

Punjab farmers to suspend Rail Roko in State

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after the Punjab Assembly passed Bills to counter the Centre's three new farm laws, the protesting farmers on Wednesday decided to take their ongoing protest to the national level. At the same time, the farmers' bodies also announced to suspend the 'Rail Roko' agitation till November 4, while announcing to continue their protests outside the residences of BJP leaders, retail outlets and petrol pumps of the corporate houses.

goods trains in the State.

Farmer leader Satnam Singh said that the decision was taken keeping in mind the shortage of coal and dynamium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer. "We have decided to allow only goods trains from today till November 5," he said.

The protesting farmers, however, said that they would continue to stage sit-ins outside fuel pumps of some corporates, toll plazas and residences of BJP leaders in the State.

"The next course of action will be announced in a meeting fixed for November 4," said Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) general secretary Jagmohan Singh.

Punjab Government had

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all along been urging the protesting farmers to relax their 'rail roko' agitation in the wake of severe shortage of coal for thermal plants in the state. Several industrial organizations had also complained of not receiving their inputs due to the agitation.

Farmers in the state had blocked rail tracks from

October 1 on a call given by several farmer unions. Some tracks had been blocked since September 24.

On the four Bills passed by the Punjab Assembly on Tuesday against the Centre's farm laws, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BJU) president Balbir Singh Rajewal said that it was a "big achievement" of farmers' agitation, while adding that "it could have been better."

"It has happened for the first time that a special session of the Assembly was called and the Bills were passed under pressure from farmers," he said, adding that it was a big achievement of farmers' agitation.

He said that it was victory for farmer organisations that

Capt Amarinder Singh Government was forced to pass state bills in the assembly. He welcomed that all opposition parties on this issue are on one platform.

Rajewal said that they would continue to gherao BJP leaders of Punjab and would not allow Reliance outlets to function till the Centre withdraws farm laws. "We would force the Centre to withdraw the laws which are against the farmer community," he said.

Pointing that the farmers' bodies of all states would hold a meeting on November 4 to start a nation-wide agitation, Rajewal said that other states must follow Punjab in rejecting the Central farm laws.



Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Private University Regulatory Commission Prof Bharat Sharan Singh calls on Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Bhopal on Wednesday

Kejriwal dubs Punjab's counter laws as 'counterfeit'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after Punjab Vidhan Sabha "unanimously" passed three Bills to counter the Centre's controversial farm laws, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Chief Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday dubbed Punjab's laws as 'counterfeit', saying that the people of Punjab had been fooled.

"Raja Sahib, you have amended the Centre's laws. Can a state amend Central laws? You have done drama," Kejriwal asked Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Twitter while asking if the state's new farm laws will

ensure its farmers a minimum support price (MSP).

Kejriwal, tweeting in Hindi, said: "Raja Sahib, you amended the Centre's laws. Can a state amend Central laws? No, you have enacted a drama. You have fooled the people. After you passed the laws tomorrow, will the farmers of Punjab will get MSP? No. Farmers want MSP, not your fake and false laws."

He was responding to a tweet by Punjab Chief Minister's official handle which sought to call out the double standards of the parties that had backed the new laws in the

assembly and then criticized them.

"Amazed at double standards of SAD & AAP, says @capt_amarinder Singh on their criticism of state's bills after backing them in the House. CM asks @ArvindKejriwal to follow Punjab's examples to bring out similar bills to save farmers," CMO Punjab had earlier tweeted.

On Tuesday, Punjab became the first state to formally reject and counter three controversial farm laws passed by the Centre last month amid unprecedented chaos in the Parliament. The Assembly first

moved a resolution against the Centre's laws, and unanimously cleared four bills designed to counter those passed by the Parliament.

After the three counter bills were passed by the assembly, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, along with leaders of opposition parties — Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Lok Insaaf Party (LIP), met the Governor to seek his nod for the new laws.

These three new bills now require Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore's assent and must then be cleared by the President Ram Nath Kovind.

Capt lahses out at SAD, AAP's 'double standard' For criticising State's bills after backing them in House

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday cornered the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over their brazen double standards with regard to the three Amendment Bills, which they had criticized publicly hours after supporting them in the Vidhan Sabha.

"I am amazed that they spoke in favour of the Bills in the Assembly, and even went with me to meet the Governor, but said different things outside," said the Chief Minister while talking to the mediapersons after the House was adjourned sine die.

"He pointed out that the farmers had not said anything against the Bills, which were designed to safeguard their interests and those of the state's agriculture."

"It is more than clear that these parties are not interested in securing the future of the farmers or protecting the state's agriculture and economy," the Chief Minister said, slamming SAD and AAP for playing to the galleries by pretending to back the Bills in the Assembly a day before.

"Their lack of sincerity towards the farmers' cause has been totally exposed by their

statements thereafter," he said. "If they thought we (I and my government) were fooling the people of Punjab, why did they not say so in the House? Why did they support and vote for our Bills?" asked Capt Amarinder, reacting to SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia and AAP leadership's statements.

They had both accused the Chief Minister of misleading the people, citing his remarks on the possibility of the Governor or the President not signing the Bills.

"If I had to fool the people why would I honestly share with them my apprehensions? Why would I openly talk about the possible scenarios instead of feeding them with a whole bunch of lies, as the Akalis and AAP are used to doing?" asked Capt Amarinder.

Both the Opposition parties had shown their true colours by trying to undermine the State Government's pro-farmer initiatives, which they had ostensibly backed in the House, said the Chief Minister, referring to the media or social media comments of Akali and AAP leaders.

He pointed out that these Opposition leaders had criticised Punjab Government's efforts to save the farmers soon after joining his govern-

ment in passing a resolution rejecting the centre farm laws along with Bills to negate the same, and even going to Governor with him to submit copies to him. "Clearly they have no shame left," he added.

Earlier, in the House, the Chief Minister waved the copies of newspapers quoting Majithia on the issue, and quipped "these people say one thing in Assembly and another outside." With this kind of behaviour, people will start doubting the integrity of politicians, he warned.

"KEJRIWAL SHOULD FOLLOW PUNJAB'S EXAMPLE"

In response to a question, Capt Amarinder said that other parties, especially AAP which had a government in Delhi, should also bring in legislations similar to those of Punjab to negate the dangerous effects of the central farm laws. Arvind Kejriwal should follow Punjab's example, he said.

"DOESN'T CARE IF CENTRE DISMISSES MY GOVT"

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh reiterated that he does not care if the Centre dismisses his Government, while declaring that he would fight to protect the rights of the farmers till his last breath. "If Centre thinks I

have done something wrong, they can dismiss me. I am not afraid... I have resigned twice earlier and can do it again," he said in response to a question.

"PLENTY OF LEGAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE"

Responding to another question, the Chief Minister said that there are plenty of legal options available with the State Government. At the same time, he expressed the optimism that the Governor will fulfill his responsibility by listening to Punjab's people.

"The voice of Punjab has reached the Governor and he will send the Bills to the President of India," said Capt Amarinder, adding that the latter could not ignore the sentiments and appeal of the state.

"HAPPY THAT SIDHU CAME TO HOUSE"

Capt Amarinder, responding to a media query, said that he was happy that former Cabinet Minister Navtej Singh Sidhu came to the House on Tuesday and spoke well on the farm laws. At the same time, Capt Amarinder maintained that he was not aware that it was Sidhu's birthday, otherwise he would have wished him. Notably, Sidhu was celebrating his birthday on October 20 (Tuesday).

Juvenile, friend nabbed for stabbing man to death in Delhi



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A juvenile and his friend were nabbed by Delhi Police for allegedly stabbing a man to death in Outer Delhi's Kishan Colony area. Police said that a few days ago the juvenile had an altercation with the deceased and was beaten up by him.

According to Gaaurav Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer north district, the body of a man in his 20s with multiple stab injuries was recovered from behind a temple near Deep Vihar Chowk in Kishan Colony on October 12.

"During investigation, it was revealed that a teenager, a resident of the area, was missing since the night of October 11. Also, a man named Surjeet, a resident of the same area, was missing since the same night, said the DCP.

"Following a thorough inquiry, the juvenile and his friend, Surjeet, were nabbed and they confessed their involvement in killing the man. During interrogation, the juvenile told police that a few days ago they had an altercation with the man and were beaten up by him. Since then, the juvenile held a grudge against Vishal and planned to kill him," said the DCP.

"On the evening of October 11, the juvenile called up the man seeking to meet him and patch up. When he arrived for the meeting, the juvenile and Surjeet stabbed him multiple times leading to his death, the DCP said.

"The juvenile has been apprehended and his friend put under arrest," the DCP added.

CBI chargesheet against ...

Earlier, CBI had registered a case on August 27, 2019 against said Enforcement Officer, on the allegations of demanding a bribe of Rs 50,000 from the complainant. He was caught red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 50,000 from the complainant. During searches at the premises of accused, incriminating documents including various assets were recovered.

Minor daughter batters drunkard father to death; case registered

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Frustrated over liquor addict 36-year-old father, minor daughter batters him to death at Khajuri Ramdas village under Berasia police station area on Wednesday.

The accused girl is daughter of the deceased Bhanwarlal Jathav who used to harass his wife and demand money for liquor.

SHO Berasia K N Bhardwaj said the family financially weak was not able to meet the ends and deceased used to demand money and used to remain idle.

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On the occasion, the Delhi Police Commissioner, S N Shrivastava, paid tribute to names of 11 martyrs of Delhi Police personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, during the period. The CP also remembered the state and centre personnel who sacrificed in the line of duty.

In all, 264 police personnel including 11 of Delhi Police were killed while serving in their respective forces.

From September 1 to August 31, three personnel sacrificed in Andhra Pradesh, two in Arunachal Pradesh, nine in Bihar, 25 in Chhattisgarh, 11 in Delhi, two in Haryana, three in Tamil Nadu, 12 in Jammu & Kashmir, eight in Jharkhand, 17 in Karnataka, seven in Madhya Pradesh, 15 in Maharashtra, two in Manipur, two in Punjab, two in Rajasthan, two in Andaman & Nicobar, two in Tripura, nine in Uttar Pradesh, six in Uttarakhand and 11 in West Bengal.

was due to fight between the family members and these was normal but on Wednesday the daughter of deceased found it unbearable and attacked her father.

The body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation.

The police have registered a case under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with murder, and are working to work as labour but used to work rarely and heavily addicted to liquor.

Dehi Police observes Police Commemoration Day parade

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Wednesday held Police Commemoration day parade in remembrance of the police personnel who laid down their lives for their respective forces while serving the nation. The Parade was held at Delhi's New Police Lines Ground.

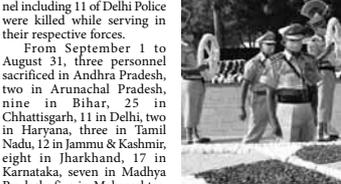
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"ACP Sanket Kaushik (Traffic), ASI Lal Man Singh Shishodia (PCR), ASI Raghubir Singh (North Dist), ASI Zakir Hussain (North Dist.), ASI Mahavir (Traffic), HC Amar Singh Meena (South-East Dist), HC Rattan Lal (North-East Dist), HC Vijay Pal (East Dist), HC Wazir Singh (PCR), HC Vijay Singh (Outer-North Dist.) and Ct. Vikash Kumar (Outer-North Dist.) laid down their lives in the line of duty in National Capital," said the official.

Retired Police Commissioners T R Kakkar and Dr K K Paul, Special



sacrificed in the line of duty in BSF, seven in CISF, 29 in CRPF-29, 18 in ITBR, 15 in SSB, nine in MHA, 14 in RPF and four in FS, CD and HG.

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observed in remembrance of martyrs. Around 61 years ago on 21st October 1959 in this very day, a small troop of the Indian policemen who were stationed at Ladakh for the safety of the nation was suddenly ambushed and attacked by a huge number of Chinese soldiers who were hiding in the mountains.

"During the attack, 10 Indian police personnel were martyred. Since then, in order to pay homage to these brave martyrs we remember them on this day. Simultaneously, we also pay homage to all those brave personnel who sacrificed their lives in the service of the nation in the last one year," said the official.

Advertisement for a police recruitment exam in Bhopal. It includes details about the exam name, date, and contact information for the recruiting officer.

Advertisement for the Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. I, C.P.A. Bhopal. It includes a table of tenders for various construction works, such as restoration of erosion control structures, refurbishment of paved and bituminous roads, and renovation of hostel rooms. The table lists item numbers, descriptions, estimated costs, and submission deadlines.

EDMC stringent on pollution control measures, takes action against violators

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the increasing air pollution level in Delhi, East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) took action against pollution causing units due to construction activities and issued 82 challans to violators.

As per the data provided by the corporation, it has issued 52 challans till 21 October for illegal dumping of garbage in open. A senior official of East Corporation said that under construction and demolition activities, the civic body issued nine challans for illegal dumping of waste, 15 challans for dust control violation on construction sites six for health activities.

East Corporation also

received about 65 thousand rupees through total 82 challans, he said.

The official further said that under the affirmative action taken by the East Corporation to combat air pollution, 970 metric tonnes of debris has been removed from the area and 380 km of mechanical road sweeping has been done.

"Apart from this, about 1200 km of roads have also been sprayed with water with the help of water sprinkler machines to settle dust. About 2600 metric tonnes of garbage is being picked up on a daily basis," he said.

Advertisement for a correction of name in a court order. It mentions the name SUREKHA BHAGWAT MUNDE and provides details about the court and the date of the order.

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SHAURYA CHAKRA AWARDEE BALWINDER'S MURDER

Punjab Cong divided, party MP seeks probe



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Divisions within the Punjab Congress came to the fore again on Wednesday with party MP Pratap Singh Bajwa writing to President Ramnath Kovind requesting him to order a high-level probe into the circumstances that led to the removal of security cover of Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh and his subsequent killing by terrorists on October 16.

Comrade Balwinder Singh Bikhhiwind should have been a priority of the Government of India," he stated in his letter.

"It is imperative that responsible including policemen who prepared inputs that led to his security cover being withdrawn should be investigated through a high-level probe," Bajwa in his letter, dated October 20, 2020, said.

Bajwa pointed out there were 16 attempts to kill Singh's family in 1990-91 and their family was the only one in contact with four Shaurya Chakra awardees. Party's Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat said Bajwa has every right to write to the President but he should've written first to the Punjab cabinet through law and order is a state subject.

Rahul Gandhi's tractor rally in protest against the farm bills. Bajwa has been constantly expressing his resentment against the CM blaming him for his autocratic style of functioning. He even alleged that the CM is shielding smugglers and drug trafficker after 121 people died after consuming spurious liquor in August this year.

Balwinder Singh Sandhu, who fought against terrorism in Punjab, was shot dead by two unknown assailants in Tarn Taran district. His wife said there are 42 registered FIRs of attacks on their family and countless other attacks have taken place which is not on record.

"Withdrawal of security was wrong. Government, chief electoral officers and intelligence agencies are responsible for this. We sought security again, but to no avail. Those who treat security cover as a status symbol have been provided it but we actually needed it but weren't provided," she rued.

Follow norms on Covid-19: EC to parties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a serious view of laxity by parties and candidates in observing crowd discipline, the Election Commission on Wednesday issued advisory to political parties, asking them to follow its instructions related to COVID-19 during polls. Huge crowds at rallies without adhering to the norms of social distancing and wearing of masks are being seen in the ongoing campaigning for the Bihar Assembly elections.

The poll body reiterated its October 9 instructions asking political parties and candidates to maintain crowd discipline and advised them to demonstrate utmost vigil and care during electioneering.

The EC also said it expected chief electoral officers and district machinery concerned to invoke appropriate penal provisions against the candidates as well as organisers for violating Covid safety protocols. The advisory stated: "The commission has taken a serious view of laxity on part of the parties and candidates, on the ground, in terms of maintaining crowd discipline and here by reiterates and further advises them to demonstrate utmost vigil and care during electioneering."



"Instances of such public meetings have come to notice of the Commission, where large numbers of crowds have assembled in utter violation of social distancing and the political leaders/campaigners are addressing the gathering without wearing masks in complete disregard of the guidelines/instructions issued by Election Commission. By doing so, the political parties and candidates are not only flouting the guidelines of the Commission with impunity, but exposing themselves as well as the public attending the rallies/meetings to the danger of infection during the pandemic," the poll panel's advisory read.

The poll panel recalled its earlier advisory issued on October 9 in which it had stated: "As representatives of public, this onerous responsibility rests with the political parties to ensure that they not only cooperate with the district machineries in following the due norms of public health safety as prescribed, but also instill a sense of discipline for civic behaviour in their cadre while doing ground management during campaign times. It is requested that you may like to issue advisory to all your field representatives to demonstrate utmost vigil and care to abide by all the extant instructions in large interest of public health and avoid any penal action for breaching the provisions."

The EC also said it expected the chief electoral officers and district machinery concerned to invoke appropriate penal provisions against the candidates as well as organisers for violating Covid safety protocols

Army Chief calls for modernisation of armed forces



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of the Indian and Chinese armies locked in a stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Army Chief General M M Naravane on Wednesday reviewed the current security scenario and stressed the need for faster integration and modernisation of the armed forces.

Interacting with the officers of the prestigious College of Defence Management (CDM) and Bison Division at Secunderabad, he also focused on the geo-strategic implications on capacity development and force utilisation of the Indian Army in pursuit of national interests.

During his address to the student officers and faculty of the CDM, Naravane spoke on a number of issues concerning integration, theatisation and modernisation of the armed forces in general and the Indian Army in particular, the Army said here.

On the government's decision to appoint the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and create the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), the Army chief said it was a momentous one and that the services needed to "demonstrate great wisdom and statesmanship in enabling the CDS, a long standing demand of the Armed Forces."

He said that the next logical step in the process of defence reforms was the "formation of Integrated Theatre Commands to synergise the capabilities and combat potential of the three services during war and peace." However, he advised that this process will be "deliberate, thoughtful and well considered" and its fruition will take a "number of years."

Naravane explained to the officers that there was a need for everyone to work in a spirit of togetherness and trust with the national security interests being paramount. He added a note of caution and said that there might be a requirement for "mid course corrections."

He was optimistic about the future of integration of the armed forces, which Naravane said was "an inevitability" as it would lead to "tri-services synergy" and optimisation of resources.

He commended the CDM for the excellent work related to grooming of tech-adept, management savvy and strategically nimble higher leadership. At the Bison Division, Army Chief M M Naravane said Major General Alok Joshi, General Officer Commanding, Bison Division on security and operational preparedness of the formation.

The two Army chief visited the Simulator Development Division (SDD), Secunderabad and the TATA Boeing Aerospace Limited (TAL) at Hyderabad, a joint venture facility of Boeing and Tata Advanced Systems established in co-production of Apache Helicopters-64. The COAS appreciated the "Make in India" initiatives and reinvigorated efforts towards indigenisation and being "Amanirbar" on niche technologies.

Modi holds talks with S Korean Prez

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra P Modi on Wednesday spoke to South Korean President Moon Jae-in. The two leaders reviewed important global developments, including the progress in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two leaders also reviewed the ongoing diversification of international value chains, the need to preserve a transparent, development-oriented and rules-based global trading order, and the important role of the World Trade Organisation, a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) statement said.

Shah lauds role of police during pandemic

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is undertaking a comprehensive modernisation programme to prepare the police and paramilitary forces of the country to tackle newer challenges of terrorism, cyber crime and border security, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said while hailing the services of police personnel during the pandemic.

Shah said a joint column of police and Central Armed Police Forces jawans and officers at the National Police Memorial in Chanakyapuri on Wednesday on the occasion of the police commemoration day.

The day is observed to pay homage to 10 policemen (of the CRPF) killed in an ambush by Chinese troops in 1959 in Ladakh's Hot Spring area.

"The work of police is witnessing new dimensions in the areas of terrorism, fake currency, narcotics control, cyber crime, arms smuggling, human trafficking. It is a challenge to prepare the police forces for the new dimensions that have emerged in the last 2-3 decades."

"We have prepared a comprehensive modernisation programme for the police and I am hopeful that in the coming days the Modi government will prepare them to meet these challenges," Shah said.

He said the Government is bringing in technology to make the country's borders "impregnable" and preparations in this regard are being done in detail. The technology and promptness of our troops will go hand-in-hand and we will be able to better secure our borders, he said.

Shah also said that the government was "going to do many things" so that the efficiency in availability of police

ADG rank official to head newly-created Guwahati-based ITBP eastern command

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), tasked to secure the frontier with China, has appointed a high-level officer to head the newly-created eastern command.

The command comprises officials of the defence forces met top leaders of Nepal including Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal who is commonly known as Prachanda among others. The team travels in a special IAF flight No IFC 4620 and is expected to return by Thursday morning.

The moves comes ahead of the planned visit of Army Chief MM Naravane early next month to Kathmandu. The deliberations by the Indian team in Nepal are being directly supervised by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

The visit assumes significance as it marks a thaw in the strained relation between the two countries after Nepal included Indian territories under Lipulekh, Kalapani and Panchajyothura in its map earlier this year.

June to head its western command located in Chandigarh that has control over battalions deployed along the LAC in Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. The two ADG-rank headed commands were sanctioned by the Union Government in October last year for better operational functioning of the about 35-38 battalions of the force deployed at the LAC, starting from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh along the eastern front.

Top Indian officials in Kathmandu to discuss border, map issues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A high level team of officials headed by Research and Analysis Wing Chief Samant Kumar Goel and a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs among others visited Kathmandu on Wednesday. The team which also comprises officials of the defence forces met top leaders of Nepal including Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal who is commonly known as Prachanda among others. The team travels in a special IAF flight No IFC 4620 and is expected to return by Thursday morning.

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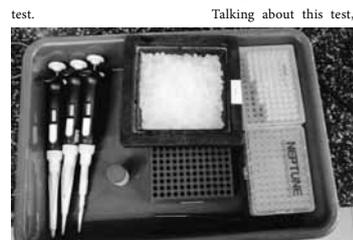
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IIT-Kharagpur's 'COVIRAP' passes ICMR's 'efficacy test'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cost-effective COVIRAP, Covid-19 diagnostic machine developed by the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT Kharagpur) which can give results in an hour has got ahead from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for its efficacy.

This new testing technology has been designed to ensure that Covid-19 test is easy to conduct, affordable and to produce results within an hour. This new testing method, said a statement from IIT Kharagpur, implements a highly reliable and accurate molecular diagnostic procedure that can be conducted in an ultra-low cost portable device unit and costs only around Rs 500 per



He has been developed by a team of researchers led by Prof Suman Chakraborty, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Kharagpur, and Dr Arindam Mondal, Assistant Professor, School of Bio-Science, IIT Kharagpur

Talking about this test,

Professor VK Tewari, Director, IIT Kharagpur, said, "This is indeed one of the greatest contributions in the history of medical science, particularly in the area of virology, and is well set to replace PCR-based tests to a large extent."

EC sets 2-member team to examine expenditure limit of candidates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has set up a two-member committee to examine the issues concerning expenditure limit for a candidate in view of increase in number of electors and rise in cost inflation index and other factors. The Committee has been asked to submit its report within 120 days of its constitution. According to the poll body, former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer and Director General (Investigation) Harish Kumar and Secretary General



and DG (expenditure) Umesh Sinha will be member of the committee.

"Expenditure limit for a candidate was last revised in 2014 while in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana it was revised on October 10,

2018. In last six years the limit was not increased despite an increase in electorate from 834 million to 910 million in 2019 to 921 million now. Further, Cost Inflation Index during this period has increased from 220 to 280 in 2019 to 301 now," the EC said. The Centre has recently enhanced the existing expenditure limit by 10 percent. This increase of 10 percent will be applicable with immediate effect in ongoing elections.

Air pollution killed 1.16L infants in their very first month of life in India in '19: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air pollution is fast killing 1.16L infants, with a global study finding that last year in India, outdoor and household particulate matter pollution claimed more than 1,16,000 toddlers in their very first month of life.

Touted as the first-ever comprehensive analysis of air pollution's global impact on newborns, the annual State of Global Air 2020 report published by the Health Effects Institute (HEI), however found progress in reducing household air pollution exposures but levels stagnant for outdoor PM2.5.

The report, State of Global Air 2020, said more than half of these deaths were associated with outdoor PM2.5 and others were linked to use of solid fuels such as charcoal, wood, and animal dung for cooking.

Overall long-term exposure to outdoor and household air pollution contributed to



over 1.67 million annual deaths from stroke, heart attack, diabetes, lung cancer, chronic lung diseases, and neonatal diseases in India in 2019.

For the youngest infants, most deaths were related to complications from low birth weight and preterm birth. Overall, air pollution is now the largest risk factor for death among all health risks, according to the report. The HEI is an independent, research institute funded jointly by the US Environmental Protection Agency, industry, foundations, and development

banks. The report highlights the ongoing challenge of high outdoor air pollution in South Asian countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal which feature high outdoor air pollution. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana Household LPG program and other schemes have helped to dramatically expand access to clean energy, especially for rural households.

Use of solid fuels for cooking, however, presents a pattern of moderate success. Since 2010, more than 50 million fewer people have been exposed to household air pollution. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana Household LPG program and other schemes have helped to dramatically expand access to clean energy, especially for rural households.

Govt eases import norms to tide over 'onion crisis'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs on Wednesday relaxed import norms till December 15 to facilitate the early shipment of onion to boost the domestic supply and check the retail prices of the key kitchen staple, sold in cities like Chennai at ₹73 per kg.

Indian High Commissions have been instructed in the relevant countries to contact the traders to shop for greater onion imports to the country. The ministry has also decided to offload more onion from its buffer stock in the open market to contain price rise.

An estimated 37 lakh crop of 37 lakh tonnes is likely to start arriving in the Mandis that will give reprieve to the rising prices, it said. According to the ministry, a sharp spike in onion prices in the past 10 days by Rs 11.56/kg has taken the all-India retail price of the commodity to Rs 51.95/kg, which was 12.13 per cent higher than the last year's price of Rs



46.33/kg. The retail price of onion has shown a marked increase from August-end 2020, though the price level was below that of last year till October 18, it said.

To facilitate import of onion, the ministry said, the government has on October 21 relaxed the conditions for fumigation and additional declaration

on Phytosanitary Certificate (PSC) under the Plant Quarantine Order (PQ), 2003 for import up to December 15, 2020."

Consignments of imported onions, which arrive at Indian ports without fumigation and endorsement to that effect on the PSC, would be fumigated in India by the importer through an accredited treatment

provider. In order to moderate prices, the ministry said that onion from the buffer stock is being released in a calibrated manner from the second half of September 2020 to major mandis, retail suppliers such as Safal, Kendriya Bhandar, and NCCF as well as state governments. "More will be done in the coming days," it added.

FIRST COLUMN

A sad epoch in human history

Having planned Operation Gulmarg, Pakistan unleashed its tribal militia on Jammu and Kashmir on October 22, 1947



RAGHVENDRA SINGH

Today is a black day in history and India is observing it as such, to protest against Pakistan's role in instigating violence and error in the Valley. Having planned Operation Gulmarg, Pakistan unleashed its tribal militia on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) on October 22, 1947. Overrunning Muzaffarabad, Domel and Uri, the tribal *lashkars*, led by Pakistan Army personnel, reached Baramulla on October 26 and wreaked havoc. A November 10 despatch by Robert Trumbull of *The New York Times* relates vividly the death and destruction that was unleashed upon the town by the marauders. It had been stripped of its wealth and dignity before the tribesmen fled in the face of advancing Indian troops, who had rushed to the rescue of the hapless residents. Survivors of those events estimated that 3,000 of their fellow townsmen, including four Europeans and a retired British Army officer, Colonel Dykes, and his pregnant wife, were slain. When the raiders rushed into town on October 26, one party of Mahsud tribesmen scaled the walls of the Saint Joseph's Franciscan Convent compound and stormed the convent hospital and the church. Twenty-four hours later, when the Indian Army entered Baramulla, only 1,000 were left of the population of about 14,000.

Max Despot, an Associated Press photographer, described on November 2 that he saw more than 20 villages in flames while flying over a section of Kashmir Valley, extending within 20 miles of Srinagar. The villages had been set on fire by the invaders, who were scouring the Valley and moving in the direction of Srinagar.

Sydney Smith of *Daily Express* of London was in the Baramulla Hospital during those ten days and filed a first hand report of the attack on the convent. "The tribal *lashkars* had come shooting their way down from the hills on both sides of the town. They climbed over the hospital walls from all sides. The first group burst into a ward firing at the patients. A 20-year-old Indian nurse, Philomena, tried to protect a Muslim patient whose baby had just been born. She was shot dead first and the new mother was next. Mother Superior Aldetrude rushed into the ward, and as she knelt over Philomena, she was attacked and robbed. When the Assistant Mother, Teresalina, saw a tribesman point a rifle at Mother Aldetrude, she jumped in front of her and a bullet went through Teresalina's heart. At that moment, Colonel Dykes raced from his room to get the Mother Superior out of danger, shouting at the tribesman as he ran. But the Mother Superior was shot and Colonel Dykes collapsed beside her, with a bullet in his stomach. His wife ran from her husband's room to help the Colonel, but she was shot. While this went on, Gee Boretto, an Anglo-Indian, was killed in the garden in front of nine nuns. Then the nuns themselves were lined up before a firing squad. We did not find Mrs Dykes until the following day. She had been thrown down a well. Reports had come that the chief of another Evangelical Mission, Major Ronald Davis, a Welshman, and one of his two English women assistants, had been shot dead. The other assistant was said to have been taken to the hills," says Smith in his report.

Abdul Rahman of Baramulla, too, recorded his observations and said that the raiders looted the Hindus to begin with, burnt the houses of the Sikhs and killed them. "As a result of this arson and loot, the Sikhs and the Hindus fled Baramulla, leaving their houses burning, and most of their women were raped and kidnapped. The raiders did not touch the Muslims to begin with — perhaps they wanted to win their sympathy. After a few days when they found that they were about to be forced out of the Valley, they turned on everybody. They started wholesale loot, arson and rape. They killed whoever came in their way. The raiders also took all the valuable ornaments of silver and gold, shawls and so on when they left," he recalled.

According to the Wazir-i-Wazarat of Baramulla, Chaudhry Faizullah, the tribal *lashkars* entered in groups of 30-40 men. Over 5,000 of them were concentrated in Baramulla at one time. They were mostly tribesmen with a few Punjabi Muslims, all well-armed and led by Pirs, Pakistan Army and Frontier Constabulary officers. The local Muslim Conference men joined the raiders and acted as guides. From the day the raiders entered the town, they started killing non-Muslims and looting and burning houses, irrespective of religion and raping women. They broke into houses in groups of 10-12, robbed them and carried away valuables, clothes and food. About 280 lorries were used to ferry this loot. The Pakistani raiders left on the night of November 7 when the Indian Army re-captured it. *The Times of London* reported on November 11 that residents seemed delighted to welcome the Indian troops. The Press despatch also bore testimony to the fact that the convent and hospital were not destroyed by the Indian aerial attacks as alleged by Pakistan wireless statements.

(The writer is Secretary, Ministry of Culture)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THIS (KAPIL'S) SHOW IS FULL OF DOUBLE MEANING WORDS, IN WHICH THE MEN WEAR WOMEN'S CLOTHES, DO CHEAP THINGS AND PEOPLE LAUGH.

—ACTOR
MUKESH KHANNA



IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE PEOPLE SMILE. I HAVE CHOSEN HAPPINESS AND PREFER TO FOCUS ON MY WORK AND CONTINUE TO KEEP DOING THAT IN FUTURE.

—ACTOR AND COMEDIAN
KAPIL SHARMA

The lines are blurred

The judgment in the Rhea Chakraborty case has virtually laid down a new norm with regard to police jurisdictions, one which may be misused by complainants



AMIT JAISWAL

One issue which has captured the imagination of India and occupied most of the space in the country's electronic and print news media in recent times, especially some television channels, is the untimely death by suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR). The young man, who was originally from Bihar, was found dead in his home in Bandra, Mumbai on June 14, who had not had long himself.

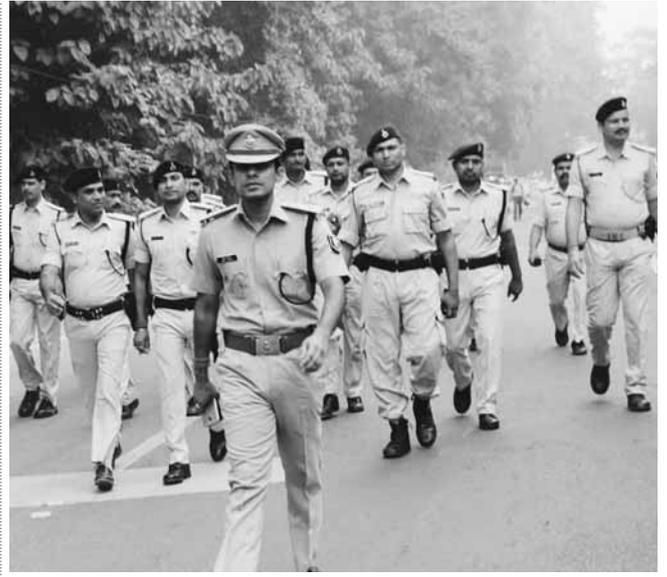
Going by the set procedures in such cases and given that this was a high-profile one involving a celebrity's death, the Mumbai Police went about its work diligently. It recorded the statements of 56 people, including the immediate family members, relatives, live-in partner, friends and staff of the deceased actor. At that point of the investigation, none of them alleged any foul play. Their statements, too, did not suggest a cognisable offence. Consequently, the Mumbai Police registered the matter as an accidental death and proceeded in terms of Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). However, after about 40 days, on July 25, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered at the Rajiv Nagar police station in Patna, Bihar, at the instance of the actor's father, KK Singh, levelling allegations of breach of trust, misappropriation of property of his deceased son and abetment to suicide against his live-in partner Rhea Chakraborty and her family members.

A police team from Patna went to Mumbai to carry out the investigation. However, the Mumbai Police raised the issue of jurisdiction and there was a lot of acrimony over the issue. Finally, on the recommendation of the Bihar Government, the Central Government directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to carry out the probe in the matter. Meanwhile Rhea Chakraborty approached the Supreme Court under Section 406 of the CrPC for the transfer of the FIR from the jurisdiction of the Additional Chief Magistrate III, Patna Sadar, to the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bandra, Mumbai.

Now, the settled legal position is that the FIR has to be registered at the police station, which has jurisdiction over the area where the offence or any part of it is alleged to have been committed. *Prima facie* the Patna Police had no jurisdiction to register an FIR in the matter. Even if the complaint filed with the Bihar Police disclosed commission of some cognisable offence, the established procedure would be to register a "zero FIR" and transfer it to the police station empowered to do so. The Section which becomes relevant in this matter is Section 181(4) of the CrPC. It reads, "Any offence of criminal misappropriation or of criminal breach of trust may be inquired into or tried in any court having local jurisdiction the offence was committed. Or, any part of the property, which is the subject of the offence, was received or retained, or was required to be returned or accounted for, by the accused person."

The Supreme Court, in its judgment, upheld the validity of registering the FIR in Patna, mainly on the ground that the allegations also related to criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of money, which were to be eventually accounted for in Patna (where the complainant resides) and that could *prima facie* indicate the

“THE APEX COURT HEAVILY RELIED UPON THE WORDS 'ACCOUNTED FOR' IN THE SECTION TO UPHOLD THE VALIDITY OF THE FIR. IT DID CITE A FEW JUDGMENTS TO SUBSTANTIATE ITS REASONING. IT CAN SAFELY BE SAID THAT IN NONE OF THE CITED JUDGMENTS, THE WORDS 'ACCOUNTED FOR' HAVE BEEN USED OR APPLIED BY THE COURTS. THEY DID NOT IMPLY THAT ONLY BECAUSE THE ACCUSED WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ACCOUNTABLE TO LEGAL HEIRS OF THE DECEASED, THE FIR COULD BE LODGED WHEREVER THE LEGAL HEIRS RESIDE.”



lawful jurisdiction of the Patna Police.

The apex court heavily relied upon the words "accounted for" in the Section to uphold the validity of the FIR. It did cite a few judgments to substantiate its reasoning. Though it is not possible to discuss every single judgment here, it can safely be said that in none of the cited judgments, the words "accounted for" have been used or applied by the courts. They did not imply that only because the accused would eventually be accountable to legal heirs of the deceased, the FIR could be lodged wherever the legal heirs of the deceased reside, even though no part of the offence has ever taken place within the jurisdiction of that police station.

For argument's sake, let us take a hypothetical case of a businessman, who commits suicide in Mumbai due to alleged financial wrongdoing on the part of his business associate or agent or even a creditor. Now, let us say that one son of the deceased businessman resides in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and another in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. By virtue of this judgment, the police forces of both these places would have the jurisdiction to register an FIR and investigate the matter only because the money was eventually to be accounted for to the satisfaction of the legal heirs in these two cities. Thus, they would have the option to choose the place/State which is doing to ensure their safety, both in demand and supply, plus a connect with employees regarding their health and financial well-being. This will prevent attrition and business continuity.

Another aspect which needs to be noticed is that as per Supreme Court Rules notified on May 11, a single judge is competent to hear certain bail matters and transfer applications. The relevant apex court rule reads, "Provided that the following categories of matters may be heard and disposed of finally by a judge sitting singly nominated by the Chief Justice. Special leave petitions arising out of grant, dismissal or rejection of Bail Application or Anticipatory Bail Application in the matters filed against the order passed under Section 437, Section 438 or Section 439 of the CrPC 1973 (two of 1974) involving the offences punishable with sentence up to seven years imprisonment; applications for transfer of cases under Section 406 of the CrPC 1973 (two of 1974); application of an urgent nature for transfer of cases under Section 25 of the CrPC 1908 (five of 1908)."

Now Rhea Chakraborty filed a petition arising out of grant, dismissal or rejection of Bail Application or Anticipatory Bail Application in the matters filed against the order passed under Section 437, Section 438 or Section 439 of the CrPC 1973 (two of 1974) involving the offences punishable with sentence up to seven years imprisonment; applications for transfer of cases under Section 406 of the CrPC 1973 (two of 1974); application of an urgent nature for transfer of cases under Section 25 of the CrPC 1908 (five of 1908). The petition was dismissed by the single judge on the ground that Section 406 of the

CrPC does not grant the apex court any such power. Once the petition for transfer itself had been declined, there was no occasion to further decide the jurisdiction of the Patna Police to register an FIR, as it was neither a consequential matter, nor was the decision of transfer petition dependent on the adjudication of validity of the FIR. On the perusal of the Rules reproduced above, there was no occasion for the single judge to adjudicate upon these issues. In effect, the judgment says that in cases where a person commits suicide or is murdered and there are allegations of breach of trust or misappropriation of property, then the FIR can be registered by the legal heirs of the deceased at any police station in India, wherever they reside. The investigation then will have to be carried out by the officer in-charge of that police station, though no part of the offence has ever taken place within its jurisdiction.

The judgment in the Rhea Chakraborty case has virtually laid down a new jurisprudence with regard to police jurisdictions. It has blurred lines and has serious implications on the criminal justice system so far as the initiation of criminal proceedings is concerned. This will only result in confusion and is susceptible to misuse by complainants. The court has given an open-ended and wide interpretation to the words "accounted for" in Section 181(4) of the CrPC. This is bound to give birth to myriad and complicated issues in the near future.

(The writer is an advocate in the Punjab and Haryana High Court)

New strategies for the new normal

This outbreak serves as a reminder for retailers to be more proactive in planning and resilient in their response to future disruptions



SWAPNIL SONI KOSHA JOSHI

The Indian retail industry is a highly competitive, \$800 billion market with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12 per cent. Out of that, the share of online retail is \$32.7 billion with a CAGR of 31 per cent. Smartphone penetration, brand consciousness, demographics and policy support are the factors transforming and pushing this industry towards omnichannel retailing.

Omnichannel retailing is a fully-integrated approach to commerce, providing shoppers a unified experience across all channels or touchpoints, including online and offline. It offers consistent merchandise and seamless interaction between online and offline channels, thus combining the benefits

of both. However, the pandemic and subsequent national and local lockdowns have greatly impacted both supply and demand. The supply side was hit by administrative restrictions and limited resources while demand, too, remained subdued due to job losses, salary cuts and restrictive spending. In such a situation, an agile response is needed for swift operations, customer satisfaction and surviving in the post-Corona era.

Evolving consumer behaviour: Though retail has undergone many significant disruptions in the past, perhaps none has shifted consumer behaviour as rapidly as this contagion has. The changes are happening due to factors like challenges in personal situations, preferences towards social distancing measures, many unanticipated customers are moving towards online retailing. For example, many senior citizens are opting for online grocery shopping as a

precautionary measure. Use of services like contactless digital payments, social commerce and virtual consultation are also seeing a rise.

Many of these behavioural changes will continue even after the pandemic is over, McKinsey and Company cited this as "consumer behaviour shift." For example, people will get used to the comfort of home delivery, ease of digital payments, varieties offered by online markets and so on. Retailers need to draw insights from these changes and rebuild the consumer confidence as the new normal continues.

Financial skills: Revenue is sharply dropping for many categories. Even though store profit has gone down, retailers need to pay rents, salaries and so on. Hence, at this point it is necessary for them to optimize costs, re-evaluate the offerings to profitable items. In the long-term, as demand picks up, it would be prudent to invest in omnichannel fulfillment as means to financial resilience.

Accept the new normal: Social distancing, safety and hygiene procedures will be here for a while. The best way to go forward is to accept the new normal and the complexity it will

bring to decision-making.

Consumer connect: Now more than ever, it is must for retailers to connect and communicate. Consumers will definitely like to know what a business is doing to ensure their safety, both in demand and supply, plus a connect with employees regarding their health and financial well-being. This will prevent attrition and business continuity.

Extra activity: First and foremost, retailers need to adapt to safety regulations, sanitisation procedures and regulatory directives at the country, State and municipal level in various phases of the unlocking. They need more dynamic inventory and logistics planning to meet the fluctuations in demand and supply, plus a connect with employees regarding their health and financial well-being. This will prevent attrition and business continuity.

Infrastructure: The Indian online retail infrastructure is an intermediate stage. The pandemic just exposed the flaws and inefficiency which were already there. Retailers should review the location of warehouses, delivery centres and their distributors to com-

pute the risk of supply chain disruptions. The partnership with local grocery stores will help retailers to ensure timely contactless last mile delivery even during a crisis. Retailers also need to consider customer's safety and efficient operation with reduced staff while complying with social distancing norms.

Technology skills: Technology allows retailers to have relevant information and visibility throughout the supply chains, resulting in timely communication with all the stakeholders. Businesses will need secured, informative and intuitive shopping apps, which can balance for the lack of store visits. Also, Artificial Intelligence will continue to make a big impact in this sector to predict real-time consumer demand, optimise inventory and manage backlogs, thus ensuring operational agility.

Also, Smart Mirrors and Augmented Reality can help build a store-like environment in the virtual world, ensuring safety. This way, retailers and associated stakeholders need to ramp up technological skills and infrastructure as they enter a post-pandemic

era. As of today, India is among the top countries with the highest number of COVID cases and there is no end to the contagion in sight. Even the countries, where the outbreak seemed to be under control initially, are experiencing a second wave. This has caused supply and demand disruption and jolted the market ecosystem.

Hence, it is certain that retailers, that are an integral part of the demand-driven economy, need to be financially prudent, fast in their response to the new dynamics and ready to collaborate through the value chain to thrive during this crisis and subsequent periods. As with many sectors, it is likely that retail will see a regime shift and consolidation. Smaller and financially-struggling businesses might face difficulty surviving this crisis. At the same time, retailers with a unique value proposition will come out stronger. This outbreak serves as a reminder for retailers to be more proactive in planning and resilient in their response to unprecedented disruptions in future.

(The writers are Senior Research Scholars at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.)



FOREIGN EYE



WORK, EDUCATION REVOLUTION AHEAD

Because the pace of technological change, digitisation and globalisation just keeps accelerating, the world is being knit together more tightly than ever — sure, the globalisation of goods and people has been slowed by the pandemic and politics, but the globalisation of services has soared and the half-life of skills is steadily shrinking, meaning that whatever skill you possess today is being made obsolete faster and faster. (The NYT editorial)

Trump says he could be 'king' of all fundraisers

Slams Biden for being 'servant' of lobbyists

Erie (US): Joe Biden is a "servant" of lobbyists and "Washington voters" who got rich by bleeding America dry...

to say no. Hey, they were nice. They treated you good," he said. "I don't want to do that. I don't want to do that. We don't need the money. I don't want to do that. I don't want to do it. But when you see them raise \$300, 350 million in a month and a half you know deals are being made...

Uproar in Sindh province as police protest alleged abduction of its chief

Karachi: A serious controversy has broken out in Pakistan after an Inspector General of Police (IGP) was allegedly forced into ordering the arrest of Captain (retired) Saifur Awan...



Pro-democracy activists march to the Government House, Prime Minister's office during a protest march in Bangkok, Thailand, on Wednesday

Thai PM urges protesters to give up confrontation

Bangkok: Thailand's Prime Minister on Wednesday pleaded with his countrymen to resolve political differences through Parliament...

American Hindus deeply divided over Trump, Biden

Houston: The political divide between the Hindu supporters of US President Donald Trump and the Hindu Democrats who support Joe Biden is getting deeper with the presidential election less than two weeks away...

Barack Obama to hold first in-person event for Biden

Washington: Former President Barack Obama is returning to Philadelphia on Wednesday to hold his first in-person campaign event for Joe Biden...

Stampede kills 11 Afghans seeking visas to leave country



Afghan protesters gathered in a public square in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Wednesday

Kabul: At least 11 women were trampled to death when a stampede broke out Wednesday among thousands of Afghans waiting in a soccer stadium at Thailand's leader urges protesters to give up confrontation...

Germany grants Hong Kong pro-democracy protester asylum

Berlin: A 22-year-old university student from Hong Kong says she has been given refugee status by Germany after extrajudicially detaining at the city's extradition camp...

Powerful explosion rips through building in Pakistan, 5 killed

Islamabad/Karachi: A powerful explosion ripped through a four-story building in Pakistan on Wednesday, killing at least five people and injuring 20 others...

Nigeria protesters break curfew amid gunfire, chaos in Lagos

Lagos: Nigeria's anti-police protesters stayed on the streets in Lagos on Wednesday, breaking the government curfew following a night of chaotic violence...

Pakistan unlikely to exit FATF's grey list: Report

Islamabad: Pakistan may not exit the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as it has been unable to comply with six of the 27 points in the global terror financing and money laundering watchdog's action plan...

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority advertisement with contact details and website information.

ICICI Bank SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE advertisement detailing the reconstruction of financial assets.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS advertisement for E-Tender Notice.

SEARCH FOR MISSING advertisement for a missing girl named Muskan, D/o Ugarnath Mishra.

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER advertisement for construction work at Rajkya Bal Collectorate Compound.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS advertisement for E-Tender Notice.

राजस्थान परिवहन निगम मुक्त्यावर कयम्प advertisement for bus services.

ICICI Bank advertisement for E-Tender Notice.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS advertisement for E-Tender Notice.

Trend Slazer

Madhuri recalls working with Saroj

Actor **MADHURI DIXIT NENE** walked down memory lane and recalled working with the late co-actor **RISHI KAPOOR** and late choreographer **SAROJ KHAN** in the 1995 release, *Yaarana*.

The David Dhawan directorial was inspired by the Julia Roberts-starrer *Sleeping With The Enemy* and is still remembered for Madhuri's hit dance number, *Mera piya ghar aaya*. The number was choreographed by Saroj Khan. "Working alongside Rishi ji and learning the steps from Saroj ji are some of my fondest memories... Today as we mark #25YearsOfYaarana, remembering both of them. This is dedicated to them and the whole team," she wrote.



Surface transmission is known to be one of the biggest reasons for Coronavirus cases around the world. A start-up introduces a first-of-its-kind technology to contain the spread through touch. By **AYUSHI SHARMA**

It would not be wrong to say that technology has proved to be a game-changer, especially in the time of a pandemic. While COVID-19 vaccine continues to remain under development and containing the spread of the Coronavirus has become the most critical aspect in today's world, a start-up has announced the launch of 'Keep-U-Safe,' a first-of-its-kind technology, which will aid in achieving significant reduction of viruses on surfaces of their products.

Surface transmission is known to be one of the biggest reasons for Coronavirus spread around the world. The organisation, SeguraMAX, aims to fight the very contagion. It believes that this could become a potential game-changer for India and the world, where the Coronavirus cases are rising at an alarming rate. The green plant-based technology has been tested by various international and accredited NABL labs with proven results to reduce more than 99 per cent viruses from various surfaces of fabrics, garments and plastics in less than one minute. It has also proven to remain effective after multiple washes.

The technology can become the first shield of hybrid protective wear to fight infectious diseases and prevent surface transmission of viruses from the infected to the uninfected, even while pharma companies continue their effort to develop and suitably deploy a vaccine in the coming months. The company has developed a diverse range of products treated with bio-organic additives that reduces the presence of viruses.

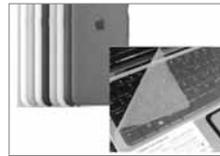
Now the question is — how is this technology better than UV tech? Gaurav Khullar, Director, Product Development, explains that first and foremost, the human body can be exposed to UV tech and it takes longer for UV lights to disinfect a surface. For instance, a wall or a wall-coating cannot be disinfected and takes longer time. However, this technology is perhaps the first in the world to use plant-based, natural and non-toxic technology, which doesn't have any adverse effects on the human body or the surfaces it has been applied to. "Our technology is manufactured as coatings, plastic masterbatches, plastic films, fabrics and apparel. After several rigorous testing, exposing our products to several bacteria and viruses, we have been able to successfully introduce a technology, which is instant and has the same efficacy on fabrics after 60 washes. The virus reduction rate remains 99 per cent within the very first minute and interpreting this to the number of days, we estimate it could last for as long as up to two years in room con-



ditions as the tests are undergoing," shares he.

During the winter season, when people might face a challenge as far as sanitisation is concerned, how will this technology and product help? Khullar tells us that a lot of the viruses are cross transmitted. This technology helps in reducing the cross-virus transmission within one minute of exposure, making it an instant smart solution. "If the surfaces are self-sanitised with the use of this tech then the cross-transmission would be reduced by 99 per cent. For example, we are doing trials with an electrical switch manufacturer. These electrical switches are turned on and off very regularly. Since sanitiser has alcohol content in it, it cannot be sprayed on electrical switches. With this tech, the switches will keep on sanitising themselves. People might face a challenge as far as sanitisation during winter season is concerned, so we have also introduced virus reduction jackets which can act as a shield even if you're exposed to an environment with viruses," says he.

The products can be used by corporates, government employees, public dealing personnel like airport staff, policemen and most importantly health workers, who frequently come in direct contact with infected individuals and surfaces. The product range includes cling wraps for suitcases and food and other purposes, breathable 3pc PPE suit, breathable coats



for doctors, N-95 masks, bed linen, doctor seat covers, travel jackets, all-weather jackets, airline seat covers, face shields, table covers, gloves, uniforms, grocery shopping bags, wrapping papers and much more.

"The problem of anti-microbials has already been there for a very long time. So, our plant-based technology will not only limit the bacteria and viruses that are existing today but will also prohibit any other possible viral transmission or bacterial growth for which further studies are undergoing. This may very well become a way of life and our technology will be a product feature for every product to have an anti-microbial coating. With the plant-based additive, it becomes non-toxic and safe. Therefore, it can become a game changer by utilising natural plant-based resources to make the technology work in the sphere of life. The products are protective wear only and not medical devices,



they do not provide any guarantee against infections and are certainly not a cure," shares Khullar.

The company is presently in talks with Material Engineers and Product Managers of various organisations globally, who have shown keen interest entering into licens-

ing arrangements to deploy this revolutionary technology. The introduction of Keep-U-Safe products will help in alleviating a lot of fear among frequent travellers and more so the public at large, who are potentially exposed to a lot of public spaces and high-risk touchpoints.

'Comparisons to Ayushmann (Khurrana) are quite flattering. We live in an era when competition is

healthy and our peers only inspire us to be better. Ayushmann has made this entire generation of actors proud with his ability to do films that most other actors wouldn't touch before. I am glad people are appreciating the work I have done so far.'

—Shweta Tripathi

The much-hyped AYUSHMANN KHURRANA-VAANI KAPOOR starrer has a name. On

Wednesday, it was confirmed that the film directed by Abhishek Kapoor is titled *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*.

Taking to Instagram, Ayushmann expressed joy at starting shooting for the film in his hometown, Chandigarh.

"Next stop: My hometown Chandigarh for the first time. Excited to be a part of Abhishek Kapoor's delightful progressive love story *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*," he wrote.



Robert, Mark defend Chris Pratt

Avengers stars **MARK RUFFALO** and **ROBERT DOWNEY JR** have defended co-star **CHRIS PRATT**, who was criticised by netizens for his alleged political beliefs.

Over the weekend Pratt was questioned over why he has not been more politically engaged about current events.

His critics called him "Hollywood's Worst Chris", with many commenting on his involvement in a conservative church and others assuming that he is a fan of US President Donald Trump.

Netizens also attacked Pratt over an Instagram post where he urged fans to vote for his film *Onward* to win a People's Choice Award.



FOOD FOR THE SOUL

The Durga Puja has always been the greatest crowd-puller, be it in the capital or in West Bengal. However, with a pandemic at hand, the physical distancing norms have taken over, dulling the extravagant pandal-hopping affairs. Since the hot *khichari* paired with the tangy chutney, and many other delicacies on the *bhog* platter will be missed this year, here are a few recipes with a twist you can try out while doing a virtual *darshan* of Maa Durga at home

LAUKI AND KELE KI MALAIDAR KHEER

- WHAT YOU NEED
- Full fat milk: 800 gm
 - Bottle gourd (grated): 400 gm
 - Banana (grated): 2
 - Khoya: 30 gm
 - Almonds (sliced): 20 gm
 - Chironji: 10 gm
 - Cashew (crushed): 10 gm
 - Brown sugar: 90 gm
 - Cardamom powder: 1 tsp
 - Ghee: 25 gm
 - Saffron: 8/10 strands

METHOD

- Heat ghee in a pan. Fry cashews and almonds. Also, keep some aside for garnishing.
- When they turn slightly brown, add grated *lauki* and cook it for eight to 10 minutes on slow flame.
- Add milk when it starts boiling. Simmer the heat



and let it cook on slow heat for 25 minutes more.

- Keep stirring in between.
- Now add sugar, *khoya* and cook it for another two to three minutes.
- Put cardamom powder and saffron for enhancing the taste.
- Let the *kheer* cool at room temperature. Then add grated bananas and mix really well.
- Garnish with leftover almonds and cashews. Serve cold.

Courtesy: Michelin Plate Winner, Chef Dayashankar Sharma.

APPLE JALEBI

- WHAT YOU NEED
- Apple: 1
 - Sugar: 300 gm
 - Saffron: 0.5 gm
 - Singhara flour: 50 gm
 - Pista slice for garnishing
 - Mint leaf for garnishing
 - Milk ice cream
 - Milk: 1 ltr
 - Elaichi powder: 5 gm

METHOD

- Peel the green apple and cut in roundel.
- Now remove the core part of apple. Dust some sugar and leave it for five minutes.
- Meanwhile, make a little thick syrup of sugar-saffron and cardamom.
- After five minutes, coat the apple slice with singhara flour.
- Now fry the apple slice in ghee. Once it's golden in colour, take out and dip in saffron syrup for 10 seconds only.
- Repeat the process with all apple slices.
- Once done, plate it well with milk ice cream, pista crumb and pista flakes. Ready to serve.

Courtesy: Executive Pastry Chef Anand Panwar at Rosatele Hotels & Resorts.

A 'Cursed Capital'

Delhi has been a capital for five millennia but a few of them have a story as fascinating as Tughlaqabad

Only Athens, Cairo and Rome can claim to have been capitals for as long as Delhi. From the time of *Mahabharata* when the city was known as Indraprastha to today's New Delhi. It is for good reason that Delhi is known as the city with seven capitals and it is the story of the most fascinating one — Tughlaqabad — the massive citadel and fort built by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq, the founder of the Tughlaq dynasty during the Delhi Sultanate period.

The Fort which was to serve as capital for Tughlaq but according to legend, it was cursed by Sufi Mystic Nizamuddin Auliya who said "Dilli Dur Ast" (Delhi is still far) because Tughlaq had requisitioned every able-bodied man in the capital to work on his masterpiece. He never enjoyed his capital as he was killed on behalf of his son Mohammed bin-Tughlaq while returning from a campaign in Bengal. However, Mohammed did ensure that his father was at least buried in a mausoleum overlooking the fort. The son, worried about the saint's curse, was to attempt to move the capital from Delhi to Devagiri over 600 kilometers away and in the process of moving many thousands of people ended up dying. The antics of father and son are now part of political discourse in India where being 'Tughlaqian' means being stubborn or obstinate ruler with no consideration for his/her citizens.



ders is clearly visible on the landing path when you approach the airport from the east. But the Fort is also easily accessible by road, and the ramparts of the Fort lie beside Mehrauli-Badarpur Road where the limestone and granite work can clearly be seen. The Fort is managed by the Archeological Survey of India and entry is open to all for a token sum of just ₹20 for Indian citizens. Inside, one of the few remaining large Forts from the pre-Mughal Islamic era in India one can witness everything from the royal quarters to even the catacombs where prisoners were housed and even tortured. However, one has to be careful of the bats and the several hundred monkeys that now call the Fort home, again one of the Sufi

Saint's various curses. At night, if you drive down the Mehrauli-Badarpur road, which is a pleasure to do on the 2020 Hyundai Venue Sport, particularly with the U2 CRDi engine that our car is equipped with. With a 100PS of power, this car has a punchy engine with a load of power but one that couples the power with phenomenal mileage, in our regular city driving in start-stop conditions we got an impressive 16 kilometers per litre. It might be fashionable to look down on diesel engines these days but the Venue reminds one of the phenomenal power and economy of modern diesel engines and this one is coupled perfectly with a lovely six-speed manual gearbox that seems to never run out of power.

LIVE HEALTHY

SRM Institute, Kattankulathur, celebrates International Chefs Day with focus on rural development

The International Chefs Day 2020 was organised and celebrated by the SRM Institute of Hotel Management (SRM-IHM), Kattankulathur. The theme of this year's event is 'Healthy food for the future' with a special focus on rural women's empowerment.

"Food is the essence of healthy living," said Chief Guest and Chef Dr Damodharan, President of SICCA, a Guinness World Record holder. The event was held at the State Institute of Rural Development, Tamil Nadu, Maraimalai Nagar. Dr T Anuradha MBBS, District Designated Officer Food Safety Department, Kanchipuram and Chengalpattu districts, Chef Bala, consultant chef and food historian, Tamil Nadu & Kerala, Brand Ambassador of EatwithIndia were the guests of honour.

The event was held with all safety protocols and social distancing measures in place. Director of SRM-IHM, Dr Antony Ashok Kumar welcomed the gathering. Apart from International Chefs Day, the institute also celebrated World Food Day 2020 and World Tourism Day 2020.

The event was held as a training, demonstration and a speech on heritage and food adulteration for the empowerment of self-help group and Rotary Inner Wheel ladies.

Chef Damodharan stressed on the importance of chefs being healthy themselves in the first place. "There is nothing like eating food cooked by a mother because it is a tradition and also a medicine for health. There are several ingredients that we use in our kitchen that help us improve our health and well-being," he said. He also demonstrated how to cook a healthy meal in the



comfort of our homes. "Eat well, exercise properly and enjoy life," he added.

Dr Anuradha said that even if there are a variety of options in the market because there we get all sorts of products, "we should be able to differentiate between pure and adulterated food. But people are increasingly moving towards unhealthy food habits which lead to an unhealthy lifestyle. Eating proper food in the right quantity is essential for a good and healthy life. Our health is in our hands." She also demonstrated on how to find adulteration in the product/groceries that we buy.

Bala further stressed on the importance of using food as medicine. She said that she has been firm believer of this and been following it herself. She explained how parents can provide tasty food for children

at home without adding artificial colour or flavouring agent.

"Change has to begin at home and we can provide a balanced, tasty and healthy diet without using any artificial colouring or flavouring agents," said Bala, who also demonstrated making a nutritious and balanced meal using our own pulses.

SRM Institute of Science and Technology Vice Chancellor Dr Sandeep Sancheti in his address, focussed on the importance of eating healthy food and how it has come into practice in the last six months. "The COVID-19 pandemic has given us an opportunity to go back to our traditional food, which is known for its several health factors. Hence, food and hotel management can never be done online. Our aim must be to remove malnutrition through sustainable food," he said.

Empowering locals

Lieutenant Governor MANOJ SINHA has expressed gratitude to the Union Government for approving full application of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992 to the UT of J&K

Terminating the Union Cabinet's approval of adaptation of the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 as a watershed moment in the history of Jammu & Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed his gratitude to PM Narendra Modi for paving a way for the establishment of all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions and strengthening the grassroots democracy. It thereby gives further fillip to the developmental agenda centred around people's welfare.

The Government of India has fully applied the 73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992 to the UT of J&K, which was pending for the last 28 years. With this, all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions shall be formed for the first time in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sinha has observed that a major and final legal requirement towards strengthening the grassroots democracy and the bottom-up approach towards planning and execution has been fulfilled and the historic step shall result in direct representation of people in the district level body through direct elections to 14 seats in the District Development Council. "A proper system of checks and balances through membership of directly-elected members, Block Development Council chairpersons and MLAs in the District Development Council ensure that the most genuine demands and needs of people are met," he added.

After the adaptation of the J&K Panchayati Raj Act 1989, every district will have a District Development Council practising jurisdiction over the entire district, excluding municipal areas. Every council will have 14 directly-elected members, that is 280 BDC members in the whole UT. The councils shall also comprise the chair-

persons of all BDCs and members of the Legislative Assembly from the district.

Any person whose name is included in the electoral of any Halaq Panchayat of the district can nominate himself as a candidate for election to District Development Council. After this development, every council will have a chairperson and a vice-chairperson who shall be elected by the directly-elected members of BDC. Further, there shall be reservations for SC/ST amongst the directly-elected members on the basis of the proportion of the population. One-third of seats under direct election will be reserved for women.

Further, five standing committees — Finance, Development, Public Works, Health and Education, and Welfare — will now be constituted in every District Development Council. The ADDC will be the Chief Executive Officer of the District Development Council, which will be responsible for the formulation of development programmes and speedy development and economic upliftment of the area of the district under its authority. The DDC will review the progress and achievements of development plans and schemes in the district. Ensuring adequate legal backing to devolution of functions to the DDC, specific functions will be assigned to the council in schedule-III of the Act. It will also supervise the functioning of Panchayat Halaqs and BDC and will receive and consolidate their plans at the district level.

Pertinently, the Government of J&K has also notified the rules for the constitution of the DDC and the process of delimitation of its constituencies has already been set in motion in all the 20 districts.

IN SHORT



National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), state owned fertilizer company distributed 35 cotton plucking machines free of cost to the farmers under its Corporate Social Responsibility in programmes held in Haryana on October 15. The machines were distributed to farmers in two separate programmes organised at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sadapur, Hissar and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhiwani in Haryana. Virendra Nath Dutt, Chairman and Managing Director of the company was the chief guest in these programmes. In his address, Dutt explained the CSR projects being undertaken by the company. He also demonstrated the use of the machine for easy understanding of the farmers. The programme was attended by Anil Molsara, Chief General Manager (Marketing) and Dilbag Singh, Zonal Manager of Chandigarh Office of the company. More than 500 such cotton plucking machines have been distributed by NFL to farmers in Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana etc.



The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken the construction work for a New Integrated Terminal Building at Pune Airport. With massive built-up area of more than 5,00,000 sq ft, the new terminal will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹475 crore. This is to cater to the continuous surge in passenger traffic and to ease congestion at the airport. To provide a delightful experience to the passengers, 32,000 sq ft space for the provision of F&B and retail outlets has also been provisioned inside the airport. Construction of a huge canopy on the city side of the existing and the new building is part of the project, which will add a magnificent look to the airport.

NTPC Dadri strives to be cleanest coal-fired plant

NTPC Dadri is striving to become the cleanest coal fired plant in the country and is complying with all the CPCB guidelines on emissions.

All the emission parameters are being monitored online and transmitted to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on real time basis. Flue gas emissions and particulate matter are well within the CPCB norms with high efficiency ESP services in all the four numbers 210 MW & 2 nos. 490 MW units.

For SO_x reduction, Dry Sorbent Injection (DSI) system has been installed in 210 MW units with technology from UCC USA and scrubber units are meeting emission norms. FGD system is in advanced stage of implementation in 490 MW units by BHEL with technology from Mitsubishi Power Works, Japan.



All the 210 MW units were already compliant to NO_x emission norms. In 490 MW units, SOFA (Separated Overfire Air) system has been installed and all the units now comply with the norms for NO_x.

The branch has also pioneered co-firing of biomass pellets along with coal in the boilers. The pellets are made of husk or agro-residue which would have been burnt other-

BIS celebrates World Standards Day

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the national standards body, celebrated the World Standards Day on October 14.

The day is celebrated to pay tributes to the collaborative efforts of thousands of experts worldwide for developing national and international standards. Themes for celebrations for each year are decided by the international standardisation bodies namely the ISO, IEC and the ITU. This year's theme was, 'Protecting the planet with standards', for which BIS organised a number of programmes throughout India.

The main programme was held at the headquarters, inaugurated by Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs. In her inaugural address, Nandan appreciated the efforts of BIS in formulation of standards relevant to the businesses. Nandan presented the Solid Waste



Management Quality awards to the representatives of Resident Welfare Associations of Noida. While presenting the awards, she complimented BIS for engaging with the community and taking the benefits of its various activities to the masses. She also felicitated the two Indian experts who were awarded the IEC 1906 awards for their technical contribution for furthering standardisation in the

field of electrotechnology.

Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary presented the keynote address and emphasised the need for adopting a sustainable living instead of exploiting the limited resources which could be detrimental to the planet. She stressed on making such standards which promote environmental friendliness.

In his welcome address, Pramod Kumar Tiwari,

Director General, BIS highlighted the recent initiatives taken by the body for strengthening the standardisation process and the importance of standards in national economy.

He informed that government departments and industry associations have created standardisation cells which would greatly enhance their effective participation in making the standards relevant to the present day and futuristic needs. He also presented the online portal developed by BIS for the standards.

Developing Organisations (SDOs) which would serve as a collaborating platform for SDOs to formulate standards and achieve the vision of "One Nation, One Standard". During his vote of thanks, NK Kanera, Dy Director General (Policy, Research & Training) informed about the programmes being held on the occasion. They included workshops with consumer

groups, state government departments and manufacturers, competitions at schools and colleges and seminars on the topics relevant to the theme.

The inaugural session was followed by two technical sessions wherein presentations were made by experts and eminent personalities namely, Dr SSV Ramakumar, Director R&D, IOCL, Vimal Mahendru, Chairman, IEC Systems Committee & IEC Ambassador, I Roy Chaudhary, Dy Director General, BIS and Dr Debjit Palit, TERI.

Second technical session, held in collaboration with IEEE was conducted in hybrid i.e., physical & VC mode during which presentations were made by experts drawn from the fields of greenhouse gases, IT & electronics, during the programmes being held on the occasion. The two Indian awardees of ISO poster competition were also felicitated.



Loading activity at Rajkot station

Western Railway runs 616 parcel trains

Western Railway's parcel special trains are traveling across the country to keep the supply of essential commodities moving, even during the difficult time of the COVID pandemic. In spite of various hurdles and labour constraints during the time of lockdown, Western Railway has crossed the figure of 600 parcel special trains by running total 616 such trains during the lockdown.

The revenue generated is ₹51.51 crore. In continuation to this, on Tuesday, three parcel special trains, including a milk rake left from various stations of WR. These included two parcel specials viz Bandra terminus to Jammu Tawi and Porbandar to Shalimar. A milk special rake also left from Palanpur to Hind Terminal.

From March 23 to Oct 19, 2020, commodities weighing above 1.53 lakh tonnes have been transported by WR through its parcel special trains, which mainly included agricultural produce, medicines, fish, milk etc. During this period, 106 milk special trains were run, with a load of more than 80,700 tonnes and 100 per cent utilisation of the wagons. Similarly, 458 COVID special parcel trains with a load of almost 49,000 tonnes were also run to transport various essential commodities. In addition to this, 52 indented rakes carrying more than 23,000 tonnes were also run.

Loss of passenger revenue due to lockdown
The loss of revenue on account of Coronavirus has been approx ₹3000 crore. In spite of this, resulting to cancellation of tickets since March 1 October 19, 2020 WR has ensured to return refund amount of about ₹454 crore. Till now, 70.61 lakh passengers have cancelled their tickets and have received their refund amount accordingly.

LIGHT UP THE ROADS

The Roshan Ghaziabad campaign aims to brighten the city. By ASHOK NIRWAN

All roads in the metropolis will be free from the pit by October 31. The construction department of Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation has been mobilised in this regard. This information was given by Municipal City Commissioner Mahendra Singh Tanwar.

He said that the government has directed us to free all roads by Diwali but the Municipal Corporation will complete this target before Diwali. He told that the tenders have also been issued by the corporation to free the land. Apart from this, Roshan Ghaziabad campaign has also started under Mission Nari Shakti



Mahendra Singh Tanwar, City Commissioner

to fix all the lights of the metropolis.

Under this campaign, lights will be fixed immediately and new lights will be installed in areas where there are no lights. The city commissioner informed that the responsibility of the lighting department of the corporation has been fixed to speed up the campaign.

Apart from this, the help of RWA working in various colonies is also being sought. He told that most of the RWAs have their own electricians and the corporation will take help from them to fix the lights. The corporation will also pay the RWA electrician in return.

BRICS Forum to focus on global stability & security

The Sixth BRICS Parliamentary Forum will be held under the Russian Chairmanship on October 27 via video conferencing. This year's theme is based on 'Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth: Parliamentary Dimension'.

Chairman of the State Duma (Lower House) of the Russian Federation, Viacheslav Volodin, who will chair the forum, said, "Russia will propose to discuss with the colleagues, members of the parliaments of the BRICS countries, issues of strengthening of the key international institutions such as the UN and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Issues of building a system of international relations on the principles of

mutual respect and respect for sovereignty will be also discussed at the meeting". The forum participants also plan to discuss issues of improving the standards and quality of life of citizens of the BRICS countries, preparing legislative initiatives to improve the health care systems, issues of social protection and economic recovery during

the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as further development of parliamentary cooperation within the BRICS. The heads of the BRICS parliamentary delegations (Russia, Brazil, India, China, South Africa) will address the forum participants.

The outcome statement is also planned to be adopted at the end of the meeting.



LIC launches new Deferred Annuity Plan

The Life Insurance Corporation of India has introduced LIC's New Jeevan Shanti plan which is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, single premium, deferred annuity plan.

The annuity rates are guaranteed at the inception of the policy and annuities are payable post deferral period throughout the lifetime of the Annuitant(s). This plan can be purchased offline as well as online now. The following two annuity options are available under the plan:

Option 1: Deferred annuity for Single life

After the Deferral Period, the annuity payments, as per the chosen mode, shall be made in arrears for as long as the Annuitant is alive. In case of an unfortunate/untimely death, during or after Deferral period, death benefit will be payable to nominee of the annuitant.

Option 2: Deferred annuity for Joint life

After the Deferral Period, the annuity payments, as per the chosen mode, shall be made in arrears for as long as the Primary Annuitant and/or Secondary Annuitant is alive. On death of the last survivor, during or after deferral period, the death benefit will be payable to the nominee.

The joint life annuity can be taken between any two lineal

descendant/ascendant of a family (Grandparent, Parent, Children, Grandchildren) or spouse or siblings.

The Minimum Purchase Price is ₹1,50,000 (subject to minimum annuity criterion). The modes of annuity available are yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, and monthly. The minimum annuity is ₹12,000 per annum. There is no ceiling on Maximum Purchase Price. An incentive for the purchase price of ₹5 lakh and above is available by way of increase in the annuity rate.

The plan is available for those between 30 to 79 years of age. The Minimum Deferral Period is one year and Maximum Deferral Period 12 years subject to Maximum Vesting Age (80 years).

The plan can also be purchased for the benefit of Divyangjan (Handicapped Dependent) with a minimum purchase price of ₹50,000.

The plan is also available under this plan. There is a provision for immediate liquidity in case of dire need as the policy can be surrendered at any time during the policy term. For further details to purchase the plan online, one can log on to the website www.licindia.com



I keep my mindset quite positive. Just look to score runs, and not think pitch is doing this or that. I play with courage. I am not afraid to get out

Deshpande is a confident lad and does his homework pretty well. He has been hit by Chris Gayle, who is a world-class batsman and it's a great learning experience for him

To have Maxi in form is a great thing and it has eased his nerves as well. He has played a lot of cricket for a long time and he knew what he needed to do

This wasn't a season we expected for our fans wanted, but we gave it a go. Sometimes, despite giving our best, the results don't show

RR, SRH lock horns in must-win game

PTI ■ DUBAI
The inexperienced young guns of both Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad would like to put their hands up in testing times when both teams square off in a must-win game on Thursday.
Whether it is Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad of Sunrisers or Kartik Tyagi, Arjun Tendulkar of the Royals, the youngsters from both sides will be feeling the pressure of doing something out of the box in case their illustrious seniors fail in that pursuit.
The Sunrisers are currently tottering at the second last place in the eight-team table with just six points from nine games while Royals are a notch ahead with eight points after their comprehensive win over CSK in the previous game.
SRH can't afford to slip up even one bit since another loss would rule them out of the Play-offs race. The Royals would hope to continue with the winning momentum and hope that their foreign recruits continue to perform like they did against CSK.
They got their campaign back on track after two heavy defeats and would also have the edge over SRH, which lost to KKR in the Super Over in their previous game.
Losing Super Over contests, the former push teams back as KXIP was found out after their opening loss to Delhi Capitals. One more loss would make it extremely difficult for the Royals to stay afloat.
While Josha Archer continues to be the backbone of Royals' bowling attack, the wrist-spinning duo of Shreyas Gopal and Rahul Tewatia were terrific in the middle overs against CSK and skipper Smith would be hoping for an encore from his bowlers on Thursday.

Matches	12
Runs	68
Wickets	18
Stays: Faf du Plessis	

In batting, Jos Buttler looked in ominous form against CSK, forcing Smith to play the second fiddle but RR would need more consistent partnerships upfront.
"I have been doing ok, quite scored as many runs as I would've liked to and help the team win matches," Buttler said on the eve of the match.
The opener is happy that Royals as a team has found some momentum going their way.
"We have started to play better in the last few matches. We probably should have won the last three but have only managed to win one of those, so we now have four matches remaining, all of which are must-win for us. We will need to win all our playoffs to give us a chance of making the playoffs," Buttler said, while admitting there is a gap between top and bottom four.
"There's obviously a bit of a gap between the top 4 and us and we know the equation for us, so we move on to the next game with a hope to do well and hopefully win against the Sunrisers."
All-rounder Ben Stokes is yet to fire and Robin Uthappa had been their weakest link so far, which might prompt Smith to give a go to someone like Punjab dasher Manan Vohra.
The other aspect that hurt them is Sanju Samson's form which like every other year has gone from good to bad and now worse.
SRH, on the other hand, would still be smarting from the Super Over loss to KKR.
David Warner and Co would definitely be hurt by that loss but they need to come out of that shock quickly and re-strategise if they want to keep themselves afloat in the T20 event. The team heavily relies on its batting lineup, mainly on the top four comprising Jonny Bairstow, Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson.

Siraj leads RCB's rout of KKR



Mohammed Siraj celebrates with RCB skipper Virat Kohli and other teammates after taking his third wicket. IPL20

PTI ■ ABU DHABI
Royal Challengers Bangalore cruised to a facile eight-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium. Mohammed Siraj led the way with figures of 2/8 as RCB strangled KKR to 84/8 in their 20 overs. They chased down the target with a whopping 39 balls to spare.
The win takes RCB level on points with the top-placed Delhi Capitals at 14, from 10 matches. They remain second only on the basis of their inferior net run rate.
RCB openers Aaron Finch and Devendra Pathak started the farcical chase with an opening stand of 46 runs. They played through the powerplay before Finch fell to Lockie Ferguson. Pathak then departed after a mix-up with new batsman Gurkeerat Singh landed both batsmen at the same end of the pitch.
Captain Virat Kohli then took his place with Gurkeerat

history of IPL to bowl two maiden overs while Chahal (2/15) stymied their revival hopes.
It is KKR's second-lowest total after their 67 all-out against Mumbai Indians in 2008.
Playing without Windies star players Sunil Narine and Andre Russell, KKR struggled to get going after electing to bat and it was all over for them after skipper Eoin Morgan was dismissed by Washington Sundar for 30.
It was a masterstroke from skipper Virat Kohli to include Siraj in place of spinner Shabbaz Ahmed keeping in mind a fresh strip.
Siraj began with a double wicket maiden over in which he dismissed opener Rahul Tripathi (1) and Nishit Rana (0) off successive deliveries.
He followed it up with another wicket-maiden over, getting rid of Tom Banton (10) in the process. His figures read an astonishing 2-1-0-3 at that time.

and saw the team home with an unbeaten stand of 40 runs.
Earlier, pacer Mohammed Siraj and Yuzvendra Chahal wreaked havoc in a stunning display of swing and spin bowling as KKR could just manage a paltry 84 for eight.
Siraj (4-2-8-3) ran through the KKR top order to trigger a stunning batting collapse and became the first bowler in the

We want to finish on top: AB

PTI ■ ABU DHABI
Experiencing one of their finest IPL seasons, Royals Challengers Bangalore's batting maestro AB de Villiers says his team wants to top the points table on its way to the play-offs of the ongoing season.
"So, we will definitely be focusing on that. We know that we will have to take it one hurdle at a time though," the South African said in a video message uploaded by his franchise on its Twitter handle.
The supremely gifted cricketer has played some fine knicks for RCB this seasons, a couple of them single-handedly helping the team to victory.
"... With it, we can also send a message to the other teams that we are here to finish at the top of the table and to not just qualify for the play-offs. I really think we have the ability to do that," the star batsman said.
De Villiers has been in ominous form and single-handedly won RCB the game against Rajasthan Royals with an unbeaten 55 from 22 balls in their 178-run chase last Saturday. He had also smashed a 33-ball 73 in the first-leg game against Kolkata night Riders.

'This season Shami has lot more clarity about his role'

PTI ■ DUBAI
The ever-reliable Mohammed Shami has bowled with a lot more 'clarity of mind' in the ongoing IPL, which has helped him deliver near-perfect performances this season, feels Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul.
Shami, a world-class Test bowler, has been in his elements, taking 16 wickets for KXIP in 10 matches so far and played a big role in the last three games that the team has won.
"Look we all know that what Shami can do on a given day. He has been doing that for many years now. I think this year, there is a lot more clarity and he has put his hand up as a senior bowler," Rahul said on Tuesday after KXIP beat Delhi Capitals by five wickets to keep their campaign for Play-offs on track.
The KXIP skipper believes



Mohammad Shami & Mayank Agarwal. IPL20

that when seniors perform, juniors take inspiration and that's what is happening thanks to Shami's efforts.
"It is important that internationals across teams put their hands up. That makes the team lot better and youngsters can feed off that," he said.
"You start winning a lot of games and you see Shami doing really well and touchwood the ball is coming out of his hand as perfectly as ever. Hopefully he can get more wickets for the team and keep bowling the way he is bowling," Rahul added.
Glenn Maxwell also raised hopes of being back to form with a 24-ball 32, something that augurs well for the team, feels the skipper.
"Well, it's important for the team and individual as well. It's important that the team backs its match winners. We know what Maxwell can do. When he comes good, he gives a lot of solidity to the team. He balances it out and is a great team-man," Rahul said.
Against KXIP, Shami beat out the top three teams — Royal Challengers Bangalore, Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals — in their last three games.
"It feels really good. We are at that stage of the tournament where we need to beat every team that we face. It's important that we take one game at a time and if we keep trusting ourselves, it doesn't matter who you are playing against," said Rahul.

Defeat wake up call for us: Iyer

PTI ■ DUBAI
It's a wake up call, said Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer as he urged his team's batsmen, with the exception of an in-form Shikhar Dhawan, to take "more responsibility" following a surprise IPL loss to Kings XI Punjab.
"This is like a wake-up call for us. Going forward we are going to face tough situations and tougher teams. We have played amazing cricket in the past but we have to leave that in the past," Iyer said at the post-match conference.
"We have to come out all guns blazing, play with freedom and take more responsibility. We need one match to qualify and keeping that in mind, we will take one match at a time," he added.
Against KXIP, Dhawan alone scored 106 while the quintet comprising Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Marcus Stoinis, Rishabh Pant and Shimron Hetmyer contributed 54 runs collectively.



Shikhar Dhawan in action during a match.

India could quarantine & train in Sydney to start Oz tour

PTI ■ SYDNEY
Sydney and Canberra are emerging as potential venues to host India's limited-over series against Australia during the upcoming tour starting next month.
The Indian team was initially supposed to land in Brisbane but apparently Queensland state health authorities would not allow the visitors to train during the mandatory 14-day quarantine period.
According to a report in ESPNcricinfo, Sydney could emerge as Indian contingent's port of entry and the city may allow them to train during their quarantine.
It is learnt that the SCG could be hosting four of the six white ball games (three T20Is and three ODIs) while

AFP ■ PARIS
Marcus Rashford once again blank Paris Saint-Germain after missing the decisive goal in a 2-1 Champions League win in the French capital on Tuesday, while Barcelona sent a message with a thumping 5-1 victory over Ferencvaros.
Rashford, who scored the winning goal when United knocked PSG out in 2019, drilled home a low shot three minutes from the end which won a thrilling Group H contest at a near-empty Parc des Princes.
United had taken the lead in the 22nd minute when Bruno Fernandes slotted home from the spot at the second attempt, but Anthony Martial inexplicably headed Neymar's corner into his own net 10 minutes after the break.
The rest of the match was an end-to-end affair with both sides opting to go for the win rather than hold on for the draw, and Rashford took the points after twice being denied by the Keylor Navas earlier in the match.
The win sets United up nicely for next week's home clash with RB Leipzig, who are

KOEMAN'S WINNING START
Ronald Koeman got his first Champions League campaign as Barcelona coach off to a winning start with a confident win over Ferencvaros that gives them a 100 per cent record but level on three points with Juventus.
Ferencvaros, the first Hungarian team to make the group stage in 11 years, started brightly and even had the ball in the net via Tokmac Nguen only for the powerful 12th-minute strike to be ruled out for offside.
Messi won and converted the penalty to give the Catalans a 27th-minute lead and the match was as good as done when Ansu Fati clipped home Frenkie de Jong's sumptuous pass just before the break.
Philippe Coutinho lashed

Late drama in Paris again

Rashford nets late winner as Man United beat PSG, Messi scores in Barca stroll



Marcus Rashford celebrates after scoring Man Utd's second goal. AP

home the third before Ihor Kharrin pulled one back from the penalty spot after Gerard Pique was sent off for pulling back Nguen as he charged towards goal.
Pedri and Ousmane Dembele finished the scoring for the 10-man hosts as they prepare for the weekend's Clasico with Real Madrid.
Having looked comfortable in their 2-0 win at Dynamo Kiev in what was the Andrea Pirlo's first ever Champions League match in the dugout, with Alvaro Morata scoring twice to take the points for the Italians.
second's European Golden Shoe winner outside Dortmund's star forward Erling Braut Haaland by netting the opening goal for the hosts after just six minutes.
Lazio went two ahead midway through the first half thanks to Marvin Hitz deflected Luis Alberto's whipped corner into his own goal.
Haaland pulled one back with a thumping finish but Immobile laid on an easy finish for Akpa-Akpro to hand Lazio a big win.
Simone Inzaghi's men are level on three points with Club Brugge in Group F following their dramatic 2-1 win at Zenit Saint Petersburg earned thanks to Charles De Ketele's 93rd minute winner.
Chelsea are still waiting for a £220 million spending spree to pay off they began their campaign with an uninspiring 0-0 Group E draw with Sevilla at Stamford Bridge.
All four sides in the group are on a single point after Rennes drew 1-1 with Krasnodar.

DUGOUT



Kings XI Punjab co-owner Preity Zinta poses for photo with Arshdeep Singh, Glenn Maxwell and Ravi Bishnoi after win against Delhi Capitals on Tuesday. @preityzinta



Cricketer-turned-commentator Aakash Chopra look to Twitter to share a picture of the IPL virtual fan-wall wherein a person from Solapur watching the match between DC-KXIP looked like Rishabh Pant. @cricketakash

BRavo OUT OF IPL WITH GROIN INJURY
CSK all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has been ruled out of the ongoing IPL with a groin injury, dealing a massive blow to the already struggling side which has very slim chances of advancing to the play-offs. "Dwayne Bravo is ruled out of the IPL due to a groin injury," CSK CEO Keshi Venkateshan told PTI. The 37-year-old Bravo played six games and scored only seven runs in two innings. However, he got six wickets in as many games with an economy of 8.57. "It's sad news, it's sad to be leaving my team CSK. To all our CSK fans, I want you all to keep encouraging the team, keep supporting, all the true die-hard CSK fans," Bravo said in a video message.

HOLDER SAYS THAT BLM NOT PART OF IPL
West Indies captain Jason Holder has expressed his disappointment over none of the IPL teams taking a knee in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, which, he feels, has gone unnoticed in the world's most glamorous cricket league. Holder, who is member of SRH, made the statement while receiving the prestigious Peter Smith Award on behalf of the West Indies cricket team in a virtual ceremony. "To be honest, I haven't had one conversation up here around it (BLM). Sometimes it seems it has gone unnoticed, which is a sad thing," Holder said in his address posted on Cricket West Indies website.

	P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1 DC	10	7	3	+0.774	14
2 RCB	10	7	3	+0.182	14
3 MI	9	6	3	+1.201	12
4 KKR	10	5	5	-0.828	10
5 KXIP	10	4	6	-0.177	8
6 RR	10	4	6	-0.591	8
7 SRH	9	3	6	+0.008	6
8 CSK	10	3	7	-0.463	6