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NEPAL, CHINA TO ANNOUNCE
REVISED HEIGHT OF EVEREST SOON

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ATALANTA STUN
LIVERPOOL AT ANFIELD

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10 VIVACITY



Farmers brave water cannons for Delhi Chalo

Punjab farmers break Haryana barricades, clash with cops

PNS/PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Farmers from Punjab faced water cannons and broke police barriers at the State's border with Haryana as they pushed towards the national Capital on Thursday on their "Delhi Chalo" march against the Centre's farm laws.

By late evening, a large group of them had reached the road toll plaza at Panipat, about 100 km from Delhi. Bhartiya Kisan Union (Haryana) leader Gurnam Singh said the protesters planned to spend the night there and will resume the march the next morning.

At the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu border, police and Punjab farmers in their tractor-trolleys were locked in a confrontation for a couple of hours in the morning.

Police made announcements on loudspeakers asking the farmers assembled on the Punjab side to disperse. But as protesters tried to push through barricades, the Haryana Police used a water cannon and lobbed teargas shells. Farmers chucked some steel barricades into the Ghaggar river from the bridge where they had been stopped.

Apart from this confrontation in Ambala district, there were face-offs between the protesters and police in Haryana's Sirsa, Kurukshetra, Fatehabad and Jind districts bordering Congress-run Punjab.

Later, Haryana Police DGP



Police deploy water cannons during a clash with farmers, as they marched towards Delhi protesting over the farm reform laws, at Punjab-Haryana border in Ambala district, on Thursday

PTI

Manoj Yadava praise the police for acted with "great restraint" against Punjab-based farmers who broke barricades during their "Delhi Chalo" march. He said the farmers took an aggressive stand and tried to disturb law and order by "pelt-ing stones" at police at many places. Some police personnel sustained injuries and police

and private vehicles were damaged, Yadava added.

Police had placed cement and steel barricades and parked trucks on the road to stop the farmers' tractor-trolleys, some of them laden with food for the planned two-day protest, which many felt could extend further. But a few hours later, at most border-points, the farmers were

let through.

At Shambhu, a few protesters initially managed to cross the barricades on foot. Later, police eased the blockade, allowing the tractors to proceed on the road to Delhi, 200 km away. But barricades were set up at other points on this Amritsar-Delhi highway that passes through Haryana.

At Karnal, there was another face-off and police again used a water cannon.

Police used water cannons also against protesters trying to enter Kaithal district, and at Khanauri border where farmers were protesting under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta-Ugarhan).

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Delhi Police girds up to stop kisan from entering Capital

Sand-laden trucks, barbed wires, boulder barricades ready to stop marching farmers

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Ready to maintain law and order situation in view of the "Delhi Chalo" protest march by farmers against the Centre's new farm laws, the Delhi Police personnel have been deployed in large numbers in the border areas of the national Capital.

Around five sand-laden trucks were stationed at Singhu border and police were seen putting barbed wires and boulder barricades to stop farmers' trolleys heading towards Delhi.

This is the first time that the city police has stationed trucks filled with sand at border points. Police said the border has not been sealed but they are checking all vehicles entering the national Capital.

Earlier, the Delhi Police had rejected requests from various farmers' organisations to protest in the national Capital against the Centre's new farm laws on November 26 and 27. The police had on Tuesday said legal action would be taken against the



Farmers shout slogans during a demonstration against the new farm laws at Gurudwara Majnu Ka Tila in New Delhi on Thursday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

protesting farmers if they come to the city for any gathering amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The farmers are scheduled to reach Delhi on Thursday through five highways connecting the city as part of their "Delhi Chalo" march call.

Delhi Police chief SN Shrivastava visited at Tikri and Singhu border to take stock of the situation.

"Regarding farmer organisations march to Delhi on November 26, 27. All the requests received from various Farmer Organisations regarding protest in Delhi on 26 and 27 November have been rejected and this has already been communicated to the organisers," the New Delhi DCP had tweeted.

"Please co-operate with

Delhi Police in ensuring no gathering in Delhi amid coronavirus, failing which legal action will be initiated as per law," it had said.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi Metro services from NCR cities to remain suspended

New Delhi: Delhi Metro services from neighbouring cities to the national Capital will remain suspended on Friday in view of the "Delhi chalo" protest march by farmers against the Centre's new farm laws, officials said. However, metro services will be available from Delhi towards the NCR sections.

CAPSULE

IMPROVEMENT IN DELHI'S AIR QUALITY LIKELY

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality was recorded in the "very poor" category on Thursday and Government agencies said it is likely to improve as the wind speed picks up. The city's air quality index was 374 at 9 am on Thursday. The 24-hour average AQI was 413 on Wednesday, 379 on Tuesday and 295 on Monday, according to the Central Pollution Control Board data. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

DRONES TO TRACK ELUSIVE LEOPARD IN GZB

Ghaziabad: The Ghaziabad administration has deployed some drone cameras in a bid to trace a leopard which disappeared in the sprawling forested area of Ingraham Institute of the city three days ago.

India won't forget 26/11 wounds: PM

Modi hails security personnel for averting similar attacks; says India now fighting terrorism with new policy, process

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delivering a strong message to Pakistan on the 12th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, Prime Minister Naredra Modi on Thursday called it the biggest strike ever on India and said the country can never forget the wounds inflicted by terrorists from Pakistan.

Expressing gratitude to security personnel, the Prime Minister said India is fighting terrorism with new policies. "On this day in 2008, terrorists from Pakistan attacked Mumbai. Many, including foreign citizens, policemen, died. I pay tributes to them," he said "India is now fighting terrorism with a new policy and a new process," Modi said.

The 2008 terror attack had claimed the lives of 165 people and injured about 300.

"India cannot forget wounds of Mumbai terror attacks. Today India is fighting



terrorism with new policies. I also bow down to our security personnel averting attacks like Mumbai and giving befitting reply to terrorism," the Prime Minister said while addressing the All India Presiding Officers Conference here, via video conferencing.

The PM's address made to celebrate Constitution Day, also hailed the robustness of the Indian Constitution despite "attempts made to destroy its spirit" during the Emergency in the 1970s.

"From what should be the

role of the three wings of our Constitution to its spirit, everything is enshrined in the Constitution. Though we did witness how attempts were made against the dignity of separation of power in the 1970s... but the answer for that came from the Constitution itself as decorum and separation of power is described in it," Modi said in his video conference address.

Modi said after the Emergency, the system of checks and balances has gone from strength to strength.

"All the three wings of the Constitution — the executive, legislature and judiciary - have learnt many things from that dark phase and moved on," the PM sought to say.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for his part said India will keep the global spotlight "firmly" on cross-border terrorism and on the epicentre of the global menace, in an apparent reference to Pakistan.

2 soldiers martyred in terror attack, 1 in Pak firing at LoC

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In a daring strike at least three car-borne terrorists, believed to be the cadre of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), targeted a quick reaction team (QRT) of the Indian Army on the outskirts of Srinagar in which two grievously injured soldiers attained martyrdom on Thursday. The attack coincided with the 12th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attack.

This is the second major terror strike along the National Highway in the last one week on the security forces.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Army initiated an "unprovoked" ceasefire along the Line of Control in Degwar, Qasba and Kirni sectors of Poonch by

targeting forward villages with mortar shelling. A junior commissioned officer, injured during the ceasefire violation by Pakistan along LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, succumbed to his injuries.

Four JeM terrorists were neutralised by the joint teams of security forces near Ban Toll Plaza along the Jammu Srinagar National Highway in Nagrota on November 19. These four JeM terrorists had sneaked inside the Indian territory via a cross border tunnel from the Samba sector.

The martyred jawans have been identified as Sepoy Ratan of 163 Battalion Territorial Army and Sepoy Deshmukh of 101 Battalion Territorial Army.

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AstraZeneca admits to a manufacturing error in its vaccine

It accidentally led to highly promising result; cloud over its efficacy now

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

British drugmaker AstraZeneca has admitted to a manufacturing error which accidentally led to a highly promising result.

After disclosing promising results from its Covid-19 vaccine trial earlier this week, AstraZeneca has now admitted to a manufacturing error by a contractor. The error came to light after AstraZeneca, which is developing the potential Covid-19 vaccine in partnership with Oxford University, revealed different efficacy results from two different dose regimens.

But that is only half of the story. As result of the error only half of the proposed dose of vaccine was administered to a group of people, while the other group was given the full dose.

In the two different dose regimens vaccine efficacy was 90 per cent in one and 62 per cent in the other.

The higher efficacy regime used a halved first dose and standard second dose. Two full doses showed lower efficacy.

In other words, said the biotechnology company, in the low-dose group, the vaccine appeared to be 90 per cent effective. In the group that got two full doses, the vaccine appeared to be 62 per cent effective. Combined, the drug-makers said, the vaccine appeared to be 70 per cent effective.

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The Pioneer family condoles death of brother of Lucknow RE

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Pioneer's Resident Editor (Lucknow) Vijay Prakash Singh lost his elder brother Shiv Prakash Singh to Covid-19 on Thursday. Shiv Prakash Singh, 62, was admitted to Sanjay Gandhi Post-graduate Institute of Medical Sciences here.

Singh, a businessman, is survived by wife and two sons. Singh was tested Covid positive after Diwali and was admitted to SGPGIMS on October 16. As his condition deteriorated he was shifted to ICU where he breathed his last.

Family members said cremation will take place on Friday at electric crematorium as per the Covid guidelines.

The Pioneer family condoles the death and prays to the God to give courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

Nivar kills 5 in TN as it makes landfall on Puducherry coast

Heavy rain likely

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At least five people were killed and several others injured in Tamil Nadu as severe cyclone Nivar made a landfall around 2.30 am with winds of up to 130 kilometre per hour into the Puducherry coast on Thursday. The fierce winds uprooted trees and toppled electricity pylons while down-pour lashed parts of the region, causing flash floods in several areas in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

Airport operations, Metrorail and bus transport resumed after 14 hours. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Tamil Nadu is likely to receive another spell of very heavy rainfall as a fresh low pressure area is expected to

form in the Bay of Bengal from November 29 onwards.

Meanwhile, as the intensity of the storm weakened, section 144 of CrPC imposed in Puducherry was revoked. According to initial estimates, thousand acres of paddy crops have been destroyed in southern States. While the damage assessment is on, the State Governments said they were working on "war-footing" amid heavy rainfall and flooding in many parts.

Five people have lost their lives and several others injured due to the cyclonic storm in Tamil Nadu, whereas no loss of life has been reported from Puducherry. On its way the cyclone also damaged several houses, uprooted trees and power lines in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore, Marakkanam and in Puducherry also.

Continued on Page 2

India suspends international flights till December 31

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Thursday extended the suspension of scheduled commercial international flight operations to and from India till December 31 in view of the coronavirus pandemic and planes will fly only on select routes on a case-to-case basis.

The restrictions are not applicable to international cargo operations and flights approved by the DGCA. "In partial modification of circular dated 26-06-2020, the competent authority has further extended the validity of circular issued on the subject cited above regarding scheduled international commercial passenger services to/from India till December 31, 2020," the DGCA said in a notification issued on Thursday.

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Covaxin Ph-III clinical trial begins at AIIMS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The phase-three human clinical trial of Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's indigenously developed anti-coronavirus vaccine candidate Covaxin began at the AIIMS here on Thursday. Dr MV Padma Srivastava, the chief of

Neurosciences Centre at the premier institute, and three other volunteers received the first dose.

The vaccine would be given to around 15,000 volunteers at the AIIMS over the next few days. The first dose of 0.5 ml intramuscular injection was given to four volunteers. They

were under observation for two hours and will be monitored for the next few days, said an official at the AIIMS.

As part of the trial application, a dose of 0.5 ml would be given on day 0 and on day 28. The phase-three randomised double-blind placebo-controlled multi-centre trial

would cover 28,500 subjects aged 18 years and above.

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DOORSTEP SURVEY THROWS UP 1,178 CASES IN DELHI

New Delhi: A door-to-door survey conducted under the instruction of the Centre to identify and isolate Covid-19 infected people in Delhi's containment zones and densely populated pockets threw up 1,178 positive cases with a positivity rate of 6.4 per cent, officials said.

Schools will not be opened till safety of students ensured: Delhi Health Min

New Delhi: Schools in Delhi will not reopen till the Government is convinced about students' safety, Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain said on Thursday.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 93,08,751

DEATHS: 1,35,734

RECOVERED: 87,16,566

ACTIVE: 4,54,323



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	18,02,365	46,813	16,68,538
Karnataka	8,79,560	11,726	8,42,499
Andhra Pradesh	8,65,705	6,970	8,46,120
Tamil Nadu	7,76,174	11,669	7,53,332
Kerala	5,83,742	2,149	5,16,978
Delhi	5,51,262	8,811	5,03,717
Uttar Pradesh	5,35,449	7,674	5,02,353
West Bengal	4,70,498	8,224	4,37,604
Odisha	3,16,645	1,757	3,08,102
Telangana	2,66,904	1,444	2,54,676
Rajasthan	2,56,947	2,237	2,27,408
Bihar	2,33,142	1,243	2,26,392
Chhattisgarh	2,30,956	2,801	2,04,198
Haryana	2,26,611	2,316	2,03,517
Assam	2,12,171	978	2,07,905
Gujarat	2,03,509	3,922	1,85,158

Wrong to stop farmers from protesting against farm laws: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has criticised Haryana and Centre for stopping the farmers from protesting. Kejriwal on Thursday said preventing farmers from holding peaceful demonstrations against the Centre's new farm laws is absolutely wrong.

Haryana put up road barricades along its border with Punjab on Wednesday as farmers in the adjoining state massed with their tractor-trailers for their "Delhi Chalo" march to protest against the

laws. Water cannons were used at least twice to disperse them and stop them from going to Delhi.

Taking to Twitter, the Delhi chief minister said peaceful demonstration was a constitutional right of the farmers.

"All the three farming bills of the central government are anti-farmer. Instead of withdrawing them, farmers are being prevented from holding peaceful demonstrations, water cannons are being used on them. This is absolutely wrong. Peaceful demonstrations are their constitutional right," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

The Haryana government on Thursday completely sealed its borders with Punjab. Police personnel have been deployed in large numbers along the state's borders with Delhi as well.

The BJP-ruled Haryana government has suspended bus services to Punjab.

The three laws -- the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment)

Act 2020 -- took effect from September 27 after President Ram Nath Kovind's assent.

Protesting farmers have expressed apprehension that the Centre's farm laws would pave the way for dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporates.

The government has maintained that the farm laws will bring farmers better opportunities and usher in new technologies in agriculture.

Farmers' protest: Vigil stepped up in Delhi's bordering areas, vehicles being checked

FARMERS' PROTEST

Gridlock reported on Delhi-G'gram border

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Amid demonstration by several farmers' outfits on November 26, the commuters on the Delhi-Gurugram expressway faced huge traffic snarls on the expressway throughout the day.

The commuters on the National Highway-48 were stuck near the Delhi-Gurugram border on the expressway as the Delhi Police had put up barricades and were checking every vehicle in view of the farmer's "Delhi Chalo" protest against the farm laws passed by the central government in September.

Shankar Chowk on the national highway.

As a precautionary measure, the Haryana Police was also checking every vehicle for farmers and protesters looking to enter the national capital.

On the other hand, the impact of the agitation by farmers organizations was negligible in Gurugram district and the situation remained peaceful throughout the day, no untoward incident was reported from anywhere in the district. In view of the protests of various farmer organizations, the district administration and the Gurugram police had made elaborate arrangements to maintain law and order in the district. As precautionary measures a number of police personnel were deployed along

with duty magistrate and supervisory officer and duty in-charge at the border areas.

According to the district spokesperson, seven places which connect Gurugram to other districts and territories includes Kapadivas Border, Nuh Border on the KMP Expressway, Sohna-Nuh Border, and Delhi-Gurugram border on the national highway-48, Bargurjar, near Hotel Best Western Resort on Pachgaon-Mohammadpur Ahir Road and near Panchgaon Chowk at these locations the police put up checkpoints along with huge deployment of force.

The district administration had also made arrangements for videography and photography at these seven places to record any untoward

incidents.

As a precaution, three police reserve forces were also kept ready so that they could be dispatched immediately whenever needed.

"Despite the protests of



Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer



Metro services from neighbouring cities to remain suspended: DMRC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the Delhi Chalo call by Punjab farmers, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) services suspended its services till further orders from neighbouring cities to the National Capital. However, metro services were available from Delhi towards the NCR sections after 2 PM.

Earlier, DMRC in a tweet stated, "From 2 pm onwards Metro services are available from Delhi towards the NCR sections. However, services



from NCR sections to Delhi still continue to remain suspended due to security reasons

till further notice."

The commuters from Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad and Ghaziabad had a tough time as train services between Delhi and NCR Metro stations on seven corridors were closed till 2pm due to the protest on Thursday.

"The step was taken following the request of the Delhi Police to avoid overcrowding in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. From morning till 2 PM, Metro services on various corridors will be regulated," said a DMRC official.

On Wednesday, the DMRC

had said trains would not cross borders of the national capital on Thursday till 2 pm due to farmers' protests.

The farmers planned to reach Delhi on Thursday through five highways connecting the national capital as part of the protest.

The Delhi Police, however, said they have rejected all requests received from various farmer organisations regarding the protest and warned of legal action against them if they came to the city to hold any gathering amid the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

Delhi Police personnel have been deployed in large numbers in the border areas of the national capital and all incoming vehicles were being checked in view of the protest.

The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh and various factions of the Bharatiya Kisan Union have joined hands and formed a 'Samyukta Kisan Morcha' to press the Central Government to scrap the three new farm laws.

Schools won't be reopened till Govt convinced about students' safety: Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain has said schools in the national Capital will not reopen till the Delhi Government is convinced about students' safety.

Jain said there is no plan to reopen schools (in Delhi) as of now. "We are hopeful that a vaccine will be available soon. Schools will not be reopened

till the time we are convinced that students will be safe," he said.

Universities and schools across the country were closed on March 16, when the Centre announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as part of measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. A nationwide lockdown was imposed on March 25.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had

on Tuesday said reopening of schools is unlikely till a vaccine is available. While several restrictions have been eased in different 'unlock' phases, educational institutions continue to remain closed.

According to 'Unlock 5' guidelines, states can take a call on reopening schools in phases. Several states had begun the process of reopening schools. However, some of them announced closing of schools again due to a rise in coronavirus cases.

Earlier, school authorities were allowed to call students of class nine to 12 to school on a



voluntary basis from September 21. However, the Delhi government decided against it.

Delhi recorded 5,246 fresh COVID-19 cases in a day as the positivity rate declined to 8.49 per cent on Wednesday, the lowest since October 28, while 99 more fatalities pushed the city's death toll to 8,720.

Capital records 91 more Covid-19 deaths

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

At least 2,455 deaths due to coronavirus have been reported in the national Capital since October 28, when the daily rise in infections breached the mark of 5,000 cases for the first time.

Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases and deaths, 91 more fatalities on Thursday pushed the city's total death toll due to the disease to 8,811.

The city reported 98

deaths on November 19, 118 on November 20, 111 on November 21, 121 each on November 22 and 23, and 109 fatalities on November 24, according to official data.

While 131 Covid-19 related deaths were recorded on November 18, the highest till date, Delhi registered its highest single-day spike of 8,593 cases on November 11.

On Thursday, Delhi had recorded 7,546 cases, followed by 6,608 on Friday, 5,879 on Saturday, 6,746 on Sunday,

4,454 on Monday, 6,224 on Tuesday, 5,246 on Wednesday and 5,475 on Thursday according to the government data.

The total number of coronavirus cases in Delhi climbed to 551,262 on Thursday, of which 503,717 have recovered

from the virus, the data shows. Late hospital admissions leading to Covid-19 cases turning critical, shortage of ICU beds, unfavourable weather and rising pollution are among the factors experts attribute to the spike in Covid-19 deaths in

Delhi, health experts have said.

Amid a spurt in the infection tally in the city, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had Wednesday requested experts to audit Covid-19 death cases and sug-

gest measures to reduce fatalities in the national capital. Health Minister Satyendra Jain on Wednesday claimed the national capital reported the "least fatality per million" population amongst all four metro cities in the country.



GHAZIPUR LANDFILL FIRE

EDMC asked to appear before green panel



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after fire broke out at the Ghazipur landfill site due to which the 'Air Quality Index' went up, the commissioner of the East Delhi

Municipal Corporation (EDMC) was asked to appear before the Environment Committee of the Delhi Assembly Atishi on Thursday said that the pollution levels in Delhi go up in the months of October and November due to stubble burning in the neighboring states,



A health worker collects swab samples for the Covid-19 test on Thursday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

resulting in frequent related incidents.

Senior AAP leader and Chairperson of the Environment Committee of the Delhi Assembly Atishi on Thursday said that the pollution levels in Delhi go up in the months of October and November due to stubble burning in the neighboring states,

which leaves the people of Delhi choking.

"The air quality of Delhi had improved in the last 5-6 days, mainly since the time the incidents of stubble burning have decreased in the neighboring states. However, a dreadful fire broke out at the garbage mountain at the Ghazipur landfill, due to which the entire East

Delhi and nearby places were filled with smoke. The AQI went up by several levels and the air-pollution also increased drastically. Now, a question arises as to how did such a massive fire break out at the landfill area which covered a large area with smoke and pollution?" he said.

"The sitting has been called

to know the reason behind the poor waste management of the EDMC, why the garbage continues to be dumped on the landfill site, and who is responsible for the fire that broke out at the site. It is important to answer these questions and stringent actions must be taken against the authorities responsible for the fire," she added.

MAKE IN INDIA

DMRC, CEL to develop desi rail engineering, system technologies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative of the Government of India, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and Central Electronics Limited (CEL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday for developing various indigenous rail engineering and system technologies.

The MoU was signed between CEL's Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) B N Sarkar and DMRC's Director (Operations) A K Garg at Metro Bhawan in the presence of DMRC's Managing Director, Dr Mangu Singh and other senior officials from both the organisations.

Under this MoU, both the

organisations will take up indigenous development for mutual benefit under 'Make in India' initiative, for the activities related to safety and security.

Dr Mangu Singh termed this development as a major step forward towards the development of indigenous technologies. He added that this association will not only achieve Obsolescence Management but will also add value in operations meeting reliability & punctuality of Metro rail systems.

To take the project forward, dedicated teams of DMRC and Central Electronics Limited (CEL) will work together to inch towards the concept of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

6 States report half of total Covid infections in 24 hrs



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Six States Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh besides Kerala accounted for more than half of the 44,489 fresh cases of the Covid-19 reported in the last 24 hours with the Southern State topping the list taking the tally to 92,66,705, while the death toll climbed to 1,35,223 with 524 new fatalities.

The Union Health Ministry said that 60.50 per cent of the 524 latest fatalities are concentrated in six States and Union territories—Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

The recoveries surged to 86.79 lakh while Covid-19 active caseload has risen to

4,52,344, an increase of 7,598 cases from Wednesday, even though it remained below 5 lakh for the 16th consecutive day.

The active cases comprise 4.88 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

According to ICMR, over 13.59 crore samples have been tested for Covid-19 till November 25, with 10,90,238 samples being tested on Wednesday.

The 524 new fatalities include 99 from Delhi, 65 from Maharashtra, 51 from West Bengal, 42 from Haryana, 31 from Punjab, 29 from Uttar Pradesh and 26 from Kerala.

A total of 1,35,223 deaths reported so far in the country includes 46,748 from

Maharashtra followed by 11,714 from Karnataka, 11,655 from Tamil Nadu, 8,720 from Delhi, 8,172 from West Bengal, 7,644 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,962 from Andhra Pradesh, 4,684 from Punjab and 3,906 from Gujarat.

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

Kerala leads the fatalities tally with 6,491 new Covid-19 cases registered in a span of 24 hours, while Maharashtra has reported 6,159 new cases followed by Delhi with 5,246 new cases. Delhi with 99 deaths reported the maximum new fatalities. Maharashtra saw a fatality count of 65 followed by West Bengal with 51 deaths, the Ministry said.

India to offer incentive to makers for efficient solar modules: Modi



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said production-linked incentives similar to those for electronic manufacturing will be offered for high-efficiency solar modules to boost the generation of electricity from renewable sources which has the potential to generate an annual business of USD 20 billion.

Speaking at the RE-Invest 2020 conference, he invited global investors to join India's renewable energy journey.

"There are huge renewable energy deployment plans for the next decade," he said, adding that these are likely to generate business prospects of the order of around USD 20 billion per year.

"Today, India's renewable power capacity is the fourth largest in the world. It is growing at the fastest speed among all major countries," he said.

Renewable energy capacity will rise to 220 GW by 2022 from the current 136 Giga Watts (GW), he added.

Renewable energy capacity at present is about 36 per cent of India's total electricity generating capacity.

Modi said that after the success of Production Linked Incentives (PLI) in electronics manufacturing, "we have

RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY WILL RISE TO 220 GW BY 2022 FROM THE CURRENT 136 GIGA WATTS (GW): PM

decided to give similar incentives to high-efficiency solar modules".

He, however, did not elaborate.

Stating that ensuring 'ease of doing business' was the utmost priority, he said a dedicated project development cell has been established to facilitate investors.

"In the last six years, we increased our installed renewable energy capacity by two and half times," he said. "Our annual renewable energy capacity addition has been exceeding that of coal-based thermal power since 2017."

Even when it was not affordable, investments were made in renewable energy. Now, investments and scale are bringing costs down, he said.

Noting that in the last six years, India has been travelling on an unparalleled journey, Modi said, "we are expanding our generation capacity and network to ensure every citizen of India has access to electricity to unlock his full potential".

Only 0.37% paramilitary forces personnel succumbed to Covid-19



RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Covid positive cases in Central paramilitary forces stand at a little below five per cent with just over 2,300 cases out of about 48,500 infected personnel in their ranks. The percentage of deaths in the Forces till so far is just 0.37 per cent.

Out of a total of 48,434 infected personnel in the paramilitary forces, as many as 45,916 persons (94.80 per cent) have been cured and 181 (0.37 per cent) men succumbed to the disease. About 4.82 per cent of the total infected persons are active at present.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) reported 14,016 cases of Covid-19 infection. Out of this, 13 623 personnel who contracted the disease have been cured, 73 personnel succumbed to the disease and

BSF REPORTED 13,747 CASES OF WHICH 13,153 HAVE RECUPERATED AND 43 PATIENTS DIED DUE TO COVID-19 DISEASE

only 320 are active cases presently.

Likewise, BSF reported 13,747 cases of which 13,153 have recuperated and 43 patients died due to Covid-19 disease. As many as 551 patients continue to be active in the BSF ranks.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) reported a total of 9,963 cases of infection. The number patients

cured is 8,933 and the casualties stand at 39 in the CISF which has the maximum active cases with a tally of 996.

The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has reported 5,235 cases including 4,987 cured patients, 13 casualties and 235 active cases.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has reported 4,521 cases of which 4,303: patients have been cured, 12 personnel died and there are currently 206 active cases.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) reported 628 cases of infection of which 608 patients have been cured, one personnel died and only 19 men are active.

The National Security Guards (NSG) reported 324 cases of infection including 309 cured patients, zero casualty and just 15 active cases now.

CBI books Customs Deputy Commissioner



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against Deputy Commissioner of Customs CS Pavan and others and conducted searches on Wednesday at eight places including Mumbai, Pune and Delhi at the premises of public servants and private persons including Importer & Custom Broker.

The searches yielded ₹9 lakh (approximately) and incriminating documents, offi-

cials said.

A case was registered against Deputy Commissioner of Customs and others including Appraiser Group, Appraiser Shed, Examiner Shed and private persons, the CBI said in a statement.

"It was alleged that said Customs officials while posted at Air Cargo Complex, Sahar, Mumbai during 2016-17 entered into a conspiracy with others including proprietors of private companies

and fraudulently cleared the consignments which were declared 'Metal Toy Gun' under CTH 95030030 instead of CTH 93039000 and also, there was undervaluation of the goods in violation of the Import Policy as mandated in the Compulsory Customs Requirements (CCRs), thereby causing the pecuniary advantage to the importer and loss to the Government of India," the agency said, adding investigation is continuing.

The accused persons include CS Pavan, Deputy Commissioner, KSN Reddy, Appraiser Group, Gangadhar Goud, Appraiser Shed, Santosh Anaji Shelar, Appraiser Shed, Lalit Singha, Examiner Shed, Amit Kumar, Examiner Shed,

Sagar K Pitalwar (Importer), Proprietor of Balaji Automotives Solutions, Vinay Singh, proprietor of Ocean Waves (Custom Broker) and unknown persons.

Expedite land acquisition for developing NHs: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday called upon the Uttar Pradesh Government to exempt toll plaza agreements from stamp duty in the State. He also asked for expediting land acquisition for developing National Highways, as is being done in some of the States.

The Minister also requested the State Government to consider halving the Utility Shifting Supervision Charge from 5 percent to 2.5 percent on the lines being done by other States. He called for quick disbursement of land acquisition compensation for expediting the NH projects in the State.

The Union Minister was speaking after virtually inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of 16 National Highway projects with a total length of over 500 kms worth Rs 7477 crore in Uttar Pradesh today. The event was presided by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in the presence of

Union MoS Gen (Retd) Dr V K Singh, Deputy Chief Minister of UP Keshav Prasad Maurya, Ministers from the State, Members of Parliament, MLAs and senior officers from the Centre and the State.

Gadkari said, about 3700 km NH length worth Rs 42,000 crore has been added in Uttar Pradesh in the last six years. "Today, there are over 11,389 kms of NHs in the State, and roads worth Rs 1.3 lakh crore are being constructed in UP," the Minister said.

He informed that as much as Rs 26,000 crore have been disbursed towards land acquisition cost in the State during last three years. He said, upgradation and development of NHs will improve connectivity to all the districts and major cities of the State.

Gadkari said, CRF works worth Rs 15,439 have been sanctioned since 2014 in the State. He said, Rs 4628 crore have been released till last year under the scheme, while another over Rs 287 crore was sanctioned in the current year

and has today approved releasing Rs 280 crore more. The Minister assured that the amount will be released soon after receiving proposals from the State.

The Minister said, NH works of 2,900 km worth Rs 65,000 crore will be completed in the current year in UP. Another 1100 km length of Rs 14,000 crore are targeted to be awarded this year. Further, DPRs are under preparation for 3500 km length at a cost of about Rs 50,000 crore, he said. The Minister said, NH works amounting to Rs two lakh crore are being undertaken in UP.

Gadkari informed that construction of 133 km 4-lane Greenfield project worth Rs 3652 crore between Ghazipur-Ballia-Mazhighat is under consideration. DPR is also being prepared for the 98 km 4-lane Prayagraj Ring road costing Rs 7,000 crore. It will be made in 3 phases, under the first phase, a 27 km Greenfield bypass from Dandupur to Sansor will be constructed at a cost of Rs 2,500 crore. This

will include a 2.5 km bridge over river Ganga. Other projects under consideration include Sitarganj-Bareilly 74 km 4-lane, Mathura-Hathras-Badayun-Bareilly 228 km 4-lane, Agra-Aligarh 81 km 4-lane, Agra-Jalesar 87 km 2-lane with paved shoulders, Shahjahanpur-Hardoi-Lucknow 270 km 2-4 lane, Raibareilly-Prayagraj 105 km 4-lane widening, and Lucknow-Kanpur-Karvi-Chhatrapur-Sagar 335 km for UP-MP connectivity.

Union Minister of State for RTH Gen (Retd) Dr V K Singh said, the projects, on completion, will provide faster and hassle-free inter-state and inter-district connectivity, and will be a major stride towards strengthening tourism sector of the State. The new projects will provide better connectivity, fast and safe movement of traffic to various tourist places, historical places and religious places in the entire State. They are likely to generate large number of employment and self-employment opportunities to the unskilled, semi-

skilled and skilled manpower of the region. The projects will reduce travel time and maintenance cost of the vehicles and saving of fuel. Implementation of the project would result in enhanced socio-economic conditions of the locality. These will improve the transport of agricultural goods and access to greater markets, thereby reducing the cost of goods and services. These will also create easy and speedy access to health care and emergency services. In a nutshell, after completion of the above projects, there will be a quantum jump in the development of tourism, economic and international connectivity of this region. Finally, it will give impetus to the GDP of the State.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also addressed the event. He said the people of UP are indebted to the Centre for having prioritized it for development. He said the new roads will be a boon for the people as these will provide all-weather connectivity in the State.

Govt set to roll out HealthID, DigiDoctor across country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After successful implementation of the National Digital Health Mission in a pilot mode in six Union Territories, the Government is now all set to roll out the digital initiative envisaging HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, eHospital, Patient and eHealth Records across the country.

This was stated by Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan after he took stock of the implementation of the flagship health protection mission, Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

"The NDHM will digitalize healthcare by creating a country-wide digital health ecosystem that will enable patients to store, access and consent to share their health records with doctors and health facilities of their choice," said the Minister. The six union territories where the mission was rolled out through a pilot launch are Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and

Lakshadweep.

Dr Harsh Vardhan said that one of the most remarkable aspects of NDHM is that it takes into account the lived realities of Indians spread across the digital divide. "The NDHM will empower millions of citizens without smartphones or those in remote tribal areas facing connectivity issues to still avail healthcare through its offline modules."

The ambitious NDHM was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15 under which every Indian will get a health ID that will ease access to medical services. The National Health Authority (NHA), the apex agency responsible for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY), has been given the mandate by the government to design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM in the country.

The health ID will contain information about medical data, prescriptions and diagnostic reports and summaries of previous discharge from hospitals for ailments. The mission is expected to bring efficiency and transparency in healthcare services in the country.

Advocacy, engagement crucial for ending TB by 2025: Harsh Vardhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With Covid-19 casting shadow over success achieved last two years under the Tuberculosis (TB) elimination programme when higher case findings were registered, the Union Ministry is now banking on its partners to reach its goal of ending the deadly disease by 2025.

As per the Government data, there is an 18 per cent and 12 per cent increase in case finding under National Tuberculosis Elimination Program in 2018 and 2019 respectively. In private sector, there is 77 per cent increase in the notification from 3.8 lakhs in 2017 to 6.8 lakh in 2019. However, Covid-19 is throwing spanner in the government's efforts to contain the TB.

"At a time, when Covid is taking prioritised attention, we should not lose the sight of the goal to eliminate TB by 2025. Advocacy and engagement are a way to move forward, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister said as he called for a Jan Andolan - a People's Movement to combat the deadly disease.

"The fight against TB needs to be made into a Jan Andolan, a people's movement. An effective communication strategy is needed which would focus on reaching the maximum popula-

tion; complement with preventive, diagnostic and curative aspects of TB management; work towards demand generation; ensuring regular high visibility mass-media coverage; and also focus on community ownership and mobilization," Minister enlisted various measures at a meeting with various developmental partners working in the field of TB care and management in India.

The Union Health Minister urged for a joint collaborative platform where all the partners could join hands and forces together in elimination of Tuberculosis by 2025 from the country.

He also highlighted the importance of strong political and administrative commitment from all States/UT Governments. "Partners can take a lead in galvanizing political commitment from the various political leaders locally," he pointed out. The Minister also asserted the need to address stigma in a huge way "as it is one of the biggest barriers and hinders people from coming forward for reporting the diseases and availing of the treatment." Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary (Health) noted that the aim is to leverage the capacity of UN agencies, international bodies, NGOs and all other partnership to work toward eradicating the disease.

SC dismisses Skoda Volkswagen's plea to quash FIR for alleged use of emission cheat device in car

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Thursday dismissed a plea by Skoda Auto Volkswagen India challenging an FIR registered in Uttar Pradesh by a customer over the alleged use of "cheat device" in its diesel car by the company to manipulate emission norms.

A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian pronounced the verdict and dismissed the plea by the German car maker.

On November 4, the top court had reserved the verdict on the plea saying as to why the investigation should not go on in the case.

A 'cheat' or 'defeat device' is a software installed in auto engines to manipulate pollution emission tests. Volkswagen was accused of the malpractice globally a few years ago.

During the hearing the automobile maker argued that in December, 2015 the complaint was made in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and in March, 2019 a penalty was imposed on it which was stayed by the apex court.

An FIR was also lodged in UP and the company moved the high court seeking its quashing, it said.

The apex court passed the order on the appeal filed



by Skoda against the Allahabad High Court order, refusing to quash the FIR and dismissing its plea.

The high court had said that whether a cheat device was installed in the vehicles is a matter of investigation and it cannot be interfered with by the court on an erroneous interpretation of the interim order of the top court.

The top court had earlier restrained the Centre from taking any "coercive" step against the company for non-submission of Rs 500 crore fine imposed by the NGT for damaging environment through use of "cheat device" in its diesel cars in India.

The green panel had directed the car maker to deposit the amount within two months with Central Pollution Control Board.

The tribunal had enhanced the compensation amount of Rs 171.34 crore,

which was recommended by a NGT-appointed committee, to Rs 500 crore as a means of "creating deterrence".

The auto maker, however, had said that it did not violate the BS-IV norms and that the test results were based on "on road testings" for which there were no prescribed standards.

Volkswagen India had in December 2015 announced the recall of 3,23,700 lakh vehicles in India to fix the emission software after ARAI conducted tests on some models and found that their on-road emissions were 1.1 times to 2.6 times higher than the applicable BS-IV norms.

The automobile giant had admitted to the use of 'defeat device' in 11 million diesel engine cars sold in the US, Europe and other global markets to manipulate emission test results.

Tomar invites farmers for talk on Dec 3



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid farmers' march to Delhi over new farm laws, Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Thursday appealed to farmers to stop the protest and invited them for talks on December 3 to resolve differences. Appealing the farmers to not agitate, the Union agriculture minister assured that the talk will have a positive outcome.

"I want to appeal to our farmer brothers to not agitate. We are ready to talk about issues and resolve differences. I am sure that our dialogue will have a positive result," Tomar said. "The new farm laws were the need of the hour. In the coming time, it's going to bring revolutionary changes. We have spoken at the secretary level in Punjab to dispel wrong notions of our farmer brothers there. We will talk on December 3," he added. "I'm sure that our dialogue will have a positive result," Tomar added.

NIVAR EFFECT

Andhra: 164 places receive more than 60 mm rainfall

Amaravati: In the past 24 hours till Thursday morning, 164 places in Andhra Pradesh witnessed a rainfall of more than 60 mm as the very severe cyclonic storm Nivar lashed the whole state.

According to the Meteorological department, five places in Nellore district registered the highest rainfall - APPT Colony (302.7 mm), Boggulamitta Ward (272.7 mm), MPP School (264 mm), Summer storage tank (242.7 mm) and Thatipatri (239.5 mm).

Chittoor district Collector Narayan Bharat Gupta said an average of 8.6 cm rainfall lashed a few places in the district on

Wednesday.

“Varadaiyapalem, Yerpedu, Srikalahasti, Satyavedu, Nagulapuram, Vijayapuram and Narayanavanam mandals witnessed rainfall more than 12 cm,” said Gupta.

Due to heavy inflow, he said the gates of the major reservoirs were being opened to release water. Advising caution to the public, the Collector said people should not attempt to cross the roads even if the water flow is less.

“We request you to stay at home safely for one or two days, until the situation gets better,” said Gupta. He said the district administration shut roads in K.V. Puram and

Pichapuram because of the heavy outflow of rain water.

Such is the severity of Nivar that most parts of West Godavari district have been witnessing rainfall since Wednesday night.

It has been continuously raining from around 9 p.m. on Wednesday night in Bhimavaram and several villages in its vicinity such as Seesali, Bondada, Kalla, Kallakuru, Doddanapudi, Chinnapulleru and others.

It did not rain in these places during the day time on Tuesday, but it was windy and mildly sunny only for a short time.

IAN S ■ GUWAHATI

Assam ex-CM Tarun Gogoi cremated with full State honours

Assam bade an emotional send-off to its longest serving Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi on Thursday, as his funeral were marked by the presence of thousands of men and women and performed with full state honours at the Nabagraha cremation ground in Guwahati.

Amidst the chanting of solemn hymns and gun salute and band played by the Assam Police, the mortal remains of Gogoi were consigned to flames by his son Gaurav Gogoi, a Lok Sabha member, in presence of thousands of people, many of them were emotionally charged.

Wearing the traditional “Chelleng Sador” (a shawl) and ‘dhoti’ (men’s garment) along with a face mask Gaurav lit the pyre after performing the rituals.

The veteran Congress leader’s wife septuagenarian Dolly, daughter Chandrima, daughter-in-law Elizabeth and other family members placed sandalwood pieces on the pyre before it was lit by Gaurav.

Ahmed Patel laid to rest in native village; Rahul attends funeral

Gandhinagar: Amid thousands of well wishers, the Congress veteran and party’s ace troubleshooter Ahmed Patel’s mortal remains were laid to rest in his native village in Gujarat’s Bharuch district, following the Covid-19 guidelines.

Many top national leaders of the party, including Rahul Gandhi, were present during the funeral to pay their last respects.

The last rites were carried out at the Sunni Vohra Muslim Jamaat graveyard in the Piraman village, Patel’s ancestral village. As per his wish, his dead body was buried beside his parents’ graves and due Covid-19 guidelines and protocols were followed during the funeral.

Ahmed Patel passed away on Wednesday morning due to post-Covid issues, according to his son Faisal. He was admitted in the Medanta hospital in Gurugram from where his body was flown to Vadodara and from there to Ankleshwar hospital, where it was kept till Thursday morning. After a brief 10-minute stop at his residence, his mortal remains were brought to the graveyard.

Bandh call gets mixed response in Bengal

Kolkata: The bandh called by the Left and Congress trade unions against a number of policies of the Central Government found mixed response in Bengal. Even as the State Government issued directives making attendance compulsory a day before most of the Government offices witnessed near full attendance.

In other sectors like jute mills and other industrial belts of Durgapur-Asansol there was partial cease work, sources said. Half-empty Government buses were seen plying on the streets while private buses were far less in number in Kolkata.

Though there was rush in Howrah and Sealdah stations local train services got disrupted after the bandh supporters blocked the tracks at various places in Hooghly, Burdwan, Jadavpur and other places.

Bandh found good response in Siliguri, Alipurduar and Coochbehar where buses were torched. Tea gardens however functioned near normally sources said adding all the banks and financial institutions were shut down hitting business and leading to a corresponding shut down in the business districts of burrabazar and parts of Howrah.

CPI(M) politburo member Biman Bose later claimed that the bandh was successful “considering the fact that both the Trinamool Government and the BJP united against us to foil it by using the government machinery and the police. This only proves that they are involved in ashadow fight.”

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee however said that her party never supported bandh as a policy.

3 PDP leaders quit party

Jammu: The popular support base of the Peoples Democratic Party, carefully nurtured by the party patron Mufti Mohd Sayeed here in Jammu suffered another dent as three more leaders quit the party, two days ahead of the maiden elections of the district development council, on Thursday.

In a joint letter issued to media houses, former state general secretary PDP Dhaman Bhasin, state secretary Fallail Singh and ex-district President Doda, Pritam Kotwal alleged that the PDP has become the “B team” of the National Conference (NC).

Both Bhasin and Singh were counted among the close aides of Mufti Mohd Sayeed and were also the founding members of the PDP from Jammu.

Feeling suffocated in the party for a long time these leaders even

claimed the PDP has abandoned Mufti Mohammed Sayeed’s vision and that “unscrupulous, communal elements with mysterious character” have taken over.

“Putting our political career at stake, we joined PDP -- from the very first day of its formation -- with an aim to provide a secular alternative to corrupt and dynast NC as late Mufti Mohammed Sayeed had a vision to frustrate evil designs of communal and parochial elements but the party leadership has, unfortunately, abandoned Mufti Sahib’s agenda to become B team of NC,” the letter, signed the three, read.

The letter submitted to the PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti further noted “The party leadership has recently given some highly provocative and controversial statements against the basic principles of the founder of the party.

Book WB Guv under IPC, asks TMC MP

Kolkata: The ongoing tussle between Trinamool Congress and Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar reached new heights with senior TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee on Thursday launching a scathing attack on the latter for being in touch with the criminals.

Banerjee also a senior advocate accused Dhankhar of saving the corrupt and criminals and asked the police administration to file a criminal complaint against him.

“Here is a Governor who is saving the corrupt and is in regular touch with the criminals ... he should be proceeded against by the police ... I request the police administration to file a complaint under the IPC against this man,” Banerjee said alleging how he was trying to protect Govind Agarwal and Sudipta Roychowdhury both of who were accused and were being investigated by central agencies.

One of them had his name linked to cow smuggling and human trafficking “whereas the Governor is trying to shield them and is attacking the State police which is doing all the good works ... such a person should be booked and punished under Section 186,”

Didi announces free health insurance scheme for all

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Launching a big election-driven project Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced a State Government-sponsored health-insurance scheme for all.

Releasing a digital health card for the citizens the Chief Minister said the scheme would commence from December 1 and could be availed by all the citizens. “Be it an old person or a child, men or women, rich or poor, villager or townsman, Hindu or Muslim, Dalits and

tribal or upper caste, everyone will be covered by this scheme,” Banerjee said urging the people to get their names enlisted in the project christened Swasthya Saathi. “Earlier, we had decided to enroll at least 7.5 crore people under ‘Swasthya Sathi’. I am announcing today that every family in the State will get it.”

Apparently hitting two birds in a shot Banerjee also said that the scheme would be in the name of the eldest woman of the family so that it would help the women’s empowerment cause.

Education Min to address seminar on NEP in AMU

Aligarh: An E-Seminar on ‘National Education Policy (NEP)’ will be held in the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) on December 3 in which, the Union Cabinet Minister for Education, Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank will address on NEP and also release ‘The Physics of Neutrino Interactions (Cambridge University Press, July 2020)’.

Condolence meeting for Kalbe Sadiq organised

Aligarh: A condolence meeting was today held at the Department of Arabic, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) to mourn the sad demise of Vice-President of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, prominent Muslim cleric and AMU alumnus, Maulana Kalbe Sadiq, who breathed his last at a Lucknow hospital.

The Executive Engineer, Kamalpur Division, PWD (R&B), Kamalpur, Dhalai District, Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No. 12/EE/PWD(R&B)/KMP/DIV/2020-21

Dated: 20-11-2020.

For the works:-

1. Periodical Renewal of PMGSY Road from **K-M-A road to Kartikgram** (L-022) (length 3.022 Km) during the year 2020-21 / SH: Patch metalling, Grouting, Premix Carpeting and Seal coat.

With Estimated cost: ₹. 53,13,523.00, Earnest Money : ₹. 53,135.00

Time of Completion:- 90(Ninety) Days Last Date of bidding for bids : **15-12-2020** upto 15:00 Hrs.

2. Renovation of Ujan Chankap Class XII School under RURBAN Mission / SH: - Earthwork, PCC, RCC, Brick work. Finishing work, Roofing & Ceiling, Water proofing work, Sanitary installation, Sewage & drainage work. Dismantling work and Repairs to Buildings etc.

With Estimated cost: ₹.1,10,76,798.00, Earnest Money : 1,10,768.00

Time of Completion:- 365(Three hundred sixty five) Days, Last Date of bidding for bids : **15-12-2020** upto 15:00 Hrs.

3. Renovation of Santir Bazar High School under RURBAN Mission/ SH :-Earthwork, PCC, RCC, Brick work, Finishing work, Roofing & Ceiling, Water proofing work, Sanitary installation, Sewage & drainage work, Dismantling work and Repairs to Buildings etc.

With Estimated cost: ₹.64,77,621.00, Earnest Money : ₹.64,776.00

Time of Completion:- 365(Three hundred sixty five) Days Last Date of bidding for bids : **15-12-2020** upto 15:00 Hrs.

4. Construction of Road side drain from Salema Trijunction to Dhalai River (Length- 470.00 mtr) under RURBAN Mission during the year 2019-20 / S.H: Brick Work, RCC Work, Plastering etc.

With Estimated cost: ₹.78,37,408.00. Earnest Money : ₹.78,374.00

Time of Completion:- 90(Ninety) Days Last Date of bidding for bids : **15-12-2020** upto 15:00 Hrs.

5. Construction & Renovation of Salema Class XII School under RURBAN Mission / SH: - Earthwork, PCC, RCC, Brick work, Finishing work, Roofing & Ceiling, Water proofing work, Sanitary installation, Sewage & drainage work, Dismantling work and Repairs to Buildings etc.

With Estimated cost: ₹. 1,42,33,475.00, Earnest Money : ₹. 1,42,335.00

Time of Completion:- 365(Three hundred sixty five) Days Last Date of bidding for bids : **15-12-2020** upto 15:00 Hrs.

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

Note:
NO NEGOTIATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Kamalpur Division, PWD (R&B)

Kamalpur, Dhalai, Tripura

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have planned to run the following additional Special Train as per schedule given below:

05014/05013 Kathgodam - Jaisalmer - Kathgodam Express Special (Daily)					
TRAIN NO. 05014		STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 05013		
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	
—	20:35	Kathgodam	04:55	—	
20:47	20:52	Haldwani	04:13	04:23	
21:29	21:34	Lalkuan Jn.	03:45	03:50	
22:05	22:10	Rudrapur City	02:58	03:06	
22:27	22:29	Bilaspur Jn.	02:48	02:50	
23:04	23:07	Rampur Jn.	02:17	02:22	
23:45	00:35	Moradabad Jn.	01:35	01:48	
02:01	02:03	Hapur Jn.	23:36	23:39	
02:58	03:00	Ghaziabad Jn.	23:00	23:02	
03:11	03:13	Sahibabad	22:29	22:31	
03:50	04:30	Delhi Jn.	21:15	22:05	
04:44	04:46	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	20:38	20:40	
05:03	05:05	Delhi Cantt.	20:18	20:20	
05:21	05:23	Gurgaon	20:01	20:03	
05:44	05:46	Pataudi Road	19:38	19:40	
06:28	06:32	Rewari Jn.	19:17	19:20	
06:47	06:49	Bawal	18:38	18:39	
07:13	07:15	Khairthal	18:11	18:13	
07:38	07:41	Alwar Jn.	17:51	17:54	
08:07	08:09	Rajgarh	17:11	17:13	
08:32	08:34	Bandikui Jn.	16:50	16:52	
08:54	08:56	Dausa	16:24	16:26	
09:47	09:50	Gandhi Nagar Jaipur	15:43	15:46	
10:08	10:20	Jaipur Jn.	15:20	15:35	
11:34	11:36	Kishangarh	13:41	13:43	
12:25	12:35	Ajmer Jn.	13:00	13:15	
13:15	13:17	Beawar	11:47	11:49	
14:40	15:05	Marwar Jn.	10:20	10:45	
15:28	15:33	Pali Marwar	09:23	09:28	
16:28	16:30	Bhagat Ki Kothi	08:31	08:33	
16:50	17:05	Jodhpur	08:05	08:25	
17:11	17:13	Ralka Bagh Palace Jn.	07:47	07:49	
19:00	19:05	Phalodi Jn.	05:26	05:36	
19:43	19:46	Ram Devora	04:39	04:42	
22:15	—	Jaisalmer	—	02:55	

Accommodation : AC 2Tier, AC 3Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

05314/05313 Ramnagar - Jaisalmer - Ramnagar Link Express Special (Daily)					
TRAIN NO. 05314		STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 05313		
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	
—	22:20	Ramnagar	04:15	—	
22:50	22:55	Kashipur Jn.	03:30	03:35	
00:02	—	Moradabad Jn.	—	02:32	

Accommodation : 1st AC, AC 3Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Days of Run : 05014/05314 from Kathgodam/Ramnagar from 28.11.2020 and 05013/05313 from Jaisalmer from 30.11.2020 till further advice.

Both Rakes (Rake of 05014 /05013 & 05314/05313 will amalgamate/bifurcate at Moradabad Jn.

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

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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26/11/2020

Palghar lynching: Thane court grants bail to 54 accused

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Thane Special Court on Thursday granted bail to 54 tribals arrested in connection with the lynching of two Sathus and their driver by an irate mob near Kasa town in Maharashtra’s Palghar district in April this year.

Special district court judge P P Jadhav released 54 accused on bail against a surety bond of Rs 15,000 each.

Those granted bail included eight persons who were arrested immediately after the shocking crime that took place on April 16 this year. The remaining 46 were those who were arrested subsequently by the State CID during the course of the investigations in the case.

Advocates Amrutt Adhikari and Atul Patil, who appeared

before the court for the accused, argued that their clients had no role to play in the incident and had been arrested merely on grounds of suspicion.

While Special public prosecutor Satish Maneshinde appeared for the prosecution, Advocate PN Ojha appeared for the family of the deceased sathus.

The special court will hear the bail applications of the other accused on December 5.

Earlier this month, the court had granted bail to four accused, including a man and his two sons, in the case.

Of the 366 accused in the case, 28 adults and 9 juveniles were released on a default bail as the CID charge sheet did not specify their exact involvement in the crime owing to lack of evidence.

On July 16, this year, the state CID filed a comprehensive charge-sheets against the accused before a Dahanu court in connection with the April 16, 2020 Palghar lynching incident.

In its charge sheet – running into 4955 pages – filed before the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) at Dahanu in Palghar district, the CID sleuths named 126 accused in connection with the incident that took place on the night of April 16.

The investigation team, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (CID) Vijay Pawar, filed the charge-sheet after examining 808 suspects and 118 witnesses to collect strong evidence against the accused.

It may be recalled that on the night of April 16, three persons were lynched by a 200-

strong mob of villagers near Kasa town in Maharashtra’s Palghar district on suspicion that they were thieves.

The villagers first hurled stones at the van, prompting the driver to stop the vehicle. Later, they pulled three persons out of the vehicle and beat them to death in Gadchinchale village on Dabhadhi-Khanwel road, with sticks and rods.

The deceased ---identified as Chikne Maharaj Kalpavrukshagiri (70), Sushilgiri Maharaj (35) and driver Nilesh Telgade (30) were travelling to Surat. Of them one was the diver, while two are residents of Kandivli in north Mumbai.

The place where the incident took place is approximately 120 km from Mumbai.

10 documents: ID proof for voting in Aligarh MLC polls

Aligarh: For the voting in MLC elections, the district administration has issued an important guideline for the voters. For the voting to be held on December 1, the district administration said that 10 types of identification documents will be valid for voting, on showing any of which, the voter will be allowed to vote.

Deputy District Election Officer Vidhan Jaiswal told that ASHAs will be deployed at every center, which will get the voters sanitized.

PNS

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client Sh. Harish Chander Sakhuja S/o Late Sh. D.D. Sakhuja R/o 58-A, Pocket-A-13, Fort View Apartments, Kirtiaji Extension, New Delhi had lost his property documents i.e "Allotment Letter dated 25.04.1989 of Shop No. LG-18, Block-G, on Lower Ground Floor, "Sushant Shopping Arcade", At Sushant Lok, Phase-I, Block-G, Gurgaon, Haryana & he had filed a police complaint vide LR No. 759432/2020 dated 26.11.2020. Any person claiming any right, title & interest in the said property on basis of lost title documents should intimate the same to undersigned with documentary proof within 07 days from the publication of this notice at the address provided hereunder. In case no objections are received within the aforesaid time, it shall be presumed that Sh. Harish Chander Sakhuja S/o Late Sh. D.D. Sakhuja is right full owner of said property.
Amrendra Nath Shukla (Advocate)
Ch. No. 717, District Courts Rohini, Delhi-85

Public Notice
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of **Mr Deepak** issued by ICICI Bank Ltd, having ID card no. 05333 has been found missing and/or lost on **29th October 2020**. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, SD Tower, 1st Floor, Rohini Sector 08, Delhi 110085
Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no 05333.
Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.
Date: 26.11.2020
Place: Delhi
For ICICI Bank Limited

TENDER NOTICE

No.SSA/CW/KGBV-VI to X/254/2020/ 3250

Dated - 26/11/2020

The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, invites fresh bids for the following work 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 and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 26/11/2020(04:30 PM) to 16/12/2020 (2:00 PM)

The bidders must be enrolled in 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	1M	Mairabari, Morigaon	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

Janasanyog /CF/2914/20

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

Farmers’ protest

Had the Government chosen consensus-building over confrontation with regard to the farm Acts, things wouldn’t have come to such a pass



The big question is could the farmers’ march, as it manifested through the dramatic visuals of a surge of protesters fighting teargas, demolishing barricades and facing water cannons, have been avoided in COVID-stressed times? Would they have been driven to such desperation if the Government had given them a decent listen and the Agriculture Minister had not absented himself from a conciliatory meeting on the recent farm Acts? And at a time when stubble burning is compounding the pollution and pandemic crisis across Delhi-NCR, should not that have been the point of discussion first? Honestly, the Government could have managed this better, considering that it was well aware of the farmers’ grievances and should have attempted to reassure them. Instead, in its stubbornness to show it can push necessary reforms, it refused to engage with them and gifted the Opposition an agenda to beat it with. It may want to show the farmers and the Opposition in a poor light but beyond political point-scoring, who gained what, except for being exposed to a large super spreader risk? For the Government may claim that these laws will help farmers get better prices for their crops and allow them access to wider markets but the latter are wary of the corporatisation implicit in these Acts and argue that they could be cheated out of a fair price. Yes, structurally, the laws may seem to streamline agricultural processes but the farmers are not willing to give up their right to exist on their terms. Worse, they fear that these could ultimately reduce the current system of open-ended FCI procurement by the State. Besides, they feel that entering into contracts with corporations would willy-nilly give the latter negotiating rights and greater control. And that although the older system would continue, as a weakened parallel mechanism, it would ultimately crumble before emerging monopolies. They cite how contract farming failed in the sugarcane sector with farmers chasing dues that are owed to them in crores. Of course, there’s the case of PepsiCo suing farmers in Gujarat that showed the latter’s vulnerability in the face of big corporations. State Governments like Punjab are obviously upset that access to another market would dry up their own revenue from their Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) *mandis* and are seeing this as an affront to federal controls. The fear that market yards would be abolished is largely unfounded though, considering the eNAM platform connects thousands of them across 18 states and three Union Territories (UTs). But then the Government has also not tried to be educative but is confrontational. It is the devil in the detail that has our farming community up in arms. For example, a licence won’t be required to trade in farm produce and anyone with a PAN card can now buy directly from the farmers “outside” their geographical area. Farmers want clarity on what “outside” means and contrary to perception that they want the middlemen out, they actually have a trusted bond with their existing commission agents as the latter’s licence is proof enough of credibility and delivery abilities, and they would not want to experiment with an untested model. Besides, they want direct payment and not through banks, which could deduct amounts as loan recovery.

The opposition to farm laws could have been avoided had the Government preferred a Standing Committee scrutiny over pushing the law unceremoniously with a voice vote in the Upper House. A GST-like consensus involving Centre and States would have helped. But there was no attempt at consensus-building, no dialogue with the farmers’ unions, State Governments or the Opposition parties. Since agriculture-related issues come under the State List in Schedule VII of the Constitution, the Centre should have consulted federal governments. One just had to look at the playbook of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government on the contentious issue of contract farming, which was envisaged in the National Agriculture Policy, 2000. Instead of bringing a Central law, it circulated a Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act to the States for adoption in 2003. The ensuing UPA-I government continued the policy. Contract farming was included as an option in the National Farmers’ Policy, 2007. By August the same year, 15 States had brought amendments in the APMC (Regulation) Acts based on the model legislation. The intransigence on the farm Acts is in contrast with the Government’s handling of the recently enacted labour codes. Although these had some controversial provisions too, since they reduced 29 existing labour laws into four legislations, there was not much hue and cry as they were vetted by the department-related Standing Committee of the Lok Sabha. Yes, there is a need to reform agricultural marketing in the time of food surplus. But care should be taken to ensure that the farmers are legally protected in what is still an unequal deal. If only the Acts came with the caveat that no trade transactions would take place below the notified MSP, the farmers could have been easily pacified. Many experts would argue that it is easy enough to push reforms in a sector that anyway makes a very small portion of our GDP. But farmers make up 60 per cent of the country’s population, a voter base that no political party can ignore. Certainly not States like Punjab and Haryana, which are heavily dependent on procurement at MSP.

In the hands of God

Diego Maradona, one of the greatest to ever kick a football on the pitch, is no longer with us. The legend lives on



The British-Indian filmmaker, Asif Kapadia, rose to fame after his superb documentary on Brazilian motorsports legend Ayrton Senna, which he followed with an equally brilliant film on British singer Amy Winehouse. But his magnum opus (so far, at least) was the movie he made on Argentine footballer Diego Armando Maradona, simply titled *Maradona*. It was the first of his documentaries where the subject was still alive to give his version of events but Kapadia’s brilliance was that he pulled no punches. The documentary, which looked at Maradona’s time in the southern Italian city of Naples, where he played for the local football team

Napoli, shows him warts and all. He was a genius on the field and many of us in India might remember him for his spectacular performances for *La Albiceleste*, as the Argentine football team is known, not least for that match against England during the 1986 World Cup in Mexico where he produced not one, but two of the most memorable goals in football history — the first the notorious “Hand Of God” and the second where he literally ran rings around the entire English team.

Maradona was a superstar in Argentina but it was in Naples where he was a God. The city, sitting in the shadow of Vesuvius, was downtrodden and felt crushed by the economic and social success of northern Italian towns such as Milan and Turin, also home to Italy’s most successful football clubs, AC Milan, Internazionale and Juventus. Into all this came Maradona from Barcelona, where he almost single-handedly lifted the football team and the city into a different sphere. The documentary explores how Maradona’s success also saw his downfall. He fathered an illegitimate son and quickly found himself courted by the local mafia who got him hooked onto drugs. But it took a football match during the 1990 World Cup, where Maradona’s Argentina beat the home team Italy in Naples, for the city to fall out of love with him despite all the success he brought. Maradona’s post-football life was also extremely colourful. A visit he made to the eastern metropolis of Kolkata, where he unveiled a statue of himself in 2010, and a tour of the southern state of Kerala, where he inaugurated a jewellery shop, have gone into popular legend in these football-mad states. Maradona’s goal beating the English, whom Indians dislike almost as much as the Argentinians, will be considered a goal scored for the “little guy,” which he was. He was not perfect, far from it, but because he never pretended to be perfect, he will always be considered a legend. He will be missed.



PRIYADARSHI DUTTA

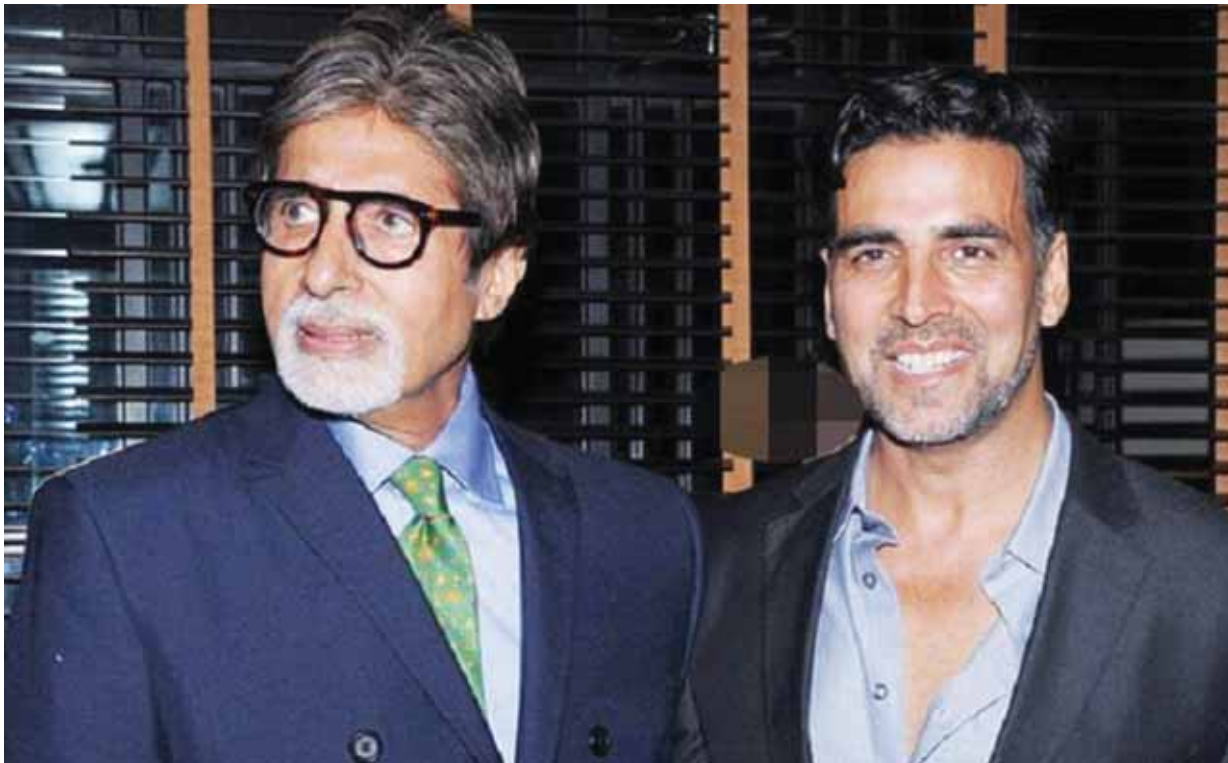
Supreme Court Bench recently reprimanded the Government on its COVID-19 containment measures and asked the Centre as well as the worst-affected States to file status reports. What’s still going wrong when the national recovery rate is at an all-time high of 93 per cent plus and the number of new infections has dipped to below 40,000 per day, down from 80,000 during September? However, when the Supreme Court notes that the scenario is grim, it implies that winter could undermine the gains made so far, with the COVID-19 awareness campaign in the unlock period being one of the weakest links in the chain.

On October 7, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that posters, banners and stickers about COVID prevention would come up at public places, metros, auto rickshaws and public transport soon. Though this writer’s world has shrunk during the last eight months, being confined mostly to home, still he has not noticed any such outdoor publicity material being put up in his modest South Delhi locality. The awareness campaign, since the beginning of the outbreak, is confined mostly to electronic media. Print media advertising lost its reach after many readers unsubscribed newspapers, fearing they might be Corona-infected. The other medium is mobile phone, where the COVID caller tune is frankly about force-feeding. Existing campaigns were perhaps helpful until May 31, when the total lockdown was in force. As the Unlock 1 phase began on June 1, new interactive situations began to multiply. The rate of infections got accelerated on expected lines. The awareness campaign, however, remained dated by refusing to take new situations into consideration. It, therefore, came to resemble a sermon and sounded preachy.

Amitabh Bachchan is the face of the Government’s COVID awareness campaign like he had been for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. It happens only in India that a Padma Vibhushan awardee can appear in an ad campaign for gold loans and pulse polio drops with equal zeal. Ideally, he should have been removed from the campaign after he himself contracted COVID in July. Alternatively, he should have been re-launched with a new ad script, depicting him as a COVID survivor.

Faulty message

The official COVID awareness campaign is not targetted at real life situations that have arisen post lockdown. This has undermined preventive measures



However, that did not happen.

Another TV spot featuring Akshay Kumar for Doordarshan (on precautions in the Unlock era) is more appalling. It shows the actor encouraging a senior citizen to go to work by wearing a mask. This clearly militates against the Government’s advisory for senior citizens to avoid venturing outdoors. Akshay further states that the Government had made sufficient arrangements for people even if they had contracted COVID. This affirmation is completely out of sync with reality in most States. The campaign ambassador perhaps implied only the Modi Government. However, the subject of public health and sanitation, hospitals and dispensaries is covered by the State List under the Seventh Schedule (Article 246). It is also covered under the Panchayat List under Article 243G. Broadcasting, being part of communications, is placed on the Union List under Seventh Schedule. Thus Doordarshan failed abjectly to develop a State-specific COVID awareness campaign reflecting local realities. While the publicity drive seems to be run by Mandi House mandarins, by employing Mumbai denizens like Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar and Sachin Tendulkar, they forgot that the brunt of healthcare is left to the States.

As Unlock phases progressed from June 1, it was expected that the awareness campaign would become more localised. An end-to-end information campaign could have helped reduce the case load. While many COVID survivors volunteered to donate

“A TV SPOT FEATURING AKSHAY KUMAR FOR DD (ON PRECAUTIONS IN THE UNLOCK ERA) IS APPALLING. IT SHOWS THE ACTOR ENCOURAGING A SENIOR CITIZEN TO GO TO WORK BY WEARING A MASK. THIS CLEARLY MILITATES AGAINST THE GOVT’S ADVISORY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS TO AVOID VENTURING OUTDOORS”

plasma to save the lives of other patients, they could have helped more by sharing the lessons learnt. It would have helped if we could have produced an information bank, albeit maintaining strict confidentiality, about how possibly those patients contracted COVID. For instance, what percentage of newly-infected people observed protocols or were negligent about them. How many think they got it by using public transport, venturing out in a market place or eating out in the company of strangers at restaurants and so on.

The Government was admittedly in a cleft stick situation. It had to decide between containing rising cases and reviving the economy. Emphasising one could hurt the prospect of the other. The cold season knocked earlier than usual this year and the NCT of Delhi is one of the worst-affected regions with pollution picking up. The fall-winter is also the season for festivities and weddings when the business picks up post-monsoon. In order to replenish their depleted revenue coffers, the Centre as well as the Delhi Government chose to look the other way on a containment drill such conditions warranted. The result was the quadrupling of infections in Delhi. When Governments wrestle against their conscience, they usually win. An example of conflict between commercial and public health interests could be seen in the Delhi Government’s decision to reverse its order within 24 hours on closure of Punjabi Basti market and Janata market in the Nangloi area for flouting

pandemic norms. With all large markets in Delhi open for business, the disease protocol is hardly being followed anywhere.

By November 24, India had conducted a total of 13.3 crore (13,36,82,275) tests in its 2,134 laboratories. The number, though large, represents only 10 per cent of India’s estimated population. There is a strong chance that a significant segment of the untested population acts as asymptomatic carriers. A majority of people tend to feel that seemingly healthy people – whether they are colleagues, neighbours or relatives – are disease-free. They tend to socialise with them even without minimally protective face masks. At fast food eating joints, many don’t hesitate to eat (naturally without masks) alongside complete strangers. It hardly occurs to them that the other person could either be an asymptomatic carrier if not passing through the incubation period. The Government ad campaigns have failed to educate them upon this aspect. They have even failed to educate people on immunity-boosting methods as prescribed by the AYUSH Ministry. Taking up real-life situations in campaigns could have helped in stalling this surge. One could easily have used animation or clay-mation if actual shooting involving human beings was problematic. Till we drill the risk factors graphically in the common man’s mind, a Bollywood star cannot do much.

(The writer is an author and independent researcher based in New Delhi. Views expressed are personal)

SOUND BITE

It’s a sad irony that on Constitution Day, the constitutional right of farmers is being oppressed in this manner. Let them pass Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar. Let them take their voice to Delhi peacefully.



Punjab Chief Minister
—Captain Amarinder Singh

Love jihad is a hoax. It is part of a majoritarian agenda. Interfaith marriages are allowed under the Indian law, it is even encouraged by some governments.



Former Home Minister
—P Chidambaram

I believed that India wanted to bring out and talk about societal issues openly. I’m fortunate that the audience loved my brand of cinema and engaged with my beliefs.



Actor
—Ayushmann Khurrana

I think staying away from our families for nearly four months now is going to be worthwhile in the future because we are sacrificing a lot to do well in the Olympic Games.



Indian hockey midfielder
—Hardik Singh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rest in Peace Argentina’s ‘golden boy’

Football fans have suffered a big loss in the untimely death of Diego Maradona at the age of 60. Undoubtedly the best football player ever, whose wild swings in fortune came to personify the flux of his home nation Argentina, he died too early. Maradona suffered a heart attack in Tigre, Buenos Aires, after undergoing surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain earlier this month. He led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup and won league championships in Italy and at home, granting him the sort of iconic status normally reserved for war heroes.

After retiring from football, Maradona developed heart problems caused by cocaine addiction, and he endured wild weight and fitness swings that seemed to reflect his do-or-die attitude to both, the game and life. Argentina’s “golden boy” is best remembered for the two goals that threw England out of the 1986 World Cup. The quarter-final in Mexico City was eagerly anticipated, coming as it did just four years after the Falklands War between the UK and Argentina. Maradona made sure it was a game few would forget. Six minutes into the second half, England’s Steve Hodge miscued a clearance, sending the ball high into his own penalty area. Maradona, at five foot five inches, leaped above the six



foot high England goalkeeper Peter Shilton as he tried to punch the ball clear. Replays showed that Maradona fisted, rather than headed, the ball into the net, a foul the referee missed. The Argentine No. 10 dedicated the goal to the “hand of God.” While that goal has become one of the most infamous in football history, Maradona’s second in the game was voted the best of the 20th century in a 2002 vote held by FIFA, the sport’s ruling body. Argentina won 2-1 and Maradona, its captain, went on to lift the World Cup after a 3-2 victory over West Germany in the final. May his soul rest in peace.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Courts must be pithy

Sir — Courts of the country give very lengthy judgments, which at times run into hundreds or thousands of pages. For instance, the 2019 verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi case was so lengthy that there is a major

possibility that it was not read by the litigants themselves. It was surely beyond the understanding of the common man. Such interminable court orders are for libraries and are read only by researchers and select lawyers. There is a dire need for short and precise ver-

dicts so that citizens and litigants do not have to depend on lawyers to know their salient features. Things will improve a lot if India also adopts the practice followed in many countries, where there is a limit on the number of pages in a judgment, the limits being different for the Supreme Court, High Courts and trial courts. Or else every lengthy verdict exceeding 50 pages should be compulsorily accompanied by a summary of the order, with a limit of say 50 pages, to be issued and posted on the court website on the date of the judgment itself.

Madhu Agrawal
Delhi

Big loss for football

Maradona’s scoring prowess and skill in slalomming past opponents vaulted him into the hall of fame. But the player struggled to cope with the adulation and his battles with addiction became regular global news. Sad that the football great left this world so early.

Ashmit Aaron
Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Read the RCEP fine print

It leaves the regulatory door ajar for each country to force hard, localisation rules for data without being subject to scrutiny at the multilateral platform



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The world has seen a major economic negotiating bloc getting “next to a done deal” in the last fortnight, in the form of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a free trade agreement (FTA) between 10 ASEAN countries and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. This pact, when ratified, will come to represent 30 per cent of the world’s GDP, impacting almost half of the global population. Most significantly, it is a multilateral trade agreement where China is a leading party. The RCEP has been at the negotiating table since 2012 before it went stagnant in recent years as India resisted opening its industrial and agricultural sectors to increased international competition. Subsequently, given the rise of an “abrasively ambitious and technology-aided” China, India had also pressed for localising data of each country’s citizens, unless the participating nation granted its outbound transfer. India formally withdrew from the RCEP in 2019 due to domestic demands. However, despite the November 15 agreement on the trade deal, New Delhi still has the option to join RCEP.

A post-pandemic world economy gasping to revive, a new regime in the US soon with a strong possibility of rejoining multilateral platforms for trade and strategic cooperation and the vision of a new India are some of the paradigms to be kept in mind before passing any judgment on what works best in our favour at this juncture. New Delhi not joining the RCEP has been received with mixed responses domestically, with those opposing the Government’s stance stating that an isolated India in South East Asia and our sensitivity to China’s imports may be more out of geopolitics than economic realisation. A study found that between 2007-2008 and 2015-16, India’s import of Chinese semi-finished goods and heavy machinery has had a positive impact on our industries, creating jobs and increasing competitiveness. Those who support the Government’s moves of withdrawal have equally strong positions on how importing these goods from China leads to job losses for the unskilled. In the post-pandemic economy, a huge chunk of jobs has to be created for this unskilled category.

The broad tenets of the RCEP agreement aim to achieve zero tariffs on over 90 per cent traded goods between partner countries in 15 years. The economic impact may be dulled by the knowledge that most of these trading partners already have bilateral FTAs in place. However, the geopolitical impact, given a heavy Chinese presence and an ambition to create a counter bloc to the US-led Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), can’t be overlooked. It is often said that China has a huge knack for reverse mastering/engineering the skill sets developed in any successful economy and, therefore, without any significant costs of indigenous development, it can scale up and produce similar goods and services at half the rates offered by original creators. The wordings of the RCEP, in terms of borrowed texts from the CPTPP chapters and approach, seem like a similar exercise. It is here that key emerging technology policy topics like e-commerce, data localisation, as envisaged in the RCEP agreement, have to be studied carefully before India makes any decision.

Electronic commerce, an evolving area of friction on bilateral and multilateral platforms, has found a chapter in the RCEP agreement document. It borrows heavily from the CPTPP. However, on execution, it has bleaker chances as the clauses (at least in their wordings) are less enforceable, ambiguous and too tight-jacketed. The dispute resolution mechanism in case of conflict must be referred to the RCEP joint committee if all other channels of negotiations fail. The contentious issues of source code disclosure requirements, data flows across trading partners and location of data centres and computing facilities have been left for future consultations and agreements. India and the rest of the world economies, including Europe, would be watching this space closely to get cues, before trying to make any overtures. The global policy space is currently staring at tonnes of ideas being floated to control the flow of data beyond sovereign boundaries, thereby acknowledging and equating data as a physical commodity to be traded as a chip on the high tables of multilateral agreements. It would take tonnes of space to argue and potentially arrive at a middle path between different approaches to data regulation globally, except, suffice it to say, this year has been the beginning of national data colonisation policies.

Staying on with data regulations, the text for cross-border data flows and location of computation facilities in the RCEP document leave ample room for subjective and aggressive interpretations. The bloc leaves the regulatory door ajar for each country to force hard, localisation rules for data without being subject to scrutiny at the multilateral platform. This clause may seem to be played to the galleries domestically for each partner but has its own repercussions on global cooperation. India for the time-being has chosen to call for an adjournment on the multidimensional chessboard of multilateral trade/strategic pacts, which is a wise move. It is always better to sleep over the problem and come back with a fresh perspective before going for Sicilian defence or the Queen’s gambit.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

OUR PARTY’S STRUCTURE HAS COLLAPSED. WE NEED TO REBUILD IT AND THEN IF ANY LEADER IS ELECTED IN THAT STRUCTURE, IT WILL WORK.

—CONGRESS LEADER GHULAM NABI AZAD

POINT COUNTERPOINT



MR AZAD IS A CWC-NOMINATED MEMBER WHO CAN JUST PICK UP THE PHONE AND CALL ANYBODY IN THE PARTY INSTEAD OF SPEAKING PUBLICLY.

—CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON PAWAN KHERA

Dynamic rulebook

While criticising the Constitution for the failure of those who are responsible for maintaining its sanctity, we are doing injustice to both, the founders and the text



ANURAG TIWARY

November has by and large been an important month in history. On November 26, 1940, Nazi Germany began walling off the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw. In November 1941, the Japanese 1st Air Fleet, also known as the *Kido Butai*, in a surprise military move, left the Kuril Islands to strike Pearl Harbour during World War II. In November 1944, a German rocket hit a Woolworth’s shop in London, killing 168 people. Simultaneously, on the same day, Himmler, a leading Nazi soldier, ordered the destruction of the Auschwitz-Birkenau crematoria. World politics was in a state of turmoil. Populist leaders, who were born from democracy, and their obsession with expansionism were being severely criticised and held accountable globally.

Back in India, the Hindu-Muslim tension and the differences between the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Muslim League (ML) were growing at an alarming rate. After a failed attempt at the Shimla Conference to mediate between the INC and the ML, the Cabinet Mission Plan was released by a three-member committee set up to decide the fate of an independent India by the Labour Party heading the Government in the UK. Since the Cabinet mission had rejected the demands made by the ML, the league was miffed and had declared the infamous “Direct Action Day”, which had led to widespread violence all across the country.

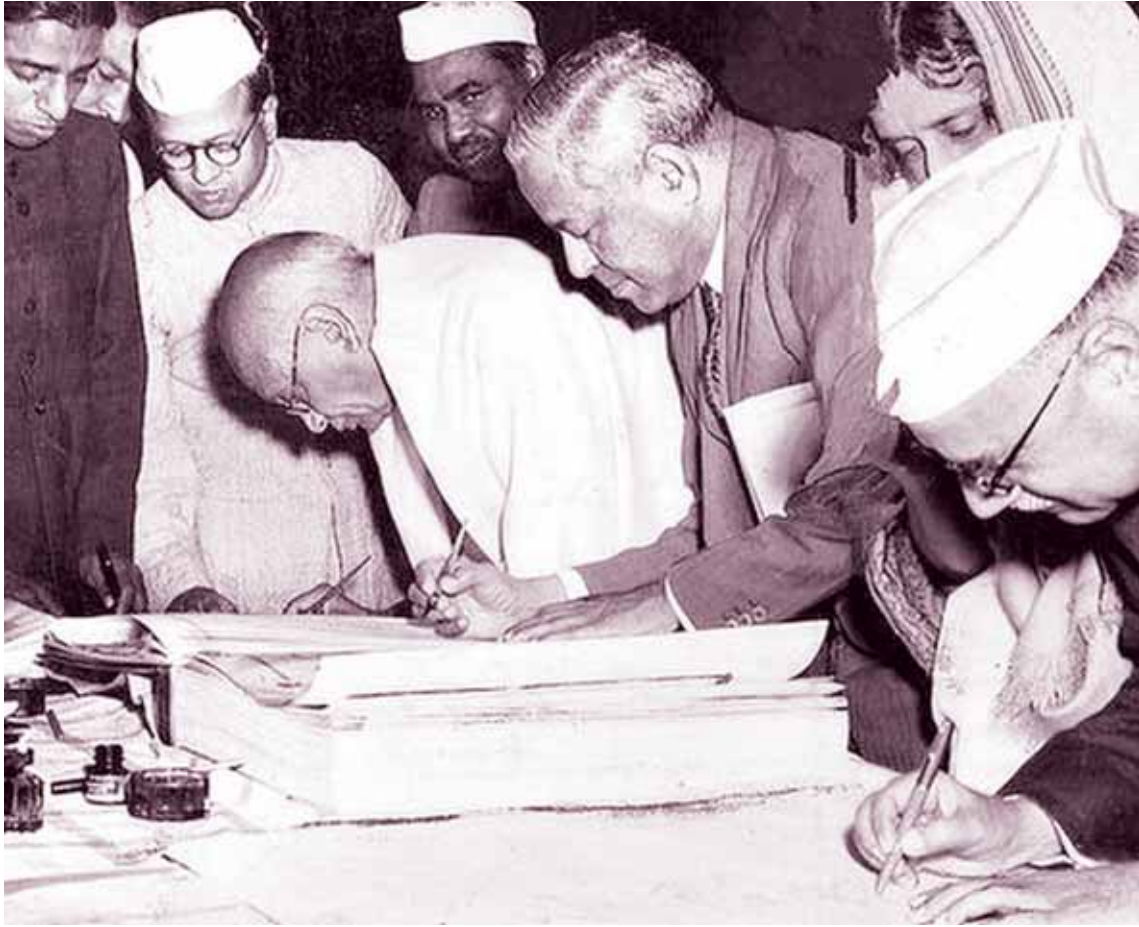
Among all this chaos, on November 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India formally adopted a Constitution for an independent and democratic country. After hours of debates, discussions and discourses that were held for close to three long years by more than 350 men and women of astute credibility and a proven track record, the Constitution was adopted.

This was not an ordinary moment in India’s socio-political and constitutional history. For a majority of Indians, this was a “break from the past” moment. However, for the founding fathers, the task of framing a Constitution was far more sensitive. They had a dual role. On one hand, they had to justify to the world and future generations reading the text that India was the better of the two nations (the other being Pakistan) that were formed as a result of the Partition and on the other, they had to draft a Constitution that reflected the struggle of the founders. This second role, as Abhinav Chandrachud points out in his book, *Republic of Rhetoric*, had two competing goals — one was to transform India and the other was to keep things the same. Continuity and change were the two important aspects that rationalised the Constitution-making mandate of the Assembly. Granville Austin points out that the Constitution sought to bring about a “social revolution” while at the same time “trying to preserve national unity and stability.”

The founders were fairly optimistic Indians. They framed a Constitution that wasn’t just ahead of its time but was also a positive and radical intervention in the Indian political scene. For instance, it abolished untouchability, made it unconstitutional for anyone to be granted titles and made a provision for affirmative action for those who had been historically marginalised by society. It granted universal adult suffrage to everyone, irrespective of their religion, caste, creed, gender or race and ensured a fundamental right to equality to every citizen of this country.

All this at a time when the world was still not ready to accept these changes. For example, in the US, despite it being one of the oldest constitutional Republics around the world, it was only in 1954

“THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION IS A LIVING DOCUMENT AND IT IS GOING TO SURVIVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO STAND FOR THOSE WHO ARE VULNERABLE, DOWNTRODDEN AND HAVE BEEN HISTORICALLY SIDELINED BY A CACOPHONIC PARLIAMENT. LET’S PROMISE TO SHAPE A NATION THAT AIMS TO BUILD ON FROM WHERE THE FOUNDERS LEFT OFF”



in the Brown vs Board of Education case, when the “separate but equal” clause was held to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Black women were allowed to vote only in 1965 under the Voting Rights Act and Affirmative Action for Blacks and Browns was held to be constitutional very recently in 2003 in the Grutter vs Bollinger case. The US Supreme Court made inter-racial marriage constitutionally permissible in 1967 and gave students the right to free speech in 1969 in the Tinker vs Des Moines case.

Even as a proud India celebrated Samvidhaan Diwas yesterday, little do we know that the Assembly that framed the most egalitarian and forward-looking Constitution of its times was also criticised by several quarters. There were two kinds of criticisms that were levelled against the founders — moral and legal. The moral criticism was that the Assembly was anti-Gandhian and wasn’t a democratic one. Mahatma Gandhi had espoused the concept of village republics and had stated that power should be vested in the hands of the panchayat whereas the Constitution had followed a highly centralised top-bottom approach to governance.

The Assembly was also stated to be non-representative because a majority of its members were Hindus and members of the INC, too. It was also argued that a colonial mindset prevailed in the Assembly whereby it followed a cut-copy-paste model of framing the Constitution. The legal shortcomings rest on the argument that the Assembly’s functioning was against the State paper and the Indian Independence Act of 1947. Many also felt that the Assembly laid the foundations for a non-secular India. However, there is no doubt that these criticisms had little to no bearing on the sanctity of the document. One-half of the Constitutions across the

world don’t even get to see their 20th year. At the least, these criticisms show that dissent was very much a part of the Constitution-making process and virtually every leader in the Assembly had at one point of time or the other registered his/her concerns on issues that they felt strongly about. The Constitution was indeed adopted based on popular support and sovereignty that the Assembly enjoyed from every strata of the society. Today, the document enjoys the status of a holy book for all those who believe in its dreams for this great country.

This is not to say that we have been equally successful in curbing the menace of discrimination, inequality and religious intolerance in India. Arguably so, we might have failed, and the founders would not be very happy with the state of affairs that exist today. Gender inequality, caste-based discrimination, religious fundamentalism, lack of quality public education, criminalisation of politics, corruption, increased blue and white collar crimes, hunger, poverty, population, unemployment, climate change, stifling of dissent and increased populism in politics are concerns that continue to haunt us and our Constitutional framework even today.

But before we hold the Constitution responsible for all that pervades in our socio-political landscape today, let’s take a step back and understand the role that this text is and was supposed to be playing in democracies like the one that exists in our country. Constitutions are inherently symbolic documents and all that they do is reflect the minds and hearts of the people. This is not to say that they include all that is not morally permissible. Constitutional texts assert and reiterate the dreams that a nation saw for itself.

Seventy one years ago, our founders

dreamt of a nation that would be free from all kinds of prejudice, hate and stigmatisation. We haven’t achieved this goal. But while criticising the text for its supposed failure we forget that our anger is misplaced. This is precisely because the Indian Constitution places an extremely huge amount of trust on whom it applies, in this case the citizens of this country. While holding the Constitution accountable for the failure of the people, we are doing injustice to the text that works best only when “We, The People” act with complete honesty and uphold principles of Constitutional idealism.

The reason why Samvidhaan Diwas is important is fairly simple, it tells you a story. The story of the rising sun in the history of India’s Constitutional journey. It tells you that the Constitution was drafted by appreciating dissent and favouring intellectual discourse. It tells you that the document was framed at a time when the dynamics of global politics was being reconsidered. It tells you that even in the face of criticism, the Assembly was successful in framing a document that was forward-looking, optimistic and has until now survived the wrath of several populist governments and authoritative leaders. It tells you, most importantly, that the criticism of the Constitution is misplaced and that the failure of those who are responsible to ensure its sanctity does not necessarily mean the failure of the text itself.

The Indian Constitution is a living document and it is going to survive and will continue to stand for those who are vulnerable, downtrodden and have been historically sidelined by a cacophonous Parliament. Let’s promise to shape a nation that aims to build on from where the founders left off.

(The writer is from the National Law University, Visakhapatnam)

Love jihad is an excuse for inefficiency

Amid issues of national importance, a false narrative has been created that women are deceived and forcibly converted to Islam for marriage



MARKANDEY KATJU

There is a lot of talk of “love jihad” these days in the country. The Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government has approved an Ordinance against it, providing for long jail sentences as well as heavy fines, and a Bill called the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversions Bill, 2020 is proposed to be introduced in the UP Legislature shortly. The hilly States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand already have such laws and the Madhya Pradesh Government, too, has said that marriages to enable “forcible religious conversions” would invite an imprison-

ment of up to 10 years, extending the proposed period of maximum punishment for the alleged offence from the five years announced earlier. There is also a requirement to take the District Magistrate’s permission for converting to marry in UP. The Haryana Government, too, is proposing to bring a law against it.

The expressions “love jihad” and “forced conversion” are vague and liable to any number of interpretations. India is largely a conservative country, and most parents want their children (particularly women) to marry within their own religion. So, when the latter fall in love with someone who belongs to another religion, the parents often file a police report, alleging that their daughter was beguiled and abducted.

Whatever the term “love jihad” may mean, my experience as a lawyer for 20 years and a judge for another 20 is that in most cases, there is no such thing as a “forced conversion.” In many of the cases which came before me as a Supreme Court judge, the FIR

was usually filed by the family or the father of the woman alleging that the woman/daughter had been duped and hoodwinked, and/or abducted and forced to marry by a man from a different religion. But when I summoned the woman (and I was satisfied that she was above 18 years of age) she invariably told me that she had married the young man of her own free will and there was no coercion.

It is alleged by Right wing elements that “love jihad” is different from love marriage. According to them, a love marriage takes place because the couple genuinely love each other, whereas “love jihad” is not motivated by love but is a conversion conspiracy by Muslims. It is alleged that Muslim men often conceal their names and other particulars and beguile and dupe girls from different religions, particularly Hindus, into marriage with false allurements. To my mind, this is a bogus claim and never in my judicial experience have I found any basis for it.

I submit that “love jihad” is only

a gimmick, intended to divert public attention from the steep decline in India’s economy, appalling rise in child malnourishment, steep rise in prices of foodstuff and fuel, continuing farmers’ distress, rapes, acid attacks, rise in other crimes, corruption, pollution, major issues on the country’s borders vis-a-vis the stand-off with China and frequent skirmishes with Pakistan. Amid all these pressing issues of national importance, a false narrative and hue and cry has been created that young women are deceived, enticed and forcibly converted to Islam for marriage. There may be a few such stray instances (though not to my knowledge), but my belief, on the basis of my long judicial experience, is that almost all inter-religious marriages are voluntary love marriages. Also, no data is given of Muslim women marrying Hindu men, which is of course regarded as “ghar wapasi” (a homecoming).

I need not go into the legal validity of such “love jihad” marriages though the Supreme Court in the

Shakti Vahini vs. Union of India case (2018), the Arumugam Servai vs. State of Tamil Nadu case (2011), Lata Singh vs. State of UP case (2006), and in the recent Division Bench decision of the Allahabad High Court, held inter-religious marriages valid.

But the big question is how many of such marriages take place in the country? In India’s population of 138 crore people, one can count them on one’s fingertips. So it is not that hordes of Hindu girls or women from other communities are clamouring to tie the knot with Muslim men. It is not as if such marriages are threatening to change India’s demography and make it a Muslim-majority country, as is portrayed by some people.

The real issues before the country right now are widespread poverty, starvation deaths, the raging pandemic, almost total lack of proper healthcare and good education for the masses, record, rising unemployment, lack of opportunities and so on. Since the Government has no idea how to resolve these, it does what all

other populist governments have done in the past. It seeks to divert public attention and create a bogeyman, resorting to gimmicks and stunts. “Love jihad” is the latest one (the earlier ones being abrogation of Article 370, the Citizenship Amendment Act and so on.)

This bogey has the advantage of further polarising society on religious lines, which admirably serves some vested interests and also translates into votes for others. It gives a handle to vigilante groups to harass and attack couples. “Honour killings”, which are already a menace, will become more common as the days go by.

The Roman emperors used to say, “If you cannot give the people bread, give them circuses”, and Queen Marie Antoinette of France reportedly said, “If the people do not have bread, let them eat cake.” Our own emperors say, “Since we cannot give the people bread or employment, we must give them the apparition of ‘love jihad’.”

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India)



IT IS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY

China sees the testing and disinfection of imported products as necessary to keep the virus at bay. While that will inevitably cause delays in custom clearance, such measures are necessary under the current circumstances, especially when Corona is still wreaking havoc around the world, causing thousands of deaths each day.

(China Daily editorial)

26/11: US says it stands with India

Remains resolute in fight against terrorism

Washington: Asserting that it stands with India and remains resolute in the fight against terrorism, the US said it is committed to hold the perpetrators of the heinous 26/11 terror attacks accountable to ensure justice for the victims.

November 26 marks the 12th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

“Through the Rewards for

Justice programme, we seek to ensure that all those responsible for this heinous attack face justice,” US State Department deputy spokesman Cale Brown said on Wednesday.

“On the 12th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai attack, the US reaffirms its commitment to holding the perpetrators accountable and ensuring justice for the victims, including six Americans. Standing alongside our Indian partners, we remain resolute in the fight against terrorism,” Brown said.

Ten terrorists of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)

carried out 12 coordinated shooting and bombing attacks lasting four days across Mumbai. At least 166 people, including six Americans and nine terrorists, were killed and over 300 others were injured in the attacks which began on November 26, 2008.

The Taj Mahal hotel, the Oberoi hotel, the Leopold Cafe, the Nariman (Chabad) House and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus train station were some of the locations targeted.

The Rewards for Justice programme is offering a reward of up to \$5 million for infor-



mation about the individuals responsible for these attacks. Key members of this heinous plot remain at large and the investigation remains active and ongoing. This reward offer extends to any individual who bears responsibility for this act

of terror, the State Department said. The six US citizens killed during the 26/11 attacks were Ben Zion Chroman, Gavriel Holtzberg, Sandeep Jeswani, Aryeh Leibish Teitelbaum, Alan Scherr and his daughter Naomi Scherr.

US will appeal order barring expulsions of migrant children

Houston: The US government on Thursday appealed a judge's order barring the expulsions of immigrant children who crossed the border alone, a policy enacted during the coronavirus pandemic to deny the children asylum protections.

Judge Emmet Sullivan issued a preliminary injunction on November 18 sought by advocates for immigrants that barred expulsions of unaccompanied children under public health laws.

The Justice Department filed a notice of appeal Wednesday night to the US Court of Appeals for the District

of Columbia Circuit. It also asked Sullivan to issue a stay of the injunction pending appeal, a request he previously denied.

Since March, border agents have expelled 200,000 immigrant adults and children citing the pandemic and a need to prevent the spread of the virus, even though Covid-19 is spreading broadly through border communities and the country at large.

Sullivan's order only covered children who cross the border without a parent and not adults or parents and children. At least 8,800 unaccompanied children have been

expelled without having a chance to seek asylum protections or speak to a lawyer.

Most people have been expelled within hours or days, though the Trump administration detained hundreds of children for weeks in hotels near the U.S.-Mexico border for days or weeks at a time until another judge barred that practice.

President-elect Joe Biden has said he will reverse several of President Donald Trump's immigration programs when he takes office in January. Biden has not stated whether he will stop expulsions of immigrants.

Pak must bring perpetrators of 26/11 attacks to justice: Consul Gen Jaiswal

New York: Perpetrators of the “ghastly” 26/11 Mumbai attacks must be brought to justice by Pakistan, India's Consul General in New York Randhir Jaiswal said, emphasising that combating terrorism requires strong global cooperation as he, along with top Israeli diplomats, paid homage to the victims of the 2008 terror strike.

November 26 marks the 12th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

“It is important for the world and the global community, for us and for justice that those responsible are brought to book. Pakistan must do

what is required to bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice,” Jaiswal said, addressing a virtual commemoration event on Wednesday.

Ten terrorists of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) carried out 12 coordinated shooting and bombing attacks lasting four days across Mumbai. At least 166 people, including six Jews and nine terrorists, were killed and over 300 others were injured in the attacks which began on November 26, 2008.

At the event organised by The American India Public Affairs Committee and

American Jewish Committee, Jaiswal described the 26/11 attacks as a “ghastly attack unknown in the annals of history”. He said terrorism is one of the greatest threats confronting the world.

“As in the (time of) COVID19, the world has come together to fight this pandemic, we must all come together to fight terrorism, a global problem, tooth and nail. Let us remember on this occasion those who fell to the barbaric and bloody bullets of insanity and inhumanity. And those who sacrificed life to save our tomorrow, to save our today,” he said.

Israelis pay respects to victims, demand justice for them

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Israelis are holding ceremonies to pay respects to the victims of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, demanding that the perpetrators of the carnage be brought to justice and condemning “Pakistan-sponsored terrorism”.

Israelis, and Indian students and caregivers paid respects to the victims in Jerusalem, Rehovot and Tel Aviv on Wednesday and ceremonies are planned in Beersheva and Eilat on Thursday.

A virtual ceremony on Zoom is also planned for Thursday at 8 PM Israel time (11:30 PM IST). Hundreds have registered to take part in the event.

“Israel opposes every country that provides financial and logistical support to terrorists. Peaceful countries should come together to boycott diplomatically and financially those countries that support terrorism. This will help deter acts of terror,” Isaac Solomon from the southern Israeli coastal city of Eilat told PTI.

We're at war with the virus, not each other: Biden in Thanksgiving address

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President-elect Joe Biden has reminded Americans that they were at war with the coronavirus and not against each other, as he called for an end to the “grim season of division” in the country.

In a Thanksgiving address ahead of the holiday, he urged fellow

Americans to forgo high-risk holiday traditions, as cases of the virus continue to surge in the US, the worst-hit nation with over 262,100 deaths.

“I know the country's grown weary of the fight. But we need to remember, we're at war with the virus, not with one another. Not with each other.

“This is the moment where we need to steel our spines, redouble our efforts and recommit ourselves to the fight,” Biden said, speaking from his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware.

“Let's remember: We're all in this together,” the 78-year-old Democrat said on Wednesday.

Trump pardons former NSA Michael Flynn

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order granting pardon to his former national security advisor Michael Flynn, who had been charged with making false statements to the FBI over possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia during the 2016 presidential polls.

Trump signed the executive order on Wednesday.

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.
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Edelweiss (Risk averse, value added)

EdelARC/1872/2020-21 November 11, 2020 To

Magpie India Private Limited, Plot No.-TP-4, Sector-38, Phase-1, HSIIDC Industrial Estate Rai, Sonapat Haryana - 131001

Golden Lotus Investments Private Limited, SCO No - 140-141, Sector-34/ A, Chandigarh - 160018

Mr. Kailash Chand Jain, MD - 25, Pitam Pura, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi - 110088

Mr. Suresh Jain, MD-25, Pitam Pura, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi - 110088

Ms. Anuradha Jain, MD - 25, Pitam Pura, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi - 110088

MS. Rani Jain, MD - 25, Pitam Pura, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi - 110088

Mr. Manish Bhaskar, H. No - 246, Ground Floor, Bhera Enclave, Paschim Vihar, Delhi - 110087

Sub: Magpie International Limited, ("Borrower") and Magpie India Private Limited, Golden Lotus Investments Private Limited, Kailash Chand Jain, Suresh Jain, Anuradha Jain, Rani Jain and Manish Bhaskar, (individually referred to as "Co-Borrower" respectively and collectively referred to as "Co-Borrowers") - Default in Repayment - Enforcement of Security interest - Statutory Demand Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the Rules thereunder.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (acting in its capacity as Trustee of **EARC Trust SC 406**) (hereinafter referred to as "**EARC Assignee**"), a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and registered as an Asset Reconstruction Company pursuant to Section 3 of SARFAESI Act, 2002 having its registered office at Edelweiss House, Off C.S.T Road, Kalina, Mumbai- 400 098 serves, issue the following notice to you under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 ("**SARFAESI Act**") and the Rules thereunder;

1. Magpie International Limited, ("**Borrower**") and Magpie India Private Limited, Golden Lotus Investments Private Limited, Kailash Chand Jain, Suresh Jain, Anuradha Jain, Rani Jain and Manish Bhaskar, (individually referred to as "**Co-Borrower**") respectively and collectively referred to as "**Co-Borrowers**") having its registered office at 206, 2nd Floor, Jaksons Crown Heights, Plot No. 381, Twin District Centre, Sector-10, Rohini Delhi- 110085 approached ECL Finance Limited (**Assignor/ECL**) for availing financial assistance.

2. The Assignor sanctioned various loan facilities to the tune of **Rs. 24,67,32,842/- (Rupees Twenty Four Crores Sixty Seven Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred And Forty Two Only)** to the Borrower and Co-Borrowers. For availing the said financial assistance, the Borrower and Co-Borrowers executed/entered into various loan and security agreements/documents, clearly agreeing and accepting in full to abide by the terms of sanction of the credit facilities and executed various transaction documents thereto.

3. With a view to secure the said loan facility sanctioned by the Assignor together with interest, costs and charges, the Borrower and Co-Borrowers created mortgage by executing Indenture of Mortgage dated October 3, 2016 for Rs. 1,00,00,000/- loan, which was extended to Loan Against Property (LAP) of Rs. 2,55,40,000/- on June 28, 2018 and LAP of Rs. 21,11,87,468/- on June 28, 2018 in favor of the Assignor in respect of the immovable properties (more particularly described in **ANNEXURE I** herewith).

4. The Borrower and Co-Borrower failed to comply with the terms of the loan facility and defaulted in the repayment of the interest, cost, charges to the Assignor. In view thereof the Assignor has classified the said credit facility as Non-Performing Asset ("**NPA**") under the guidelines prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India.

5. EARC has acquired the rights, title and interests in the above financial assistance, classified as NPA, from ECL Finance Limited for valid consideration vide Assignment Agreement dated June 29, 2020. The Assignor, in consideration of the purchase consideration and upon terms and conditions set forth in the Assignment Agreement, have irrevocably assigned and transferred all its right, title and interest in the debt due and payable by the Borrower and Co-Borrowers to EARC. EARC has thus become a Secured Creditor in respect of the Borrower and Co-Borrowers, by virtue of such acquisition of financial assistance and as such become the full and absolute legal owner and the only person legally entitled to recover the debt due and payable by the borrower or any part thereof.

6. That the Borrower and Co-Borrowers are liable to pay (jointly & Severally) to EARC, the outstanding dues aggregating to **Rs.25,82,45,538/- (Rupees Twenty Five Crores Eighty Two Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Five Hundred And Thirty Eight Only)** as on October 31, 2020 (as more specifically mentioned in annexure-II herewith) together with further interest, cost and other charges.

7. In view of the aforesaid, we hereby call upon you, the Borrower, the Co-Borrowers and the Guarantors to discharge in full, your liabilities as stated above i.e. **Rs 25,82,45,538/- (Rupees Twenty Five Crores Eighty Two Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Five Hundred And Thirty Eight Only)** as on October 31, 2020 within sixty days (60 days) from the date of this notice, together with further interest, cost and other charges, till the actual payment.

8. Please take note that, in the event of your failure to comply with this notice and pay the aforesaid amount, EARC would take recourse to one or more of the measures prescribed under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and the Rules therein, in exercise of the rights conferred, for enforcement of the security interest and recovery of the liabilities without the intervention of Court or Tribunal, entirely at your costs and risk, without any further reference to you.

9. You are hereby put on notice that as per the provisions of Section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are restrained to transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise create any charge or encumbrance over any of secured assets referred to hereunder in the **ANNEXURE I** to this notice, without prior written consent of EARC.

10. This statutory notice is issued without prejudice to all the other rights and remedies available to EARC in law or contract or both, in respect of the financial assistance availed by the Borrower and Co-Borrowers.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
For Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited,
(Acting in its capacity as trustee of the EARC Trust SC 406)
CC:
Mr. Vivek Raheja Resolution Professional of Magpie International Limited
[IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00055/2017-18/ 10133]908, D Mail, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034.

ANNEXURE I
DETAILS OF MORTGAGE/CHARGE PROPERTIES
Plot No - TP - 4, measuring 16,011.60 sq. mtrs., Sector - 38, Phase-1, HSIIDC Industrial Estate Rai, Rai, Sonapat, Haryana

ANNEXURE II
PARTICULARS OF DUES IN RESPECT OF CREDIT FACILITY SANCTIONED BY ASSIGNOR (in Rs.)

Loan Facility Details	Dues as on 31st October 2020		
	Principal	Interest	Total Dues
LDLLEAP0000019058	9,031,393	1,203,685	10,235,078
LDLLEAP0000050393	204,901,392	25,819,028	230,520,420
LDLLEAP0000050392	15,242,241	2,247,798	17,490,039
Total	229,175,026	29,070,512	258,245,538

Place, Mumbai, Maharashtra Sd/-
Date: 27.11.2020 For Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited,
(Acting in its capacity as trustee of the EARC Trust SC 406)

London, most of England, to move to high Covid 19 alert level after lockdown

London: The UK capital of London along with most regions of England will move into Tier 2 of a three-tier Covid-19 restrictions system and remain at a high alert level at the end of the complete stay-at-home lockdown on December 2, the UK government announced in Parliament on Thursday.

Other regions such as Manchester, Birmingham, Hull, Newcastle and large parts of the north of England are set to face the toughest coronavirus restrictions with only three areas - Cornwall, the Isle of Wight and Isles of Scilly - placed into the lowest Tier 1 or the medium restrictions category.

Under the highest Tier 3 alert level, there is a complete ban on mixing of households except in limited outdoor settings. For Tier 2, the rule of six applies with up to six members of different households allowed

to meet outdoors and under Tier 1, the rule of six applies both indoors and outdoors.

Unlike before, gyms and close-contact beauty services like hairdressers will be able to open in all tiers but government guidance says that people in all tiers who can work from home should continue to do so.

UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock told the House of Commons these are incredibly hard decisions but urged the public to “dig deep” in order to help bring the rate of infection, or R number, below one.

“Hope is on the horizon but we still have further to go. So we must all dig deep,” said Hancock.

“Thanks to the hard work and sacrifice made by people up and down the country, we are able to move out of national lockdown and into more targeted local, tiered restrictions,” he said.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Bada Ram**, S/o **Kaushal Ji Ghanchi, R/o Ghanchui Ki Gali, Village Jawai, Distt. Sirohi, Rajasthan**, has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 72/2020, U/S 408 IPC, P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Bada Ram** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Bada Ram** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Bada Ram** of **FIR No. 72/2020, U/S 408 IPC, P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **08.01.2021**.

By Order
Sh. Pranav Joshi,
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/724/N/20/Court Matter)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (M.I.D), DIVISION DHARMARI
Email: xenmidharmari@jlt.gov.in, xenphedharmari@jlt.gov.in

Notice inviting e-Tender
E-NIT NO :- 43 of 11/2020 Dated:- 23/11/2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on **Item Rate Basis** are invited from reputed and resourceful contractors/Firms/companies/joint venture of repute, which should be uploaded on the e-Procurement web portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> up to last bidding date:- 10/12/2020 up to 06:00 PM for the subject work referred below to be received in the office of the **Executive Engineer Jal Shakti [Mahore Irrigation] Division Dharmari** and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed NIT / Tender Documents/ PWD Form No- 25 double are acceptable. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement Portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable) Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/ Receipt in favour of the **Executive Engineer Jal Shakti [Mahore Irrigation] Division Dharmari :- S.No. 1 Name of work :- 1. Construction of WSS Tiliu Pattian 2. Construction of WSS Kanthi. 3. Construction of WSS Dugga Dharote**

Adv. Cost of Work (s) in Lacs :- 1378.26, Earnest Money In Rs.:- 2756520/-, Class of Contract :- Special "A"/ "A", Cost of Document:- 30000/-, Period of completion:- 08 months, MH of Account:- 4215.

No. DIP/J-7687/20 Dated:- 25.11.2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mahore Irrigation Division Dharmari

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one persons **Namely: Umesh Kumar, S/o Shiv Kumar, R/o: H.No. 7B, Gali No. 2 F Block SSN Colony, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi, Age: 27 Years, Height: About 5'2", Complexion: Blonde, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Blue Colour T-Shirt, Brown Colour Pant and Shoes in Feet** has been missing since 14.08.2020 from his house. In this regard **DD No. 68A, Dated 09.11.2020** has been lodged at **P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing person please inform the undersigned.

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/618/ON/2020

SHO
P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27811933, 27811934

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006,
Tel.: 0135-2763808, Fax- 0135- 2763507,
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com.

Tender Notice दिनांक: 26.11.2020

पत्रांक सं. 768

Office of the EE (M&G), Dhakrani Power Station invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
NIT No. 23/EE(M&G)/DKN/2020-21:- Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of 01 MVA, 33/11 KV Transformer for Dhakrani Power Station
Estimated cost :- Rs 22, 06,000.00 (GST extra).
Date of availability of bid document on website:- 27/11/2020
Last date of submission of tender:- 18.12.2020 up to 15:00 Hrs
For further & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity" EE(M&G)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.

Name of work with its location	Hiring of artisan & Helper for day to day maintenance of colonies and service building under Sr.DEN-IV.
Approx Cost of work	Rs. 96,05,861.57
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,92,100.00
Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Bidding Start date for work no. Up to 15:00 hrs on 04.12.2020 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs on 18.12.2020
Website particulars, published e-tender notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/NIT 36-W/IV/20-21/WJV Date : 25.11.2020 2643/2020	

Serving Customers With A Smile

Europe signs \$102M deal to bring space trash home

Berlin: The European Space Agency says it is signing a 86 million-euro (USD 102 million) contract with a Swiss start-up company to bring a large piece of orbital trash back to Earth.

The agency said Thursday that the deal with ClearSpace SA will lead to the “first active debris removal mission” in 2025, in which a custom-made spacecraft will capture and bring down part of a rocket once used to deliver a satellite into orbit.

Experts have long warned that hundreds of thousands of pieces of space debris circling the planet — including an astronaut's lost mirror — pose a threat to functioning satellites and even the International Space Station. Several teams are



working on ways to tackle the problem.

The object being removed from orbit is a so-called Vespa payload adapter that was used to hold and then release a satellite in 2013. It weighs about 112 kilograms (247 pounds).

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Dy. Chief materials manager, Northern Railway, Central Hospital, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders for supply of the following items:-

Tender No.	Description	Tender Due Date	Tender Invited by
82200924A	Tablets Epalrestat 25 mg.	15.12.2020 at 11:00 hrs.	Dy. CMM/Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2652/20

The Executive Engineer, Udaipur Division, PWD(R&B), Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No **II/EE/UDP-DIVN/UDP/2020-21**

DATED 11.11.2020

For

1. Improvement of road from North Joingbari to South Joingbari via Bidyamoni Jamatia House (L=0.50 Km), DONBOSCO School Pitra to Pitra Cherra (L=0.20 Km) and Approach Road of Joyingbari Stadium (L=0.530 Km) under SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJI RURBAN MISSION (SPMRM) At Killa Cluster./S.H: Formation, Earth cutting for widening and Lowering, GSB, Metalling, carpeting, Seal coat, unlined surface drain, Pucca Drain, RCC CD, Retaining wall/Toe walls etc during the year 2020-21.

₹ 1,15,96,044.39 ₹ 1,15,960.00 120 (one hundred twenty) days

DNIT No. 24/NIT/SE-III/RURBAN/2020-21
Last Date & Time for Document Downloading & bidding - 02.12.2020 upto 15.00Hrs.

The Time & Date of opening of bids - 03.12.2020 at 11.00 Hrs. if possible.

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>
Note: *NO NEGOTIATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER*

Sd/-
(Er. S K. Datta)
Executive Engineer,
PWD(R&B), Udaipur Division,
Udaipur Gomati Tripura.

ICA/C-2241/2020-21

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tendering)
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-AMC-045-2020-21 Dated: 26.11.2020

Name of work with its location	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract and Repair of DG sets installed over Delhi Division for one year.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	14,27,091/- only
Earnest Money Deposit(₹)	28,600/-only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time- 23.12.2020 up to 15:00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2651/20

Ops at PSU banks partially hit due to strike

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Banking services across the country were partially impacted on Thursday as some unions of public sector banks participated in a one-day nationwide strike called by Central trade unions.

Operations such as cash deposit and withdrawal and cheque clearances were hit. Bank unions claimed that in the clearing grids, about 20 lakh cheques worth about Rs 18,000 crore could not be sent for clearance due to the strike. Even ATMs in some parts of the country went dry.

However, the country's

largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) and private sector banks were functional.

The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA), All India Bank Officers Association (AIBOA) and Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) participated in the strike.

Another bank officers' union — All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) — did not participate but extended "fraternal support" to the strike, its General Secretary Soumya Datta said.

The unions have launched the nationwide protest against the proposed move of the gov-

ernment for privatisation of public sector banks, he added.

The recent report of the RBI's Internal Working Group on allowing large corporates to enter into the banking sector seems to be a sinister design to provide another opportunity to loot deposits of savers of the country, he added.

It is an open secret that the current problem of non-performing assets (NPAs) is because of fraud and fund diversion by corporates, he further said.

Ten central trade unions, except the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, observed the nationwide general strike to protest

against various policies of the central government.

AIBEA, which has four lakh members from various public, private and some foreign banks, in a release claimed banking transactions were affected in states like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Bihar.

In Tamil Nadu, banks were closed in 16 districts as the government declared a holiday due to cyclone Nivar.

In Maharashtra, 30,000 bank employees joined the strike and demonstrated before their

respective branches. In Mumbai, around 200 bank employees formed a human chain at Horniman Circle, Fort area.

Many lenders had intimidated their customers in advance to use digital channels such as internet/ mobile banking and ATMs for their banking transactions. Bank employees protested against privatisation of banks and outsourcing and contract system in jobs in the sector. They also demanded adequate recruitment in the sector, stern action against big corporate defaulters, increase in rate of interest on bank deposits and reduction in service charges.

Unions in the Life

Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) also participated in the strike.

The 10 central unions, including the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC), Trade Union Coordination Centre (TUCC) and Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), called for the general strike against the new farm and labour laws, among others.

Economic recovery stronger than expected; rising cases downside risk to growth: Das

PTI ■ MUMBAI

After the 23.9 per cent GDP contraction in the April-June quarter following the Covid-19 pandemic, economic recovery momentum has been stronger than expected, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday.

Das, however, said that we need to be watchful of the demand momentum sustaining after the festivities as well, and also warned of downside risks to growth coming from a rise in virus infections in select pockets. The heavy contraction in Q1 was attributed to the near-complete chilling of all economic activity in the wake of one of the strongest lockdowns enforced anywhere in the world.

The RBI, which has introduced many unconventional measures to aid recovery apart from cutting key rates by 1.15 per cent, expects the economy to shrink by 9.5 per cent in FY21.

"After witnessing a sharp contraction in the economy by 23.9 per cent in Q1 and a multi-speed normalisation of activity in Q2, the Indian economy has exhibited stronger than expected pick-up in momentum of recovery," Das said, speaking at the annual day event of Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI).

"We need to be watchful about the sustainability of demand after festivals and a possible reassessment of market expectations surrounding

the vaccine," he added.

Analysts at Icmra, a rating agency, had earlier this week raised doubts over the sustainability of demand and attributed the spurt to pent-up requirements following the lockdowns and also the festivities.

In what can assuage some concerns following the inflation over-shooting the upper end of the RBI's target band for many months, Das reiterated the rate-setting panel's resolve to "see through temporary pressures" on price rise.

"The monetary policy guidance in October emphasised the need to see through temporary inflation pressures and also maintain the accommodative stance at least during the current financial year and into the next financial year," he said.

Das said a comfortable external balance position, wherein India's forex reserves have risen to USD 572.7 billion as of November 13 or sufficient to cover a year's imports, have been a key source of resilience in recent months, adding that the government's production-linked incentives scheme to up India's share in global supply chains can also leverage on it.

Terming 2020 as year like never before, the Governor warned of rising virus infections in parts of India as a downside risk to growth and added that certain advance economies in Europe who are also witnessing a surge in cases can hurt global growth as well.

Huge renewable energy plans lie ahead for next decade: PM

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday announced that there are huge renewable energy deployment plans for India for the next decade which are likely to generate business prospects of around \$20 billion per year.

In his address after inaugurating the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020), through video conferencing, he invited investors, developers and businesses to join India's renewable energy journey.

He said that after the success of Performance Linked Incentives (PLI) in electronics manufacturing, the government has decided to give similar incentives to high efficiency solar modules, as per an official statement.

Stressing that ensuring 'ease of doing business' is their utmost priority and dedicated

Project Development Cells have been established to facilitate investors, he said that in the last 6 years, India has travelled on an "unparalleled journey".

The Prime Minister noted that India's renewable power capacity is the fourth largest in the world and is growing at the fastest speed among all major countries. The renewable energy capacity in India is currently 136 Giga Watts, which is about 36 per cent of its total capacity. He said that India's annual renewable energy capacity addition has been exceeding that of coal based thermal power since 2017, and that in the last six years, India has increased installed renewable energy capacity by two and half times.

Modi was of the view that investing in renewable energy early on even when it was not affordable has helped in achieving scale, which is bringing costs down.

'India poised to play leading role in global arena in post-Covid era'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is in a position to play a leading role in the global arena not only in the healthcare sector, but also in building the post-Covid economy, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday.

The nation has shown remarkable resilience, and its ability to rise to the occasion at a short notice, reorienting itself to the crisis has demonstrated the underlying scientific temperament, innovative thinking and strength of its medical fraternity, he said while speaking at a Ficci event.

"...it's not a simple coincidence that when we started off into this pandemic...we were short of ventilators, PPE kits and now we are in a position to export these items.

"So, that itself is a reflection of our scientific fraternity - in this case, of course, the medical fraternity - rising to the occasion at a short notice, and re-orienting ourselves to a crisis, which was actually alien to the entire world, including in the medical fraternity," Singh said addressing the 'Global R&D Summit 2020' organised by industry body Ficci.

India is in a position to take a "leading role" in the global arena in the post COVID times, not only in the healthcare but also in the building of the post-pandemic economy, said Singh, who is the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space.

Benchmarks reverse losses on F&O expiry; financial stocks shine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices resumed their ascent on Thursday after a day's breather, buoyed by banking and financial stocks, as the November series derivative contracts expired amid largely positive cues from global markets. After a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 431.64 points or 0.98 per cent higher at 44,259.74.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 128.60 points or 1 per cent to 12,987.

Tata Steel was the top performer among the Sensex components, surging 5.16 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Auto, HDFC, HCL Tech, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and Titan.

However, Maruti, ONGC, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra and Infosys dipped up to 0.87 per cent.

With better valuations attracted investors in BFSIs," he added.

Heavy buying sentiment was also seen as November derivative contracts expired, analysts added.

"Today, the market regained its momentum during the second trading half, on the monthly derivative expiry day, led by bounce in the banking sector. Investors are awaiting the release of Q2 GDP data tomorrow. The market expects contraction on a YoY basis but improvement on a QoQ basis, reflecting recovery in economic activity," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Indian IT industry pioneer FC Kohli dead

Mumbai: Faqir Chand Kohli, who sowed the seeds of the USD 190-billion IT industry, has passed away on Thursday. He was 96. The sector's largest company TCS, of which he was the founding chief executive, announced the death of Kohli and said it was the insistence of JRD Tata which got Kohli to join the Tata Group, which now counts on its infotech arm for a bulk of resources.

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran termed Kohli as a "true legend" who laid the foundation of what has been a "spectacular IT revolution" and set the stage for a dynamic modern economy that we enjoy today.

PTI

Central Govt extends credit guarantee scheme to 27 sectors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Thursday said it has extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to the health sector and 26 other sectors identified by the Kamath Committee.

The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) has issued the operational guidelines for implementation of ECLGS 2.0 scheme, the finance ministry said in a statement. The scheme was announced by the government earlier this month as part of the Rs 2.65 lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package.

"Under ECLGS 2.0 entities with outstanding credit above Rs 50 crore and not exceeding

Rs 500 crore as on February 29, 2020, which were less than or equal to 30 days past due as on February 29, 2020 are eligible," the statement said. The loans provided under ECLGS 2.0 will have a five-year tenor, with a 12-month moratorium on repayment of principal, it said.

"These entities or borrower accounts will be eligible for additional funding up to 20 per cent (which could be fund based or non-fund based or both) of their total outstanding credit (fund based only) as a collateral free Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL), which would be fully guaranteed by NCGTC," it added.

In addition to ECLGS 2.0, where no annual turnover ceiling has been prescribed, it has

also been decided to extend ECLGS 1.0 to entities under ECLGS which had a total credit outstanding (fund-based only) of up to Rs 50 crore as on February 29, 2020, but were previously ineligible owing to their annual turnover exceeding Rs 250 crore. All other existing criteria or terms and conditions remain unchanged, it said.

The scheme would be applicable to all loans sanctioned under ECLGS during the period from the date of issue of these guidelines by NCGTC to March 31, 2021 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs 3 lakh crore are sanctioned under the ECLGS (taking into account both ECLGS 1.0 and 2.0), whichever is earlier.

INBRIEF

CONTACTLESS SANITISER KIOSK AT N RAILWAY OFFICE

Following the set protocol for tackling Covid-19 a highly contagious disease, the Public Relations office of Northern Railway has installed a state-of-the-art non-contact Digital Sanitizer Kiosk in its office premises at State Entry Road, New Delhi. Additional General Manager, Northern Railway, Sh. Naveen Gulati visited the PR office and inaugurated the kiosk today. He was briefed about the special features of the machine. It can be used for Real time Covid-19 SOP compliance; automatic sanitizer dispenser for hand sanitization, temperature scanning with automatic alarm on fever detection and photo id capture. It also has digital signage for Covid-19 message display. The AGM later conducted an inspection of the PR office and met the staff on duty. He appreciated the contribution of the office in timely dissemination of information to the media and the masses. He said with the ongoing pandemic the responsibility of the PR department has increased many folds. He motivated the staff to continue doing good work and to contribute effectively for brand building of Railways.



IPR DEPT READS PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION

Jaipur: On Constitution Day, on 26 November, officers and employees in the Information and Public Relations Department located at the Government Secretariat read the Preamble of the Constitution and resolved the basic duties. Additional Director Mrs. Alka Saxena taught everyone to collectively read the Preamble of the Constitution to enhance the spirit of justice, freedom, equality and brotherhood among themselves. At the same time, to strengthen the sense of duty towards the country, he pledged to perform the basic duties mentioned in the Constitution. Financial advisor Mr. Subhash Chandra Danodia, Joint Director Mr. Shivchand Meena, Deputy Director Mr. Mahesh Chand Sharma, Chief Photo Officer Mr. Ashok Kumar Gurava and departmental officers and employees were present on the occasion.



CONSTITUTION DIWAS CELEBRATED IN CLW

Chittaranjan: As per the directives received from Railway Board, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) celebrated Constitution Day in CLW on 26-11-2020 on the occasion of 71th Anniversary of the adoption of Constitution in India. Honorable Prime Minister read out the preamble of the Constitution followed by the Ram Prakash-PCEE and senior officers of CLW through video conference in the Administrative meeting room. Later all departmental heads read out the preamble at their respective office places. On this occasion, Officers, Supervisors, Staff and Staff council members were also present in their own office premises by maintaining all precautionary measures of COVID-19. Beside reading out preamble, a bunch of activities were observed in CLW like arrangement of webinar on fundamental Duties and Constitution, Preamble signature walls signed by officers and staff, display Posters of 'Constitution Day' in various office premises of CLW and pledge on fundamental duties were administered to almost all the staff of CLW. It is to be noted that Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949.

ITPO HOLDS ITS 43RD AGM

The 43rd Annual General Meeting of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) was held on November 24, 2020 through video conferencing in the Board Room at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Shri L.C. Goyal, Chairman and Managing Director, ITPO, members of ITPO's Board including senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

While addressing the AGM, Shri L.C. Goyal, CMD mentioned that despite significant reduction in interest income and limited exhibition space due to ITPO's ongoing International Exhibition and Convention Centre (IECC) project, ITPO was able to generate total income of Rs.241.96 crore and a net surplus of Rs.87.21 crore during 2019-20. Shri Rajesh Agrawal, ED, ITPO thanked all those present in the meeting.



Power sector employees protest against privatisation of discoms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi, Nov 26 (PTI) Power sector employees on Thursday held nationwide protests against the Government's decision to privatize discoms, the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) said.

"Lakhs of power sector employees including engineers, today held nationwide protests seeking the withdrawal of Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020, scrapping of standard bidding document (SBD) and opposed the privatization of power distribution companies (discoms) in states and union territories," AIPEF spokesperson VK Gupta said in a statement.

Gupta said protest meetings were held in all the states and union territories, including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, among others.

Power sector employees and engineers are opposing the government's move to privatise electricity distribution, All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) Chairman Shailendra Dubey said in Lucknow.

They are demanding scrapping of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and SBD aimed at privatisation, he added.

Gupta said the power engineers did not join Thursday's strike called by 10 central trade unions and just staged a simple protest to highlight their issues.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Satish Kumar, S/o Jai Pal R/o H.No. 387, Gali No. 25B, Swatantra Nagar, Narela, Delhi** has been missing since 03.11.2020 at 2 p.m. . In this regard a **DD No. 40-A dated 06.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Narela, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing man is as under: **Name:** Satish Kumar, **Gender:** Male, Age: 33 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Fat, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** White colour t-shirt, blue colour pant and black colour shoes. If anyone has any information regarding this missing Man, kindly inform SHO/Narela, Delhi.



Satish Kumar

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/616/ON/2020

SHO
P.S. Narela, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-27280435, 27282350

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar,(U.P)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

(B)

- 09/G.M./AO/SM-JAL-OA/20-21- Emergency Work (M/o Expressway MSPS/SPS Sewer line (Shifting of 700 mm dia Sewer Rising Main Line at Ch. 2.360 on Noida Gr. Noida Expressway LHS of Noida Gr. Noida Expressway at Sector 96 B due to Construction of major under pass) Noida, Cost- Rs. **30.19 Lac.**
- 11/GM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/20-21 - M/o (Two year Repairing of Irrigation line from UGR. STP-50 to J-Block, Sector 41 and Golf Course to Botanical Garden) Noida, Cost- Rs. **47.60 Lac.**

Which can be uploaded by date **03.12.2020** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **04.12.2020 at 11.00 AM**.

General Manager
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

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

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Vishal Chaudhary/ Supriya Chaudhary/ LBDEL00003081363	Flat No-107, 1st Floor, Plot No. GH-07, Andromida, Planet One, Tower B, Koyal Enclave, Ghaziabad/ November 25, 2020	February 26, 2020 Rs.26,01,906/-	Delhi NCR
2.	Suneel Kumar/ Amit Kumar Verma/ LBDEL00002367176	Flat No 55, Block-C7, Pocket-3, 3rd Floor, Sector G8, Narela, Delhi/ November 25, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs.12 23 945/-	Delhi NCR

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

Date : November 27, 2020
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001.
Branch Office: H-1 & 2, 3rd Floor, Padam Plaza, Plot No.5, Sec 16 B, Awas Vikas, Sikandra Vojna, Agra - 282002.

DEMAND NOTICES ISSUED TO THE FOLLOWING BORROWERS UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

Sl No.	Date of Loan	Account No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	ADDRESS	SECURED ASSET	Date of Demand Notice	Loan Amount	Amount Outstanding
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1.	28/09/2015	XOHEAHE00 001489827	1. HARENDRA KUMAR 2. MAMTA RAGHAV	H.No.F-218, Govind Nagar, Sector-F Janam Bhumi, Mathura- 281003	Property Bearing Plot NO.218 F, Measuring Area 297.27 Sq.Mts, Situated At Govind Nagar, Sector F Mathura, 281003. Boundaries: East: Property Plot No.217 F, West : Property Plot No.219 F, North : Rasta 80 Feet, South : Plot no. 208 and 209 F.	08-10-2020	Rs.48,00,000	Rs. 55,99,752.72/- as on 26.02.2020 with further interest thereon

The Under signed is the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited hereinafter called the secured creditor, under Rule 2(a) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules framed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

In pursuant to loan agreement on the dates mentioned in column [A] the above named borrowers in column [C] residing at the address in column [D] were sanctioned loans indicated in column [G] in loan account number indicated in column [B]. Towards the due repayment of loan, equitable mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the assets in column [E] was created by the borrowers. On persistent default in repayment of the loan amount the loan accounts of the borrowers have been classified by the secured creditor as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directions and guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. Consequently notice under Sec. 13(2) of the Act was also issued to each of the borrowers on the dates mentioned in column [F], which have been returned undelivered.

I state that under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, you can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses. Before notification of sale.

In view of the above, the above named borrowers are called upon to discharge in full their liabilities towards the Secured Creditor by making the payment of the entire outstanding indicated in Column [H] above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of notice, failing which, the secured creditor shall be entitled to take possession of the Secured Asset and shall also take such other actions as is available to the Secured Creditor in law. In the absence of full discharge of dues even after the transfer of secured assets the secured creditor reserves its right to proceed against the borrowers before a Sole Arbitrator, in terms of the Loan Agreement.

In addition the above named borrowers shall not alienate by way of transfer, sale, lease or otherwise or create third party interest or dealing with the Secured Asset in column [E] mentioned against the name of the each borrowers in any manner except with specific prior written permission of the Secured creditor.

Date : 27.11.2020
Place: Agra

AUTHORISED OFFICER
Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Trend
Blazer

Priyanka preps for
Text For You shoot

Actor **PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS** has started preparation for her next romantic drama, tentatively titled *Text For You*, co-starring Grammy-winner Celine Dion and actor Sam Heughan.

Through her Instagram stories, Priyanka also revealed that she will start shooting for the project on Friday.

She shared several pictures from her prep mode, in which she is seen getting her hair and nails done before she begins work.

The photographs showed Priyanka wearing a mask while getting a manicure. Her hair is covered in plastic sheets, hinting at new hair colour. "Prep... starting text for you on Friday," she wrote with the photos.

'One of the interesting parts about expectation and pressure is that these things motivate me. I have a lot of gratitude for that because it is just the beginning of my career, I am just a few films old and I have managed to build a fan following. When I go to public events people come and ask me for a dialogue or selfie.'

—Ananya Panday

VIR DAS is all set to make people laugh. The comedian's lockdown special — *Inside Out*, is set to release on Netflix worldwide.

Intended to collect funds for charity, the 50-minute long showreel pieced together from 30 virtual live shows he did during the lockdown, he drives home the most crucial of the lockdown as it's the only time the entire world is going through the same thing at the same time.

He said, "I never planned for another comedy special this year. But since when does 2020 care about our plans? We started 2020 together on Netflix, let's end this crazy year together too."

Jennifer bares it
all for next single

Singer-actress **JENNIFER LOPEZ** is slaying fans with oomph at 51. She has posed completely nude for the cover of her forthcoming single, *In the morning*.

J.Lo shared the cover art of the single on Instagram that shows her naked. She bends over to strike a pose, with a hand on her knee. The singer only wears the engagement ring from fiancé Alex Rodriguez.

"Surprise! Here's the official cover art for *#InTheMorning* Single drops Friday," she captioned the picture.



GET THAT PERFECT GLOW

With restrictions imposed on public movement, including at beauty parlours and spas, brides are stressed about a healthy skincare regime to adopt before their wedding day. Here are some skin care tips. By TEAM VIVA

The first thing that comes to mind when you hear wedding bells is a beautifully bedecked bride, glowing gorgeously, in her newfound bliss. Everything at a wedding is centred on her. However, that glistening, smooth, blemish-free skin and vibrant glow takes a lot of discipline and a strict regime to achieve. Every bride's first concern is how she is going to look on the best day of her life.

Healthy skin is the first step towards a confident self, which makes for a proud bride on the D-day.

As the pandemic has turned our lives upside down, even weddings are a restricted affair these days. The kind of restrictions imposed on public movements, including in work areas like beauty parlours and spas, brides stressed about the absence of help regarding a healthy skincare regime to get ready before their wedding day.

For the brides-to-be, Sandeep Gupta, Chief Executive Officer of eClat, superior suggests skincare tips to glow on your wedding day.

DERMATOLOGIST VISIT

A visit to a good dermatologist is an auspicious start because it is important to know where your skin stands in terms of skincare. Experts suggest that you need to plan for this visit as early as two months before your D-day. If you plan early enough, you will be able to discuss in detail your skin concerns and it will also give you time to address those concerns. Skin issues like acne, scars, pigmentation, pim-



ples etc trouble an average bride more often than not. Though doctors suggest starting skin treatments at least six months prior, two to three months' time can also give you the necessary head start. Even if you are not troubled by the aforementioned skin issues, bringing on that necessary glow to your face or uplifting the skin is a task that a would-be bride cannot do single-handedly.

THE RIGHT START

After your meeting with the dermatologist, you can focus on specific skincare treatments like anti-pigmentation, tanning and removal of dullness. Services like Q-switch laser are becoming



increasingly popular among brides preparing for their wedding. Such services give you an even-toned skin, improved texture and de-pigmentation. The beauty of these treatments is that you can customise them as per your personal requirement but, of course, under the able guidance of your dermatologist. In addition to the specialised skin treatments, a would-be bride also requires regular morning and night skincare routine.

ULTIMATE MORNING ROUTINE

If you are already following healthy and complete night-time skincare, you can start your day with just cleansing your face with water. Using a Konjac

sponge or natural clays on your face will give you all the benefits of gentle exfoliation. After skin cleansing, using a hydrosol or toner adds a water barrier to your skin and helps in providing a good foundation for the rest of the routine. The next thing to add to your routine would be serums. Till a few years back, serum was not a part of a skincare regime in India. However, with the introduction of products like the facial serum, the average Indian woman has become aware of its importance in achieving a bright, correct skin. Some experts even call a facial serum "the doer" for the amount of change its regular use can bring to you.

Now moving on to moisturising your skin with the help of facial oil or a face balm. Most experts ask brides to refrain from using creams in favour of plant-based products, which have minimal chance of side effects. Towards the end of your skincare routine, you must apply sunscreen, a non-nano mineral sunscreen being an ideal choice. If you are one of those women who believe that sunscreen is only to be used if one is travelling outdoors, you are far from the truth. Present-day experts suggest using sun protection regularly every morning, whether you are going out or staying indoors.

IDEAL NIGHT-TIME REGIMEN

At the end of the day, your skincare routine shouldn't be much different from the one in the morning. Start with cleansing your skin of make-up or any other residual material, giving the skin time to breathe after making you

look good the whole day. Pamper your skin some more by applying a good serum. A suitable serum can save your skin from headaches like acne, hyper-pigmentation and anti-ageing. Then comes the time to quench the thirst of your skin with a good hydrating agent or toner, which is a watery product containing beneficial ingredients like antioxidants or humectants. Would-be brides, who follow this routine religiously, see a notable improvement in the greasy feeling on their skin. At the end, a good moisturiser helps your skin settle in for the night, and getting up fresh and happy the next morning.

FACIAL — THE NEW LIFELINE

Amidst the pandemic, organising a wedding can be a hectic job to do. You may also have to miss out on salon treatments as well, owing to myriad reasons. In such a scenario, facial steaming relaxes your skin while detoxifying it as well, leaving it glowing and clean. Humectants like honey and glycerine or hydrating aloe vera gel also give you supple skin, in absence of professional beauty care. In case you have uninterrupted access to a beauty spa or parlour, experts also suggest new-age treatments like Hydra Facial MD and O2-derma facials to de-stress your skin in the run-up to the wedding day.

Every woman dreams of waking up with beautiful skin as a bride. But apart from the beauty sleep, your skin needs a lot to get wedding-ready. With the help of these skincare steps, you will definitely be the most gorgeous bride ever.

Insanity has a physical form (or two)

Sometimes, it is best not to ask why. Because sometimes there is no logical answer to why



Logic should dictate that no car should have an engine producing "600" horsepower. Let me put that number in a bit of perspective for you. The two top-selling cars in India for the month of October were the Swift and the Baleno from the Maruti stable. They both feature the venerable K12M engine that produces 82 horsepower. So both crazy cars that I am featuring here produced seven times more power than India's best-selling cars. There is no logical reason for the Audi RSQ8 and the BMW X5M Competition to exist. But they do, and my god, are these two cars utterly, butterfly maniacal.

First. Let us look at the Audi RS Q8, which is definitely the best looking vehicle in Audi's line-up right now and when Audi's crazy engineers at the RS division got their hands on it, they made it into a vehicle that is as comfortable on the ramp as she is in a fighting cage. A stunner that can crush your windpipe in a MMA bout — not someone to be messed with. The twin-turbocharged four-litre V8 engine spits out 600 horsepower onto the asphalt, but could quite as easily hum along on the highway as well. It won't be an economical drive, but that is what you get when, well, logic doesn't apply.

Then again, the RSQ8, even with its unique paints compared to the regular Q8 is what you'd call a "sleeper", sure the 23-inch wheels are a bit of a giveaway but Audi's RS cars have never really tried to stand out from the normal. Until you press your right foot down, the RSQ8 moves. It can touch 100 kilometres per hour from a standing start in just 3.8 seconds and if you take the performance pack, this car can touch in excess of 300 kilometres per hour (it is limited to 250 kmph in regular trim). Although there is nowhere you can do that legally in India, the Buddh International Circuit's straight is too short and unless you can access Delhi Airport's newer 4,000-metre runways, doing so in this coun-



try is nearly impossible. Actually, for that matter, hitting 300 anywhere in the world is rather impossible other than some small select stretches of German autobahns (controlled-access highway systems in Germany). The price for this insanity — just ₹2.07 crore ex-showroom. But tell what, this is cheaper than other vehicles with a similar amount of power, almost a crore cheaper than its slightly more powerful Italian cousin, the Lamborghini Urus and much less of a show-off.

But the RSQ8 is not cheaper than another rival from Germany, the BMW X5M competition. The X5M may not have the looks of the Audi. Think of the BMW as Stipe Micioc and the Audi as Valentina Shevchenko, sorry for my UFC references here, but both these cars are like UFC fighters are to the normal human population. Actually, the BMW goes just fast even though it has a teen-

The RSQ8 can touch 100 kilometres per hour from a standing start in just 3.8 seconds and if you take the performance pack, this car can touch in excess of 300 kilometres per hour



KUSHAN MITRA



Bollywood keeps Maradona alive in memories

The Indian film fraternity on Thursday mourned the death of football legend Diego Maradona on social media. Maradona passed away at 60 of a massive cardiac arrest two weeks after being discharged from hospital. He underwent surgery for a blood clot in the brain.

Actor Shah Rukh Khan said that it was Maradona, who made football beautiful. "Diego Maradona... you made football even more beautiful. You will be sorely missed and may you entertain and enthrall heaven as you did this world. RIP" SRK wrote.

Malayalam icon Mohanlal called him a legend. "Rest in Peace Legend #diegomaradona #Legend," he tweeted.

Actor Ranveer Singh was heartbroken as he shared a picture of Maradona along with a heartbreak emoji and the hashtag #diegomaradona.

While actor Abhishek Bachchan called Maradona "Greatest Of All Times" (GOAT), actor Kareena Kapoor Khan wrote, "Rest In Power."

Veteran actor Anupam Kher said there will never be another like the footballer. "There will never be another #DiegoMaradona. His game and his story was inspirational. Especially during my early difficult days in Mumbai," Anupam said.

Actor Karisma Kapoor shared a picture along with Maradona. She wrote, "Had the honour of meeting this legend. RIP #diegomaradona"

Filmmaker Asif Kapadia, who made a documentary on the life of the footballer, wrote, "Can't quite believe DM has gone. Hard to process. He always seemed indestructible. I had 10 hours with the man! I touched his left foot. We did our best to show the world the man, the myth, the fighter he was. The greatest #legend #DiegoMaradona @MaradonaMovie #Diego #maradona"

While actor Riteish Deshmukh said, "GOAT #DiegoMaradona #Rip Legend"; actor Kunal Kemmu just shared a heartbreak emoji.

Actor Randeep Hooda said, "Adios Maradona."

Filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar said that football has lost one of its greatest icons, he wrote, "A true legend. RIP #diegomaradona." Filmmaker Boney Kapoor bid his adieu to the "god of football."

—IANS

BEYOND THE KITCHEN

The pandemic has changed culinary education. Chef ARVIND RAI shares the necessary skills that must be included in the new curriculum

The entire world has been shook by the massive impact of the unprecedented events taking place this year due to the pandemic. With the initial lockdown across the world, industries, corporates or even small businesses and lives attached to them have felt the tremor, which has brought upon a big change to how the world functions. Likewise, the operations and executions in businesses post lockdown have also gone through a great deal of transformation, keeping in mind the new normal.

During the pandemic, as schools and colleges were shut, it had pushed educators to redesign the mechanism of imparting lessons. 'Digital learning' emerged as a saviour to many, and it is no longer limited to just online classes but also the entire content has been curated to make it suitable for remote learning with the help of technology.

Hospitality is a service business and irrespective of the digital endeavours, the human touch cannot be replaced. The pandemic has left an impact on hospitality education as well, hence, it is of paramount importance that the curriculum be updated with the changing times. The overall industry is heading towards a change, which the educators also eventually need to adopt. They are the pillars who shall be training the workforce of the future, and hence, need to keep students abreast with the latest changes in the industry, and evolution of industry requirements. The one size fits all solutions are things of the past. For sustained growth in the hospitality industry, there are three pillars that

one need to follow — adherence to health and safety protocol, all-round training and mental training.

The key focus, currently, has been directed to health and safety protocols, which should be followed to ensure all the operations are compliant with the protocols. It is vital that students are well-versed with the changing times and the importance of following hygiene protocols. It should form a key aspect of restaurant training including vocabulary and measures used by the industry such as "clinically clean" and "sanitised cleaning". There is also a need for developing newer technologies, which can help the students in being safe in their training procedure.

Providing guests with contact-less services, especially during food servicing and preparation is very important. To ensure protocols and social distancing are being followed, the whole kitchen area can be divided into smaller segments — critical operation area, non-critical area and pre-preparation area. We also need to educate students on usage of 100 ppm chlorine for sanitising non-vegetarian items and 50 ppm chlorine for vegetarian items, cost management during crises period and shift towards self-service features via latest technologies.

COVID-19 has highlighted how quickly the demand for online ordering accelerated, and kitchens are getting smaller in order to follow social distancing norms. With practically every restaurant adopting some form of online food delivery, it is important for culinary students to emerge as all-



'CURRENTLY, THE KEY FOCUS HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS. IT IS VITAL THAT STUDENTS ARE WELL-VERSED WITH THE CHANGING TIMES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING HYGIENE'



rounders with training in front and back management of restaurants, operations, guest relations and kitchen operations.

With changing times, high touch points such as no contact services, the preparations using hygienic cookery utensils, new SOPs while guest room making, front desk operations while maintaining social distancing guidelines need to be included in the curriculum. It is crucial for educators to make sure a holistic understanding of not only core revenue operations but the understanding of allied departments such as revenue management, audits should be given to the students. They should be able to connect the dots and make the best out of each situation. It is also

advisable for culinary schools to adopt short term courses which gives the students the required know-how of all segments which is needed in today's times.

There needs to be an increased focus on digital courses as well, which can help the students venture into a space beyond hospitality. The services industry is large, and with the right kind of training, the students can opt for courses in sales and marketing, customer relationships and reputation management as well.

Last, but not the least, the third aspect is mental training. As the country continues to battle against the novel Coronavirus, there is a growing crisis among young adults struggling with mental health

problems, including anxiety and depression. We all know that hospitality is one of the most challenging industries, and to work in these stiff times, it is crucial for one to be mentally fit. Hence, it would be a wise idea to include mental health training and exercises in the curriculum.

It has indeed become crucial for the curriculum to go through complete rework to operate in the new normal. There should be a special emphasis on how to work under crisis, since the pandemic is far from over. The workforce of tomorrow shall be trained to work under situations that warrant to act out of their comfort zone. The pandemic has propelled us to move towards adopting a format of new

learning, which focusses on the concept of applicability of new learnings which are relatable, driven by results and are extremely interactive. This step is much needed in hospitality education. The time has come for the educators to stand against all odds, keep the momentum going and always keep the smile alive no matter what the situation is.

To sum up, if you are a student who aspires to walk on this road, my advice would be to toughen yourself up, both physically and mentally. The focus should be on developing your skills as this can be a challenging profession.

(The writer is the senior executive chef at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi.)

R E C I P E S



JAMESON SPICY HOT TODDY

WHAT YOU NEED

- Jameson Irish
- Whiskey: 1 part
- Water: 3 parts
- Honey: 0.25 parts
- Lemon: 0.5 parts
- Sriracha: 0.5 parts
- Ginger (sliced)

METHOD

- Add water, honey, sriracha and sliced ginger pieces to a small saucepan and bring to a low simmer, stir to combine.
- Let simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Add Jameson and lemon juice and simmer for an additional three minutes.
- Pour into mugs and add a lemon slice, garnish with a thin ginger slice.

Courtesy: Pernod Ricard India.

DAHI AUR ANJEER KE KABAB

WHAT YOU NEED

- Hung curd: 100 gm
- Cottage cheese (grated): 50 gm
- Fresh basil (cut into strips): 1 tbs
- Black peppercorn (crushed): ½ tsp
- Salt to taste
- Refined oil

For stuffing:

- Fig (chopped): 10 gm
- Ginger (chopped): ½ tsp
- Black salt

METHOD

- Take hung curd in a mixing bowl; add all the above mentioned ingredients (except salt) and mix them with gentle hands.



- Add salt and keep it aside to cool for half an hour.

- Take small quantity of the hung curd mix on your palm and flatten it.
- For the filling, mix chopped fig, chopped ginger and black salt.
- Place the stuffing onto the flattened patty and make into a sphere. Flatten it again in to a patty shape.
- Shallow fry to perfection.
- Then serve with a dip of your choice.

Courtesy: Rubal Pupneja, Jr Sous Chef at The Samrat Hotel.



CREEPY COFFEE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Smirnoff Espresso vodka: 60 ml
- Lime juice: 10 ml
- Coke: 150 ml
- Orange and lime wedge (to garnish)

METHOD

- Fill a tall glass with ice cubes.
- Add Smirnoff espresso vodka to the glass and stir.
- Top up with cola and garnish.

Courtesy: Diageo India.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my Client S. Rajender Singh Dhillon, S/o Late S. Kishan Singh Dhillon, R/o J-7/63, 1st Floor, Near Bank of Maharashtra, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110077 is a lawful owner and in possession of the Entire First Floor without roof rights in property bearing no 83 in Block-J-7, (now known as J-7/63) area measuring 160 sq. yards, situated in the residential colony known as Rajouri Garden, area of Village Tatarpur, Delhi with common rights of stair case passage and all other common facilities of the building, through a registered relinquishment deed executed by the legal heirs of late S. Kishan Singh Dhillon namely Smt. Priyam Kaur Dhillon (wife), Smt. Varinder Kaur (daughter), Smt. Manjeet Kaur (daughter) and S. Harvinder Singh Dhillon (son) in respect of their 45th share in the said property in favour of S. Rajender Singh Dhillon on 24.05.2019 vide Registration No. 11/091 in Book No. 1 Vol. No. 4, 387 on page 63 to 68, before Sub Registrar-HS, Janakpuri, Delhi. If anyone have objection against the above said Relinquishment Deed, can claim and raise their objection within 7 days, after publishing the Notice, after that any claim shall not be sustainable. The General Public may be aware that our Client shall not be responsible if no one claim against the above said Relinquishment Deed within 7 days.

Jaspreet Singh (Advocate)
Ch. No. B-149, B.G.S. Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT / BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	LETTER/ MEMO NO. & DATE	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT/ TENDER NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited	Ch-16/XEN/P-/MM/ QH-I/ 2548 dated 13-11-2020	Notice Inviting Tender No. 03/XEN/P-I/ MM/QH-I/ 2548 dated 30-09-2020	Part-I Date of submission extended upto 03.12.2020 (1300 Hrs)	uhbvn.org.in, etenders.hry.nic.in	cemm@uhbvn.org.in 8053428343

RO NO. PRDH-84026

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age** : About 50-55 years, **Height** : 5'6", **Complexion** : Wheatish, **Build** : Medium, wearing green colour checkdar shirt and blue colour checkdar lunggi, was found dead in train accident on 23.11.2020 between k.m. pole No. 9/2, 9/4, North Rly. Line, Near ganda Nalaha, Vivek Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 21-A dated 23.11.2020 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The deadbody has been preserved for identification in the mortuary of G.T.B. Hospital, New Delhi.

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

SHO - P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
Tel. No. : 011-23961522, 22583700

DP/16/RLY/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Mano Rama

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Mano Rama, D/o: Ravinder, R/o: Plot No. 56/C, Khasra No. 40/21, Ground Floor, IP Colony, Burari, Delhi-84** has been reported missing since 09.11.2020 from the area of P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 79 A dated 09.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Mano Rama, Age: 19 Years 02 Months, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Thin, Wearing: White Suit-Salwar and Sleeper in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing female please inform P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 **SHO**
Police Station Swaroop Nagar, Delhi
Ph: 011-27811415, 7065036307

DP/613/ON/2020

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead at K.M. Pol No. 13/11-13/15, UP line Badli Railway Station, Delhi by Train Accident dated 25.11.2020 at 10:15 am. In this regard a DD No. 7A, dated 25.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Sabzi Mandi Railway, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification at Sabzi Mandi 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 30-35 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Checked Shirt, Blue Jacket Ram Naresh written in English, Black Pant, Black Gold Star Shoes. **Identification:** Found DL Yogesh Kumar S/o Durgesh Prasad R/o 86 Swarop Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.



SHO

P.S. Sabzi Mandi Railway, Delhi
Ph.: 011- 23692455, 8800154439

DP/17/RLY/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown (Pandit), S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found on 20.11.2020 at Shani Mandir Jharoda Dairy PS. Wazirabad, Delhi.** In this regard DD No. 46A dated 20.11.2020 has been lodged at Police Station, Wazirabad, Delhi.

Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown (Pandit), Age: 40-45 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Build: Medium, Wearing: Cream colour shirt, black pant and green colour jersey

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO

Police Station, Wazirabad, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23810069, 23810073

DP/746/N/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Vegabond, Veer Banda Bairagi Marg, Gulabi Bagh, Delhi.** Age about 50 years, Height 5'7", Face long, Complexion wheatish, Built thin, Long grey hair & beard was found dead on Road Divider at Veer Banda Bairagi Marg, Gulabi Bagh, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi on 15.11.2020. The dead body has been preserved at Mortuary, Sabzi Mandi, Delhi for 72 hours.

In this regard a DD No. 63-A dated 15.11.2020 U/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at PS Sarai Rohilla, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

SHO

PS Sarai Rohilla, Delhi
Ph. 011-23691106, 8750870133

DP/743/N/2020

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rakesh Kumar, S/o Kewal Krishan, R/o Village Tajpur Kalan, Alipur, Delhi,** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 430/2020, U/S 308/34 IPC, P.S. Alipur, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Rakesh Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rakesh Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rakesh Kumar of FIR No. 430/2020, U/S 308/34 IPC, P.S. Alipur, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **11.01.2021.**

By Order

Sh. Jasjeet Kaur,
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 115, 1st Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/611/ON/2020(Court Matter)

Rohit-less India take up Oz challenge

Back in Blue for first time since pandemic enforced break, Virat & Co venture into unknown against mighty hosts

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

PTI ■ SYDNEY

A new world and a different shade of retro blue awaits a circumspect Indian cricket team which re-enters the international arena without a white-ball colossus in Rohit Sharma, facing the might of a menacing Australia in the first ODI at Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

The absence of an injured Rohit Sharma will certainly leave a gaping hole at the top of the order, something that skipper Virat Kohli wouldn't have fancied at the onset of a gruelling two-month tour.

Kohli's men, who had been on a Covid-enforced international break since the disastrous away series against New Zealand that ended early March, now kick-start their international calendar in a series where a lot of probing questions are expected to be asked.

For those who believe in superstition, the return of the 1992 World Cup's navy blue jersey isn't a good omen as one of India's worst performances (7th in 9 teams) happened in that particular edition.

For the more pragmatic, it will be more about how Kohli's men get their combination right in the absence of Rohit, whose injury has been a topic of national debate.

Whether it's the young Shubman Gill or the slightly more experienced Mayank Agarwal, whoever partners an in-form Shikhar Dhawan, the challenge of facing a Mitchell Starc or a Pat Cummins first up will still be an onerous one.

So 'King Kohli' again has his task cut out as he gears up to combat a high quality pace attack, which is likely to be complemented by the wrist



Mohammad Shami and KL Rahul chat during India's training session at Sydney Cricket Ground

BCCI/Instagram

spin of Adam Zampa, who has at times been the Indian captain's nemesis.

Facing an Australia team in their own backyard with a Steve Smith, who is getting back his rhythm, an eternally hungry David Warner and a future great in Marnus Labuschagne isn't the best of propositions and thus some priorities will be tested.

For the next two years, 50-over cricket is the least impor-

tant format, so will it be a "win-at-all-costs" approach by Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri or a more easygoing mindset keeping the Test series in mind.

For starters, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami could both start but the team management may have to rest one of the two alternately, keeping in mind their importance in the more traditional format.

Hence Shardul Thakur and Navdeep Saini need to up their respective games by a few notches if one of the two seniors are rested.

But do they have the wherewithal to trouble a world class Australian top-order, which can be destructive on most days?

Then there will be an acid test in store for KL Rahul, a stylish batsman, who will have to find those gaps with ease,

expect his skipper to have a ear for his suggestions and take those tricky DRS calls while successfully reading Yuzvendra Chahal's googlies behind the stumps.

An enviable template has been set by "that genius from Ranchi" and Rahul, of all people, will be the first to admit that his position is an unenviable one.

It's an inspired move to ensure an extra batting or bowling option that will lend the necessary balance to side, something that has been compromised a bit because of Hardik Pandya's inability to bowl due to an earlier case of stress fracture.

If it is Pandya's explosive hitting at No 6 or 7 that will give his captain the confidence to play two spinners, Shreyas Iyer's show at No 4 during the last tour remains a feel good factor for the visitors.

Chahal could be the man that the Australian middle-order, especially the likes of Marcus Stonis, Glenn Maxwell and Alex Carey, would be wary of.

But in the absence of a steady death bowler like Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Bumrah will once again be expected to carry the maximum workload.

The premier slinger wouldn't mind if rival skipper Aaron Finch once again find him in his nightmares.

The three ODIs will be followed by as many T20 Internationals before the Test series beginning December 17.

The series will see a return of the in-stadia crowds with Cricket Australia approving occupancy of 50 per cent of the available seats. CA had stated that the tickets have been sold out.

Shami, Bumrah may be rotated, hints Kohli

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The workload of premier fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami is of paramount importance to India captain Virat Kohli and he said it will be closely monitored and managed during the white-ball series against Australia to keep them in good shape for the Tests.

It is expected that Shami and Bumrah, in the absence of an injured Ishant Sharma, will have to carry the bulk of the burden during the Test series and they will be rotated during the ODIs and T20 Internationals starting from Friday.

"It's a no-brainer. They have gone through a full IPL. It will be important to monitor their workload," Kohli said on the eve of the

first ODI.

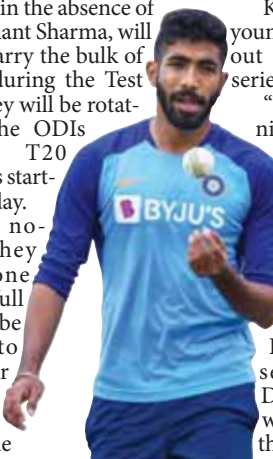
"You want to see how people react to different situations. There is a fine balance that you need to maintain, something we have managed to do for the last few years," Kohli said.

"That is why our bowlers have been fit and available for the important matches most of the times for us. It is an important factor for me as a captain. It is going to be crucial."

Kohli said that youngsters will be tried out during these two series.

"Yes, we have definitely discussed those things. There are a lot of young guys in the squad."

"It is a great opportunity for them to realise something new about their game. It's a very important series for them. Definitely looking forward to seeing how they shape up."



'Lack of clarity, confusion over Rohit's injury'

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India captain Virat Kohli on Thursday didn't hide his displeasure at the Rohit Sharma injury saga stating that "confusion and lack of clarity" has led to the team management playing a "waiting game" on his availability which is not ideal.

Answering media queries online ahead of the ODI series, Kohli said Rohit was said to be unavailable before the selection committee meeting earlier this month.

"Before the selection meeting, we got a mail that he is unavailable, that he has picked up an injury during the IPL. It said that the pros and cons of the injury were explained to him and he understood and he was unavailable," Kohli said.

The Indian captain's view did open a Pandora's box about



whether he and his white ball deputy have been communicating on various sensitive issues pertaining to the team.

Rohit, who is nursing a left

hamstring injury is doing is rehab at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and is still three weeks away from full match fitness but a 14-day hard quarantine (without training) would rule him out of the Test series, starting December 17.

He played in the IPL in days of being left out of the Australia tour before being subsequently added to the Test squad.

"After that (the selection meeting) he played in the IPL and we all thought he would be on that flight to Australia and we had no information on why he is not travelling with us. There has been no information, there has been lack of clarity," Kohli said.

"We have been playing the waiting game," he added.

Kohli said that Rohit's next assessment at the NCA will

happen on December 11 and right now it's a waiting game for the team sitting in Australia.

"The only other information we got is that he is in NCA and he is being assessed and he will again be assessed on 11th December. It's not ideal at all. It's been very confusing and a lot of uncertainty and lack of clarity around the situation," the skipper's irritation was palpable.

In fact, Kohli just like it has been reported, said that now Rohit and pacer Ishant Sharma, who is recovering from a side strain, arriving in Australia is not certain given the strict 14-day quarantine enforcement here.

"Right now, there is so much uncertainty and whether they are going to make it and if they are going to make it at all or not."

Mayank has quality to replace Rohit: Finch



PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian skipper Aaron Finch on Thursday said India have enough quality in their ODI squad to replace a great batsman like Rohit Sharma, who is back home nursing a hamstring injury.

The in-form Mayank Agarwal is likely to open with Shikhar Dhawan in Rohit's absence in the ODI series.

"He is obviously a great player and someone who has had quite a bit of success

against us in the past. It (Rohit's injury) is unfortunate," Finch said in a virtual media interaction ahead of the series opener.

"You want to play against the best players all the time but whoever he is going to replace him, possibly Mayank, he has been in great form as well. So you take away a lot of experience but you also bring in another quality player."

Finch was Virat Kohli's teammate at Royal Challengers Bangalore during the IPL and was asked if he noticed in weaknesses in India skipper's game.

"He doesn't have too many to be honest. If you look at his record it is second to none. We have to keep looking get him out. When you go away from that and look to contain players you can sort of miss a trick there," Finch said.

"There are not too many chinks in his armour, he is probably the best one day player of all time."

6 Pak cricketers test Covid +ve

CHRISTCHURCH: Six touring Pakistan cricketers have tested positive for Covid-19 here, New Zealand Cricket announced on Thursday, alleging a breach of the bio-secure protocol by the visitors who have been asked not to train in quarantine and issued a "final warning."

A jumbo 53-strong Pakistan squad, led by Babar Azam, arrived in New Zealand on Tuesday and is serving a mandatory 14-day quarantine period as per Covid-19 protocol.

"Two of these six results have been deemed 'historical'; four have been confirmed as new," NZC said in a statement without revealing the names of the players who have tested positive for the dreaded virus.

All six members of the squad will be moved to the quarantine arm of a managed isolation facility. Pakistan are here for three T20 Internationals and two Tests. The series begins December 18 in Auckland. **PTI**

Atalanta stun Liverpool at Anfield

AFF ■ MUNICH/LIVERPOOL

Robert Lewandowski set Bayern Munich on the way to a 3-1 Champions League win over Salzburg on Wednesday as the holders joined Manchester City in qualifying for the last 16 with two group games to spare, while Liverpool went down to defeat and Marseille are now the owners of an unwanted record.

On a night when clubs marked news of the death of Diego Maradona by holding a minute's silence in memory of the Argentine before all Champions League games, Bayern eased to a record-extending 15th straight win in the competition.

Six-time European champions Liverpool are not yet sure of progressing to the next round after going down 2-0 to Atalanta at Anfield.

Three weeks after beating the same side 5-0 in Italy, Liverpool struggled with a weakened starting line-up, and Josip Illicic put Atalanta in



Papou Gomez, right, celebrates with teammates following Atalanta's win

AP

front on the hour mark before German international Robin Gosens got the second goal.

"A deserved defeat in a difficult game," was how Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp summed up the game.

Liverpool are top of Group D on nine points, two points clear of Atalanta and Ajax, who were 3-1 winners at home to Midtjylland.

Ajax go to Liverpool next week.

For Bayern, Lewandowski scored the opener just before half-time at an empty Allianz Arena, his 14th goal of the season and also his 71st altogether in the Champions League, leaving him level with Real Madrid great Raul in third place on the all-time list behind Cristiano Ronaldo (131) and

Lionel Messi (118).

Kingsley Coman scored Bayern's second and then crossed for Leroy Sane to head in their third, before Mergim Berisha pulled a goal back for the Austrian champions.

Marc Roca was sent off for Bayern, but they have a maximum 12 points and are guaranteed to advance as Group A winners, while Atletico Madrid sit second but continue to toil in Europe this season after being held 0-0 at home by Lokomotiv Moscow.

Pep Guardiola's City earlier secured progress as Phil Foden swept in from a Raheem Sterling back-heel to secure a 1-0 win away to Olympiakos in Greece, their fourth win out of four in Group C.

Second-place Porto are on the brink of joining them in qualifying after a 2-0 win at Marseille, which was the French side's 13th consecutive defeat in the competition stretching over three cam-

paings going back to 2011-12.

Meanwhile, Inter Milan are on the brink of being eliminated in the group stage after Arturo Vidal was sent off as they went down 2-0 at home to Real Madrid.

Eden Hazard gave the visitors an early lead from the penalty spot at San Siro for his first Champions League goal in a Real shirt, and Vidal was sent off before the break after seeing two yellow cards for dissent in quick succession.

A Rodrygo shot went in off Achraf Hakimi in the second half to make it 2-0, and Real are now on course to qualify from Group B after losing 3-2 at home to Shakhtar Donetsk in their first game.

Shakhtar lost 4-0 to Borussia Muenchengladbach, with Lars Stindl scoring a penalty and Nico Elvedi, Breel Embolo and Oscar Wendt also on target to keep the Germans on top of the group.



PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

His promise to bring "big-time" football to India remained unfulfilled as Diego Maradona died on Wednesday at the age of 60 after cheating death more than once, leaving a cricket-mad nation devastated in an appropriate reflection of his immortal status.

Many will remember the way he swayed, slithered and slalomed during his epochal World Cup triumph in 1986 in Mexico. A lot many in the 'City of Joy' will recall how a little bulky version of Maradona huffed and puffed during a charity football game in Kolkata three years ago.

He played against Indian cricket great Sourav Ganguly, who reacted to his death by saying that he lost his hero.

Shock and disbelief gripped football-crazy Kerala as fans recalled the iconic footballer, who had visited the southern state for two days in October 2012 for a private event.

The Argentine legend, who was 57 when he came to Kolkata in 2017, had managed to dribble, show glimpses of his deft left foot and even crooned Spanish songs, as he sweated it out with a bunch of school



Diego Maradona (2nd right) gestures as former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly in Kolkata

AFF/File Photo

children and bid them adieu with a promise to "bring football" to India.

In another tribute, the Goa government will install the life-size statue of late Argentine football legend Diego Maradona in the coastal belt of North district by early next year, a senior minister said.

Maradona's statue is already under making with a Maharashtra-based artist working on the mould, Calangute MLA and state Ports Minister Michael Lobo told **PTI**.

In December 2017, he turned up in shorts in Kolkata, enjoyed every bit of the mad-

dening attention even though the gruelling session literally drained him as he was seen drenched in sweat, pouring water on his head.

But he had no complaints and was eloquent in his three-minute Spanish speech.

"I'm here for football... It is a big step, that we take to uplift

football in India," he said about his three-day private trip which was co-sponsored by a local politician among others, nearly nine years after his first visit to the city.

"The country really has good players and a football school of boys. Football wants India and India wants football. Together with the people we will bring football. I have always been very well received in India. Thanks and kisses!" he had signed off, never to come back again.

He also obliged his many die-hard fans with photographs and did not mind sitting on the pitch for that perfect frame.

He then headed straight near the packed galleries and wowed his fans with shooting some footballs in the air. Cheered on by a delirious crowd, Maradona then hummed a couple of songs.

It was not for nothing that India reacted with shock, anger and sadness after his heart stopped beating on

'Childhood hero' Maradona inspired me to take up football: Bhutia

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former India captain F Bhaichung Bhutia on Thursday said Argentine football legend Diego Maradona was his inspiration behind taking up the 'beautiful game' as a career option.

Paying his tribute to Maradona, who died at the age of 60 in Buenos Aires on Wednesday night following a cardiac arrest, Bhutia said from young age he always aspired to play like the football legend.

Wednesday.

For the football-mad fans in Kerala, 2012 was a god-send opportunity as they could catch a glimpse of their hero from close quarters in Kannur. Such was the craze for the 1986 World Cup winner that fans had started converging at the stadium three days prior to the

"He (Maradona) has been one of the most inspirational players for me since the time I started watching football. I've grown up watching him and wanted to be like him," the *Sikkimese Sniper* told **PTI**.

"It was just because of him I got up early in the morning to play in those wet and muddy grounds. I was all inspired by Maradona because I wanted to play like him. Definitely he had a big impact in my career."

The Indian football legend had a chance to meet his child-

hood hero on the sidelines of an exhibition match at the Saltlake Stadium during Argentina's visit to Kolkata in December 2008.

"We just shook hands. I was very, very nervous. My heart was beating fast. To meet my childhood hero whom I had worshipped would remain as was one of my best memories," Bhutia said.

"It's the biggest loss for world football. There will be no other big player to have played the game than Maradona in this era of world football."

he said.

Antony was lucky as he got another opportunity to meet Maradona, in Kolkata, and sing before him. "I feel his love for music is as important as football in his life," Antony said. "He was so humble and meeting him was an unforgettable experience."