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NOBODY'S CHILD

WORLD 8

UK'S LABOUR PARTY SUSPENDS JEREMY CORBYN IN ANTISEMITISM ROW

SPORT 12

BARCA BEAT JUVE IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

BHOPAL, FRIDAY OCTOBER 30, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹1.50



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
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*Air Surcharge Extra if ApplicableKHLOE IS
COVID-19
POSITIVE
10 VIVACITY

CAPSULE

SC STAYS HC CBI PROBE AGAINST U'KHAND CM

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Uttarakhand High Court's "drastic order" for a CBI probe into corruption allegations against Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, saying it was passed without hearing him and taking "everybody by surprise". The corruption allegations levelled by two journalists pertained to the money transferred allegedly into the accounts of relatives of Rawat in 2016 when Rawat was the in-charge of Jharkhand BJP unit.

FORMER GUJARAT CM KESHUBHAI PATEL DEAD

Ahmedabad: Former Gujarat Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel died here on Thursday after prolonged illness, family sources said. Patel (92) had recovered from Covid-19 recently and was rushed to a hospital in Ahmedabad Thursday morning following health complications, the sources said.

GOVT BANS EXPORT OF ONION SEEDS

New Delhi: The Government on Thursday banned exports of onion seeds with immediate effect amidst rising prices of the bulb in the domestic markets. Earlier, the export of onion seeds was in the restricted category, which means an exporter was required to obtain a licence or permission from the government for shipments.

Pak confesses to Pulwama attack

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a sensational admission, a senior Pakistani Minister on Thursday admitted that Pakistan was responsible for the Pulwama terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir in 2019 that killed 40 CRPF personnel and brought the two countries to the brink of a war.

"Humne Hindustan ko ghus ke maara (We hit India in their home). Our success in Pulwama is a success of this nation under the leadership of Imran Khan. You and we are all part of that success," Science & Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry said in the National Assembly during a debate.

When some of his fellow lawmakers objected to his mention of "success in Pulwama", the Minister said that "after the Pulwama incident, the way Pakistan went inside the Indian territory to target it, the entire media in India was ashamed of it."

However, he didn't retract his statement about "success in Pulwama" under Prime Minister Khan's leadership.

Chaudhry, a close aide of Prime Minister Khan, made the remarks a day after Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ayaz Sadiq said that Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood



Qureshi in an important meeting pleaded to release Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who was captured by the Pakistani Army on February 27, 2019 after his MiG-21 Bison jet was shot down in a dogfight with Pakistani jets.

In the early hours of February 26, 2019, the IAF jets bombed the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror camps in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan and avenged the Pulwama terrorist attack that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF personnel.

The international community led by the US has pressed Pakistan to deny safe haven to terror groups operating from its soil and bring the perpetrators

of the Pulwama attack to justice.

"Legs were shaking and forehead perspiring, and the foreign minister (Qureshi) told us, 'For God's sake, let him

(Varthaman) go back now because India is attacking Pakistan at 9 PM in the night", Sadiq said, recalling the high-level meeting which was also attended by Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, and added that "India was not planning to attack...They just wanted to kneel before India and send back Abhinandan."

Chaudhry, who was the Information & Broadcasting Minister at the time of the Pulwama attack, criticised Sadiq's remarks and termed them as "inappropriate".

He said Sadiq lied with a lot of confidence regarding his statements and asserted that everyone has the right to disagree with the Government but the state should not be subjected to criticism.

Pak leaders shaken with fear as its Min pleaded for release of Abhinandan lest India attack

Islamabad: "Legs were shaking and forehead perspiring" at a meeting of Pakistan's top leaders, including Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, wherein Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi

pleaded to release Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, saying if he was not released, India would attack Pakistan, a top Pakistani opposition leader has said.

3 killed in Islamist terror attack in French church

PTI ■ NICE

An attacker armed with a knife killed three people inside a church on Thursday in the southern French city of Nice, prompting the Government to raise its security alert status to the maximum level hours before a nationwide Covid lockdown.

"He cried 'Allah Akbar!' over and over, even after he was injured," said Christian Estrosi, the mayor of the Mediterranean city who confirmed a woman and a man died inside the church, while a second woman fled to a nearby bar but was mortally wounded. "The meaning of his gesture left no doubt."

It was the third attack in two months in France that authorities have attributed to Muslim extremists, including the beheading of a teacher. It comes during a growing furor over caricatures of the Prophet that were republished in recent months by the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, renewing vociferous debate in France and the Muslim world over the depictions that Muslims consider offensive but are protect-



French President Emmanuel Macron meets soldiers after a knife attack at Notre Dame church in Nice, southern France, on Thursday

ed by French free speech laws.

Other confrontations and attacks were reported on Thursday in the southern French city of Avignon and in the Saudi city of Jeddah, but it was not clear if they were linked to the attack in Nice.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he would immediately increase the number of soldiers

deployed to protect schools and religious sites from around 3,000 currently to 7,000, and France's anti-terrorism prosecutor opened an investigation.

French churches have been ferociously attacked by extremists in recent years, and Thursday's killings come ahead of the Roman Catholic All Saints' holiday.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality inched closer to the severe category on Thursday morning as pollution levels rose sharply after a marginal reduction, primarily due to calm winds and spike in farm fires.

The Central Government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said a significant increase in the number of "fire points" was observed over Punjab (around 3,000), Haryana and Uttar Pradesh which is likely to impact the air quality of Delhi-NCR and other parts of northwest India.

Delhi recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 397 at 11 am on Thursday.

The 24-hour average AQI was 297 on Wednesday, 312 on Tuesday, 353 on Monday, 349 on Sunday, 345 on Saturday and 366 on Friday.

Sixteen monitoring stations, including at Shadipur (406), Patparganj (411), Jahangirpuri (429) and Vivek Vihar (432), recorded air quality in the "severe" category.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".



A senior scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the wind speed dipped on Wednesday which allowed accumulation of pollutants. "Following slight relief, the air quality again entered the 'very poor' category by the evening," he said.

PM10 levels in Delhi-NCR stood at 420 microgram per cubic meter (µg/m3) at 10 am — the highest this season so far, according to CPCB data.

PM10 levels below 100 µg/m3 are considered safe in India.

PM10 is particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers and is inhalable into the lungs. These particles include dust, pollen and mold spores.

Farm fires worsen Delhi's air to 'severe'

₹1 cr fine, 5-yr jail for polluters: Govt's anti-pollution Ordinance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pollution-related offences will now invite a jail term of up to 5 years and a penalty up to ₹1 crore. The Centre issued an Ordinance — Commission for Air Quality Management — on Wednesday night after the approval of President of India to curb air pollution in Delhi and NCR.

In recent years, the region has been facing huge air pollution issues with respective Governments in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan passing the buck on each other.

The ordinance will also have the power to prohibit activities that are likely to cause or increase air pollution in the NCR and adjoining areas.

"The Ordinance may be called the Commission for Air Quality Management In National Capital Region and

Adjoining Areas Ordinance 2020. It shall apply to NCR and also adjoining areas in so far as it relates to matters concerning air pollution in the NCR. It shall come into force at once," said the notification issued by the Union Law Ministry.

As per the Ordinance, the adjoining areas where it shall be in force include Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, adjoining areas of the NCR and Delhi where any source of pollution is located which is causing an adverse impact on air quality in the NCR.

The commission which will be heavily dominated by bureaucrats will consist of over 20 members, including a chairperson, who is or has been a secretary of the Government of India or chief secretary of a State, a representative of Environment Secretary and five ex-officio members who are either chief secretaries or secretaries in

charge of the environment departments of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, it added.

"There shall be a full-time secretary who shall be the chief coordinating officer of the commission and shall assist in managing the affairs of the commission," it said.

The commission which will have three sub-committees, one each for monitoring and identification, safeguarding and enforcement, and research and development will have power to take mitigation measures, issue directions/orders suo moto and entertain complaints under any other existing laws such as the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The EPCA in the last 22 years when it was set up by the apex court has introduced several important interventions to control pollution.

Covid survivors could carry virus: Research

Findings show 16.7% recovered patients tested +ve in follow-up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 survivors should not drop their guard and should avoid close contact with others as they could still be carrying the virulent coronavirus, researchers have said.

According to a study, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, close to 17 per cent of patients considered fully recovered, as per the WHO criteria, from Covid-19 tested positive for the virus in follow-up screening.

Patients who continued to have respiratory symptoms, especially sore throat and rhinitis, were more likely to have a new positive test result.

This suggests the persistence of these two symptoms should not be underestimated and should be adequately assessed in all patients considered recovered from Covid-19. Researchers from Agostino Gemelli University Policlinic

Covid-19 IN INDIA		
TOTAL		
CASES:	80,71,140	
DEATHS:	1,20,910	
RECOVERED:	73,48,735	
ACTIVE:	6,00,095	

COVID-19 IN MADHYA PRADESH		
Dists	Total Cases	Fresh Cases
Bhopal	24312	205
Indore	33845	126
Gwalior	12241	38

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	16,66,668	43,710	14,94,809
Andhra Pradesh	8,17,679	6,659	7,84,752
Karnataka	8,12,784	11,046	7,34,682
Tamil Nadu	7,14,235	10,983	6,75,518
Uttar Pradesh	4,74,054	6,940	4,40,847
Kerala	4,18,485	1,430	3,25,166
Delhi	3,75,753	6,423	3,38,378
West Bengal	3,65,692	6,725	3,21,873
Odisha	2,87,099	1,350	2,72,038
Telangana	2,32,671	1,315	2,13,466
Bihar	2,13,383	1,065	2,03,244
Assam	2,05,635	923	1,93,571
Rajasthan	1,89,844	1,867	1,72,028
Chhattisgarh	1,79,654	1,881	1,56,080
Gujarat	1,71,040	3,708	1,54,178
Madhya Pradesh	1,68,483	2,898	1,55,232

looked at a group of recovering Covid patients to see how their bodies react after treatment and quarantine. The study included 131 patients who all met the WHO's guidelines for ending quarantine following their infections.

Those guidelines require a patient to be fever-free without using medications for three days. They must also have an

improvement in their symptoms and test negative for Covid twice at least 24 hours apart.

"Researchers have focused on the acute phase of Covid-19, but continued monitoring after discharge for long-lasting effects is needed," said the study lead author Francesco Landi from Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Italy.

A new RT-PCR test was administered at the time of post-acute care admission.

Demographic, medical, and clinical information was collected, with an emphasis on the persistence of symptoms and signs related to Covid-19 such as cough, fatigue, diarrhoea, headache, smelling disorders, loss of appetite, sore throat, and rhinitis.

Mehbooba, Omar slam Centre after PDP workers' protest stopped

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Two former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti jointly mounted a fierce attack on the Central Government after police in Srinagar stopped the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief from joining protests by her party workers against the new land laws on Thursday.

Several PDP workers were prevented by the police from taking out a protest march and the PDP office was sealed after detaining party workers.

Reacting strongly, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah lashed out at the Central Government asking if it wants political parties in the State to leave mainstream politics in Kashmir.

"What do you want from us? Do you want us to leave mainstream politics here?" former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah asked.

Kamal Nath allegations of scams in Shivraj Govt unfounded: BJP

Party says he should instead give account of his own Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A day after the Congress party accused Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government of indulging in several new scams in last seven months, the BJP hits back on Thursday saying Kamal Nath instead of giving accounts of his 15-months-Government is attacking the Chief Minister with unfounded charges.

Congress party on Wednesday had alleged that Shivraj Government had indulged in new scams and anomalies after coming to power early this year and listed scams like flour scam, Liquor MRP scam, fake electricity bill scam, PPE kit scam, rice scam, migrant labour food scam and so on.

While talking to media persons on Thursday, BJP State



president VD Sharma slammed Kamal Nath Government over Covid-19 preparedness, saying the Government was busy in IIFA preparations despite the fact that Centre had issued advisory as early as January. Strategy against Covid-19 was chalked out when the BJP came to power, added Sharma.

Kamal Nath Government had lost power on March 20, around same time when the Covid-19 virus had registered presence in the State.

Sharma questioned Nath's relation with Raju Montana and Gopal Reddy.

"Is Kamal Nath not the maternal uncle of Ratul Puri named in AgustaWestland chopper scam," questioned the BJP state president. Kamal Nath should tell everyone how much his Government benefitted the media company in which Digvijay Singh's wife had claimed a stake, Sharma said.

The BJP senior leaders further claimed that ₹281 crore were recovered from the residences of Kamal Nath's OSDs — Pravin Kakkad and RK Miglani, and also questioned Nath's relations with them.

Continued on Page 3

BJP moves EC at Digvijay's remarks on ex-Cong MLAs

Cong leader called Cong MLAs who joined BJP as being 'sold out'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the politically charged atmosphere, leaders from both the major political parties-BJP and Congress are using harshest possible words to attack opponents and in turn they are attracting EC notices almost every day.

The BJP has now complained to the Election Commission of India against Digvijay Singh who accused former Congressmen of being sold out.

In the complaint, the BJP has said that Singh while addressing a nukkad (Street

meeting at Madaukhedhi in Mungali Assembly seat had said, The former MLA who joined BJP leaving Congress party was sold out at ₹35 crore and now he will approach you with cash and liquor but you need to seek details of ₹35 cr. Every vote was sold for ₹6,300.

A delegation of BJP leaders who approached the EC said that Singh in the past have levelled such baseless allegations and the MLAs concerned have approached cyber cell of police on the same and the BJP too had complained to the ECI in the past.

The BJP has also complained to the commission against Congress campaigner Acharya Pramod Krishnam who had used 'insulting' words for CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan in a political rally in Morena's Kailaras on Tuesday. Krishnam

had termed Chouhan a mixture of Marich, Kansh and Shakuni.

Congress and BJP approach the commission against leaders of each other on regular basis. BJP had dragged Kamal Nath to EC over her 'item' remark and also complained to the commission over a Congress leader calling Chouhan Bhukha-Nanga.

The Congress had complained against BJP general secretary calling Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh 'Chunnu-Munnu' and also complained against Imarti Devi calling Kamal Nath's mother-sister 'item'.

Besides, both the parties have made numerous complaints against each other of breach of model election code of conduct with the ECI even before the campaigning started.

Protest in Bhopal over French prez remarks

200 people, Cong MLA booked as thousands raise slogans against Macron

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The police have booked around 200 persons including Congress MLA Arif Masood as thousands of Muslims on Thursday protested at historical Iqbal Maidan against French president Emmanuel Marcon for his alleged remarks against 'Islamist separatism'.

Holding placards and raising slogans against Macron, thousands of Muslims led by Congress Bhopal Madhya MLA Arif Masood had gathered at historical Iqbal Maidan in Old city on Thursday. They were demanding an apology from the French president for his remarks.

Macron had affirmed stringent action against 'radical Islam' after beheading of a professor Samuel Paty, a history professor who used controversial caricatures of Prophet

Mohammed from the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo in a class on freedom of expression.

Islamic countries like Turkey, Pakistan and others have slammed Macron for the remarks, seeking apology from him.

Masood on the occasion urged the Govt to snap all financial ties with France for disrespecting Prophet Mohammed. However, thousands who gathered at Iqbal Maidan breached Covid-19 safety guidelines not wearing masks and not maintaining social distancing.

Later, the Talaiya police booked Masood and 200 others for violation of Covid-19 safety guidelines, said SHO Dinesh Pratap Singh talking to the media persons. The protesters were booked under section 188 of IPC. It is the same venue where the Muslims had persisted with anti CAA-NRC protests early this year.



Muslim activists demonstrate against French President Emmanuel Macron over his alleged remarks on "Islamist separatism" at Iqbal Maidan in Bhopal on Thursday

Digital firm Evolve Digitas announces acquisition of Thinking Folks of G'gram

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Evolve Digitas, a leading Digital & Design Company announced the acquisition of Thinking Folks, a creative hot-shop in Gurugram.

The all share swap deal will see Evolve Digitas strengthen its creative and design team looking to consult service global clients. In order to realise Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the company is planning a global Center of Excellence in India to service global e-commerce clients with an in-house product.

Speaking on the occasion, Aparna Gupta, Managing Director, Evolve Digitas said, Evolve Digitas has been rapidly scaling up for the past 2 years with a growing digital footprint

globally. A testament to the dynamic approach and value we bring to them. With Thinking Folks getting on board we will accelerate further and continue to partner in the business growth of our clients businesses.

Evolve Digitas offers us the synergy that will catapult us together into a global orbit delivering high performance ecommerce solutions to businesses and adding to their growth, said Ratan Kumar, CEO.

Evolve Digitas has been steadily and rapidly scaling up its momentum and agility. It has attained new businesses in 2020 by consulting several prestigious clients globally and locally, to its portfolio. Evolve Digitas has been ranked 10th among top digital agencies in the world for 2020 by Design Rush.

2nd edition of Vishawrang in memory of poet Rabindranath Tagore

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The second edition of Vishawrang will be held online from November 20 to 29. The event is being organised by Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal in collaboration with Tagore International Center for Arts and Culture.

While addressing the media persons on Thursday, Santosh Choubey, Chancellor, RNTU and Chairman organizing committee Vishawrang 2020 informed that this three phase mega event is being organized in memory of legendary Indian poet, writer Rabindranath Tagore. Organising committee vice chairman Siddharth Chaturvedi was also present.

He said that Vishawrang would present a kaleidoscope of art, culture and literature. From deep discussions and deliberations to light mood melodies and folk dances - it will have all the hues. This year, the event, will have more number of sessions and international participation,



Chancellor of Tagore University Santosh Choubey along with other guests releases a brochure for upcoming second edition of Tagore International Literature and Arts Festival 'Vishawrang', scheduled to be held online from Nov 20 to 29, in Bhopal on Thursday

than the last year. In order to increase youth and children participation two new categories, Short Film Contest and Children's Film Festival have been added.

Choubey informed that the first phase of the festival Poorv Rang has already started from October 1, and will continue till

November 8. In the second phase of the festival will be held from November 6 to 8, in which 15 countries including US, Canada, UK, Netherlands, Russia, Uzbekistan, Sweden, Trinidad and more will perform.

The third and culminating phase of the festival will be held

from November 20 to 29. There will be more than 72 sessions in which more than 1,000 writers and authors from more than 50 countries will exchange their thoughts on various topics.

This year, the theme of the painting exhibition would be Woman in Indian art, in which artists will showcase their work.

State-level committee formed to check drug trafficking

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In compliance to the order of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, a State-level committee has been constituted by the State Government for prevention of narcotics and other intoxicating drugs and better coordination.

The committee formed under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary will have Additional Principal Secretary / Principal Secretary of Home Department, Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary of Public Health and Family Welfare, Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary, Secretary of Social Justice, Director General of Police, Police Headquarters Bhopal, Principal Additional Director General/ Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Deputy Commissioner of Central Narcotics Bureau Madhya Pradesh, Controller Food and Drug Administration Madhya Pradesh and Director State Forensic Science Laboratory Committee as members of the

committee. The Deputy Director-General of South West Region Narcotics Control Bureau will be the executive member of the Committee.

The committee will constitute the dedicated anti-narcotics force in each affected state, headed by Deputy Inspector General of Police/Inspector General of Police/Additional Director General of Police, formulate and implement alternative development programmes in the affected areas of the state, organize advance-web based trainings along with class room trainings, develop the capability of forensic laboratory for testing drug samples, ensure use of modern technology for preliminary drug detection such as arrangement for use of hand held devices, get the schemes sanctioned with the help of Central government for narcotics and review of their implementation and will present suitable proposals for controlling the misuse of drugs under the National Fund as well as hold quarterly meeting on other issues with the permission of the Chairman.

Crime Branch nabs drug peddler, seizes drugs worth ₹10K

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Crime branch police have nabbed drug peddler at Karond who was carrying drugs in a car and recovered drugs worth ₹10 lakh from his possession on Wednesday.

Police said that acting on a tip-off regarding man carrying drugs was tracked and arrested and when the man was frisked 100 gm of Smack was recovered from his possession.

The accused was identified as Durgesh Mehar of Raghogarh Guna. Police said that the details of procurement and delivery of the drugs would be searched in the further investigation.

The drugs recovered from the accused are worth ₹10 lakh, said police.

After the initial investigation police have registered a case under sections 8 and 20 of the NDPS Act. Police said that the source of the drugs and

MP Tribal Protection Forum calls on CM Chouhan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A delegation of the Tribal Protection Forum Madhya Pradesh on Thursday called on Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at his residence. The delegation comprised head of Tribal Protection Forum Kalu Singh Mujalda, Regional Tribal Communication Head Shyama Ji Tahed Yagiraj Parte, Manohar Awasya, Lakshminarayan Bamne and Surabhi Atram.

A letter of proposal given by the forum to Chief Minister Chouhan states that the converted tribes should be removed from the Scheduled Tribes list and their reservation should be cancelled.

The proposal letter of the Tribal Protection Forum further states that total justice should be meted out to the actual tribals by providing them with the prescribed facilities. In 2010, the forum launched a signature campaign for a referendum on the subject, which was signed by more than 27 lakh tribal people. The then Member of Parliament, tribal leader Late. Karthik Uraon had handed over an application with the signature of 235 Lok Sabha members to the then Prime Minister in the year 1970.

In this regard, converted tribals were considered ineligible for reservation in the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Scheduled Castes / Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 1967. An amendment of this kind was also made in the year 1950. Converts who are economically and academically in a better position are taking advantage of the facilities. The proposal letter states that delegations of several tribal leaders including tribal leader of Madhya Pradesh Late.

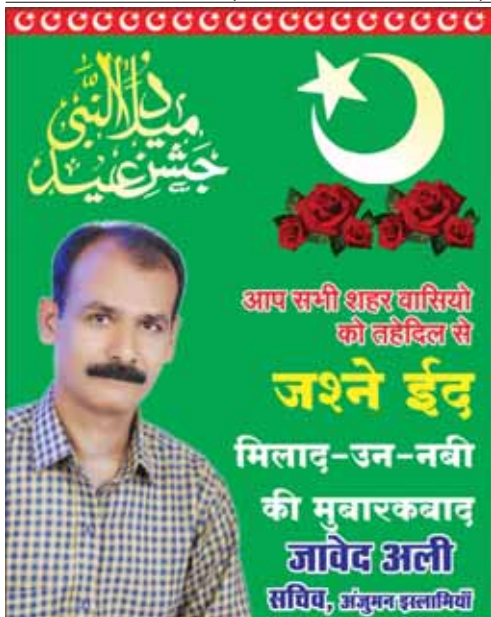
Dilip Singh Bhuria have also submitted applications and memoranda in this connection from time to time. This issue has also come up in the Lok Sabha recently.



BJP Rajya Sabha MP Jyotiraditya Scindia during an election campaign rally in support of party candidate Tulsiram Silawat in Sanwer, Indore district Madhya Pradesh on Thursday

Youths killed in road accident after bike hits stone

Bhopal: Two youths died in a road accident after their bike hit stone near Gyan Ganga School under Misrod police station area late in the night on Wednesday; youths were on their way to Itarsi after celebrating birthday party. Police said that two injured youths were rushed to a hospital where the two were declared dead. The deceased were identified as Rohit Sisodia (25) of Itarsi and his friend Abhisek Goswami (26) were good friends. Rohit used to study MBA in Indore and was staying at Itarsi as the college was closed due to Covid 19.



Rohit's friend Abhisek lives in the same area and were good friends. On Wednesday the two came to Bhopal to attend a birthday celebration on bike and when they were returning their bike hit a stone and two got injured and later declared died when they were taken to hospital.

The bodies were sent for the post mortem and police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started further investigation.

After the police reached the spot Rohit was found dead while Abhisek was injured and when he was taken to JP hospital he was declared dead.

The two were found in an injured state by commuters and locals who informed the police and on the receipt of the information police team rushed to the spot and started investigation. Injured sustained severe head injuries which proved fatal for the two, said police. SR

STSF busts gang of 3 involved in wildlife trafficking

Recovers 2kg Pangolin scales

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A gang involved in illegal trade of the organs of pangolin and other wildlife through online platform YouTube has been exposed by taking action under the Operation Wildnet.

The Special Task Strike Force (Wildlife) and Tiger Strike Force Indore and Sagar took action in Ujjain and Shivpuri, arresting 3 accused with 2.7 kg. of pangolin scales. The case was registered after confiscating scales of pangolin and 2 pieces of ornaments

made of elephant tusk.

Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) said that this was the first case registered in the state, in which gangs were smuggling wildlife organs in the state and outside the state, using the social media platform YouTube.

The Forest Cyber Cell constituted under the Special Task Force (Wildlife), while investigating the case, found that illegal trade was being carried out by the gang by making and uploading videos related to wildlife, in which people got involved in this criminal act because of greed/superstition and the number of such persons also continued to increase.

Taking cognizance of this,

The Forest Cyber Cell constituted under the Special Task Force (Wildlife), while investigating the case, found that illegal trade was being carried out by the gang by making and uploading videos related to wildlife, in which people got involved in this criminal act because of greed/superstition and the number of such persons also continued to increase

immediately notice was issued to the headquarters of YouTube in India and US and they have been urged to take appropriate action in connection with the

criminal act. YouTube has also been made accused for not taking timely action. At the request of the Special Task Force (Wildlife), keeping in view the seriousness of the criminal act of illegal trade of wildlife organs and complete ban of such act in India, the suspicious above mentioned video and link have been removed and blocked by the YouTube.

In Telangana state, 10 accused were arrested and the case has been registered by the Special Task Force (Wildlife) through local agency against the gang involved. Continuous action is being taken against the gangs involved in the illegal trade of wildlife organs through social media platforms.

TO SECURE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Army develops own messaging app SAI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to have secure communication system in the backdrop of Pakistan-based agencies hacking smart phones of the Indian security personnel, the Indian Army has developed its own messaging app. It is named 'SAI' (Secure Application for Internet). It will help the Army officers to talk to each other in a safe system of their own and not be apprehensive of spying by the rival agencies. In fact, the army had to ban more than 90 apps in the last one year to avoid spying. The Navy banned the use of smart phones by its personnel while sailing on warships after some personnel were allegedly trapped by a Pakistani based agency and made to reveal operational information.

Seen as big boost to the 'Atmanirbhar' project, the app

is similar to other messaging apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, SAMVAD, GIMS & supports an end to end encryption messaging protocol. The SAI app also supports secure voice, text & video calling service for Android users. The SAI scores over on security features with local in-house servers and coding which can be tweaked as per requirements.

"The application has been vetted by a CERT-empanelled auditor and Army Cyber Group. The process for filing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), hosting the infrastructure on NIC and working on iOS platform is currently in progress. SAI will be utilised by the Army to facilitate secure messaging within the service," the Army said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the functionalities of the app and complimented Colonel Sai Shankar

for his skill and ingenuity in developing the application, the statement added.

The indigenously designed system comes at a time when there were concerns over the use of commercial mobile applications by the Army officials for communicating with each other thereby compromising security.

The Army had ordered its personnel earlier this year to delete popular apps such as Facebook, Truecaller, Instagram and games like PUBG from their mobile phones.

The order was intended to plug leakage of sensitive national security information from phones of armed forces personnel. The in-house application has been developed by Colonel Sai Shankar.

The army has also developed a software for infrastructure management.

NIA raids 7 more locations in terror funding case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In continuation of Wednesday's search operations, the NIA on Thursday conducted more searches at seven locations in Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag and Kulgam (Jammu and Kashmir) and two locations in Delhi in connection with the case relating to certain NGOs and Trusts raising funds in the name of charitable activities and then using those funds for carrying out secessionist and separatist activities in the Valley.

The NIA had registered the case on October 8, 2020 under Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy and sedition besides various provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The case was registered on a directive from the Union

Home Ministry following receipt of credible information that certain NGOs and Trusts are collecting funds domestically and abroad through donations and business contributions etc. in the name of various welfare activities such as public health, education and the like.

Further, these funds were sent to Jammu and Kashmir through various channels such as hawala and cash couriers and are used to carry out and sustain secessionist and terrorist activities in J&K, the NIA said in a statement.

The latest round of searches were conducted at JK Yateem Foundation at Srinagar, run by Zafar Akbar Bhat, Human Welfare Foundation at Delhi and Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir Voice of Victims at Baramulla, run by Abdul Qadeer, Falah-e- Aam Trust at Budgam, run by GM Bhat and Charity Alliance, at Delhi, run by Zafar ul Islam.

₹10,211 crore allotted for safety, upkeep of 736 dams across country



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Thursday allotted ₹10,211 crore for the safety and maintenance works of 736 dams across the country. The CCEA also approved Ethanol purchasing policy and increased procurement prices of different levels of Ethanol products benefitting sugarcane farmers and extended the mandatory use of jute materials for packaging benefitting the jute industry.

"The CCEA chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III with the financial assistance of the World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country, along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach."

"The project cost is ₹ 10,211 crore. The Project will be implemented over a period of 10 years duration in two Phases, each of six years duration with two years overlapping from April, 2021 to March, 2031. The share of external funding is ₹7,000 crore of the total project cost, and balance ₹3,211 crore is to be borne by the concerned Implementing Agencies (IAs). The contribution of Central Government is

₹1,024 crore as loan liability and ₹285 crore as counter-part funding for Central Component," said Union Minister Prakash Javadekar detailing the Cabinet meeting decisions in media briefing.

The CCEA approved fixing higher ethanol price derived from different sugarcane based raw materials under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme for the forthcoming sugar season. "The price of ethanol from C heavy molasses route be increased from ₹43.75 per lit to ₹45.69 per litre. The price of ethanol from B heavy molasses route be increased from ₹54.27 per lit to ₹57.61 per litre. The price of ethanol from sugarcane juice / sugar / sugar syrup route be increased from ₹59.48 per lit to ₹62.65 per litre," said Government in a statement.

"Consistent surplus of sugar production is depressing sugar price. Consequently, sugarcane farmer's dues have increased due to lower capability of sugar industry to pay the farmers. Government has taken many decisions for reduction of cane farmer's dues. With a view to limit sugar production in the Country and to increase domestic production of ethanol, Government has taken multiple steps," said Javadekar.

The CCEA also approved that 100% of the foodgrains and 20% of the sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags.

The decision to pack sugar in diversified jute bags will give an impetus to the diversification of the jute industry.

Minister warns of actions for Covid protocol violations at Srinagar airport

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday promised to take immediate action after a passenger posted images on Twitter of people flouting social distancing protocol at the Srinagar airport.

Sanjay Raina, who posted three pictures on Twitter on Thursday morning showing passengers standing extremely close to each other during a security check at the airport.

Raina tagged Puri in his tweet, saying: "Shocking violation of #COVID19 protocol, sheer incompetence of authorities & security personnel at #SrinagarAirport. Horrible to say the least. Someone needs to take responsibility. Hats off to airline staff still managing."

In his response, Puri said that he had discussed the matter with Arvind Singh, Chairman, Airports Authority of India (AAI). "We will check the facts & take immediate corrective action," the minister added.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HPGCL, PANIPAT	(NIT NO. PTP/POM-100014) (EVENT ID NO.2020_HBC_145109_1) SUB-SUPPLY OF VERTICAL PUMP WITH MOTOR FOR PTIPS PANIPAT	END DATE 18.11.2020 AT 13:00 HRS	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
2	HPGCL, PANIPAT	(NIT NO. PTP/POM-100053) (EVENT NO. 2020_HBC-145131_1) SUB-SUPPLY OF TYRES FOR PTIPS PANIPAT	END DATE 18.11.2020 AT 13:00 HRS	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
3	HPGCL HISAR	2020_HBC_145630_1 NIT NO. 27/RGTTP/CHEMICAL/CEN-84 VOL-VII DT. 24.09.2020	CORRIGENDUM -1ST LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 05.11.2020 UP TO 15:00 HRS FOR RELINING OF 2 NO. RUBBER LINED CHEMICAL STORAGE TANKS ALONG WITH FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF 1 NO. ADDITIONAL MANHOLE COVER ON CHEMICAL STORAGE TANKS INSTALLED AT RGTTP, KHEDAR, HISAR	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8222020277 xenchemical.rgtpp@hpgcl.org.in
4	HPGCL HISAR	2020_HBC_135221_1 NIT NO.315/RGTTP/MM-II/TOE-4295 DT. 10.07.2020	CORRIGENDUM -5TH LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 13.11.2020 UP TO 15:00 HRS SUPPLY OF PNEUMATIC DRAIN VALVES FOR TURBINE AND EXTRACTION SYSTEM TO RGTTP, KHEDAR, HISAR.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8222023551 mm2.rgtpp@hpgcl.org.in
5	HPGCL HISAR	2020_HBC_147562_1 NIT NO.320/RGTTP/MM-II/TOE-4431 DT. 13.10.2020	CORRIGENDUM -1ST LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 03.11.2020 UP TO 15:00 HRS SUPPLY OF PNEUMATIC DRAIN VALVES FOR TURBINE AND EXTRACTION SYSTEM TO RGTTP, KHEDAR, HISAR.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8222023551 mm2.rgtpp@hpgcl.org.in
6	HPGCL HISAR	2020_HBC_147837_1 NIT NO. 322/RGTTP/MM-II/TOE-4374 DT. 15.10.2020	CORRIGENDUM -1ST LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 05.11.2020 UP TO 15:00 HRS SUPPLY OF TRANSDUCERS.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8222023551 mm2.rgtpp@hpgcl.org.in
7	HPGCL HISAR	2020_HBC_147760_1 NIT NO. 321/RGTTP/MM-II/TOE-4436 DT. 15.10.2020	CORRIGENDUM -1ST LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 05.11.2020 UP TO 15:00 HRS. SUPPLY LED LIGHTING MATERIAL.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8222023551 mm2.rgtpp@hpgcl.org.in
8	HPGCL HISAR	2020_HBC_145035_1 NIT NO. 329/RGTTP/MM-II/TOE-12543 DT. 19.09.2020	CORRIGENDUM -1ST LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 05.11.2020 UP TO 15:00 HRS SUPPLY OF CPVC PIPELINES AND FITTINGS FOR DM PLANT AT RGTTP, KHEDAR, HISAR.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9315164637 mm1.rgtpp@hpgcl.org.in
9	DHBVN, HISAR.	NIT NO. 660/DH/MM DATED 01.10.20 AGAINST QD-841/2020_HBC_146915_1	DATE EXTENDED UPTO 03.11.20	www.dhbvn.org.in	8059888680 semmi@dhbvn.org.in
10	HVPNL, PANCHKULA	QDP NO. 1267 NIT NO. 1150 DATED 15.09.2020	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UP TO 05.11.2020 UP TO 17:00 HRS.	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 (prohvpnl@gmail.com)
11	HVPNL, PANCHKULA	NIT NO. 1146 (QDP-1263 DATED: 03.09.2020)	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 10.11.2020 UP TO 17:00 HRS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 (prohvpnl@gmail.com)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

RO NO. 83476

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD (B&R) JHAJJAR	SPECIAL REPAIR OF SLAB REPLACEMENT IN GOVT. NEHRU COLLEGE AT JHAJJAR IN JHAJJAR DISTRICT.	28.10.2020 18.11.2020	57.87 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01251-252085
2	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	SPECIAL REPAIR TO SUB HEALTH CENTER AT VILLAGE SULTANPUR, JHARSA AND PATLI IN DISTRICT GURUGRAM (PDG. E.I. ONLY)	28.10.2020 10.11.2020	2.60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Pwd-eeed-gurgaon@hry.nic.in 0124-2320874
3	PWD B&R, SIRSA	DNIT FOR THE WORK ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONIZATION OF ICU/HOU IN THE EXISTING TRAUMA CENTER BUILDING IN CAMPUS OF CIVIL HOSPITAL AT SIRSA (RE-INVITE)	30.10.2020 13.11.2020	35.76 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-220530 pwd-eeepd1-sirsa@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R YAMUNA NAGAR	WIDENING WITH HARD SHOULDERING AND STG. OF LINK ROAD FROM KARERA KHURD TO MISRI KI MAJRI (ID 518) (0.00 TO 1.80) IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT + 3 OTHER WORKS	03.11.2020 17.11.2020	142.12 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	pwd-eeepd-yamunanagar@hry.nic.in 01732-237834
5	PWD B&R ROHTAK	ANNUAL REPAIR ESTIMATE FOR 7-J TYPE HOUSES (1 TO 4) 8-J TYPE HOUSES (1 TO 4) SDE HOUSES NO.1, 13-JB TYPE HOUSES 1 TO 16 (16 NOS. HOUSES), 12-J TYPE HOUSES (H.NO.1 TO 64), 11-J TYPE HOUSES, D.P RESIDENCE, 9-J TYPE HOUSES 40 NOS., 14-J TYPE HOUSES & 13-J TYPE HOUSES 57 TO 112 NOS. (56 NOS.) IN PGIMS ROHTAK FOR THE YEAR 2020-21.	28.10.2020 17.11.2020	12 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-282871 pwd-eeepd4-rohtak@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R, CHANDIGARH	DEVELOPMENT OF PLANTATION IN C/V OF KUNJPURA KARNAL KATHAL KHANORI ROAD CHIRO MOR TO KATHAL FROM TWO LANE TO FOUR LANE IN THE STATE OF HARYANA EXCEPT CULVERTS RETAINING WALL AND MINOR BRIDGES FROM 42.00 TO 69.40 (EXCEPT KM 54.700 TO 57.400) IN DISTT. KATHAL + 1 OTHER WORK STG., BY PDG. 30MM THICK BITUMINOUS CONCRETE ON EXISTING ROAD FROM PANIPAT TO DERA SILKIGARH (RAJAKHERI TO BARANA) RD 2.100 TO 3.050 TO 9.800 + 7.00 KM IN DISTT PANIPAT (RE-INVITE)	03.11.2020 18.11.2020	30.30 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2920301
7	PWD B&R, PANIPAT	DEVELOPMENT OF PLANTATION IN C/V OF KUNJPURA KARNAL KATHAL KHANORI ROAD CHIRO MOR TO KATHAL FROM TWO LANE TO FOUR LANE IN THE STATE OF HARYANA EXCEPT CULVERTS RETAINING WALL AND MINOR BRIDGES FROM 42.00 TO 69.40 (EXCEPT KM 54.700 TO 57.400) IN DISTT. KATHAL + 1 OTHER WORK STG., BY PDG. 30MM THICK BITUMINOUS CONCRETE ON EXISTING ROAD FROM PANIPAT TO DERA SILKIGARH (RAJAKHERI TO BARANA) RD 2.100 TO 3.050 TO 9.800 + 7.00 KM IN DISTT PANIPAT (RE-INVITE)	27.10.2020 10.11.2020	78.83 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2638652
8	PWD B&R ROHTAK	ANNUAL REPAIR ESTIMATE FOR CENTRAL STORE, AUGMENTATION OPERATION THEATRE & NEURO SURGERY, 50 BEDDED PRIVATE WARD & GENERAL HOSPITAL (WARD & O.T) IN PGIMS ROHTAK FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 + 3 OTHER WORKS	27.10.2020 16.11.2020	47 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-282871 pwd-eeepd4-rohtak@hry.nic.in
9	PWD B&R, KATHAL	DEVELOPMENT OF PINDARA TIRATH AT VILLAGE PINDARA IN JIND DISTT. + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 17.11.2020	295.85 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-249416 pwd-eeepd-jind@hry.nic.in
10	PWD B&R, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE WORK OF IRQP OF NH-73 (NEW NH-7) FROM RD 153.853 TO 160.353 (BARWALA BYPASS) IN PANCHKULA DISTT. (AFFECTED PORTION FROM RD 157.753 TO 158.203 ALONGWITH JUNCTION)	28.10.2020 11.11.2020	222.7 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2920477 pwd-eeepd-panchkula@hry.nic.in
11	PANCHAYAT SAMITI LOHARU DISTT BHIWANI.	CONST. OF VIYAMSHALA AHMEDWAS KHERA & DHANI SHYAMA BLOCK LOHARU	26.10.2020 09.11.2020	47.72 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01252-258238 bdpoloharu1@gmail.com
12	PANCHAYATI RAJ BHIWANI	CONSTRUCTION OF LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT (RETENDER)	30.10.2020 14.11.2020	45.57 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664-243929 prexeeng.bhw@hry.nic.in
13	PANCHAYATI RAJ YAMUNA NAGAR	CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIPURPOSE CENTER COMPRISING OF WAITING HALL, COMMUNITY CENTER WITH PARKING AT VILLAGE BHAGWANPUR BLOCK BILASPUR DISTT. YAMUNA NAGAR.	29.10.2020 18.11.2020	116.58 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01732-237833 / prexeeng.ynr@hry.nic.in
14	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	PDG E.I. IN KNOWLEDGE CENTER IN VILLAGE BANDRANA, TENOTHA, GEONG DISTT. KATHAL + 4 OTHER WORKS	29.10.2020 11.11.2020	19.40 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	98020-58718 / 0171-2980510 / prexeengelec.amb@hry.nic.in
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICER, BHIWANI	SUPPLY OF BUILDING MATERIAL BLOCK & DISTT. BHIWANI (GROUP A TO L)	26.10.2020 04.11.2020	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	87662-57787 bdpobhiwani@gmail.com
16	PANCHAYATI RAJ, GURUGRAM	CONST. OF 3 NOS LINK RASTA AT VARIOUS VILLAGE BLOCK-F-NAGAR	31.10.2020 09.11.2020	87.94 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	prexeeng.grg@hry.nic.in
17	FOREST DEPARTMENT, JIND	RASING OF NEW PLANTS IN HERBAL PARK NRY	29.10.2020 03.11.2020	1.48 LACS	http://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	dfajind2009@rediffmail.com 01681-255470
18	FOREST DEPARTMENT, YAMUNA NAGAR	RETAINING WALL PART NO. 1 & 2 MATA MANTRA DEVI MANDIR AT BHAGWANPUR IN DHANAURA BEAT IN RAUTPUR BLOCK OF SADHAURA RANGE + 1 OTHER WORK	27.10.2020 02.11.2020	16.50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	dfp.ynr-hry@hry.nic.in
19	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA KURUKSHETRA.	EXTENSION OF EXISTING VR BRIDGE AT RD 0 OF SHERGARH SUB MINOR. + 7 OTHER WORKS	27.10.2020 10.11.2020	82.90 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01744-239164 xenwsvdnkrra@gmail.com
20	PANCHAYATI RAJ, FATEHABAD	CONST. OF GVD 3 NOS, CONST OF VKC AT VILLAGE SARDAREWALA AND CONST. OF BUS QUE SHELTER AT VILLAGE BANGAON. DISTT. FATEHABAD	29.10.2020 05.11.2020	96.42 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01667-230855
21	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA ROHTAK	CEMENT CONCRETE LINING (DESIGN MIX) BY PAVR FROM RD 136000 TO 160000 OF JLN FEEDER EXCEPT REACH RD 151450 TO 152100 JLN FEEDER. +1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 09.11.2020	44.60 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812111077 xenfdrrtk@gmail.com
22	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, KATHAL	MANAS ANDMANAS PATTI -ESTIMATE FOR STRENGTHENING OF DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION (FHTC) TO HOUSEHOLD TO VILLAGE MANAS AND MANAS PATTI TEHSIL AND DISTRICT KATHAL. + 5 OTHER WORKS	28.10.2020 03.11.2020	203.58 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-222250 / ee1kathal@phedharyana.gov.in
23	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING JHAJJAR	RECALLED TENDER NOTICE FOR THE WORK OF ROUGH COST ESTIMATE FOR PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY FACILITY WITH STAND POST IN PLOTS OF 100 SQR YARD FOR THE BPU/SCHEDULE CASTE & BACKWARD CLASS (CATEGORY-A) HOLDERS IN VILLAGE RAIYA (UNDER MGGBY) FALLS UNDER PHED NO. 2, JHAJJAR DISTT. JHAJJAR + 2 OTHER WORKS	27.10.2020 16.11.2020	3.02 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_148957_1+ 2 OTHER	01251-254086 ee2jhajjar@phedharyana.gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etendehry.nic.in

RO NO. 83478

Hi-tech gadgets to help clean Ganga ghats in Yogi's UP



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh Government has chalked out a ₹10 crore plan to cleanse the Ganga Ghats in the State with the help of CCTVs and state-of-the-art gadgets.

The cleaning and monitoring plan will be executed in phases, with work to be first rolling out from religious hotspot Kashi. Around 200 CCTVs and best of state-of-the-art gadgets will be deployed to cleanse and monitor sanitation work at the ghats which are thronged by thousands of devotees every day.

The officials posted at the Ganga Namami Department of the Yogi Government will monitor the activities sitting in their offices in Lucknow through the computers connected with the 200 CCTVs installed on the Ghats.

"The 200 CCTV cameras to monitor the safety and cleanliness of the Ghats will be directly connected to the computers of officials associated with the Namami Gange project at Lucknow, the capital of the State," said an official from the State Government.

The task is in keeping

with the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and State Chief Minister Yogi who have promised to make Ganga incessant and clean.

Not only the ghats, efforts are already being undertaken to keep cleanse the constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi so as to make it a role model.

For executing this mammoth task, the UP Government has already started the process of selection of an agency.

This time along with cleaning workers, modern machines will also be deployed on the Ghats.

The waste released from the Ganga Ghats will be collected into these machines to be recycled to ensure that the garbage does not again flow into the water and spoil ghat on the bank of the river.

After 79 ghats of Kashi, the Namami Gange department is also working on a plan to rejuvenate the cleaning system of 19 ghats of Prayagraj, 20 in Bithur, 21 of Kanpur Nagar, 27 ghats of Mathura and Vrindavan. "With the completion of the job at Kashi, work will be started at other ghats as well," said the official.

CAUTION NOTICE

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Off: A-6 EPIP, UPSIDC, Sikandra, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-20207
Contact: 0522-282000
Email: dheera@vroexports.in
GEETESH MEENA, (Advocate)
JMD & ASSOCIATES
(Advocates and Solicitors)
B-313, Station House, 148 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
Cont: 011-42430430, 9717520720
Email: mtc.ksydm@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1) SCWNG_STET M_2.5 SERIALNO 805297900 YOM 2018

2) SCWNG_STET M_2.5 SERIALNO 805297800 YOM 2018

3) 3A PART 1) WRITGEN SP 64 SERIALNO. 225P009-YOM 2018

4) 3B PART 2) WRITGEN WIRTGEN150 SERIALNO. GNX20084791000-YOM-2017

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 07 DAYS AT

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT :

NITESH MATHUR KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO. 7838225667

Cops, babus acting as political servants of TMC: Guv to Shah

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There is no rule of law in Bengal which had been reduced to a police State, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has told Union Home Minister Amit Shah with whom he met in Delhi on Thursday.

Alleging that the Mamata Banerjee Government had reduced Bengal into a “Banana Republic,” the Governor said that he was anguished about how the next year’s Assembly

elections would be conducted the State.

Emerging from a meeting with Shah the Governor said “you don’t have any idea of what is happening in West Bengal. The law and order situation has completely crumbled down. Police and bureaucrats are working as political servants of the ruling party. The crime statistics has gone up and Al-Qaeda is spreading its fangs in Murshidabad.”

Alleging that, the State had been reduced to a “police state” and a “banana republic” he said that all his requests for information on the state affairs are ignored by the Government.

“It is my duty to save the Constitution. ... I believe in reformation and that can happen only through dialogues. But they hardly respond to my letters. Under such circumstances, how can a constitutional head like me have a sound sleep?”

He however remained evasive about whether Bengal had become a fit case for President’s Rule though he said that there was a “virtual anarchy” in Bengal and the political violence had become a matter of concern.

“Political leaders are getting killed. The power of corridors in the state is infested by non-state actors. This is surely not democracy,” he said even as the ruling Trinamool Congress leadership launched a scathing

counterattack on the Governor saying “he is a liability for Bengal.”

Bengal Minister Partho Chatterjee said “so much has been said by him and so much has been said about him in the past one year that nothing more is left.... And all such discourses have only proved that he is acting as the BJP’s spokesperson who has converted the Governor’s House into a party office. Less said about him the better.”

Another senior leader said that there was nothing new in what the Governor had said on Thursday.

Rather what is new is the timing of his visit to Delhi and meeting with the Home Minister which took place hours before his shifting of office to Darjeeling for a month.

“Had he gone to meet the Home Minister just before his Darjeeling trip people would have said that he has gone to

take the briefing on his political activities in Darjeeling... Now he can at least say that he had gone to brief the Home Minister about the State of affairs in Bengal and in the disguise he is carrying back instructions on what he has to do in Darjeeling,” where he will stay for a month from November 1.

Meanwhile all hell broke loose at Bagnan in Howrah where the BJP supporters

clashed with the police during a saffron party sponsored bandh to protest against the inordinate delay by the administration to conduct second post portern on a slain party worker who was allegedly murdered by the TMC men about a fortnight ago.

The police resorted to lathi charge after the angry saffron workers threw burning tyres in front of the local police station. Several persons were arrested, sources said.

Andhra allows Govt schools, colleges to reopen from Nov 2

IAN S ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh has allowed all Government schools and colleges to reopen from November 2 with all precautionary measures amid the Covid pandemic.

Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney confirmed that the state government is going ahead with reopening educational institutions. The date for reopening schools was already communicated earlier, even as the uncertainty over colleges has also been cleared now.

“Schools would be run on alternate days in three phases for which officials are making arrangements. Precautionary measures would be taken to contain the spread of Covid-19,” Sawhney said.

As part of the reopening,

classes 9, 10 and intermediate first and second year will function on alternate days for only half a day.

Likewise, all Higher Secondary colleges will also start functioning from November 2 on rotation basis and from November 23, classes 6, 7, and 8 would start functioning on a half day basis. “Classes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 would start functioning from December 14 on alternate days and on a half-a-day basis. The same schedule would apply to all government schools and colleges,” she added. Though the state government thought of reopening schools almost a month ago, it extended the reopening by a month, to a time when active Covid cases have come down to around 26,000.

Maha to float new tenders for Dharavi Redevelopment Project

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Having cancelled the global tendering process set into motion by the previous BJP-led Government two years ago, the Shiv Sena-led MVA Government on Thursday decided to float new tenders for the ambitious Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP), a project that is aimed at transforming Asia’s largest slum into an integrated planned township.

At a weekly Cabinet meeting presided over by chief minister Uddhav Thackeray decided to revive the Dharavi Redevelopment Project by inviting fresh tenders for the project. The earlier cost of the project was Rs 22,000 crore. Given that there has been a delay in the execution of the project, it remains to be seen as what will be the cost escalation in the project.

“At a Cabinet meeting held on October 16, 2018, the secretaries’ committee had decided to cancel the then prevailing tendering process. At today’s meeting, the State Cabinet

approved the new terms and conditions recommended by the secretaries committee for floating new tenders for the DRP. The State Cabinet also decided to make necessary changes in the implementation of the project at a later stage, “an official release issued by the state government said.

Spread over 240-hectare area, Dharavi has remained an ugly face and a dark underbelly of Mumbai – a largest slum which has been romanticised in Indian films over the years. It has also been a cottage industry hub for decades on end.

The DRP is being seen as the biggest redevelopment effort undertaken for the region since 1972, after which there have been slum improvement project in 1976, Slum Upgradation project in 1985, Slum Rehabilitation Scheme in 1995, and then the Dharavi Redevelopment Project of 2004.

In an apparent effort to derive political mileage in the run-up to the May 2019 Lok Sabha and the subsequent October 2019 State Assembly

polls, the BJP-led saffron alliance government had embarked upon the DRP.

In advertisements seeking international bids for the DRP put out in major news papers, the Slum Redevelopment Authority (SRA) stated that the last date for submitting the bids for the project is December 28.

As per the guidelines notified in the tender, the selected lead partner has to form a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with 80 per cent equity (Rs 400 crore), while the Maharashtra government will hold 20 per cent equity (Rs 100 crore) in the project.

The SPV will construct free houses for the eligible slum dwellers with amenities and infrastructure. The SPV will be entitled to construct houses in the free sale area and sell them in the open market. The state government has fixed 4 as Floor Space Index (FSI) for the project.

Located between Western Railway’s Bandra-Matunga and Central Railway’s Sion-Matunga sta-

tions in north-central Mumbai, Dharavi has the highest density of population. The Mithi River slices through a portion of Dharavi into the Mahim Creek and then onto the Arabian Sea. Currently, it is home to over anywhere from 60,000 to 70,000 families.

A mini-India of sorts where people belonging to different faiths live, Dharavi has s 28 temples, 11 mosques, six churches, 50 banks, 60 government schools, a mobile design museum, several slum tourism outfits, thriving criminal gangs, and a tiny dilapidated fort.

Dharavi also has a small fort known as the Riwa Fort. Better known as Kala Qilla or Black Fort, it is currently in a dilapidated condition. It was built by the first Governor of Bombay, Gerald Aungier (1669–1677). It was part of the larger Bombay Castle, and marked the northern portion of British-held Bombay in the 17th century. The castle was also used as a watchtower, guarding the territory against the

Portuguese-held (and later Maratha-held) Salsette Island.

At that time, the entire area was a large swamp and primarily inhabited by Koli fishermen who made a living from the waters. As the legend goes, the British built a dam on the Mithi river because of which there was no water to feed the swamp and it dried off.

The fishermen near the sea and a community of potters moved in here. In fact they could be called the first settlers of the region.

As Mumbai turned into a hub for textiles in the post Independence era, thousands of men from north India moved in as well and the slum as we know it started to take shape. Slowly and slowly since the sixties, migrants – particularly those from south India started moving in – making what Dharavi is today.

Dharavi has several business units -- right from textiles to pottery to fabrication to leather industry. Plastic recycling and garbage segregation too is done here.

Vijayan blames Centre, investigative agencies for arrest of Sivsankar

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan blamed the Centre and its investigating agencies for the arrest of his former Principal Secretary M Sivsankar who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate late Wednesday night in connection with gold smuggling and money laundering.

Briefing the media about the Covid-19 situation in Kerala on Thursday, Vijayan read out a prepared statement to express his displeasure over the way central agencies are handling the gold smuggling scam though he remained silent about the arrest of Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of party strongman Kodiyeri Balakrishnan.

“A senior Customs official (Anish Rajan IRS) had told the media that there were no interference from the Chief Minister’s Office to get the baggage addressed to the UAE Consulate released. But he was transferred out of the State overnight and there was no reaction from anybody about this transfer,” said Vijayan when asked about the arrest of Sivshankar.

He said the whole gold smuggling scam, LIFE Mission corruption charges and other allegations were part of the strategies of the Congress and the BJP to portray the government in poor light. “This will not work. We stand committed to the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden,” said the chief minister.

Instead of directly attacking the Centre, Vijayan opted to read from Congress President Sonia Gandhi’s article published in a newspaper recently about how the Centre was misusing its probe agencies to target and victimise opposition parties. “Rahul Gandhi too had told recently that he was a victim of the political vendetta,” said Vijayan.

The Chief Minister claimed he had no acquaintance of any kind with Sivsankar. “He was appointed to my office based on his experience in different departments of the government and that was how I met him,” said Vijayan.

But a senior IAS officer said that Sivsankar was an officer promoted to the IAS from the State Government cadre and he was a senior leader of the SFI during his student days.

Maharashtra logs 91 deaths, 6,738 cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid the continued flattening of the Covid-19 curve, Maharashtra on Thursday witnessed an upward fluctuation in deaths and a dip in the number of infections in various parts of the State.

A day after the state logged 91 deaths and 6,738 infections, the daily death tally went up to 156, while the infected cases dropped to 5,902. With 156 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Maharashtra rose from 43,554 to 43,710. Similarly with 5902 fresh infections, the total infected cases jumped from 16,60,766 to 16,66,668.

As 7,883 more people were discharged from various hospitals in the state, the number of people discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 14,94,809. The recovery rate in the state rose from 89.53 to 89.69 per cent.

Of the 156 deaths reported on Thursday, Mumbai accounted for a maximum of 33 deaths, while there were 27 deaths in Pune, 19 in Thane, 11 in Solapur and 10 in Nagpur.

In the lower range, there eight deaths in Nanded, 7 each in Satara and Sangli, 4 each in Ahmednagar, Ratnagiri, Jalna and Chandrapur, 3 each in Nashik and Akola, 2 each in Palghar, Raigad, Aurangabad, Beed, Washim and Bhandara and one each in Parbhani, Latur, Osmanabad, Amravati, Buldhana and Gadchiroli. As many as 11 districts reported zero deaths. With 34 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai toll shot up from 10196 to 10229, while the infected cases rose by 1120 to trigger a jump in the infections from 2,54,240 to 2,55,360.

UP cops booked in corruption case

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The Inspector of Kanpur branch EOW (Prevention of Corruption Organization) has registered a corruption case at Lodha police station against SO and an inspector posted in Lodha. One of them is currently SO at Pisawa police station in the district, while another is on suspension from Meerut. After the registration of this case, departmental action against Pisawa SO is fixed.

KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING COMPANY LIMITED
 Regd. Office : Premises Oval Wollen Mills Ltd. G.T. Road, Sherpur, Ludhiana-141003
 CIN No : L65910PB1981PLC023058
NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING
 Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 47 read with Regulation 25 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, the 12th Day of November, 2020 at 03.00 P.M. at the Registered Office of the Company inter alia to consider and approve the Un-Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2020 and to take up allied and other matters.
 The said notice may be accessed on the Company's website at www.kovalamtrading.com and may also on the Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com
 For Kovalam Investment and Trading Co. Limited
 (Sd/- Jyoti Sud,
 Place : Ludhiana (Company Secretary and Date : 29.10.2020 Compliance Officer) A27162

PUBLIC NOTICE
 On behalf of my client Mr. Sunil Kumar S/o Sh. Daryao Singh, R/o Flat No. A134, Manocha Vihar, CGHS, Sector-9, Dwarka, New Delhi has been purchased Plot bearing No. R2H-1637, Gali No. 16, Khaura No. 5523, measuring 238 Square Yards, situated at Raj Nagar-II, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045, from Smt. Sudesh W/o Late Ummed Singh through relinquishment deed from legal heirs (Smt. Premila, Smt. Kavita, Smt. Nirmali, Smt. Poonam, Sh. Pandey, Sohani, Sh. Anil Sohani) R/o R2H-916, Gali No. 12, Raj Nagar-II, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110077, on dated 17.10.2020.
 It is hereby notified that if any Person/Bank/ or Entity either has or claims any rights over the plot/property or any part thereof or any sort of dispute or have any objection for its sale/transfer contact to my client or notified the undersigned within period of 15 days from the date of this publication failing which it shall be presumed that above mentioned property is absolutely free from all sorts of encumbrances.
 Kuldeep Nain, Advocate

CPM leader's son held by ED in drug case

KOCHI: The CPI(M) in Kerala suffered two major setbacks on Thursday which has put the party in a dilemma as it gets ready for the elections to the local self Government and the legislative Assembly.

M Sivsankar, former Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was sent to the Enforcement Directorate's custody for seven days on Thursday by the District Sessions Judge, Ernakulam in connection with charges of gold smuggling, money laundering and interference in the functioning of other department of the Government. Later in the day, the ED arrested Bineesh Kodiyeri, the controversial son of CPI(M) strongman Kodiyeri Balakrishnan on charges of narcotics smuggling.

Sivsankar was arrested by the ED late Wednesday night following the Kerala High Court dismissing the former's anticipatory bail application. The IAS officer, a former leader of the CPI(M)'s student wing SFI, was the most powerful bureaucrat in Kerala who was addressed as "Super CM" by other ministers in the cabinet and other bureaucrats, was considered as Vijayan's eyes, ears and words.

The arrest memo served on

Sivsankar by the ED officials tells that the IAS official had accepted during the questioning that he had spoken to a senior Customs Official at Thiruvananthapuram airport at the instance of Swapna Suresh to get the baggage seized by the agency released. "This clearly shows your active involvement in the offences committed by Swapna. This also amounts to misuse of public office and interference in the official working of other Government departments," said the ED memo. It further states that Sivsankar has helped Swapna Suresh in all the gold smugglings and other illegal operations held by her in the past.

The CPI(M)'s woes got aggravated by Thursday afternoon when the ED arrested Bineesh Kodiyeri, second son of Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, the party's state secretary, in connection with charges of drug trafficking. The ED officials had summoned Bineesh to Bangalore for questioning on Thursday to elicit more details about his association with Anooob Mohammed, a notorious drug smuggler. Mohammed is in the custody of Narcotics Control Bureau for his role in the infamous drug trafficking gang busted by it recently. **PNS**

Docs, paramedical staff to be vaccinated against Covid first

Aligarh: Corona vaccine trials started in the country and are expected to be ready by summer. First, doctors and paramedical staff of private and Government hospitals will be vaccinated. Therefore, details of Medical College, Ayurveda Hospital, Unani Hospital, Homeopathy Hospital, Railway

Hospital, ESI Hospital besides doctors and paramedical staff of the private nursing home, pathology lab, ultrasound center have been sought. However, the department's staff is worried therefore, the cooperation of the Indian Medical Association is also being sought. **PNS**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
 Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	10(A)/2020-21 dated 29.10.2020
Name of work with its location	A AMC of 3 Nos. RO system with 1000 litre per hr capacity for 3 years in the S/O SSE/W/RB under ADEN/E-V
Approx. Cost of work	A 1930855.24
Earnest Money	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-1/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016). A 38600.00
Completion period of work	A 36 Months
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 27.11.2020 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 27.11.2020.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

 128-W/269/OET/20-21/WE/NIT 11(A) Dated : 29.10.2020 2390/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UJVNL LTD.
 H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road Dehradun-248006
 Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763508
 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website : www.ujvnl.com
 RO No.: 693 Date: 29-10-2020
TENDER NOTICE
 Office of the Executive Engineer (C&M) MB-II Joshiyara, Uttarkashi invites sealed Tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :
Tender No : 09/EE(C&M)/MB-II/2020-21
Name of work: Annual operation & maintenance of water supply distribution system at Joshiyara colony, Uttarkashi.
Estimated cost : Rs. 13,64,951.00(excluding GST)
Date of availability of bid document on website : 02-11-2020
Last Date for submission of Tender : 22-11-2020
 For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"
Executive Engineer (C&M)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	30-Elect-28-T-2020-21-E3 Repairing & rewinding of submersible & monoblock submersible pumps over Delhi division
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 49.28 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 98600.00
Date & time of submission of tender	27.11.2020, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	27.11.2020, 12.00 Hrs
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

 2386/20
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Appeal for Identification

 General public is hereby informed that one person **Name: Babu Lal, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 50/55 years, Height: 5'6", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Hair : black Wearing: Green pant and green & black shirt Place of Recovery: Found in unconscious condition opposite Pappan's Plot, Telephone Exchange Road, Samalakra, Kapashera, Delhi and taken to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital where doctor declared him brought dead.**
 In this regard **DD No. 91A, Dated 20.10.2020** has been lodged at **Police Station, Kapashera, New Delhi**. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.
SHO
P.S. Kapashera, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-25063758, 25060042
DP/380/SW/2020

Office of the Executive Engineer, Transmission Line Maintenance Division-III, Amargarh, Sopore
Tele No: 01954-225010 Fax: 01954-225010, E-mail: tmd3rdamargarh@gmail.com
E-NIT No-EE/TLMDA/ 05 of 2020 DATED: 07-10-2020
EXTENSION NOTICE-I
 Due to Poor response the dates for E-bidding for above referred E-NIT are extended as under, all the terms and conditions will remain the same.
 The Standard Bidding Document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
 The information regarding schedule of downloading of the tender document and submission of dates thereof is as per the table given below:
CRITICAL DATES
1. Downloading of bidding documents (End) :- 07.11.2020 up-to 4:00 PM
2. Online Techno-Commercial e-Bid opening date And time:- 10.11.2020 at 2:00 PM
3. Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids :- Office of the Executive Engineer, TLMD-III Amargarh
 Only the bidders possessing the qualifying criteria as mentioned in the SBD should participate in the bidding process.
 Clarifications can also be sought from the office of the under signed on **E-mail tmd3rdamargarh@gmail.com or fax 01954-225010**.
 Before participating in the bids, the bidder shall acquaint himself with the site of work and local conditions.
 The department reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, JKPTCL, TLMD-III, Amargarh Sopore
 No.: DIPK-NB-3353/20 Dated :- 29.10.2020

Jyotiraditya's test

The MP bypolls would prove if he can indeed get even with former CM Kamal Nath and earn his stripes in the BJP



The byelection in Madhya Pradesh may have got swamped by the Assembly polls in Bihar and its results may not threaten the ruling BJP Government in the State. But it is significant in deciding the political future of stalwarts both within the BJP and the Congress. The number game is fairly settled. The BJP currently has 107 seats in the 230-member Assembly, with the support of Independents, Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLAs. So, given its ambition to do without props of any kind and consolidate its position as the single largest party, it would just about need to win nine of the 28 seats going to the polls and cross the half-way mark. The Congress has 88 MLAs after Jyotiraditya Scindia revolted and took 22 loyalists with him to the BJP, toppling the Kamal Nath Government. It would need to win all 28 seats to cross the halfway mark, a tall order, though party hopefuls are arguing that even 20-plus seats could keep it in the running as it could manage the deficit by co-opting smaller parties. This presumptive logic isn't much to bet on. The desperation of the Congress is understandable considering it wants to prove a point to Jyotiraditya that his exit hasn't really affected the party's grassroots matrix. In one word, therefore, the bypolls are his test. He may have defected with his loyalists but can he ensure vote transference with such ease? Particularly when the Congress is relentlessly calling him a traitor, even drawing on his family history to show how the Scindias betrayed Rani Laxmibai. Besides with most of the seats going to the bypolls being located in the Gwalior-Chambal region, which has the highest number of caste atrocities and violence and where the Dalit vote swing matters politically, Jyotiraditya has to have an umbrella appeal to win and not just depend on his legacy. His being in the BJP could actually be a liability as this is a BSP bastion and its people were at the forefront of protests against the dilution of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in 2018. Besides, the BSP is contesting all seats here this time and unless, as a kingmaker, its chief Mayawati decides whom to side with in the event of a mixed verdict, the going could be tough for Jyotiraditya. Of course, his staunch follower and Dalit candidate, Imarti Devi, whom Kamal Nath insulted, could mop up some of the sympathy votes from the community at the expense of the Congress. The BJP has obliged Jyotiraditya for catapulting it back to power by giving tickets to the rebel MLAs loyal to him. This has not been to the liking of its Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who wouldn't want Jyotiraditya to challenge his stature. So the latter has to prove his mettle in his adopted party by ensuring the maximum wins. If he does, his stakes will rise but if he fails, then he could be badly marginalised. As it is, the State BJP campaign is still pivoted around Chouhan and has hardly taken note of the new entrant. This is Jyotiraditya's big chance to prove his political currency and if he fails, he will be of no use to any party. Not even Congress. In fact, if Jyotiraditya succeeds, it would be the most effective message of getting even with Kamal Nath and convincing the grand old party of the need for a generational change. If he does really well, he could even get a Central Ministry, something he has been wanting since he crossed over.

Though the BJP needs single digits to coast home, Chouhan wants to win at least half of the seats to show that he is not dependent on Jyotiraditya's clout. Having conceded tickets and ministerial berths to the young leader's group following Central pressure, the Chief Minister wants to show he is in command. But Chouhan is caught between the criticism of his handling of COVID-19 and the challenge from Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who has the blessings of the Central party leadership to undercut him. As far as Kamal Nath is considered, the bypolls are his last chance to take another shot at chief ministership. But with below the belt attacks and scorning a woman legislator, he may have just scripted his own downfall. Kamal Nath has an axe to grind with Imarti Devi, who is a Jyotiraditya Scindia loyalist and defected with him to the BJP. In fact, the sexist remark against her came days after and probably as a hitback to her accusation that Nath bribed MLAs when he was Chief Minister, that he gave cash doles of ₹5 lakh to Congress MLAs who could not be granted ministerial posts. In retrospect, her needless victimisation only drew attention to his greed for power by managing numbers. Of course, the seasoned politician he is, he knows how to work the arithmetic in case of an adverse scenario. But the old-style politics may not work at a time when the BJP won't be sparing any resources either to ensure that one party-rule flows from the Centre to other States.

DU imbroglio

The power tussle between the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-VC only harms the most prestigious university



Delhi University (DU) is not only India's largest and most prestigious Central university, home to several top colleges of the country, it is also the most politically active. However, what is happening in DU right now is unprecedented in its 98-year history as President Ram Nath Kovind has ordered an enquiry against Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Tyagi on the grounds of "misconduct" and "dereliction of duty." Tyagi has been suspended till the probe is completed since he can influence the investigation while in office. Much of this has been precipitated by the health of the Vice-Chancellor, who had to be admitted to AIIMS on emergency grounds back in July and a Pro-VC, Professor PC Joshi, had to be appointed. However, after Tyagi returned to work, he tried to invalidate several appointments made by the Pro-VC, even those that had been cleared by DU's Executive Council. The row escalated when Tyagi appointed Professor PC Jha as the interim Registrar despite the Union Ministry of Education's claims that the new order was not effective as the VC was still on leave while issuing it. However, the Executive Council resolved that Professor Suman Kundu would continue as Director, South Campus and acting Registrar till a permanent Registrar was appointed. This was followed by Tyagi removing Professor Joshi as Pro-VC and appointing Geeta Bhatt in his place. Meanwhile Joshi had notified the appointment of a new Registrar, Vikas Gupta, whose interview had been completed and appointment cleared by the Executive Council. This is a truly bizarre and ridiculous situation, particularly when the 2020-2021 academic year is about to start. By initiating an enquiry against Tyagi and completely clipping his wings, his term is as good as over. However, the Ministry should take its fair share of the blame here. When the V-C was admitted to hospital in an emergency condition, it should have stepped in to put a system in place. At the same time, it has consistently overlooked past lapses flagged against Tyagi, including not filling vacant positions, delay in redressal of sexual harassment cases and vigilance complaints in university, mishandling of the issue of ad-hoc teachers, which led to a massive agitation, and non-submission of detailed plans for implementation of the Institution of Eminence (IoE). The last straw came in the form of certain appointments he made while being on medical leave.

This mess needs to be immediately rectified by the Ministry and if Tyagi is to be removed, a new V-C must be found post-haste. This is a situation that is unprecedented and if elections and a pandemic were not ongoing, this would be the top headline of the day. This development is not surprising after decades of Ministers and bureaucrats striking at the autonomy of Central universities. Institutions of higher learning thrive when they are allowed to function independent of the Government and where the V-C is prided for his integrity and not seen as a political appointee.



REENA AMOS DYES

In mid-October, a 17-year-old girl, Neema (name changed) was found by the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Police in a dazed state, hungry and delirious. Sold to traffickers by her poverty-stricken parents on the advice of "well-meaning" neighbours in her village in Madhya Pradesh, the teenager had escaped from her tormentors in Delhi. Neema walked and hitch-hiked for three days to cover a distance of 200 km before she was spotted by concerned passersby and the police in Hathras. Unaware of her whereabouts and determined to reach home, she was still 794 km short of her home in Mandla district when she was rescued. The girl told the police that there were 12 other minors like her, confined to one room in Delhi. Fortunately, they all managed to escape.

Neema is not the only child from her village to have been trafficked. Several others like her have been sold by needy parents. This story is repeated over and over again in India, particularly in rural areas. India is starving and its children are bearing the brunt of this hunger. They are being sacrificed at the altar of the crippling poverty that has worsened because of the sucker punch delivered to the already tottering economy by the Coronavirus. As feared by the experts in the field of rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked children, the number of minors, particularly girls, sold to traffickers for as little as ₹10,000-₹50,000, has grown alongside the number of people rendered jobless by the pandemic. As a result, desperate parents, having to choose between survival of the family for a little while longer and their love, chose the former. So many girls and boys were sold to traffickers across the country.

This is despite the fact that Articles 23, 39, 14 and 21 of the Constitution guarantee every child freedom from exploitation in any form. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 was enacted in pursuance of the International Convention signed at New York on May 9, 1950 and it was amended in 1986 to widen its scope to cover all citizens. However, according to rights advocates, the Act has glaring lacunae as it fails to define the term "traffic" or "trafficking" and aims to penalise those who aid and abet commercial sexual exploitation. Therefore, its focus on the def-



inition of the term brothel leads to the inference that commercial sexual exploitation takes place only in a brothel and not in other places, such as in a house. The Act is clearly not victim-centric as women and children, who are forced into prostitution, are also treated as criminals and arrested when raids are conducted.

Similarly there are several other laws to protect the rights of children, such as the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2000. The rights of child labourers can be adequately secured only if the monitoring and controlling provisions contained in the said statutes are fully implemented. However, they are not despite the Supreme Court insisting upon their applicability.

In 2013, the top court lamented that despite its directions, little or no progress was made by the States in protecting the rights of children. Thus, we have horror stories emerging from across the country. Desperate children, sold to traffickers by impoverished parents, making hopeless bids to return home to the same parents who pushed them into the hell in the first place.

Though Neema and several others like her have escaped for now, not everyone is so lucky. Thousands of children are being trafficked globally for initiation into the sex trade, to be recruited as bonded labour, drug runners, child terrorists or human shields. The International Labour Organisation has predicted that with the pandemic ravaging economies globally,

the world may witness an increase in child labour for the first time in 20 years and there is a huge risk of years of progress in this arena being reversed. First, it was hunger induced by the lockdown that fuelled the trafficking. And now that the economy has opened up, it is the demand for cheaper labour and bigger margins by businesses. Closer home, ever since the lockdown was imposed and then eased a few months later in phases, Delhi-NCR has become a hub of trafficking as more and more children are being rescued from factories and brothels.

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights rescued 93 children from gold and jewellery factories in Karol Bagh in May. Of them, 57 were below the age of 14 and some were even 10-year-olds. The rest of the children were between 14 and 18. Then in July, nine child labourers were found working at several scrap shops in North East Delhi's Mustafabad. But these rescues are like a drop in the ocean as the lockdown slowed down such initiatives as well. There was a time when only 27 per cent of the Anti-Human Trafficking Units were functional. Thankfully, in September, 36 children under 14 years were rescued from bangle-making units in West Delhi's Jahangirpuri area where they were made to work for 15 hours a day and sleep in the same dingy room. All lured or sold on the promise of food and a roof over their heads.

Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi, Chairperson of NGO *Bachpan Bachao Andolan*, estimates that in Delhi, "at least five lakh children are in full-time

jobs. That means every sixth child is out of school and working somewhere."

Every time we hear such statistics, we are shocked and angry. Even more disturbing is the fact that these children are there in our midst, suffering abuse, hardship, deprivation and long hours of work in dingy, dark and polluted places where they have no business to be. We are blissfully ignorant of this invisible, silent and hapless workforce. The tiny factory workers, who are well hidden from our sight, toil to pander to our penchant for buying things at discounted prices, the cheaper the better. But we are content sweeping our collective guilt under the carpet, simply because they do not torment us visibly.

We do know that certain industries traditionally employ children. Like *bidi* factories, the carpet industry, the garment sweatshops, incense and firework factories, brick kilns, the farm sector and so on. But when buying these products, do we ever take the pain to ensure that the brand that we are purchasing has nothing to do with child labour? It is our demand for cheaper products that in turn creates the demand for child labour as businesses then can keep the cost of production down and their margins up. We don't bother to boycott goods over unethical trade practices. If we did so, the factory owners would have revised their norms. So, by extension, we are as guilty as the perpetrators of the crime of trafficking and hiring child labour.

And what about child labourers, who are staring us right in our faces? What of the minor

hired to "baby-sit" children? Or the ubiquitous *chotus* (apprentices/assistants) all over India, selling *chai* at the local tea shop and even delivering it to our offices and at the railway station? What of the little boy cleaning the car in the neighbourhood, his little hands and muscles straining to carry a heavy bucket full of water? Or the shoeshine boy, the child manning a roadside *dhaba*, serving food to customers? Have we ever bothered to question the people who hire them or even inform the law enforcement authorities about their presence? Clearly we do not want to get out of our comfort zone and easily attribute it to a societal crime, without realising we form the society that condones it. We could have picked up the phone and called the NGOs and rights activists who can help the child in distress. But we don't do that either.

And what about children caught in the sex trade? If people stop watching child pornography, there will be no market for it. If men stop violating minor girls for a price, there will be no market for it again. So, on all counts, society is as guilty as the criminals who traffic children.

Apart from a mindset change, there has to be community alertness and personal accountability by each citizen. There must be non-Governmental and Government intervention to ensure that hapless parents do not take the extreme step of trading their children for a dole. There is no time to be lost, else a nation will forget the meaning of *bachpan*.

(The writer is Senior Editor, The Pioneer)

SOUNDBITE

Some experts told us informally that air pollution is not only caused due to stubble burning, but there are many other causes too. You lawyers will also have to get down from your big, beautiful cars and ride cycles.

Chief Justice of India
—SA Bobde



There is total lawlessness. Jammu and Kashmir has been converted into a jail. We are not Twitter politicians, we won't stay inside, we will come out.

Former Chief Minister
—Mehbooba Mufti



We have 2,25,000 deaths, the modelling tells us we're going to get one hundred or more thousand as we get into the winter, that is just something that's unacceptable.

US disease expert
—Anthony Fauci



If we talk about my cricket career, then the only and biggest regret is that we failed to win the semi-final of the 2011 World Cup in Mohali.

Cricketer
—Umar Gul



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poor football

Sir — As per the Centre's guidelines, many cinema halls are reopening. However, the football remains in single digits. Currently, the halls are permitted to operate with 50 per cent capacity; one seat between two persons is to be kept empty to ensure social distancing. Other mandatory norms include wearing of masks, applying sanitisers, compulsory thermal scanning, adequate ventilation and freezing temperature settings of all air conditioning at 23 degree Celsius or above. Even with strict guidelines in place, people are extremely hesitant to visit the theatres. Also, no big-time releases are slated for now as it is preposterous to imagine a producer or an actor risking his/her fortune during such crucial times. Over the months since the lockdown, the loyal film audience has adapted to online streaming apps. Adjusting to big screens again might take some time. Also many are cutting on expenditure owing to their financial stress. The cinema hall owners, too, are in a quandary because of the financial losses they have been bearing due to the complete clo-

Punjab makes a point for its farmers

The Punjab Assembly has passed three farm Bills as the farmers' protests against the recently passed farm Acts intensify. The Central laws are silent about the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for agricultural produce. Sale of produce to the private traders, companies, corporates and other agencies cannot take place in the Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) *mandis* anymore, and levy of fee for trades has been prohibited. Thus, farmers have no option but to approach the courts for dispute resolution. The thought of a takeover of the agriculture sector by traders using their financial power is haunting the farmers.

According to the State Bills, "no sale or purchase of wheat or paddy shall be valid unless the price paid for such agricultural produce is equal to or greater than the MSP" announced for the two crops. And if an individual or a company or any other agency compels or exerts pressure on a farmer to sell the agro-produce at a price below the MSP, then such person shall be deemed to have committed a punishable offence. The



Bills also have a provision to levy a fee on trade platforms outside the markets established under the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act 1961 to fund welfare activities. These proposed amendment Bills are not just meant to counter the Centre's laws but to save the peasantry of Punjab.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

Defence agreement

Sir — On October 27, India and the US signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) to further military ties between the two countries. India will now be able to keep an eye on the movements of Chinese warships in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). BECA will help us get real-time

access to American geospatial intelligence that will enhance the accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones. Sharing information on maps and satellite images will help us gain access to topographical and aeronautical data. The signing of the long-negotiated defence pact comes against the backdrop of a tense border standoff with

China in eastern Ladakh. The increasing defence and security partnership between the two nations will help monitor the situation in the Indo-Pacific at a time when China is attempting to expand its economic and military clout in the region. In June, India and Australia had signed a pact allowing their militaries to access each other's bases. A similar agreement with Japan also came to fruition last month after years of negotiations. It is also hoped that the sharing of technology will contribute significantly towards bringing India closer to the lofty goal of *atmanirbharta* in the defence sector.

Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

Ban firecrackers

Sir — The air quality has further worsened as hundreds of Ravana effigies and firecrackers were burnt in the Capital on Dussehra. The Government needs to wake up and put a blanket ban on firecrackers this Diwali.

Yugal Kishore Sharma
Faridabad

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Make the right policy choices

A continued prosperity for nations will only be achieved by allowing and championing a global open market for trade, goods and digital services



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

It is festival time globally, and not just the religious and fun variety but also the vital festival of democracy or elections. It is for the first time in our lifetimes that festivities, mostly associated with huge crowds jostling to reach the ballot box or *bedi* (the pedestal on which the idols of deities are kept), are taking place in the shadow of a raging global pandemic. Forced departures from well-known rituals associated with festivals make these times a case study for future generations. Many would have seen a video on social media of an idol being immersed using mechanised trolleys, with least human intervention, in the recently-concluded Durga puja festivities. Now switch to the theatre of democracy in Bihar, where Assembly elections are being held. The common thread between the two festivals is, technology. Bihar, would perhaps be the first State in the country where technological interventions played a key role in the elections.

First, the Election Commission (EC) allowed online filing of nominations for candidates and many political parties chose to reach out to their constituents through virtual rallies and put up huge LED walls for public viewing. Given the absence of many veterans active in Bihar elections for at least three decades, most of the young scions of the colourful, vociferous and politically-influential families were suddenly catapulted to the centre stage of a new narrative. This young brigade of Biharis, technologically more versatile than their parents, sought votes on issues. Something hitherto unheard of in a State, known for its divisive caste and religious biases. It was surprising to see rival candidates promise lakhs of jobs to young voters in a State grappling with the problem of the jobless migrant labourers.

The most welcome aspect of this election has been the reliance on technology in a State which could well be a case study on the digital divide between India and Bharat. Many statisticians will point to a survey which revealed that more than half of Bihar's women and around 40 per cent men have no access to mass media. This, when extrapolated over digital media, means a significant part of the population can either be completely insulated from the impact of technology or could be the next addressable unconnected millions, who need to be put on the information technology expressway of prosperity.

Now let's jump across the Pacific to the US, which, too, is about to witness one of the fiercest and cacophonous elections on November 3 amid the COVID threat, deaths and economic destruction. The common binary binding Bihar elections, Durga Puja festivities and US elections is again, technology. After all, the new dominance game and the race to be a global superpower is now increasingly getting defined by your first tap on a smartphone, first digital payment/electronic transaction, first contact-free shopping for world-class brands from the comfort of your home and perhaps the first digital date after months of trying to understand each other's typos and abbreviated texts.

Therefore, restrictions on digital applications, depending on the country of origin, to applying the same principles to hardware solutions in technical infrastructure, to forming an alliance of like-minded technology fraternity of nations were some of the key highlights in the election campaign of the two presidential candidates of the world's richest democracy. What it also highlighted was the fact that increasingly, the physical restrictions (read policies) of trade and commerce dominating economic relations between a bunch of nations will now be enthusiastically copy-pasted in the digital arena to prevent loss of sovereign powers and dominance at the global high tables.

COVID has put the spotlight on public policy issues, which, till February, were still in advanced stages of intellectual discourses. It has challenged our ability to adapt and eventually recover from the disease. And the only sector which has truly helped this advancement is technology. It reacted quickly and ensured teachers, parents and children were handed online course materials for seamless academic learning and doctors were given online tools for initial digital health interventions for patients. It gave the Government effective platforms for interaction and empowered it to push critical policy goals. Technology enabled digital live *darshans* of beautiful but deserted *pandals* and online delivery of *prasad* for the religious, too. If the human race has been pushed ahead by three decades in one stroke by the lockdown and technology has taken centre stage, it is also time to think and refresh many global policy challenges and perhaps release an update. Policymakers have to realise that imposing strict restrictions, based purely on case-by-case models, and having a physical worldview of digital policy issues can be self-defeating in the long run. A continued prosperity for nations will only be achieved by allowing and championing a global open market for trade, goods and digital services. It must be kept in mind that the new normal for policy-making at sovereign-level negotiations must be dictated by a set of principles. This must be compulsory in all digital agreements between consumers and technology providers, governments and their counterparts across borders. A multi-lateral approach must be championed. It is time to click on the right button.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

THIS DUSSEHRA THE EFFIGIES OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND INDUSTRIALISTS WERE BURNT. IT IS SAD, BUT IT IS HAPPENING AS FARMERS ARE UPSET.
—CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THIS SHOWS HOW DESPERATE THE CONGRESS IS. SHOULD THE FORMER CONGRESS CHIEF TALK LIKE THIS? HE HAS NO POLITICAL STANDING LEFT.
—UNION MINISTER RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

Graft-free governance

A metrics-based system for oversight over governmental processes will bring transparency and spur digital innovation to make any administration robust without inhibiting public interest



RAJESH RANJAN

Among the issues in public discourse that have caught the attention of the country is the problem of corruption, which elicits strident criticism. The issue has triggered a slew of reforms aimed at strengthening the fabric of integrity, like the enactment of the Public Procurement Bill, the Lokpal Act incorporating, *inter alia*, the public disclosure of assets by public servants, reforms in higher judicial appointments and so on. While anti-graft activists differ in terms of strategies and focus areas, there is a unanimous acceptance of the fact that technology and e-governance promote greater transparency. The rationale is very simple. Deny the opportunity for manual manipulation and replace it with technology, crafted around well-defined protocols and legal safeguards with minimal human intervention.

It has been five years since India adopted the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Corruption in general and venality in public life in particular adversely affect the fulfilment of these SDGs. Therefore, a proactive and preventive vigilance regime forms the backbone of good governance and is critical to their realisation. How then do we make governance more effective without inhibiting its objectives? Today, administrative affairs grapple with leakages in public delivery of welfare and development goals on account of manual processes that can be manipulated. But by leveraging technology, these leakages can be plugged. Incremental improvements to technology should continue to be the mainstay of advancements in administration.

In the recent discourse on procurement methods, transparency of policy, procedure and practices is increasingly being seen as an imperative of using public monies to remove any allegations of opacity and inconsistencies in decision-making. Achieving transparency ensures that procurement is open to public scrutiny, which results in best value for public monies. For example, the transparency of procedure as achieved in online applications is one of the simpler yet effective features of digitisation, as it shifts the onus of submitting correct information and data to the applicant. This, once verified by the public servant, retains the maker-checker wedge in a direct way.

In an effort to plug leakages in procurement systems, the Government launched the Government E-Marketplace (GeM) in 2016 as an end-to-end marketplace for goods and services required by Central and State Governments as well as Public Sector Undertakings. As per an assessment by the Centre for Public Impact, the savings impact of GeM has been substantial, wherein a maximum price reduction of approximately 56 per cent of goods and services, coupled with demand aggregation, has already led to savings to the tune of ₹40,000 crore annually. Given the fact that the public procurement economy constitutes about 20 per cent of India's GDP, it is imperative to build on this initiative through amplified efforts and bring as many goods and services on board as possible. And in order to make the platform more robust, addressing the issue of quality control should be the next level of sophistication that GeM should aspire for.

In the next 10 years, the business of Government will experience massive disruption. This comes on the back of technological enhancements that reduce the need for intermediaries and ensure that the sanctity of process remains unimpeachable. One such technology which has been discussed widely in recent times is blockchain. A NITI Aayog discussion paper has identified use-cases where the technology can potentially improve governance, ranging from tracing of drugs in the pharmaceutical supply chain to verification of education certificates. The three key principles of the blockchain technology are: Transparency, decentralisation and accountability.

“HOWEVER, A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN BLOCKCHAIN'S SUCCESS WILL BE A COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO DEVELOP/REFORM LAWS AND BUILD ROBUST DATA PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE REGIMES. TILL SUCH TIME WE ADDRESS THESE ISSUES, BLOCKCHAIN IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE A MONUMENTAL IMPACT IN CREATING AN INTEGRITY-FIRST GOVERNANCE ECOSYSTEM”



One of the most interesting areas of intervention for this technology would be in the space of land records. Ever since the Permanent Settlement of Bengal in 1793, the issue of land records has occupied the administration and citizenry with its complexities, misgivings and fraud. The system is riddled with inefficiencies that reduce trust in the Government. Currently the UNDP is involved in certain Proof of Concept (POC) pilots across India. The underlying theory intends to create an immutable history of transactional records that helps in checking authenticity; a tamper-proof system to avoid forgery; a distributed ledger so that all stakeholders see the same information; and a secure encrypted environment, where updates are available in near real time. The NITI Aayog paper also identifies this value proposition. For example, the paper notes that, in order to ensure that transactions are not fraudulent, the physical presence of witnesses is mandated at the time of sales deed registry. Deployment of blockchain would potentially eliminate the need of these processes while maintaining the sanctity of the transaction.

This helps create a tamper-proof audit trail that allows for tracking decision-making and ensures that they are in accordance with anti-corruption principles. It addresses concerns around cyber security. Currently there are interesting pilots being conducted across the world, where deployment of blockchain is being tested for public procurement, wherein systems are being built in to identify graft with a view to disintegrate corrupt actors from accessing the system at the outset.

From the perspective of Internal Controls and Governance (Vigilance), it is strongly recommended to employ a five-part test while assessing such deviations from process: Whether the issue being pursued has corrupt connotations; the general reputation of the employee involved; whether better options were available and ignored without valid reasoning; whether the situation inhibited the selection of any

other option but the one finally chosen and finally, whether the larger interest of the organisation was safeguarded or not.

Deployment of technological solutions like blockchain can potentially remove the need or significantly reduce the time taken for making such assessments. In a recent paper released by Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, titled *Code to Integrity*, the authors have highlighted how blockchain can be a powerful tool in the fight against Government corruption. The report cites case studies of countries like Kenya, Rwanda and Ghana where Government records pertaining to court systems, education and land rights are migrating to distributed ledgers.

However, a significant factor in blockchain's success will be a country's ability to develop/reform laws and build robust data protection and maintenance regimes. Till such time we address these issues, blockchain is not likely to have a monumental impact in creating an integrity-first governance ecosystem.

The general environment now is in favour of a regime which ensures that companies not only do profitable business but do so in a manner which is ethical. The United Nations Convention against Corruption, ratified by India in 2011, as well as the anti-corruption principles expounded by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) cover a wide gamut of vulnerable areas and aspects of business operations, including anti-bribery, public procurement and conflict of interest. More and more countries in the coming years will be obliged to establish laws and mechanisms in place to ensure clean business operations as well as seize and confiscate assets derived from corrupt practices.

India, too, needs to review its existing legal framework to address issues around data security, corrupt practices and corporate governance with a view to address our anti-corruption objectives and provide the necessary guidance to well-intentioned officials in the Government.

The Centre made a significant change to the Prevention of Corruption Act in 2018. The element of intention has been added under definition of criminal misconduct. Similarly, broadening the definition of "unfair advantage" and introduction of corporate criminal liability will go a long way in apprehending or deterring bad actors on both sides from indulging in bribery. The amendments also have ensured that our obligations under the UN Convention against Corruption are adequately addressed and bring us closer to leading anti-bribery legislations in the world such as the UK Bribery Act.

While these amendments will go a long way in guiding the work of internal control agencies, it would be important to institutionalise a system, wherein compliance against said legislation and established processes can be checked and quantified. A metrics-based system for oversight over governmental processes will bring transparency, build trust and spur further digital innovation to make any administration more robust without inhibiting public interest-oriented decision-making.

It would be incorrect to end this discussion without addressing the well-intentioned public servant who finds the processes leading to greater transparency and ensuring value for taxpayers money cumbersome and time-consuming and who is, therefore, tempted to short-circuit it. Well-intentioned though it may be, but any attempt to overwrite the processes, despite even demonstrable honesty of purpose, carries the major risk of opening up the system to misuse by corrupt players and would lead to eventual loss of public trust and decimation of the structure of public procurement. Thus, the intent of processes involved is to keep the proverbial Caesar's wife above suspicion. Through robust yet streamlined procedures, a bureaucrat can achieve the intended outcome and avoid unintended consequences.

(The writer is an IPS officer. The views expressed are personal)

Nurture e-retail in a post-pandemic world

This approach would be in keeping with the Centre's focus on a Digital India where citizens are able to leverage their connectivity into better opportunities



MOHIT CHAWDHRY

Most nations imposed some form of shutdown to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. India's lockdown, which involved a near cessation of all movement and economic activity, has been rated as one of the most stringent across the world. Not surprisingly, it had a severe impact on our economy.

A sector that was hit particularly hard is retail. This is due to several reasons. First, shops and warehouses were closed during the initial phases of the lockdown. This brought the

operation of both physical and digital retailers to a standstill. Second, restrictions on inter-State movement of goods and the opening of only specific industries disrupted supply chains. For instance, the Centre recognised both medicines and processed foods as essential goods and allowed their sale. However, similar status was not granted to units which manufacture the packaging for medicines and processed foods. Hence, sellers of these goods found it difficult to operate. Third, the system of issuing passes and permits to personnel working for physical and digital retail was not well-implemented. It was unclear which authority would issue the passes and for how long they would remain valid. Further, personnel having to travel across districts were required to obtain separate passes from the authorities for each district. Fourth, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order directing all employers to ensure full payment of wages to all employees even if they were unable to work.

As a result of the order, several migrant labourers returned to their towns and villages once restrictions on movement of persons were lifted. A survey of retailers selling their products online, conducted as part of the Esya Centre's report on e-commerce, shows that nearly 60 per cent of such entities will be unable to recover losses suffered because of the lockdown. Given that people are likely to be wary of entering shops and stores even after lockdowns are eased, it is important to explore different avenues through which retail outlets can avoid further losses.

One such avenue is e-retail. A report by Global Trade and Regional Integration Unit of the World Bank highlights the utility of e-commerce in the post COVID normal. Not only can e-commerce help reduce the risk of new infections and preserve jobs, it can also increase the acceptance of prolonged social distancing measures among the population. Further, previous research has shown that there are

numerous benefits for MSMEs that adopt e-commerce, in the form of better price discovery, access to new consumers, support with logistics and inventory management. It is in recognition of the above that several nations, such as the United Kingdom and New Zealand, have given preference to digital forms of retail both during and after the lockdown. However, India is one of the few countries that has not leveraged the numerous benefits that e-commerce brings, particularly during a lockdown.

Policy-making towards e-commerce, both before and during the lockdown, may have hindered the operation of e-commerce entities. Prior to the lockdown, legacy government rule-making on e-commerce presented several barriers to the growth of the sector. These included ever-changing FDI rules, unresolved issues of data localisation and source code disclosure as well as the over-regulation of platforms. During the lockdown, the Government failed to adopt

a clear and consistent approach to policy formulation *vis-a-vis* retail. As an example, both physical and digital retailers were only allowed to sell essential goods in the initial phase of the lockdown. This continued till about mid-April, when the Government issued a notification which allowed e-retailers to deliver non-essential items from April 20. In conformity with this order, e-commerce firms began to make predations to resume their full scale of operations. However, on April 19, the Government withdrew its notification, seemingly under pressure from industry organisations that represented small and medium traders. Subsequently, relaxations regarding delivery of non-essential items were first given to physical outlets while e-retail continued to be limited to essential items for 8-10 days thereafter. The zonation framework introduced by the Government additionally preferred physical outlets in Red zones, as they could sell a wide range of merchandise while e-retail tasks were limited to

essential goods.

As pointed out, e-commerce enjoys numerous advantages over physical retail, particularly in a situation where social distancing continues to be important. Hence, there is a need to provide a policy environment that fosters the uptake and adoption of e-commerce by both consumers and sellers. To achieve this, we recommend a five-step recovery process. The first steps are geared towards fostering an atmosphere of trust and credibility between the Government and market entities.

This can be achieved by holding regular consultations, opening avenues for feedback and providing sufficient notice before major changes. Further, policy actions should not skew competition between physical and digital business models. Instead, both models should be allowed to leverage their respective strengths. Finally, the Government must reassess what it seeks to achieve through its proposed e-commerce policy. In the current sce-

nario, a policy framework governing e-retail or e-commerce in general, should look to assist small enterprises in capacity-building for a digitally enabled future through the provision of finance, skill development and underlying infrastructure. There is, therefore, a need to move away from legacy regulatory institutions, based on licensing and control, to an entity that actively participates in capacity-building and development of small and medium retailers in India. In this context, it is worthwhile to explore the role being played by digital economy development authorities in countries such as Malaysia and Vietnam, which actively promote the adoption of digital solutions and e-commerce for SMEs as well as consumers. This approach would be in keeping with the Government's focus on a Digital India where citizens are able to leverage their connectivity into better opportunities and prospects.

(The writer is a research assistant at the Esya Centre)

Pak leaders trembled lest India attack it

Foreign Minister pleaded to release Abhinandan

Islamabad: Legs were shaking and forehead perspiring at a meeting of Pakistan's top leaders, including Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, wherein Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi pleaded to release Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, saying if he was not released, India would attack Pakistan, a top Pakistani opposition leader has said.

Recalling the tension in Islamabad after India bombed a terror training camp in Pakistan's Balakot on February 26, 2019, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq criticised the Imran Khan government over its response, saying the Opposition has supported the government on every issue, including Kashmir and Varthaman, but it will no longer be appropriate to provide any further support, Dunya News reported on Wednesday.

Sadiq, who was the Speaker of the National Assembly during the PML-N government, made a similar statement earlier on Wednesday in Parliament here that Foreign Minister Qureshi in an important meeting pleaded that let Varthaman go back because India is attacking Pakistan.

The 37-year-old IAF pilot was captured by the Pakistani Army on February 27 after his MiG-21 Bison jet was shot down in a dogfight with Pakistani jets during aerial combat.

In the early hours of February 26, 2019, the IAF jets bombed the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror

camp in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan and avenged the Pulwama terrorist attack that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF personnel.

Before his jet was hit, Varthaman downed an F-16 fighter of Pakistan. He was released on the night of March

No constitutional, Sharia constraints on construction of temple: Pak religious body

Islamabad: Pakistan's supreme religious body has said that there are no constitutional or Sharia restrictions on the construction of a Hindu temple in Islamabad or any other part of the country.

The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) made its decision in a meeting on Wednesday on the basis of the Constitution and the Liaquat-Nehru Agreement of 1950, which led to the establishment of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) in Pakistan, the Dawn News reported.

The CII also allowed the government to hand over an ancient Hindu temple and adjoining Dharamshala (community centre) in Saidpur village to Islamabad's Hindu community.

"In view of the current population in Islamabad the ancient temple and the adjoining Dharamshala at Saidpur village be opened to the Hindus and they should be facilitated to

reach there to perform religious services as per their beliefs," the CII said.

The decision, signed by 14 CII members, added that Hindus, like all other religious groups in the country, have the constitutional right to a place for last rites according to their faith.

"Under this Right the Hindu community in Islamabad can have a suitable place for cremation of their dead and perform last rites of the deceased according to religious instructions," the council said.

An application was referred to the CII by the Ministry of Religious Affairs on July 6, seeking its opinion on the allotment of a land to the Hindu community for a crematorium, community centre and temple. The ministry had also sought the CII's advice on the allocation of Rs 100 million by the prime minister for the construction of the crematorium and temple. **PTI**

Pak anti-terrorism court acquits PM Imran Khan in 2014 Parl attack case

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was acquitted by an anti-terrorism court on Thursday in the 2014 Parliament attack case but other senior ministers, including Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, were summoned on November 12 for the indictment.

Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan, however, halted proceedings against President Arif Alvi due to the presidential immunity granted to him, The Express Tribune reported.

On August 31, 2014, workers of the now ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) tried to enter Parliament and go towards the Prime Minister's House and clashed with police.

Police had invoked sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act against Khan and other PTI leaders, according to a report in the Dawn newspaper.

The incident had happened during the sit-ins by PTI and PAT workers in front of the Parliament. **PTI**

China gravest threat to future of religious freedom: Pompeo

Jakarta: China is the "gravest threat" to the future of religious freedom, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday, in his latest verbal assault on Beijing during a whirlwind Asian tour.

Pompeo has made attacks against China the focus of his trip this week which kicked off in India and included visits to Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Indonesia and, later Friday, Vietnam.

In Indonesia -- which has the world's biggest Muslim population -- Pompeo took aim at China's treatment of its Uighur Muslim minority.

"The gravest threat to the future of religious freedom is the Chinese Communist Party's war against people of all faiths: Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, and Falun Gong practitioners alike," Pompeo said in a speech Thursday to

major Muslim organisation the Nahdlatul Ulama. "The atheist Chinese communist party has tried to convince the world that its brutalisation of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang is necessary as counter-terrorism or poverty alleviation," he added.

Rights groups say that more than one million Uighurs languish in camps in the north-west Xinjiang region as Beijing attempts to forcibly integrate the community and root out its Islamic heritage.

China has denied the numbers and describes the camps as vocational centres that teach skills to prevent the allure of Islamic radicalism following a series of attacks.

"But we know that there is no counter-terrorism justification in forcing Uighur Muslims to eat pork during Ramadan, or destroying a Muslim cemetery," Pompeo said. **AFP**

2020 US election to be most expensive in history, expected to cost \$14 bn

New York: The 2020 Presidential election is turning out to be the most expensive election in history and twice as expensive as the previous presidential election cycle, with the total cost of the election expected to reach an unprecedented \$14 billion, a research group said.

The Center for Responsive Politics said that an "extraordinary influx" of political donations in the final months -- driven by a Supreme Court battle and closely watched races for the White House and Senate -- pushed total spending in the election past the previously estimated 11 billion dollars figure.

The Center said that the 2020 election will cost \$14 billion, shattering spending records.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden will be the first candidate in history to raise \$1 billion from donors. His campaign brought in a



record-breaking \$938 million through October 14, riding Democrats' enthusiasm to defeat Trump.

President Donald Trump raised \$596 million, which would be a strong fundraising effort if not for Biden's immense haul.

"Even amid a pandemic, everyone is giving more in 2020, from ordinary individuals making small donations to billionaires cutting eight-figure checks to super PACs.

Women are smashing donation records, and Americans are increasingly donating to candidates who aren't running for office in their state," it said in a statement. **PTI**

Saudi citizen wounds French consulate guard in Jeddah

Jeddah: A Saudi citizen wounded a guard in a knife attack at the French consulate in Jeddah Thursday, officials said, as France faces growing anger over satirical cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

The assault follows another knife attack at a church in the French city of Nice that left three people dead and several others wounded, in what authorities are treating as the latest jihadist attack to rock the country. "The assailant was apprehended by Saudi security forces immediately after the

attack. The guard was taken to hospital and his life is not in danger," the French embassy said in a statement.

Police in Mecca province, where Jeddah is situated, said the attacker was a Saudi, but it did not give the nationality of the guard, who they said had sustained minor injuries.

The French embassy in Riyadh strongly condemned the attack and urged its nationals in Saudi Arabia to exercise "extreme vigilance".

Neither the Saudi authorities nor the French embassy

gave any indication of the motivation for the attack.

But it comes after French President Emmanuel Macron vigorously defended the publication of satirical cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed by the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo on free speech grounds.

Regional heavyweight Saudi Arabia -- home to Islam's holiest sites -- has criticised the cartoons, saying it rejected "any attempt to link Islam and terrorism" but it stopped short of condemning the French leadership. **AFP**

Hong Kong charges teen activist with secession under security law

AFP ■ HONG KONG

A teenage Hong Kong democracy activist was charged on Thursday with secession, the first public political figure to be prosecuted under a sweeping new national security law Beijing imposed on the city.

Tony Chung, 19, appeared in court two days after he was arrested by plainclothes police in a Hong Kong coffee shop

opposite the US consulate, also charged with money laundering and conspiring to publish seditious content.

He was remanded into custody until his next court hearing on January 7 and faces a possible life prison sentence if convicted under the new law.

Chung is a former member of Student Localism, a small group that advocates Hong Kong's independence from China.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of an unknown male, **Age:** 30-35 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'6", **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Round, was wearing Red colour Shirt and Grey colour Pant, was found unconscious behind Monastery near Yamuna river Civil Line, Delhi on 23.10.2020. He was admitted to AAA Hospital vide MLC No. 2241/20, dated 23.10.2020.

Further referred to Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. During treatment he was declared dead on 25.10.2020. In this regard a DD No. 42A, U/S 174 Cr.P.C., dated 23.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Civil Line, Delhi.

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

SHO P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi Ph.: 011-23810633, 23815444

DP/682/N/2020

Polish President backtracks on abortion view amid protests

Warsaw (Poland): Poland's President Andrzej Duda said Thursday that women themselves should have the right to abortion in case of congenitally damaged fetuses, apparently breaking ranks with a conservative leadership that pushed a ban that has led to mass street protests.

"It cannot be that the law requires this kind of heroism from a woman," Duda said in an interview with radio RMF FM.

He spoke after seven straight days of huge protests across Poland following a constitutional court ruling declar-

ing it unconstitutional to terminate a pregnancy due to fetal congenital defects. The ruling effectively bans almost all abortions in a country that already had one of Europe's most restrictive abortion laws.

That ruling has triggered huge nationwide protests, with young people heeding a call by women's rights activists to come to the streets to defend their freedoms. Deep divisions that had been brewing for a long time in Poland are now erupting on the streets.

On Thursday night, men

with a far-right group, All-Polish Youth, attacked women taking part in protests overnight in some cities, including Wroclaw, Poznan and Bialystok.

Their actions came after Poland's most powerful politician, ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski, called for his supporters to turn out on the streets to defend churches after women disrupted Masses last Sunday and spray-painted churches.

Many interpreted Kaczynski's call as permission for violence against the protesters. **AP**

UK's Labour Party suspends Jeremy Corbyn in antisemitism row

London: The UK's Opposition Labour Party on Thursday suspended former leader Jeremy Corbyn from its ranks after a report by the country's human rights watchdog held the party "responsible for unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination" during his time in charge.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), which had launched an investigation into antisemitism within the party following a string of complaints, found that Labour had broken the law in its failure to handle antisemitism, or anti-Jewish, complaints and there were "serious failings" by its leadership at the time.

However, in his reaction to the report, Corbyn said that the number of complaints made during his tenure were "dramatically overstated".

"One antisemitism is one too many, but the scale of the problem was also dramatically overstated for political reasons by our opponents inside and outside the party, as well as by much of the media. That combination hurt Jewish people and must never be repeated," said Corbyn, in reference to the report.

A Labour Party spokesperson issued a statement soon after to announce that Corbyn had been suspended from the party. **PTI**

8 inmates dead after prison riot in Herat, say Afghan officials

Kabul: Rioting at a prison in western Afghanistan has left at least eight inmates dead, provincial officials said Thursday.

The violence erupted on Wednesday night at the prison in the city of Herat, the capital of western Herat province, according to Mohammad Rafiq Shirzai, a spokesman for the provincial health department.

He said 12 others -- eight inmates and four prison guards -- were wounded in the outbreak at the facility, which holds around 2,000 prisoners. It wasn't immediately known if there are any Taliban at the penitentiary.

The rioting erupted after prison guards began clearing some partitions created by prisoners in the so-called Block 5 of the prison, said Jelani Farhad, a spokesman for the provincial governor. The police tried to collect "unnecessary items in the possession of the prisoners, which the prisoners resisted," he said. **AP**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOURA SRINAGAR KASHMIR DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (Imports Section) Email: ammoimports@skims.ac.in, Fax: 0194-2403404

EXTENSION

Subject :- Extension to the eNIT No SIMS - 324-NIT 11 (Imports) 2020 dated 24-09-2020 (Tender -ID 2020_SKIMS_105231_1 to 2020_SKIMS_105231_9) regarding supply/installation. & commissioning of various Bio Medical Equipments for the department of Surgical Oncology SKIMS. The NIT is hereby extended as per following schedule:-

Last date of submission of online bids	11-11-2020 upto 4:00 PM
Date of opening of technical bids	13-11-2020 at 12.30 PM

Further amendments if any, shall be uploaded separately.

NO: SIMS- 324- eNIT 11 (Imports) 2020- 3371-77-5550-53 Dated 28-10-2020. Sd/- Asstt. Materials Management Officer SKIMS.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Poonam D/o Hukam Singh R/o Flat No. 865, Lal Flats, Sec. 3, DSIDC, Bawana, Delhi, has been missing since 13.10.2020 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 104A dated 16.10.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Bawana, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age : 22 Years, **Height:** 4'8", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing :** Yellow Colour Suit and black colour payjama and cream colour sleeper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Bawana, Delhi at E-mail Id -- **cic@cbi.gov.in** or Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**

SHO P.S. Bawana, Delhi Outer North Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-27756090, 7065036321

DP/561/ON/2020

"Press Notice Inviting e-Tender No. 12/EE/RIG/2020-21"

The Executive Engineer, Rig Division, P.N.Complex, Agartala, West Tripura invites **Percentage rated e-tenders in single bid** on behalf of the "Governor of Tripura" for the work below:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Pre-Bid	Last date of Bidding
1.	DNie-T No:- 11/SE/DWSC/AGT/2020-21	₹ 1,18,17,551.00	09/11/2020	30/11/2020
2.	DNie-T No:- 12/SE/DWSC/AGT/2020-21	₹ 1,18,17,551.00		
	DNie-T No:-13/SE/DWSC/AGT/2020-21	₹ 1,18,17,551.00		
	DNie-T No:-14/SE/DWSC/AGT/2020-21	₹ 1,18,17,551.00		

For details please visit **www.tripuratenders.gov.in**. Any subsequent corrigendum will be available at the website only. For any query please contact **0381-232- 0699**

Sd/- Executive Engineer Rig Division, P.N.Complex Agartala, Tripura

ICA/C-1964/2020-21

PARIJAT PAPER MILLS LIMITED CIN: L21012UP1989PLC010589 Reg. Off: Vill-Jat Mujhera 10.6 Km Stone Bhopa Road, Muzaffarnagar-251308, (U.P) Website: www.parijatpapermills.com, Email id: parijatpapermills@yahoo.com					
Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended September 30, 2020					
Sr. No.	PARTICULARS	Standalone		(Amount in Lakhs)	
		Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Quarter Ended	Year Ended
		30.09.2020	30.09.2020	30.09.2019	31.03.2020
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1.	Total Income from operations (Net)	2043.26	2485.48	1205.16	5967.19
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.32	(36.17)	(21.42)	66.44
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.32	(36.17)	(21.42)	66.44
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.32	(36.17)	(27.16)	44.19
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)]	4.32	(36.17)	(27.16)	44.19
6.	Paid-up Equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10/- each)	329.00	329.00	329.00	329.00
7.	Other Equity [Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)]	523.17	523.17	488.21	559.34
8.	Earnings per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (a) Basic (b) Diluted	0.13	(0.80)	(0.82)	1.34
Notes : The above results were reviewed by an Audit Committee and thereafter taken on record by the Board of Directors in their meeting on 29 October 2020 after review by an Audit Committee.					
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly & year to date financial results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly & year to date financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.mse.in) and the company's website (www.parijatpapermills.com).					
For and on behalf of Parijat Paper Mills Limited Sd/- Amit Mittal (Whole Time Director) DIN:00754474					
Date : 29.10.2020 Place: Muzaffarnagar					

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Deepak Kumar, S/o Dilbagh Singh, R/o 161-B, Behind Shiv Mandir, Dheerpur, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 414/18 U/S 376/506/IPC & 6 POCSO Act, P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Deepak Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Deepak Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Deepak Kumar of FIR No. 414/18 U/S 376/506/IPC & 6 POCSO Act, P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **01.12.2020**.

By Order Ms. Vandana Ld., Additional Session Judge, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/472/NW/2020(Court Matter)

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

No. 256-Sig/SPL/TJK/219/TKD A&C Dated : 29.10.2020

Dy CSTE/SPL/TKJ, Northern Railway, Tiak Bridge New Delhi acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E- tenders in Single packet system from the experience & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate cost of the work	Earnest Money	Completion period	Website address and Date and Time where tender available	Closing date	Date of Opening of tender	Validity of offer
1.	"Outdoor and Indoor Work with part supply of Signalling materials in Connection with the work of replacement of signalling gears with EI at Tughlakabad A and C Cabin in DELHI Division of Northern Railway."	Rs. 5,20,27,391.15	(Rs Five Crore Twenty Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Three hundred Ninety One and Paise Fifteen Only)	11.30 Hrs on date: 23.11.2020	www.ireps.gov.in	11.00 Hrs. on date: 23.11.2020	11.30 Hrs on date: 23.11.2020	45 days from the date of opening of tender.
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								

(Tenders without earnest money will be summarily rejected). Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date & time only. Bids are to be submitted online only. Manual bids/offers are not allowed against this tender, and any manual offer received shall be ignored. The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E- Procurement system (IREPS) site (i.e. www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e- tender system. Necessary changes, Corrigendum/addendum, if required, would be posted on this web site only.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum-I

No. 23/AC/Ctg/GMU A-1/2018

Notice Inviting tender published in various newspapers on 24.10.2020 for tender for Publication of NIT for open tender notice for allotment of 9 Unreserved Catering Stalls (General Minor Units) (including 3 Catering Stalls reserved for Women) at New Delhi & Delhi Jn. Railway Stations over Delhi Division for a period of five (5) years, which is scheduled to open on 19.11.2020. A modification has been made in Tender Document Annexure "B/2". A detail of corrigendum and revised tender document has been uploaded at official website of Northern Railway i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for further information.

2374/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SPORTKING INDIA LTD. CIN: L17122DL1989PLC035050

Regd. Off.: 5/69, First Floor, Guru Mansion, Padam Singh Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005
Phone: 011-25754885
Website: **www.sportking.co.in**, Email: **cs@sportking.co.in**

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the company is scheduled to be held on Monday, 09th November 2020, to consider and to take on record, inter alia, the Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30th September 2020.

Economic recovery faster than expected: PM

Confident of meeting \$5-trn target by 2024

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian economy is getting back on track faster than expected as a timely lockdown and various relief measures announced by the Government helped address issues faced by all sections of society and all economic sectors due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said.

He also expressed confidence that the target of making India a USD 5-trillion economy will be achieved by 2024, saying that the crisis gave the Government an opportunity to carry out reforms that were waiting to happen for decades but no one earlier took the initiative.

"Reforms across sectors such as coal, agriculture, labour, defence, civil aviation and so on have been undertaken which will help us get back on the high growth path that we were on before the crisis," Modi said in an interview published in the Economic Times newspaper on Thursday.

On COVID-19 vaccine, he said every Indian will be vaccinated as and when a vaccine becomes available, though the focus initially would be on protecting the most vulnerable and the frontline workers.

Modi reiterated that there should be no room for complacency in fighting this virus and the only way forward is to take precautions such as wearing masks, hand washing and social distancing.

He said the government in the very beginning decided to be proactive and introduced a timely nationwide lockdown.

"We not only got the broad timing of various phases of lockdown right, we also got the unlock process right and much of our economy is also coming back on track. The data for August and September indicates that" he said.

He said this is a new virus and countries which had initially controlled the outbreak are now reporting a resurgence.

"The geographical spread of India, population density, the regular social gatherings must be kept in mind when we look at these numbers and seek to compare with others. Many of our states are larger than countries," he added. Modi said India's response in tackling the crisis has been focused on increasing capabilities to handle the situation, making people more aware, creating more facilities etc in keeping with the dictum 'Hope for the best but prepare for the worst'. Asked about plans for further stimulus for the economy, he said, "We will take all measures needed to constantly stimulate the economy in a timely manner while ensuring overall macro-economic stability."

"Remember, we are still not over with the pandemic. Yet, our economy has shown a remarkable capability to bounce back, largely because of the resilience of our people."

"This is something that is not captured in these numbers but is the reason behind those numbers. The shop-owner, the trader, the person running an MSME, the person working on the factory floor, the entrepreneur, all these are the heroes responsible for the strong market sentiment and revival of the economy," he said.

Modi further said India has not started speaking about manufacturing only after the pandemic and the work has been continuing on increasing manufacturing for some time now. "India is, after all, a young country with a skilled work-

force. But India doesn't believe in gaining from the loss of others. India will become a global manufacturing hub on its own strengths. "Our effort is not to become some country's alternative, but to become a country which offers unique opportunities. We want to see the progress of all. If India progresses, one-sixth of humanity will progress," he said.

Referring to a new world order that was formed after World War II, the prime minister said something similar will happen post-COVID-19.

"This time, India will ride the bus of manufacturing and integrating in global supply chains. We have specific advantages in the form of democracy, demography and demand," he said.

Govt likely to extend Air India bid deadline to Dec 14

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is likely to extend the deadline to bid for Air India till December 14 and also give flexibility to a potential investor to decide on the humongous debt with the national carrier, a source said.

The deadline to bid for buying out Air India ends on October 30.

The flexibility to potential investors on the quantum of the ₹ 60,074 crore debt that they want to absorb will replace the current condition of the buyer taking over more than a third of the debt and transferring the rest to a special purpose vehicle.

The source said the Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) has cleared the extension of deadline to December 14 to give time to potential investors to raise queries on the changes being made in the Preliminary Information Memorandum

INVESTORS TO GET FLEXIBILITY ON DEB

(PIM).

As per the Air India EoI floated by DIPAM in January, of the airline's total debt of Rs 60,074 crore as of March 31, 2019, the buyer would be required to absorb ₹23,286.5 crore, while the rest would be transferred to Air India Assets Holding Ltd (AIAHL), a special purpose vehicle.

Bidding for Air India to be done on enterprise value: Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has revised the bidding parameters for Air India's divestment and has decided to ask for bids at enterprise value instead of equity value. The deadline for inviting bids has also been till December 14. The Ministry has also extended the cap on airfares till February 24, 2021. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the aviation ministry implemented a cap on domestic airfare in May. The

Ministry has also announced the direct flights between Amritsar and Nanded will restart from November 10.

"The bids will now be invited on the enterprise value where bids will be invited on both equity and debt, Union civil aviation Minister Hardeep Puri announced on Thursday while addressing a press conference. The decision was taken by the Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism on Wed following a meeting with the home ministry, Puri added.

Sensex extends losses amid F&O expiry

L&T slumps 5 pc post earnings

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks nursed losses for the second straight session on Thursday as investors offloaded banking, finance and infra stocks amid expiry of monthly derivative contracts and lacklustre global cues.

A depreciating rupee and weak Q2 results from blue-chips further sapped risk appetite, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 172.61 points or 0.43 per cent lower at 39,749.85 in choppy trade.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty fell 58.80 points or 0.50 per cent to 11,670.80.

L&T was the top loser in the Sensex pack, dropping 4.99 per cent, after the engineering major posted a 45 per cent decline in consolidated net profit for the September quarter.

Titan, ONGC, Axis Bank, HUL, NTPC, M&M and

Maruti results not a sign of a 'rebound'

SALES UP 10% OVER SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR BUT PROFIT GROWTH FLAT

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti-Suzuki revealed that net profits for the quarter ended September 30, 2020 had grown marginally to ₹1,371.6 crore versus ₹1,458.6 crore in the same period last year. Sales however for the quarter grew to ₹17,689.3 crore mainly on account of selling 393,130 vehicles in the quarter primarily in the domestic market. Speaking to the media after the results were announced, RC Bhargava, Chairman of Maruti-Suzuki India Limited made it clear that he did not view the restoration of demand as a 'rebound' and argued that some of the increased sales were also due to the extremely weak first quarter. He also said that these sales

did not even take into account the demand for the festive season which began mid-October. It was revealed that the company sold 96,700 vehicles during the Navratri-period and with Dhanteras and Diwali in November as well as the inventory reduction sales in December, October-December quarter ought to be very positive as well. However, Bhargava refused to predict how sales would develop post December as he believed that the true impact of the pandemic and lockdown might be felt in 2021.

Additionally, while Maruti-Suzuki, the country's largest carmaker saw commercial and fleet sales decline from seven percent of its sales to just 2.4

percent as behavioural patterns change and commuters show an increasing preference for personal mobility. In addition, Maruti-Suzuki management claimed that the company had not been adversely impacted by the decision to withdraw from the diesel market following the introduction of Bharat Stage - 6 emission norms from April and in fact had grown marketshare to 49.4 percent in the relevant quarter up from 48.3 percent and Bhargava also attributed this to increased demand for CNG vehicles. He also said that there is no need for any demand side reduction in GST rates at the current time as "we are selling everything that we are producing."

Govt approves mandatory packaging of food grains in jute bags

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To help the jute industry, the Government on Thursday decided to extend the norms for mandatory packaging of 100 per cent food grains and 20 per cent sugar in diversified jute bags. The decision on the extension of norms for mandatory packaging in jute materials was taken at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved that 100 per cent of the foodgrains and 20 per cent of the sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags," said an official release. Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar, while briefing media after the Cabinet meeting, said the CCEA decision will bene-

fit farmers and workers located in the eastern and north-eastern regions of the country, particularly in West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura. Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani said that the decision will benefit 3.7 lakh workers and 40 lakh farmers, especially in West Bengal.

"Government purchases over Rs 7,500 crore worth jute bags to sustain core demand of the sector. Decision to provide extension for mandatory packaging in jute material will further boost demand for jute and support livelihood of jute workers," Irani said in a tweet. The decision also mandates that initially 10 per cent of the indents of jute bags for packing food grains would be placed through a reverse auction on the Gem portal, the release said.

Fare limits to remain in place for another three months: Puri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The upper and lower limits on domestic airfares will remain in place for another three months post November 24. Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday.

The Ministry had on May 21 placed these limits through seven bands, classified on the basis of flight duration, till August 24. Later, it was extended till November 24.

Puri said if the scheduled domestic flights reach pre-COVID levels by the end of the year, he will have no hesitation in removing the fare limits at that time. "We are extending the price bands for another three months," he said at a press conference.

INBRIEF

IDBI BANK TO RAISE UP TO ₹6,000 CR

New Delhi: IDBI Bank on Thursday said its board has approved a proposal for raising up to Rs 6,000 crore through an issue of shares to qualified institutional players. The board at its meeting held on October 29, 2020, passed a resolution for approving the raising of funds for an amount not exceeding Rs 6,000 crore through issue of equity share through qualified institutions placement subject to approvals of the regulatory and/or statutory authorities, IDBI Bank said in a regulatory filing.

CWC BAGS BIS CERTIFICATION

New Delhi: The premier warehousing agency, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has become the first PSU in the country to bag Anti-Corruption ISO:37001 certification here on Wednesday. A senior official from the CWC said that the certification was conferred upon Chief Vigilance Officer of CWC Pranali Prabhakar, IRTS by Director General of Bureau of Indian standards (BIS), Pramod Kumar Tiwari.

ASHUTOSH GANGAL IS NEW GM NORTHERN RAILWAY

New Delhi: Shri Ashutosh Gangal has taken over the charge of General Manager, Northern Railway today i.e. on 28.10.2020. Prior to assuming the charge of General Manager Northern Railway, Shri Gangal was working as Additional Member, Planning, Railway Board.

MIN C VIJAYA INAUGURATES 'BONDS' CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Chennai: SIMS Hospital (SRM Institutes for Medical Science) one of the leading quaternary care super specialty hospital in Chennai, announced today, the launch of BONDS, (Botulinum Toxin in Dystonia & Spasticity), a first of its kind centre in Chennai with focused approach to the treatment of movement disorders like Dystonia and Spasticity (also for Stroke Rehabilitation) using Botulinum Toxin injection at its Vadapalani facility in Chennai.

QUIZ CONTEST ORGANISED IN VIGILANCE WEEK

Kolkata: Metro Railway, Kolkata has been observing Vigilance Awareness Week from 27th October to 2nd November, 2020. As part of this programme, a quiz contest was organized by Vigilance Department today i.e. on 29.10.2020 in order to increase awareness of Metro staff. 40 staff from different departments participated in this contest. The winners in this contest were awarded by Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer. The programme was organized by maintaining all COVID-19 protocols and social distancing.

HOUSING COMMISSIONER INAUGURATES OPEN GYM IN JAIPUR



Parliamentary panel questions Paytm about Chinese investment, storing of data in servers abroad

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel on Thursday questioned Paytm representatives about the quantum of Chinese investment in the company and told them that the servers on which customer data is stored should be in India.

Top officials of Paytm appeared before the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Personal Data Protection Bill, and submitted their suggestions on key aspects of the proposed legislation such as management and transfer abroad of sensitive personal data, sources said. Members of the panel from different political parties asked Paytm why the server on which data of its customers is collected and stored is abroad when it claims to be an Indian firm, sources said. The panel members told Paytm representatives that the server on which customer data is stored should be based in India, sources said, adding that they also wanted to know about the quantum of Chinese investments in the digital payment service and specifics about its "backend linkages".

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392

Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com
Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398

NOTICE

Pursuant to regulation 29 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that a 291st Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on 12th day of November, 2020 at 12.30 PM at Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, 4th Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi- 110 025 to inter-alia approve the following:

(1) Unaudited Financial Results (Standalone and Consolidated) of the Company for the quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2020.

For Modi Rubber Limited
Sd/-
(S K Bajpai)

Place : New Delhi
Date : October 29, 2020

Head-Legal & Company Secretary

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Sonam D/o Rajender R/o Plot No. 346 Rohtas Ka Makan Village Pooth Khurd, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Bawana, Delhi since 18.10.2020. In this regard, a case DD No. 645/20 dated 20.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi. The description of the missing girl is as under.



Age: 15 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5', **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Pink colour suit and pajama. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped girl then please inform P.S. Bawana, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Bawana, Delhi
Ph: 011-27751949, 27756090,
7065036321

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Sunny S/o Shri Shyam R/o WZ-406 K, Plot No. 51, Janak Park, Hari Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from his house in the area of PS: Hari Nagar since 23.08.2013. In this regard, a case FIR No. 356/13 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing boy at the time of missing/kidnapped was as under.



Age: 12 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 3' 0", **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Red Colour Kurta and Blue colour Jeans. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped boy then please inform P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi
Ph: 011-28525719, 8750871130

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Priti, D/o Tarkeshwer Kumar, R/o H. No. 59, Sanath Village, Delhi** Age: 17 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Yellow Coloured Suit and Red Coloured Salwar and Sleeper in her feet has been missing since 11.10.2020 at 5.00 pm from the her home. In this regard a case FIR No. 540/20, dated 12.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

Priti

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27787592, 27787593,
7065036324

FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017) FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF OPINIOFI TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the Corporate Person	Opinofi Technologies Private Limited
2. Date of Incorporation of the Corporate Person	08/05/2016
3. Authority under which corporate person is incorporated/registered	The Companies Act, 2013
4. Corporate Identity Number of corporate person	U74999DL2016PTC301046
5. Address of the Registered Office and Principal Office (if any) of the corporate person	Room No.108, Dream Building, Gate No.4, ChhatraMarg, Delhi University North Campus, New Delhi-110007
6. Liquidation commencement date of corporate person	27-10-2020
7. Name of the Liquidator: Address of the Liquidator: Email address of the Liquidator: Telephone number of the Liquidator: Registration number of the Liquidator:	Ganesh Panduranga Pai #68, Chitrapur Bhawan, 6B, 6 th Floor, 8 th Main, 15 th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560055 Pragnya.cas@gmail.com 9845665596, 980-23565641 IBBI/PA-001/IP-P013/2018-19/12054
8. Last date of Submission of claims	26-11-2020
Notice is hereby given that the Opinofi Technologies Private Limited has commenced voluntary liquidation on 27-10-2020. The stakeholders of Opinofi Technologies Private Limited are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 26-11-2020, to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7. The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.	
Place: Bangalore Date: 29-10-2020	Sd/- Ganesh Panduranga Pai Insolvency Professional

Trend Slazer

Kemmu's tattoo took four years

Actor **KUNAL KEMMU** is a tattoo lover and he recently visited a tattoo studio to complete a four-year-old tattoo.

On Wednesday, Kunal took to Instagram and posted a few pictures and a video to flaunt the tattoo, which has the face of a tiger with hyper-realistic details on his calf muscles.

"It's finally completed. I never posted this tattoo since it wasn't complete even though I've had it since 2016. But finally after almost about 30 hours split over an average of six hours per session it's done and I love it," he captioned the post.

A day ago, Kunal's wife and actress Soha Ali Khan posted a video that shows Kunal patiently lying in the studio while his tattoo was being done.



'With every new release, the count of butterflies in my stomach increases, and right now I

feel tensed, eager to know what the audience feels. There is a sense of double pressure because we are releasing *Taish* in two formats, as a full-length feature film and as a web series. Both formats have their target audience.'

—Bejoy Nambiar

BOBBY DEOL, SANYA MALHOTRA and

VIKRANT MASSEY will co-star in the forthcoming crime thriller *Love Hostel*, a film set against the pulsating backdrop of rustic North India.

The film will be written and directed by **Shanker Raman**, a National Award-winning cinematographer who previously directed the acclaimed film *Gurgaon*.

"I am happy to have found the perfect partners in Vikrant, Sanya and the formidable Bobby Deol. *Love Hostel* as a film not only questions what our society has become but also the paths we take to solve our problems," Raman said.

Khloe is COVID-19 positive

Reality TV personality **KHLOE KARDASHIAN** has come out and spoken about testing positive for COVID-19. She confirmed being infected by the Coronavirus in a recorded clip from isolation.

"Just found out that I do have Corona. I have been in my room.

It's gonna be fine, but it was really bad for a couple days," she said in the video.

The news of Khloe testing positive is confirmed on an forthcoming episode of the reality show *Keeping Up With The Kardashians*. Khloe was vomiting, shaking and having hot and cold flashes. She also shared that she had a burning cough and was having difficulty in speaking.



GIVING LIFE TO THE WORN AND TORN

A team of students develops Artificial Intelligence algorithms to digitally reconstruct the damaged murals from Ajanta Caves. CHAHAK MITTAL talks to them about how AI can help historians solve ancient puzzles

Imagine walking inside the oldest fort or monument in your city. You find out that the building is in a tattered condition. All that remain are blackened corners, broken window panes, crooked steps, faded marble floors, stones chiselled out of the walls, and tarnished inscriptions. Now imagine viewing everything in the condition it would have ideally been when the rulers living in that palace actually existed. Well, this is no mere a mere thought or a wishful imagination, if we think digital-ly!

Reconstructing places of historical significance physically might include a lot of archaeological investigations, primary and secondary sources of research, guesswork, labour, funds and time. However, ever imagined if we were to revamp and reconstruct them digitally?

Well, Ancient AI, a team of IIT Roorkee students, has developed deep-learning Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) algorithms to digitally provide aid to the restoration process of murals recovered from the Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra. The restored digital murals have now been deposited at the Arctic Digital Archive (AWA) located close to the North Pole. This will ensure its protection from natural disasters and secure accessibility for future generations for over 1,000 years.

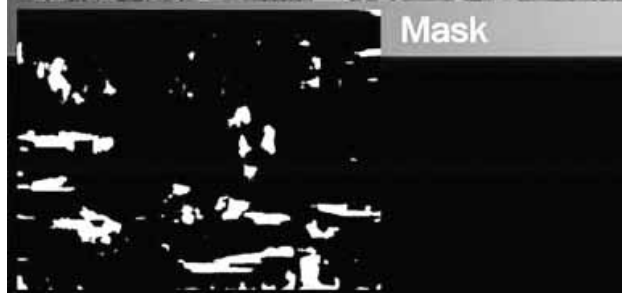
So how does the algorithm work? Parth Chhabra, second year student of Mechanical Engineering and leader of the team, says, "The algorithm that we have created helps fill the spots and spaces present in an image based on their surroundings and previously-learned features from various other paintings. Also, we can use it to colour the image to give it a more realistic look."

The algorithm was worked upon as a part of the *Tech4Heritage Hackathon*, which aimed at finding AI & ML-based solutions to help in the restoration process of murals recovered from the Ajanta Caves. It was spearheaded by the Rishihood University, Internity Foundation and Sapio Analytics, supported by the Ministry of Culture and LTI (Larsen & Toubro Infotech). Ancient AI, the winner team, now has the opportunity to work closely with the Sapio Analytics Heritage Restoration Team.

Another student from the team, Kushagra Babbar highlights that they utilised a dataset of more than a 1,000 reference paintings to develop AI models built on General Adversarial Networks (GANs). So what were the challenges in curating the data? He adds,



Damaged



Restored

Mask



Parth Chhabra



Kushagra Babbar

"The biggest challenge that we faced was creating a data set of damaged paintings and their corresponding restored images, which are not readily available. Hence, we thought of a completely opposite approach, that of damaging some clean images to an extent, which matches real-life damaged images. With image-processing, we took spots from the damaged ones and overlaid them on the clean ones. Post that, through Neural Style Transfer, a fascinating AI achievement, we styled our images similar to the damaged ones. With this and some randomisation, we created a dataset of approximately 850 damaged images from the 36 clean ones, of the paintings. It took around 40 to 50 hours generating this much big dataset. Completing this step was very crucial

since our result for the next step depended a lot on this. It was a very challenging process and this could not have been done without team work. We divided the images equally among us and generated 210 images each."

Several museums and exhibitions are now evidence of how art is being displayed through AI and VR technologies, making experts believe that AI is the future face of preserving history. Sahil Agarwal, co-founder and CEO, Rishihood University, explains how, "Technology certainly has a massive role in the future of art and history. There are several benefits to this. Today, when I enter the fossils section of a museum, I can not only see the part of an animal's skeleton, I can visualise the real animal movement and other char-

acteristics such as how it grew older and so on, through the AI. When I look at a painting, I can feel as if the painting is a visual reality around me. People are developing games and videos on history using AR and VR. Similarly, AI can be used to curate, store and recreate art. I believe the day is not far where the machine can learn from an artists' style and recreate an art."

So, what would an art on climate change look like if Van Gogh were to depict it in his style? he questions and says, "I think AI will reach that sophistication!"

Finding out evidence for historical theories and tracking records of past events have only been hindered by the labour-intensive process of identifying data from artefacts and handwritten inscriptions. Talking about how AI can help historians solve ancient puzzles, Kushagra says, "AI is the most efficacious way to build any automated solution. With the help of different algorithms in computer vision and natural language-processing, we can extract and even predict the ignored and missing information about ancient civilisations. Even if it is an old painting or an ancient literature in an unknown language, through AI, we can restore and know our past much better. I think the hackathon was a great opportunity to channelise our skills and have a head start in restoring our own culture, identity and heritage."

Even though the technique might be of major help to the historians, experts argue that looking at the current pandemic and frequently-occurring health haphazards, archaeological puzzles do not seem to be as urgent as computer science projects in healthcare, finance and other industries. Talking about whether AI's usage has more of an urgency towards healthcare infrastructure rather than historical research at present, Sahil says, "Algorithm-based decision-making is quite useful, definitely in the areas such as healthcare, where we are short

of skilled professionals. However, I will not say that there is an urgency because the robustness and efficiency of such technologies develop over time. They need constant human supervision to maintain and improve their decision-making. The implication of incorrect results from technology in healthcare is much more severe than in an area like archaeology. Therefore, we should not prioritise among the two. Rather, we should judge whether the technology has sufficiently matured so that it can be applied for mass usage in a particular area."

Parth agrees that applying algorithmic techniques to historical research can improve AI's capabilities "more than directly applying them to a sensitive area like healthcare right now."

Well, why just healthcare and finance, Sahil believes that "education" is an area where AI has immense potential. He adds, "It can become a 24x7 companion for a student. Using AI, a person can realise her/his current levels and ways of learning, how efficiently one reads and what time of the day is best suited for one to read, what skills one needs to pick up if s/he wants a particular job, etc. Similarly, employers can use AI to track the levels and speed of learning much before the recruitment and for on-the-job training. Some companies are developing AI-based recruitment models, too."

For Parth, "AI can excel in Agriculture and Farming, Security and Surveillance, Sports Analytics and Activities, Manufacturing and Production, Live Stock and Inventory Management, Autonomous Vehicles, Logistic Supply Chain, creating Virtual Assistant or Chatbots, Retail and Fashion."

He adds that while this was about recreating the images of the damaged structures, the team aims to work on a project that could involve "interpreting the ancient texts through AI!"

Exquisitely expensive

The Lexus LS 500h is a brilliantly crafted car. But even in its segment, it is far too pricey



think of the design as the perfect slashing of a katana by a samurai master.

Now to the driving, I have never really enjoyed driving cars in this category because honestly, nobody who acquires such a vehicle would ever drive it themselves. This is a car that one is driven around in, just like its competition the Mercedes-Benz S-Class, BMW 7-series, Audi A8 and Jaguar XJ. Getting into the 'luxury seat', diagonally behind the driver, you get

to push back the front passenger seat and use an ottoman as well as get all the other nice features such as a massager, screen et al. From a driving point of view, the 354-horsepower engine can drive the car very fast but when you are sitting in the driver's seat, you wish you had white cotton gloves because you do feel like a chauffeur. The hybrid system ensures that you get amazing fuel economy as well, despite having a big, fat V6 motor under the hood.



If you have to arrive in style, this is a great car. The problem is that it is twenty lakh more expensive than its sole competitor in the market, the BMW 745Le, BMW's hybrid 7-series. Yes, the Teutonic sense of luxury and aesthetics are very different, weirdly enough in terms of modern technology the BMW is slightly better off, the LS500h feels slightly dated. Even a chauffeur would like Apple CarPlay I guess. The combined power output of the BMW is superior and unlike the LS500h, it is a plug-in hybrid.

This is a car you buy because you admire the Japanese aesthetic, because you have walked the streets of Akihabara, because you have experienced both — the practicality and the sensibility of a bento box. There may not be a practical reason to buy this car over the competition, but at ₹1.82 crore anybody considering this car does not necessarily have practicality on their mind and the aesthetic sense and practical sense are independent of each other. This is a vehicle you buy if you love anything and everything Japanese.

Nushrratt was a revelation: Hansal

Actor Nushrratt Bharuccha, who recently teamed up with the award-winning director, Hansal Mehta, for Amazon Prime Video's forthcoming film, *Chhalaang*, has been praised by the director.

Hansal said, "Nushrratt was a revelation! With so many wonderful actors in the film, she held her own and how. She was hard working but always chilled out. Her performance was comfortable and she worked really hard on her accent to make it a part of her characterisation. She has a lot of potential. And she is a very chilled out person to be working with."

He added that Nushrratt worked "remarkably hard" to get her Haryanvi diction for the film right. The actor who gained fame after the *Pyaar ka PUNCH* series will now be seen opposite Rajkumar Rao in the film.

The film is set to release on the Diwali weekend, on November 13. Other than this, Nushrratt will also be seen in *Hurdang* opposite Sunny Kaushal and Vijay Varma.



RAINBOW IN MY PLATE

Chef DAVID EDWARD RAJ suggests including fruits, vegetables and other key components of different colours to the platter so that they form the required nutrition base needed for a healthy body and mind

The lockdown phase has got many food enthusiasts to don the chef's hat and innovate with various dishes and cuisines. More focus has been given to healthy eating during the peak of the pandemic as staying immune to the virus was considered as important as breathing. However, there is a myth attached to healthy eating that it does not tastes upto the mark and its presentation is not so attractive. To change this mindset, chefs across the world have been innovating with food to introduce meals that are not just tasty and healthy, but also visually appealing.

Though there are ample nutritious food items available in the restaurants as well as on the shelves of supermarket, one of the fanciest yet basic idea is 'eating the rainbow'. Yes, that's right. The term 'eating the rainbow' means including foods of different colours to the platter. This comprises fruits, vegetables and other key components that together form the required nutrition base that is needed for a healthy body and mind.

It is a commonly known and acknowledged fact that more the inclusion of vegetables and fruits in our diet, the better it is for the body. However, there is a lack of motivation which entails most people not following this eating habit.

The concept of this food being used for medicinal purpose has been around for more than a millennium and is still actively followed across various schools of medicine like Ayurveda and Unani. Such special foods were known and treasured due to their use in treating or



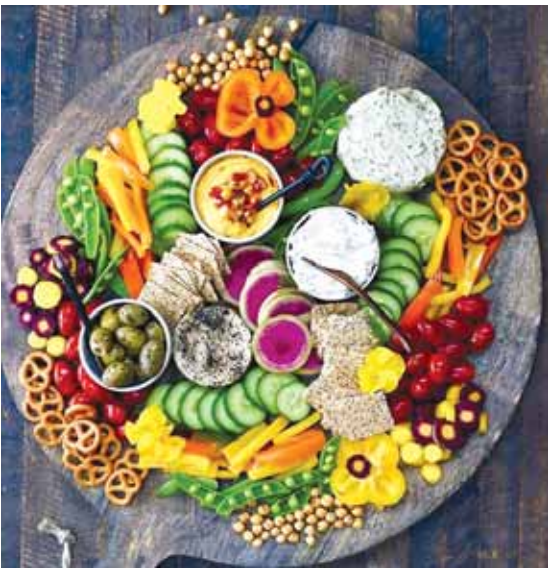
preventing diseases. Hence, it is important for us to include more fruits and vegetables in our diet because they possess vitamins and minerals that not only help prevent but also delay the onset of various diseases.

ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS AND THEIR BENEFITS

Vitamins like vitamin C, vitamin K, riboflavin, folic acid and compounds called carotenoids (some of which can be converted to vitamin A in the body) are found in many vegetables and fruits. Guava and gooseberry are some of the easily available sources of vitamin C. Vegetables like capsicum are rich in thiamine, a member of the B complex family of vitamins.

Some vegetables like potato, sweet potato, tapioca, yam and fruits like mango, banana and sapota make a fair contribution towards energy intake. Most vegetables and fruits are high in water and fibre contents and low in calorific value.

Many of the greens are packed with iron. Drumstick called as *Moringa* is loaded with essential nutrients. The leaves are the most nutrient dense part of the plant and one of the finest sources of calcium, iron, zinc, selenium and magnesium. Fresh pods and seeds are the



best for oleic acid — a healthy fatty acid that keeps the heart health in check. *Moringa* leaves are loaded with great amount of protein and are one of the best sources.

Flavonoids, a diverse group of phytonutrients (plant chemicals)

found in probably all fruits and vegetables also play an important role. Along with carotenoids, they are responsible for the vivid colours in fruits and vegetables. Flavonoids are the largest group of phytonutrients. They are found in lemons, oranges,

plums, peaches, apricots, apples, green leafy vegetables, yellow capsicum, onions and broccoli.

Grape fruit is known to reduce blood cholesterol and glucose concentrations. Yellow fruits like mangoes and green leafy vegetables and carrots are rich in beta carotene which is converted to vitamin A in the body and also helps to fight cancer.

Red fruits like tomatoes and watermelon contain lycopene, which is important for fighting prostate cancer and heart diseases.

Strawberries, blueberries, apples, grapes and onions are being studied for their anti-ageing effects.

The most natural way to overcome constipation is to increase intake of green leafy vegetables and other high fibre vegetables and fruits. Their high water and fibre content and low energy values promote satiety, decrease energy intake and could be important in weight management. Nutritionists recommend regular moderate exercise and many servings of soups and salads for those who need to shed a few pounds. Substituting fruits and vegetables for a calorie dense evening snack helps in weight loss.

(The chef is Director — Culinary development & Innovation, Elixir India.)



The diet connection

Here's a list of superfoods that can lower the risk of breast cancer

A healthy lifestyle which includes exercise and a nutrient-dense diet may help reduce the risk of cancer. Foods which are rich in antioxidants and fiber have been found to regulate oestrogen and inhibit cancer cell formation. Small changes to a routine can help reduce the risk of breast cancer. Rohit Shelatkar, VP at Vitabiotics, Fitness and Nutrition Expert lists down some superfoods to add in ones diet to reduce the risk of breast cancer.

Walnuts: Walnuts are packed with Omega-3 fatty acids, antioxidants and phytosterols which helps regulate oestrogen levels and slow the growth of breast cancer cells. They have been known to help fight inflammation which in itself is beneficial in avoiding heart disease and a host of other chronic conditions, but it is also linked to cancer.

Blueberries: Research suggests that blueberries can reduce the growth of breast cancer tumours by causing cancerous cells to self-destruct, a process called apoptosis. Frozen wild blueberries are just as antioxidant and nutrient-packed as fresh. One can consume blueberries with smoothies, oatmeal or yogurt.

Sweet Potatoes: The sweet potato can inhibit proliferation and can regulate cell growth, defend and repair them. Studies have shown that women who eat sweet potatoes on

a regular basis are at a 17 per cent lower risk of developing breast cancer.

Flaxseeds: Flaxseed has all kinds of amazing health benefits, including lowering blood pressure and cholesterol. It is the richest source of lignans — a type of antioxidant. Dietary flaxseed has the potential to reduce tumour growth in patients with breast cancer. One can add flaxseeds to smoothies, yogurt parfaits or mix in the morning oatmeal.

Garlic: Garlic gets its cancer-busting properties from allicin, a component of garlic that's been shown to inhibit the division of cancer cells. Other cancer risks also found to lower lung, stomach, and prostate, possibly due to the flavonols present in the garlic. Eating garlic raw can maximise the anticancer effects.

Green Tea: It is packed antioxidants with immense health benefits. One of those benefits includes having anti-breast cancer properties.

Decreasing the number of fatty foods in the diet and replacing them with whole foods will reduce the risk and have been shown to improve the survival rate of breast cancer patients. While no single food is guaranteed to keep oneself cancer-free, changing the diet to include more of these superfoods that can help fight breast cancer would prove beneficial.

—IANS

R E C I P E S



PANEER MAKHANA IN MAKHANI GRAVY

WHAT YOU NEED

- Paneer: 200 gm
- *Makhane* (Popped lotus seeds): 50 gm
- Whole spices (green cardamom, cinnamon, clove and bay leaf): 15 gm
- *Ghee*: 30 gm
- Milk: 100 ml
- Cashew, white poppy seeds and melon seeds paste: 60 gm
- Cashew nut: 20 gm
- Raisins: 20 gm
- Cardomom powder: 5 gm
- Salt to taste
- White pepper powder: 2 gm
- Sugar: 15 gm
- Tomato purees: 100 gm
- *Kastoori methi*: 15 gm
- Saffron: 1 gm
- Fresh coriander leaves (to garnish)
- Pomegranate seeds (to garnish)

METHOD

- Dry roast *makhana* and leave it aside.
- Heat *ghee* in a pan and add whole spices.
- Once they start to crackle, add cashew, poppy and melon seeds paste and start stirring.
- Now add milk little by little and cook the gravy. Then add tomato puree and cook till the *ghee* separates.
- Add salt, sugar and white pepper powder. Make paneer *kofta* by grating the paneer. Stuff with nuts and flavour with cardomom powder.
- Cook another minute or so. If gravy gets thicker, add more milk and cook again.
- Turn off the heat, add fried *koftas*, roasted *makhane* and mix well. Add saffron and mix once again.
- Sprinkle coriander and pomegranate seeds. Serve immediately.

Courtesy: Chef Vaibhav Bhargava, Band Baja Barat Restaurant.



APPLE GALETTE WITH GINGER AND HONEY

WHAT YOU NEED

- Plain flour: 225 gm
- Salt to taste
- Butter (chilled and cut into small cubes): 125 gm
- Castor sugar: 2 tbsp
- Cold water: 2½ tbsp
- Crisp dessert apples: 4
- Ground almonds: 140 gm
- Demerara sugar: 55 gm (1 tbsp extra for dusting)
- Stem ginger (drained of syrup and finely diced): 100 gm
- Runny honey: 2 tbsp
- Lemon juice: 3 tbsp
- Melted butter: 2½ tbsp
- Stem ginger syrup (for glazing): 2-3 tbsp

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 190 degree celsius.
- **For the dough:** Sift the flour and



salt into a bowl, add the chilled diced butter and rub together until

the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar, add

ALL TRICK, NO TREAT

WHAT YOU NEED

- Jameson: 50 ml
- Lemon juice: 25 ml
- Toffee syrup: 20 ml
- Chocolate bitters
- Egg whites: 25 ml

METHOD

- Take one cup sugar and butter (half stick).
- Continuously stir over medium heat for five minutes until it turns into rich brown colour.
- Add water if too thick and allow toffee syrup to cool.
- Place all ingredients into a cocktail shaker, add ice and shake well.
- Double strain into a chilled glass of your choice. Garnish with sprinkling of nutmeg and chocolate.

Courtesy: Pernod Ricard India.

RAW BANANA COCONUT AND SAGO KABAB

WHAT YOU NEED

- Raw banana: 600 gm
- Fresh coconut: 250 gm
- Soaked sago pearls: 300 gm
- Almond: 40 gm
- Peppercorn: 1 tbsp
- Salt to taste
- Green chilli: 5
- *Ghee*: 20 gm

METHOD

- Wash, boil and cool banana. Then grate banana and fresh coconut.
- Further, soak sago for two hours and drain water.
- Heat *ghee* in a pan, add grated coconut and cook till it turns golden brown.
- In a mixture grinder grind half of the roasted coconut



and keep the rest half aside.

- Fine chop green chillies. Mash half of sago and keep half sago for coating kababs from both sides.
- Then assemble all the above ingredients in a bowl and mix well.
- Divide above mixture in small balls and make round and flatten kababs.
- Then spread soaked sago

pearls on a plate, place flatten kababs on sago and firmly press so that sago can coat the kabab. Do this for both sides.

- Heat *ghee* in a non-stick pan. When hot place kababs and cook them from both sides till it turns golden brown.
- Serve hot.

Courtesy: Michelin Plate Winner, Chef Dayashankar Sharma.

the water and bring the dough together into a ball using a spatula, wrap in cling film and rest in a cool place for an hour.

- Peel the apples, cut into quarters and remove the cores.
- Cut each quarter into three or four slices and reserve.
- Sprinkle the apples with two to three teaspoons of the lemon juice to prevent from browning.
- Roll out the dough very thinly on a flour dusted worktop to a circle 38 cm (15 inches) in diameter.
- Brush the base of the casserole with a little melted butter and line the base and sides with the rolled out pastry, allowing the excess to stand proud of the rim.
- Combine the ground almonds, demerara sugar and chopped stem ginger together and spoon into the pastry lined pan.
- Arrange the sliced fruit on top in a neat circle pattern starting from the centre and working outwards.

- Mix the honey with the lemon juice and brush over the top of the fruit.
- Wet the inside exposed edges of the pastry with a little water and fold it into the pan, gently pressing together where the pastry overlaps. This can be in six or seven places and should look quite rustic.
- Brush the top of the turned over pastry with the melted butter and sprinkle with the extra demerara sugar.
- Bake the gallette in the centre of the preheated oven for 50 to 55 minutes until golden brown and crisp, covering it with a sheet of loose foil, once it is nicely browned.
- Remove the gallette from the oven and brush the apples with the stem ginger syrup.
- Serve warm or at ambient temperature with vanilla custard, whipped cream, honey yogurt or ice cream.

Courtesy: Le Creuset.

The team management and Rohit told me before the start of the tournament that you have played enough to take the game deep. I am glad I have been able to do it

It is (opening innings) something that I have sort of always wanted to slowly and gradually get into. So yeah, really enjoying the opportunity and responsibility I've been given here at the Royals

We always spoke about one of the top three batters, or top four batters, bat all the way through if you are chasing and win the game for us. He (Surya) has done that more often than not

He (Suryakumar) has had a good tournament and today he was the difference, getting that score and scoring as quickly as he did. (He) put Chahal under pressure, with some good boundaries and sixes

Backing experience over youth backfired for Chennai: Lara

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chennai Super Kings' unflinching reliance on experience over youth has been their undoing this IPL season, said West Indies batting icon Brian Lara, urging the franchise to give its younger lot a chance in the remaining games. One of the most successful sides in the history of the tournament, CSK are languishing at the bottom of the points table. While most sides nurture youngsters, that has not been the case with the Mahendra Singh Dhoni led side, often referred to as *Dads Army*.

"I think they (CSK) have got a lot of older players. There are not any young players coming through the line-up. You look at it. Even their overseas players, they have been around for a long time," Lara said on *Star Sports' Select Dugout*.

"So, they have backed experience over youth, and this has really turned upside down for them," he added.

It is the first time Dhoni and his men have failed to clear the league stage, having managed only eight points so far after four wins.

The three-time champions' poor run this season has put a question-mark on their approach, leading to heavy criticism of Dhoni, who has been accused of not showing enough faith in the youngsters.

"It's just an unbelievable season so far. You know, every time they turn up, we're very hopeful that CSK is going to turn it around," Lara said.

"We all came here thinking this was going to be the time when Dhoni turns things around with his team. And game after game, it just went, and they just kept hoping."

"But it's a situation where they can just try to build from next year. In the few coming games that they have, see what they can do with the younger players they've got," Lara said.

Rana's 87 helps KKR to 172



Nitish Rana reacts after scoring his fifty against Chennai Super Kings | **IPL20**

PTI ■ DUBAI

Opener Nitish Rana's 87 and a late burst helped Kolkata Knight Riders get to 172 for five against Chennai Super Kings in an IPL match here on Thursday. Following Rana's 61-ball effort, cameos from skipper Eoin Morgan (15 off 12) and Dinesh Karthik (21 not out off 10) allowed KKR to put up a competitive total. CSK, who pulled things back in the middle overs after a fine start from KKR openers Rana

and Shubman Gill (26 off 17), leaked 66 runs in the last five overs. Lungi Ngidi (2/34) was the best bowler for CSK while Sam Curran also bowled well early on.

The KKR innings was built largely on Rana's knock which comprised 10 fours, four sixes. The southpaw mixed caution with aggression and overcame a sluggish period in the middle overs with some lovely shots. Rana hit three consecutive sixes off Karn Sharma in the 16th over to up the ante as KKR looked for quick

runs. Sent in to bat, KKR got off to a solid start with Gill and Rana putting on 53 runs for the first wicket. Gill looked in good touch and hit four boundaries before falling to leggie Sharma. Sunil Narine (7), sent in at number three, smashed the second ball for a six and fell four balls later, unable to clear a Mitchell Santner delivery with Ravindra Jadeja taking the catch. KKR decided to send Rinku Singh, who was picked for the first time this season, ahead of Morgan at number four.

Won't be surprised if MS leads CSK in 2021: Gambhir

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Chennai Super Kings owners share such mutual trust and fabulous relationship that he could be retained as captain of the side in 2021 despite enduring an abysmal IPL season in the UAE, says former India opener Gautam Gambhir.

"I keep saying that why CSK is CSK is because of the relationship between the owners and the captain. They have given all the freedom to MS, and MS has received all the mutual respect from the owners as well," Gambhir was quoted as saying by *ESPNCricinfo*.

"So I would not be surprised if they continue with MS and MS plays till the time

he wants to play. And then next year he still continues to be the captain and have a much different squad than what he has this time around."

"He deserves that much of appreciation from the owners."

The 39-year-old Dhoni's future has come under scrutiny in the wake of CSK's mediocre performances in the ongoing IPL.

Gambhir, who flourished under Dhoni's captaincy in international cricket, pointed out his overall record as CSK skipper.

"What he has done for the franchise and how the franchise actually deals with MS and treats MS is a fabulous relationship."

"And that is how every franchise should deal with their captain, who has deliv-

ered for them."

Gambhir said, "MS has won them three (IPL) trophies, couple of Champions Leagues, he has made them one of the top successful sides in the IPL after Mumbai Indians."

"So CSK saying they are going to continue with MS — it is just the relationship, it is just the mutual respect."

"That's why MS has been so loyal (to the Super Kings). That's why MS has given everything: heart and soul, his sweat, sleepless nights — I'm sure he must have had sleepless nights while he has continued captaining CSK."

Earlier, the CSK management has said that Dhoni would be retained at the next mega auction, which is likely to be held in 2022.

KXIP meet Royals in must-win game

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

A rampaging Kings XI Punjab would look to extend their exceptional run and inch closer to a Play-offs berth while Rajasthan Royals would be desperate to stay alive in the tournament when the two sides clash, here on Friday.

It has been a dramatic turnaround for the KL Rahul-led side after a string of losses earlier in the tournament.

They have managed to weave together five consecutive wins against the top four sides in the tournament, infusing life into their campaign. They are in fourth position with 12 points from as many games, while the Royals have slumped to the penultimate spot with 10 points having suffered seven defeats from 12 outings.

It's a mad scramble for the play-offs. With Mumbai Indians

all but through, six teams are in the hunt for the remaining three spots.

The Royals can't afford to slip up, if they lose on Friday they will be out of the reckoning while a defeat for Punjab will dent their chances for a top-four finish.

They would expect their skipper Rahul, the leading run-scorer of the tournament, to fire in the crucial game after three underwhelming performances with the bat.

The addition of Chris Gayle has done wonders for the team's confidence.

It is to be seen if

Mayank Agarwal, who missed two games with a bruised knee, returns to the side. In his absence, Mandeep Singh revelled in the role of an opener with a match-winning unbeaten 66 in the win against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Punjab's bowling, which has been their weakest link throughout the tournament, has been exceptional in their recent wins, choking the opposition for runs.

The Royals will also be high on confidence after their morale boosting win over table toppers Mumbai and would be desperate to keep the winning momentum going.

The biggest positive for the Royals is Ben Stokes roaring back to form after rusty displays in previous five outings. The English all-rounder, who has been elevated to the role of opener, smashed an unbeaten 107 to help seal a seven-wicket win over Mumbai.

Sanju Samson is also back among runs, while Jos Buttler has looked erratic. That skipper Steve Smith is in the middle of a lean patch will augur well for KXIP.

The Jofra Archer-led bowling attack has looked ordinary. The Barbados-born English pacer, who is having a stellar individual season with 17 wickets from 12 matches with an economy of 6.71, has done most of the heavy lifting with the ball without adequate support from the rest of the bowlers.

Oz include Green for India series

MELBOURNE: Australia on Thursday included young all-rounder Cameron Green in their T20 and ODI squad for the limited-overs series against India while Moises Henriques returned to national fold after three years following his exploits in the Big Bash League.

India will play three ODIs (November 27, 29, December 2) and as many T20s (December 4, 6, 8) against Australia.

Cameron's domestic form has been outstanding and he has carried it through for Western Australia this summer. As a potential player of the future this is an opportunity for him to be part of the squad and build on his experience," national selector Trevor Hohns was quoted as saying by *Cricknet Australia*.

Australia have focussed on batting all-rounders while picking their limited overs squad.

Henriques had led Sydney Sixers to KFC Big Bash title last summer with a strike rate close to 150.

"Moises is a tremendous cricketer with loads of experience and is a great person to have around the group. His form was extremely impressive in leading the Sixers to the BBL title last summer and he has played well at the start of this season," Hohns said.

Mitchell Marsh, who injured his ankle during the ongoing IPL, was not considered but he may make a comeback to the side for the A side before the Test series.

ODI & T20 squad: Aaron Finch (C), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins (vc), Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Moises Henriques, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Daniel Sams, Kane Richardson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner and Adam Zampa. **PTI**

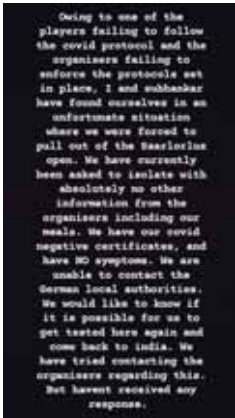
Jayaram, Subhankar seek to return after withdrawal over Covid-19 contact

SAARBRUCKEN: Indian shuttlers Ajay Jayaram and Subhankar Dey were on Thursday forced out of the SaarLorLux Open after being put in isolation owing to contact with Covid-19 positive father-cum-coach of defending champion Lakshya Sen, who has already withdrawn.

The 19-year-old Lakshya withdrew on Wednesday after his father D K Sen returned a positive test for the virus.

"BWF can confirm three players have been withdrawn from the SaarLorLux Open 2020 as a precautionary measure for all participants after they were in contact with a member of their team entourage who tested positive for COVID-19," the BWF said in a statement. "The three players: Lakshya Sen, Ajay Jayaram and Subhankar Dey will not compete further in the tournament, which began on Tuesday," it added.

Later, Jayaram, in a Twitter post tagging sports minister Kiren Rijiju, the national badminton federation and BWF, said that he and Dey would like to return to India as the organisers have not given them any information or assistance apart



from asking them to isolate.

The Sports Authority of India assured that it will pay for the expenses to be incurred by the two players "for the length of their quarantine in Germany from October 30 to November 10, on humanitarian grounds."

"SAI will be paying a total of ₹1.46 lakh for their hotel stay and food expenses and will release 90 percent of the amount immediately," SAI said in a statement. **PTI**

Pakistan leave out Haider Ali for 1st ODI

Rawalpindi: The Pakistan team management has left out the promising duo of batsman Haider Ali and uncapped Abdullah Shafique in its 15-member squad for Friday's first ODI against Zimbabwe in Rawalpindi.

Vice-captain Shadab Khan was not considered after being ruled out of the first match due to stiffness in his left upper-leg.

Senior batsman Mohammad Hafeez and young fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain were also not picked even though they were named in a preliminary squad, like Haider and Shafique, last week for the white-ball series against the visitors.

Pakistan's top batsman, Babar Azam, will be leading the team for the first time in an ODI series and said he wanted to start his tenure on a winning note.

"I'm keen on winning the ODIs as this is my first series as captain," said Azam.

"No team is easy in international cricket so we won't take Zimbabwe lightly," **PTI**

AFF ■ TURIN

Marcus Rashford was again the star for Manchester United in the Champions League with a hat-trick in a 5-0 thumping of RB Leipzig on Wednesday as Barcelona put their off-field troubles to one side to win 2-0 away to a Juventus side deprived of Cristiano Ronaldo.

Rashford's late goal earned United a 2-1 victory away to Paris Saint-Germain last week and at Old Trafford, the England striker came on as a second-half substitute and scored three times from the 74th minute on in what was a fine win against last season's semi-finalists.

Paul Pogba released Mason Greenwood to open the scoring in the first half, before the youngster made way for Rashford after the break and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side ran away with the game to make it two wins from two in Group H.

Anthony Martial also netted from the penalty spot as United ruthlessly exposed the side who currently top the German Bundesliga and went clear at the top of the section.

"We looked dangerous throughout and that we could score every time we went forward," said Rashford. "It was a real team performance."

Hat-trick hero Rashford

Substitute Marcus nets thrice in Utd's 5-0 win; Barca beat Cristiano-less Juve

Meanwhile PSG got their campaign up and running by beating Istanbul Basaksehir 2-0 in Turkey, although they lost Neymar to an adductor injury in the first half. Both PSG's goals were scored in the second half by Moise Kean, the on-loan Everton striker heading in Kylian Mbappé's corner in the 64th minute and then turning to fire in the second late on.

BARCA BOUNCE BACK

In Turin, Barcelona bounced back from their week-end defeat in the Clásico against Real Madrid and shut out the boardroom crisis which led to president Josep Maria Bartomeu resigning on Tuesday.

Ronald Koeman's side had luck on their side as they took the lead through a deflected

Ousmane



Lionel Messi hugs Leonardo Bonucci after Barca beat Juventus in Turin on Wednesday | **AP**

Dembele strike and then saw Alvaro Morata have three goals disallowed for offside for the hosts.

The absence of Ronaldo because of a positive coronavirus test meant no chance to see him renew his on-field rivalry with Lionel Messi, but the Argentine got his name on the scoresheet late on, netting a stoppage-time penalty to seal Barca's second victory in as many Group G outings.

"This was our best game all season," said Koeman.

Juve had Turkish defender Merih Demirel sent off late on as their underwhelming start to the season under novice coach Andrea Pirlo continued.

Their next game is away at Ferencvaros, who came from behind to draw 2-2 with 10-man Dynamo Kiev in Budapest.

ZIECH IMPRESSES

In Group E Chelsea were comprehensive 4-0 winners away to Krasnodar in Russia, with Jorginho missing a penalty before Callum Hudson-Odoi opened the scoring.

Timo Werner smashed in a spot-kick on 76 minutes to double Chelsea's lead, with Hakim Ziyech and Christian Pulisic adding late goals.

Sevilla beat Rennes 1-0 in the same section with Luuk de Jong scoring the only goal.

Borussia Dortmund claimed their first points in Group F with Jadon Sancho's 78th-minute penalty and Erling Braut Haaland's stoppage-time strike securing a 2-0 win over Zenit Saint-Petersburg.

The Germans are a point behind Lazio and Club Brugge, who drew 1-1 in Belgium with a Hans Vanaken penalty securing a draw for the hosts.

DUGOUT



Old tweets of Suryakumar Yadav praising RCB skipper Virat Kohli have resurfaced after Surya's match-winning knock for Mumbai



Rohit Sharma knew it way before that Suryakumar has the potential to be a big player. In his tweet that he posted way back in 2011, Rohit Sharma had stated that his IPL and state teammate Suryakumar would be a player to watch out for in future.











Former cricketer Manoj Tiwary praised Team India head coach Ravi Shastri's tweet on Suryakumar Yadav after his match-winning knock against Royal Challengers Bangalore

MORRIS, HARDIK REPRIMANDED

RCB all-rounder Chris Morris and his Mumbai Indians' counterpart Hardik Pandya have been reprimanded for a verbal altercation during their teams' IPL clash. The incident took place in the 19th over of MI's chase when Pandya struck Morris for a massive six and gestured towards the South African. Morris got his revenge when he dismissed Pandya in the fifth ball of the over and gave him a send off. A press release from the IPL said that both of them admitted to breaching the Code of Conduct.

FEELING VERY GOOD, SAYS KAPIL DEV

A week after undergoing angioplasty, the legendary Kapil Dev on Thursday greeted his former India teammates from the 1983 World Cup, saying he is "feeling very good" and eager to meet everyone soon. The 61-year-old underwent the procedure after suffering a heart attack. "My family 83. The weather is very pleasant and I am very eager to meet you all. I am feeling very good. Thanks to all for your wishes and concern," an enthusiastic Kapil, dressed in a purple T-shirt, said in a video which he shared with his 1983 teammates. "I am hoping that we all will meet pretty soon. I will try to meet you all as early as possible. We have approached the end of the year and I am confident that we will have a great start to next year. Love you all," he added.

POINTS TABLE							
			P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1		MI	12	8	4	+1.186	16
2		RCB	12	7	5	+0.048	14
3		DC	12	7	5	+0.030	14
4		KXIP	12	6	6	-0.049	12
5		KKR	12	6	6	-0.479	12
6		SRH	12	5	7	+0.396	10
7		RR	12	5	7	-0.505	10
8		CSK	12	4	8	-0.602	8