out of our leader’s book. He and his family are neck deep in corruption cases. Hence, he must not remain the leader of the Opposition,” the JD(U) leader said.

# Maha deaths shoot up to 154

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A major cause for concern, the Covid-19 deaths shot up 154 in Maharashtra on Thursday, while the infections went up marginally to 5,535 in the state.

A day after Maharashtra logged 100 deaths and 5,011 infections, the deaths rose more than 50 per cent, while the infections rose by 524.

With 154 fresh infections, the Covid-19 toll in Maharashtra mounted on 46,202 to 46,356. Similarly, with 5,535 fresh infections, the total infected cases jumped from 17,57,520 to 17,63,055.

As 5860 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 16,35,971. The recovery rate in the state rose marginally from 92.75 per cent to 92.79 per cent.

Of the 154 deaths reported, Solapur accounted for a maximum of 25 deaths, followed by 17 deaths each in Thane and Palghar, 12 each in Mumbai and Satara, and 11 deaths in Pune.

In the lower range, there were 8 deaths in Nashik, 7 in Nagpur, 6 in Amravati, 5 in Chandrapur, 4 each in Nandurbar and Nanded, 3 each in Jalgaon, Aurangabad and

Yavatmal, 2 each in Ahmednagar, Kolhapur, Sangli, Sindhudurg, Latur, Akola and one death each in Osmanabad, Beed, Washim and Bhandara. In addition, one from outside the state died in Maharashtra.

With 12 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai climbed from 10,615 to 10,627, while the infected cases rose by 924 to trigger a jump in the infections in the metropolis from 271,531 to 272,455.

Meanwhile, the number of “active cases” total cases rose from 80,221 to 79,738. 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 3,43,213 to 3,44,002, while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 7195 to 7206.

Thane district remained in the third spot --after Pune and Mumbai -- after the total number of infections rose from 2,32,411 to 2,33,169, while the pandemic toll climbed from 5406 to 5423. Currently, 5,60,868 people are in home quarantine while 4284 people are in institutional quarantine.

In a related development, out of 99,65,119 samples sent to laboratories, 17,63,055 have tested positive (17.69cent) for COVID-19 until Thursday.

## Now, pay ₹2K for not wearing mask in Delhi

From Page 1

“From today we have implemented the decision to reserve 80 per cent ICU beds in all private hospitals for Covid-19 patients. It will increase ICU bed availability by 300-400 for coronavirus patients in Delhi hospitals,” he said.

The percentage of normal, non-ICU beds reserved in private hospitals for corona patients, are being increased from 50 per cent to 60 per cent till the peak of the pandemic is there, he said.

Hospitals have also been asked to postpone non-critical planned surgeries for the time being, he added.

The national Capital has witnessed a spurt in 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. On Wednesday, the infection tally in Delhi rose to over 5 lakh with 7,486 fresh cases reported, while 131 new fatalities, the highest single-day death count till date, took the toll to 7,943.

According to Kejriwal, he received assurance of coopera-

tion from various political parties at an all-party meeting on the Covid-19 situation in Delhi. He said that he urged them to distribute face masks to save people from the infection.

After the meeting, ruling AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj said the Delhi Government will increase the number of RTPCR tests conducted daily from around 18,000 to 27,000, and the Chief Minister will also meet market associations if any decision is taken on shutting down markets. Bharadwaj said he suggested that market associations should be given a chance to present their views and take precautionary measures to check the spread of the virus.

Kejriwal also appealed to the people not to celebrate Chhath puja at ponds and other water bodies, saying it could cause a widespread infection. “Even if one Covid-19 infected person enters the water during Chhath Puja, all others might get infected by the virus,” he said, adding his Government is being forced to restrict Chhath Puja celebrations at river banks, ponds and other public places due to the threat

of the infection.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Government directed all district magistrates to take steps to double the number of testing centres in their respective districts immediately.

The order issued by the Delhi Health Department also said manpower required for the new testing centres “may be hired from open market, if required”.

“It has been observed that the number of Covid-19 cases are increasing in Delhi and “to ensure early detection and subsequent isolation of the Covid-19 infected patients, it is felt necessary to enhance the Covid-19 testing capacity”, the order said.

Authorities in the city have allowed all coronavirus facilities of the Government here to engage MBBS students in fourth and fifth years, interns and others to assist doctors on duty at a fixed honorarium.

Meanwhile, the number of available ICU beds equipped with ventilators is shrinking fast at several hospitals here, with zero vacancy at nearly 60 facilities.

According to the online

Corona dashboard of the Delhi Government at 12:30 pm on Thursday, only 131 COVID-19 ICU beds were available out of 1,362 such beds at various facilities here.

There was no vacancy at Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (RGSSH), Max hospitals’ facilities at Saket, Patparganj and Shalimar Bagh, Batra hospital, Fortis hospitals’ facilities at Shalimar Bagh and Vasant Kunj and Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, and Venkateshwara Hospital in Dwarka, among others, as per the data.

The RGSSH, a dedicated coronavirus facility under the Delhi Government, has 200 ICU beds with ventilators, all occupied, while at the LNJP Hospital, another dedicated facility, only seven such beds were available out of 200 at 12:30 pm.

On Wednesday, the Centre said the Railways will be providing coaches with 800 beds. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority on Wednesday reverted to the earlier cap of 50 guests at marriage functions instead of 200 allowed through its October 31 order.

## 4 JeM fidayeen shot, major attack foiled

From Page 1

He said, “We were receiving regular inputs about the possibility of infiltration by a group of terrorists from across the border to smuggle arms and ammunition ahead of the DDC polls in Jammu & Kashmir.

“In order to prevent them from disturbing peace in the region, we had also beefed up and alerted our security checkpoints along the Jammu Srinagar National Highway to prevent any terror strike,” the DGP added.

Soon after the encounter was called off, a team of officers from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) visited the site near Ban Toll Plaza. The team members interacted with some of the officers present during the operation and gathered feedback.

The forensic samples were also lifted by the different teams before the traffic was allowed to ply on the busy highway. The NIA is expected to take over the probe in the case only after the receipt of a formal order.

Terror revisited the spot after a gap of more than nine long months.

Earlier, three JeM terrorists too were neutralised during a gunfight at the same location on January 31, 2020.

Vehicular traffic on the busy highway remained disrupted for over six hours. The commuters were allowed to ply vehicles only after the security forces completed the routine drill of sanitising the encounter site past 11 am. Addressing a Press conference here at the police control room in Jammu, Inspector General of Police Jammu range Mukesh Singh said, “The group of terrorists were pushed inside the Indian territory ahead of the DDC polls to carry out some bigger plans”.

Sharing details of the successful operation Singh said at about 5 am during checking at Ban Toll Plaza a truck bearing No. JK01AL-1055 was checked during which the driver tried to flee away and the terrorists hidden in the truck opened fire on the police party.

The IG said the group of terrorists may have infiltrated via the International Border.

According to the official sources, the truck had passed through a toll plaza in Samba district around 3.44 am before reaching Ban Toll Plaza. Preliminary investigations have so far revealed that the registration number JK01AL 1055 was also fake.

The same registration number was registered in the name of a goods carrier (Mahindra and Mahindra) in the office of RTO, Srinagar.

Meanwhile, Jammu & Kashmir Police has registered an FIR no. 426/2020/US 307,120b, 121,122,123 7/25/27 Arms Act 16/18 ULA at PS Nagrota ahead of initiating probe in the case.

Official sources said, “Due to the strong anti-infiltration grid established by the Indian security forces, Pakistan is unable to infiltrate terrorists and weapons into the Valley to increase violence levels”.

They said, “Pakistan ISI has been given an ultimatum to push in maximum infiltrators along with weapons into Kashmir before onset of winters, when the undergrowth/bushes in most infiltration prone areas will die down due to dew and snow-fall”. “Pakistan based terrorist Group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) is based at Bahawalpur in Pakistan and is exploiting the International Boundary area in Punjab-Jammu sector to push in maximum terrorists,” official sources said.

“Due to the strong anti-infiltration grid established by the Indian security forces, Pakistan is unable to infiltrate terrorists and weapons into the Valley to increase violence levels”.

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“Due to the strong anti-infiltration grid established by the Indian security forces, Pakistan is unable to infiltrate terrorists and weapons into the Valley to increase violence levels”.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Kamla Devi who is the owner of Plot no. 5L-108, area measuring 172 Sq. Yards, Situated at Waka Mauja NIT Faridabad Tehsil Badkhal Distt Faridabad Haryana Vide Transfer Deed dated 08.05.2019 and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from IDFC First Bank Limited. That the Deed of Conveyance dated 23.12.1986 along with the Surviving Member Certificate Legal Heir Certificate of Late Mr. Gulab Chand and Mr. Milap Chand Gandhi S/o Late Mr. Gulab Chand is not available so to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days at below address.  
**Lucem Legal LLP**  
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext. II, New Delhi-49  
Contact# 011-40046316

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
Police Department  
**Tender Notification** Dt:18-11-2020  
Tenders are invited for the Supply of 15 Equipments for TS Forensic Science Laboratory. Tender start from 19-11-2020, 11.00 AM on website [www.eprocurement.gov.in](http://www.eprocurement.gov.in) Last date 06-12-2020 followed. Pre-Bid Meeting on 26-11-2020. Pre-Qualification Bid Opened 17-12-2020, 11.30 AM. Technical Bid Opened 19-12-2020, 11.30 AM. Financial Bid Opened 29-12-2020, 11.30 AM.  
R.O.No.: 713-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2020-21 Sd/- ADGP (TSSP) & I/c, Director TSFSL.

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER  
MAHANADI GODAVARI BASIN  
RAIPUR (C.G.)  
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
(1st CALL)  
System Tender No.: 69140/NIT No.: 12/SAC/2020-21 Durg Dated: 13.11.2020  
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 07.12.2020 at 17.30 Hour  
**Name of work:** CONSTRUCTION OF NAWAGAON-PURDA ANICUT CUM CAUSEWAY ON SONBARSA NALLA IN BLOCK DHAMDHA OF DISTRICT BEMETARA (DURG)  
Probable Amount of Contract :- **Rs. 366.60 Lakhs**  
The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 23.11.2020, at 17.31 Hours.(IST) onwards.  
NOTE:- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e- procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.  
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Tandula Water Resources Division, Durg (C.G.)  
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godavari Basin  
R.O. No:- 85006/12 Raipur (C.G.)  
R.O. Date:- 17/11/2020

**राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन**  
मध्य प्रदेश  
8, अरेरा हिल्स, जेल रोड, भोपाल  
क्रमांक/एन.एच.एम./एच.आर./R-22/2020/14908 भोपाल दिनांक 16.11.2020  
// संशोधित विज्ञापित //  
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन मध्य प्रदेश के अंतर्गत विज्ञापित राज्य स्तरीय सविदा सलाहकारों के रिक्त पदों की पदपूर्ति हेतु प्रमुख समाचार पत्रों में विज्ञापन क्रमांक एनएचएम/एचआर/2020/1341 दिनांक 24.01.2020 (जी-22188/2020) प्रकाशित कर सेम्स (SAMS) के वेबपोर्टल [www.sams.co.in](http://www.sams.co.in) पर विस्तृत नियम-पुस्तिका अपलोड की गयी थी।  
उक्त प्रकाशित विज्ञापन एवं नियम-पुस्तिका में से निम्नलिखित पदों में आवश्यक संशोधन किया जाता है और पूर्व में प्राप्त ऑनलाईन आवेदनों को निरस्त किया जाकर पुनरीक्षित अर्हता अनुसार पुनः नवीन ऑनलाईन आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं जो निम्नानुसार हैं:-  

S. No.	Position Name	No. of Post
1	2	3
1.	Consultant HR (Technical)	1
2.	Consultant CPHC	1
3.	State Coordination Officer (Blood Bank)	1
4.	Consultant- Mental Health	1
5.	Consultant- Mobile Health Services	1
6.	State consultant- Finance cum Logistics (NPDCDS)	1
7.	Consultant Maternal Health- Technical	1
Total		07

  
उक्त तालिका में दशायें गये पदों हेतु <https://www.sams.co.in> और <https://www.nhmp.gov.in> पर दिनांक 20.11.2020 से पुनरीक्षित नियम-पुस्तिका अनुसार दिनांक 20 नवम्बर 2020 से 04 दिसम्बर 2020 मध्य रात्रि 11.59 तक सेम्स के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन आवेदन स्वीकार किये जावेंगे। शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत रहेंगी।  
मिशन संचालक,  
एन.एच.एम., मध्य प्रदेश  
G-15604/20 दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।

# Construction workers' registration through doorstep delivery

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday announced that the registration and renewal of construction workers with the construction board will be done through a door-step delivery programme.

Sisodia said that the service begins from today on '1076' helpline number and no construction worker will have to stand in long queues at government offices now.

The deputy chief minister said that it is the Delhi government's priority to ensure the construction workers in Delhi receive all benefits of the government's various welfare schemes.



"The workers can now just dial the number 1076, and say that they're a construction worker in Delhi, and want to get registered for Delhi government's schemes. A govern-

## SCHEMES FOR REGISTERED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

- † Individual's Own or Son/ Daughter's Marriage: Rs 35,000/- to 51,000/-
- † Monthly Old Age Pension of workers over 60 is Rs 3,000
- † Health and Maternity Benefits: Rs 2,30,000/-
- † For Education of Children RS 500/- to Rs 10,000/- per month
- † Accidental Death: Rs 2,00,000; Natural Death: RS 1,00,000/-; Funeral: 10,000/-
- † Disability Cover: Rs 1,00,000/-

edgement SMS and a call confirming his registration" Sisodia said.

Addressing the media, Delhi Secretariat, Sisodia said that construction workers' welfare cess is collected from construction companies, and this amount is used for the welfare

of construction workers. To avail this amount, a construction worker needs to be a registered worker with the board, he added.

Sisodia further said that he has taken this step after seeing these workers standing troubled for hours in the long

queues during his recent inspection visit to the District Labour offices.

"Due to the complex process of registration and renewal, middlemen illegally ended up taking anything between Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 from the labourers in the name of filling up their forms. Moreover, the workers had to repeatedly go to the labor office on several days and spend hours in the queues which led them to lose their daily wages," he said. Furthermore, after the application, the worker had to go to the labour office for verification and often had to take leaves from their work. To ease this process, the Delhi Government has started the doorstep delivery of registra-

tion and renewal of workers from Thursday.

Sisodia said that now with just a phone call, a member of the Delhi government will visit the worker's house, fill their documents, in addition to uploading those documents and photos of the workers online. The worker has to pay Rs. 25 and a service charge of Rs 50.

Sisodia also said that a watchman at construction sites, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, fitters, welders, shuttering workers, pump operators, bar winders, and crane operators are also categorized as construction workers.

The registered workers can avail an amount of anything between Rs 35,000 to Rs.

51,000 for their child's marriage. Some of the provisions, he talked about such as health benefits of 2000 to 10000 and maternity benefit of up to Rs 30000, monthly pension of Rs 3,000 for workers over the age of 60, compensation of two lakh in case of accidental death, one lakh in case of natural death, Rs 10,000 for covering the costs of funeral, and one lakh as disability cover. Additionally, monthly scholarships ranging from 500 to Rs 10,000 are also given for a worker's child's education.

"Until now, only 1,11,000 workers have been registered in Delhi even though Delhi has an estimate of 10 lakh construction workers working in the city," he said.

## Education can reform society, says Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Happiness Curriculum is not a 'value education class' that preaches moral values to the students. Instead, it focuses on developing the mindset of the students to adopt the values in their everyday attitude and behavior," Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said while participating in an online panel discussion on 'systematic social emotional learning' of the happiness curriculum by Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) during its international education week to celebrate the successful implementation of 'happiness classes' across Delhi Government schools.

The panel line-up included Professor Fernando Reimers, Ford Foundation Professor of Practice in International Education at HGSE, Dr Anil Teotia, Chairperson of the Happiness Committee and Richa Gupta, co-founder of Labhya Foundation, who moderated the discussion.

During the discussion, on

being asked to share his vision for developing this curriculum, Sisodia said, "I'm just a politician who thinks education is the only way to reform society, and I believe that politicians should work as facilitators of education through better education."

"Education is the only tool available that can reform the society, and give us a society that we all dream of," Sisodia said. He added that education, globally, is being used to fill unemployment gaps and lessen poverty, but it still doesn't address more human problems that the society faces.

"So far, successful education models around the world have been producing professionally sound people, but not emotionally sound people. Happiness curriculum works towards building a confident and a holistic mindset towards caste, creed, and religion so the students become more self-aware, and open towards each other," Sisodia said.

The discussion further looked at understanding the need for social emotional learning (SEL) programs across sys-



tems around the world. Sisodia said, "Happiness Curriculum provides the toolkit for the children to scientifically observe their emotions and understand them. It's the science of emotions because once students are able to understand and recognise their emotions well, they will grow up to become better human beings."

"The role of happiness curriculum then becomes critical in developing the mindset of the students as well as the teachers in adopting these ethical values in their behaviour. The students should be prepared coming out of school ready to live in the world as lifelong learners," Sisodia said.

## Customs recovers ₹3 cr from 3 importers for misusing Govt exemptions during Covid-19

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Customs Department has recovered around Rs 3 crore of Customs Duty from three importers who misutilised notification of various exemptions issued during Covid-19 pandemic by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

According to a senior Customs official, the Export Promotion Circle (EPC) under Customs department received a tip-off in Faridabad regarding an importer who was misutilising the notification.

"Acting on the tip-off an EPC team was dispatched for the spot who found that the importer was importing battery chargers which are not exempted in the notification. Around 33 lakhs were recovered from the importer as Customs duty," said the official.

"In another case, a 100 per cent EOU manufacturer-importer was procuring the goods at nil rate of duty after taking benefit of exemption while the imported goods were being cleared 'as such' from the factory premises with short payment of Customs duty," said the

official. "On being pointed out by Customs officers the importer has deposited an amount of Rs 31.54 Lakhs towards payment of Customs Duty. Further, enquiry is still going on and approximately duty amount of Rs 300 lakhs appears to be involved in the matter," said the official.

"In the third case, the importer was procuring the imported goods on nil rate of duty after taking benefit of exemption. As informed by the importer, the goods procured by them had got lost due to fire at their factory premises, therefore, the importer had applied for remission of duty under section 23 of Customs Act, 1962," said the official.

"The case was scrutinized by the officers of customs EPC and it was noticed that the goods in question were not entitled for remission of duty in accordance with Section 23 of the Customs Act, 1962. The same was pointed out to the importer who has now deposited an amount of Rs 234.67 lakhs towards payment of Customs Duty," said the official.

## Govt trying to combat pandemic situation on war footing: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited the Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) hospital of the Delhi Government on Thursday to review the preparedness of the hospital in wake of a surge in Covid cases in Delhi and applauded the doctors and nurses and the medical fraternity in Delhi for effectively managing the Covid situation in Delhi.

Kejriwal thanked the medical team of the DDU Hospital for increasing the number of ICU beds from 50 to 100 beds. He said that the Delhi Government is trying to combat the situation on a war footing, and visiting hospitals individually to increase the number of ICU beds.

Briefing the media, Kejriwal said, "I met with the medical director and doctors at DDU and I am extremely thankful to them for agreeing to increase the capacity of ICU beds dedicated for covid patients from 50 to 100. The medical staff in Delhi hospitals has been instrumental in effectively managing the situation at hand so far. However, owing to the sudden surge in cases, there has been a shortage of ICU beds. We are trying to combat the situation with war footing, and visiting hospitals individually to increase the number of ICU beds, and in



this endeavor, we are receiving constant support from the medical staff and doctors."

Responding to the query regarding the meeting with the home minister regarding help from Delhi Government to increase ICU beds, he said "Home Minister had said that by Monday evening, 250 beds will be provided to us. Subsequently, on Tuesday another 250 beds will be provided. Around 750 ICU beds, 500 beds with a ventilator, and 250 beds without ventilators will be allocated to us. We are still waiting but I'm hopeful that we will meet him soon. It's my humble appeal to him to provide the beds at the earliest since it's an emergency right now."



BJP senior leader Vijay Goel, along with supporters, holds placards during a protest against 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign started by the Delhi Government, at ITO in New Delhi on Thursday

## 6 Bike Boat Ponzi scheme directors held for duping people of ₹42K cr

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has arrested six directors of a company for allegedly cheating people to the tune of Rs 42,000 crores by inducing them in a ponzi scheme 'Bike Boat'.

The accused have been identified as Vijay Pal, Rajesh Singh Yadav, Hareesh Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Vishal Kumar and Sanjay Goel and they are running in judicial custody in Gautam Budh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh (UP). Police said that they have been placed under arrest by the EOW after permission from the Court.

According to Dr O P Mishra, the Joint Commissioner of Police, EOW, several victims had

filed complaint against Sanjay Bhati and other of Garvit Innovative Promoters Limited regarding cheating of approximately Rs 42,000 Crore.

"It is alleged that the accused persons have induced the victims to invest Rs. 62,000 for a bike and to receive Rs. 9500 monthly including principle and rental income on bike for one year. Due to lucrative offer of alleged, number of victims invested and in January 2019, alleged company launched Electric-Bike scheme and offered to deposit Rs. 1.24 lacs for a Bike and to receive Rs. 17000/per month till one year. Initially alleged had repaid the assured amount but after winning confidence of investors, they absconded," said the Joint CP.

"During investigation, the account details of the alleged company were obtained and a reply from the RBI was also received, where it was revealed that alleged company was not registered with RBI as a NBFC and was not authorized to collect money from public," said the Joint CP.

"Around 8000 complainants against the alleged company are Delhi based and their cheated amount is approx 250 Crore. From the investigation conducted, number of properties worth Rs several hundred crores have been found and investigation on the same is in progress. It further revealed that Directorate of Enforcement Lucknow Zonal office is also investigating this issue and number of cases are registered in Noida and other States," he added.

## Central panel set up to monitor air pollution has no office space: MLA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AP MLA Atishi on Thursday said that the Air Quality Panel set up by the Centre to monitor Delhi's air pollution situation has neither an office space nor a personal office of the chairperson or any office staff.

The AAP leader said that this shows the reluctance of the Central Government towards the issue of combating air pollution. Atishi said that the AAP demands that the Central Government should immediately provide office space to the panel chairperson and also provide office staff for smooth action.

"In the view of the recent pollution condition in Delhi the Central government has formed a high power committee on 28th October. The central government got an ordinance signed by the president and a Commission For Air Quality Management in Delhi NCR and adjoining areas was formed. The commission, therefore, was formed because the Central Government is also cognizant of the fact that the factors causing pollution in Delhi are external. For the same, exclusive jurisdiction was given to this committee to take action on the same. This panel can direct the state government, state pollution control boards and also the Central Pollution Control Board," she added.

"With the increasing number of stubble burning cases in Punjab and Haryana there was a deepening in the air quality of Delhi. At the same time, with the number of stubble burning cases going down the air quality of Delhi improved. In view of this situation, we demanded that this panel should take immediate action against the CMs of Punjab and Haryana. We demanded that because the chief ministers of Punjab Haryana did not take any steps to stop stubble burning in their states and did not adopt the Pusa institute's bio-decomposer technique to stop stubble burning, actions must be taken against the CMs."

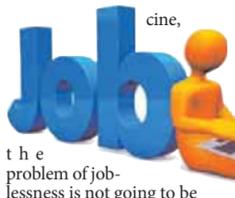
## MoU inked to boost youth's skills to tap job opportunities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi of the Delhi Government and YuWaah, a UNICEF-initiated multi-stakeholder global platform, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday to work together on initiatives to empower the youth with skills and job opportunities, starting with the strengthening of Rozgaar Bazaar portal that was launched in July this year.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said, "This partnership has risen from political will and is an opportunity to help the youth live a meaningful and productive life which contributes to the society and the nation."

"The two biggest challenges that the country is facing right now is joblessness and COVID19. While the world waits for the COVID19 vac-



and added that through such new initiatives, the government is constantly working on finding solutions to unemployment to provide better for the youth of the city.

The MoU was signed by Jasmine Shah, Vice Chairperson, Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi and Dr Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF India Representative, in the presence of Manish Sisodia.

UNICEF/YUWaah will also look at supporting Delhi Government's 'Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum'. The two will jointly organise live entrepreneur interactions, support efforts on apprenticeship opportunities, and work together on the career guidance portal for students in classes from class nine to 12, along with potential to engage in supporting the Skills and Entrepreneurship University in Delhi.

## 3 arrested in woman executive's murder case

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In a major breakthrough in the murder case of woman that had taken place on November 3, the Crime Branch unit of the Sector-40 police station have arrested three dreaded criminals. The accused had allegedly shot the victim during a failed robbery bid, the police said.

According to the police, the arrested accused persons were involved in more than 100 cases of looting, snatching and Arms Act. A Maruti Swift car has also been recovered from their possession.

The accused have been identified as Irshad alias Golu of Nuh, Jitender alias Jeetu, the kingpin of Narnaul in Mahendragarh and Hariom aka Kuldeep of Datia district in Madhya Pradesh.

Police said Jitender was a habitual chain snatcher and served jail term in the past.

The accused was arrested on Wednesday from Dev Nagar colony in Bhandsi village after specific inputs received by the

investigation team. "During questioning the accused disclosed that on November 3 they were on their bike and later on they intercepted Hyundai Creta car on Golf Course extension road to rob the car occupants but the woman who was driving the car tried to speed away following which they shot the woman and fled the spot," said Preet Pal Sangwan, ACP (crime).

The accused also revealed that they just wanted to rob the car occupants but unfortunately, the bullet hit the woman.

The crime took place on the southern peripheral road (SPR) near Sector-65 at around 11.15 pm on November 3. When she was traveling along with her friend Sagar Manchanda (29) in his

Hyundai Creta.

She worked as a MNC executive in a private firm and Manchanda, a software engineer, was his colleague. She was allegedly shot by three unidentified assailants in a bid to snatch her Hyundai Creta car and died on November 5 during treatment at a private hospital in Gurugram.

A team from the Sector-65 police station was probing the matter along with the crime branch of sector-40.

"During investigation the investigation team had also scanned around 500 CCTV footage of several locations but didn't get clear pics of the culprits," Sangwan said.

The police said that the accused usually targeted people at isolated stretches and

# IIT-D most employable varsity in India: Survey



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IIT Delhi has been rated as the most employable university in the country as per the Global Employability Ranking and Survey of GEURS 2020. In a comprehensive report on the performance of the universities of various countries, India has shown a commendable increase in overall employability, rising to number 15 position, vis a vis its 23rd rank in 2010.

"Employability Rankings 2020: Glad to share that India has been featured among the top 15 countries with universities producing the most employable graduates. India has improved its ranking from 23 in 2010 to 15 in 2020," Education Minister Ramesh

Pokhriyal tweeted.

In a study published by French HR Consultancy group Emerging and Times Higher Education, while US Universities continued to remain in the top spot, many universities of other countries have shown a tremendous improvement in employability over the last decade. Among the best-performing countries are Germany, China, and South Korea. India too has increased the number of universities in the Top 250 rank to find it on 15th rank, which is an improvement of 8 places over the last decade.

As for individual universities, IIT Delhi climbed 27 ranks from 54th in 2019 to 27th in 2020. The only other Indian university - Indian

Institute of Science, Bangalore has slid from Rank 43 in 2019 to Rank 71 in 2020. IIT Bombay has also made an entry in the Top 150 at number 128, an improvement of 25 places from 2019's rank of 153.

IIT Kharagpur and Amity University have made a fresh entry into Top 250 Rankings this year with IIT Kharagpur at 195 and Amity at 236th rank.

As for the global list, California Institute of Technology or CalTech unseats Harvard University to clinch the Top spot as the latter slipped to number 3 this year. Massachusetts Institute of Technology also gained a rank from third to second rank this year. US Universities claimed 7 spots in the top 15 most employable universities ranking. Australian National University has gained 14 places to enter the fold at number 15 from its 29th rank in 2019.

While the rankings continue to show a steady number of US Universities, overall the universities in both US and UK have shown a decline in the last 10 years.

The country score of the US has fallen by 51 per cent in the last 10 years. The UK slipped from the second rank to the fourth position in terms of best-performing countries for employability with a 46 per cent drop in its country score.

## COVID-19 ASSESSMENT

# Centre rushes teams to 4 States



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Singh, will be leading the Gujarat team; while Additional D D G, Directorate General of Health Services, L. Swasticharan,

is heading the Manipur team, said the Ministry in a statement.

The Union Health Ministry on Thursday deputed four separate high-level Central teams to Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Manipur to take stock of the Covid-19 situation there as it feared infection spillover effects particularly in the National Capital Region in view of sharp surge in Coronavirus cases in Delhi.

Overall cases in Delhi has crossed 5 lakh figure, the last one lakh cases reported in just last 15 days. Number of fatalities in the national capital is also on rise with experts warning that cases and deaths might increase further in the coming days because of the negligence of Covid-norms by the public during the ongoing festivals and holidays.

Randeep Guleria, Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), is leading the three-member team bound for Harayana; Niti Aayog member (health), V.K. Paul, is heading the Rajasthan team; NCDC Director, S.K.

The teams will visit the districts reporting high number of Covid-19 cases and support the state efforts towards strengthening containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention, control measures and efficient clinical management of the positive cases.

The Central teams shall also guide in effectively managing the challenges related to timely diagnosis and follow-up.

"As an ongoing effort to strengthen the efforts of various state and UT Governments for Covid management, the Centre has been deputing Central teams from time to time to visit various states and UTs.

"These teams interact with the state and UT authorities and get a firsthand understanding of the challenges and issues being faced by them so as to strengthen their ongoing activities and remove the bottlenecks, if any," the Ministry said.

# Covid warriors, elderly people to be first to get vaccine shots

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Thursday expressed confidence that the Covid-19 vaccine would be ready in the next three-four months and that the priority to provide the same will be given to health-care workers and corona warriors followed by elderly and disease-prone people.

The Minister was addressing the FICCI FLO webinar on "The Shifting Healthcare Paradigm During and Post-Covid" on Thursday.

"I am confident that the COVID-19 vaccine will be ready in the next three-four months. Priority for the vaccine will be designed on the basis of scientific data. Of course, health care workers and corona warriors will naturally be prioritised followed by elderly and disease-prone people. Very detailed planning is underway for vaccine dissemination. An e-vaccine intelligence platform has been created to discuss the blueprint for the same. Tracking and tracing of the vaccine would

be neck-deep once it's available for the public. Hopefully, 2021 should be a better year for all of us," the Health Minister said.

Praising the efforts of the Central government, the Minister said some "very bold steps" were taken to fight the pandemic in the last few months.

"Janta curfew was a very innovative and unique experiment by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It had nationwide participation from the citizens. The decision to impose a lockdown followed by unlocking were some bold decisions by the central government during the pandemic. We have handled it very well," the Minister said.

"The Government has been very proactive in its response towards this fight. Airports, seaports and land borders were

put under surveillance for COVID-19 well in time," he added.

Giving an account of the journey of the last 11 months, the Minister said India was amongst the top countries to control the impact of the pathogen in a short duration.

"Initially we faced a shortage of PPE kits, ventilators and N-95 masks. But in a few months time, we were able to export these things to different parts of the world. Our scientists are now well ahead of many others globally in their research on the vaccine. In a couple of months, we should be able to produce a vaccine for the Covid-19 infection.

"Our performance has been excellent on every parameter set by the World Health Organisation, we have the highest recovery rate and the least fatality rate. We have 2,115 laboratories in every look and corner of the country for Covid tests. Over 20 lakh dedicated Covid beds are in place. It proves that whenever India decides to excel at something, it does," he said.

# CBI arrests Food & Supply dept official for taking bribe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested an Assistant Commissioner, Food & Supply Department, Delhi and a contractual employee for accepting a bribe of ₹1 lakh from the complainant.

A case was registered against the accused Assistant Commissioner, Food & Supply Department, Delhi, Jitender Singh Rathi.

"It was alleged that the said public servant demanded an amount of Rs 1.5 lakh as illegal gratification for revoking suspension of license of fair price shop of the complainant. The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused along with a contractual employee of the Food and Supply Department, Delhi while accepting a bribe of Rs One lakh from the complainant," the agency said in a statement.

Searches are being conducted today at the premises

of the accused including at Delhi and both the arrested accused will be produced before the designated court on Friday.

Meanwhile, the CBI on Thursday conducted searches at 25 places including Guntur District and Hyderabad at the premises of former MLA of Gurazala Constituency (Andhra Pradesh) and others including private persons in an ongoing investigation of a case.

During searches, several incriminating documents, mobile phones, material objects and cash have been recovered, it said.

In pursuance of the Notification issued by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and further Notification issued by DoPT, the CBI had taken over 17 cases of illegal limestone mining from CBCID, Andhra Pradesh and registered a case on August 26 against 17 accused.

It was alleged that the accused had fraudulently conducted illegal and unauthorized mining, quarrying and transportation of limestone in Konanki village of Piduguralla Mandal, Kesanupalli and Nadikudi villages of Dachepalli Mandal, Guntur district for several years and thereby caused revenue loss to the Government and other licensed lease holders, and also exploited the natural resources, it said.

"It was further alleged that illegal mining of several lakh tonnes of limestone was conducted by the accused during the period from 2014 to 2018, as a result of which, natural resources worth several crore of rupees have been plundered," the CBI said in a statement.

In order to ascertain the quantum of unauthorized and illegal mining, CBI is also conducting volumetric analysis by using satellite imagery.

# SC orders Uttarakhand Govt to demolish four illegal religious structures in Haridwar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave time till May 31, next year to Uttarakhand Government to demolish the four illegal religious structures built on public land in Haridwar in view of upcoming 'Kumbh Mela' which is scheduled to be held in the city from January, 2021.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah said, "For the reasons given in the application and especially that 'Kumbh Mela' is to commence in 2021 and will end on April 15, 2021, we are of the view that the State should be permitted to demolish the illegal structures by May 31, 2021."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Uttarakhand government, submitted that the State has undertaken to commence proceedings for demolition of the four illegal

structures in Haridwar and will remove them by May 31, 2021.

Counsel appearing for intervenor 'Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad' submitted that the structures, which have been made, should not be demolished.

He, however, conceded that the religious structures have been made on the land belonging to the State's Irrigation Department but added that the said lands were allocated during 'Kumbh' period to the 'Parishad'.

The bench said, "Be that as it may, allotment, if any, is temporary and any permanent structure could not have been constructed and the same is to be demolished."

The four religious structures which are to be demolished are of 'Nirmohi Akhada', 'Nirmanji Akhada', 'Bhaiyadas Digamber Akhada' and 'Niranjani Akhada' at Bairagi camp of Haridwar.

# Country's Covid recovery number rises to 83.83L

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's Covid-19 caseload rose to 89.58 lakh with fresh 45,076 infections, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to over 83.83 lakh pushing the national recovery rate to 93.58 per cent, according to the data available from the Union Health Ministry on Thursday.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed 80 lakh on October 29.

In almost twenty days since then, total coronavirus cases mounted to 89,58,483, with 45,076 infections being reported in a day while the death toll climbed to 1,31,578 with 585 new fatalities. The number of active cases

remained below 50,000 for the ninth consecutive day.

There are 4,43,303 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country as on date which accounts for 4.95 per cent of the total caseload while the total recoveries have surged to 83,83,602, pushing the national recovery rate to 93.58 per cent. The Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.47 per cent.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 12,85,08,389 samples have been tested up to November 18, of which 10,28,203 samples were tested on Wednesday.

The 585 new fatalities include 131 from Delhi, 100 from Maharashtra, 54 from West Bengal, 31 from Punjab, 30 from Haryana, 29 from Uttar Pradesh, 28 from Kerala, 23 from Chhattisgarh and 21 from Karnataka.

Total 1,31,578 deaths reported so far in the country

include 46,202 from Maharashtra, 11,578 from Karnataka, 11,531 from Tamil Nadu, 7,943 from Delhi, 7,820 from West Bengal, 7,441 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,899 from Andhra Pradesh, 4,541 from Punjab and 3,823 from Gujarat.

The Ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

Of the new recoveries, 77.27 per cent was contributed by 10 states and Union territories, with Kerala recording the most 7,066 people recuperating from Covid-19 in a day. Delhi registered 6,901 recoveries while Maharashtra reported 6,608 new recoveries, according to the Ministry.

Ten states and Union Territories have contributed 77.28 per cent of the new cases. Delhi reported 7,486 cases in 24 hours, Kerala 6,419 and Maharashtra 5,011 fresh instances of the infection.

# DUAC objects to design of RRTS stabling yard



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC) has objected to the design submitted for the stabling yard and supporting residential facilities at Jangpura for the rapid rail transit system (RRTS) connecting Delhi to Meerut. According to the DUAC, the current layout planning seems to portray wastage of spaces and does not consolidate use zones for efficient circulation.

DUAC, the statutory body responsible for maintaining aesthetics and environmental design in Delhi, has not

approved the design of stabling yard and supporting residential facilities at Jangpura for the rapid rail transit system.

"The architectural vocabulary of all the residential towers to be the same to maintain harmony and the aesthetics of the complex. Currently, the towers have different vocabulary. The balconies need to be screened appropriately along with the provision of screening of drying clothes. Innovative architectural features and materials shall screen dish antennas in the balconies. The parking for Tower A, B, C and D to be consolidated together (by

exploring MLCP etc.) to ensure space optimisation. Surface and road network to be minimised to reduce heat island effect. Also site to be appropriately landscaped and seamless pedestrian connections to be ensured," the DUAC said in its observation.

It further added that the provision of air-conditioning units on the facade is not given in the proposal (drawings/3d views). The air-conditioners would be an eye-sore to the building facade. To avoid the same, provision shall be made in the design to accommodate the outdoor units, at this stage,

so as not to mar the aesthetics. "All the residential towers shall be such designed that they are not scattered and located close to each other. This would ensure cohesiveness in the design. Also, the cost of services/utilities in the site would decrease due to the close placement of the building footprints. A clear zoning plan is to be shown. Amenities like Clubhouse, which would be shared facilities, can be located centrally in the design to ensure its equitable use by all users. The same to be linked by appropriate pedestrian pathways," the DUAC said.

For the residential tower A, the DUAC has observed that parking in stilts to be removed and relocated elsewhere (basement or consolidated MLCP for all use zones). The stilts can then be used as community spaces for residents, and for facilities including toilets for guards and servants. For tower B, the uses on 22nd floor are not understood as there is no clear layout plan for furniture.

The kitchen on the 23rd to 28th floor is designed away from the servant's quarters. They both are suggested to be located closely to ensure servicing and functionality.

# Puri launches 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge' across 243 cities



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday launched the 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge' across 243 cities in the country, a move that aims to mechanise all sewer and septic tank cleaning operations by April 30 next year.

Addressing a webinar on 'World Toilet Day', Puri said the challenge is to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of "hazardous cleaning".

The Minister, according to a statement, said this is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, who has always placed the safety and dignity of sanitation workers at the core of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U).

The virtual event saw the chief secretaries, state mission directors and other senior state and union territories coming together to take a pledge on behalf of 243 cities to mechanise all sewer and septic tank

cleaning operations by April 30, 2021, and gave their commitment to work towards preventing any deaths from hazardous entry, it said.

"The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act (2013) and various judgements of Hon'ble Supreme Court expressly prohibit hazardous cleaning, i.e. manual entry into a septic tank or sewer without protective gear and observing operating procedures," the statement quoted Puri as saying at the event.

He said despite this, recurring episodes of human fatalities among those engaged in cleaning of septic tanks and sewers, typically belonging to the economically disadvantaged and marginalised communities of society, continue to be an issue of concern. As many as 4,337 Urban local bodies (ULBs) have been declared open defecation free (ODF) (except 35 ULBs of West Bengal), it said. "Besides, over 62 lakhs individual household toilets and over 5.9 lakhs community/public toilets have been constructed. Additionally, over 59,900 toilets across 2900 plus cities have been made live on Google Maps," it added.

In the area of solid waste management, 97 per cent of wards have 100 per cent door-to-door collection while 67 per cent of the total waste generated is being processed, the ministry said.

# Cong leaders pay rich tributes to Indira Gandhi on birth anniversary



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday paid rich tributes to former prime minister Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary with Rahul Gandhi saying the whole country still gives the example of her impressive leadership.

Born on 19 November, 1917, Indira Gandhi served as Prime Minister from 1966 to 1977 and then again from 1980 until her assassination in 1984. "A trailblazer, a visionary, a true leader and a great daughter of our motherland, Indira Gandhi was much more than a Prime Minister to our citizens; she was the revitalising strength in their quest for greatness & prosperity. Today, we pay a proud tribute to India's Indira," the Congress tweeted from its official Twitter handle.

In a tweet in Hindi, Rahul Gandhi also paid tributes to Indira Gandhi, calling her an efficient prime minister.

"The whole country still gives the example of her impressive leadership, but I always remember her as my beloved grandmother. Her teachings inspire me constantly," the former Congress chief said.

Rahul Gandhi also paid floral tributes to Indira Gandhi at her memorial 'Shakti Sthal' here.

Congress' chief spokesperson and party general secretary Randeep Surjewala also paid rich tributes to Indira Gandhi on her 103rd birth anniversary.

"Known as the Iron lady across the world, the one with determination, courage and amazing ability, the first and only woman Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi. My tributes to her on her birth anniversary," he said.

The Indian Youth Congress marked her birth anniversary by distributing blankets to the poor and needy in Delhi.

# Parl panel quizzes Twitter over Kamra's obscene tweets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee questioned representatives of social media giant Twitter on stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra's recent "obscene" tweets

targeting the Supreme Court and the chief justice of India and sought a reply within seven days, the panel's chairperson Meenakshi Lekhi said on Thursday.

This came close on the heels of Twitter apologising in writing

to the same parliamentary panel for wrongly showing Ladakh in China and promising to correct the error by the month-end.

Twitter India representatives deposed before the Joint Committee of Parliament on Data Protection Bill on

Thursday. "It is shameful that Twitter is allowing its platform for obscene remarks like the one by stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra against the Supreme Court and the CJI," Lekhi told reporters here.

# Prasad: Will finalise data protection law very soon

**Bengaluru:** Union IT and Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Thursday said the Government was very keen to promote India as a very big centre of the data economy and would finalise a data protection law very soon. "I'm very keen to promote India as a very big centre of the data economy. Data is going to drive the digital economy. It is also going to drive international commerce," he said.

Addressing the Bengaluru Tech Summit, 2020 (BTS2020) virtually, he said India produces huge data and the digital ecosystem, like mobile phones and Aadhaar, is producing data. "We are going to finalise a data protection law very soon. India is waiting for its movement for data economy, data innovation, data refinery. I would urge the Chief Minister (of Karnataka) to ensure that the state becomes a great centre of India's data economy," he added.

Organised by the Karnataka government, along with Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, the state government's Vision Group on Information Technology, Biotechnology & StartUp and Software Technology Parks of India, the summit, that saw the

inaugural address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is scheduled to take place from November 19 to 21.

Prasad said even during the pandemic the communications sector witnessed a growth of over seven per cent and also received significant investments from major global companies. "It is a challenging time and we decided to convert it into an opportunity. The global manufacturing world was looking towards alternative destinations. In view of India's enormous success in mobile manufacturing, we came up with a big idea of production linked incentive," he said. **PTI**

# PM unveils Bengaluru Tech Summit in virtual mode

CIANS ■ BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday unveiled the 23rd edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020 in virtual mode through video-conferencing from New Delhi amid the Covid pandemic.

Leveraging the digital technology, Modi also addressed the gathering in this tech city and in virtual world, which included Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Swiss Confederation vice-president Guy Parmelin.

"Thanks to digital technology, India has been able to scale up faster in the service delivery to people across the country. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, the government has been able to help

citizens through Ayushman Bharat for medical assistance efficiently thanks," said Modi in English.

Recalling that the Union government had started the Digital India initiative 5 years ago to transform a citizen's life in terms of ease of work and service delivery, the prime minister said the flagship programme had become a way of life in the country.

"Our resilient technology industry was able to overcome difficulties caused by the pandemic and enabled employees to work from home and from anywhere. This has become a new norm and is going to stay. We will see a high amount of tech adoption in education, agriculture and other sectors," asserted Modi.

# 5 killed, 5 critically injured in Bengal plastics factory blast

**Malda:** Five persons were killed and five others critically injured in a blast in a plastics factory in West Bengal's Malda district on Thursday, police said.

The incident took place in Sujapur area around 11.30 am, a senior police officer said.

"Four factory workers were killed on the spot and one was brought dead to the hospital. Five others have been critically injured in the explosion that ripped the establishment apart," he said.

Preliminary investigation had found that a technical fault in a heavy machine inside the factory caused the high-intensity blast, Superintendent of Police Alok Rajoria said.

"The explosion happened during plastic manufacturing. We are probing all the angles and a forensic team will visit the spot," he said.

A huge police contingent has been deployed at the spot to keep the situation under control, the officer said.

The state government announced ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each for the injured persons.

Senior TMC leader and state minister Firdah Hakim has been sent to the spot to take stock of the situation.

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar expressed anguish over the incident and asked

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to "contain illegal bomb-making" and ensure "professional non-partisan investigation".

"Anguished at deaths in reported blast that ripped establishment apart at Sujapur area of Malda district. According to SP five killed & five injured. Time @MamataOfficial to proactively contain illegal bomb making and ensure professional non-partisan investigations @WBPolice," he tweeted.

Dhankhar also asked the administration to ensure medical assistance to the injured. **PTI**

# Senior Bengal Minister Subhendu Adkary quitting TMC?

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There was more haze around senior Bengal Minister and power Trinamool Congress leader Subhendu Adkary's future political move.

Leaving more suspense around his political plans, Adhikary, once the Nandigram spearhead of the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday told a mass rally unattended by any of the senior TMC leaders that there were so many political things which could not be dwelt from within the Cabinet. "There are so many things which cannot be said when you are still in the Cabinet... and I am still a Minister and a pri-

mary member of the party... as neither I have been expelled by the Chief Minister nor I have left the party on my own," Adhikary the most powerful satrap in the TMC after the Chief Minister with a strong organizational base in more than one districts apart from his own East Midnapore said.

"There can be differences of opinion which may lead to dispute and that may cause splits but till you are in the party you cannot say something political things which should not be said," he said reminding how he was "not the cuckoo that sings only during the Spring... I am not the one who enjoys the comfort of my

house. Rather I spend my days in the political field and I am the person who never compromises on questions of policy and ideology."

A team of senior TMC leaders led by MP Saugato Roy had been holding talks with Adhikary to address his grievances that allegedly include the rising importance of Chief Minister's nephew and MP Abhishek Banerjee in the Trinamool's scheme of things.

Notwithstanding the internal issues, a parallel opinion in the party says that Adhikary -- who is under scanner in Narada and other chit fund scams --- has been under tremendous pressure from the

BJP to come out of his party and join the saffron group a la another very senior former Trinamool leader Mukul Roy.

Independent posters of Adhikary who has not attended at least two Cabinet meetings in the recent past have been appearing in a number of districts including East and West Midnapore, Bankura, Malda,

Murshidabad and elsewhere with catch lines saying "We are with our leader Subhendu Adhikary,"

Meanwhile, reacting to the intra-party imbroglio Saugato Roy on Thursday said that he had talks with the rebel minister and "have communicated

his grievances to our party chief Mamata Banerjee. Next week we will again sit and talk and then wait for the decisions taken by the Chief Minister. By the next week things will be get clearer... Till then he is still a member of Trinamool Congress."

When asked to comment about his future political moves regarding the BJP a close associate of Adhikary said "till you are in a party you will join another party you will become a member of that party... but we can say that wherever he goes a large number of supporters will move out of the TMC."

# Ayodhya again sealed, devotees not allowed to do kosi parikrama

**Ayodhya:** The temple town of Ayodhya that has seen harsh restrictions during the Deepotsav celebration on the occasion of Diwali festival will once again be under strict guard. This time, a centuries-old tradition will be broken in Kartik Mela.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, the 'panch kosi parikrama' and 'chaudah kosi parikrama' in which lakhs of devotees used to participate, will now be banned this time. Outside devotees will not be allowed to attend the main festival of Kartik Mela, Chaudhkosi and Panchkosi Parikrama, as only locals will be allowed to participate. **IANS**

# Didi urges Chhath devotees to follow court directives

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

With both Supreme Court and Calcutta High Court refusing to relax curbs on offering Chhath prayers at Rabindra Sarobar and Subhas Sarobar — two water bodies considered the ling of Kolkata — Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday appealed to the devotees to offer their prayers at alternative sites and not the protected lakes kept out of bounds by the law courts.

Making a televised appeal to the devotees Banerjee asked them to "Please follow the court directives and offer your prayers at alternative sites." Like the people followed the court orders during Durga Puja and Kali Puja by not visiting the pandals "the devotees of Chhath Puja are also requested to go to other ponds and lakes," Banerjee said. State Chief Secretary Alapan Banerjee too appealed to the people saying that 1,300 artificial water tanks had been constructed by the State Government for offering the Puja. "The Chief Minister has also requested the people to offer their prayers from their respective homes or the near-by ponds or the water tanks constructed by the Government but please follow the Court order and stay away from Rabindra Sarovar and Subhas Sarovar."

# Central agencies being used to target Kerala Govt: CPM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Following the leak of a voice message by Swapna Suresh, one of the kingpins in the gold smuggling scam and LIFE Mission kickbacks that she was under pressure from investigation agencies to name Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as a beneficiary of the scams, the CPI(M) in Kerala has launched a multi-pronged attack against the Centre on Thursday.

"The Centre, shocked over the progress made by the LDF Government in implementing people's welfare measures, is making use of various Central investigation agencies to target the popular Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and to subvert the development works carried out by the State Government. The investigating agencies are acting as the hand maidens of the Congress and the BJP," said a Statement released by the CPI(M) to the media on

Thursday.

The immediate provocation behind the volte-face by the Marxists is the reported voice message allegedly belonging to Swapna Suresh in which the woman charged that she was being pressurized by the investigating agencies to name the chief minister as the beneficiary in all the scams so that she could escape from all charges as an approver.

Rishiraj Singh, the director general of police (prisons) asked the State Police Chief Lok Nath Behra, to order a thorough probe into the voice message and how it reached a news portal. The Inspector General of Prisons held a preliminary enquiry by inspecting the jail where Swapna is undergoing judicial custody.

She also charged that the investigating agencies viz NIA, ED and Customs which had interrogated her in various cases never showed her

or read out to her the copies of the statements they submitted to the court.

It was Chief Minister Vijayan's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in early July that resulted in the investigation into the gold smuggling scam and other cases were handed over to central agencies. Vijayan had said that since gold smuggling was a pan India affair with global ramifications, it would be better if the central agencies investigate the cases. But it led to the opening of a Pandora's box as many bigwigs with close links to the CPI(M) and the chief minister got arrested in the process.

Meanwhile, Thomas Issac, finance minister, said that the Comptroller and Auditor General's Report on Kerala Infrastructure Investment Board Fund (KIIBF) was politically motivated and it's mission was to derail the development activities in the State.

# IIM Indore ranks 5th in Eduniversal Rankings 2020

**New Delhi:** The Indian Institute of Management, Indore (IIM, Indore) has received the fifth rank in the Eduniversal Rankings 2020 and third rank in the 4 Palms of Excellence Category in the Central Asia Region—under the top business school with significant international influence. The awards were announced at the annual Eduniversal 3-D World Convention (EWC) 2020.

Every year, during the EWC, the Eduniversal Awards Ceremony recognises the Top 3 Business Schools from each of the nine geographical zones. These zones include Africa, Central Asia, Eurasia and Middle East, Far East Asia, Latin America, North America, Eastern Europe, Western Europe and Oceania. The rankings are based on the

results from the academic peers who participated in the annual Deans' Vote survey.

"We're delighted to be on Rank 5 in the Eduniversal Rankings 2020, with third position in the 4 Palms of Excellence category. Now we will aim to get into the 5 Palms category," said Professor Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore.

IIM Indore is the second institute in the country with a Triple Crown to receive the three prestigious international accreditations—AMBA, AACSB and EQUIS.

"We already have more than 35 foreign collaborations and we look forward to providing contextually relevant and world class academics to our participants," he added. **PNS**

# Demand for changing name of Karachi Sweets not Sena's stand: Raut

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The ruling Shiv Sena found itself in an embarrassing situation on Thursday, as one of its activists Nitin Nandgaonkar ordered the owner of the famous sweets shop "Karachi Sweets" at Bandra (west) in north-west Mumbai to change the establishment's name from "Karachi" to some Marathi name.

However, Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut nipped the brewing controversy by disassociating the party from Nandgaonkar's act through a tweet.

"Karachi bakery and Karachi sweets have been in Mumbai since the last 60 years. They have nothing to do with

Pakistan. It makes no sense to ask for changing their names now. Demand for changing their name is not Shiv Sena's official stance," Raut tweeted.

Raut's tweet came after a video put out by Nandgaonkar showing him ordering the owner of "Karachi Sweets" shop at Bandra (west) to either change the name or remove the word "Karachi" from the shop's name and replace it with some Marathi name, went viral in the social media.

In the video, Nandgaonkar is heard telling the "Karachi Sweets" shop owner: "In Mumbai and Maharashtra, there cannot be any shop with Karachi. Having the word 'Karachi' in the name of the shop gives an impression that you are supporting Karachi

and Pakistan from where the terrorist activities are planned against India. Our soldiers are killed because of Pakistan's activities. ... If you want to be in Maharashtra, the word Karachi has no place."

"We are not bothered if you are a Hindu or Muslim... The name Karachi is a problem, and you cannot use it here... It is a place of terrorism and no business should be carried in the name of Karachi," Nandgaonkar told the shop owner.

"You may have migrated from Pakistan after partition, but do not make Karachi part of the shop's name. I am ready to give you some time. I will come back after a fortnight and check... You either change the name of your stores or remove

the word 'Karachi' from the name," Nandgaonkar told the shop owner.

Nandgaonkar -- who incidentally is a former activist of the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) -- also offered to help the shop owner in taking up with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and completing the name changing formalities. "But, you should realise that we have a problem with word 'Karachi' incidentally, there are other very old shops and establishments named after 'Karachi' and 'Lahore' in Mumbai, Pune and some other cities of Maharashtra, which indicate that the owners belong to the families that migrated to India after partition.

# Terrorists crossing LoC won't be able to survive: Army Chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Sending out a stern warning to Pakistan Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane Thursday said whoever crosses the Line of Control to infiltrate into India would be dealt with in the same manner and would not be able to go back.

The Army Chief heaped praise for the troops who carried out the operation against terrorists hiding in a truck. He said that there was a great deal of synergy between the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and paramilitary troops deployed there.

"This was a very successful operation by the security forces. It shows the high degree of synergy between all the security forces operating on the ground," General Naravane said.

"The message is very clear for the adversary and terrorists that whoever tries to infiltrate towards our side would be dealt in the same manner and they would not be able to go back," he added.

The Army Chief was asked to comment on the operation in Nagrota in which four terrorists were killed. The four terrorists are suspected to be members of the Jaish-e-Mohammed.

# 5 teachers fired for their off-duty behaviour

**Aligarh:** BSA Lakshmi Kant Pandey terminated the service of 5 teachers on the charges of continuously going off-duty in the school and the violation of the posting rules. Amit Kumar, Assistant Teacher of former Secondary school, Panihwar, has been absent since July 29, 2018 without giving any notice.

Preeti Goyal, an assistant teacher of the primary school of Visra development block, has been also going absent since 1st January 2019 without any notice or prior approval.

Similarly, Tarannum, assistant teacher of Primary School of Savkara development block jawan is going absent from 26th July 2019 without giving any notice. **PNS**

# Hathras case: CBI re-visits accused home

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ HATHRAS

38 days have passed since the CBI team started the investigation. On November 25, they must submit a status report in the High Court. After the festival holidays, CBI has started the investigation again. The CBI team re-visited the house of the accused and questioned the relatives. After an hour of questioning, the team called Chhotu to their camp for questioning and sent him back after an hour.

The SIT investigation of the Boolgadh case revealed the negligence of a home guard of Chandpa police station. On 14th September, the home guard left the victim in the district hospital and returned to the police station. The letter has been written to the government for action against him.

The SIT formed after the death of the girl, submitted the investigation report to the government, while the CBI investigation is still going on. On September 14, the girl was attacked in village Boolgadh. Mother, brother and other relatives brought her to Chandpa police station. From there she was sent to the district hospital.

The SIT investigation revealed that the home guard Shivkumar had taken her to the district hospital from where she was referred to JN Medical College Aligarh. The home guard did not go to Aligarh with her and returned to Chandpa police station without informing her family members. He did not even wait for the ambulance to leave. The SIT has recommended action on the home guard, considering it to be insensitive.

**TENDER NOTICE**

No.SSA/CW/KGBV-VI to X/254/2020/3176 Dated - 18/11/2020

The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, invites fresh bids for the following works from registered contractors [ Class- I (A, B & C ) ] under A. P. W. D. (Building) Assam, having experience of similar nature of work.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 19/11/2020(04:30 PM) to 10/12/2020 (2:00 PM)

The bidders must be enrolled in [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in)

Name of Work	Package No	Place	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
CONSTRUCTION OF KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (CLASS VI TO X) (ACADEMIC BLOCK ASSAM TYPE WITH RCC HOSTEL BUILDING (G+2) (KGBV-TYPE-II), SSA, ASSAM	1G	Kharjuja, Goalpara	Rs.1,91,28,900.00 [Per site]	12 (twelve months)	Rs.3,82,578.00 (for General) Rs.1,91,289.00 (for reserved Category) [PER SITE]	The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Guwahati-19	Rs.5000.00
	1S	South Salmara, S.S Mankachar					
	2S	Fekamari, S.S Mankachar					
	1T	Saikhuwa, Tinsukia					

Sd/- Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY**  
KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)

**ADMISSION TO THE POSTGRADUATE COURSES - 2021 SESSION**

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to the following postgraduate degree/diploma courses of Ranchi University commencing from May, 2021 and conducted at this Institute.

GROUP A	
1. Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology	-4 seats - (NO RESERVATION)
Duration	-2 years
Qualification	-M.Phil (Medical & Social Psychology/Clinical Psychology) from a University recognized by the UGC
2. M.Phil in Clinical Psychology	-16 seats (UR-06, EWS-02 OBC-04, SC-03, ST-01)
Duration	-2 years
Qualification	-M.A./M.Sc. in Psychology course from a University recognized by the UGC with minimum 55% marks for UR and EWS and 50% marks for SC, ST & OBC in aggregate.
GROUP B	
3. M.Phil in Psychiatric Social Work-	12 seats (UR- 07, EWS-01, OBC-03, SC-01) (02 PH)
Duration	-2 years
Qualification	-Master in Social Work course from a University recognized by the UGC with minimum 55% marks for UR & EWS and 50% marks for SC, ST and OBC in aggregate.
GROUP C	
4. Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing-	15 seats (UR-08, EWS-01, OBC-03, SC-02, ST-01) (02 PH)
Duration	-One year
Qualification	- 'A' Grade Certificate or Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery.

Group A & B: Selected candidates will get scholarship of Rs. 25,000/- per month.  
Group C: Selected candidates will get scholarship of Rs. 2500/- per month.

The application form is to be submitted electronically ONLY by internet to CIP website: [www.cipranchi.nic.in](http://www.cipranchi.nic.in) on or before December 28, 2020. Hard copy of the application form will not be entertained. Payment fee of Rs.400/- for Unreserved, EWS and OBC candidates and Rs. 300/- for SC/ST candidates has to be made through online transfer. The amount should be paid online in the Bank of Baroda, Kanke Branch in favour of "Account Name:- Fellowship & Scholarship, Account No.:- 2626020000167, IFSC code is BARBOKANKE (Fifth character is Zero) and MICR code is 834012004. Please note that the examination fee is non-refundable.

Online form will be available on our website ([www.cipranchi.nic.in](http://www.cipranchi.nic.in)) from 28.11.2020. Examination and interview/practical would be held at CIP between February 21st to 27th 2021. Last date for joining the courses is May 31st, 2021.

Please visit [www.cipranchi.nic.in](http://www.cipranchi.nic.in) for downloading the prospectus with requisite details before filling the ONLINE application form.

Sd/- Director  
Central Institute of Psychiatry

# SC upholds federalism

Top court says Centre can't extend the jurisdiction of CBI to States without their consent, curbs political vendetta



In a significant ruling, the Supreme Court has upheld federalism and drawn a clear line between the Centre's swamping tendency and the States' right to autonomy. It has laid boundaries between the misuse of Central power for coercion and the use of guaranteed power to withstand it by the States. In doing so, it has upheld the spirit of the Constitution, something which has increasingly come under attack in recent times. The court has said that the Centre cannot, on its own, extend the jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) without permission from the States, and that a CBI probe cannot begin without consent from the Centre and the State in question. As of now, the CBI can override the States only when the Supreme Court orders a national inquiry and empowers it to do so on a case-specific basis. The ruling, therefore, justifies the move by eight Opposition-ruled states – Rajasthan, Bengal, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Mizoram – to revoke the blanket consent given to the CBI for probing cases in their States. They argued that the Centre was using the CBI to carry out vendetta against Opposition and dissenting leaders, and by extension was stifling the emergence of an alternative discourse. Justices AM Khanwilkar and BR Gavai, in fact, underlined that “the law is in tune with the federal structure of the Constitution” and was a foundational tenet. And lest there be any confusion, the judges also referred to the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act of 1946, clarifying that “though Section 5 enables the Central Government to extend the powers and jurisdiction of Members of the DSPE (CBI) beyond the Union Territories to a State, the same is not permissible unless a State grants its consent for such an extension.” The top court obviously still believes that the CBI is, what it once described, a “caged parrot” and, therefore, needs to be depoliticised. The States have sought a protective sheath not without reason. The DSPE Act was used prominently in 2018, when the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) left the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), and fearing political retaliation, blocked the CBI from entering its State. It was only in mid-2019 that the position changed after the BJP-friendly YSR Congress regime came to power in Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, the West Bengal Government ruled by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) refused the agency permission during the probe into the Sarada scam, when the latter summoned the Kolkata Police Commissioner. In the end, it was the Supreme Court, after judging the merits of the case and verifying claims of obstructive justice, that handed over probe rights to the CBI.

This bureaucratic one-upmanship or playing favourites is not new to the CBI, which has since inception been a political tool for the government of the day, each using its investigative depth to uphold the power of coercion rather than dispensation of justice, deepening a fear of the establishment rather than truth. And though the Modi government is under the scanner at the moment, the fact is the dilution of the CBI's independence had begun much earlier in the Congress years. A CBI inquiry had become the ruling dispensation's bargaining chip to keep the Opposition and regional leaders in check, either by over or under-cooking of corruption cases that every politician has indulged in this country. A CBI probe had even been dangled to buy allegiance, particularly of regional parties, to stitch up grand coalitions of survival. And whenever an honest, upright officer had gotten too close for comfort to nail the political biggies, he had routinely been told to “go slow” or been simply shunted out. However, this does not mean that the present government or any regime hereafter should not try to change the status quo. The only problem the CBI might face vis-à-vis the consent clause is in pursuing investigations in State-level branches of Central Government departments, PSUs, banks and so on. As per the new rules, the CBI has to get a local sanction for starting an investigation against officers under suspicion. This means getting a permit from the senior officers of the organisation which is being probed. In such cases, there is always the risk that the time lag will allow the trail to go cold and let the officers tamper with evidence. The Government insists that this was done to protect officers from being targeted but what if they are complicit in the crime? The Supreme Court had slammed the CBI for dragging its feet in the Jain hawala case and had laid down guidelines to ensure the agency's independence and autonomy, suggesting that it be placed under the supervision of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and be freed from executive control or interference. But we have seen the spirit of this landmark judgment mauled during the tussle between the CBI Director Alok Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana. Unfortunately, the CBI now runs on political allegiances and that can be curbed only when it is made accountable to a neutral, collective authority, like a parliamentary committee, may be a rights watchdog or made supreme like the Comptroller and Auditor-General. Aware that it would be under a public scrutiny of sorts, the CBI could actually then exercise more autonomy and not be compelled to remain a stooge. Besides, as the country's premier investigative agency, it has superior officers, who, freed from controls, could professionalise the institution as a modicum of propriety and fairness.



AJOY KUMAR

In Nazi Germany, certain laws were announced in Nuremberg, which prohibited Jews from marrying or having intimate relations with persons of “German or related blood.” A Jew would have to prove his/her credentials by showing that he/she had three or four Jewish grandparents. The aim of the law was, of course, to alienate the Jews from German society and to further entrench prejudices against that community as a whole.

In India, over the past few weeks, States like Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have been mulling and working towards drafting a law that targets the problem of “love jihad.” All of these have a BJP government handling the ropes. The Madhya Pradesh Government, as an example, has decided to bring in the Dharma Swatantrya Bill 2020, which makes coercing or pressuring an individual into marriage a punishable offence, non-bailable in nature and proposes a five-year rigorous punishment. Furthermore, the Bill codifies that in case someone wishes to undergo voluntary conversion for marriage, they will have to mandatorily apply to the collector a month in advance. In a society that is yet to come out of the revenge code of honour killings, would not a public declaration of love and conversion invite a hit-back? Consider the consequences if the person seeking an inter-faith union is a young girl. We just saw the backlash following an advertisement campaign by a jewellery brand of an inter-faith marriage, where none of the partners were shown as changing their religion. If that had to be taken down, imagine what could happen to two people making independent choices.

One of the most important questions to ask in this regard is if at all there is a need for such a law. And more importantly is it even constitutionally valid? What is relevant is how many instances of “love jihad” are actually recorded. According to the Central government, not too many. In February this year, for example, while responding to a question on the subject, the Government informed Parliament that the term “love jihad” had not been defined under any law and no case had been reported or registered by any Central agency. Therefore, it is evident that the Central Government

# Love and war

If there are hardly any instances of love jihad, according to Govt data, and with laws to prevent forced marriages and conversions, why do we need a new law?



itself does not really consider this to be a problem. Another important consideration to assess whether these BJP-led State governments need to come out with such a law is to examine if there is an absence of adequate legal provisions that criminalise the act of forced conversions at present. On this count, too, the claim of these State Governments fails. For example, Section 366 of the Indian Penal Code criminalises any act of kidnapping, abducting or inducing a woman to marry by force and punishes such an act with imprisonment for up to ten years.

The next question is whether a move to target inter-faith marriages is constitutionally valid? The answer to this question, too, appears to be firmly in the negative. Article 21 of our Constitution gives each individual in our country a right to life and personal liberty and one of the most fundamental expressions of this right to exercise one's life choices is to choose who to marry.

Therefore, if there are hardly any instances of “love jihad” and if adequate laws are already in place to prevent forced marriages and conversions, what is the motive behind introducing or talking about such a law? The words of Pandit Nehru from decades ago may provide the answer. While debating on laws

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 THE SPECTRE OF THESE STATE LAWS BEING MOOTED BY BJP GOVERNMENTS WOULD IN EFFECT CREATE HURDLES FOR INTER-FAITH MARRIAGES. THIS IS WHOLLY INCONGRUOUS WITH THE IDEA OF A UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

to safeguard against forced conversions, he displayed characteristic prescience in noting that such laws “will not help very much in suppressing the evil methods [of gaining converts], but might very well be the cause of great harassment to a large number of people.” Pandit Nehru went on to state that “the major evils of coercion and deception can be dealt with under the general law. It may be difficult to obtain proof but so is it difficult to obtain proof in many other offences, but to suggest that there should be a licensing system for propagating a faith is not proper. It would lead in its wake to the police having too large a power of interference.”

Few can explain the potential risks better. Such a move, therefore, is not grounded in reality but is merely a stunt to fan emotions against particular communities and arouse fear when there is little reason to be worried. Such a move would also be antithetical to what the BJP has spoken till now with respect to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). As noted by Faizan Mustafa, Vice-Chancellor of the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), the UCC encourages or at the very least makes it easier to enter into inter-faith marriages. However, the spectre of these State laws being mooted by BJP governments would in effect create hurdles for such marriages, which is wholly incongruous with the idea of a uniform civil code. It is no wonder then that the BJP only speaks about UCC when talking about triple talaq but finds no mention of it when talking about inter-faith marriages. Stoking hate and fear does, unfortunately for the BJP, come with its own set of unique contradictions. The real danger is the slippery slope that such a move would lead to. For example, the first supplemental decree of the Nuremberg Laws extended the prohibition of marriage and intimate relations from Jews to between people who could produce “racially suspect” offspring. This was later interpreted by the Nazi government of the time to mean relations of “Germans of related blood” with gypsies, Blacks or their offspring. So who is to say that after such seeds of hate have been planted, the bitter fruits that will follow may be the restraint of marriage between different castes or between different classes. At a time when the rest of the world's respected democracies are working towards celebrating love, we must make sure that we are not the ones who seek to destroy it. (The author is former IPS and member of the Congress Party)

# Holidays a far cry

While ‘revenge travel’ has perked up hope, the overall tourism sector is still far from recovery with curbs in place



Deep Kalra, Chief Executive Officer of MakeMyTrip, India's largest online travel agency (OTA), recently spoke about the concept of “revenge travel,” where people, bored out of their minds being stuck at home, are travelling to resorts and destinations across the country to make up for lost vacation time. They have often been using their personal modes of transport for that “disinfected” comfort. That said, with international travel, particularly leisure travel, still in the doldrums with limited flights and all sorts of rules, the revival of the travel and tourism sector is still a season away. For example, while there are “air bubbles” between India

and some countries, transit through a third country is prohibited. So while an Indian can travel to the United Arab Emirates or the US, transiting via Dubai to go to the US is not allowed without some sort of quarantine. And even as domestic air travel is picking up, traffic is still around two-thirds of what it was before the pandemic hit. Even as news of a vaccine has lifted spirits, particularly on the stock markets, it is still a long time before any of it can be deployed. Now Expedia, one of the world's largest OTAs, has said that it might be summer of 2021 before the travel and tourism industry actually recovers to any semblance of what it was before the pandemic. Many frequent fliers still do not have the confidence to fly even as airlines and airports talk about enhanced sanitisation.

The collapse in the travel industry has hit several parts of India, which depended on international tourists, really hard. There are no European tourists to be seen in Rajasthan right now, hitting not just hotels but also the livelihoods of artisans and folk performers. As a third wave of COVID-19 cases hits cities like Delhi, it is inevitable that the cases will spread and the restrictions on weddings will become more widespread. That will devastate another money-spinner, the destination wedding sector. The Government has tried to shore up the industry. Nevertheless millions of livelihoods have been impacted by the drop in travel and tourism and the Government must find a practical way to assist the affected. They might have been airline pilots or an artisan selling trinkets to tourists, they could have been guides at the Taj Mahal or a self-employed taxi driver. We should not fool ourselves by pretending that things will become alright now that an effective vaccine has been developed. The smaller players in the hospitality business may not last that long.

**SOUND BITE**

<p>Marathas are also Hindu followers. There is a difference between development of Marathi and Maratha. Maratha is a community and they are Hindus.</p> <p><b>Karnataka Chief Minister</b> —BS Yediyurappa</p>	<p>As long as this fake Government remains in power, the poor cannot run a household and they will not be able to obtain cheap medicine.</p> <p><b>PML-N vice-president</b> —Maryam Nawaz</p>	<p>The Indian film industry has lost a legend. I am eternally grateful that I got to work alongside Soumitra sir in <i>Ahalya</i>. He was a true gentleman and a kind soul.</p> <p><b>Actor</b> —Radhika Apte</p>	<p>I think bubble life is a lot easier than quarantine. There are a few things you can get out to do and playing cricket as well. That is a huge bonus.</p> <p><b>Australian cricketer</b> —Josh Hazlewood</p>
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Modi and Biden talk

Sir — It is a good thing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi called up US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris and congratulated them on their victory. He also discussed the Indo-US relationship, priorities and concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. Thankfully, climate change is back on the talks agenda under Biden. But equally important from India's perspective is the continuing focus on the Indo-Pacific region.

The leaders agreed to work closely to further advance the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, built on shared values and common interests. Now, it remains to be seen what will be the US' response to India's escalating conflict with China and Pakistan. It is turning out to be dangerous in the region and could lead to a two-front war for India. That is why it is vital for India to have the US on its side as it cannot afford to be isolated at this point of time.

**Bhagwan Thadani**  
Mumbai

## Quad: A good strategic exercise by India

Vacating Chushul Heights without full restoration of status quo ante will be squandering a strategic asset, particularly as the ninth round of the commander-level talks is expected later this month. Strategic edge is one reason why we still do not give up Siachen. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has managed to creep forward towards its 1959 claim line and annexed Indian territory. The Chinese have intruded 18 km into Depsang and blocked Indian patrols. The Quadrilateral (Quad) coalition (India, US, Japan and Australia) is focussing on containing China's military expansionism in the Indo-Pacific region.

The navies of the four nations began the second phase of the Malabar series of exercises in the northern Arabian sea on November 17, after the successful completion of the first phase earlier this month, which took place in the Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6. The participation of the *USS Nimitz*, the world's largest warship and the Indian Navy's *Vikramaditya* carrier battle group were the highlights of the exercise. The Australian Navy has deployed *HMAS Ballarat*, an Anzac-class frigate, while the Japanese Navy has sent its lead-



ing destroyer *JS Murasame*. The two carriers, along with other ships, submarines and aircraft of the participating navies engaged in high-intensity naval operations over four days. This is a good strategic move and should make China re-think before it challenges India further.

**TV Jayaprakash**  
Palakkad

## Clear encroachments

Sir — Increasing the number of hospital beds, including Intensive Care Units (ICUs), ramping up the availability of ventilators and all other medical facilities now planned by the Central and Delhi Governments are simply an eyewash. Curative

steps for treating Coronavirus patients in Delhi will remain grossly insufficient till real preventive steps are taken to stop the spread. That means ensuring behavioural discipline, early testing and treatment.

Even daily statistical data given by Government agencies regarding new Corona cases

and deaths may be far below the actual figures because these do not include those undergoing self-isolation in homes without informing the agencies concerned. One of the reasons for the spread of COVID during the festive season is the encroachment of footpaths and market places in the city. This lack of

space led to overcrowding and people being forced to shop in congested and spilling at the seams markets.

The Government must do whatever it can to get rid of the squatters. However, sadly, all political parties avoid touching encroachers because they are the real vote bank and law-abiding citizens are in a minority. Hence, a tough drive is urgently required to remove all encroachments from all over Delhi. But sadly, there is no political will to do the same. As a result Delhiites will continue to suffer.

**Subhash Chandra Agrawal**  
New Delhi

## A wise move

Sir — At last, good sense has prevailed and the Government has decided to bring the number of people being allowed to attend weddings down from 200 to 50. This may inconvenience the families of those getting married but it will certainly help in keeping the number of new infections low. It is a small price to pay for the greater good.

**Naushad Ali**  
New Delhi

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## FIRST COLUMN

Good cause,  
bad tactics

Hong Kong's freedom was always conditional and ultimately doomed but last week's blundering collapse was premature and far from inevitable



GWYNNE DYER

One Hong Kong lawmaker, Claudia Mo, said it was "the death-knell of Hong Kong's democracy fight." But she was part of it: One of the 15 remaining pro-democracy members of the Legislative Council (Legco) who resigned recently in protest at the expulsion of four other democratically-elected members of the pseudo-Parliament. Wu Chi-wai, speaking for the 15 who resigned, tweeted that, "One country, two systems" in Hong Kong has come to an end. That is true, and it is regrettable, but it's hard to see how a mass resignation that eliminates all pro-democracy legislators from Legco helps the cause. Bad tactics in a good cause has been the hallmark of the democratic movement's behaviour throughout the last 18 months. It mobilised a very effective non-violent protest campaign when the Communist Government in Beijing introduced a law in June 2019 that directly challenged the deal signed by China and the former colonial power, the UK, in 1997.

The UK ignored the democratic rights of the city's Chinese majority for most of its 155-year tenure, but when it handed the colony back to China in 1997, it did get a guarantee that Hong Kong could keep its free institutions, including freedom of speech and of the Press, impartial courts, and a separate, partly democratic Government for 50 years. "One country, two systems" was the slogan. Beijing's new law would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be transferred to mainland courts for certain "security" offences. So the protesters spilled out into the streets to protect the status quo, which kept all Hong Kongers free from Communist interference and made some very rich. Within three months, Chief Executive Carrie Lam withdrew the legislation. The Hong Kong Government is not an entirely free agent and Lam initially went along with Beijing's demand. By withdrawing it, she was signalling that Beijing was willing to drop the matter for now. But the protesters snatched defeat from the jaws of victory.

The sensible thing to do was accept the concession and go home. Beijing's demand might come back again in five years, but enjoy the time you have won. The Communist regime will never let you have any more than this, and the mainland population outnumbered you 200-to-one. Instead of going home happy, the protesters stayed out in the streets and raised the stakes, demanding fully free elections and more autonomy for Hong Kong. They also broke the prime rule and allowed their protests to become violent. (Don't explain that the police are being violent; your only safety lies in remaining non-violent regardless of the provocation.)

So Xi Jinping's Communist regime in Beijing struck back hard against what it saw as a serious challenge to its authority. A new law was imposed on Hong Kong, contrary to the 1997 agreement, that effectively subordinates the city's legal system to Beijing's whims. It was the end of Hong Kong's legal autonomy, and to rub it in, four pro-democracy legislators were expelled from the Legco. In a final Quixotic gesture last week, all the remaining democrats in the Legco quit too. It's a prelude to a far larger abandonment. Hong Kong's relative freedom was always conditional and ultimately doomed (2047 at the latest) but last week's blundering collapse was premature and far from inevitable. Only two substantive questions now remain. What happens to Taiwan, and where will all the Hong Kongers, who want to leave, go? One-third of Hong Kong's seven million people were born on the mainland: Some of them moved to the city for the money, but most were undoubtedly getting away from the Communists. Another third will be the children or grand-children of those refugees (the city's population was only 6,00,000 in 1945) and will probably share their opinions. A lot will leave.

An estimated 6,00,000 Hong Kong residents already hold full foreign passports, half Canadians and most of the rest Australian, British or American ones. They acquired them as an insurance policy, and this is the contingency they were insuring against. Another three million people hold British National (Overseas) passports or can easily acquire them, and London promises that they can all move to the UK if they wish. The "central range" estimate of the British Home Office is that between 2,58,000 and 3,22,000 Hong Kongers will come within five years, but it could be many more. That's unless Beijing stops them from leaving. But if it closes the gates like that, it would be the definitive end of Hong Kong as a great international trading city. And what about Taiwan? Well, "one country, two systems" was also the promise Beijing was holding out to Taiwan to seduce it into peaceful reunification. It has now been comprehensively trashed, and the long-term likelihood of an attempted military "solution" to the Taiwan "problem" has just risen significantly.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work')

THE CONGRESS' POSITION DEMANDING THAT MODI NOT DRAG INDIA INTO AN UNFAIR RCEP, AS WAS BEING PLANNED, STANDS VINDICATED.

—CONGRESS LEADER  
JAIRAM RAMESH

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



INDIA'S DECISION OF NOT JOINING THE RCEP IS UNFORTUNATE. IT IS IN INDIA'S STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS TO BE A PART OF IT.

—CONGRESS LEADER  
ANAND SHARMA

## Empowered PRIs fight virus

In times of COVID-19, the trust developed by the Panchayati Raj Institutions has aided the Govt's efforts to test, trace and treat people and contain the crisis in rural areas



SIMI MEHTA

The spirit of decentralisation runs deep within the consciousness of India. Local governance had been at the core of functioning of the country's rural and urban administration even before it was mandated by the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments in 1992. At present, there are 2.5 lakh gram panchayats, over six lakh villages, around 4,500 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and 4,000 census towns in the country. Being at the forefront of rural governance, panchayats have borne the brunt yet stood resilient amid the COVID-19 outbreak. It is important to note that they have played a pivotal role in saving lives even before the pandemic, because women members of panchayats help in building trust among the village folk and the health-care providers, the locals wary of visiting doctors.

These women even helped the doctors and nurses to explain to the villagers the diseases they were suffering from and the treatment protocols in a language they understood. Consequently, the number of villagers availing medical services without fear or anxiety increased exponentially over the years. In times of COVID-19, the trust developed by the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has aided the Union and State Governments' efforts to test, trace and treat people and contain the crisis in rural areas to a very large extent.

This, in the words of Professor James Manor, an expert on the study of decentralisation in India, would further deepen accountability and transparency at the grassroots, drawing ordinary people in villages into democratic processes to pursue their rights and contribute towards poverty alleviation. According to Manor, the world has a lot to learn from the Indian panchayat system. He exemplifies how Britain is centralising the system to tackle the contagion, which in turn is costing the lives of people even as the neutrality of local councils is being ignored. In a similar manner, the decentralisation system has been weakened in South Africa where local councils are being dominated by people at higher levels. Thus, all efforts to implement the rural employment guarantee Act, that has been styled on the lines of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in India, failed in South Africa because of restricted access to financial resources. Now, even the COVID testing, tracing and treatment in South Africa have lagged because of this weakening of local councils.

The constitutional duties of the panchayats are listed under Schedule 9, Schedule 11 and Schedule 12 of the Indian Constitution. Its makers foresaw that a major health emergency in the country, like the present contagion, would require a resolution at both rural and urban levels. So they devised a mechanism called the District Planning Committee, on which members elected to the panchayats would have a major representation as compared to those elected to municipal bodies. According to legislation under Article 243G, panchayats have the power and authority to enable them to function as institutions of self-government in respect of preparation of plans and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice. The 73rd Amendment left the decision to delegate powers, functions and finances to PRIs to the State legislatures. Item 23 of Schedule 11 of the Constitution relates to the empowerment of PRIs where health and sanitation are concerned, including hospitals, primary health centres and dispensaries, which is significant in view of the current pandemic. States have fulfilled the constitutional mandate to empow-



THE CHALLENGES PERTAINING TO PROVISION OF SUFFICIENT PROTECTION KITS FOR FRONTLINE PANCHAYAT WORKERS, INADEQUATE FUNDING, DILUTION OF POWERS OF PANCHAYATS IN NORMAL TIMES, STRENGTHENING MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR ACCURATE PANCHAYAT-LEVEL DATA, AND SO ON, REMAIN TO BE ADDRESSED AS POLICY PRIORITIES

er the PRIs to look into health and sanitation, which are intimately connected with COVID-19 and where such responsibilities are institutionally exercised through hospitals, primary healthcare centres and dispensaries under their overall supervision. A staunch advocate of democratic decentralisation and a former Union Panchayati Raj Minister, Mani Shankar Aiyar, says that the pandemic has affected many vital areas and vulnerable sections of rural society. First it has hit women and child development where Anganwadi workers along with auxiliary nurses, midwives and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) are responsible for development of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Second, mentally and physically challenged people, who are not able to access medical care, have become even more vulnerable. While people with money and those belonging to higher castes in rural India would be able to access medical care due to their influence in society, it would be difficult for people with less money or those belonging to the backward castes to access the same. Lastly, the Public Distribution System (PDS), which can provide food access to the underprivileged, as mandated by Schedule 11, has been hit too.

The optimism that PRIs would be greatly successful in attending to problems brought on by COVID-19 is strengthened by Kerala's demonstrated capacity to decentralise the planning system in the State and strengthen local governance in matters of health, sanitation, women and child development, welfare of the weaker sections of society, the PDS, feeding of the destitute, free day care centres for the differently-abled and so on.

Financially-empowered panchayats along with the Kudumbashree movement for economic empowerment of women and inclusion of schools and district colleges in the panchayat systems have all led to consolidating holistic efforts to effec-

tively combat the pandemic with minimal loss of lives. Thus, Kerala's panchayats have smoothly transitioned to take care of those affected by COVID-19.

Similarly, in Karnataka, panchayat level COVID-19 task forces were formed and are working successfully. They comprise primary health centre doctors, auxiliary nurses, midwives, ASHA workers and elected representatives and panchayat-level staff. Present across the State, these task forces have been at the forefront of pandemic management. This has resulted in strict enforcement of lockdowns, disinfection, providing food to the needy, ensuring the supply of essential services, and so on.

Over the years, Odisha has witnessed strengthening of panchayats, which have played an important part in combating natural disasters. As a result, during the pandemic-induced reverse migration of labourers, the role of panchayats became crucial. The State Government worked in close coordination with PRIs and delegated the powers of the District Collectors to the latter to work towards containing the spread of the Coronavirus in each panchayat. Women-led PRIs have proactively engaged with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in running free kitchens and in making face masks to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Such responses from the PRIs are very encouraging as they are going the extra mile to ensure continuity of essential services, especially for the vulnerable. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, too, has applauded the efforts of the PRIs to fight the pandemic and remarked that the stronger the PRIs, the stronger the democracy of a country. In fact, in order to strengthen PRIs, the Government has announced two projects: The e-Gram Swaraj App, where details of the development work of panchayats and the funds will be available and the Swamitwa Yojana (ownership plan), where each property in the village will be mapped through drones

after which a certificate of ownership will be issued. This will help in removing confusion about the property and help in proper policy planning, too. Further, the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj has exhorted all States to use a tool for assessing the community response to COVID-19 at the village and panchayat level for timely action in containing the spread of the virus and vector-borne diseases. This includes eight areas for action at the village level: Creating awareness regarding preventive measures, solidarity to address the associated stigma, support for home as well as community quarantine, help in surveillance activities' identification, support to needy families, ensuring availability of routine healthcare services, prompt response in case of positive cases and maintaining hygiene and sanitation at the village level. The information in this check list will help the panchayats to self-assess their preparedness and identify what more they may do. This will also help the health department to take timely and corrective measures.

To effectively handle the crisis, it is important to look at the number of recoveries and the number of fatalities along with co-morbidities. There exists a positive correlation between operating the PRIs and effectively handling the pandemic. COVID-19 should be a lesson for the current and future governments to make PRIs an inclusive part of governance. The challenges pertaining to provision of sufficient protection kits for frontline panchayat workers, inadequate funding, dilution of powers of panchayats in normal times, strengthening management information systems for accurate panchayat-level data, and so on, remain to be addressed as policy priorities. Only then Mahatma Gandhi's dream of "an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country, in whose making they have an effective voice", would be fulfilled.

(The writer is CEO and Editorial Director, IMPRI)

## Progress and challenges go hand in hand

The UNDP report recommends that Governments should consider the benefits and costs of migration on their strategies and plans



EDUARDO FALEIRO

Goa is now a fully literate State if we exclude some people above the age of 50 and a section of migrant labourers.

This has been achieved mainly through private institutions. Regrettably, Government schools themselves are in an appalling condition. As a result, only those who cannot afford to enroll their children in private schools send them to the Government schools in the State. The Fundamental Right to Education for all children up to the age of 14 years is enshrined in our Constitution. What is required is a law to determine the facilities which the State Government should provide to the children so that they can exercise this fundamental right.

"Free education" means not merely freedom from tuition fees but also adequate classrooms and teachers, free uniforms, textbooks and other educational material. Inequalities in education will be accentuated in the computer age. The dangerous "digital divide" can only be prevented if necessary steps are taken right now. The ideal is the "Common School System" with quality Government schools, known as "neighbourhood schools", in

every locality where all children, irrespective of social class or religious affiliation can attend. This is the system prevailing in Scandinavia and other educationally-advanced countries.

The Goa University ought to be a centre of academic excellence at the national as well as at the international level. It should be a powerful instrument to enable the youth of Goa and of the country at large to deal with and thrive in today's increasingly competitive world, the global "knowledge society" where education is the key to success. Turning Goa University into a Central University would have advanced this objective and would have improved significantly our university education.

The Official Language Act was enacted in 1987. It was intended to strengthen our common cultural heritage and achieve greater unity and harmony among our people. Yet, in the process of implementing the Act, those who write Konkani in the Roman script are entitled to the same protection available to those who write in Devanagari. This is their right and it flows from Article 29 (1) of the Constitution of India. Konkani writers

in Roman script should have access to literary awards, representation in literary bodies, financial assistance and so on, to the same extent available to those who write in Devanagari. However, Konkani should be taught in schools through the Devanagari script only. The reason is that children learn the Roman script through the study of English, which is important for international communication and for availing the increasing employment opportunities in the country itself. Devanagari is equally important for access to Indian culture and other Indian languages. The importance of national languages and assertion of national cultural identity are growing everywhere in the world. India is not and should not be an exception.

In the 1960s, tourism was adopted as a key sector for Goa's development primarily because of its potential to generate employment in a State with an increasingly educated workforce and limited industrial growth. The objective of employment has been achieved to a great extent in as much as almost one-third of Goa's population is engaged in tourism-related activities, directly or indirectly. However, Goa

being a small State, its carrying capacity in terms of its size, facilities available and ecological fragility should be considered.

Very little awareness existed until a decade ago among policymakers in Goa or elsewhere in the world about the need for sustainable tourism development. It is now accepted that tourism should be developed in a manner that meets the requirements of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainable tourism development considers three fundamental elements, economic, social and environmental. Economic sustainability consists in maintaining the growth rate at a manageable level to avoid consumer dissatisfaction. In Goa, it is necessary to upgrade the basic physical infrastructure. Social sustainability refers to society's ability to absorb tourist arrivals without adversely affecting local well-being and value systems.

Environmental sustainability relates to the capacity of the environment to handle population impact without damage. Mega construction projects have transformed the land-

scape of Goa. Huge buildings have now progressed from the coastline into the hinterland and they have a negative impact on the lifestyle of the local population. Big buildings, especially in the villages, destroy the environment and should not be permitted. Non-disposal of garbage, particularly inorganic, in a scientific manner is also assuming menacing proportions. This matter should be tackled with a sense of urgency. There is apprehension in our State regarding the influx of people from other States who come here mostly for employment.

The Department of NRI Affairs published in 2008 the first-ever Goa Migration Survey. It identified the Goan diaspora in 43 countries and stated that "the actual number of countries would be much larger. Goans are found the world over and it would be difficult to name a country without a Goan community."

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released its annual Human Development Report under the caption "Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development." The report deals entirely with migration within and among countries. It

finds that migrants boost economic output and, contrary to commonly-held beliefs, immigration generally increases employment in host communities, does not crowd out locals from the job market and improves the rate of investment in new businesses and initiatives.

The UNDP report recommends that Governments should reflect on the benefits and costs of migration on their strategy and plans. Migration from one region to another puts pressure on the existing infrastructure and social services such as housing, electricity, water and sanitation.

While Goans can be justifiably proud of the vast social and economic progress achieved over the last five decades, they do also face several challenges at this point of time. Goans ought to confront these hurdles with confidence and commitment to values that shape a forward-moving and progressive society. These values should be taught at school and at home so that our land is prosperous and free from oppression of any sort, where justice and fairplay do indeed prevail.

(The writer is a former Union Minister)

The last few decades have witnessed vast changes in political ideology and economic policies across the world. People of different countries have been affected differently, but always in a significant manner everywhere. Goa has achieved remarkable progress since liberation from Portuguese rule on December 19, 1961. The greatest gain of this freedom has been the feeling of self-respect regained, the opening of the portals of opportunity, particularly to the vast mass of people who were denied upward mobility over the centuries and perhaps millennia.

Great strides have been made in core sectors such as education. In 1961, the literacy rate here was 30 per cent.

# To block Biden, Trump targets vote certification in late bid

Washington: Getting nowhere in the courts, President Donald Trump's scattershot effort to overturn President-elect Joe Biden's victory is shifting toward obscure election boards that certify the vote as Trump and his allies seek to upend the electoral process, sow chaos and perpetuate unsubstantiated doubts about the count.

The battle is centered in the battleground states that sealed Biden's win. In Michigan, two Republican election officials in the state's largest county initially refused to certify results despite no evidence of fraud, then backtracked and voted to certify and then on Wednesday flipped again and said they "remain opposed to certification."

Some Republicans have called on the GOP statewide canvassers to do the same.

In Arizona, officials are balking at signing off on vote tallies in a rural county.

The moves don't reflect a coordinated effort across the battleground states that broke for Biden, local election officials said. Instead, they seem to be inspired by Trump's incendiary rhetoric about baseless fraud and driven by Republican acquiescence to broadsides against the nation's electoral system as state and federal courts push aside legal challenges filed by Trump and his allies.

Still, what happened in Wayne County, Michigan, on Tuesday and Wednesday was a jarring reminder of the disruptions that can still be caused as the nation works through the process of affirming the outcome of the Nov. 3 election.

There is no precedent for the Trump team's widespread effort to delay or undermine certification, according to University of Kentucky law professor Joshua Douglas.

"It would be the end of democracy as we know it,"

Douglas said. "This is just not a thing that can happen."

Certifying results is a routine yet important step after local election officials have tallied votes, reviewed procedures, checked to ensure votes were counted correctly and investigated discrepancies. Typically, this certification is done by a local board of elections and then, later, the results are certified at the state level.

But as Trump has refused to concede to Biden and continues to spread false claims of victory, this mundane process is taking on new significance.

Among key battleground states, counties in Michigan, Nevada and Wisconsin have all made it through the initial step of certifying results. Except for Wayne County, this process has largely been smooth. Arizona, Pennsylvania and Georgia still haven't concluded their local certifications. Then all eyes turn to statewide certification. AP

# China says 'Five Eyes' should face reality on Hong Kong

Beijing: China on Thursday rejected the latest attack on its Hong Kong policy by the US and several of its allies, saying they "should face up to the reality" that the former British colony has been returned to China.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian was responding to a statement on Hong Kong issued by the US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, which together make up an intelligence partnership known as the Five Eyes.

"No matter if they have five eyes or 10 eyes, if they dare to harm China's sovereignty, security and development interests, they should beware of their eyes being poked and blinded," he said at a daily briefing.

The foreign ministers of the five nations said that a new Chinese government resolution that led to the disqualification of four pro-democracy lawmakers in Hong Kong appears

to be "part of a concerted campaign to silence all critical voices."

The joint statement called the resolution a breach of China's international obligations and its commitment to grant Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy and freedom of speech.

Hong Kong, a city of 7.5 million people, was promised autonomy over local affairs for 50 years after its return to China in 1997.

Zhao said Hong Kong is an inalienable part of China and that public officials must "be loyal to the motherland. This is a basic political ethic in every country in the world, right?"

The four disqualified lawmakers were earlier barred from running for reelection because of their calls for foreign governments to impose sanctions on China and Hong Kong. They had remained in office because elections were postponed for one year. AP

# US House passes bipartisan resolution on Tibet

Washington: A bipartisan resolution recognising the cultural and religious significance of an autonomous Tibet and seeking peaceful solutions to the conflict has been passed by the US House of Representatives.

The resolution recognised the significance of the genuine autonomy of Tibet and the Tibetan people, and the work done by 14th Dalai Lama to promote global peace, harmony and understanding.

Passed by a voice vote, the resolution determined that it would be beneficial to convene a bipartisan, bicameral forum, either through a Joint Meeting

of Congress, a teleconference broadcast at the Capitol Visitor Center, or roundtable, between Members of Congress and His Holiness the Dalai Lama to discuss peaceful solutions to international conflicts.

It also noted that there is overwhelming bipartisan Congressional support for the Tibetan people's aspirations for internationally recognised human rights and freedoms and the protection of their distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and national identity.

The resolution said there are over 6,000,000 Tibetans in the world, spanning over 40

countries.

"Honoured to see the House unanimously passed my resolution recognising the genuine autonomy of Tibet and celebrating the work the Dalai Lama has accomplished. The US must continue to work with allies to secure freedom from oppression for the Tibetan people," Congressman Ted Yoho said.

Speaking on the floor of the House, Congressman Eliot Engel, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, accused China of violation of international religious freedom in Tibet. PTI

# Biden congratulates Pelosi on speaker nomination

Washington: President-elect Joe Biden congratulates Nancy Pelosi for her nomination to serve as House speaker for another term.

Biden's transition team says the incoming president and Pelosi spoke on Wednesday following House Democrats' vote.

Biden told the speaker that "he looks forward to working with her and Democratic lead-

ership in the House on a shared agenda to get COVID-19 under control and build our economy back better."

Pelosi will serve as Biden's most powerful ally on Capitol Hill over the next two years.

The California Democrat was nominated by acclamation as the party's lawmakers used a pandemic-induced virtual meeting to pick their leaders. AP

# US names first ambassador in decade to Venezuela amid tensions

Caracas (Venezuela): Washington has its first ambassador to Venezuela in a decade despite the US having no diplomats at its Caracas embassy amid a breakdown in relations. James Story's nomination as ambassador to Venezuela was confirmed on Wednesday by a US Senate voice vote. The South Carolina native takes the job that he will carry out from the capital of neighbouring Colombia as Venezuela endures a historic economic and political crisis.

Story, 50, will likely be at the centre of helping guide US policy on Venezuela during the transition of President-elect Joe Biden. Relations have had a long, rocky past that

include President Donald Trump's administration winning an indictment against Venezuelan Nicolas Maduro as an alleged narcotrafficker.

Biden's win has sparked debate among those who back Trump's hard-line approach against Maduro and others who say it is time for a new approach. The critics say heavy sanctions have failed to remove Maduro from power while making life harder on millions of Venezuelans.

The US and Venezuela haven't exchanged ambassadors since 2010, when relations first started to fray under the late President Hugo Chávez. The two nations totally broke diplomatic ties last year, each with-

drawing its diplomats shortly after Washington backed Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó as the country's legitimate leader.

The US leads a coalition of dozens of nations that rejected Maduro following his election in 2018 to a second term in a vote widely considered fraudulent because the most popular opposition leaders were banned from running.

The US has since heavily sanctioned Maduro, his inner circle and the state-run oil firm, attempting to isolate them. The Trump administration offered a \$15 million bounty for Maduro's arrest after a US court indicted him on drug charges. AP

# Report finds Aus troops unlawfully killed 39 Afghans

Wellington: A shocking Australian military report into war crimes has found evidence that elite Australian troops unlawfully killed 39 Afghan prisoners, farmers and civilians.

Australian Defence Force Chief Gen. Angus Campbell said Thursday the shameful record included alleged instances in which new patrol members would shoot a prisoner in order to achieve their first kill in a practice known as "bleeding."

He said the soldiers would then plant weapons and radios to support false claims the prisoners were enemies killed in action.

Campbell said the illegal killings began in 2009, with the majority occurring in 2012 and 2013. He said some in the Special Air Service encouraged "a self-centered, warrior culture." He said the report recommended 19 soldiers be



investigated by police for possible charges, including murder. The chief was announcing the findings of a four-year investigation by Paul Brereton, a judge who was asked to look into the allegations and interviewed more than 400 witnesses and reviewed thousands of pages of documents. AP

# Ex-South African leader Zuma walks out on graft commission

Johannesburg: Former South African president Jacob Zuma staged a walkout Thursday at the commission investigating graft in government during his tenure after failing in his legal bid for the commission's chairman to recuse himself.

Zuma was set to take the witness stand after the ruling, but he left despite appearing under a summons.

Zuma was summoned to respond to questions related to evidence contained in at least 35 affidavits submitted to the commission. But he argued that Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo was biased against him.

Zuma this week appeared before the commission for the first time in more than a year after abandoning his testimony last year. Zuma's legal steps against the commission and its chairman are widely seen as delaying tactics to avoid facing questions about his role in alleged corruption that occurred largely from 2009 to 2018. AP

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Forest Research Institute, Dehradun invites e-tenders from registered/well supplied reputed firms for the Annual Rate Contract for supply of sanitary items for day to day maintenance of Residential/Nonresidential Building at FRI Year 2020-21 (Tender Id No. 2020\_ICFRE 597711\_1). For detailed information please visit website <http://www.fri.res.in> or <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. All corrigendum, agenda, amendments, clarifications etc. to the tenders will be posted on both the website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated. Tender will be accepted through online mode only.

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The Chief Administrative Officer/Const.-II/Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-  
**Mode of Tender** (E-Reverse Auction)  
**Tender Notice No.** 74-W/3/439/WA/LKO Dated 19.11.2020  
**Full name of work** Daryabad-Barabanki Section - Earth work in formation including filling, cutting and compaction, supply and laying blanketing material on embankment, extension of existing minor bridges by RCC Box and construction of LHS by Air pushing methodology and other allied works between Daryabad (including) to Barabanki (Excluding) & Rasauli Yard (Excluding) in connection with "Proposed Doubling of Barabanki-Akbarpur of Lucknow Division on Northern Railway  
**Approx. cost** Rs. 79.60 crores  
**Completion Period** 24 (Twenty four) months  
**Earnest money amount** Rs.41,29,900/-only  
**Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website** Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 24.11.2020 to 14.12.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.  
**Last date/Time of upload of tenders** 14.12.2020 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 30.11.2020 to 14.12.2020  
**Date and time of opening of tender** 14.12.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date & time to be notified later on  
2590/2020  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

# Obama's newly-released memoir breaks first-day sales record



Washington: Around 887,000 units were sold in the US and Canada, which includes pre-order sales and first-day sales, CNN reported citing Penguin Random House. The publisher said this sale represented "the largest first-day sales total for any book ever published" by the company.

Another publisher said Obama's new book will be a book of "rare consequence" and will do good business, at par with the likes of the Harry Potter series.

"This will be a book of rare consequence. That it will sell as no other book has done since July 21, 2007 — when Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

came out, is immensely cheering to booksellers," said Barnes & Noble CEO James Daunt, CNN quoted.

Prior to the opening day, Obama had asked his followers on Twitter to read his memoir to get an insight on events and people that shaped him during his early years.

"My memoir, A Promised Land, is out today. I hope you'll read it. My goal was to give you some insight into the events and people that shaped me during the early years of my presidency. Most of all, I hope it inspires you to see yourself playing a role in shaping a better world," Obama tweeted on Tuesday.

# Iran candidate tells AP: US attack risks 'full-fledged war'

Tehran: An adviser to Iran's supreme leader who is a possible 2021 presidential candidate is warning that any American attack on the Islamic Republic could set off a "full-fledged war" in the Mideast in the waning days of the Trump administration.

Speaking to The Associated Press, Hossein Dehghan struck a hard-line tone familiar to those in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, a force he long served in before becoming a defense minister under President Hassan Rouhani.

A soldier has yet to serve as Iran's top civilian leader since its 1979 Islamic Revolution, in part over the initial suspicion that its conventional military forces remained loyal to the toppled shah.

But hard-liners in recent years openly have suggested Iran move toward a military dictatorship given its economic problems and threats from abroad, particularly after President Donald Trump pulled America out of Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

"We don't welcome a crisis. We don't welcome a war. We are not after starting a war," Dehghan said Wednesday. "But we are not after negotiations for the sake of negotiations either."

Dehghan, 63, described himself as a "nationalist" with "no conventional political tendency" during an interview in his wood-paneled office in downtown Tehran. He's one of many likely to register to run in the June 18 election as Rouhani is term-limited from running again.

Others likely include a young technocrat with ties to Iranian intelligence and former hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Dehghan's military service came under presidencies representative of the groups that largely compose Iran's tightly controlled political arena — reformists who seek to slowly change Iran's theocracy from within, hardliners who want to strengthen the theocracy and the relative moderates between. Those calling for radical

change are barred from running for office by Iran's powerful constitutional watchdog known as the Guardian Council, which serves under Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

While discussing the world Iran finds itself in, Dehghan's points mirrored many of Khamenei's. The former head of the Guard's air force who achieved the rank of brigadier general said any negotiations with the West could not include Iran's ballistic missiles, which he described as a "deterrent" to Tehran's adversaries.

Propaganda involving Iran's missile programme has surged in recent weeks.

The front page of the English-language Tehran Times on Wednesday showed a map of Iran's missile ranges with red stars marking American bases across the world under the words "Back off!" printed in big, bold letters. A headline above warned Iran would respond to "any melancholy adventure by Trump." AP

# Anti-Covid nasal spray 'ready for use in humans'

PTI ■ LONDON

A nasal spray that can provide effective protection against the Covid-19 virus has been developed by researchers at the University of Birmingham, using materials already cleared for use in humans, the varsity said on Thursday.

A team in the University's Healthcare Technologies Institute formulated the spray using compounds already widely approved by regulatory bodies in the UK, Europe and the US.

The materials are already widely used in medical devices, medicines and even food products.

**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	HSPV GURUGRAM	JOB NO. GY/01/2020 CATERING SERVICES AND BAR SERVICES (RE-INVTTE)	16.11.2020 01.12.2020	1 LAKH	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
2	GURGAON TECHNOLOGY PARK LIMITED	PROVIDING AND FIXING 20HP SUBMERSIBLE MOTOR 15MTR HEAD 140RPM 415V WITH 10MTR CABLE KIRLOSKAR / LUBI MAKE AND 20HP STAR DELTA STARTER PANEL COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECT AT NEAR GATE NO.2 GTP. COMPLEX SEC-34, GURUGRAM.	17.11.2020 04.12.2020	5040/-	Gtpinfocity.com	8826910868 GTP.L34@GMAIL.COM
3	HAFED PANCHKULA	HAFED INVITED E-TENDER FOR PUBLICATION OF E-TENDER NOTICE FOR RATE CONTRACT TO PURCHASE OF VARIOUS VARIETIES OF RICE FROM THE REPUTED SUPPLIER AS WELL AS THEIR AUTHORIZED DEALERS/DISTRIBUTORS FOR HAFED RICE SHELLER, TARAIKRI FOR THE 2020-21.	CLOSING DATE 02.12.2020	2.11 LACS	www.hafed.gov.in	0172-2590531 addgmp@gmail.com
4	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; ism@mdurohtak.ac.in
5	HAFED	PUBLICATION OF E-TENDER NOTICE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF COVERED GODOWNS UNDER SEVEN YEARS GUARANTEE SCHEME.	19.11.2020 10.12.2020	As mentioned in the tender documents	www.hafed.gov.in	0172-2590520-26 hafed@hry.nic.in
6	BPSW, KHANPURKALAN	CONSTRUCTION OF CONNECTIVITY ROAD FOR STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTRE. (RE-INVITED IIIRD TIME)	CLOSING DATE 09.12.2020	21.41 LACS	http://www.bpswomenunive rsity.ac.in	01263-283007 Xenbpsw@gmail.com

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 83906**

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG, J&K**  
(CAMP OFFICE: MMABM, ASSOCIATED HOSPITAL, GMC, ANANTNAG)  
Email: gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com Phone: 01932-227624 / Fax: 01932-227625  
**Subject:- Short Term Quotation - extension of last date thereof.**  
Due to poor response to our Short Term Quotation for Supply of material required in the Department of Dentistry invited vide No. GMCA/Plg/04/3278-84 Dated: 11.11.2020, the last date for submission of quotations is extended upto 23.11.2020 (4:00 P.M). Date of opening of shall be communicated separately.  
Sd/- (Prof. Shaukat Jeelani)  
Principal / Dean,  
Government Medical College, Anantnag.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given by Smt. Saroj Devi who is the owner of Freehold Residential Plot area measuring 60 Sq. Yds., part of Khet No.130, situated at Village Sarajpur, Pargana Dabri, Tehsil & District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. and further will be mortgaging the same against the financial assistance from Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. That the Original Regd. GPA dated 06/04/2011 executed by Smt. Saroj Bhatti in favour of Sh. Sanjay Bhatti in respect of the said property, vide doc no.458, with SR-Sadar, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. has been lost/misplaced. Public is being warned not to deal with the said document. Any person dealing with the said document would do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person. If anybody found these document or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, concerned person is required to communicate in writing to the undersigned at below address.  
Lucem Legal LLP  
269, Rama House, Ground Floor,  
Masjid Mooli, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.II,  
New Delhi-49, Contact #011-40046316

**पंचायतीराज निदेशालय, उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून**  
संख्या : 1553/40-2/लेखा/विज्ञ/2020-21 दिनांक 18 नवम्बर, 2020  
**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण**  
निदेशालय पंचायतराज, सहस्त्रायारा रोड, देहरादून भवन में Housekeeping/Cleaning/Sweeping Service हेतु सेवा प्रदाता के चयनार्थ ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा दिनांक 19 नवम्बर, 2020 से वेबसाईट <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध होगी। भविष्य में इस निविदा से सम्बन्धित कोई भी विवरण/शुद्धिपत्र मात्र उक्त वेबसाईट पर ही प्रसारित किया जायेगा।  
निदेशक, पंचायतीराज

# Markets snap record run as virus caseload weighs

## BANK STOCKS LEAD DECLINE

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty retreated from record highs on Thursday following heavy profit-taking in financial stocks amid a weak trend in global markets due to rising Covid-19 cases in multiple countries. A depreciating rupee and concerns over frothy valuations further dented risk appetite, traders said. After briefly touching its record intra-day high of 44,230 in a volatile session, the 30-

share BSE Sensex ended 580.09 points or 1.31 per cent lower at 43,599.96.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty hit a fresh intra-day peak of 12,963, before ending 166.55 points or 1.29 per cent down at 12,771.70.

Both the key indices had ended at fresh lifetime highs in each of the previous three sessions. The Sensex and Nifty have closed in the red only twice this month so far. SBI was the top laggard in the Sensex pack on Thursday, tumbling 4.88 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, ITC, NTPC, Tata Steel and Titan were among the prominent gainers, spurring up to 2.43 per cent.

Global stocks slipped for the third straight day as the unabated rise in COVID-19 caseload in various regions offset euphoria around vaccine progress.

"The increasing virus infections raised fears of additional restrictions and considering its impact on global economic activity, global market sentiments turned negative. This was in spite of the optimism surrounding the advanced stages of vaccine development.

Indian markets also witnessed profit booking from recent highs, as investors turned cautious. Financials led the losses while defensive sectors such as FMCG and Pharma fared better.

"The positivity in Auto sales numbers continued and could be an indicator of economic recovery.

However, increasing virus infections, which is again being reported in some parts of India, can offset this nascent recovery. We can expect short term volatility in the markets and investors are advised to remain cautious," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

**₹ logs 1st loss in four sessions, slips 8 paise against \$**

Mumbai: The Indian rupee saw its first decline in four sessions on Thursday, depreciating by 8 paise to settle at 74.27 against the US dollar tracking weakness in Asian currencies and a lacklustre trend in domestic equities. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 74.28 against the US dollar and touched an intra-day high of 74.22 and a low of 74.33.

**Gold slips ₹248, silver declines ₹853**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices on Thursday dropped ₹248 to ₹49,714 per 10 grams in the national capital, as investors and traders switched to riskier assets on new vaccine development, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had closed at ₹49,962 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also declined by ₹853 to ₹61,184 per kg, compared to the previous close of ₹62,037 per kg.

## INBRIEF

**UBER LAUNCHES 500 E-RICKSHAWS IN GREATER KOLKATA**  
Kolkata: Cab aggregator Uber announced on Thursday that it will deploy 500 e-rickshaws, the first three-wheeler micro mobility product on its platform, in Greater Kolkata. Riders from Howrah, Barasat, Madhyamgram, Rajarhat and Salt Lake will be able to book the e-rickshaws on Uber app from Thursday, a statement said. The company claimed that all 500 e-rickshaws will be available from Thursday. The cab aggregator had deployed 100 e-rickshaws in Delhi early this month.

**AIS RESIDENCY HOUSING SCHEME EXTENDED**  
Jaipur: Housing Commissioner Pawan Arora said that the last date of application has now been extended to 31 December 2020 in the 'AIS Residency' housing scheme being developed by Rajasthan Housing Board for officers of All India Services in Pratap Nagar, Jaipur. Earlier, the last date of application in this scheme was fixed on 20 November 2020. Along with this, the scope of eligibility has been extended in view of the huge demand for other services in this scheme. Now, along with All India Service officers, officers of Rajasthan Administrative, Police and Accounts Services will also be able to apply in this scheme. He informed that in this registration scheme, the previous deadline is 20 November 2020. Applicants applying first priority and after that registration by December 31, 2020 Applicants who get it done will be given second preference.

**GDA OPENED THE INTEGRATED FACILITY**  
Ghaziabad: In order to attract allottees in Madhuban Bapudham Residential Colony, GDA has opened the box of integrated facility. In this huge housing scheme, lines of electricity and water will not be seen anywhere on the land on foreign lines. All these facilities of water and electricity will be designed with a separate tank line between the dividers. This facility of integrated facility was not yet in any colony of GDA. For the first time this type of facility is being made available in GDA Madhuban Bapudham Housing Scheme. If sources are to be believed, such facilities are available in developed countries like America, Japan and Germany. For the first time GDA is going to give these facilities under Madhuban Bapudham Yojana.

**16TH CONVOCATION OF KIIT**  
Like every year, KIIT is holding its Convocation this year as well. Though it is different from all previous years due to the pandemic, it is our whole-hearted effort to conduct it in the best possible way maintaining the Covid-19 protocols. The 16th Convocation of KIIT Deemed to be University on 21 November 2020 will be a big day for the University which has grown exponentially in the last 17 years as a University and over 23 years as an institution and for the students and the staff as it marks the beginning of a new journey. KIIT University has created a place in the global and Indian academic map in a short span of 25 years. It started with a small seed money of Rs. 5000 (Equivalent to \$100) in 1992-93. It began spreading its wings and became a vibrant educational hub by 1997. It was KIIT's commitment to excellence that led to the grant of Deemed to be University status in 2004. KIIT has the distinction of being the youngest institute of the country to get University status in six years.



# Oxford Economics revises downwards India growth forecast

**Pegs at average 4.5% for 2020-25**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Global forecasting firm Oxford Economics on Thursday revised downwards its India growth forecast over the medium term to an average 4.5 per cent over 2020-25, from its pre-pandemic projection of 6.5 per cent. In a research note, it said India's post-COVID-19 scars could be among the worst in the world. "We forecast India's growth equilibrium to worsen substantially over the medium

term, with potential growth averaging just 4.5 per cent over 2020-25 in our latest baseline, as opposed to our previous forecast of 6.5 per cent," Oxford Economics said.

It said an adequate and well-designed fiscal stimulus would halve this impact by limiting deterioration in pre-COVID-19 headwinds.

"But, given the low likelihood of such a comprehensive response, we project India's GDP per capita to be 12 per cent below our pre-virus baseline even in 2025, implying the largest amount of scarring among major economies globally," Oxford Economics said. It added that the Indian

government has announced various schemes and reforms this year, with an eye on the medium-to-long-term growth.

"However, its policy implementation track record is mixed and is likely to have been weakened further by recent social and institutional developments that detract from its capacity to focus on economic policymaking," the global forecasting firm said.

Beyond 2020, Oxford Economics said India remains one of the most rapidly growing economies in our baseline.

"But, that is not enough to preclude a large medium-term output loss in the wake of COVID-19," it said.

Oxford Economics said that even after the pandemic is contained, India's economy will have to deal with its aftermath.

# Hiring in IT sector least impacted by Covid-19 disruptions: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With the pandemic forcing businesses to adopt digitalisation, the hiring in the IT sector has been the least impacted compared to other sectors, in both software and hardware segments, according to a report. The information technology (IT) sector remained one of the least impacted sectors in terms of hiring from the global pandemic, job site Naukri.Com said in the report. It showed that with all businesses going virtual, the demand for professionals in software and hardware segments has been steady. The report is based on job postings on Naukri.Com during February and the months after the lockdown, which was imposed in late-March. Further, the report stated

that the overall sector saw upward month-on-month recovery, peaking in September for hardware (63 per cent) and software roles (20 per cent), it added. Top roles that recruiters are hiring for include software developer, tech lead, tech architect, testing engineer, technical content developer, database architect and solution architect. Roles such as technical content developer, solution architect and database architect have seen 350 per cent, 150 per cent and 100 per cent growth in demand year-on-year. Even tech architect roles have seen a growth of over 50 per cent year-on-year. Java developer, manual testing and business analyst are among the top-searched keywords by jobseekers on the Naukri platform, thereby showing high intent for such roles in the sector.

**China all set to change its development model from 2021: Xi**

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Thursday that China is set to change its development model from next year, relying more on domestic consumption than export-reliant growth which propelled it to become the world's second largest economy next only to the United States.

"From next year on, China will embark on new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country," 67-year-old Xi said while addressing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Dialogues via video link. "We will foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other," he said.

# GDP contraction likely to have narrowed to 9.5 pc in September quarter: Icra

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The contraction in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) may have narrowed to 9.5 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal from 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter, says a report. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) will release the GDP data for the second quarter of FY21 on November 27.

In a report on Thursday, rating agency Icra said the Year-on-Year (YoY) contraction in Indian GDP (at constant 2011-12 prices) is estimated to have narrowed appreciably to 9.5 per cent in Q2 FY2021 from 23.9 per cent in Q1 FY2021, as the economy recovered from the lows of the pandemic-induced lockdown.

It said the contraction in the Gross Value Added

(GVA) at basic prices is expected to have moderated considerably to 8.5 per cent in the July-September quarter from 22.8 per cent in the previous three months.

The ease in GVA would be led by industry to 9.3 per cent from (-) 38.1 per cent, driven primarily by manufacturing and construction and services to (-) 10.2 per cent from (-) 20.6 per cent, it said. Icra's principal economist Aditi Nayar said a substantial recovery in manufacturing and construction is likely to underpin the expected improvement in the performance of the industrial GVA in the second quarter of the current fiscal. Various sectors of manufacturing recorded an improvement in demand and volumes in the September quarter although the performance was admittedly uneven.

# Reliance Retail completes ₹47,265 cr fundraise from 10.09% stake sale

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries on Thursday said it has completed the sale of about 10 per cent stake in its retail unit to a clutch of foreign investors for ₹47,265 crore.

Since September 25, the company has sold 10.09 per cent stake in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) to private equity firms Silver Lake Partners, KKR, GIC, TPG and General Atlantic, as well as sovereign wealth funds Mubadala, ADIA and PIF.

"RRVL has received cumulative subscription amount of ₹47,265 crore from the following financial partners and allotted 69.27 crore equi-

ty shares to them," the company said in a statement.

Silver Lake Partners bought 2 per cent stake in two tranches for ₹9,375 crore while KKR invested ₹5,550 crore for 1.19 per cent interest.

GIC and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (AIDA) each bought 1.18 per cent for ₹5,512.50 crore.

The UAE's Mubadala bought 1.33 per cent stake for ₹6,247.50 crore. Public Investment Fund, the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia, bought 2.04 per cent stake for ₹9,555 crore.

Besides, General Atlantic invested ₹3,675 crore for 0.78 per cent stake and TPG put in ₹1,837.50 crore for 0.39 per cent interest.

# CENTRE TO SC ₹5,270 cr credited in interest waiver plan under moratorium

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that ₹5,270 crore has been credited to 13.12 crore accounts in the interest waiver plan so far.

The Centre has subsidised compound interest for a 6-month moratorium for all loans up to ₹2 crore. Mehta submitted before a bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan that the government is on top of the matter and it is taking all the necessary steps.

Mehta submitted that pre-COVID defaulters cannot benefit from a fresh resolution

framework and the committee for resolution framework for COVID related stress has assessed various sectors. Detailing other measures, he assured the top court that the Disaster Management Authority has done whatever it could.

Mehta told the Supreme Court that it is the responsibility of the banks to credit compound interest waiver for loans up to 2 crores, not for consumers to remind the banks of this scheme. He added that the IBC process has already been suspended since March to stop companies from slipping into bankruptcy.

# Indian tech start-up 114 AI Innovation bags UK-US space contract

London: An Indian tech start-up is among 10 winners to bag same-day contracts worth up to 53,000 pounds to fast-track the development of their innovations after directly pitching to the UK, US and NATO military leaders their solutions to key challenges within the aerospace and defence industry. 114 AI Innovation LLP, a Delhi-registered firm set up two years ago, won the inaugural International Space Pitch Day with its "Spacewise" concept for data analysis in real-time. The joint UK-US pitch initiative aims to find, fund and fast-track innovation and technology that would give advantage to military personnel and operations in the space domain.

# No revision in petrol, diesel prices as OMCs long wait continues

New Delhi: Oil marketing companies (OMCs) did not revise retail price of petrol and diesel on Thursday maintaining the trend set almost two months back when fuel prices were last revised. So, petrol price in the national capital continued to remain at ₹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 at ₹70.46, ₹76.86, ₹75.95 and ₹73.99, respectively. With no revision on Thursday, petrol price has now remained at the same level for 58 days now, while diesel price has been static for 48 days.

**BPIT**  
**BHAGWAN PARSHURAM INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
(A Unit of Bhartiya Brahmin Charitable Trust)  
PSP-4, Sector-17 (Opp. Sector-11) Rohini, New Delhi-110089  
Tel # - 27571080, 27572900 | email-bpitindia@yahoo.com

**NOTICE FOR ADMISSIONS UNDER MANAGEMENT QUOTA**  
Application are invited from the eligible students, who fulfill the eligibility conditions as stipulated by GGSIP University by 04.12.2020, for provisional admission in B.Tech (CSE/IT/ECE/EEE), LE- B.Tech (CSE/IT/ECE/EEE), BBA & MBA for the Academic Session 2020-21. Criteria for admission and Reservations shall be followed as stipulated as per the GGSIP University Directives.

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Online Bids (Under Two Bid System) from Prospective vendors/ firms (firms registered vendors on CPPP (Defence Procurement Portal) using their personal digital signature can only participate) are invited by the Directorate of Personnel Officers-3, for and on behalf of the President of India for Procurement of IAF Publicity items listed in Part II of this RFP. Details of Procurement under Progress are as follows-

Description and specification	PROCUREMENT OF IAF PUBLICITY ITEMS
Period and terms of delivery	As per RFP terms and conditions
Published date	12 Nov 2020 at 1700 Hrs
Bid document download	13 Nov 2020 at 1000 Hrs
Clarification Start date	16 Nov 2020 at 0900 Hrs
Clarification End Date	20 Nov 2020 at 1700 Hrs
Pre-bid Meeting	25 Nov 2020 at 1100 Hrs
Online and Physical Bid submission Start	26 Nov 2020 at 1000 Hrs
Online and Physical Bid submission End	04 Dec 2020 at 1030 Hrs
Opening of Tender Box for Physical Verification of Documents	10 Dec 2020 at 1100 hrs
Opening of Technical Bids	11 Dec 20 at 1100 Hrs
Commercial bid opening start	Will be intimated in due course after Technical Evaluation

Davp 10802/11/0013/2021

**SEMAYA LIMITED**  
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS SUNRISE AGRO PRODUCTS LIMITED)  
CIN : L01111DL1985PLC021268  
Ph. No: 011-27132054; Email Id: semayalimited@gmail.com; Website: www.semayalimited.com  
Regd. Off: Registered Office: Flat No. 211, Anirikh Bhawan 22, K. G. Marg Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001

Extract of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter & Half Year ended on September 30, 2020 (Amount in Lakhs)

Particulars	Standalone				
	Quarter ended (30/09/2020)	Preceding 3 Months Ended (30/06/2020)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (30/09/2019)	Half year ended (30/09/2020)	Year to date figures for the Half year ended (31/03/2020)
Total Income from Operations (net)	4,349.52	156.11	3.97	4,505.63	5.93
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(70.17)	(4.67)	2.56	(74.84)	(2.65)
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(70.17)	(4.67)	2.56	(74.84)	(2.65)
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax)	(70.17)	(4.67)	1.89	(74.84)	(2.65)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	(70.17)	(4.67)	1.89	(74.84)	(2.65)
Paid-up equity share capital [Face value Rs. 10 per share]	24.80	24.80	24.80	24.80	24.80
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserves as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous Year)	441.37	511.54	511.10	441.37	441.37
Earnings per share - (after extraordinary items) - (of Rs. 10/- each)	(28.29)	(1.88)	0.76	(30.18)	(1.07)
Diluted earnings per share - (after exceptional items) - (of Rs. 10/- each)	(28.29)	(1.88)	0.76	(30.18)	(1.07)

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Standalone results for the quarter and half year ended on September 30, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter & Half Year Ended on 30th September, 2020 are available on the Stock Exchange website www.mseil.in and on the company's website www.semayalimited.com. The above financial results were taken on record by the Board in their meeting dated 13th November, 2020.

For Semaya Limited (Formerly Known as Sunrise Agro Products Limited) Sd/-  
Kanwar Pal Managing Director DIN: 08460184

Place: Delhi Date: 13/11/2020

**SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Nisha, D/o Sanjay Poddhar R/o H.No. 77/8A, Rubber Factory Wali Gali, Near Pritampuri Dharamsala, Bhajanpura, Delhi has been kidnapped since 24.10.2020 from her house. In this regard, FIR No. 620/20, dated 03.11.20 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Nisha, Gender: Female, Age: about 17 years, Height: 4'10", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Build: Thin, Wearing: Red Colour top, black colour pajama and slipper on her feet. If anyone has any information regarding this kidnapped girl, kindly inform SHO/ Bhajanpura, Delhi.

E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
DP/425/NE/2020

SHO P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-22560741, 22561071



**UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY**

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found in drowsy condition at Kotha No 51, GB Road, Kamla Market, Delhi after that he was admitted in Lady Harding Hospital where patient died during treatment, dated 09.11.2020. In this regard a DD No. 64A dated 09.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification at LHMC Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hrs. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 30 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Sallow, Build : Medium, Face : Round Wearing : Lining shirt and grey colour pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi DP/491/CD/2020 Ph.: 011- 23230623 & 23233743



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

To whomsoever it may concern

This is to inform the general public that following share certificate(s) of pfizer limited having its registered office Pfizer limited, pfizer centre patel estate, patel estate road, off s v road, jogeshwari west, mumbai-400102, registered in the name(s) of the following shareholder(s) has/have been lost by the registered holder(s).

Folio	Name of the holder(s)	Certificate	Distinctive nos	No of shares
P0033358	MAHMOHAN KAPUR	110587	6538905-6538914	10
	JAGMOHAN KAPUR	110588	6538915-6538924	10
		110589	6538925-6538934	10
		110590	6538935-6538944	10
		110591	6538945-6538952	8
		160030	10999950-10999959	20
		308670	17251955-17252004	50
		308671	17252005-17252022	18
<b>Total</b>				<b>136</b>

The public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share certificate(s). Any person(s) has/have any claim in respect of the said share certificate(s) should lodge such claim with the company or its registrar and transfer agents karvy computer share pvt ltd, karvy selenium tower b, plot no. 31-32, gachibowli, financial district, hyderabad-500032, within 15 days of publication of this notice. After which no claim will be entertained and the company may proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) to the registered holder(s).

Place: Delhi Date: 20-11-2020

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Durga Kumari, D/o: Ramesh Ram, R/o: 141, B-Block Manglapuri, Phase-2, Palam, Delhi has been reported missing since 30.10.2020 from above address. In this regard DD No. 56A dated 31.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Palam Village, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Durga Kumari, Age: 18 Years 04 Months, Height: 4'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Thin, Hair: Black, Wearing: Orange colour suit - Salwar and Black colour Jutti in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. Palam Village, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in  
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639  
SHO Police Station Palam Village, Delhi DP/387/SW/2020 Ph: 011-25365979, 25365981, 7065036227



Trend  
Blazer

**'I repeat my clothes and shoes'**

Actor **SUSHMITA SEN** says she cannot live with the idea of spending big amounts of money on clothes or shoes just to be photographed once in it, and that is why she likes to repeat what she wears.



"As many have come to see the way I dress, I am hardly conscious about the fashion critics while picking my outfits. Whether it is with heels or clothing, comfort is my top priority," Sushmita said. After her appearance in the 2015 Bengali film *Nirbaak*, Sushmita made a comeback earlier this year in the web series *Aarya*. At the moment, she is judging a digital reality fashion show.

**'It was my love for cinema that made me enter this field. I wanted to do something different and make a difference in the way costumes were seen in films. I introduced the concept of styling and look. It's been a non-stop journey of 30 years and I am still working. Isn't it the most defining moment of my career?'**  
—Manish Malhotra



**AMITABH BACHCHAN** has shared his wisdom about acting on his latest post on Instagram. In a picture, Big B posted, he looks dapper in formal suit and points at his figure that is dressed as a politician in Khadi Nehru jacket, matching Khadi cap and a deep pink kurta. "An actor is a fool for god. Stop explaining yourself. Shut up and act," he wrote. He will next be seen in Nagraj Manjule's *Jhund*, the Emraan Hashmi co-starrer *Chehre* and Ayan Mukerji's *Brahmastra*, starring Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt.

**Jason finds yoga the 'hardest thing'**

Actor **JASON MOMOA** is always in great shape thanks to his fitness regime. But yoga, he says, is the hardest thing he has ever tried. The *Aquaman* star recalled how he has been staying active during the past few months amid the pandemic, and how he tried practicing yoga with his wife Lisa Bonet. "So I tried yoga the other day, and it was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," Momoa said. "I'd rather squat a car. Climbing El Capitan would be easier than doing two hours of yoga. I can't bend over anymore! My hamstrings are so tight. It's pathetic," the 41-year-old joked.



# LET'S REBUILD BETTER

School closures, isolation and a lack of face-to-face interaction have deprived kids of quality education and necessary exposure. On World Child Rights Day, we analyse how the rights of children can be safeguarded amid the pandemic

As people rebuild their lives post-lockdown, they face new realities and feel the need to change their ways and means. The arena of the development sector is no different. In particular, the pandemic has brought to the forefront the challenges of protecting and upholding the well-being of children, young people, their families and communities, especially those marginalised, worldwide. Millions have been rendered homeless and without a livelihood. The health and safety of their children are endangered. A long-term adverse impact on children's health, development and overall well-being are inevitable.

Children without parental care or those at the risk of losing one are among the most vulnerable. It is perhaps debatable whether the virus per se affects children as severely as adults, but it is certain that children are adversely impacted by containment measures. School closures and isolation have meant that they are deprived of quality education, face to face interaction and playtime with other kids and social connect at large. While this phase might be an aberration to most adults, it is however, rather disruptive for children, who are in their formative years, denying them opportunities for physical, intellectual and emotional well-being and development. Their survival, developmental, protection and participation rights are at stake. All children's rights must be protected, promoted and taken into consideration in response to the

COVID-19 outbreak and its aftermath.

Among the most vulnerable children, who get left out in the developmental agenda are 'children without parental care'. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) mandates that every child has a right to a family and that 'children have the best chance of developing their full potential in a family environment'. Family-like alternative care for 'children without parental care' where the best interests of a child are the primary consideration, upholds and protects the principles of non-discrimination as well as their rights.

Therefore, more developmental efforts must be channelled to the welfare of such children as well as those who are at the risk of losing it. It is critical to ensure that the child protection initiatives are geared to prevent unnecessary family separation. This can be done by providing social protection services that support the income of families and their well-being. Such services can include: Implementing or augmenting cash transfer programmes, improving access to health, disability services, housing during and after the outbreak, directly delivering food, hygiene items and kits, enhancing connectivity access for remote education to bridge the digital divide, to provide parenting support and expanding access to mental health and psychosocial support to address the consequences of isolation on children and their families.



**COVID-19 SHOULD NEVER BE USED AS A REASON OR AN EXCUSE TO NEGLECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY THE MOST VULNERABLE**

In the case of children, who are separated from their families and are now without the parental care, we should guarantee good quality alternative care. It is all about building a safe environment — a place kids without parental care can call 'home', where they grow to achieve their true potential.

Also, we must not forget social workers who are at the forefront of containing and mitigating the impact of the pandemic on our children and their families. No resources should be spared to ensure the well-being, health, protection, training, preparedness and labor rights of social workers so that they can continue making their invaluable contributions.

COVID-19 should never be used as a reason or an excuse to regress or neglect the rights of all children, especially those most vulnerable. Promoting and protecting child rights is a moral obligation. We, the civil society, the government, the private sector as well as the communities need to come together to help every child build a future, support every family and strengthen our society as a whole. Reflecting on how to bring our lives back to gear after the pandemic and to build back a better world, we cannot help but think about how we must stand together stronger at these unprecedented times. The time to act is now.

(The author Sumanta Kar is the Senior Deputy National Director, SOS Children's Villages of India.)

## Aditya explores various genres

Actor Aditya Roy Kapur who has completed 11 years in the industry this year is humbled because of the appreciation he has received for his role in the dark comedy — *Ludo*.

The actor portrayed the role of Akash Chauhan with an on point comic timing. Director Anurag Basu also needs to be applauded for exploring this new side of Aditya. Romancing co-star Sanya Malhotra for the very first time, it's a delight to watch their fresh chemistry on screen.



**'It's really heartwarming to see so much love coming my way. It's always nice to see your hard work being appreciated. I hope to continue entertaining the audience with my next film'**

What's interesting is that over a span of time, fans saw Aditya exploring different shades with each filmmaker that he has paired up with. While Mohit Suri's *Malang* established him as the new deadly action hero, its now with Anurag's *Ludo* that the audience has seen his comic avatar. In one of the portions where he's seen doing a mimicry of megastar Amitabh Bachchan, the actor has earned himself immense praise and made the sequence go viral on social media.

Humbled with all the rave reviews and love coming in, Aditya said, "It's really heartwarming to see so much love coming my way. It's nice to see your hard work being appreciated and I hope to continue doing so with my next film as well."

Being hailed by the audience as a versatile actor, he adds, "Its been a good year because of the kind of response *Malang* received and now *Ludo*. Bringing different genres to the audience is really fulfilling and exciting as an actor. I am really thankful to everyone for giving my character so much love and appreciation."

The film is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Anurag Basu, Divya Khosla Kumar, Taani Somarita Basu and Krishan Kumar.

# Puppy love

The BMW X3M is very effective in turning a frown upside down



KUSHAN MITRA



because speeding fines are petty change. You buy a BMW X3M because you want to understand how automotive engineering has developed to the point where you can stick a stonking big engine, in this case a 3-litre six-cylinder engine producing 480 horsepower, into a Sports Utility Vehicle (or Sports Activity Vehicle as BMW calls it) and still make it handle like a sedan.

The BMW X3M is no ordinary, it is a bonkers car. But you forget that you are in a two-ton SUV when you drive this car because you see the numbers on the heads-up display blur. You are at the urban speed limit in a few seconds and your eyes are scan-

ning overhead gantries for speed cameras. You see a corner or a sweeping turn and think you should dab the brakes but you don't need to as the tires hold onto the road even as they turn at speeds that should not be possible. Your brain thinks 'Seriously? How can a car do this?' And you smile, the widest smile you have in a long time, particularly in a year where everything else seems to have gone wrong. Although BMW has hardcoded speed alarms into the system. And once you stop you are awed at how far the Germans have gotten in developing cars that physics doesn't seem to matter anymore.

What genuinely surprises me about this X3M is the pricing, a standard X3 30i costs ₹60 lakh, this X3M which is an import and has all sorts of 'M' things such as the differential, costs just under a crore. Yes, it is expensive but not much when you consider what you get. It is not something that just takes you from point A to B and shows the world that you've done well. It is something that is an incredible feat of engineering and makes sense at various levels.

# FOR A SWEET TOOTH



Chef DAVID EDWARD RAJ suggests how plant-based sweeteners can replace the traditional options to address the sugar cravings of diabetics

India is one of the largely infected countries by a disease other than the Coronavirus — diabetes. It has been here for the longest of time, and little or no attention has been paid to it unless it turns into a question of life or death. However, multiple efforts have been taken to educate the masses on limiting sugar intake. As a result, people are getting increasingly conscious about eating habits and are inclined towards reducing their intakes. In recent times, people have realised the fatality of consuming ample amount sugar and sugar-infused food products.

Sugar is an unavoidable part of our daily diet, however, could be highly dangerous too. To name a few of the side effects — cancer, diabetes, obesity, heart sickness, etc. As a result, we are witnessing a rise in people looking for alternatives for sugar, especially during the festive season where sweets

play a prominent role on the table.

So why not add some sweetening elements through natural ingredients? They bring in the required taste and at the same time, keep the health in check. Following are some of the plant-based sweeteners that are the best replacements of refined sugar.

## COCONUT & PALM SUGAR

Even though sugar is usually extracted from sugarcane, which is also plant-based, but the only difference is that normal sugar is refined and hence, unhealthy. Hence, coconut and palm sugar are healthier options to choose from. For example, if one uses jaggery or coconut sugar to prepare *Kheer*, the taste will not be compromised rather would make the dish full of nourishment and will be very rich in flavour. Coconut *laddoos* made with coconut sugar are also delicious and at the same time, nutri-



tious. We just need to avoid eating regular sweets and replace them with coconut laddoos made with millet and ragi flour, blended with cashew nuts and almonds. It tastes really good and at the same time, the health factor is kept in check. They add nutrients to the food and have low glycemic index. Hence, coconut sugar is considered to be one of the best options for diabetes.

## DATES

Dates are rich in dietary fibre as well as minerals like calcium, magnesium and potassium. It is one of the best substitutes for refined sugar. This can be used in desserts and other dishes as a date syrup and satisfy the sugar cravings for a diabetic person, providing the necessary nutrition.

## BANANAS

The fruit is a good source of vitamins B6 and C and is rich in fibre and potassium. Due to its delicate taste, it's an ideal natural sweetener.

## JAGGERY

When it comes to replacement of white sugar, a lot of options are available in the

market. For example, we all use jaggery at home and it is one resource, which is the most commonly-used alternative for sugar.

## STEVIA

Last, but not the least, is stevia, a plant-based sweetener. A pinch of it can fulfill the requirement for a teaspoon of refined sugar. It is one of the most commonly-used replacement for diabetics to maintain their sugar level without hindering the taste.

## HEALTHY DESSERTS

First, the Honey coconut pudding with chia seeds topped with berry — sugar less. Second, an Avocado chocolate mousse is a go-to healthy but delicious dessert. Another is the Honey, raisin and carrot cake — the name itself sounds perfect, isn't it?

When it comes to satisfying the sweet tooth, we mostly think of the traditional sweets. However, with people wanting to bring a change in their lives by adopting healthier-eating practices after the current pandemic, changing the way we consume sweets should be the priority. (The writer is director, culinary development & innovation, Elixir India.)

# R E C I P E S

## CARROT CORN PANCAKE



- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Carrot (peeled and grated): 1 cup
  - Corn (blanched): ¾ cup
  - Whole wheat flour: 1 cup
  - Onions (finely chopped): 1/3 cup
  - Sandwich spread: 5 tbsp
  - Coriander (finely chopped): ¼ cup

- Yogurt (whisked): 1/3 cup
- Eggs: 3
- Baking powder: 1 tbsp
- Baking soda: ¼ tsp
- Green chillies (finely chopped): ½ tsp
- Butter as required
- Salt and pepper to taste

## METHOD

- In a large bowl, add eggs, yogurt and sandwich spread. Mix well. Add carrots, onions, chillies, corn and season with salt and pepper. Mix it well again.
- In another bowl, add flour, baking soda and baking powder. Blend it.
- Then put the dry flour mixture to the veggie-spread mixture. Mix to form a thick pancake batter. The batter should be of thick creamy consistency. Add coriander leaves and mix well.
- Heat flat griddle or pan. Grease it with little butter.
- Pour a ladle full of pan cake batter and cook for a couple of minutes.
- Gently flip to cook on the other side for another two to three minutes. Take the pancake off the heat. Repeat the same for the rest of the batter.
- Serve hot with Del Monte mint mayonnaise along the side.

Courtesy: Del Monte.

## PAD THAI NOODLE

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Pad Thai sauce
- Pad Thai noodles
- Oil
- Protein
- Veggies (fresh bean sprouts and shredded carrots)
- Garlic
- Green onions
- Eggs
- Toppings (chopped peanuts, fresh lime wedge, extra crushed red chilli flakes)
- Warm water: 30 ml

### METHOD

- In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook flat noodles until



cooked and then drain.

- In a small bowl, whisk together lime juice, brown sugar, fish sauce, soy sauce and cayenne

pepper. Set aside.

- In a large non-stick pan over medium-high heat, heat oil. Add ginger garlic paste and cook until fragrant. Then add bell pepper, red cabbage, pok choy and cook until it gets tender for about four minutes.
- Add soy sauce, vinegar, chilli sauce, sweet chilli and mix it well until coated. Then season it with salt and pepper.
- Add cooked noodles and toss until combined. Pour in the lime juice and toss until the noodles are coated.
- Garnish with green onions and roasted peanuts before serving.

Courtesy: Atul Vashistha, Pablo, The Food Cartel.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for general information that I ASHOK KUMAR SINGH Son of JAGDISH PRASAD Residing at FLAT No.10, JAI MATA KALYANI CGHS LTD. PLOT No.31, SECTOR-4, DWARKA, NEW DELHI declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as TANAY in my minor son's namely TANAY KUMAR aged 15 years in his Passport No.01191239. The actual name of my minor son is TANAY KUMAR respectively which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice hereby given that certificate(s) in respect of below mentioned Equity shares of the M/s. CERA SANITARYWARE LIMITED ('Company') has / have been lost / misplaced / stolen and the holder(s) of the said shares, Mr./Mrs. SUNITA GOEL has / have applied to the Company at the Registered Office of the Company for issue of Duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu of the Original Share Certificate No. 7303 belonging to Folio No. - 00004589. Any person having claims / objections in the said shares, should communicate to the Company at the Registered Office of the Company within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the Company shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.

Place : Delhi Date : 19-11-2020

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY OPEN TENDER**

BATCH No. 50/20 Date: 17.11.2020

E-Tender Notice for supply of materials - "Participation in through" web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in offers are invited for supply of the following materials: The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hr. SI.No. 01, Tender No. 03203475C, Brief Description : Concentric Valve assly. Quantity : 94 Nos., Published on time: 16.11.2020/ 15:50:20, Closing on : 14.12.2020, Fund: Fund is available. Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal.

Principal Chief Material Manager PR/0965/HQ/Store/T/20-21/36

Stay protected from Corona

Wear your mask properly

Frequently wash your hands with soap

Maintain safe distance

NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

**Govt. of Bihar**

**Department of Agriculture**

**Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna. (State Horticulture Mission)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Pant Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800001

Phone Fax: 0612-2521776, e-mail: md-hort-bih@nic.in, dir-bhds-bih@nic.in, Website :horticulture.bihar.gov.in

**NOTICE – INVITING e-TENDER (Re-Tender)**

**e-Tender Enquiry for selection of Executing Agency for Re-modernisation of Model Floriculture Centre at Bhagan Bigha, Nalanda District, Bihar.**

Through e-procurement mode only over (<https://eproc.bihar.gov.in>)

**e-Tender Enquiry for selection of Executing Agency for Re-modernisation of Model Floriculture Centre at Bhagan Bigha, Nalanda District, Bihar.**

The Government of Bihar wants to re-modernise Model Floriculture Centre at Bhagan Bigha, Nalanda District, Bihar. Towards this, the Bihar Horticulture Development society (BHDS) invites e-tender under two bid system (Technical & Financial) from reputed National/International organisation. The selected firm/agency will be responsible for setting up the structures like – Hi-Tech Polyhouse, Naturally Ventilated Polyhouse, Shadenet House, production of flower crops, planting material, other components and running the centre for three years as mentioned in the bid documents.

Tender document including general terms & conditions for technical qualification, specification and quantity is available on website and it can only be downloaded through e-Procurement on payment of a demand draft of Rs. 2500.00 drawn in favour of Mission Director, Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna. For e-Procurement scan copy of Demand Draft of Rs. 2500 has to be uploaded on the portal and same has to be submitted in original through post or courier or any medium on or before Technical bid Opening date.

SN	Particulars	Details
1.	Start Date & Time for Downloading of Tender document	07.12.2020 (11:00 Hrs.)
2.	Last Date & Time for Downloading of Tender document	28.12.2020 (10:00 Hrs.)
3.	Date and time of Pre-bid meeting	16.12.2020 (12:00 Hrs.)
4.	Last Date & Time for submission/uploading of offer/bid	28.12.2020 (15:00 Hrs.)
5.	Date and time of Technical bid opening	29.12.2020 (15:00 Hrs.)
6.	Date and time for technical presentation	To be intimated to technically successful bidder only
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening over videoconferencing / virtual mode	To be intimated to technically successful bidder only
8.	Nodal officer/Contact person for queries	Dr. Ajay Kumar, Deputy Director Horticulture Mobile No. : 9431818925
9.	It is mandatory to submit the EMD in hard copy or original on or before the opening of technical bid	

Mission Director, Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna reserves the right to revise/change/cancel the Tender without assigning any reasons thereof.

**Mission Director**

PR. No. 008556 (Agriculture) 2020-21 State Horticulture Mission, Bihar, Patna

नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहाय्य हेतु Toll Free No.: 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।  
 वाद्य सामग्री-संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सहाय्य हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

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।

**1. अभ्यर्थी के लिए अर्हता 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।

**2. 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-अभिप्रेमाणित प्रति, जाति प्रमाण-पत्र (सक्षम प्राधिकार द्वारा निर्गत), आधार कार्ड, आवासीय प्रमाण-पत्र (सक्षम प्राधिकार द्वारा निर्गत), रवंग के नाम के Active बैंक खाता (जिसमें खाता संख्या एवं आईओएफओएस 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 (मु0)

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

# India will feel extra pressure without Kohli in Tests: Ponting

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India will "not be clear in their own mind" about their batting order after the departure of talismanic captain Virat Kohli at the end of first Test Down Under, feels Australian great Ricky Ponting.

The 32-year-old Kohli has been granted paternity leave by the BCCI to be with his wife for the birth of their first child. "India will feel that without Kohli there (for three Tests), for his batting and leadership, that'll put all sorts of pressure on different players," Ponting was quoted as saying by *cricket.Com.Au*.

"You'd think (Ajinkya) Rahane will take over the captaincy, which will put extra pressure on him, and they've got to find someone to bat at that really important No 4 spot.

"I don't think they'll be clear in their own mind, even now, what their batting order will look like for the first Test. Who's going to open, who'll bat at four when Kohli goes?" Ponting added.

The Indian bowling attack will comprise Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami in lead roles. The tourists will call on Ishant Sharma if he recovers from the side injury sustained at the IPL while Umesh Yadav



Indian skipper Virat Kohli arrives at crease to bat during 4th Test against Australia at SCG in January 2019 *cricket.com.au*

and Navdeep Saini are also being asked around Australia. "The questions that are being asked around Australia with Pucovski and Green, I think India have got a few more questions to answer. "Shami, Jasprit Bumrah —

will it be Ishant, will it be Umesh Yadav, will it be a young guy like Saini or Siraj?"

"They've got a lot of questions to ask as well. And which spinner? They've got a few spinners in their squad and they've got to figure out which one to pick for the pink-ball game in Adelaide," Ponting said.

India made history by winning their first Test series on Australian soil in the 2018-19 series. However, the hosts were then without their star batsmen

David Warner and Steve Smith, who were serving bans for their involvement in the 2018 ball-tampering incident.

"The one thing we haven't spoken enough about is yes India were really good here last time, but with those guys (Smith and Warner) missing at the top of the order, that leaves a big gap in any team," Ponting said.

The 45-year-old backed incumbent opener Joe Burns to start ahead of the young Will Pucovski.

"Burns hasn't done much wrong. If you go back to last summer, he played really well in the first Test in Brisbane and I remember saying then to lock him in and give him a good go at it for a while.

"We read a lot into what happened in the first few rounds of Shield cricket, and because they haven't played a Test match for so long, a lot of people are forgetting what happened last summer."

Pucovski is coming off back-to-back double hundreds in the Sheffield Shield and is in sensational form. His inclusion has set up a competition with Burns, who is feeling the heat after a disastrous start to the first-class summer.

"But I think that's where this one becomes a unique one; Burns is about 30, and you've got a young guy who seems to be at the peak of his powers, who's been touted as a very good player for Australia and has been for a few years.

"That's where the decision is going to be a really tough one for them."

Head coach Justin Langer

## Green's ODI debut hinges on ability to bowl: Langer

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Cameron Green has earned the right to make his Test debut as a batsman but needs to make his case as an all-rounder for the ODIs against India starting November 27, said Australian coach Justin Langer.

Green, who can also bowl express pace, and Will Pucovski are among the five fresh faces in the Australian Test series against India, which will take place after three ODIs and as many T20s.

"In one-day cricket he'll only play if he can bowl a few overs because that's how we'll set up the team. He hasn't had the white-ball experience to come in as a pure batsman but



if he can bowl a few overs, my gosh he becomes a good prospect," Langer was quoted as saying by *cricket.Com.Au*.

"But Test cricket is different. He's earned the right to play Test cricket on his batting.

I love watching him bat. For such a tall batsman, he's got so much time."

Green has been rated highly by the likes of Greg Chappell, who called the 21-year-old the best batting talent he had seen since the great Ricky Ponting.

Green said he would gain a lot of experience from his debut series, whether he plays or not.

"The results I've had in four-day cricket are definitely a lot better than what I have shown in T20s. If I don't play, I'll get a lot of experience and hopefully take a lot out of it.

"There's probably no better place to keep learning and evolving your game than around world-class coaches and players," said Green.

## Lyon wants to go beyond 500 Test wickets

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australian history to reach 100 Tests, in the fourth and final match against India in Brisbane early next year.

The veteran spinner last played a Test in January this year before the Covid-19 pandemic shut down cricket across the globe. He says the break has made him hungrier to perform.

"Probably it's driven my love for the game," Lyon said. "Without being able to play the game that you love so much and not being able to play that regularly that's driven my passion to get out there and that hunger to perform well again."

"The most I've missed is that pressure that comes along with playing Test cricket. Missing that adrenaline."

Lyon will become just the 10th player in

Australian history to reach 100 Tests, in the fourth and final match against India in Brisbane early next year.

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## Pujara gets into groove

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Cheteshwar Pujara, who has not played competitive cricket since March, had an extensive net session here on Thursday and looked comfortable facing the fast bowlers as he geared up for what promises to be a gruelling red-ball series against Australia.

Pujara batted both at the side nets and the centre strip where he faced Ishan Porel, Kartik Tyagi, who are with the

team as net bowlers, Umesh Yadav and Ravichandran Ashwin.

The BCCI posted a short video of Pujara's net session on social media.

The Indian team is allowed to train in its 14-day quarantine, having arrived here last week.

While most India players competed in the IPL, Test regulars Pujara and Hanuma Vihari joined the national team bubble in the UAE

before reaching Australia.

Pujara, who last played the Ranji Trophy final, was instrumental in India's historic win over Australia two years ago and his role at number three will be of immense value, especially after Virat Kohli's departure following the first Test.

In Bengaluru, Australia-bound Rohit Sharma also started his fitness training at the National Cricket Academy on Thursday.

## Proteas won't take knee against Eng: Boucher

CAPE TOWN: South African players won't take the knee in their limited over series against England at home as they have already expressed their support towards the *Black Lives Matter* movement during the 3TC game in July, coach Mark Boucher has said.

South Africa will appear in their first international assignment since the Covid-19-induced lockdown in March when they host England for three T20Is and as many ODIs, beginning on November 27 at Newlands.

South African players, match officials, administrators and commentators, including director of cricket Graeme Smith, had taken the knee while wearing black arm-bands with the BLM logo on it at the 3TCricket match in Centurion for the Solidarity Cup on July 12.

"I have spoken to the guy (Lungi Ngidi) who was driving the whole movement within our set-up, he is pretty happy that we have done what we needed to do, in particular at that (3TC) game," Mark Boucher told *ESPNCricinfo*.

"It's not something that we



have to continue to show. It's something that you have to live... If guys who brought it up are happy with it, that's great, but if they feel we have to do more, that will be a chat and that they are open to express their opinions."

### 3 CRICKETERS ISOLATED

Three players of the South African men's cricket team have been placed under isolation after one of them tested positive for Covid-19 ahead of the white-ball series against England, the country's cricket board confirmed. Cricket South Africa though, did not disclose the names of the three players.

## Medvedev beats Djoker

AP ■ LONDON

Daniil Medvedev is enjoying the ATP Finals a lot better in his second appearance.

Medvedev secured a spot in the semifinals of the season-ending tournament by dominating five-time champion Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-3 on Wednesday for his second straight win of the group stage.

Medvedev, who lost all three of his group matches last year on his tournament debut, has now beaten Djokovic in three of their last four meetings. The top-ranked Serb can still advance if he beats 2018 champion Alexander Zverev in a winner-takes-all match on Friday.

Zverev kept his tournament hopes alive with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Diego Schwartzman earlier on Wednesday.

Medvedev broke Djokovic three straight times to go from 3-3 in the first set to a 3-0 lead in the second. The first break came after a marathon game when the Russian finally converted his third break point when Djokovic missed a forehand after a long rally.



Djokovic then double-faulted on set point and never looked likely to stage a comeback in the second. Medvedev saved the only break point he faced at 2-0 and then secured the victory with a forehand winner on his first match point.

"He was just better, no question about it," Djokovic said. "Just not a great match from my side. I thought I could have and should have done better, but credit to him for playing on a high level."



Pep Guardiola has ended speculation over his Manchester City future after signing a new two-year contract extension on Thursday.

Guardiola was due to be out of contract at the end of this season and it had been suggested he might be ready to leave City. But the 49-year-old has now agreed to stay at the Etihad Stadium until at least 2023.

"Manchester City are pleased to announce that Pep Guardiola has signed a new two-year deal with the club," a statement on Man City's website said. Former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss Guardiola is midway through his fifth campaign with the Premier League and his new deal will extend what is already his longest stay at any club.

## Pep extends Man City stay

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

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## Belgium, Italy into Nations League finals

Romelu Lukaku helped fire Belgium into the UEFA Nations League finals by scoring twice in a 4-2 win over Denmark on Wednesday, while Italy also secured a place in the last four with victory away to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The world's number one-ranked side, Belgium only required a draw from their last League A, Group 2 game at home to Denmark behind closed doors in Leuven and took an early lead through Youri Tielemans.

Jonas Wind equalised for Denmark, but Lukaku got a second-half double and Kevin De Bruyne made sure of the victory for Roberto Martinez's side after Thibaut Courtois allowed a Nacer Chadli back-pass to squirm under his leg and in for an own goal.



Italy secured first place in Group 1 with a 2-0 triumph in Sarajevo thanks to a goal in each half from Torino's Andrea Belotti and Domenico Berardi of Sassuolo.

That ensured they finished a point ahead of the Netherlands, who came from behind to beat Poland 2-1 away with captain Georginio Wijnaldum scoring the winner after Memphis Depay's penalty cancelled out Kamil Jozwiak's opener.

Italy and Belgium join Spain and World Cup holders France in a final tournament which is expected to be held in Italy in October next year.

Before the finals, European national teams will start their 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign in March and then the



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21 or younger score in the same match for the first time since 1883.

Birkir Mar Saevarsson was sent off for Iceland who, like Bosnia, are relegated and will compete in League B in the next edition.

### WALES MOVE UP

Wales won promotion to League A with a 3-1 win over 10-man Finland that allowed them to top Group B4.

Despite manager Ryan Giggs being missing after his recent arrest on suspicion of assaulting his girlfriend, Wales came good with goals from Harry Wilson, Daniel James and Kieffer Moore. Teemu Pukki netted for Finland, who had left-back Jere Uronen sent off after just 12 minutes.

### CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION / SHORT TERMINATION / SHORT ORIGINATION / DIVERSION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel/Partially Cancel/Short Terminate/Short Originate/Divert following Passengers Special Trains/Festival Special Trains/Parcel Express Trains in view of the Kisan Agitation in Punjab:-

CANCELLATION OF MAIL / EXPRESS TRAINS	
Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02425/02426 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	20.11.2020
02462 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Express	20.11.2020
02461 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	21.11.2020
02011/02012 New Delhi-Kalka-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	20.11.2020
02029/02030 Amritsar Jn.-New Delhi-Amritsar Jn. Swarna Shatabdi Express	20.11.2020
05211 Darbhanga Jn.-Amritsar Jn. Express	20.11.2020
05212 Amritsar Jn.-Darbhanga Jn. Express	22.11.2020
02053/02054 Haridwar-Amritsar Jn.-Haridwar Express	20 & 21.11.2020
04656 Firozpur Cantt Jn. - Patna Jn. Express	20.11.2020
04655 Patna Jn. - Firozpur Cantt Jn. Express	21.11.2020
02422 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Express	20.11.2020
02421 Ajmer-Jammu Tawi Express	21.11.2020
02231 Lucknow - Chandigarh Express	20.11.2020
02232 Chandigarh-Lucknow Express	21.11.2020
04888 Barmer - Rishikesh Express	21.11.2020
04887 Rishikesh - Barmer Express	22.11.2020
04519 Delhi Jn.-Bhathinda Express	20.11.2020
04520 Bhathinda-Delhi Jn. Express	20 & 21.11.2020
02471/02472 Shri Ganganagar - Delhi Jn. - Shri Ganganagar Express	21.11.2020
02331 Howrah Jn. - Jammu Tawi Express	20.11.2020
02332 Jammu Tawi - Howrah Jn. Express	22.11.2020
09614 Amritsar Jn. - Ajmer Express	20.11.2020
02919 Dr. Ambedkar Nagar - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	20.11.2020
02920 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Express	22.11.2020

### PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02903 Golden Temple Mail	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 19.11.2020
02904 Golden Temple Mail	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	20.11.2020
02925 Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Special Express	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 19.11.2020
02926 Amritsar-Bandra Terminus Special Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	21.11.2020
02715 Sachkhand Express	at New Delhi	New Delhi-Amritsar	of 19.11.2020
02716 Sachkhand Express	from New Delhi	Amritsar-New Delhi	21.11.2020
03307 Dhanbad-Firozpur Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Firozpur	of 19.11.2020
03308 Firozpur-Dhanbad Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Firozpur-Ambala Cantt.	21.11.2020
04649/73 Jaynagar-Amritsar Saryu Yamuna Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 19.11.2020
04650/74 Amritsar-Jaynagar Saryu Yamuna Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	21.11.2020
02057 New Delhi - Una Himachal Janshatabdi	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt. - Una Himachal	20.11.2020
02058 Una Himachal - New Delhi Janshatabdi	from Ambala Cantt.	Una Himachal - Ambala Cantt.	21.11.2020
02237 Varanasi-Jammu Tawi Festival Special	at Saharanpur	Saharanpur-Jammu Tawi	20.11.2020
02238 Jammu Tawi-Varanasi Festival Special	from Saharanpur	Jammu Tawi-Saharanpur	21.11.2020
04651 Jaynagar-Amritsar Jn. Express Clone Special	at Delhi Jn.	Delhi Jn. - Amritsar Jn.	20.11.2020
08237 Korba-Amritsar Jn. Express Festival Special	at Meerut City	Meerut City-Amritsar Jn.	20.11.2020
08238 Amritsar Jn.-Korba Express Festival Special	from Meerut City	Amritsar Jn.-Meerut City	20.11.2020
09717 Jaipur-Daulatpur Chouk Express	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt. - Daulatpur Chouk	20.11.2020
09718 Daulatpur Chouk-Jaipur Express	from Ambala Cantt.	Daulatpur Chouk-Ambala Cantt.	21.11.2020
04653 New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Jn. Special	at Saharanpur	Saharanpur - Amritsar Jn.	20.11.2020
05934 Amritsar Jn.-Dibrugarh Special	from Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt. - Amritsar Jn.	20.11.2020

### DIVERSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Diverted Via	Date (from the Originating Station)
05909 Dibrugarh-Lalgarh Spl.	Rohtak-Bhiwani-Hisar-Hanumangarh	of 18.11.2020
05910 Lalgarh-Dibrugarh Spl.	Hanumangarh-Hisar-Bhiwani-Rohtak	20.11.2020

### PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF PARCEL SPECIAL TRAIN

Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
00464 Amritsar Jn.- Howrah	From Delhi Jn	Amritsar Jn. - Delhi Jn.	20.11.2020

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

Security Helpline No. 182

Integrated Helpline No. 139

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