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TAMING THE DRAGON

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TRUMP'S SC NOMINEE GRILLED ON ABORTION RIGHTS, OBAMACARE

SPORT 12
GAYLE SET FOR IPL 2020 DEBUT

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 287
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

NEED TO GET BACK IN SHAPE: KANGANA 10 VIVACITY



Farmers walk out of Govt meet

They demand Min's presence; Punjab calls spl session for Bill to negate farm laws

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The stand-off between the Centre and Punjab farmers continues as a delegation of protesting farmers' leaders from Punjab invited for talks by Union Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal on Wednesday here cried foul and walked out of the meeting, demanding the presence of Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar. The agitated farmers claimed the Government is least interested in solving farmers' problems with no Minister present to hear them out.

Amid farmers' protests across the State, Punjab has become the first State to reject the Centre's farm laws. At the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh rejected the farm laws enacted by the Centre and convened a special Assembly session on October 19 to bring a legislation to counter the Centre's farm laws.

The Punjab Cabinet's move is expected to have overwhelming support, with both the ruling Congress and the Opposition Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD). The CM had announced his Government will fight the "anti-federal and vicious farm laws tooth and nail through legislative, legal and other routes".

Meanwhile, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said the Government is always open for discussion with farm-



Farmers from Punjab stage a protest outside Krishi Bhawan after they walked out of a meeting with Agriculture Secretary over the new farm laws in New Delhi on Wednesday

ers on the revolutionary farm laws. When asked about boycott by farmers' body, Javadekar said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar have already held one round of discussion with farmer organisations on this issue.

"If someone wants more (discussion), we are always open (to) meet everyone. But Tomarji has an engagement today, therefore he has gone. When he will get free, he is meeting all. There is no problem in this," Information and Broadcasting Minister Javadekar told the media after

the Cabinet meeting.

A delegation of 29 farmers organisations, comprising Balbir Singh Rajewal, Darshan Pal, Jagjit Singh Dalewal, Jagmohan Singh, Kulwant Singh, Surjit Singh and Satnam Singh Sahni, who had come to attend meeting are said to have asked the Secretary what an administrative officer can do when the political leadership was not interested in repealing the recently-passed farm laws and walked out of the meeting.

After a one-and-a-half-hour long meeting with Agarwal, the farmers leaders were seen shouting slogans

and tearing copies of new farm laws outside Krishi Bhawan.

Farmers' leaders Jogjit Singh Dalewal and Jagmohan Singh said at least Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar should have been present at the meeting. The meeting was convened at the Krishi Bhawan amid police security to avoid any protest. Farmers' leaders said that their agitation against the contentious farm laws will continue.

"No proper discussion took place. Neither Union Agriculture Minister nor junior Ministers were present to hear our concerns. We asked why

the Minister is not meeting us, why the Government is playing double standards by calling us here and Ministers holding virtual meetings in Punjab. There was no proper response," Darshan Pal, member of the coordination committee of 29 farmers' organisations, told reporters after the meeting.

BKU leader Balbir Singh Rajewal said the farmers' representatives will meet in Chandigarh on Thursday to discuss the next course of action. "He (Agriculture Secretary) kept saying he wants to act as a bridge and help, etc. We asked why we were called when no Minister was present to talk to us. The Secretary said he will communicate our demands further," said a farmer union leader.

"The meeting was an effort to try and create a false impression that the Central Government is engaging with farmers, when in fact it is going all out to roll out and enforce the anti-farmer laws," the All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) said in a statement.

"First, the Government should be ready to review and if necessary, repeal the three laws. Second, the Government should be ready to consider legislating the minimum support price as a legal right and deal with input cost, food security and other issues," the AIKSCC statement said. Farmers also presented a memorandum of demands to the Government.

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Modi to begin NDA's poll drive in Bihar on Oct 22

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

As the poll campaign for the Bihar on October 28 heats up, BJP's national president JP Nadda will again go the State on Thursday for physical campaign rallies and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the main face of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), is expected to swoop down on the State for first series of electioneering from October 22, which, among others, include the Assembly seats of Buxar, Jehannabad and Bhagalpur.

BJP senior leaders, including party general secretary and State-in-charge Bhupendra Yadav and former Maharashtra Chief Minister and the campaign-in-charge Devendra Fadnavis, are drawing up plan for the Prime Minister's rallies as he is seen as the prime mover and shaker of voters in the State with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar facing the anti-incumbency factor.

Modi's rallies are expected to be held in Buxar, Jehannabad, Rohtas and Bhagalpur for the NDA candidates, beginning October 22. The Covid-19 conditions have put extra-pressure on the planners and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is carefully examining the details before giving a go ahead for the physical rallies.

With the pandemic still on surge, rallies ahead of the Assembly elections would be conducted with standard operating procedure and guidelines for safety. On Monday a



Bihar Minister for backward and extremely backward class welfare Vinod Kumar Singh, 55, passed away due to post-Covid-19 complications.

The Prime Minister will also address poll rallies digitally, though number of physical and virtual public meeting is yet to be fixed, said sources, adding total addresses could be more than ten, according to party sources.

Bihar is one of the first of States in the country to go to polls under Covid-19 conditions. Physical rallies are increasingly turning "normal" with political leaders pulling out all full stops to attract voters who, this time, are not swayed by one particular issue or political personality.

BJP president is on a two-day tour of Bihar for electioneering from October 15 and to address rallies at Vikramganj, Karakat (Rohtas), Goh (Aurangabad) and on October 16 campaign in Barahat (Banaka), Hisia (Nawada) Assembly segments.

BJP launched its "Bihar Me Ee Ba" to showcase the infrastructure development in Bihar under the NDA regime. The BJP's video song also mentions the opening of IITs, AIIMS, new bridges as well as improvement in the health and education sector. It talks about transforming Bihar cities into metros like Mumbai and Delhi.

Countering the BJP development plank, the rival alliance leader RJD's Tejashwi Yadav is attacking the NDA Government for miserably failing as a job provider and developing the State. "What did their double-engine govt do in 15 years? It's their attempt to divert from agenda but we want to contest election on agenda," says Lalu Prasad's son and his political heir apparent.

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Sharad Yadav's daughter joins Cong, to fight Bihar election

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

Ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, former Union Minister and Loktantrik Janata Dal chief Sharad Yadav's daughter Subhashini Yadav joined the Congress on Wednesday in the presence of local leaders. Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader and former MP Kali Pandey too joined the Congress. Both are likely to contest the upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar and are seeking tickets from the Congress party.

Subhashini Yadav, a social worker, said she is taking the responsibility of carrying on the fight of the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar, as her father Sharad Yadav has always supported it. "I thank Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for giving me this opportunity. Sharad Yadav is not actively taking part in the Bihar elections as he is not well. He has always supported the Mahagathbandhan. It is my responsibility to take this fight forward and to take Bihar to greater heights," she said.

Kali Pandey said it was a homecoming for him as he had extended support to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1984 when he was a member of the Lok Sabha.

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Ban on all types of gensets in Delhi to curb air pollution

Satyendar Jain urges Centre to shut down polluting thermal plants around Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) on Wednesday issued directions banning the use of all types of generators, except those needed for essential or emergency services, in Delhi from Thursday under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

The official order reads, "DPCC hereby bans the operation of generator sets of all capacities, run on diesel, petrol or kerosene in Delhi from October 15 till further orders, excluding those used for essential or emergency services."

As per the order essential services include healthcare facilities, elevators, railway services, Delhi Metro, airports and inter-State bus terminals



and the data centre run by the National Informatics Centre.

Meanwhile, Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain on Wednesday said he has written to the Union Power Minister seeking closure of 11 thermal power stations around the national Capital, which contribute majorly to pollution in Delhi and its neighbouring areas.

The measures under GRAP, which was first implemented in Delhi-NCR in 2017, include increasing bus and metro services, hiking parking fees and stopping use of diesel generator sets when the air quality turns poor.

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Waive interest on interest asap as Diwali gift, SC asks Centre

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Centre should implement "as soon as possible" interest waiver on loans of up to ₹2 crore under the RBI moratorium scheme in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, saying the common man's Diwali is in the Government's hands.

The apex court sought know from the Centre as to whether the benefit of loan interest waiver for borrowers of up to ₹2 crore during the moratorium period has "percolated" to the common man.

The court, which observed that it is concerned about how benefit of interest waiver would be given to borrowers, said the Centre has taken a "welcome decision" by taking note of plight of common man but authorities have not issued any order in this regard.

"Something concrete has to be done," a bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said, adding, "Benefits of waivers must be implemented as soon as possible". The SC posted the matter for hearing on November 2.

Continued on Page 2

Centre poised to tackle Covid spike in winter

Process to import 1 lakh MT liquid oxygen started

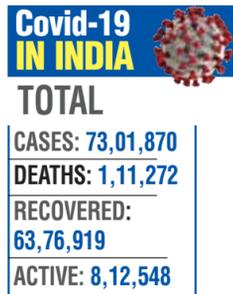
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure that it is not caught napping in the winters and festivities in the coming weeks when Covid-19 cases are likely to spike, the Union Health Ministry has initiated the process of importing liquid oxygen to meet any unforeseen shortage due to rise in demand for oxygen.

On behalf of the Government, public sector undertaking HLL Lifecare Limited floated a global tender on Wednesday for procuring one lakh metric tonne of liquid oxygen, as per its website.

The oxygen is being procured for various Central and State Government hospitals. The entire exercise of importing and then distributing the medical oxygen is estimated to cost ₹600-700 crore, according to officials in the Ministry.

Even though, Covid cases are on decline as has been shown by the data available from the Government, experts as well as the Government fear that the upcoming festive season and following winter



months may see a spike in coronavirus infections.

On Tuesday, Dr VK Paul, Niti Aayog member (Health), said in the coming winter months, when respiratory viruses are more dangerous, we would have to make efforts to bring a decline in the number of cases.

"Winter season is seen as a breeding ground for viruses and infections. We must remember that the world is also witnessing a second peak. We are also detecting more severe

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	15,54,389	40,859	13,16,769
Andhra Pradesh	7,67,465	6,319	7,19,477
Karnataka	7,35,371	10,198	6,11,167
Tamil Nadu	6,70,392	10,423	6,17,403
Uttar Pradesh	4,44,711	6,507	4,01,306
Delhi	3,17,548	5,898	2,89,747
Kerala	3,10,141	1,067	2,15,149
West Bengal	3,05,697	5,808	2,68,384
Odisha	2,59,541	1,125	2,35,763
Telangana	2,16,238	1,241	1,91,269
Bihar	1,99,549	967	1,87,998
Assam	1,98,213	834	1,67,056
Rajasthan	1,65,240	1,694	1,41,835
Madhya Pradesh	1,55,276	2,686	1,38,158
Gujarat	1,55,098	3,598	1,36,641
Chhattisgarh	1,47,866	1,306	1,19,350

forms of coronavirus cases as the season progresses," said the Niti Aayog member.

"This is the time for it because, during winters, respiratory infections go up and, whatever else we may say for Covid, it is, after all, a disease that affects the respiratory tract and it is well known that respiratory infections happen more during the winter season," Dr Paul said indicating rise in numbers.

A report prepared by the National Centre for Disease

Control (NCDC) too has warned that Delhi might witness an increase of 15,000 daily coronavirus cases during the winter season with festive gatherings, seasonal illnesses and influx of patients from outside adding the city's tally.

As on Tuesday, around 3.97 per cent of the Covid-19 patients were on oxygen support, 2.46 per cent were in ICU beds which are again with oxygen support and 0.40 per cent on ventilator support.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

INDIA GIVES \$1 MN FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES
Jerusalem: India on Wednesday contributed \$1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to support Palestinian refugees who have been facing extreme challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a move hailed by the UN body as 'timely help'.

MULAYAM SINGH TESTS COVID POSITIVE
Lucknow: Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav tested positive for the novel coronavirus, the party tweeted on Wednesday. "Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav has tested positive for COVID-19, and is being monitored by doctors. As of now, there are no COVID symptoms in him," it said.

Cinemas from today with Covid-19 SOP

STAFF REPORTER/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Theatres and multiplexes will open this week, the earliest on October 15, in several places, including Delhi and parts of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, with stringent dos and don'ts in keeping with the new Covid-19 normal. Sushant Singh Rajput's last theatrical release "Chhichhore" is among the films that will get a big screen re-release on Thursday.

However, theatres and multiplexes will remain closed in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Chhattisgarh.

The SOPs mandated by the Union Government include one seat distance in halls, 50 per cent capacity, masks at all time, proper ventilation and air conditioner temperature set-

tings at above 23 degrees Celsius.

PVR Cinemas, India's largest film exhibitor with 845 screens in 176 properties across 71 cities, on Wednesday said 10 States and four UTs have given their go-ahead for the reopening of cinemas. Accordingly, PVR will start operations in 487 screens from Thursday and hope that other States will soon give their green signal too.

The multiplex chain said it hopes to build customer confidence with an 'Evangelism' phase which will give people a chance to experience its enhanced safety features first-hand. This phase will involve goodwill screenings for the company's employees, health workers and the police force and their children.

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Floodwaters gush through a street following heavy rain at Falaknuma in Hyderabad on Wednesday

Pak, China win seat at UNHRC, world criticises UN body

PTI/IANS ■ ISLAMABAD/UNITED NATIONS

Pakistan along with China, Russia and Cuba won seats on the UN Human Rights Council despite strong opposition from activist groups over their abysmal human rights records.

Hillel Neuer, an international lawyer on human rights and executive director of United Nations Watch based in Geneva, condemned the election of the countries.

Apart from dozens of journalists and activists who expressed outrage, social media influencers like Surendra Poonia questioned the

UNHRC too. "How come your organization is not able to see atrocities on minorities in Pakistan and torture camps in China where Uyghur Muslims are tortured? It is like a brutal killer getting awarded for non-violence," he tweeted.

Last week, a coalition of human rights groups from Europe, the US and Canada called on UN member States to oppose the election of China, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Cuba and Uzbekistan, saying their human rights records make them unqualified.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo slammed the UN body for electing the nations.

Continued on Page 2

Covid-19 mortality rate reduces to 0.78% in Gurugram

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Despite a steady increase in corona virus cases over the last month, the district administration of Gurugram claimed that the fatality rate till Wednesday has come down from 0.85% to 0.78% in the district.

"Intensive testing and contact tracing campaign is being carried out by the health

department to identify corona infected patients in the district so that the infection does not spread to more people. Timely identification and treatment of such patients helps mortality rate is now coming down in the district," Amit Khatri, deputy commissioner, Gurugram said.

The deputy commissioner also informed that more than 900 camps have been set up at different places for testing in the

district, in which free trials have been done for the visitors.

"People who have symptoms of corona infection can go to these camps and get their test done for free. Area wise schedule has been prepared for testing in the district. Apart from this, individuals can also get their test done by going to the RT-PCR method in the civil hospital in Gurugram," Khatri said.

He said that due to the



cooperation of the health department and the residents of the district, awareness has also been increased in people

about corona infection.

"Necessary information about prevention of corona infection is also being shared by the district administration with the people," Khatri added.

Apart from this, the health official said that, the Department of AYUSH is also regularly distributing immunity kits to the people. So far, more than 2 lakh 11 thousand immunity kits have been distributed in the district. In areas

where more cases of corona infection are reported, immunity booster kits are distributed door-to-door by the team of AYUSH department.

Meanwhile, the district health department detected 269 fresh infections in the district on Wednesday. The Covid-19 tally in Gurugram rose to 24,320 according to a daily health bulletin.

One more patient infected with coronavirus died on

Wednesday in Gurugram. A total of 188 persons in the district have lost their lives to the dreaded virus to date.

There are a total of 2,327 active Covid cases in Gurugram. A total of 21,805 people have been cured and discharged after recovery.

The health department said out of 188 deaths 136 died due to co-morbidities and the remaining 52 without co-morbidity.

Delhi to frame policy for regulating pvt coaching centres

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Government is in the process of formulating a policy for regulation of private coaching centres functioning in the Capital and frame guidelines with respect to basic facilities, fee and safety measures, according to officials.

Noting that private coaching centres are running a parallel education system and are still out of the ambit of any regulation and running without any statutory compliances leading to serious hazards to students, the government has

asked institutes with enrolment of more than 20 students to register themselves with the Directorate of Education (DoE).

The government also proposes to collect the data of such institutes and details of their infrastructure, land area, basic facilities, fee structure, safety standards etc.

"Private coaching institutes and centres, imparting pre-admission coaching to students for admission into medical and engineering or any other professional courses

or pre-examination coaching for securing government or private job through written or oral examination conducted by any agency of the government or a private establishment, or coaching and tuition of any subject taught at secondary or senior secondary school examination level, are growing rapidly in Delhi," said Yogesh Pal Singh, Delhi's Assistant Director of Education.

"The students from all over India come in the city for preparation of such examinations and seek admission in private coaching centres. These institutions are running a parallel education system and are still out of the ambit of any regulation and running without any statutory compliances leading to serious hazards to students," he added.

Singh pointed out that a tragic fire incident at a coaching centre in Gujarat's Surat, which claimed lives of 22 students, has drawn the attention of the government to formulate guidelines for such private coaching institutions and centres

with respect to basic facilities, fee and safety measures etc.

"It has also come to the notice of the government about some events of cheating and fraud on the part of some private coaching centres which remain unattended due to lack of regulation in this field. The government is very much concerned to safeguard the interest of such students already enrolled or desirous to enroll into such coaching institutes in Delhi.

PTI

Inaction of Haryana Govt main cause for Delhi's pollution: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and National Spokesperson Raghav Chadha on Wednesday said the inaction of the BJP-led Government in neighbouring Haryana is a prime cause for Delhi's increasing pollution and the resulting poor Air Quality Index (AQI).

Chadha also spoke about how despite EPCA enforcing the Graded Response Action Plan, Haryana has refused to ban diesel gensets, furthering air pollution.

On 8 October 2020, EPCA Chief Bhure Lal wrote to the Chief Secretary of Haryana government regarding the urgent implementation of GRAP, he said, adding that as per the letter the use of diesel generator sets will be banned in Delhi and in vicinity such as Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida in UP and Faridabad and Gurgaon in Haryana.

"In 2019, the states of UP and Haryana had informed EPCA that they will put in the

required measures by winter 2020 so that electricity from the grid can be supplied without disruptions in these areas, which would then obviate the need for diesel generators, he said.

Chadha said, "As GRAP will come into force from 15 October, the use of diesel gensets will be banned in the regions of Delhi-NCR. While Delhi government has dutifully followed the rules set forth by EPCA, our neighbours in Haryana don't seem to want to take any action.

Their government has written 'distress letters' to EPCA repeatedly, saying that they can't enforce the ban in their state. They tell the Supreme Court-constituted body called EPCA that Gurugram and Faridabad several thousand homes that don't get electricity, that these homes are wholly dependent on diesel gensets, which is why a ban won't be conducive."

The national spokesperson also spoke about how because the Haryana govern-

ment had failed to provide electricity to its residents, the latter have been compelled to resort to an unnatural and extremely polluting form of electricity. "In my understanding, this is a failure on part of the Haryana government, who could not give its residents in the hugely populous cities of Gurugram and Faridabad supply of electricity, and compel the use of gensets," he said.

Delhi's AQI is becoming poorer by the day. In June 2020, the Haryana State Pollution Control Board had sought an extension of three months to comply with National Green Tribunal's order regarding retrofitting of diesel gensets, he said.

"Following non-compliance with that order, and in a meeting held with Central Pollution Control Board in September, another three-month extension was sought. Now we need to realise how potentially dangerous this is; we're already battling the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

158 die of Covid in Maha

Mumbai: Maharashtra on Wednesday witnessed lower trend, as 158 residents died, while 10,552 people tested positive for Covid-19 in different parts of the state.

With fresh deaths, the total Covid-19 toll rose from 40,701 to 40,859, while the infections jumped from 15,43,837 to 15,54,389m.

Of the total deaths reported on Wednesday, Mumbai accounted for 48 deaths 20 in Thane, 15 in Satara, 12 deaths each in Pune and Nagpur.

There were 9 deaths in Nashik, followed by 7 deaths in Raigad, 6 in Solapur, 5 in Sangli, 3 each in Kolhapur, Jalna, Latur and Bhandara, 2 each in Aurangabad, Osmanabad and Chandrapur and one death each in Palghar, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Beed, Yavatmal and Buldhana.

With 48 deaths, there were Covid-19 deaths 48, the total deaths rise from 9,507 to 9,555 while the infected cases rose by 2,211 to trigger a jump in the infections from 232,391 to 234,602 now.

With 38 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll rose from 9,469 to 9,507 while the infected cases went up by 1,325 to trigger a jump in the total infections from 231,066 to 232,391.

Meanwhile, the mortality rate in the state stood at 2.63 per cent. The "active cases" dropped from 2,12,439 to 1,96,288.

PNS

Pak, China win seat at UNHRC, world criticises UN body

From Page 1
Pakistan, China, Russia and Cuba to the agency tasked with defending human rights.

"The election of China, Russia, and Cuba to the UN Human Rights Council validates the US decision to withdraw from the Council in 2018 and use other venues to protect and promote universal human rights." At #UNGA this year, we did just that," Pompeo tweeted.

In a secret-ballot voting in the 193-member UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Pakistan secured 169 votes, Uzbekistan received 164, Nepal 150 and China 139. Saudi Arabia lost the race with just 90 votes.

"US commitment to human rights is far more than just words. We have identified and punished human rights abusers in Xinjiang, Myanmar, Iran, and elsewhere, and call for all nations to take this moment to recommit to the #UDHR," Pompeo said in another tweet.

"The bad news: governments just elected China to the UN Human Rights Council despite its severe repression in Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong Kong. The good news: the number of governments voting for it declined from 180 last time to 139 now. The fear is melting," Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth tweeted after the vote.

Pakistan is currently serving on the HRC since January 1, 2018. With its reelection, the country will continue as a member for another three-year term commencing on January 1, 2021.

Ban on all types of...

From Page 1
The measures to be followed in the "emergency" situation include stopping entry of trucks in Delhi, ban on construction activities and introduction of the odd-even rationing scheme. The EPCA, however, had earlier told Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh that they "should try and avert the need to take other emergency measures for pollution control as the economy is already under stress post-lockdown. Therefore, our combined effort is to ensure that there is no further disruption".

The GRAP is a set of anti-pollution measures that come into force in Delhi and its vicinity towns according to the severity of the situation. It was notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2017 for implementation through the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority.

When the situation turns "severe", the GRAP recommends closure of brick kilns, stone crushers and hot mix plants, sprinkling of water, frequent mechanised cleaning of roads and maximising power generation from natural gas.

Meanwhile, the national Capital's air quality was recorded in the "poor" category on Wednesday morning, even as pollution levels dipped slightly. According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the air quality is likely to improve to the moderate category by Thursday.

The city recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 274 at 10:30 am. The 24-hour average AQI was 300 on Tuesday. The AQI had hit "very poor" levels on Tuesday morning and stood at 306 at 11 am, which was the worst since February. Thereafter, the pollution levels dipped slightly due to an improvement in the ventilation index. Ventilation index is the speed at which pollutants can get dispersed. A ventilation index lower than 6,000 sqm/second, with average wind speed less than 10 kmph, is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants. An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory".

PTI

Cinemas...

From Page 1
The movie screenings will begin from Friday, October 16, and tickets will go live on their website as well as other ticketing platforms from midnight.

Like the others in the business, INOX Leisure Ltd said it has introduced security checks like mandatory masks and temperature checks besides staggered entries, intermissions and exits. The theatre chain will completely rely on e-tickets instead of paper tickets and an all-in-one SMS with links for the QR code, auditoriums seat chart and access to F&B menu.

"We are also looking to innovate with private screenings, where families or smaller groups of guests can book the entire auditorium and enjoy the content of their choice," its CEO Alok Tandon said in a statement.

Cinemas have to deal with the double whammy of Covid fears and old content and have their fingers crossed as they prepare to rollout a different kind of movie going experience. As theatres managements scrupulously sanitise their premises in preparation for the big day and hope for audiences to warily trickle back in, the fare is likely to be a mix of international, Hindi and regional language cinema but basically old titles. It will take a while before new content returns. The release of two major Bollywood movies -- "83", about India's cricket world cup victory, and "Sooryavanshi" starring Akshay Kumar -- has been pushed to Christmas and next year, respectively. So, if PVR will screen earlier hits such as Keanu Reeves' "John Wick 3", Ajay Devgn's "Tanhaji" and Tapsee Pannu starrer "Thappad", Bihar-based exhibitor Vishek Chauhan, who runs the Roopbani Cinema in Purnea will play Rajput-starrer "Chhichhore".

Waive interest...

From Page 1
The Centre recently told the apex court that going any further than the fiscal policy decisions already taken, such as waiver of compound interest charged on loans of up to Rs 2 crore for six months moratorium period, may be "detrimental" to the overall economic scenario, the national economy and banks may not take "inevitable financial constraints".

The top court is hearing a batch of petitions which have raised issues concerning the six-month loan moratorium period announced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bench, also comprising Justices R S Reddy and M R Shah, said when authorities have decided something then it has to be implemented.

"The government has taken a welcome decision taking note of the plight of common man. But you have not issued any order to anybody. You have simply given us the affidavit," the bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

"We are now concerned about how waiver benefit will be given," the bench said, adding, "We are only asking whether the loan interest waiver has percolated or not". During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, Mehta told the bench that the Centre has taken an "informed decision" and has taken a "huge burden".

"When Central Government says on an affidavit that it will be implemented then there should not be any apprehensions," Mehta said. "There is diversity in

Centre poised...

From Page 1
In March, before the country went into a lockdown, the country had a manufacturing capacity of around 6,400 metric tonne of oxygen per day, of which around 1,000 metric tonne was being used for medical purposes daily while the rest was utilised by industries, said the officials.

"Industries have opened up following unlock procedures and as on September 30, the country's daily capacity of oxygen production is around 7,000 metric tonne, of which around 3,094 metric tonne is being used for both COVID and non-COVID patients and is just enough to meet the demands," they added.

"So this one lakh metric tonne of liquid oxygen which is being planned to be procured from foreign countries would create a one month buffer in case demand rises further during the winter season," the source explained.

Senior lawyer Rajeev Dutta, appearing for one of the petitioners, said the banks are capitalizing by taking interest on interest on existing loans. "We are small people with small loans (less than Rs 2 crore). They should not compound the interest in these cases," Dutta said.

To this, the bench said it has already ordered that banks cannot declare NPAs.

"We have already passed an order prohibiting classification of NPAs and without a fiscal policy, proposals cannot be altered," it said, while asking the Centre and banks association as to when the benefits would be implemented.

"For these modalities you require one-month time," the bench asked.

Salve said, "The complexity is such, it requires time". The bench, however, said that the decisions taken by the authorities should be implemented now.

Sharad...

From Page 1
"I feel honoured to have joined the Congress," he said. In 1980, Pandey won the Bihar Vidhan Sabha election as an independent candidate and then won the 1984 Parliamentary elections from Gopalganj in the State. "This is my old home and I am happy to be back to my old home," he said. Bihar Congress chief Madan Mohan Jha and AICC Secretary for Congress in Bihar Devendra Yadav welcomed the leaders into the party fold.

As the election campaign begins in the poll bound Bihar, the State Congress unit has expressed their eagerness that party leader Rahul Gandhi address as many poll rallies across the State.

Party sources said that the RJD too has reached out to Rahul proposing that he address a couple of joint rallies with the Grand Alliance face Tejashwi Yadav.

Western Railway Cancellation Notice
Please refer to this office Tender notice no. (1) BCT/20-21/203, dt.: 21.09.2020 which is to be opened on 20.10.2020 may be treated as cancelled.

Farmers walk out of Govt meet

From Page 1
Farmers' leaders who had come in a bus, were mostly senior citizens but had not even worn face masks despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Farmers have blocked roads and railway tracks since September 24 in a protest against legislations they fear could pave the way for the Government to stop buying cereals at guaranteed prices (minimum support prices or MSP), leaving them vulnerable to exploitation by private players. The farmers' organisations had decided on Tuesday to hold talks with the Centre.

Meanwhile, the Central Ministers are reaching out to farmers, scientists and agri professionals in Congress-ruled Punjab to clear misgivings about new farm laws. Eight Union Ministers including Hardeep Singh Puri have been deputed to hold virtual rallies over eight days from October 13 onwards to "address apprehensions" of farmers in Punjab.

Union Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Choudhary held a virtual meeting on Wednesday with farmers of Sangrur and Barnala districts.

Modi to...

From Page 1
The elections in Bihar will be held in three phases on October 28, Nov 3 and Nov 7 for the 243-seat assembly. In the first phase 71 constituencies, second phase 94 constituencies and in the third and last phase 78 Assembly constituencies would go to poll. With voting for the first phase only two weeks away, the BJP is speeding up with the selection of candidates for the rest of the assembly segments, releasing names of 35 candidates on Wednesday.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल
यात्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय) गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.ई.ए.)
निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र
दिनांक 13.10.2020

क्र.	ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	थरोहर राशि	प्रथम राशि	कार्य हेतु निर्धारित एस.ओ.आर.	कार्य की अवधि
1	2020-111083_1	CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED SHOPPING COMPLEX AT NADRA BUS STAND WARD NO 18 ZONE NO 04	50199978/-	5019999/-	20,000/-	MPUADD BUILDING AND ELECTRICITY SOR 2012 OR MPUADD ROADS WORK.ISSR 2012 AND NON SOR ITEM	12 Months
2	2020-110997_1	CONSTRUCTION OF COMMERCIAL SHOPPING COMPLEX AT SHABBAN SQUARE JEHANGIRABAD WARD NO 34 ZONE NO 08	4976285/-	99525/-	10,000/-	MPUADD BUILDING AND ELECTRICITY SOR 2012 AND NON SOR ITEM	07 Month

1 निविदा प्रपत्र को निर्धारित राशि एवं थरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे एवं अन्य समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
2 विद्युतीकरण से संबंधित कार्यों के लिये स्वयं के पास ए क्लास विद्युत टेकेदारी पंजीयन या ए क्लास विद्युत टेकेदारी का पंजीयन धारक टेकेदार के साथ ज्वाइंट वेंचर होना अनिवार्य है।
3 किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा।

अधीक्षक यंत्र (सिविल)
नगर निगम, भोपाल
फ़ि.क्र. 951/020/021

Ensure safety protocols: CM to cinema halls body

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday interacted with representatives of cinema halls and said the people of Delhi, including the associations, will have to work together to revive the economy of Delhi. The representative of the cinema associations thanked the Delhi Government for opening up cinema halls in Delhi.

Kejriwal said the cinema associations must ensure following the safety protocols and social distancing and sanitization guidelines and SOPs of the Central and the State Government.

"The last seven months have been very tough for us. The whole country and the whole world is suffering from

GUIDELINES

- ◆ Viewers will have to download the Arogya Setu App on their mobile
- ◆ There is a complete ban on eating and drinking while watching the film
- ◆ The audience will have to be seated according to alternative seating arrangements
- ◆ There will be a cross mark on seat that cannot be folded
- ◆ The entire system of purchasing tickets will be online.
- ◆ The technical system of the AC has also been changed for the convenience of the viewers. Entry and exit gates, seats, and lobbies will be sanitized from time to time
- ◆ The cinema hall should be cleaned after every show
- ◆ Everyone in hall will be required to stay in masks, and the cinema halls will have to provide sanitizers to the viewers

the Corona pandemic. Delhi has fought a very tough and a strong battle against Corona. The most important thing is getting Delhi's economy back on track, which has dismantled

due to the Corona lockdown. Now, we have to bring Delhi's economy back on track through our collective efforts. We cannot stay in lockdown forever, we have to open the



economy of Delhi. Since Unlock 1, we have started opening the economy of Delhi as per the guidelines and orders of the Central government. I hope that the cinema halls will follow the guidelines and SOPs of the central as well as the state government. It is extremely necessary to follow the social distancing and sanitization protocols in the cinema halls."

The meeting was attended by representatives from theatre companies like PVR, M2K, Movie Time, Cinemapolis, Inox, Unity, Pacific, etc. They assured the Chief Minister of

full adherence to all the directions as per the guidelines and SOPs issued by the Government of India.

They thanked the CM for allowing the cinema halls to open from October 15, as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the central government.

On October 7, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) permitted all the cinema halls of the Capital to open with up to 50 percent capacity from October 15, after Kejriwal's constant persistence.

City Govt plans to turn Delhi into solar Capital of India

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Promoting clean and safest method to produce power/energy, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said to strengthen the solar power, the solar energy has to be transformed into a mass movement.

Inaugurating 218 KWP power plant at Lady Irwin college on Wednesday, Kejriwal said his Government has done formulated major policies for solar energy usage in the city, such as Mukhya Mantri Solar Power Yojana, that includes incentivising the installation of solar power plants for residential and commercial properties and Mukya Mantri Kisan Aay Badhotri Solar Yojana that includes increasing the income of farmers by three to four times.

"Green Energy is the future of resources of energy, and Delhi will soon become the Solar Capital of India through such initiatives and solar power journey of Delhi has just begun, and we do not have many achievements in this space," Kejriwal said, adding, "Considering that, when institutes like Lady Irwin College take initiatives from the forefront, they turn into an example and an inspiration for other institutes and organizations. I want to congratulate the Lady Irwin College for taking an initiative. I want to thank Okridge energy for successfully completing the project despite adverse conditions and time constraints."

"In the last few years, we have formulated a policy framework for solar energy. Two policies were designed by the Delhi government, the first was expanding solar power generation to the citizens of Delhi. Solar power was not affordable and is not under the affordability bracket of the general public. Under the policy, the people only had to give their rooftops. A company would install the solar power panel on the rooftop, and the DHydroelectric will provide a subsidy on the solar power



panel so that the initial spending is less. The power company would then sell power to you, as well as to other power companies. The residents, RWAs, or any entity which is installing the solar power panel, does not have to spend any capital cost, and in fact, they will save money on power consumption as well. They will be able to save lakhs by just giving their rooftops and completing or signing on some documents," he added.

As solar energy can be used in farming also, Kejriwal highlighted its vision and said, "Our second policy is for the farmers, where if the farmers permit installation of solar power panels at some height and the farmers will receive rent from the solar power plants. They can also continue cultivating their farmlands."

"This increases their income by three to four times. They can start earning 1 lakh per acres instead of Rs. 40000-50000 per acre. Our total solar power generation was 7 MW and has gone up to 177 MW in four years. We have to increase the scope of utilizing solar energy in Delhi. We have to create a solar energy movement in the city to promote the usage of solar energy. We have to create awareness around this scheme. We have to create a movement so that RWAs, the general public, government, and private institutions, all can install solar power plants.

I hope that we will begin a solar energy movement in the city and I am certain that Delhi will become the Solar Capital of India. The people of Delhi have done some commendable works in the last four to five years, and the world is appreciating the health and educational infrastructure in Delhi. The EV policy, which has been formulated recently has been recently applauded. Out of all the available sources of energy, the future belongs to Green Energy. Thermal energy is a polluting source of energy. We have shut down both the thermal power plants and there are still 11 thermal power plants around Delhi. For Hydro-electric power plants, a large section of land has to be acquired and whole villages had to be submerged. Solar power energy can be done on a local level. I want to congratulate the NDMC and Lady Irwin College for this initiative."

Interestingly, Delhi government has signed low tariff renewable energy power purchase agreements and has played a major role in enabling DISCOMS to enter into PPAs for 2000 MW of renewable power at the lowest rates in the country of about Rs 2.8 per unit. Around 2000 MW of Solar and Wind energy PPAs have been signed between 2015-2019 at an average cost of Rs. 2.8 per unit.

Body of woman found behind bushes in Dwarka

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A body of a 40-year-old woman with injury marks on the neck was found behind bushes in Dwarka Sector-23 in southwest Delhi on Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Sharmila who was married and lived with her family in Revla Khanpur.

According to a senior police official, Sharmila's body was found behind the bushes on Tuesday. "She has injury marks on her neck. It appears that she was attacked with a sharp object. It could be a knife or a blade," he said.

"Police have registered a case of murder and efforts are being made to nab the accused. Police teams are scanning CCTV cameras in the area to identify the accused and to know the crime sequence," said Santosh Kumar Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka district.

Close 11 thermal plants: Jain urges Centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi minister Satyendar Jain on Wednesday said he has written to the Union power minister seeking closure of 11 thermal power stations around the national capital, which contribute majorly to pollution in Delhi and its neighbouring areas.

Addressing the media, Jain said that the biggest contributors of Delhi pollution are the thermal power plants around Delhi. "The Delhi is the only state where all three thermal power plants shut down. Delhi Power Minister also noted in his letter that the Delhi government has shown the path by shutting down the thermal power plants that can be done.

Jain said that despite the Supreme Court order, the Central government intends to renew these power stations and allow them two more years. He said that shutting down the 11 power plants that are still functioning will definitely create a difference in the

pollution situation of Delhi.

Jain said, "The biggest contributors of Delhi pollution are the thermal power plants around Delhi. In 2015, orders were passed to shut these thermal power stations within two years which was later revised to 2019 by the Central Government. In a bid to bring down the pollution of Delhi the Delhi government shut down the IP power plant in 2009, the Rajghat power plant in 2015 and Badarpur power plant in 2018 due to increased environmental concerns. Delhi is the only state where there is no thermal power station."

Jain said, "The Central government intends to renew these power stations and allow them two more years to function despite informing the Supreme Court in 2015 that by 2019 they will lower the pollution level.

Responding to the questions of the journalists he said, "Dadri power station which causes immense pollution in the city despite crossing its threshold of completing 25



years is being planned to be renewed by the Central government. Stubble burning and power plants are the biggest contributors to the harmful quality of air in Delhi. On the issue of air quality, the minister said every step counts."

Jain said, "Delhi has alternative sources to generate power and there is no lack of it even during the peak hours, so these thermal plants can be closed as it will not lead to reduction of power supply." On the issue of non-pay-

ment of salaries to the staff at Hindu Rao hospital, he reiterated that North MCD should hand over hospitals to Delhi Government.

Jain said, "MCD had earlier tried transferring the hospitals to the center but they did not take them. We give funds to the MCD, but we are unaware of the expenditure since they do not get an audit done. A formal written proposal has been sent to the center to transfer these hospitals to the Delhi Government."

Action against those flouting dust control norms: Rai



Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai inspect the redevelopment project sites of Chandni Chowk in New Delhi on Wednesday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday said strict action is being

taken against those flouting dust control norms, be it the Delhi government's Public Works Department (PWD) or municipal corporations.

The minister said the issue of pollution is related to people's health and all agencies are equally responsible for its prevention and control. "It doesn't matter which agency it is... Be it PWD or MCDs, all have to take measures to prevent dust pollution. Strict action is being taken against those not following the government's directions," he told reporters during the inspection of the Chandni Chowk Redevelopment Project site.

As part of the anti-dust pollution campaign of the Delhi government, Rai on Wednesday made a surprise inspection of the ongoing construction work at the Chandni Chowk. "The environment minister found that all the guidelines issued by the Delhi government were followed at the construction site," he said.

Rai said that four water

tankers were found on the spot to prevent dust pollution. Officials said people in the vicinity dump debris on the road at night. Thereafter, Rai directed the PWD to clean the debris in collaboration with the MCD. He said that the issue of pollution is not about any agency, but it is about the life of the people.

Rai said, "I have directed the authorities to maintain every precautionary measure as it is a very populated area. When I visited the spot then I found that water sprinkling was happening but we will separately monitor the matter too. We will also monitor whether e-rickshaws are doing dust-pollution in the area."

On the tree transplantation policy, he said, "The policy has a provision that the agency which is carrying on the transplantation should maintain the trees and if they

cannot maintain at least 80 percent of the trees then the payment of the agency will be stopped."

The Minister also said, "If anywhere, anyone is causing pollution, whether it is PWD, MCD, or private entity the work should be stopped. All agencies need to work together to prevent pollution. So it does not matter which agency it is." The minister had on Tuesday issued directions to impose a fine of Rs 20 lakh on North Delhi Municipal Corporation for violating dust control guidelines at Bhalswa landfill site. Rai had earlier asked common people, private and government agencies that have undertaken construction works to take adequate measures to prevent dust pollution, "else strict action will be taken against them".

He had asked them to follow five steps -- installing

windshields and barriers at the periphery of construction and demolition sites, covering debris with tarpaulin, using green net to prevent dust from blowing out, water sprinkling and covering trucks carrying construction material.

The minister said all construction and demolition sites, irrespective of their sizes, will have to compulsorily take the five steps. He also said the government has started "micro monitoring" of all the 13 pollution hotspots in the city and will soon deploy environment marshals to check violations of environmental norms.

The environment department has set up 14 inspection teams to check violations of pollution norms. This AAP government's anti-dust campaign will continue till Thursday.

Teen behind hit-and-run in which 2 minors killed held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has apprehended a 17-year-old boy in connection with a road accident in Northwest Delhi's Model Town in which two minor sisters were killed while their brother and a 55-year-old man sustained injuries.

Police said that the class 12 student, studying at a private school, was apprehended from his residence at DTC Colony in Model Town on Wednesday. His father is in the hardware business. Police said that on the boy's instance, the offending vehicle was recovered from a mechanic shop where his family had given it for repair work and the vehicle was registered in the name of his uncle, who is based in Haryana.

The accident took place on Monday night near Gurdwara Nanak Piao on GT Road, Jaspal Singh, his wife, three children -- two daughters and a son -- and friend Milap Singh were travelling in a car to visit an acquaintance. On the way, they stopped at a CNG station opposite the gurdwara.

Milap Singh got out of the vehicle and was about to cross GT Road along with Jaspal Singh's three children when a car hit them, police said, adding they were rushed to different hospitals. During treatment,

one of the girls who was admitted to the AIIMS Trauma Centre, died, they said, adding she was aged seven.

Her four-year-old sister, admitted to the Safdarjung hospital, also succumbed to injuries, a senior police officer said. Their six-year-old brother and Milap Singh are undergoing treatment, he said.

According to Vijyanta Arya, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northwest district during investigation, records of road transport authorities of both Haryana and Chandigarh were checked and the registration number of the offending vehicle was confirmed and it was ascertained that the car involved in the accident was a white-coloured Honda City.

"Since the first ownership, the vehicle has been further sold to three different persons. On contacting the third owner, who was based in Haryana, he told police that the vehicle was registered in his name but it was being presently used by his relatives in Delhi," said the DCP.

"On Wednesday, a 17-year-old boy, who was driving the car at the time of incident, was apprehended from his residence and the offending vehicle was recovered from a mechanic shop," said the DCP.

Jolly slaps legal notice on Kejriwal for defamatory video tweet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader Vijay Jolly on Tuesday slapped a legal notice on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, AAP Uttar Pradesh unit Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh -- AAP UP for a defamatory video tweet titled "darindo ke samman mei" on October 7, 2020.

Jolly alleged that through its official twitter handle @AAPUttarPradesh the party tweeted a false, incorrect, untrue, malicious, mischievous and defamatory video publication of old news clippings of rape charges against Vijay Jolly.

"There is no rape charge pending in any police station or court of India," Jolly said in a statement. He mentioned false charge was investigated by Haryana Police and that he was given a clean chit in August 2017 and later the court dismissed it as a false case in July 2019.

Two educational YouTube channels launched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the outbreak of Covid pandemic to provide digital audio-visual learning platform to teachers and students of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC),

Chairperson Dharmendra has launched two educational YouTube Channels - "Atal Adarsh Shiksha" and "Navyug Pragati".

After launching the NDMC's educational YouTube channels in his inaugural

address on the channel, Dharmendra said "Today the entire world is going through a very difficult time due to the outbreak of covid-19 pandemic. Education institutions have also been hit hard as the schools have been shut down

since March this year," he said.

In this 'New Normal' which we may call this period, our schools have risen to the occasion and switched to online teaching, he said, adding that unprecedented times require unprecedented mea-

asures, so despite all odds, our educators have been working hard to find innovative solutions to make learning better and accessible to all.

Dharmendra said that our teachers will now upload their lessons on YouTube.

Focus on security, adherence to Covid norms in festive season

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With festive season ahead and to ensure people while visiting market follow Covid-19 norms, the Delhi Police this year had planned to focus on security in the city's high-footfall markets. Police said they are also holding meetings with market associations and urging them to ensure social distancing.

Khan Market, Karol Bagh, Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazaar, Connaught Place, Janpath, Lajpat Nagar market and Sarojini Nagar are among the markets in the national capital that draw high footfall. According to R P Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of

Police (DCP), Southeast district meetings were held with market welfare associations, and an awareness campaign related to COVID-19 was being run and this time, besides anti-terror announcements, a new audio clip related to the COVID-19 will be played through loud-speakers.

"In the audio, the general public will be advised to maintain social distancing while shopping and wear masks properly. Police had a meeting with market welfare association of Lajpat Nagar market. They have deployed their volunteers, who are ensuring the coronavirus norms are followed. We are also running an awareness campaign for the COVID-19

related norms," said the DCP. "Police is taking several steps such as making announcements for wearing masks, follow social distancing, and washing hands regularly. These are being done through police vehicles and public address systems that are in place at crowded places such as markets," said Dr Eish Singhal, the Delhi Police spokesperson.

"Police teams present at such places also apprise people about the three precautionary measures to fight coronavirus (COVID-19). For violators, we are issuing challans. For the needy, we are distributing masks," said Dr Singhal. Meanwhile, on Monday, Anto Alphonse, the Deputy

Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district, visited the Chandni Chowk market and reviewed security arrangements there.

"Police officers also met with representatives of the different market associations. The officials discussed about the necessary measures to be taken for the security of traders as well as of visitors to the market. The police urged the shopkeepers' association members to install maximum number of cameras in the market and ensure deployment of guards. All shopkeepers were advised to keep sanitisation arrangements and try to ensure social distancing," said a police official. A senior police official

from the north district said, "It is a challenge for police to ensure social distancing in high-footfall areas, and it seems to be a difficult task for us, but we will keep announcing the precautions through loud-speakers in the market areas. We have also urged the shopkeepers to install CCTV cameras focusing on roads outside their shops."

From June 15 till Tuesday, the Delhi Police has issued 3,86,188 challans for not wearing masks and 31,874 challans for violation of social distancing norms. The force has distributed 3,56,899 masks to people. Atul Bhargava, president of New Delhi Traders Association, said the footfall in the markets



has increased, and consumers are taking all precautions before stepping out.

"As the festive season is approaching, the traders are making all efforts in view of the

COVID-19 pandemic and also cooperating with police regarding the security. We have ensured social distance is maintained inside the shops, Bhargava said.

LOCKDOWN IMPACT

Global carbon emissions fall to record low: Study



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Coronavirus-triggered lockdown in the first half of 2020 has led to a decline of 1,551 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emission which was higher than during the financial crisis of 2008, the oil crisis of the 1970s, or even World War II, according to a study by an international team of researchers.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, pointed out that the greatest reduction of emissions was observed in the ground transportation sector, largely because of working from home restrictions. Transport CO₂ emissions decreased by 40 per cent worldwide while in contrast, the power and industry sectors contributed less to the decline, with -22 per cent and -17 per cent respectively, as did the aviation and shipping sectors.

"In the first six months of this year, 8.8 per cent less carbon dioxide was emitted than in the same period in 2019 - a total decrease of 1,551 million tonnes,"

said the study which not only offers a much more precise look at COVID-19's impact on global energy consumption than previous analyses.

"What makes our study unique is the analysis of meticulously collected near-real-time data" explains lead author Zhu Liu from the Department of Earth System Science at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

"By looking at the daily figures compiled by the Carbon Monitor research initiative we were able to get a much faster and more accurate overview, including timelines that show how emissions decrease have corresponded to lockdown measures in each country.

"In April, at the height of the first wave of Corona infections, when most major countries shut down their public life and parts of their economy, emissions even declined by 16.9%. Overall, the various outbreaks resulted in emission drops that we normally see only on a short-term basis on holidays such as Christmas or the

Chinese Spring Festival."

"The greatest reduction of emissions was observed in the ground transportation sector," explains Daniel Kammen, professor and Chair of the Energy and Resources Group and also professor in the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley.

Surprisingly, even the residential sector saw a small emissions drop of 3% largely because of an abnormally warm winter in the northern hemisphere, heating energy consumption decreased with most people staying at home all day during lockdown periods."

The authors have stressed that the only valid strategy to stabilise the climate is a complete overhaul of the industry and commerce sector. "While the CO₂ drop is unprecedented, decreases of human activities cannot be the answer," says Co-Author Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, founding director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

SFJ sedition case: NIA conducts searches at six locations in Punjab

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has conducted searches at six locations in Punjab in connection with the Sikh for Justice (SFJ) case relating to hoisting of the so called Khalistani flag by the cadres of the outlawed outfit at the office of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Moga (Punjab) on the eve of Independence Day, 2020.

The agency conducted searches at six locations in Ferozpur, Ludhiana and Moga districts of Punjab on Tuesday NIA case relating to Khalistani flag hoisting case.

"This crime was committed by the miscreants who were offered cash rewards at the behest of terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannu of SFJ for this heinous act," the NIA said in a statement.

The agency further said, "The searched premises belong to the accused Akashdeep Singh, Jogwinder Singh, Inderjeet Singh, Jaspal Singh and Ram Tirath.

The cyber cafe belonging to the accused Jaspal Singh was also searched."

During searches, various electronic items like pen drives, laptops, hard disc and other incriminating documents have been seized, it said.

The background of the case is that on August 14, 2020, two miscreants hoisted a yellow coloured flag with Khalistan written on it on the terrace of the four-storied building of the Deputy Commissioner Office Complex, Moga (Punjab) and while coming back, they cut the rope of the Indian National Flag hoisted near the main gate and dragged the



During searches, various electronic items like pen drives, laptops, hard disc and other incriminating documents have been seized, it said

Indian National Flag along with the rope.

In connection with this incident, a case was registered at Moga police station vide FIR No: 136 of 2020 dated August 14, 2020. The case was re-registered by the NIA as RC-30/2020/NIA/DLI under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections relating to waging war against the nation, conspiracy for waging war against the nation, sedition, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, imputations prejudicial to national integration and Section 2 of Prevention of Insults to National Honours Act, 1972.

Further investigation in the case is continuing.

SFJ is a banned terrorist outfit in India and Pannu has been designated as a terrorist. The SFJ is a project launched and sustained at the behest of Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to carry out the so-called Referendum 2020 online.

Urban poor to get concessional finance under Affordable Housing Fund to make houses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to provide housing for urban poor, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Wednesday will provide concessional finance under Affordable Housing Fund (AHF), rebate in taxes and additional floor area ratio for Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs). The scheme will be implemented through two models.

To make this a lucrative and viable business opportunity for Entities, Central Govt. will provide Concessional Project finance under Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) & Priority Sector Lending (PSL), Exemption in Income Tax and GST and technology innovation grant for promotion of innovative technologies in ARHCs. Further, State/UT government will provide Use Permission changes, 50% additional Floor Area

Ratio/ Floor space index (FSI) free of cost, Single Window Approval within 30 days, Trunk Infrastructure facility and Municipal charges at par with residential property.

This was announced by Union Housing and Urban Affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri while addressing a webinar at the launch of ARHCs portal. He also released the guidelines and guidebook on this occasion.

According to the ministry, in the first model, the existing government funded vacant houses to be converted into ARHCs through Public Private Partnership or by public agencies for a period of 25 years. The scheme provides an opportunity for all States/UTs to convert their existing vacant houses constructed under various Central/ State Government schemes into ARHCs. A model request for proposal (RFP) has been

shared with all States for customisation and issuance by them to select a concessionaire.

In the second model, vacant land lying unutilised with various Industries, Trade Associations, Manufacturing Companies, Educational/ Health Institutions, Development Authorities, Housing Boards, Central/ State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other such Entities will be used for ARHCs for a period of 25 years. "By providing with appropriate policy support, enabling suitable provisions and incentives, these available vacant lands can be utilised effectively for developing affordable housing facilities to migrants/ poor," the ministry said. Further, the ministry will issue Expression of Interest (EoI) for shortlisting of Entities by urban local bodies to Construct, Operate and Maintain ARHCs on their own available vacant land.

Vardhan launches second phase of CIL CSR to give financial aid to thalassaemic patients

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Wednesday launched the second phase of a Coal India CSR initiative to provide financial assistance for treatment of underprivileged thalassaemic patients.

Launched in 2017, the Thalassaemia Bal Sewa Yojana is a hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) programme that aims to provide a one-time cure opportunity for haemoglobinopathies like thalassaemia and sickle cell disease for patients who have a matched family donor.

The CSR initiative was targeted to provide financial assistance to a total of 200 patients by providing a package cost not exceeding Rs 10 lakh per HSCT.

Vardhan congratulated the doctors of SGPGI Lucknow, PGI Chandigarh, AIIMS Delhi, CMC Vellore, Tata Medical Centre in Kolkata and Rajeev

Gandhi Cancer Institute, Delhi for the successful transplantation of 135 children without charging any physician fee, according to a Health Ministry statement.

"Data on the prevalence of silent carriers for various haemoglobinopathies show that it is 2.9-4.6 per cent for β-Thalassaemia, while it can be as high as 40 per cent for sickle cell anaemia especially among the tribal population. Haemoglobin variants like HBE in eastern India can be as common as 3-50 per cent which calls for more attention to these diseases," he was quoted as saying in the statement.

He also acknowledged CMC, Ludhiana and Narayan Hrudayalaya, Bangalore who have agreed to provide this advanced care therapy from 2020.

Expressing gratitude to Coal India and their CSR team for providing such opportunity to the BPL patients suffering from haema-

tological disorders and extending the support for another two years from 2020, Vardhan mentioned the issue of high out-of-pocket-expenditure on health services in India.

"People go bankrupt selling ancestral land and the last property paying for their treatment. It is precisely that pain that moved Prime Minister Narendra Modi to introduce the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana for targeted populace," he said.

Expressing satisfaction that the scheme has been extended to cover aplastic anaemia patients for a total of 200 such patients from this year, he said, "Such cases can be prevented by counselling using the Ayushman Bharat -Health and Wellness Centres network. We have made blood transfusion facilities available in every district hospital while some districts also offer the facility in health centres at sub-district level.

Strict vigil to be maintained against polluting activities in Delhi, neighbouring towns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In order to step up efforts for ensuring better air quality and address pollution related issues in the upcoming winter season, strict vigil will be maintained against polluting activities in Delhi and neighbouring towns, the Union Environment Ministry said on Wednesday.

Fifty teams of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will be deployed to make extensive field visits from October 15 this year till February 28 next year, it said.

In a statement, the Ministry of Environment said the teams will visit Delhi and NCR towns - Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut in Uttar Pradesh; Gurugram, Faridabad, Ballabgarh, Haryana; Panipat, Sonapat in Haryana; and Bhiwadi, Alwar, Bharatpur in Rajasthan.

These teams will specifically focus on hotspot areas where the problem is aggravated, it said.

"Strict vigil will be maintained against polluting activities in the upcoming winter season. On-spot reporting of major air polluting sources such as major construction activities without proper control measures, dumping of garbage and construction waste alongside the roads and on

open plots, unpaved roads, open burning of garbage/industrial waste, etc. will be done using SAMEER App.

"Feedback on polluting activities will be shared with concerned agencies through an automated system, for quick action. Details will also be shared with State Governments. This will help in taking timely actions and monitoring at appropriate levels by the concerned agencies," it said.

The ministry said that a central control room at the CPCB headquarters has been made functional for keeping track of pollution levels on hour-to-hour basis and overall coordination with state agencies.

In addition, district-wise nodal officers have been appointed for better management and coordination with teams, the ministry said.

"Air quality in winter season is a major environmental concern in Delhi and NCR region. Various efforts are being taken since past five years for air quality management in the region. Although gradual year-on-year improvement in air quality has been observed, a lot needs to be done," it said.

Bharat Biotech to halve volunteers for speedy clinical trial of Covaxin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based drug Hphrama Bharat Biotech has decided to cut by half its number of volunteers and subsequently reduce trial sites for the Phase II clinical trials of coronavirus vaccine candidate Covaxin. This may lead to an expedition of phase-2 trials, said a few reports.

According to the reports, the biotechnology firm had enrolled 750 volunteers for the Covaxin trials, but has now reduced the number to 380 who will be dosed with the vaccine.

The number of trial sites would also be reduced accordingly. This may lead to an expedition of phase-2 trials and a possible early start of the third phase - leading to a shortened duration of clinical trials for Covaxin.

The report, citing lead

trial investigators, suggests that the decision to scale-down the trial size was based on good sero-conversion or immunogenicity seen in volunteers during phase-1.

The potential vaccine against COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, is being developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology (NIV).

The first phase of Covaxin's clinical trial involved 375 volunteers. Interim data from phase-1 has not been made public yet.

The reports further suggest that no major adverse reactions have been noted so far, apart from minor side effects such as mild fever and body aches.

Researchers are currently

in the process of administering the second dose to participants as part of the phase-2 trial. Two doses of the Covaxin vaccine candidate are to be administered with a gap of 14 days between them.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Property Document Correction Deed of Pacific Business Park, Plot No.37/1, Sahibabad Industrial Area, Site-IV, Ghaziabad-201010. The above said Correction Deed was registered at sub-Registrar-I, Ghaziabad vide Document No.7559 In book No.-263-270, Serial No.5011 on dated 09-09-2008 has lost. If any body found Pls return on below Address:- Ambarish Kumar, Plot No.1, Dr. Burman Road, Sahibabad Industrial area, Site-IV, Ghaziabad-201010

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas my clients, Mrs. Satish Varna W/o. Sh. Sarafuddin & Mr. Sarafuddin S/o. Sh. Mohin Ahmad both R/o Gram Bhagpur, Biliyari Gari, Aligarh, U.P., 20121 at present 257A, Mukundpur Extn. Block-B, Delhi, hereby declare that they have discovered, dis-inherited & debarred their son Mr. Shaikhe Ahmad from their property 257A, Mukundpur Extn. Block-B, Part - 1 Khasra No. 203, Delhi. & all movable, immovable & other properties w/o. from today & if any body deals with them, shall do so at his/her/their own risk cost & responsibility. My clients & their family members shall not be responsible in any manner. My Clients shall not be responsible if any person shall any type of deal with their son Mr. Shaikhe Ahmad S/o. Sh. Sarafuddin R/o. 257A, Mukundpur Extn., Block-B, Part - 1 Khasra No. 203, Delhi. Salya Kumar (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby brought to the notice of the public at large, that (1) Original Allotment letter dated 11.05.2013 and (2) Original Apartment Buyer Agreement dated 11.07.2013 issued/issued in favour of Smt Sanchit Gupta of Property bearing Apartment No. 1802, on the 17th floor, area measuring 96.77 Sq. mtr. in the building known as Tower F, situated in Godrej Summit, in the Village Gurgaon, Tehsil and Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana, has been misplaced & could not found till date. The Public at large is hereby informed that Smt Sanchit Gupta, who is present owner of the aforesaid Property and has owned certain credit facilities from HDFC Bank Ltd. against security of the said property. Any person, who comes in knowledge or possession of aforementioned lost documents, may please return the same to us at below mentioned address. Any person dealing with the deeds/documents and / or the aforesaid Property and/or deriving any benefit by impersonation or claiming any interest in the aforesaid Property on the basis of said lost documents or in any manner whatsoever, he/she/it shall do so at his/her/its own cost, expense, liability and risk or may also send his/her/their claims in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of the said claim. Sushil Kumar Singh (Advocate) F-10, LGF, Jangpura Ext., New Delhi-110014, Ph: 011-403-48896.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is notified for the information of passengers that the timings of the following Rajdhani Special Trains will be revised as under :-

REVISED TIMINGS OF TRAIN NO. 02823/02824 BHUBANESWAR-NEW DELHI-BHUBANESWAR RAJDHANI SPECIAL TRAIN (DAILY)								
TRAIN No. 02823				STATIONS	TRAIN No. 02824			
Existing Timings	Revised Timings	ARR.	DEP.		Existing Timings	Revised Timings	ARR.	DEP.
---	10:00	---	09:30	Bhubaneswar	17:30	---	17:30	---
---	---	10:00	10:02	Cuttack	---	---	16:40	16:42
---	---	11:38	11:40	Bhadrak	---	---	15:12	15:14
12:55	12:57	12:55	12:57	Balasore	13:50	13:52	13:50	13:52
14:10	14:20	14:10	14:20	Hijili	12:25	12:35	12:25	12:35
16:15	16:20	16:15	16:20	Tata Nagar	10:30	10:35	10:30	10:35
19:40	19:45	19:40	19:45	Bokaro Steel City	07:35	07:40	07:35	07:40
20:33	20:38	20:33	20:38	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jn. Gomoh	06:30	06:35	06:30	06:35
23:03	23:05	23:03	23:05	Gaya Jn.	04:15	04:18	04:15	04:18
01:15	01:25	01:15	01:25	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	02:05	02:15	02:05	02:15
05:17	05:22	05:17	05:22	Kanpur Central	21:50	21:55	21:50	21:55
10:45	---	10:45	---	New Delhi	---	17:05	---	17:05

Revised timing effective from: 02823 Ex. Bhubaneswar from 19.10.2020 and 02824 Ex. New Delhi from 20.10.2020.

Beware of Touts Always Buy Train Tickets from Railway Counters/Authorised Railway Travel Agents only

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

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

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Bengal polls: Talks between Cong, Left likely to begin next week over sharing of seats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/KOLKATTA

Talks between Congress and the Left over sharing of seats for the next year West Bengal Assembly elections will begin next week. The Left and the Congress have hit the roads together over the last one year on several issues, opposing the TMC government in the state and the BJP-led government at the Centre. The Left-Congress tie-up bagged 76 seats in the 294-member assembly in 2016.

"Now, this is the time to take forward this alliance to its logical conclusion, and that is sharing of seats for the elections. The preliminary talks will begin next week," senior Congress leader and West Bengal Congress chief Adhir

Ranjan Chowdhury said on Wednesday. The Lok Sabha MP said TMC and the BJP are trying to polarise the state on communal lines, and it is the duty of the Left and the Congress to provide a third alternative.

The two sides want to begin the talks as early October for the elections likely to be held in April-May next year. "The talks are being started now so that there are no problems at the last moment. We struck a seat-sharing deal for the 2016 assembly elections but it was half-baked. During the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, we couldn't stitch an alliance as the talks failed at the last moment," Chowdhury said.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People in many cities have to wait to buy a bicycle of their choice due to a massive surge in demand. Bicycle sales in India have grown by over two-folds in the last five months as people are opting for this cheapest mode of transport to cover short to medium amid coronavirus pandemic. According to the All India Bicycle Manufacturers Association (AICMA), a total of 41,80,945 bicycles have been sold in the country in the five months from May to September 2020. In May, the number of bicycles sold was 4,56,818. This number almost doubled to 8,51,060 in June, while in September, the country sold 11,21,544 cycles in a month. AICMA secretary general K

B Thakur said the increase in demand for bicycles is unprecedented. "Probably for the first time in history, such a trend has been seen on bicycles." "Sales of bicycles have gone up by over 100 per cent in these five months. In many places people have to wait for their favourite cycle, booking has to be done. Such a trend has been seen for the first time in the country and the reason can be attributed to health awareness after the coronavirus pandemic, they said.

Thakur said that the coronavirus pandemic crisis has made people aware of their health and immunity but at the same time they have become conscious about social distancing. In such a situation, a bicycle has emerged as an option, he added.

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD Amount (10% of Reserve Price)
CM (M) 22/2020, ICICI Bank Vs Jitendra Chaturvedi	Vehicle no- UP14FT7814, Manu yr-2016, Make and Model- CHEVROLET SAIL UVA LT	72,000/-	7,200/-
CM (M)- 231/2020, ICICI Bank Vs Ankit Bhadana	Vehicle no- HR38V7561, Manu yr- 2015, Make and Model- HYUNDAI XCENT	90,000/-	9,000/-
225/2020, ICICI Bank Vs Vikash	Vehicle no- HR38V6041, Manu yr- 2015, Make and Model- HYUNDAI XCENT BASE CRDI	72,000/-	7,200/-

EMD: DD/PO of EMD amount to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi Auction Date and time : 03-Nov-2020 from 11 AM to 2 PM Venue : Godara Yard, Khewat No:166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrati, Gurugram - 122022. Contact Person -Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763) Terms of Sale The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participants are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085, for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

Army foils BAT op bid along LoC in Kupwara

PNS ■ JAMMU
The Indian army claimed to have foiled a suspected BAT (Border Action Team) operation along the line of control in Tangdhar sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday. Earlier, two weapon smuggling bids were foiled by the alert troops from across the line of control.

It is after a gap of more than six months, heavily armed intruders supported by the Pakistani army had attempted a BAT operation in the area. Earlier, five heavily armed terrorists were neutralised by the elite para commandos of the Indian army in the Keran sector of Kupwara as they had attempted to infiltrate inside the Indian territory.

Meanwhile, in a separate anti-terrorist operation, two terrorists were gunned down by the joint team of security forces in Chakura area of Shopian on Wednesday.

Till the time of filing the report the operation was not called off as thorough searches were still going on in and around the encounter site to rule out the presence of any other hiding terrorist.

Earlier, the operation was launched by the joint team of security forces on receipt of the information about the presence of terrorists in the area. Director General of Police,

Dilbagh Singh told reporters, "so far two terrorists have been eliminated in the ongoing operation and searches were going on to confirm the presence of a third terrorist in the area".

In a brief statement the twitter handle of Srinagar based China Corps said, "a suspected BAT (Border Action Team) action bid was foiled by the alert troops early Wednesday morning in Tangdhar".

It further said, "suspicious activity of 3-4 intruders was observed by the alert troops, close to forward post along the line of control. Timely action by the alert troops averted infiltration bid. The entire area was kept under surveillance", the statement added.

Gupkar Declaration signatories' to meet at Farooq's place today

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A group of mainstream Kashmiri politicians led by a sitting Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah are all set to attend a brainstorming session to review the present political situation and decide their future course of action on Thursday.

Mainly signatories of the Gupkar Declaration have been extended a formal invitation to assemble at the residence of National Conference Chief Dr Abdullah.

Gupkar Declaration is a joint effort of all the regional mainstream political parties - the National Conference, the Peoples Democratic Party, the Peoples Conference, the

Awami National Conference and the CPI (M) - of Jammu and Kashmir to fight for the special status of the erstwhile State.

Earlier, both Dr Farooq and Omar Abdullah had called on PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti at her residence to personally meet her where they extended her an invitation to attend the meeting.

Soon after her release late Tuesday night, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti vowed to fight for the restoration of Article 370.

Calling August 5, 2019 a black day, Mufti urged everyone in Jammu and Kashmir to work towards resolving the Kashmir conflict.

Sharing details of the their

meeting former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tweeted, "My father and I called on Mehbooba Mufti Sahiba this afternoon to enquire about her well-being after her release from detention. She has kindly accepted Farooq Sb's invitation to join a meeting of the Gupkar Declaration signatories tomorrow afternoon (Thursday)".

"Today our visit was without any political motive and we wanted to know her well being."

In the meeting tomorrow, the present political situation will be reviewed and what will be the future agenda of the Gupkar Declaration signatories in one view, that will also be discussed," he said in another tweet.

Kerala Cong (M) to join CPM led Left Democratic Front

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala Congress (Mani) faction, a political outfit of the Catholic community in Kerala, severed its 33-year-old alliance with the Indian National Congress on Wednesday and moved over to the Left Democratic Front led by the CPI(M).

Jose K Mani, son of late K M Mani, one of the founders of the Kerala Congress, announced his decision to join the CPI(M) camp after a meeting of the high power committee of the faction held at Kottayam. Mani Jr also announced his resignation from the membership of the Rajya Sabha, which he had won in 2018 as a UDF nominee.

This is being seen as the build up to the 2021 assembly election as the CPI(M) badly wants to retain and return to power. Presently, the party is under siege because of scams and corruption charges ranging from Gold smuggling, dates import and LIFE Mission pay off.

It is reported that the CPI(M) leadership has assured the KC(M) that the latter would be allocated 12 to 15 seats in the upcoming assembly election expected to be held in March - April 2021. The CPI(M) leadership hope that it would be able to retain power in the next assembly election in company of the KC(M) faction, which has considerable influence among the Catholic community in districts like Kottayam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Idukki.

"It is a welcome move by the Kerala Congress. The LDF and the Kerala Congress would be in a win-win situation," said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan about the development. Former chief minister and senior Congress leader Oommen Chandi described Jose Mani's move as

This is being seen as the build up to the 2021 Assembly election as the CPI(M) badly wants to retain and return to power

immature and foolish.

Meanwhile, the NCP, a constituent of the LDF expressed its displeasure over the CPI(M) move to accommodate Jose Mani. Mani C Kappen, who had defeated the KC(M) faction leader in the by-poll at Pala necessitated by the demise of Mani said that he was in talks with the Congress-led UDF.

The CPI(M) had tried its best to derail the presentation of the Kerala Budget by the then Finance Minister K M Mani in the House in February 2016. The assembly witnessed nasty scenes as the CPI(M) MLAs destroyed furniture and computer terminals in the House in their bid to prevent the then finance minister from presenting the budget accusing him of having taken money from liquor mafia to lift the ban on sale of liquor. A criminal case against six CPI(M) MLAs have been filed in the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court at Thiruvananthapuram for destruction of public property.

The Mani led Kerala Congress had a brief honeymoon with the CPI(M) in 1980 during the tenure of E K Nayanar as Chief Minister. But Mani switched his loyalty to the Congress-led UDF in 1982 which resulted in the fall of Nayanar ministry. Nayanar in all his interviews and speeches used to ridicule Mani as a person who could not be trusted.

The KC(M) moving to the LDF is likely to see a realignment of various parties in the State in the build up to the assembly election.

Aligarh civic body areas to turn as Women's Safe City

Aligarh: Aligarh which came in limelight across the country after the incident of Hathras, is going to get a big gift soon.

Aligarh Municipal Corporation area will soon be transformed into Women Safe City. About 100 crore rupees will be spent on this project from the Nirbhaya Fund. It will have special hostels, DNA and forensic labs for women, pink bus and auto, toilets, Asha Jyoti Kendra and many more.

Along with Aligarh, women of Hathras, Etah and Kasganj will also get the benefit. Aligarh is the second city in the state after Lucknow to be selected in the Women's Safe City list.

After the Nirbhaya incident in Delhi, the central government decided to make some cities of the country as safe cities. Cities like Delhi, Lucknow, Bhopal have started safety audits at every stage but earlier this year the central government decided to include more cities in this list. Instructions were given to include 17 cities including Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh, but no city

paid attention to this project. After the incident of Hathras, the commissioner took up the task of developing it.

In a safe city, the focus will be given to women's safety. Women police personnel will be given pink scooters and SUV vehicles so that they will keep an eye on the bad elements. A pink toilet will also be made. Such areas will be identified where the movement of women will be more and there more lighting arrangements will be made. A special pink bus will run fitted with panic buttons, GPS and CCTV. Women's power line capacity will be doubled. Pink booths will be built by which women will get sanitary pads. Asha centers and hostels to be built.

A Counseling center will be formed. Shelter homes will be built to keep women.G.S Priyadarshi, Commissioner, Aligarh said that this is a big project for women's safety and will change the atmosphere of the city. All four districts of the Aligarh division will be benefited. DPR will be sent soon to the government. **PNS**

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Cinemas to open with 50% capacity in UP; Aligarh readies

Aligarh: Cinema, multiplex and theater are going to open tomorrow in Aligarh like other states after 6 months-long closure. Since the risk of corona infection is still there hence Covid Protocol must be followed. The audience capacity will be 50% of the designated seat and the hall will also have to be sanitized after every show.

Guidelines issued for the operation of cinema, theater and multiplex by the Government of Uttar Pradesh based on the instructions of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. All the cinema halls and multiplex in Aligarh will reopen from Thursday based on the guidelines given by the government.

The mandate issued by Chief Secretary R.K Tiwari stated that cinema, theater and multiplexes outside the Containment Zone have been allowed to be opened with viewers up to a maximum of 50 percent of their rated capacity. Employees and audience need to follow a physical distance of 6 feet in the general area and waiting area. It is always mandatory to use a face cover or mask, wash hands with soap from time to time, use sanitizer and tissue or handkerchief while coughing or sneezing. The Chief Secretary informed that through the entry of the auditorium, circular signs will be arranged in accordance with the physical distance standard for thermal screening, sanitizer and queue. Only people without Covid symptoms will be allowed to enter. An adequate time gap must be given between the shows. The audience will have to seat at alternate seats to maintain the physical distance.

Guidelines stated that the ticket bookings in the cinema, theatres and multiplex can be done in advance or online. Touchless transactions like e-wallet / QR code scanner etc. should also be used in window booking. The phone

number should also be taken at the time of booking the ticket for the convenience of contact tracing. After the show is over, do not leave the audience together and be arranged in a queue following the standard of physical distance.

Guidelines also stated that during an interval, avoid gathering in toilets. There should be adequate counters at the canteen and stalls and no food items will be allowed inside an auditorium or hall. Only packed food and drinks will be allowed.

Cinemas, theatre and multiplex with A.C should follow the guidelines of CPWD. Temperature setting should be maintained between 24-30° C and relative humidity should be maintained between 40-70%. The proper arrangement of cross ventilation should also be there.

GUIDELINES ALSO STATED THAT DURING AN INTERVAL, AVOID GATHERING IN TOILETS. THERE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE COUNTERS AT THE CANTEEN AND STALLS AND NO FOOD ITEMS WILL BE ALLOWED INSIDE AN AUDITORIUM OR HALL. ONLY PACKED FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE ALLOWED

Nadda, not Shah, to visit Bengal ahead of Durga Pujas

Cong, LF alliance talks for next year's polls soon

SAUGUR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The BJP and Trinomial Congress were trying to polarize the electoral atmosphere which was why they were spreading all kinds of rumors about failed alliance talks between the Congress and Left Front.

Urging the two sides to hasten up the talk process so that the twoparties can hit the streets well before the next year's Assembly elections Chowdhury on Wednesday said "the TMC and the BJP are trying to polarise the state on communal lines, and it is the duty of the Left and the Congress to provide a third alternative," adding the twoparties were spreading all kinds of rumours suggesting that theseat-sharing talks between the two sides had proved to be an on-starter.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated development the State BJP leadership on Wednesday said that Home Minister Amit Shah

would not be able to come to Bengal ahead of the Durga Pujas. Instead he would come to the Stateonly after the Pujas.

In Shah's place BJP president JP Nadda would visit the State on October 19. He would go to North Bengal and hold meetings with senior Party leaders there, sources said.

Referring to how the Left and Congress jointly launched a number of movements in the past couple of years he said "a time has come to takeforward this alliance to its logical conclusion, and that is sharingof seats for the elections," adding the preliminary round of talks onset-sharing between the two sides would begin next week.

Incidentally Left Front Chairman and CPI(M) politburo member Biman Bosehad reported spoken to the Congress leadership asking it to hasten up the talk process and hit the streets early. Even Chowdhury said the two sides should begin the talks as early as possible to avoid last-minute "hiccups". Though the two sides had jointly contested the 2016 elections their dialogue ahead of the last year's parliamentary elections fail in the last moment.

Chowdhury said that the two sides had fought jointly in 2016 but the talks were half-baked. In fact the 2016 Alliance jointly picked up 77 out of 294 seats whereas the Trinamool Congress won 212. However the catch was the Left Congress alliance lost out to the ruling outfit in about 70 seats by slender margin of 150 to 4000 votes which the twosides had blamed on a "partisan Election Commission that ignored massive violence during elections".

Congress MP Pradip Bhattacharya, who is the chairman of the newly-formed coordination committee, along with Mr Chowdhury and thestate's Leader of Opposition Abdul Mannan are likely to lead the talks with the Left parties, Pradesh Congress Committee sources said.

On the alleged rumours being spread by the BJP and TMC, Chowdhury said the Congress and Left Front should not pay heed to "canards" being spread against the alliance. The two parties were spreading rumour that the Congress and Left had lost reference and so the voters should choose between the TMC and the BJP.

Maha Govt decides to operate Metro in Mumbai, Nagpur in phases from today

Mumbai: As part of its "Mission Begin again", the Maharashtra Government on Wednesday decided to allow metro trains in Mumbai and Nagpur to operate from October 15 in a phased manner and do away the health check-up and stamping of domestic passengers arriving at the railway stations in Maharashtra from different parts of the state.

In other guidelines, the state government allowed government and private libraries to function with protocols of social distancing and sanitation norms in place and increased the number of people, while it permitted local weekly bazars, including that of animals, to reopen outside containment zones.

In an effort to control and reduce crowding, the State government permitted markets and shops to remain open for additional hours from 9 am to 9 pm, with effect from October 15, while the limit on the number of guests who can remain present has been increased to 50 from the earlier 20.

While the government has also allowed "Business to Business" (B2B) exhibitions only outside the containment zones and all types of local weekly markets (bazaars) across the state with effect from October 15, it has decided to do away stamping with indelible ink for domestic passengers arriving at different airports after COVID-19 testing.

Though it announced relaxations on several fronts, the state government made no announcement regarding the re-opening of various places of worship. **PNS**

number should also be taken at the time of booking the ticket for the convenience of contact tracing. After the show is over, do not leave the audience together and be arranged in a queue following the standard of physical distance.

Guidelines also stated that during an interval, avoid gathering in toilets. There should be adequate counters at the canteen and stalls and no food items will be allowed inside an auditorium or hall. Only packed food and drinks will be allowed.

Cinemas, theatre and multiplex with A.C should follow the guidelines of CPWD. Temperature setting should be maintained between 24-30° C and relative humidity should be maintained between 40-70%. The proper arrangement of cross ventilation should also be there.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Raveena, D/o Satender Singh, R/o RZ-06, J/01, Gali No. 5, Indra Park, Sagarpur, New Delhi, Age: 27 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, wearing Yellow Suit and Blue Jeans and Green Sandles in feet, has been missing from her office since 03.10.2020 at 07:00 PM. In this regard a DD No. 02A, dated 04.10.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Sagarpur, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Sagarpur, New Delhi
DP/330/SW/2020 **Ph: 011-28522653, 7065036228**

SHO

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

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

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN))	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sachidanand Mishra/ Vinay Devi/ 25500001218/ QZPTU00005016077	Rz- C- 22B, Sf (Front), Kh No. 88/11, Gali No.22, Prem Nagar, Village Hastals, Uttam Nagar New Delhi/ October 09, 2020	February 07, 2020 Rs. 15,40,144/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Arun Kumar Raghav/ 09200001907/ QZGRH00005026370	Plot No- 149, First Floor, Block- 6, Yamuna Vihar, Ilaqa Shahdara Delhi/ October 09, 2020	February 07, 2020 Rs. 17,93,063/-	Delhi/ Ncr
3.	Apurva Kumar Sinha/ Suruchi Kumari/ 13000001809/ QZGUR00005001295	P. No. Rz- 88, T. F. With Roof Righback Side, Kh. No 16/6, Village Matiala, Gali No. 07, Sukhi Ram Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi/ October 09, 2020	February 17, 2020 Rs. 24,18,426/-	Delhi/ Ncr
4.	Santosh Singh/ Mamta SINGH/ 28300000490/ QZROH00005029570	P. No. 27 & 27-A, TF (Front Side), Block- B, K. No. 87/6, Gali No. - 9, Villega- Nawada, Sewak Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi/ October 09, 2020	November 28, 2019 Rs. 35,30,834/-	Delhi/ Ncr

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

Date : 15-10-2020
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER FOR P. WAY REPAIR WORKS

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx. cost of work	EMD
1	BCT-20-21-224 dtd. 13/10/2020	Virar-Surat Section-Repairs to P.way under SSE (Palghar) Section for 12 months.	1,91,65,041.05/-	2,45,800/-
2	BCT-20-21-225, dtd. 13/10/2020	Virar-Surat Section-Repairs to P.way under SSE (Dahanu Road) Section for 12 months.	1,79,02,457.54/-	2,39,500/-
3	BCT-20-21-226, dtd. 13/10/2020	Virar-Surat Section-Repairs to P.way under SSE (Vapi) Section for 12 months.	1,97,43,614.55/-	2,48,700/-

Executive for all Tenders: Sr. DEN (N/BCT, Sr. No. 1, 2 & 3: Date & Time of submission & Opening of Tender: Submission Up to 15.00 Hrs on 10.11.2020 and Opening at 15.30 hrs on the same day. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. D-352

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NORTHERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum to Tender Notice

Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI office tender notice for the following work due for opening on 16.10.2020 at 15:30 hrs. is cancelled due to some technical reason.

Tender No.	30-Elect-3T-Chg-2020-21
Description of work	Supply & fixing of jumper cable support link assembly (Stainless Steel) for LHB AC coaches.
Tender Document Cost by online	Rs. 3,540/-
Contract Value (Rs.)	Rs. 50,81,280/-
Earnest Money (Rs.)	Rs. 1,01,600/-
Period of completion	04 Months

No. 30-Elect-3T-Chg-2020-21 Date : 14.10.2020 2219/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: Approx 40 years, Complexion: Dark, Height: 172 Cms., Built: Strong, Face: Oval, was wearing Jeans and T-shirt, was found in unconscious condition and admitted to Safdarjung Hospital by hospital staff vide MLC No. 242083/20, dated 05.10.2020.

During the treatment he was declared dead by the doctor. In this regard a DD No. 62A, dated 05.10.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, 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. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi
DP/358/SW/2020 **Ph.: 011-24106346, 24106345**

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MAINTENANCE DIVISION, UTTARAKHAND, JAL SANSTHAN

Tarun Vihar Lane -01, Mohanwala Road Dehradun-248001
Phone/Fax-0135-2671940 Email-eamd@rediffmail.com & eamdw@rediffmail.com

Letter No. : 169 / E-Tender Notice / Peri Urban /20-21 Dated: 14.10.2020

e-Tendering Notice

- Name of the Work:** Construction of Gumaniwala Peri Urban Water Supply Scheme of District Dehradun. Including Review of Design, Laying, Jointing and Testing of Rising Main & Distribution System, Construction of OHT's, Drilling & Development of Tube Wells and all appurtenances Civil and E&M works, SCADA & Automation AMR Metering etc. Including 5 years Operation, Maintenance & Management to achieve pre-defined Performance standards including maintenance of existing system.
- Name of Division:** FIU, Maintenance Division, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Tarun Vihar Lane No.-01, Dehradun.
- Estimated Cost/Period of Completion:** 1440.00 Lakhs/ 12 months/3 months / 60 months Trial Run/ O&M Period
- Publish Date :** 15.10.2020, 14:00 Hrs.
- Document Download/Sale Start Date :** 15.10.2020, 14:00 Hrs.
- Pre-Bid Meeting Date :** 29.10.2020, 11:00 Hrs.
- Bid Submission Start Date :** 07.11.2020, 11:00 Hrs.
- Bid Submission End Date :** 18.11.2020, 17:00 Hrs.
- Physical Document Submission Date :** 19.11.2020, 17:00 Hrs.
- Bid Opening Date :** 20.11.2020, 11:00 Hrs.
- Cost of Tender :** Rs. 5000.00 + GST
- Earnest Money :** Rs.29.00 Lakhs

Detailed e-Tender notice & tender document will be published in www.uktenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer (FIU)

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Arti W/o Veeru R/o A-1023, Madras Camp, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** has been missing since 16.09.2020 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 117A dated 24.09.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age : 23 Years, Height: 4'5", Complexion : Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing : Cream colour Sari and red colour sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi at E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: **011-24368638, 24368641** **SHO**
P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi
Fax No. **011-24368639** **Outer North Distt., Delhi**
DP/519/ON/2020 **Ph. No. 011-27821047, 27822207**

Spat with Governor

Koshiyari's letter war with Uddhav Thackeray turns ugly as he goes against the mandate of his post to follow a party line



Gubernatorial assignments have always been politicised regardless of regimes. No matter what the party at the Centre, each has used its chosen Governor to keep a watch on Opposition State Governments and undercut federal powers in the event of a crisis, especially when the Central party, as the main challenger, has been within smelling distance of power. But just because a violation has become a political convention, can one justify its continuity? And by extension does it have to be more flagrant than earlier occasions? It is on this count that Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari's letter war with Chief Minister Uddhav

Thackeray over the re-opening of religious places in the State is not only indecorous but challenges the limits of a constitutionally-appointed post. Worse, what could have been a mature confabulation was converted to a media circus as the Governor's letter was circulated widely. Making a case for re-opening places of worship, Koshiyari asked Thackeray if he had "turned secular" by keeping them shut. The latter shot back a letter, asking if Hindutva meant simply opening religious places and as a Governor who had sworn on the Constitution, was he denying the secularism enshrined in it? Clearly, Koshiyari, who has been used time and again to embarrass the Shiv Sena-led alliance Government, should have clearly kept the arrow in his quiver. For he unwittingly gave the political advantage to Thackeray by trying to expose the latter's commitment to Hindutva. Thackeray may have been vociferous about Ayodhya but in COVID-stressed times and as Chief Minister of the worst-affected State, he has managed the festival season with reason. By confining the Ganesh Mahotsav to a largely indoor celebration, he avoided a super spreader event. And although the Governor has questioned the rationale of opening bars and restaurants and not shrines, Thackeray knows that faith is a heave of emotion that defies protocols and he would much rather go in for a graded opening of these places after assessing the risk of spread. Besides, the Governor, given the gravitas associated with his chair, should not have run down the weight of the word "secular" in his official capacity, no matter what his personal belief systems might be. Also using the religion card is unbecoming of a post that demands reason, neutrality, dignity and integrity. But then Koshiyari has been too pliant to walk the thin line between propriety and impropriety, nicety and brashness. Let us not forget that he is the same man who had revoked President's rule in the State in the wee hours and hurriedly sworn in BJP leader Devendra Fadnis with then rebel Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar, ignoring the split mandate in the State. He did not give adequate time to the Opposition parties and even an adrift Sena for crystallising their adjustments before committing to furnishing letters of support. By that yardstick, the Governor seems immune to the adverse criticism that his overstepping of constitutional limits entails. So long as his political purpose is served, in this case going after the Shiv Sena. This explains why NCP supremo Sharad Pawar wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing shock at the tone and tenor of the Governor's letter. He even clarified that while he was not against the Governor's prerogative to discuss matters with the CM, he was against a squabble deliberately played out in the public domain for political gains.

Shaming the regional party, wherever the BJP is the main Opposition, is now more the rule than the exception. In Bengal, Governor Jagdeep Dhankar has been blowing hot on the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress Government at the slightest pretext or the other. The latest spat is over the unnatural death of a BJP MLA and the Governor's letter to vice-chancellors (VCs) asking them to attend a video-conference with him. The VCs refused to attend unless the invitation was routed through the State higher education department. After this Dhankar took to Twitter to defend his partisan action, saying he could not allow students' issues to be "politically caged." His lie was exposed when Banerjee herself revealed all of her Government's communication with the Raj Bhavan before the media. But at least he had done his bit for the BJP's "Didi hatao" campaign. All these examples prove there is an interecine plot to erode the spirit of alliance politics in general and the regional ones in particular, making them look like puppets in a shadow play, so powerful that the voter changes his pattern in the next round of elections. The problem with the BJP is that it just can't get out of the whataboutery trap, countering every criticism by citing Congress precedents and repeating every mistake of its rival party that ultimately cost the latter dear. Then how is BJP the "party with a difference?" If Governors are abdicating their role responsibilities and preferring to be agents of the ruling party, then their use is not even ceremonial. For even that demands a degree of integrity and respect for the norms of parliamentary democracy. They are toothless when they recommend President's rule as it is the Central Government which runs the State affairs by proxy with its own team of bureaucrats. Isn't it time then to look at the selection process of the post of Governor itself, provided each party agrees to neutralising it in the first place? The procedure for appointment of the Lokpal could easily be followed to secure the position in a manner that the Governor cannot be recalled or moved at the Centre's whim. But will all parties agree to amend a convention that suits each one of them when each gets the hot seat?

Needed, an entry test

The criterion to score 100 per cent to enter a top DU college was coming for some time. That doesn't make it less ridiculous



The French term, *fait accompli*, means that things have already been decided in a certain way before those affected hear about it. You can use it to talk about many issues in today's world. It could be used to describe the conditions for Tibetans and Uighurs in China, or explain why a certain case had been decided in a certain manner. But right now, we are using it to describe the cut-offs for admission in Lady Shriram College (LSR) in Delhi University (DU). It is not necessarily the most correct usage of the term but any student who has ever attended DU could see this coming for years now. In that sense, it is *fait accompli*. To the

casual outside observer, who has never needed to worry about college admissions in DU, this might seem ridiculous and indeed it is. So what do the cut-offs really say? For one, absolute perfection in examinations should not be possible in non-mathematical and scientific subjects. But students are now scoring cent per cent in English and Hindi and grade inflation is to blame. Partially this is because certain State boards are giving illogical marks to their students so that they can corner all the seats as was seen in a top college for the last couple of years.

The solution clearly lies in a more realistic evaluation mechanism in our school system. So, is it time to have a singular nationwide school-leaving examination on the lines of the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) for medical seats, the Joint Entrance Examinations (JEE) for engineering and the Common Aptitude Test (CAT) for business schools? It is hard to see why not because the senior secondary board examination system is broken beyond repair and that has allowed several international examination systems to make inroads into India. While that should be welcomed at a level, Indian educators must draw a line in the sand. And this is exactly what the new National Education Policy (NEP) proposes, a single exam that will allow grades to be better calibrated across the nation. The problem is that certain States are opposing the NEP for the sake of opposing any idea by this Government. But these cut-offs should be a wake-up call because no one really knows what is next. And a single national school-leaving exam like most other nations has to become the norm quickly. The Supreme Court has decided once and for all in favour of NEET and the JEE, the NEP should make this law fast.

Taming the dragon

By joining the Djibouti Code of Conduct as an observer, India gains strategic heft in the Indian Ocean Region and can challenge Beijing's military influence



LOKESH KUMAR

Recently, India decided to join the Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment (DCOC/JA) as an observer after a high-level meeting held on August 26. This is a group on maritime affairs, including countries such as Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen, all from the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the east coast of Africa and island countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Member nations include South Africa, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates. Recently Japan, Norway, UK and the US have also been included as observers of DCOC/JA. So India's inclusion would increase its political stake in these waters and help it use the collective heft with other nations to tame Chinese expansionist tendencies.

The alliance came into being in January 2009 under the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). It initially focussed on piracy and armed robbery against ships in the western IOR, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. In 2017, other issues like the environment, human trafficking and illegal fishing were added. But it is the Jeddah Amendment that is significant. At a high-level meeting of the countries that signed the DCOC in Jeddah in January 2017, 17 signatory nations agreed to adopt a revised code of conduct. They agreed to work closely with the IMO and other stakeholders to build national and regional capacities in addressing broader maritime security issues and enabling the sustainable development of the maritime sector. And at the same time, the code emphasised the important role of the "blue economy" in supporting sustainable economic growth, employment, food security and stability.

The Horn of Africa is of great strategic importance from a commercial and economic point of view because it is coveted by major powers of the world. Djibouti's role is most important here. It may be a small country in terms of area and population but enjoys great geo-strategic importance. It commands the narrow entrance to the Red Sea on the southern end (from the Gulf of Aden side) with Egypt on the



northern end. Every day millions of oil barrels and other oil products pass through this route to different destinations. Due to its important position, it hosts military bases of about nine countries, including the US, France, Italy and China. After the 9/11 attacks on the US, Washington established its largest permanent base in Djibouti, named Camp Lemonier, which houses at least 4,000 military personnel.

China has also expanded its military cooperation across the African continent in recent years as part of its national defence policy. On July 11, 2017, Beijing sent two warships across the Indian Ocean to Djibouti, the main objective of which was to establish China's first overseas permanent military base. Work started formally on August 1, 2017. Djibouti is at the centre of China's maritime policy as it is located at the northwest end of the Indian Ocean, allowing it to checkmate India. Its naval base here could prove to be the pillar of its oceanic strategy, known as the "string of pearls" or friendly islands in the sea route connecting China to West Asia. It is a crucial link in its ambitious "maritime Silk Route" plan.

The purpose of this network is to ensure the safety of China's trade routes, its raw materials and oil-laden ships and the uninterrupted return of finished goods to Europe via the Gulf of Aden. India's relations with the Horn of African nations like

“
AS AN OBSERVER NATION, INDIA WILL BOOST ITS INFLUENCE IN THE IOR WITH NEW DIPLOMATIC EQUATIONS. NEW DELHI IS ALREADY STRENGTHENING ITS POSITION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND ITS SURROUNDING WATERS AS PART OF THE INDO-PACIFIC POLICY THROUGH PROJECT MAUSAM, MISSION SAGAR AND INDIAN OCEAN RIM GROUP
 ”

Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan and Djibouti have been friendly since ancient times. Some historical researchers believe that economic and cultural relations existed between the two regions since 538 BC. All these nations share the same legacy of colonialism as well as the struggle for independence; India continued to support their anti-colonial fight even after attaining Independence in 1947. In the post-colonial period, India established the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (SCAAP) in 1963. Its relations with the Horn of Africa countries have further strengthened through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), South-South Cooperation and other international fora. Now it is building on this historicity to emerge a key player in the region.

The strategic importance of the Horn of Africa for India can only be known from the fact that President Ram Nath Kovind made his first foreign trip to two African countries — Djibouti and Ethiopia. During his visit, he remarked, "India and Djibouti have had historical connections and mutual contacts for a long time. Now we should try to rediscover this shared history and identity. Not only for the old times but to build a contemporary partnership, it is necessary to make the utmost effort to revive this shared heritage of ours. The

potential of marine resources and engagement with the Indian Ocean has immense potential to create a sustainable future." The President also said that "Djibouti is a strategic country, located near the Gulf of Aden. For India, it is an important partner of the Indian Ocean. In 2015, during the Yemen crisis, as part of Operation Relief, at the time of evacuating citizens and people from other countries, Djibouti supported India's efforts."

As an observer nation, India can boost its influence in the IOR with new diplomatic equations. New Delhi is already strengthening its position in its surrounding waters as part of the Indo-Pacific policy through Project Mausam, Mission Sagar and Indian Ocean Rim Group. It can further increase its strategic footprint through blue economy initiatives. This will enable us to sustain the use of ocean resources for economic growth, create better livelihoods and jobs and ensure the health of ocean ecosystems.

On the other hand, Beijing is increasing its clout through its claims in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, the String of Pearls diplomacy and Belt & Road Initiatives (BRI). India can effectively neutralise it if it consolidates its hold in this region alongside the Quad initiative with the US, Japan and Australia.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor, Department of African Studies, Delhi University)

SOUNDBITE

Complacency is certainly not warranted in the face of this register, but nor is an existentially pessimistic fatalism. An exaggerated sense of danger is positively harmful, as is the over application of threats.

Australian Home Affairs secretary
—Michael Pezzullo



There is no better feeling than playing hockey, and having been away from it, you get a sense of what you've missed out on as well.

Hockey player
—Varun Kumar



I challenge Nitish Kumar to file nomination papers from any Assembly segment in his home district of Nalanda. I will also file my nomination from the same seat and defeat him.

RJD leader
—Tejashwi Yadav



Mehbooba Mufti Sahiba has kindly accepted Farooq (Abdullah) Sahab's invitation to join a meeting of the Gupkar Declaration signatories.

National Conference leader
—Omar Abdullah



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another failed attempt

Sir — On October 12, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the payment of cash in lieu of Leave Travel Concession (LTC) and ₹10,000 festival advance to Government employees to stimulate consumer demand during the festival season and boost the economy. The Government will also give its employees income tax-exempt cash vouchers in lieu of their entitled travel allowances this year. However, there is a catch. The cash will have to be spent on buying goods that attract 12 per cent or more GST, a condition which totally eliminates the possibility of the cash being spent on food items. Additionally, the Government will, as a one-time measure, give ₹10,000 salary loans to all its officers and employees as a festival advance.

The Retailers' Association of India (RAI) has welcomed the Government's LTC cash voucher scheme stating that it will help its members recover from the loss of business caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the expectation to create a consumer demand of about ₹28,000 crore through this scheme is

Farm laws: Claims and reality

Utterly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi defended the recently enacted farm laws by saying, "it was necessary to bring these to protect them (farmers) from middlemen." However, this claim is not exactly in tune with the provisions in the laws. The Farmers' Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services (Empowerment and Protection) Act 2020 provides that "aggregators" or "farm service providers" can be parties to the farming agreements. Here, "aggregator" means any person who will act as an intermediary between a farmer or a group of farmers and a sponsor. In a nutshell, the "aggregators" or "farm service providers" mentioned in Section 10 are middlemen in a different nomenclature to broker farm deals.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 permits intra-state and inter-state trade of the produce only in trade areas such as farm gates, factory premises, warehouses, silos and cold storages, which are outside the *mandis* managed by the Agricultural Produce Market

rather far-fetched. This seems to be just another attempt to strip the middle class and lure them to transfer their savings to the capitalist.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

State vs judiciary

Sir — It is disconcerting that differences between the executive



Committees (APMC) directly and deemed markets functioning under them. The farm Acts make no mention of the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) as well, leave aside the support prices based on comprehensive costs plus 50 per cent profits as recommended by the Swaminathan Commission.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

and the judiciary have emerged in Andhra Pradesh. In a first, the State has lodged a complaint to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) alleging that the Supreme Court judge, Justice NV Ramana, was interfering in the judicial processes of the High Court. The State has placed material evidence before the CJI, highlighting Justice Ramana's proximity with N Chandrababu Naidu and his

interventions to protect the interests of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, in his letter dated October 6, has expressed that the objective of the letter is solely to inform the Supreme Court about the acts of a few individual judges.

The apex court should take the allegations made by the AP Government seriously and clear

the air or else it could affect the faith of the common man in the judiciary. A touch of pragmatism is what the judiciary and the executive need at this juncture as the very credibility of the judiciary as an institution is at stake. The CJI should personally look into the matter and consider initiating steps to ensure that the State judiciary's neutrality is maintained.

Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

Cinema hall protocol

Sir — Cinema halls are all set to re-open across the country. However, strict measures need to be taken so that they don't become spaces of mass infection. Six feet distance should be followed outside the auditoria, common areas and waiting areas at all times. There should also be hand sanitisers, preferably in the touch-free mode, at the entry and exit points as well as common areas within the premises. And the use of face masks must be made mandatory.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Root for green products

Whether electronics harm the environment or not depends on how environmentally accountable the manufacturer is



KOTA SRIRAJ

Most phone and high-tech companies globally are investing in environmental accountability. For instance Apple, which recently launched its new range of products, would be shipping them without the customary charger and headphones being included in the box. Though this might put off quite a few of its customers, it is part of the company's commitment to reduce carbon emissions and ramp up the use of clean energy. With over 700 million headphones and two billion power adapters already out there with the customers, the firm has taken a bold measure to stop including the same in its retail product pack to cut down electronic waste generation at source and reduce carbon emissions, which are generated in the process of mining for precious earth materials. Moreover, due to the removal of the charger and headphones, Apple has been able to reduce the size of its boxes, enabling it to fit 70 per cent more boxes and, therefore, transition to a more effective logistics template. By 2030 the consumer technology giant aims to achieve net zero climate impact from its entire business, including manufacturing, supply chain and product cycles.

Samsung, too, is setting up new standards in conserving the environment through its "circular resource management system" that hinges on recycling, green purchasing from vendors amid effective hazardous material management. The company is focussing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) emissions to the extent of 70 per cent in the near future. Another global tech giant, Nokia, is redefining how products become more environmentally accountable. It calls this "Responsible Technology" and has gone a step further by joining 86 other like-minded companies to ensure that the strategic vision for the group is aligned with reducing the global temperatures by 1.5° Celsius in order to collectively battle climate change. This is in addition to the active initiative currently under way to completely remove single-use plastics across its production spectrum.

For a world that is drowning in electronic waste, especially in countries such as India where e-waste regulations are anything but effective, these firms are setting a benchmark in product responsibility and accountability towards the environment. However, they still have a long way to go since not all products end up getting 100 per cent recycled. The day they can recall their "end of life cycle product" back to the starting point for recycling is the day they can claim 100 per cent environmental accountability. However, their efforts are thought-provoking and make one wonder where do Indian companies figure in comparison? And why do none of the Indian-made products achieve such comprehensive environmental accountability? The answer lies in vision or the lack of it. Much of the corporate social and environmental responsibility in India is aimed at satisfying Government protocols and very little actually percolates to the ground level. One can still see the impact corporate vision has on some social project, but one is hard-pressed to effectively find an environmental project that has the stamp of a sincere corporate effort on it.

Indian manufacturing companies need to build a much-needed environmental dimension into their products. This is no easy task given the fact that sometimes even finding after sales service for many products we buy today can prove to be a harrowing experience. To graduate from this stage to a level where the companies produce a 100 per cent recyclable product is a long journey that needs encouraging policies and incentives from the Government and world-class corporate leadership. In this journey, innovative methods and ideas can lay the foundation for Indian companies to produce environmentally-accountable products. One of the initiatives that can be pursued is to create a category of "green" electrical and white goods which are made of 100 per cent recyclable material and have a clear-cut end of life cycle disposal plan. This category can be promoted and encouraged by the Government through tax and logistics sops besides finance options to manufacture them. On the consumer end, they can also carry compelling finance schemes or lucrative discounts. The clear environmental and viability-related benefits would surely drive manufacturing firms to increase their "green product" portfolio as it would also improve the company's image and standing for being environmentally conscious. Similarly, the drive to produce at the lowest cost and sell at the maximum profit is the root of all evils because in the pursuit of driving down costs, manufacturers disregard all ecological concerns and use suspect material that is environmentally hazardous. Recycling then is impossible. Therefore, to give credence to the concept of "green products", the Government must rein in the supply chain and third-party vendors for whom quality assurance and environmental responsibility are alien concepts. Surprise checks, quality control at Government laboratories and harsh penalties for defaulters can help infuse a new-found respect for the environment. Products that we buy today continue to exist long after we dispose them. Whether they harm the environment or not depends on how environmentally accountable the producer is.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

THIS (TANISHQ) ADVERT IS WRONG ON MANY LEVELS. IT DOES NOT ONLY PROMOTE LOVE-JIHAD BUT ALSO SEXISM.

—ACTOR
KANGANA RANAUT

POINT COUNTERPOINT



DEAR TANISHQ, MOST PEOPLE ATTACKING YOU CAN'T AFFORD YOU. AND WITH THE ECONOMY DOWN WON'T BE ABLE TO AFFORD YOU IN FUTURE. SO DON'T WORRY.

—AUTHOR
CHETAN BHAGAT

Children of a lesser god

With caste and gender-based crimes on a continuous rise, we need to look at our history which over time has institutionalised discrimination as a social order



ANURAG TIWARY

With caste and gender-based crimes in India on the rise, some really tough questions need to be answered by us all. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2019 report does a wonderful job in showcasing some extremely relevant data for our consideration. India reported 4,05,861 cases of crimes against women. Assam reported the highest rate of crimes against women at 117.8 per lakh population and Uttar Pradesh (UP) topped the list with 59,853 incidents. From 2018, the rate of crime against women has risen by 7.3 per cent, with the country recording an average 87 rape cases every day in 2019. UP had the highest number of crimes against girl children under the POCSO Act with 7,444 cases, followed by Maharashtra (6,402) and Madhya Pradesh (MP) at 6,053. Other registered cases on the rise were assault, cruelty and outraging the modesty of a woman. On the other hand, crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) saw a seven per cent and 26 per cent rise respectively. Curiously, the report also indicates a consistent decline in conviction rates in caste-related violence in the past three years.

So, why and how did we land here and where are we going? I shall endeavour to declutter this by a simple process called reverse engineering. Ours has always been a divided society. Caste and gender-based discrimination weren't a colonial construction in India. It was our own. Our social, economic and legal institutions were all divided and categorised to meet vested interests. What the British did was a mere "reinvoking of the Varna system." This, they justified, was necessary to make sense of the complexity that existed within the Indian caste system. As BR Ambedkar said in his *Annihilation of Caste*, the caste system in India had been historically used to perpetuate discrimination in the name of "division of labour" which in fact, according to him, was a "division of labourers."

Such discrimination gave rise to a social and behavioural bias, and in the long run, led to the "upward mobility" of the concept of caste. Since this concept was used to allocate social roles such as one's profession in a hereditary manner, it restricted the social mobility of those groups who were allotted lower roles. This led to a lost individual identity of the members of those groups and instead, in solidarity, gave rise to a "group identity." In modern-day India, we know these groups as SCs, STs, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), women and religious minorities.

A systemic problem: Our police force was also not immune to this virus. As caste and gender-based discrimination grew in independent India, privileged upper caste men, who were born, trained and nurtured in a favorable environment, filled the spaces in our administration, including but not limited to, our police force. The problem was further exemplified when we inherited the colonial Indian Police Act of 1861 and other such laws from British India. The Act was brought in after the revolt of 1857 and the purpose behind enacting it was, as David Arnold says, "to establish control, coercion and surveillance over the Indian subjects." So, lack of diversity, an under-represented administration and a law based on tyrannical ideologies became a perfect mishmash for future discriminatory policing in India. This would lay the foundation for perpetration of violence and creation of an extremely patriarchal institution that would survive for decades if not centuries.

Institutionalised discrimination: What tran-

spired, as a consequence, years later, is the institutionalisation of the very same discrimination within our police force. An institution becomes defunct if its working is entirely based on biased and inequitable means. To command confidence, trust and respect of the public, the police administration in a democracy must be diverse and must acknowledge that people from different backgrounds will bring with them skills, experiences and perspectives that are vastly different from others. However, the opposite is true for India.

LAWS SUCH AS ABOLITION OF DISCRIMINATION UNDER ARTICLE 17 OF THE CONSTITUTION, SC/ST PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES ACT AND PROVISIONS FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION HAVE BY AND LARGE REMAINED SYMBOLIC. THE COMMON CAUSE REPORT ON THE STATUS OF POLICING IN INDIA, 2019, REVEALS SOME SHOCKING NUMBERS. IT SHOWS HOW THE REPRESENTATION OF SCs, STs, OBCs AND WOMEN IS EXTREMELY POOR IN OUR POLICE FORCES. RESERVED POSITIONS FOR SUCH PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN VACANT FOR YEARS



spired, as a consequence, years later, is the institutionalisation of the very same discrimination within our police force. An institution becomes defunct if its working is entirely based on biased and inequitable means. To command confidence, trust and respect of the public, the police administration in a democracy must be diverse and must acknowledge that people from different backgrounds will bring with them skills, experiences and perspectives that are vastly different from others. However, the opposite is true for India.

Laws such as Abolition of Discrimination under Article 17 of the Constitution, SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act and provisions for Affirmative Action have by and large remained symbolic. The Common Cause report on *Status of Policing in India, 2019*, reveals some shocking numbers. It shows how the representation of SCs, STs, OBCs and women is extremely poor in our police forces. Reserved positions for such personnel have been vacant for years. The States topping the list here are Haryana and UP. Furthermore, it shows how such groups are less likely to be posted at officer-level ranks. They are also more likely to face unequal distribution of work wherein they are asked to do their seniors' chores and household work.

One out of four women police personnel reported the absence of a sexual harassment committee in police stations and one out of five reported the absence of separate toilets for policewomen. States like Bihar, Karnataka and Bengal have the highest levels of institutional bias against women in the forces. The report goes on to state that senior police officers think that "women are less hard-working, less efficient and should focus on household duties." Data shows that policewomen are

given in-house tasks like maintaining registers, and so on, whereas, male personnel are given on-field investigation, law and order, policing and patrolling tasks. This has literally been normalised within the working of our police administration, to an extent that it no more looks like discrimination. Instead it is seen as routine division of work, based on natural/biological capabilities.

Shockingly many police personnel think that Gender-Based Violence (GBV) complaints are false and motivated. They also say that members of the transgender community, Muslims, Dalits and so on, are more "naturally" prone to committing crimes. Such institutionalised discrimination against caste and gender reasserts itself like a vicious cycle. It also assists in exercising a lot more political control on those who are vulnerable. The way our police reacts to caste and gender is a mirror image of the political ideology ruling over the State. It is a common phenomenon that majoritarian governments who come to power based on hyper-nationalism and by using the rhetoric of religion, tend to be a lot more misogynist, divisive and religiously intolerant.

Resultantly, constitutional morality isn't their source of power. The increasing nature of politicisation of crimes against women has gained momentum in the last decade, ever since there has been a rise in majoritarian politics. The 2019 report shows how police personnel almost always face political pressure while investigating crimes that have political ramifications. If an honest police officer tries not to be swayed by such an influence, he is met with the "Black Sheep Effect." This is a process of evaluative upgrading of "norm-compliant" members and evaluative downgrading of "deviant" ones. So, the deviant members are usually transferred

to locations where there is less digital and media penetration so that their honesty is less of a problem for the State. It is also seen that there are certain areas where political control is exercised more effectively with the help of the police. In the areas where the majority population is from the Dalit or minority community, the police infrastructure is in shambles. There is a greater lack of adequate training, digital accessibility, vehicles and funding provided to the police. In such a situation, crimes either go unreported or are met with State-sponsored violence in police stations.

Creating such systemic barriers, over a long period of time, for people who have been historically discriminated against leads to a situation of internalised oppression. Paulo Freire, a renowned educator, in his *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, says, "The oppressed, having internalised the image of the oppressor and adopted his guidelines, are fearful of freedom." This fear acts as an incentive for political control. Control on what is reported, what is not reported and how reported cases are dealt with. It is almost like an echo-chamber that incentivises political oppression.

Expecting that such an institution, where discrimination and victimisation is normalised against its own members and has been historically used as a political sidekick, would do justice by protecting those outside the institution against the same evil forces, is simply living in an alternate reality. Public outrage has been misplaced in so far as it consistently demands political reform. The following statement by Ambedkar is of huge significance, "There is a need for social reform before political reform and the latter cannot happen without the former."

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

Behold the COVID theatre of the absurd

The feedback surrounding the myths and legends on managing the pandemic also borders on the weird



KUNAL SHARMA AISHWARYA BHASKAR

There was a deliberate smashing of pots; people making a clamour. This may be an illustration of a population experiencing traumatic shock. It might have been done in panic but also might have been done to somehow disturb and clear the air." Hays wrote about a supposed act of an angry God when he described the plague in his book *Epidemics and Pandemics: Their Impact on Human History*. But he could have been writing about us in the present day and our initial attempts to keep away a disease that has yet not been properly understood.

"The mask is a tool to make us weak." Our attention turned towards the driver as he detailed the complex

inter-relationship between carbon dioxide (CO₂) and the mask. His logic was, as we exhale CO₂, the mask forces us to inhale it back, thereby weakening our body's immune system. This was a novel conspiracy theory in a world filled with absurd theories about the pandemic.

Over ten months into the outbreak, the inventory of rumours related to the contagion has managed to transcend boundaries. Creative and inane, such stories multiply as the pandemic refuses to release its grip. While in the early days, most conversations veered around the potency of the virus and the multitude of ways to cure oneself of this dreaded pandemic, they now tend to dismiss the disease as "just another flu." The apparent casualness flies in the face of conventional analysis as awareness about the disease is immense and Indians who lived through the difficult times of the lockdown are cognisant of its life-threatening effects.

However, the current predilection of not wearing masks also comes associated with the sense of

fatality and fatigue, having undergone painful job losses and social stigma for the past few months. Varying from, "It is all God's will" to "Nothing will happen to me" to "We have all caught the disease" to "God cannot kill all the poor" to "If it happens, it happens" to "We don't have money to buy a mask" and a multitude of other reasons, the almost universal lack of interest in wearing a face cover hides an important detail about our social lives. People have been hit hard by the economic impact of the crisis and most have no other option but to step out. They cannot stay in and worry about wearing a mask or maintaining social distancing. They are more concerned about filling their stomachs and meeting their financial needs.

In many ways, the fear of the pandemic, coupled with the spread of fake news in this era of social media and messaging platforms, have led to revisionist theories that at once declare the impact of the Coronavirus a hoax while also pandering to the fear of its supposed effects.

With millions falling prey, there

is an outcry that this generation is paying for its sins. However, William Dunbar said it best when he wrote that, "The fear of death disturbs me" in the *Lament for the Makers*, suggesting perhaps that the human race has faced such threats throughout history. And those dark moments were unique as humanity did not have an answer then just as it doesn't have one now. People in those dark days were prone to succumbing to fear as the rise of a disease, cutting through society without any discrimination, results in helplessness among the rich and the poor alike. This causal relationship between disease and sin is seen also in Greek literary texts, such as Homer's *Iliad* and Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*. *Iliad* opens with a plague visited upon the Greek camp at Troy to punish them for Agamemnon's enslavement of Chryseis.

Humankind has time and again let this fear turn into panic, overwhelming all traces of rationality. This facilitates easier propagation of fake news in the community. The feedback surrounding the myths and legends over managing COVID

also borders on the absurd. Just as the CO₂ theory propounded by the driver, more such theories abound in the markets of Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune and Delhi, ranging from guzzling copious amounts of alcohol, to being safe in one's locality, to stopping the consumption of fruits as they are known to carry the virus. The list is endless, and each country, State, city and locality has added a twist to these stories. The challenge for people working in the frontline is to sift through the rumours and convey basic truths about the pandemic and its causes.

However, as we see more complacency creep in, it would do good to understand the underlying fear and weariness that communities are suffering from. For the moment, they face a gun-shaped thermal scanner, an oximeter and endless surveys that have fatigued them. Then there is the unfortunate spread of stigma of an uncommon but not unmanageable disease and the mishandling of dissemination in this very real public health crisis.

The need of the hour is to aggressively push for an overarching

campaign that involves all stakeholders and myriad activities such as posters, stickers, banners, wall paintings, murals, street theatre, songs, tableaus, announcement from religious places, radio campaigns, television ads and as many creative outlets as possible.

As we learn from this crisis, it will bode well to recall that literature has been humanity's constant companion though long periods of uncertainty. And often, when a pandemic hit humankind, there was not much that could be done then as it is now.

The only effective measure back then was what is known today as social distancing and quarantine of the sick which, according to Procopius, the principal Byzantine historian, was done voluntarily by individuals. In this current age, we can strive to be a step ahead, promote social distancing, wear masks and ensure better hygiene in a manner that was not possible in ancient times.

(Sharma is a faculty at Azim Premji University and Bhaskar is an independent researcher)



FOREIGN EYE



AN URGENT CAUSE FOR DEMOCRACY

For those who believe the judiciary wields far too much power over democracy, increased skepticism of the US Supreme Court would be a welcome development. Law professors RD Doerflinger and S Moyn argue that as contentious as Judge Amy Barrett's nomination is, it has had one benefit: "It's made it clearer than ever that Supreme Court reform is an urgent democratic cause, one that requires rethinking the federal judiciary from the ground up." (The NYT editorial)

China, far left 'desperate' for Biden's win: Trump

Washington: China and the far left are "desperate" for Joe Biden's win as the Democratic presidential candidate will "surrender" jobs to China, President Donald Trump said as he returned to the battleground State of Pennsylvania after being treated for COVID-19.

In his first political rally in Pennsylvania, which sends 20 electoral college votes, after he was tested positive for COVID-19, Trump on Tuesday hit hard at his political opponent, alleging that the former vice president is known for "surrender". "Biden will eliminate tariffs on China. He's already said he's going to take the tariffs off China. There goes your steel industry. There goes your aluminum industry. There goes everything. Allowing them to plunder without consequence," he said, addressing thousands of his supporters in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

"The one constant in Biden's platform is surrender.

He surrenders. He surrenders, whether it's China, whether it's Cuba. How about Cuba? How about the deal they made with Cuba? How bad was that one? I ended it," he said.

"That's why both China and the far left are desperate for a Biden win because he will surrender our jobs to China. China will own the US if that sleepy guy gets the position, okay," Trump said.

Trump said that over the next four years, he will make America into the manufacturing superpower of the world.

"And we'll end our reliance on China once and for all. That's already happening. We'll hire more police, increased penalties for assault on law enforcement, and we will ban deadly sanctuary cities that people don't want," he said.

"Unlike 'sleepy' Joe Biden, I will never abandon our nation, and I would never abandon its values. My goal is not to make friends in the DC swamp. My goal is to fight for

you and fight for your family," said the president amidst applause from thousands of his supporters who came to listen him at a local airport, ignoring the social distancing restrictions of COVID-19.

Trump, 74, said while in 2017, he signed a historic executive order making it official government policy to buy American and hire American, his opponent has put forward a radical plan to eliminate US borders by implementing catch and release programmes that he ended.

"Do you know what catch and release is? You catch a murderer, you catch a rapist coming across our border, and you release him. Catch, you catch him and release him. And you say, I'm sorry, three years from now, please come back for a court case. Nobody comes back," he said.

"Imposing deadly sanctuary cities and suspending all removals. They don't want any removals. This is what Biden agreed to with crazy Bernie Sanders.

"When you have people that are in this country illegally, even if they're murderers, if they're rapists, no matter what they are, you can't remove them. We've removed tens of thousands of people, including MS-13," he said. **PTI**

Trump's SC nominee grilled on abortion rights, Obamacare

Washington: US Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett insisted Tuesday that she had no fixed views on hot-button legal issues as Democrats painted her as President Donald Trump's vehicle to end abortion rights and kill the popular Obamacare health program.

In the second day of hearings on her hurried nomination, Barrett, who if approved will tilt the high court decisively to the right, told lawmakers she would put personal and religious beliefs aside when deciding landmark cases.

But the 48-year-old judge and devout Catholic could not escape accusations from Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee that she was chosen to achieve Trump's dream to nullify the Affordable Care Act of predecessor Barack Obama, which extended cheap health care to millions of uninsured Americans.

Likewise, Democrats said she was also picked to lead the court to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which guarantees abortion rights.

"President Trump promised to name a Supreme Court justice... who would tear down the Affordable Care Act," Kamala Harris, the Democratic

candidate for vice president, said to Barrett.

The ACA's benefits, she said, "hinge on this seat and the outcome of this hearing."

But after more than nine hours of questioning, Barrett held her ground.

"I made no promises to anyone. I don't have any agenda," she insisted.

"Judges can't just wake up one day and say 'I have an agenda. I like guns, I hate guns, I like abortion, I hate abortion,' and walk in like a royal queen and impose their will on the world," Barrett said.

"It's not the law of Amy, it's the law of the American people." After liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death last month left the nine-member court with a vacancy, Trump has rushed to fill it at the height of his presidential election battle against Democrat Joe Biden.

A respected Notre Dame law professor but with only three years as an appeals court judge, Barrett is supported by conservatives for her personal opposition to abortion.

Her confirmation by the Republican-controlled committee after two more days of hearings, and by the full Senate before the end of October, remained near-certain. **AFP**

Xi asks China's Marine Corps to turn itself into elite force

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping has visited the headquarters of the Marine Corps, a new force being developed by the Chinese military to back up its navy's manifold expansion with overseas logistics bases, and asked it to turn into an integrated, capable, flexible and fast-responding elite force.

Xi, who is Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) - the overall high command of the military, besides being the President and the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party, on Tuesday inspected the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy Marine Corps in Chaozhou, south China's Guangdong Province, official media here reported.

This was Xi's first visit to

the headquarters of the Marine Corps, which was overhauled in 2017 and became part of the PLA Navy during the military reform launched by him in 2015, state-run China Daily reported on Wednesday.

Under the reform, the PLA slashed three lakh troops from the army and focussed expansion on navy and the air force as part of China's efforts to enhance its global influence.

In 2017, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported that China plans to increase the size of its marine corps from 20,000 to one lakh personnel for overseas deployment including Gwadar port in Pakistan and military logistics base in Djibouti in the Indian Ocean.

The expansion is planned

to protect China's maritime lifelines and its growing interests overseas, the report said.

In his interaction with the Marine Corps commanders, Xi asked them to concentrate on fostering their troops' combat preparedness and stay on high alert.

More realistic battle training must be carried out to enhance skills and more efforts should be made to innovate in terms of combat theories, training methods and task planning, he said.

He stressed that the Marine Corps is an elite amphibious fighting force that shoulders significant responsibilities in safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as China's maritime rights and overseas interests. **PTI**

Trump, Biden to hold competing town halls instead of debate

Washington: President Donald Trump will feature in a televised town hall Thursday on NBC News, the network said, setting up a direct scheduling clash with rival Joe Biden who had already planned his own version.

The two were originally meant to have been meeting for their second debate on Thursday evening. Instead, they will be simultaneously, but separately, talking to voters in TV studios -- NBC for Trump and ABC for Biden.

Trump will be in Miami, the network said, while Biden, who had already booked his appearance last week, will be in Philadelphia.

Their scheduled debate

had also been designed as a town hall where the two candidates would have fielded questions from voters, but this was upended after Trump contracted the coronavirus.

Debate organizers said they wanted to switch the format to a virtual appearance, for safety reasons, and Trump refused, forcing cancellation of the event.

NBC News said Wednesday it had received a statement from the clinical director at the National Institutes of Health and lead infectious diseases expert Anthony Fauci that they had "a high degree of confidence" that Trump is now "not shedding infectious virus." **AFP**

Uganda police raid offices of presidential hopeful Bobi Wine

Kampala: Armed police on Wednesday "besieged" the campaign headquarters of Bobi Wine, a pop star and politician who is seeking Uganda's presidency in elections set for 2021, an opposition figure said.

Police confiscated items such as security cameras and supplies of red berets that are symbols of Wine's popular campaign, David Lewis Rubongoya, an official with Wine's party

who is at the scene in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, told

The Associated Press.

"They have taken away everything," he said.

Wine, a legislator whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, was meeting with other leaders of his National Unity Platform party when the police swooped in and cordoned off the area, he said.

Wine and other party officials have not been arrested, he said. But in a Twitter post Wine reported that "comrades had been injured" after police "raid-

ed" his headquarters and seized documents and other items.

A police spokesman did not immediately respond to questions, but authorities frequently accuse Wine and others in the opposition of disobeying orders aimed at protecting public peace.

Wine, who has been arrested many times in recent years, has captured the imagination of many Ugandans with his persistent calls for President Yoweri Museveni to retire. **AP**

2 Afghan military helicopters collide, 9 soldiers killed

AP ■ LASHKAR GAH (AFGHANISTAN)

Two Afghan army helicopters collided while transporting wounded soldiers in the southern Helmand province, killing nine Afghan service members, the country's Defense Ministry and local officials said Wednesday.

The two Soviet-era Mi-17 helicopters crashed due to technical problems while taking off in Nawa district, the Afghan

Defense Ministry statement said.

The nine dead were all Afghan crew and soldiers who had been on board the aircraft.

Omer Zwak, a spokesman for Helmand's provincial governor, said the helicopters were carrying wounded soldiers when they crashed late Tuesday.

He said that over the past week, Taliban fighters have launched coordinated attacks in different parts of Helmand

province, which have intensified in recent days.

Three local officials in Helmand province said the helicopters were deploying Afghan commandos to repel a Taliban attack in Nawa district, and were evacuating wounded soldiers on their return flight.

The Afghan officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media about military activities.

Pakistan says soldier killed by firing from Afghanistan

Islamabad: Pakistan's military on Wednesday said a soldier was killed and another wounded in the country's northwest by fire from across the Afghan border, a sign of increasing violence in an area that until recent years served as a base for Pakistani and foreign militants.

The attack hit a border security post in Bajur district, a former tribal region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The military statement said the shooting came from the Afghan side of the frontier, and

did not speculate on who was behind the attack.

Similar cross-border attacks in Bajur district killed two Pakistani soldiers in July and September, respectively.

Pakistan's border areas served as a base for the Pakistani Taliban and other militants until a few years ago, when the army said it cleared the region of insurgents, but occasional attacks have continued. **AP**

Great Barrier Reef has lost more than half of its corals in past 3 decades: Study

Melbourne: The Great Barrier Reef in Australia, which is the largest reef system in the world, has lost more than half of its coral population in the past three decades, according to a new study.

The research, published in the journal Proceedings of

the Royal Society B, assessed coral communities and their colony size along the length of the Great Barrier Reef between 1995 and 2017, and found that small, medium, and large corals have all declined in the period.

"We measured changes in colony sizes because population studies are important for understanding demography and the corals' capacity to breed," said Andy Dietzel, a co-author of the study from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies (CoralCoE) in Australia.

"We found the number of small, medium and large corals on the Great Barrier Reef has declined by more than 50 per cent since the 1990s," said Terry Hughes, another co-author of the study from CoralCoE.

According to the study, the decline occurred in both shallow and deeper water, and across virtually all species -- but especially in branching and table-shaped corals. **PTI**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 36/MYS/2020 Date: 09.10.2020
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1	Mysuru - Bengaluru Section : Ancillary works such as provision of approach road and improvement to drain arrangement at RUB No. 749/A at Km. 134/000-100 between Mysuru-Naganahalli station and RUB No. 3 at Km.0/000-700 in Mysuru New Goods Terminal yard by pass line.	Rs. 50,19,444/-
2	Mysuru - Arsikere Section : Renewal of level crossing check rails and sleepers between Mysuru - Arsikere stations.(65 LC's)	Rs. 54,69,057/-
3	Assistant Divisional Engineer / Mysuru Sub Division : replacement of Bridges having steel girder of span 9.14m with PSC slab in Bridge No. 119A (2 x 9.14m) in Mysuru - Arsikere section. Total-2 Spans.	Rs. 71,04,536/-
4	Mysuru Division : Interlocking of level crossing gate (TVU more than 20000) - construction of IPS room of size 4.0 x 6.0 m at LC No. 78 at Km.119/600-700 between Yedamangala - Narayana stations (HMRC Section) in Senior Divisional Engineer / W / Mysuru Section.	Rs. 11,19,538/-
5	Assistant Divisional Engineer / Sakleshpur Sub Division : Tightening the loose fittings and providing / replacing missing fittings over girder bridges between Sakleshpur - Subramanya Road stations.	Rs. 1,18,43,712/-
6	Sub Work - I : Birur - Talaguppa Section - Ancillary work at road under Bridge No. 18A at Km 117/00-800, 28A at Km. 204/00-500, 35A at Km 25/200-300, 142A at Km 83/700-800, 210A at Km 114/300-400 & 238A at Km 29/200-300 (06 Nos Bridges) Sub Work - II : Arsikere - Birur Section : Ancillary work at road under Bridge No. 149A at Km 194/000-100 between Devanur - Ballekere Station.	Rs. 95,32,427/-

Last Date of submission of bids: Up to 11:00 hrs of 02.11.2020
For details log on: www.reps.gov.in
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Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301.
Corporate Office: 'Axis House', Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025, Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samarshwara Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

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

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

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

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

Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice	2. Date of Possession	3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
M/S Pashupati Polymers A Partnership Firm Having Registered Office at B-35, 2nd Floor, North Ex Mall Near Kadambri Apartments, Sector 9 Rohini, Delhi-110085	IMMOVEABLE ASSETS Hypothecation Charge over entire current assets and movable fixed assets of the company both present and future. (Except Vehicles) Mortgaged Properties: 1. Equitable mortgage of Commercial Shop / Unit No. B-255 on Second Floor, situated at LSC, North Ex Mall, Plot No. SU, Near Kadambri, C.G.H.S. Lld. Sector 9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 owned by Shri Ritesh Goyal.	1. 29-Jun-20 2. 9-Oct-20 3. Rs.1,25,93,000/- & Rs.1,79,44,000/- Total - Rs.3,05,37,000/- Plus unapplied Interest, incidental expenses and cost		
2. Mrs. Meena Aggarwal Partner of M/S Pashupati Polymers A Partnership Firm Having Registered Office at B-35, 2nd Floor, North Ex Mall Near Kadambri Apartments, Sector 9 Rohini, Delhi-110085	2. Equitable mortgage of Commercial Shop / Unit No. B-256 on Second Floor, situated at LSC, North Ex Mall, Plot No. SU, Near Kadambri, C.G.H.S. Lld. Sector 9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 owned by Shri Ritesh Goyal.			
3. Mr. Ritesh Goyal Partner of M/S Pashupati Polymers A Partnership Firm Having Registered Office at B-35, 2nd Floor, North Ex Mall Near Kadambri Apartments, Sector 9 Rohini, Delhi-110085	3. As per the sale Deed East - As per the sale Deed South - As per the sale Deed West - As per the sale Deed			

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

Date: 15-10-2020, Place: Delhi

Sd/-,
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.,

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), Namely: Fiza, D/o: Usman, R/o: Khazra No. 323-264, Gali No. 9/8, Part-2, Mukundpur, Delhi, Aged: 13 years, has been missing/ kidnapped from her house since 29.09.2020 at 10.00 AM. In this regard a FIR No. 569/2020, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 30.09.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:
Height: 4'8" feet, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Physique/Build: Thin, ID Mark: Injury mark over the forehead, Clothing: Coffee Colour Kurta having Black Colour Flower, Black Colour Legging having White Colour Flower Pink and Black Colour heel's Slipper in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/kidnaped girl, may inform SHO, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi at E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No : 011-24368638 or 24368641

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one female namely Neelam @ Chinki Wo Kishan Pal with her child namely Yuvraj R/o 8555 Ganesh Das Building, Near Palace Cinema, Roshanara Road Subzi Mandi, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi since 06.10.2020. In this regard, a case vide DD No.61A, dated 07.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. The description of the missing female is as under.

Age: 28 Years, Complexion: Fair, Height: about 5', Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Yellow colour saree. 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 female then please inform P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi following Tel No. / e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

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

Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi
Ph: 011-2382 3161

MADHYA PRADESH MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN COMPANY LTD.
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
Nishitha Parisar, Bijlaee Nagar, Govindpura, Bhopal-23
Phone No. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636
Ref. : MD/MK/04/NIT/1869 Date : 14.10.2020

TENDER NOTICE

M/PMKVCL, Bhopal, invites following bids from manufacturers through e-tendering :

Sr. No.	Tender specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee including GST (in Rs.)	Date of opening of Tender
1.	MD/MK/04/687	LT AB Cable 3x95+1x16+1x70 Sq. mm. aluminium alloy bare messenger wire.	83.26	11800.00	24.10.2020 03:30 P.M.

Other details are available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & www.mptenders.gov.in
M.P. M/98693/2020 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)
//SAVE ELECTRICITY//

Office of Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan
Tarun Vihar Lane -01, Mothrowala Road Dehradun-248001
Phone/Fax-0135-2671940 Email-eeudj@rediffmail.com & eeudjwb@gmail.com

Letter No.:168/e-TENDER NOTICE/PERI URBAN/20-21 Dated:14.10.2020

e-Tendering Notice

- Name of the Work :** Construction of Jeevanganj Peri Urban Water Supply Scheme of District Dehradun: Including Review of Design, Laying, Jointing and Testing of Rising Main & Distribution System, Construction of OHT's, Drilling & Development of Tube Wells and all appurtenants Civil and E&M works, SCADA & Automation AMR Metering etc. Including 5 years Operation, Maintenance & Management to achieve pre-defined Performance standards including maintenance of existing system.
- Name of Division :** FIU, Maintenance Division, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Tarun Vihar Lane No.-01, Dehradun.
- Estimated Cost/Period of Completion :** 5078.00 Lakhs/ 18 months/ 3 months/ 60 months Trial Run /O&M Period
- Publish Date :** 15.10.2020, 14:00 Hrs.
- Document download/ Sale Start Date :** 15.10.2020, 14:00 Hrs.
- Pre-Bid Meeting Date :** 29.10.2020, 11:00 Hrs.
- Bid Submission Start date :** 07.11.2020, 11:00 Hrs.
- Bid Submission End date :** 18.11.2020, 17:00 Hrs.
- Physical Document Submission Date :** 19.11.2020, 17:00 Hrs.
- Bid Opening Date :** 20.11.2020, 11:00 Hrs.
- Cost of Tender :** Rs. 5000.00+GST
- Earnest Money :** Rs. 76.00 Lakhs

Detailed e-Tender notice & tender document will be published in www.uktenders.gov.in Executive Engineer (FIU)

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
CS no. 2622/17, ICICI Bank Vs Rajender Kumar	Vehicle no -UP14CZ4754, Manu yr-2016, Make and Model-Volkswagen Polo 1.5 TDI Comfortline
CS NO 22/18, ICICI Bank Vs Sonu Kumar	Vehicle no -UP14FT7323, Manu yr-2016, Make and Model- Maruti Wagon R 2016
4006/17, ICICI Bank Vs Bharat Bhusan Jha	Vehicle no -DL1RTA2161, Manu yr-2015, Make and Model- Hyundai Xcent Base CRDI

Auction Date and time -20-Nov-2020 from 11 am to 2 pm.
Venue: Godara Yard, Khewat No:166/1, Near Atul Kartika Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrail, Gurugram - 122022.
Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.

Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT.

The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085. for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

Sensex extends winning run to 10th day

BANKING, FINANCIAL STOCKS SPURT

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices defied gravity for the tenth session on the trot on Wednesday as a flag-end rally in banking and financial counters helped offset profit-booking in IT stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened on a weak note but gained ground in the last hour of trade to finish at 40,794.74, up 169.23 points or 0.42 per cent.

Similarly, the broader NSE Fifty rose 36.55 points or 0.31 per cent to 11,971.05.

Bajaj Finserv led the Sensex gainers chart, spurring 3.87 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, SBI, Tata Steel, Axis Bank, L&T and HDFC.

On the other hand, NTPC, ONGC, PowerGrid, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, ITC and HCL Tech were among the major laggards, dropping up to 4.35 per cent.

Announcing its results post market hours, Infosys said

its consolidated net profit grew by 20.5 per cent to Rs 4,845 crore for the September quarter, while it has raised revenue forecast to 2-3 per cent for FY21.

"Initially, the benchmark indices opened in red on the back of unsupportive global cues. Besides, the news of IMF lowering its growth forecast for India for the second time in four months was also weighing on the sentiment.

However, a sudden surge mainly in the banking and financial counters changed the tone and helped Nifty to pare all its losses and close near 11,970 levels. On the flip side, IT, oil and gas and power traded subdued.

"The rebound is on the expected lines and we expect further surge ahead. Participants should keep a close watch on earnings announcements as well as global markets for cues. We reiterate our view to maintain extra caution in the selection of trades due to limited participation and prevailing volatility," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking.

Rupee clocks 1st gain in three days, up 4 paise against USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee managed to pare intra-day losses to settle higher by a marginal 4 paise at 73.31 against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking upbeat Asian peers and late buying in domestic equities.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee traded in a narrow range. It opened at 73.39 against the US dollar and hit an intra-day high of 73.28 and a low of 73.47. The Indian currency finally settled for the day at 73.31 against the greenback, higher by 4 paise over its previous close of 73.35 - logging its first gain in three days. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.06 per cent to 93.47.

India's public debt ratio to jump to 90% because of Covid-19, says IMF

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India's public debt ratio, which remarkably remained stable at around 70 per cent of the GDP since 1991, is projected to jump by 17 percentage points to nearly 90 per cent because of increase in public spending due to COVID-19, the IMF said on Wednesday.

"In our projections, the increase in public spending, in response to COVID-19, and the fall in tax revenues and economic activity, will make public debt jump up by 17 percentage points to almost 90 per cent of GDP," Vitor Gaspar, Director of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department told PTI.

"Going forward it is projected to stabilise in 2021, before slowly declining up to the end of the projection period, in 2025.

Broadly speaking the pattern of public debt in India is close to the norm around the world," he said.

According to Gaspar, India's public debt ratio has been remarkably stable since 1991. It is interesting to note that the debt ratio has been sta-

ble at around 70 per cent of GDP over the past decade, he said.

Responding to a question about his assessment of the fiscal situation of India, Gaspar said India has been an important source of growth in the world since the 1991 economic liberalisation reforms.

Real GDP growth averaged 6.5 per cent between 1991 to 2019, and real GDP per capita was multiplied by four over that period. This impressive growth performance helped lift millions of people out of extreme poverty, he said.

The extreme poverty rate, measured as the proportion of people whose income is less than USD 1.90 a day at purchasing power parity (the international poverty line), fell from 45 per cent in 1993 to 13 per cent by 2015 (date of the latest full extrapolation by the World Bank available - last full evaluation, based on household surveys, goes back to 2011), he said.

India achieved the millennium development goal of halving poverty by 2015 (from its 1990 level), he said.

Home sales in Delhi-NCR up 38% in Jul-Sept: JLL

FIAS ■ NEW DELHI

With the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions, housing demand in the July-September quarter improved and the sale of residential properties increased by around 38 per cent during the period in Delhi-National Capital Region, according to a JLL report.

A total of 3,112 housing units were sold during the period under review, compared to 2,250 units sold in the April-June quarter.

As per the report, most of this traction was witnessed in Noida, which contributed nearly 48 per cent to the overall sales, as it caters to all price segments. Noida was followed by Ghaziabad constituting 31 per cent of the sales and it mainly caters to the mid and affordable segments.

Gurgaon accounted for nearly one-fifth of the overall sales during this quarter.

"The quarter saw a preference for ready-to-move-in projects by reputed developers. The affordable and mid segment projects garnered more interest from the homebuyers

as compared to high-end and luxury projects," it said.

The emerging corridors of suburban markets such as Noida-Greater Noida Expressway, Golf Course Extension Road and Dwarka Expressway in Gurugram continue to drive sales on the back of expected augmentation in physical and social infrastructure in these markets.

Given the current business environment, developers exercised restraint and caution in launching new projects, JLL said.

Three projects were launched during the third quarter in the region, two in Gurugram and one in Noida. "While the launches were in high-end and upper mid segments in Gurugram, the project in Noida catered to the mid segment buyers," the report said.

Real estate developers continue to focus on offloading the existing unsold inventory and completing the projects under construction. Prices remained range-bound across most of the submarkets within Delhi-NCR during the quarter.

RBI launches latest round of quarterly survey of manufacturing sector

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday launched the latest round of its quarterly Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey (OBICUS) of the manufacturing sector which will provide valuable inputs for monetary policy formulation.

"The survey (Round 51) is for the reference period July-September 2020 (Q2:2020-21)," the central bank said in a statement.

The RBI has been conducting the OBICUS of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008.

The information collected in the survey includes quantitative data on new orders received during the reference quarter, backlog of orders at the beginning of the quarter, pending orders at the end of the quarter, and total inventories with a breakup between work-in-progress and finished goods inventories. "The level of capacity utilisation is estimated from these responses. The survey provides valuable input for monetary policy formulation," the RBI said.

States must consider cutting stamp duty on property registrations to boost demand: Housing secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra on Wednesday asked states to reduce stamp duty on registration of properties as it will help reduce the overall real estate cost and boost housing sales. Addressing a webinar organised by CREDAI in collaboration with Nangia Andersen India, Mishra said the government has taken various measures in the past six years for revival of this sector such as enactment of realty law RERA.

The finance ministry as well as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have taken several steps during the lockdown to address the concern of the real estate sector, he added.

"Measures taken during the past six years and also during the lockdown have started showing results," Mishra said.

The secretary noted that the property registrations in Mumbai, Maharashtra, have improved and are back to pre-COVID-19 level.

He said the Maharashtra government has taken a good decision to reduce the stamp duty, and many builders have decided to absorb the balance to incentivise the homebuyers.

"We have also written to all the states. I am also following up with different principal secretaries and secretaries of the states to see if they can come up with such move which will help reduce cost," Mishra said.

The secretary said the real estate is one of the most important components of the Indian economy having immense contribution in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and employment. He asked builders to utilise this pandemic time to retrospect and see how they can reduce cost and adopt innovative technologies for sustainable and inclusive development. He asked realtors to participate in the government's newly launched Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) scheme for migrant workers.

India to have 60,000 start-ups, 100 unicorns by 2025: TiE Global

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is expected to have 60,000 start-ups and 100 companies with valuation of over USD 1 billion by 2025, a TiE Global report, in association with Zinnov, released on Wednesday said.

The report observed that business recovery of start-ups is back on track after the lockdown.

However, 12-15 per cent of start-ups are facing risk of survival and a similar percentage of start-ups have closed their business.

"Despite being in the biggest pandemic we have had, India is going to create same numbers of unicorn in 2020 as we did in 2018 and 2019, which is a testament of our strong ecosystem," TiE Delhi-NCR president Rajan Anandan said while sharing the findings of the report.

"We do believe that India is on track to have 60,000 start-up by 2025. We are well on track to have 100 unicorns

in India by 2025," he added.

He said investments are also on track for recovery. TiE Global is a non-profit organization devoted to entrepreneurs in all industries.

There are around 38,000 active start-ups, out of which 26 are unicorns.

The start-up ecosystem in India had attracted USD 14.5 billion of funding in 2019, the report titled 'Covid-19 and the antifragility of Indian startup ecosystem' said.

The report said start-ups are expected to create 1.5 to 1.6 million jobs by 2025.

The study included most of the business data till the end of February and compared it with data till the end of September, Anandan said.

According to the report, direct job creation in the start-up ecosystem will remain flat in 2020 as about 25,000 jobs in several sectors like hospitality, mobility, among others, have been lost, while a similar number of jobs have been created in some sectors like edutech, communications, online fitness, among others, .

'UPI transactions help save 0.10 pc of GDP'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai: Amid the jump seen in unified payment interface (UPI) transactions, a digital economy professor closely aligned with the ruling BJP on Wednesday claimed that the shift to this mode has helped India save over 0.10 per cent of GDP from going out of the country. The uptick in transactions, which touched 1.8 billion in September, has also helped the economy from an "enablement" perspective, Arvind Gupta, a professor of digital economy who spearheaded BJP's national technology department for three consecutive terms, told reporters.

The comments come amid a 10 per cent surge in UPI transactions by quantum of money transacted to Rs 3.29 lakh crore in September as against August this year, as more people switch to digital payments amid the pandemic. "From the research that I wear, I can tell you that the initial study suggests that just by using UPI payments, we have saved upwards of 0.10 per cent of GDP which remains back in the country," Gupta said at an event organised by the fintech EarlySalary.

HUDCO makes dividend payout to MoRD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, was presented the final dividend cheque of ₹97.52 crore for the year 2019-20, by Shri M. Nagaraj, Director (Corporate Planning) HUDCO.

Present on the occasion were Shri Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary MoRD, Shri D. Guhan, Director (Finance) HUDCO and other senior officials. The Ministry of Rural Development with a 20.73% share holding has received a total dividend of ₹128.65 crore.

In its Golden Jubilee year, HUDCO has made an all-time high dividend payout of 31% amounting to ₹620.59 crore for the year 2019-20.

HUDCO also paid dividend of ₹428.68 crore to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), and ₹63.26 crore to public shareholders.

All 4 labour codes likely to be implemented from Apr 1 next year: Labour Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All four labour codes are likely to be implemented in one go from April 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year, Labour Secretary Apurva Chandra said on Wednesday.

Parliament in its just concluded session passed three labour code bills: the Industrial Relations (IR) Code, the Social Security Code, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (OSH).

The Wage Code Bill, 2019 was passed by Parliament last year.

Last month, Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar had said that efforts would be made to complete the labour reforms by implementing the all four labour codes by December this year.

The labour ministry had circulated the draft rules on the Wage Code Bill last year but held back its finalisation and implementation. The ministry wanted to implement all the four codes and rules under those in one go as all of them are inter-linked.

Talking to reporters, Chandra said, "We have started work on firming up draft rules of the recently passed three labour codes in Parliament. We are trying to notify draft rules by middle of November to seek feedback. We will give 45 days time for feedback." He further said that the four codes are likely to be implemented from April 1, with notification of firm-up rules. After the passage of a legislation in Parliament, it is sent for the President of India's assent. The three codes on IR, OSH and social security have already got assent of the President of India. A law comes into force after notification of rules.

Initially, draft rules under a law is notified with a stipulated time period (45 days) to receive feedback. Thereafter, these rules are finalised and implemented for bringing the law into force. Chandra said the labour ministry is expected to get the feedback on three codes on IR, OSH and social security by December-end and thus it would take some time to analyse that for firming up the rules.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL
HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
 Telefax :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

Gist of e-tender (Short-term)
NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/159/e-tendering Dated: 12.10.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered, reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

Name of Work:- Providing, Fitting, Installation, testing and Commissioning of New Radiators to ward 1 and Ward 2 of Govt. CD Hospital, Srinagar.
Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs):- 27.42
Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees):- 1000
Earnest Money (Lacs of Rs):- 55000
Time of completion (in Days):- 10
Position of AAA/funds:- Available

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from **12.10.2020 (18.00 hrs)** and can be downloaded from **13.10.2020 (18.00 hrs)**.

2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from **15.10.2020 (10.00 hrs) to 28.10.2020 (12.00 hrs)** in two (02) covers.

3. Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on **28.10.2020 at 16.00 hrs** or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

No. DIPK-7312/20
 Dated:- 13.10.2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
 MHCHD, Srinagar

NORTHERN RAILWAY
(E-Tender Notice)

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Coaching, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites online e-tender through website <https://ireps.gov.in>, for the parking contract, for the period of 3 (Three) years, to be closed on **06.11.2020 at 15:00 hrs**, at the following stations/locations:-

SN	Name of work with its location/ Railway Station	Advertise value/Reserve Price of one year in (Rs.)	Cost of Tender document & 18% GST (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen
1	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Tughlakaabad Railway Station (TKD), "D" Category, with measuring an area of 1109.95 sq. mtrs.	7,17,432/-	3540/-	43,100/-	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking89-2020
2	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Rohtak Railway Station (ROK), 2 nd Entry "A" Category, with measuring an area of 338 sq. mtrs.	5,94,000/-	2360/-	35,700/-	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking90-2020
3	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter and Car at Badli Railway Station (BHD), 1 st Entry "D" Category, with measuring an area of 795 sq. mtrs.	9,20,156/-	3540/-	55,300/-	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking91-2020
4	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Bhallabgarh Railway Station (BVH), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 901 sq. mtrs. on As Is Where Is Basis	6,84,260/-	3540/-	41,100/-	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking92-2020

* Applicable GST and TCS has to be paid by licensee extra, over and above the Advertise value/Reserve Price/License fee. 22/18/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ahmad Ali S/o Jakir Ali, R/o H.No. 874, Mohalla Lahawada-2, Nagar Palika Parishad, PS Deoband, Distt. Saharanpur, UP** and accused **Tahir Hussain S/o Ijat Ali R/o H.No. 819, Mohallah-Lahawada-2, Nagar Palika Parishad, PS-Deoband, Distt. Saharanpur, UP** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 427/17 u/s 392/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. SP Badli, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ahmad Ali and Tahir Hussain** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ahmad Ali and Tahir Hussain** has absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ahmad Ali and Tahir Hussain of FIR No. 427/17 u/s 392/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. SP Badli, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.11.2020**.

By order
Ms. Neha Gupta Singh, Ld. MM, Room No. 319, 3rd Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/521/ON/2020

Office Of The Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan
 Tarun Vihar Lane-01, Mothrowala Road Dehradun-248001
 Phone/Fax- 0135-2671940 Email- eemdujs@rediffmail.com & eemdw@gmail.com

Letter No. : 167 /e-TENDER NOTICE/ PERI URBAN/20-21 Dated: 14.10.2020

e-Tendering Notice

1. Name of the work : Construction of Rishikesh Dehat Peri Urban Water Supply Scheme of District Dehradun : Including Review of Design, Laying, Jointing and Testing of Rising Main & Distribution System. Construction of OHT's, Drilling & Development of Tube Wells and all appurtenants Civil and E&M works. SCADA & Automation AMR Metering etc. Including 5 years Operation, Maintenance & Management to achieve pre-defined Performance standards including Maintenance of existing system.

2. Name of Division : FIU, Maintenance Division, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Tarun Vihar Lane No.1, Dehradun.

3. Estimated Cost/ Period of Completion : 4968.00 Lakhs/ 18 months/ 3 months/60 months Trial Run/ O&M Period.

4. Publish Date : 15.10.2020, 14:00 Hrs.
5. Document download/Sale Start Date : 15.10.2020, 14:00 Hrs.
6. Pre-Bid Meeting Date : 29.10.2020, 11:00 Hrs.
7. Bid Submission Start Date : 07.11.2020, 11:00 Hrs.
8. Bid Submission End Date : 18.11.2020, 17:00 Hrs.
9. Physical Document Submission Date : 19.11.2020, 17:00 Hrs.
10. Bid Opening Date : 20.11.2020, 11:00 Hrs.
11. Cost of Tender : 5000.00 + GST
12. Earnest Money : 75.00 Lakhs

Detailed e-Tender notice & tender document will be published in www.uktenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer (FIU)

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	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK KATHAL	SUPPLY OF BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCKS KATHAL IN DISTT-KATHAL	12.10.2020 27.10.2020	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416258853
2	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK KATHAL	SUPPLY OF FLY ASH BRICKS IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCKS KATHAL IN DISTT-KATHAL	12.10.2020 27.10.2020	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416258853
3	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK KATHAL	SUPPLY OF PAVER BRICKS IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCKS KATHAL IN DISTT-KATHAL	12.10.2020 27.10.2020	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416258853
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK KATHAL	SUPPLY OF BRICKS IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCKS KATHAL IN DISTT-KATHAL	12.10.2020 27.10.2020	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416258853
5	IRRIGATION & WR DEPARTMENT HARYANA, FATEHABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE ON RIVER GHAGGAR FROM VILLAGE KHAI TO KALOTHA+1 MORE WORK	CLOSING DATE 02.11.2020	1078.98 LACS	hid.gov.in	xen-wsftb.irr@gov.in
6	IRRIGATION & W.R. DEPTT. HARYANA, HISAR	REHABILITATION OF BHERAIN SUB MINOR TO 20650. CM ANNOUNCEMENT CODE NO. 18254 DATED 08.11.2016.	07.10.2020 28.10.2020	131.54 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-237870 xenwsdnhrs@gmail.com xen-wshsr.irr@gov.in
7	IRRIGATION & W.R. DEPTT. HARYANA, BAHADURGARH.	CONSTRUCTING OF RCC STORM WATER DRAIN FROM TIKRI BORDER METRO STATION TO MUNGESHUPUR DRAIN FROM RD 0 TO 6500.	06.11.2020 14.11.2020	396 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01276-230518 / wsvdivisionbgrh@gmail.com
8	HEALTH DEPARTMENT / CIVIL SURGEON JIND	PROVIDING LAPTOP WITH WEBCAM & TABLET FOR CHO' DISTRICT JIND	13.10.2020 21.10.2020	EMD 20000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-245455, 7015444191 dhs.cjsnd@hry.nic.in cjs.jind@gmail.com
9	WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AMBALA	PROCURING FOOD ITEMS REQUIRED UNDER ICDS SCHEME IN AMBALA DISTRICT	10.10.2020 21.10.2020	30.56 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Distt. Programme Officer

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

RO No. 83222

**Trend
Blazer**

Need to get back in shape: Kangana

Actor **KANGANA RANAUT** put on 20 kilos for her role as late Tamil politician J Jayalalithaa in the biopic, *Thalaivi*, and is now working at returning to her earlier size, agility, metabolism and flexibility.

Tweeting a photo from her workout session, Kangana wrote, "I had gained 20 kgs for *Thalaivi*, now that we are very close to completing it, need to go back to my earlier size, agility, metabolism and flexibility. Waking up early and going for a jog/walk... who all are with me?"

She had recently shared that she has completed the latest schedule of the forthcoming biopic.



A MAGICAL MIX

As the Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week kicks off digitally, designer **LEENA SINGH** tells **AYUSHI SHARMA** that her collection, *Umme Rabab*, represents the serenity and the divinity of a woman

What would you say about the Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week (LMIFW) 2020 under the shadow of the Coronavirus pandemic? How is it different?

The India Fashion Week has always been a wonderful affair. However, this year, it has been a learning experience as well as a challenging one for all of us. The restricted movement and social distancing has given the industry a new format — a digital space with grand virtual sets and immersive technologies that will surely build a bridge between the physical and digital spaces. At 'Ashima Leena' (AL), we have been working meticulously to create our collection and have re-engineered our workspace where social distancing and all safety guidelines are being followed.

LMIFW 2020 is different in many aspects. There are more details this time. The digital presentation helps a brand to convey a story and also becomes accessible to a wider audience, increasing the reach of brands as well as designers.

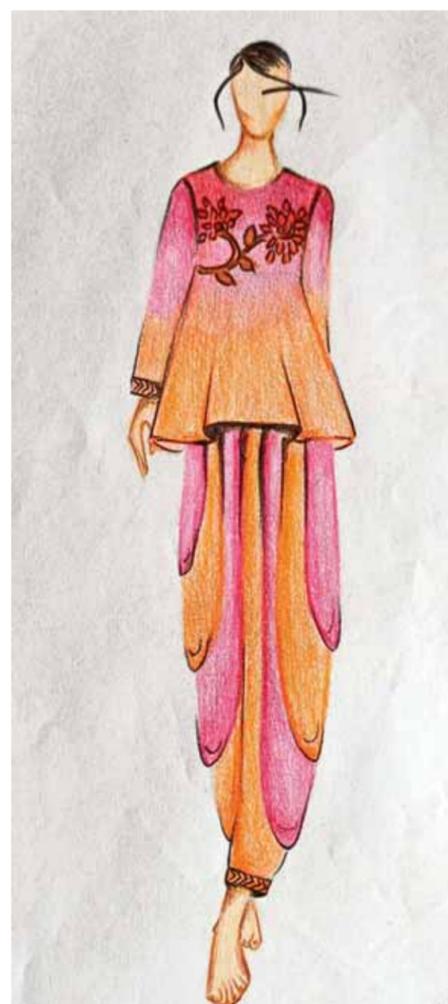
What were the underlying challenges while holding a grand show like this online?

Well, what poses itself as a challenge today becomes a norm tomorrow. Curating a grand show like this online for the first time was certainly very challenging. However, with the supportive and hard-working team of the FDCI, the entire experience has been creaseless. As we were trying to adapt to using technology to showcase our designs, it also became more inspiring to watch how the show came to life with various added elements — visuals, music, videography — all in sync to create the magic for us. With key elements in mind that tell the story of Ashima Leena such as styling, jewellery, choreography and make-up, we have created our digital show that showcases 'the art of textile crafting' with signature AL styles.

What do you think is the new face of fashion?

The new face of fashion is definitely digital. New formats have been re-imagined, the entire concept of fashion is being revisited due to the pandemic. I believe with less physical contact, the best way to reach out to our customers is online.

What have you brought to the table this time? Can you take us through your collection?



This collection is a tribute to the skilled craftsmen and weavers of our rich textile industry who are struggling for their livelihood today. We have been working with them for the last three decades. The unseen hands of the weavers who have worked relentlessly for decades together have helped bring the brand where it is

today. Their support has truly been immeasurable.

This showcase of our Couture Collection 2020 is titled, *Umme Rabab*, which represents the serenity and the divinity of a woman, who is known for her beauty, eloquence and wisdom. She proved to be the epitome of a modern *maharani* (queen), who is strong-willed and dedicat-

ed but doused in softness and femininity. The collection combines delicate hand embroidery in the form of meticulously curated textiles with classic AL Maharani silhouettes. Through our interpretation, we aspire to reflect a poetic flow in volume, layers and impeccable garment construction, which characterises the unique beauty of *Umme Rabab*.

The art of textile crafting is the signature style of my label. It's a magical mix of different kinds of weaves put together to create breathtaking patterns. The collection comprises of re-interpreted, lengthened jackets that can be worn with any of the classic silhouettes, peplums, circular lehengas, appliqué delicate sarees with jewelled tassels with *chanderi* and brocade-woven *Odhni* along with antique gold fabrics. We have used a million tiny hand-embroidered beads and intricately-appliqued brocades that highlight our legacy of fine craftsmanship. Our brilliant selection of hues transform texture into a chromatic scale of magical colours, exuding an old-world charm. Mustard, muted turmeric, soft dusky pink, ivory, pomegranate red, iron black, beaten gold, bold pinks, deep emerald, sand-like beige are some of the shades which come together to create the colour palette of this diverse collection.

The fabric has a blend of many hues and colours, which renders an inimitable uniqueness to the outfits. The collection has interplays of dexterous applique work with brocade fabrics, delicate French knots and detailed *zardozi* embroidery.

Given a massive crisis like this year, how do you think the fashion industry can be better prepared to face such challenges in the future?

Today, as the world is learning to live in new ways, there are many who are struggling and trying to cope with the changes this pandemic has brought to all our lives. One of the most affected sections has been of the *karigars* (craftworkers) and weavers of our country. We are now supporting them in every possible way. We stand in solidarity with them during these tough times. There are millions of looms across India that are engaged in weaving cotton, silk and other natural fibers to bring out the traditional beauty of India's spectacular heritage. Many generations of weavers have been dependent on this art of weaving and for decades it has provided livelihood to their families. Weavers and specialised textile craftsmen of our country have helped in keeping alive Indian heritage with various techniques of weaving and textile crafting. As we face challenges, we are also given an opportunity to reinvent and reimagine new and improved ways of working. I feel whenever there will be a challenge or such an obstacle, we will find ways again to face them and to work around them as it is imperative to support one another in difficult times like these. (The show is scheduled on October 16.)

'For many years I had the want to go vegetarian but breaking habits are the toughest thing to do. My journey with Climate Warrior taught me a lot of things and I just didn't feel like eating meat anymore. I took a call during lockdown. It was something that happened organically. It's been six months and I'm good and guilt free.'

—**Bhumi Pednekar**

Filmmaker **VIVEK RANJAN AGNIHOTRI** says it takes a lot of courage to speak up against the powerful people of the film industry.



Agnihotri opened up on the subject when he expressed his opinion on 34 Bollywood production houses and four film associations filing a civil suit in Delhi High Court against certain news channels for allegedly defaming the industry.

"Can the public sue Bollywood for destroying music, lyrics, language, art, creativity, social fabric and culture of India?" he tweeted.

Life is like building a spider web: Ethan

Actor **ETHAN HAWKE** compares living life to building a spider web, saying each moment, success and challenges are connected to each other beautifully.

"Life is a lot like building a spider web. You kind of jump from one corner to the next," Hawke said.



"The little journeys don't seem significant. But look back and see the whole journey, you see how they are all connected to each other beautifully. The parts that were most challenging, were where the most growth happened. I'm very grateful to my craft and my profession because it allows you to meet all kinds of people," he added.

Green wonder

Delhi's Sunder Nursery is not just a green lung in the heart of the city but also a place where you can find some great saplings and plants on sale

In 2007, as part of the Commonwealth Games 2010 planning, it had been proposed that a road be built through what we now know as Sunder Nursery to connect Lodhi Road with Ring Road. While urban infrastructure is not a bad thing, this would have been a monumental folly, thankfully many conservationists and the media, The Pioneer among them opposed this plan. Instead in 2010, the Aga Khan Trust, the Archeological Survey of India, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), which actually runs the 'nursery' bit) and other gov-



ernmental and non-governmental agencies began work on Phase-3 of the renewal of the Nizamuddin area. This has started with Humayun's Tomb and adjoining areas but this phase dramatically improved the 90 acres of land at Sunder Nursery, the eventual plan being to create parks and green areas totalling 900 acres in the heart of the capital.

In 2018, Vice-President of India M Venkaiah Naidu dedicated the park to the citizens of the city.

Today, the park is open from early morning to early evening not just for walkers and joggers but also for those keen on buying plants and saplings for their homes. Indeed, Azim Bagh as the area was known was a green space that was converted by the British into a nursery to grow the trees that would line the

of the new capital being built. All the Jamun trees that line Lutyens Delhi's boulevards started their lives as saplings at Sunder Nursery. It is also home to several species of trees uniquely found just there, and any budding arborist will find the area fascinating to visit and discover trees such as the Pink Cedar. The flower gardens are also stunning through the years. And many of the trees, flowering plants and even Bonsai plants are available to the public from the CPWD nursery at prices much lower than that of the myriad private nurseries in Delhi. Buy plants and saplings above ₹500 and your parking fees of ₹75 are reimbursed.

One of the other major parts of the redevelopment completed two years ago was the restoration of several Mughal-era buildings, gardens and tombs. The Sunder Burj, Sunderwala Mahal and the Lakharwala Gumbad are just some examples, making Sunder Nursery a great place to learn history and with the fantastic Humayun's Tomb a short walk away, an outing there should make it more fun for any budding historian.

The Hyundai Venue Sport we drove to Sunder Nursery is the perfect family vehicle for an outing to such an amazing site, not only has the Venue Sport fit in a family comfortably, but its large boot means that you could also buy a large number of saplings to take home and make your house and Delhi a greener space as well.



A KIND GESTURE

Actor **DIANA PENTY**'s *The Khaki Project* raises ₹17 lakh to help 5,800 police personnel in Mumbai. She takes to social media to thank those who extended support

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to prove to be a tough time for everyone, especially the frontline workers. The police department has been faced with grave challenges as they continue to provide assistance and protect citizens on a round-the-clock basis. While many are undergoing treatment after contracting the Coronavirus, many have succumbed to the health crisis while on duty.

During the lockdown, Diana Penty extended a helping hand to police authorities in Byculla to distribute essential equipment to keep health risks at bay. With the aim to provide them with hand sanitisers and eye-wear, she came up with *The Khaki Project* initiative. In association with Salaam Bombay Foundation, the actor has raised more than ₹17 lakh to provide safety essentials to 5,800 police personnel across 34 police stations in Mumbai.

Taking to Instagram, she announced the development. Thanking everyone for their support in raising the amount, she wrote, "Thank you from every corner of my heart to each and everyone of you for your generous contribution towards *The Khaki Project*. Your love and support is what kept us going. A special shout-out to Salaam Bombay Foundation for all the assistance in making this happen. More power to you guys. We are truly grateful for all the things we could accomplish with your kindness."

As the war against the pandemic continues, Diana's noble gestures have surely inspired many across the nation to do their bit to help those working who are tirelessly working on the frontline.





EDUCATION FIRST

Founder-professor **ACHYUTA SAMANTA** of KIIT & KISS institutes of Odisha provided the required study material and other daily essentials to the underprivileged students during the pandemic-induced lockdown



ities of KIIT & KISS strived to reach the hardest-hit and commonly overlooked people — transgender, sportspersons, physically-challenged, sex workers, etc. They were provided with allowances to cope with the prolonged lockdown. Food materials and cash to meet other expenses for three months were given to priests and other workers of several spiritual centres in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri and nearby towns. The two institutions are providing groceries and cash for miscellaneous expenses to over 40 orphanages, old-age homes and leprosy centres in Kandhamal district.

The student community is one of the worst-affected groups in the COVID-19 pandemic. KISS is home to 30,000 tribal students from interior districts of Odisha pursuing their studies from Standard-I to PG/PhD level. Days before the outbreak, they were sent to their respective homes in various districts of Odisha. As the students stayed inside their homes, KISS sent out required study material and generous amount of dry foods at their doorstep every month, since April. The monthly material also contain sanitary napkins for the adolescent girls. The initiative will continue till the

reopening of KISS. A series of measures to keep its students safe and healthy as well as ensuring that they remain connected to studies was also ensured. Professor Samanta, who has always put the education of these tribal students above everything else, arranged for the textbooks, study materials and dried food items to be provided at the students' doorsteps at the start of the new academic year. KISS was one of the early institutes to begin online classes and has been maintaining the academic schedule perfectly for students of all levels.

Inspired by the Prime Minister's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India), KISS has levelled up its vocational skill centre during the COVID-19 pandemic. The centre has been scaled up to become a medium-sized industry and is now making 25 different types of vocational products. These products are marketed through well-developed distribution channel, besides fulfilling the in-house requirement of KIIT & KISS. The sale proceeds from the centre are expected to make

KISS self-reliant in the coming times. In a unique humanitarian gesture, KIIT Deemed to be University has decided to provide free education to the children of the COVID deceased in Odisha. The facility will be available for two academic years — 2020-21 and 2021-22.

KIIT & KISS also paid special attention to the orphan children, belonging to the poorer sections of society, who are vulnerable to become victims of child abuse and human trafficking. The institutes have adopted and are taking care of about 100 such orphans and providing them monthly allowance ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000, depending upon the family size. As and when the academic institutions reopen, they will be provided free education and subsequently complete higher education in the institutes.

It's professor Samanta's personal childhood experience of hunger and poverty after his father's demise at the age of four, which makes him work harder for the society's underprivileged children.

No looking back

RISHI PALPU, State Vice President, OBC Morcha, (BJP's backward class organisation), Kerala, lists out the initiatives taken for the community during the current crisis

♦ **What are the major activities of the OBC Morcha?**

The OBC Morcha is now emerged as a major force to protect and secure the rights of people from Backward Communities. That was the cause of its birth too. In Kerala, there has been a great negligence towards this issue due to the changing governments. There are many schemes and governing bodies established over the time to benefit them, but they never really got benefitted. It's because our system is not working properly towards their facilities but only their votes. This has to be changed. And OBC Morcha is working to bring that change.

♦ **Government of India has brought out several schemes to uplift the backward class community. Is OBC Morcha creating awareness on this?**

Yes. In Kerala, those schemes has been subverted by other parties. OBC Morcha sees it as a mission to create awareness on schemes. This has become the need of the hour.

♦ **There has been a loss of lives and employment and the backward classes have been the worst-affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Are you helping them in any way?**

Backward classes are certainly the worst-affected. Many families have been rendered penniless. Many lives and jobs have been lost. That's why OBC Morcha has come up with a special mission to take care of the affected people in the community.

We believe in 'Seva Hi Sangathan' (service is organisation). And with that motto, in Thrissur, thousands of families were provided with food kits by OBC Morcha during the lockdown. When online education began, we started to supply tablets and TVs to students from poor families. And we are still continuing this. Timely intervention in matters related to the backward communities is now getting results too.

♦ **Many people are trying to set up their own businesses but the pandemic has hit them hugely. Do you plan to put forward any schemes for saving such business and thereby people?**

The central government led by Narendra Modi ji has already announced many schemes to save these businesses, especially those under MSME sectors. The major need is to create awareness on these schemes and help them to get benefits out of them.



♦ **What about the students who don't have access to smartphones or technology? How are you helping them stay connected with education during these times?**

The OBC Morcha has come up with mission to supply gadgets to those who have no facilities for online education.

♦ **What is your solution to the growing poverty and suffering amid the pandemic?**

There is no single solution for this. The Government of India is working hard and taking measures to help people in the crisis. We have to remain positive and work for a brighter future. The need of the hour is fighting away the pandemic. But for that, all the guidelines from government must be followed.

♦ **Do you think OBC Morcha can become an umbrella to cater to all the backward classes of the State?**

Why not? Yes, it may. We are working towards a great goal of emancipation of backward communities from the clutches of negligence and discrimination. There is no compromise on that. Recently, we took an initiative to bring the *Kumhara* community (potters' community) in Kerala on a single platform to find solution for their problems. They are in crisis while lockdown and pandemic has almost paved the way to death for this small industry. Now, the OBC Morcha has taken up their issues to create a good platform to revive this.

SRM provides free education to 300 students

Perambalur MP and Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Dr T R Paarivendhar, who had promised to give free education to 300 deserving students from his constituency in the SRM Group of colleges, has completed the promise this year.

In 2019, around the elections, Paarivendhar had given this assurance to the people of his constituency. And after his win by over four lakh votes, he immediately fulfilled his poll promise. A total of 300 students were recently given free education in the colleges under the SRM ambit. This year, too, 1,084 students had applied for free education. Out of them, 300 have been selected based on their marks and the financial situation of their respective families.

Apart from putting their names on the SRM website, a formal invitation will be sent to the students individually, who will then be pursuing education in engineering, agriculture, arts and science as per their preferences.

Paarivendhar has also been taking up various issues of his constituency with both the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State. He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi



on March 18, 2020, to talk about the various needs of the Perambalur constituency.

Among the issues were the need for a railway line via Ariyalur-Perambalur-Thuraiyur-Namakal. He also took up the issue with Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, who wrote to Paarivendhar that the first survey for the railway line will be taken up shortly.

With Chief Minister Edappadi Palanisamy, the Perambalur MP took up the issues of railway bridge at Kulithalai-Manapparai, bringing residual Cauvery water through a canal to Panjapatti lake, setting up Kendriya Vidyalayas in Lalgudi and Kulithalai, and establishing cold storage facilities to help small-scale onion farmers in Thuraiyur and Perambalur.

Nature's Market brings hope



Market power has started changing with the passage of time. Malls and shopping centres were once a boon but in the changing environment, products made in homes have started to gain a foothold in the market.

Many NGOs and local people set up their market near Swarnagiri with similar products. Giving information on the concept of The Nature's Market, Smita Mittal said that she felt that Greater Noida is a promising city and is ready for Sunday market. There are various people who display their organic farms and small businesses. Local producers look for a platform to expand. So we all like-minded people decided to join hands.

What started as a small group conversation on WhatsApp has now become a thing for residents of this place. The stalls at Nature Market offered *Bilona Ghee*, bio-enzyme fertilisers, plant items, Kadaknath eggs, pickles, raw honey, kullu, books and many other handmade items. The shopping process grew more exciting with fresh *litti-chokha* and *idli sambar*. Aditi Sharma, from the Little Muni Foundation, said that such a market is a new ray of hope for people battling the pandemic. She told that the market will take place every Sunday. People were invited to encourage local crafts and direct farming.

IN SHORT

Kolkata Metro Railway has been upgrading passenger amenities in the metro even during the lockdown and the new normal situation. A new escalator has been commissioned on Wednesday at Kalighat Metro Station by replacing the old one from platform to mezzanine at Dum Dum end. For its commissioning, there has been smooth co-operation of civil and electrical departments.



Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has registered 31.3 per cent growth in sales during the second quarter of FY2020-21. Post lockdown, the company has been witnessing an impressive sales which started in June'20. This has led to the company's H1 sales bounce back to the levels achieved during CPLY. During the Q2 of 2020-21, the saleable steel production also registered a growth of 5.2 per cent over CPLY. The company's strategic marketing efforts and customer-centric initiatives has contributed to this improvement. Anil Kumar Chaudhary, Chairman, SAIL commented, "The challenges during COVID not only gave us an opportunity to test our resolve in the face of odds but also made us more determined to perform better. Our focussed strategies coupled with zeal of the marketing team helped to leverage every single opportunity in the market."

LIC thrives amid crisis

Life Insurance Corporation of India's resilient and quick response in meeting the expectations of the market and the people has brought it exemplary results in the current financial year.

In the half year of 2020-21, LIC has achieved more than ₹25000 crore in first year premium income in Individual New Business performance as on September 30, 2020 as compared to ₹24867.70 crore as on Sept 30 last year. Under its Jeevan Shanti plan, LIC collected ₹11456.41 crore as first year premium as on Sept 30, 2020. ULIP Business of LIC is also doing well this year.

As on Sept 30, 2020 the company sold 16844 policies with a premium of ₹128.63 crore as compared to 12940 policies sold during the same period last year. LIC Pension and Group

Schemes Vertical collected ₹62,112.27 crore as Group Schemes New Business Premium Income as on Sept 30, 2020.

The corporation's composite market share in number of policies and first year premium is 67.82 per cent and 70.57 per cent respectively for Q2.

It has also declared a bonus of more than ₹51,000 crore for its policyholders.

Due to heightened awareness about need of risk cover the policy surrenders have reduced drastically.

The company had invested more than ₹2,60,000 crore this year in debt and equity (as on Sept 30 as compared to ₹244931 crore invested last year during the same period. It has already booked more than ₹15000 crore as profits in the capital market this fiscal so far.



ANOTHER FEATHER IN THE CAP

The Director (Operations), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Seema Gupta, has been declared the winner of Gold Stevie award in the Lifetime Achievement — Business category in the 17th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business.

The award honours women executives, entrepreneurs, employees and the companies they run worldwide. For this year, the gold, silver and bronze award winners were determined by the average scores of more than 180 business professionals around the world, working on seven juries.

The jury, while recommending Seema's name for the award, was all praise for her lifetime achievements in a key industry usually dominated by men



and for demonstrating her leadership calibre by sustained excellence in her area of work. The jury noted that her career and achievements showed dedication and determination. She could become a role model for the women in engineering field.

The award will be presented to Seema during a virtual awards ceremony scheduled on December 9, 2020.

This global recognition is yet another achievement in Seema's career. She has been earlier conferred with Special Commendation Award for Outstanding Women Manager in Public Sector Enterprises by the President in 2017 and was adjudged as the Best Contributor at the ITOOMS 2018 Conference in Malaysia.



Praveen Kumar Mishra, General Manager, along with Senior Officers visited the workshop at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works from October 12 to 14. He inspected various manufacturing group of shops like shell, bogie, wheel shops and new stores ward and steel foundry shop. Newly installed CNC axle turning and hydraulic wheel press machines were also inspected on Oct 12 & 13. He appreciated the installation of new machines and instructed the officials to improve upon the quality in housekeeping and inventory control in store depots. He also visited traction motor shop, VPI plant and electric loco assembly shop and interacted with the staff and supervisors. He was accompanied by the departmental heads, officers, staff and supervisors of respective shops.

TODAY

VS

Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1



KL Rahul | 387 runs

Kagiso Rabada | 18 wickets

Kane's experience can help out the younger players. If he bats at number three, he can play bigger knocks but playing at number four is his role right now

I would love to win a game for RCB with the bat. I've been focusing on my batting. When the opportunities come I should be able to step and perform

We need to monitor the wickets and select team accordingly. I think with our team and the depth that we have, we're always going to be one short either way

Sam is a complete cricketer for us. You need a seaming all-rounder. He strikes the ball nicely, he can bat up the order, plays the spinners well. He can give us those quick 15-40 runs

DC DOUBLE UP ON ROYALS

Delhi Capitals regain top spot with 13 run win

PTI ■ DUBAI

Flavour of the season Rahul Tewatia didn't prove to be third time lucky in what turned out to be an incredible death overs performance by the Delhi Capitals pace attack in their 13-run victory in an IPL game on Wednesday.

Anrich Nortje (2/33) was breath-takingly fast bowling in the mid 150 kmph with toe-crushing yorkers while Kagiso Rabada's (1/28) international experience proved to be pure gold dust leaving rookie Tushar Deshpande (2/37) to defend 21 runs in his debut IPL game, which he did with élan.

The result was Rajasthan Royals finishing on 148 for 8 chasing Delhi Capitals' par score of 161 for 7 as Tewatia couldn't hit the trio of Rabada, Nortje and Deshpande at all.

Royals lost the plot in the last five overs partly due to self-ish approach from senior player Robin Uthappa (32 off 27 balls), who needlessly ran-out a genuine match-winner Riyan Parag.

While skipper Shreyas Iyer's shoulder injury would keep Capitals on tenterhooks, 12 points from 8 games will keep them in good stead as they look to quickly clinch a play-off place. Rajasthan Royals with 6 points from 8 games stay in seventh place and are in danger of missing another play-off.

While DC were splendid at the death, it was Ravichandran Ashwin's artistry during the back 10 with clever variations of pace and flight that brought



Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer congratulates teammate Shikhar Dhawan after he completes his fifty. @DelhiCapitals

Delhi back in the game. Ashwin finished with figures of 1 for 17 and bowled 10 dot balls out of his 24 balls — on par with the ever-improving Nortje.

Earlier Shikhar Dhawan and skipper Iyer hit stroke-filled half-centuries but Delhi Capitals lost momentum towards the end to be restricted to 161 for seven after opting to bat first.

The last five overs of the Delhi Capitals innings yielded only 32 runs and they lost four wickets, an indication how they missed Rishabh Pant and Shimron Hetmyer.

DC had a disastrous start to its innings after opting to bat as it lost Prithvi Shaw off the first ball of the match with a gem of a delivery from Jofra Archer (3/19) that jagged back in after

pitching and crashed into the middle stump after getting an inside edge.

To make matters worse for DC, Ajinkya Rahane was holed out to Robin Uthappa off Archer at mid-on on an over later.

But then skipper Iyer (53 off 43) joined hands with Dhawan (57 off 33) and the duo initially played cautiously before opening up to take DC forward.

They shared 85 runs for the third wicket off 55 balls to keep DC's momentum going after the early jolts.

Dhawan looked in great nick from the onset, often finding the boundary with his trademark pulls and shots square off the off side.

In the process he scored his 39th fifty in the IPL off just 30 balls but soon after reaching

the feat he departed while trying to force the pacer, caught at short third man by Kartik Tyagi off leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal.

His runs came off 33 balls which had six boundaries and two hits over the fence.

After Dhawan's dismissal, Iyer took the onus on himself and upped the ante with some lusty hits and in the process got to his fifty off 40 balls in the 15th over bowled by Jaydev Unadkat, that yielded 17 runs, including two sixes.

But soon after, Iyer departed, caught by Archer at long-off off Kartik Tyagi as he went for another big hit.

Marcus Stoinis (18) and Alex Carey (14) tried their best to add muscle to the scoreboard but were unsuccessful.

Gayle set for IPL 2020 debut

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Kings XI Punjab will be hoping that Chris Gayle fires on his much-awaited return and they, for once, put up a complete performance in their must-win game against a high-flying Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Thursday.

The inability to produce an all-round show and close out games they should have won has led to KXIP losing six out of their seven matches.

But KXIP can take confidence from the fact their come against RCB, who look a much more potent squad since their last meeting on September 24.

Though the Sharjah wicket has been slowing gradually, the smaller ground dimensions are ideal for someone like Gayle to go on a six-hitting spree.

However, it certainly won't be easy for the 41-year-old to get going from ball one, having not played earlier in the competition.

He would have played the last two games but could not due to food poisoning. Having recovered fully, it will be interesting to see who he replaces in the side.

Benching a yet to fire Glenn Maxwell is one option or the team can bring Gayle at the expense of an overseas bowler and replace him with the available Indian talent.

KXIP are languishing at the bottom of the table despite having the top-two leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper K L Rahul (387 at strike rate of 134.84) and his opening

partner Mayank Agarwal (337 at 48.14).

Barring Mohammad Shami and Ravi Bishnoi, none of the bowlers have inspired confidence, especially in the death overs.

Not being able to find the right balance despite trying out many options has also contributed to KXIP's rapid slide.

They run into a RCB squad which has grown in confidence by leaps and bounds since their last meeting.

For the first time in many years, they seem to have fixed their bowling woes.

Their spin pairing of Washington Sundar and Yuzvendra Chahal has proved very effective and the pace department has strengthened with the return of Chris Morris from injury.

"Playing such a side (with the likes of Gayle, Rahul and Agarwal) in a stadium like Sharjah is definitely not going to be easy. It's going to be a bit challenging but I will definitely do my homework heading to the match," Sundar said on the eve of the match.

RCB's last game against KKR was also on this ground, so they come into the match more aware of the gradually changing conditions than KXIP, who played here last on September 27 when the surface was much better to bat on.

With Aaron Finch back among the runs against KKR, RCB's top-four (including Devdutt Padikkal, Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers) can be a nightmare for any team.



Chris Gayle in a red and white Kings XI Punjab jersey.

Misbah steps down as Pak chief selector

KARACHI: Former captain Misbah-ul-Haq on Wednesday said he will be stepping down as Pakistan's chief selector next month to focus on his role as head coach of the national cricket team.

Misbah told a media briefing in Lahore that he has informed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that he would be stepping down as chief selector on November 30. He took up the dual role of chief selector and head coach in September last year.

"I will select the squad for the coming series against Zimbabwe but after that I just want to focus on my work as head coach," he said.

Misbah insisted that he had

not quit as chief selector because of pressure from the board.

"No, it is purely my own personal decision and I took it because I think it is not easy doing two high profile jobs at one time. I want to give my best as head coach of the national team. "Whoever is appointed as chief selector, I will fully cooperate with him and work to take the Pakistan team into the top three of every format," Misbah said.

Misbah said with time he understood that it would be possible to give his best only to one role. "When I accepted both positions I thought I could manage it but with time I think it is better for me to focus on one job."

PTI

SA cricket in danger of ban

Cape Town: South Africa is in danger of being banned from international cricket after its Government on Wednesday said that it intended to intervene in the affairs of the sport's national body following revelations of serious misconduct by senior officials.

The statement from sports minister Nathi Mthethwa said he had informed the International Cricket Council of the intended action. The ICC's constitution forbids Government interference and the punishment is normally a ban from international games for the country's teams until the national cricket body is operating independently again.

The tension between the South African Government and CSA relates to a long-running investigation into the affairs of the cricket body, which resulted in the firing of CEO Thabang Moroe for serious misconduct. **AP**

Srikanth wins 1st match at Denmark Open

PTI ■ ODENSE

Ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth on Wednesday out-classed England's Toby Pent in straight games to enter the Denmark Open second round here and likened his return to international badminton after a coronavirus-forced hiatus to "an adventure".

The former world number one, who had claimed four Super Series titles in 2017, beat Toby 21-12, 21-18 in 37 minutes, as the sport finally got going after a seven-month-long break.

"I started off well, but he was good in the second game. I'm playing after a long time. It's like an adventure. This situation is something new. I've never been away for this long, and I'm happy with the way it went," he told



BWF.

The fifth seed will next face Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue, who defeated India's Subhankar Dey 21-13, 21-8 in a lop-sided contest.

Former world No 13 Ajay Jayaram also couldn't cross the opening hurdle, going down 12-21, 14-21 to world No 3 Anders Antonsen of Denmark in 37

minutes. Srikanth and Lakshya Sen are now the only surviving Indians in the competition.

Lakshya has already reached the second round with a straight game win over Christo Popov on Tuesday. He will face Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus of Denmark in the next round.

Srikanth said it will take some time for him to find his best, given the circumstances.

"The last time I played was at the All England where I lost in the first round, so I've not had much of match practice. But I think I'm slowly getting back," said the world No 14 Indian.

"It will definitely take some time, as there are no tournaments after this one. There will be a pause in the season, so it might take time to get used to match feeling."

Verdasco extends Murray's losing run

AP ■ COLOGNE

Andy Murray suffered another first-round elimination, this time at the Cologne Indoors at the hands of out-of-form veteran Fernando Verdasco.

Verdasco exploited Murray's fragile serve to win 6-4, 6-4 in a match which finished after midnight German time. Verdasco, at 36 one of the few players older than the 33-year-old Murray in the tournament, broke Murray's serve four times — once to love and three times to 15.

Murray lost in the second round of the US Open and in the first round of the French Open. He used wild cards for both of those Grand Slam tournaments and again in Cologne for his first loss on an indoor hard court since the 2015 tour finals.

Verdasco ended a four-match losing run going back to January in the Australian Open and will take on top-seeded Alexander Zverev in the second round after the German player had a bye in the first round.

Eighth-seeded Croatian Marin Cilic had to dig deep to avoid a first-round elimination as he beat Marcos Giron 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Another British player was eliminated as Kyle Edmund lost a tight match 7-5, 7-6 (1) to big-serving South African Lloyd Harris, who hit eight aces.

The second-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut will take on Gilles Simon in the second round after the veteran French player swept past Marton Fucsovics 6-0, 6-3. Bautista Agut has a first-round bye.

Swiss draw pile pressure on Löw

AFP ■ KYIV

Joaachim Löw's 14-year reign as Germany head coach is under threat after his side's run of poor results continued on Tuesday as they had to come from two goals down to limp to a 3-3 draw against Switzerland in the Nations League.

Germany have drawn four of their last five games — surrendering the lead on three occasions — to leave them second in their Nations League group behind Spain.

They squeezed past Ukraine 2-1 with a full-strength side in Kiev on Saturday and after a 3-3 friendly home draw against Turkey last Wednesday, Löw's side were once again guilty of poor defending.

The 60-year-old Löw has a German FA contract until the 2022 World Cup.

However, his popularity among German fans has plummeted, from the heights of winning the 2014 World Cup title, since Germany's debacle at Russia 2018 finals when they failed to get out of their group.

The draw with the Swiss will only enhance the domestic criticism of Löw from key names within German football such as Lothar Matthäus and Bastian Schweinsteiger.

Dinamo Zagreb striker



Mario Gavranovic scored goals either side of a deft chip by Remo Freuler as all three Swiss goals came from German mistakes.

Germany fought back behind closed doors with goals by Timo Werner, his Chelsea team-mate Kai Havertz and Serge Gnabry.

SPAIN GO DOWN

In other games, Substitute Viktor Tsygankov's strike gave Ukraine a surprise 1-0 win over goal-shy Spain in their clash in Kiev. The 22-year-old Dynamo Kiev player had not long been thrown into the fray by coach Andriy Shevchenko when he latched onto Andriy Yarmolenko's superb through ball and fired past an exposed David de Gea in the 76th minute.

It was a shock result after Spain — who had not lost since November 2018 — won 4-0 when the sides met in Madrid just last month, and Ukraine are now only a point behind Luis Enrique's team in League A, Group 4.

Elsewhere, San Marino are the perennial whipping boys of international football but on Tuesday they were able to celebrate claiming their first point in six years thanks to a 0-0 draw in Liechtenstein.

Goalkeeper Simone Benedetti was the hero for San Marino as he kept their first clean sheet since a goalless draw at home to Estonia in a European Championship qualifier in November 2014, and their first ever clean sheet away from home.

Neymar breaks Ronaldo's record

LIMA: Neymar scored a hat-trick to become the second highest scorer in Brazil's history as the Copa America champions won 4-2 away to 10-man Peru in a World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.

The goals took Neymar to 64 international strikes, two more than Ronaldo but still well behind Pelé's record of 77.

Peru twice took the lead through Andre Carrillo and a heavily deflected strike from Renato Tapia, but two controversial Neymar penalties, an injury time third and a close range strike from Richardson maintained the Selecao's winning start to qualifying for Qatar 2022.

Elsewhere, Joaquin Correa scored the winner 11 minutes from time as Argentina labored to a 2-1 victory over Bolivia to maintain their 100% record after two matches. While Ecuador totally dominated Uruguay in a 4-2 victory.

Luis Suarez scored his record-extending 61st and 62nd goals for Uruguay with a pair of late penalties that were no more than a consolation.

Radamel Falcao scored an injury time equaliser as Colombia salvaged a point in a 2-2 draw in Chile.

Jefferson Lerma gave Colombia an early lead but Chile turned the match in Quito around by half-time with strikes from Arturo Vidal and Alexis Sanchez.

Gaston Gimenez scored a late winner before goalkeeper Anthony Silva saved a penalty from Yangel Herrera as Paraguay won 1-0 in Venezuela. **AFP**

2010 CWG sports announcer still waiting for payment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It was October 2010 when India hosted the 19th edition of Commonwealth Games in Delhi where more than 4,352 athletes from 71 nations participated in 21 sports and 272 events. The event was a big hit but also had a fair share of controversies and one such was the underpayment of various officials hired on contractual basis for various events during the 11-day sporting extravaganza. And one such was Delhi-based Vikram Nayar who worked as a sports announcer for the full-bore shooting event.

But even 10 years after the conclusion of Games where he was hired for ₹4500 per day for 11 days, he is still fighting in hope to get his dues cleared, only a part of which he is provided till date.

Speaking to The Pioneer about his decade-old struggle, Nayar said "I was hired as a sports announcer and the amount of ₹4500 per day was promised to me for my services during the entire duration. However I wasn't provided with any contract document and that's why as soon as the games were done, I was sidelined and no payment was made for my services."

He was offered only one-fifth of the total money that was originally promised and that too after 15 months after wide-spread media coverage.

"I had received my part payment of ₹10,500 after a gap of 15 months. They had no intention to make any payment but after the story about nonpayment got published in one of the leading newspapers they had to do so. And since that day onwards, I have been fighting my battle for the recovery of my balance and justice till date, said Nayar, who was selected as a sports announcer after clearing five rounds of auditions.

In this long decade-old battle to get justice, Nayar has spent more than six times the money that he is originally supposed to receive from the Games federation and knocked doors of various Government officials but all resulted in vain. But he is still hopeful that one day the truth shall prevail and he will get his dues sorted.



Vikram Nayar.

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Grandmother of Delhi Capitals pacer Tushar Deshpande, who made his IPL debut on Wednesday against Rajasthan Royals, poses with her grandson's jersey. @DelhiCapitals



Delhi Capitals troll Rajasthan Royals after Anrich Nortje bowls fastest delivery of 2020 IPL. @DelhiCapitals



Sunrisers Hyderabad players Abhishek Sharma, Priyam Garg, Shahbaz Nadeem and Abdul Samad chat with Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni at the end of IPL game. @SunRisers



Kolkata Knight Riders wish former captain Gautam Gambhir on his 39th birthday. KKR won two IPL trophies (in 2012 and 2014) under Gambhir's leadership. @KKRiders

POINTS TABLE

	P	W	L	NRR	PTS	
1	DC	8	6	2	+0.990	12
2	MI	7	5	2	+1.327	10
3	RCB	7	5	2	-0.116	10
4	KKR	7	4	3	-0.577	8
5	SRH	8	3	5	+0.009	6
6	CSK	8	3	5	-0.390	6
7	RR	8	3	5	-0.844	6
8	KXIP	7	1	6	-0.381	2