



AJAY REVEALS HIS FAVOURITE MEMORY 10 VIVACITY

BJP's free Covid vaccine pledge in Bihar sparks row

Opp questions whether other Indians won't get free vaccine; BJP's Bihar polls manifesto also promises 19L jobs in 5 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP's poll promise of free coronavirus vaccination to everyone in Bihar triggered a major row on Thursday. The Opposition came down heavily on the ruling party for making the life-saving drug a tool for political gains and charged it with linking the vaccine's access with elections. The BJP countered the charges saying it has taken up a public health issue and the Opposition should not be upset over it. The BJP also promised 19 lakh jobs in the next five years.

"As soon as a Covid-19 vaccine is available for production at a mass scale, every person in Bihar will get free vaccination. This is the first promise mentioned in our poll manifesto," Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, announcing the BJP's 11-point "sankalp patra" (draft of commitments) for the Bihar polls.

Soon after, AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took to Twitter to question: "What about non-BJP ruled States? Indians who didn't vote BJP will not get free Covid vaccine?"

The Congress as well as the RJD besides former Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Akhilesh Yadav hit out at the BJP.

"GOI just announced India's Covid access strategy. Kindly refer to the State-wise election schedule to know when will you get it, along with a hoard of false promises," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with BJP general secretary Bhupendra Yadav and Bihar BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal, releases the party manifesto ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, in Patna on Thursday

BJP netas test +ve, Bihar campaign hit hard

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP's election campaign in Bihar was hit hard on Thursday with Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi and former Union Minister and star campaigner Shahnawaz Hussain announcing on their own about having tested positive.

The status of State's Health Minister Mangal Pandey and former Union Ministers Rajiv Pratap Rudy has not been confirmed but reports said the two have gone in isolation.

The instances of the BJP leaders testing positive coinci-

Dy CM Sushil Modi, ex-Union Minister Shahnawaz Hussain corona positive

dently came on a day when their party in its poll manifesto promised to provide free vaccination to the State's residents.

"Tested positive for corona. All parameters perfectly normal. Started with mild temp. No temp for last 2 days. Admitted to AIIMS Patna for better monitoring. CT scan of lungs normal. Will be back soon for campaigning," Sushil Modi tweeted.

Shahnawaz, who had

addressed rallies a couple of days ago, also took to Twitter to announce: "I had come in contact with a few people who tested positive for Covid 19. I got myself tested today & my report has come positive. Request all who came in contact with me in last few days, kindly get yourself tested according to Govt guidelines. I have admitted myself into AIIMS trauma centre. I am feeling fine, nothing to worry about."



The number of Covid cases in Bihar stands at 2.08 lakh, of which a little over 11,000 are active cases. The State has so far carried out over 95 lakh tests and there have been 1019 deaths due to the infection.

Modi invokes Nari Shakti, opens Durga Puja virtually in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday blew the poll bugle rolling out a list of his Government's women-centric achievements as he virtually inaugurated a number of BJP-backed Durga Pujas in Bengal.

Modi who made part of his persuasive speech in Bengali bringing to mind the contribution of Bengal in freedom struggle and its cultural reawakening said that it was his honour to inaugurate Durga Puja which is essentially a worship of "Nari Shakti" or women empowerment for which his Government too had taken a whole range of steps.

"Bengal and Durga Puja have always emoured me. This festival is a festival of unity and strength of all of India ... inspired by the ideal of Nari Shakti our Government has taken a number of steps from opening Jan Dhan accounts for 22 crore women, giving soft loans to them under the Mudra Yojana, Ujjwala Yojna, launch-

ing Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao initiative, granting permanent commission to women in the armed forces, to extending maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks, we have taken a number of steps for their empowerment," he said, adding his Government has brought in laws against rape making them more stringent "by including death penalty to the culprits."

Reminding "Atmanirvar Bharat" is not far away the PM said Bengal too would play an important role in making India self-reliant as it had done in the past by taking the lead role in Independence movement and cultural reawakening of the country.

Continued on Page 2

IT raid on Cong office in Patna

Patna: Just a few days ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, an Income Tax raid was conducted at the Bihar Congress office in Patna on Thursday.

Congress Bihar in-charge Shaktisinh Gohil told reporters that an I-T team had come at the office and informed that few lakhs in cash had been recovered from a vehicle.

Reports say that around ₹8 lakh cash was recovered from a vehicle inside the campus of the Congress office.

"We told the team how we could know whose vehicle had come at the state party office and what was inside it. Somebody can put anything inside a vehicle and come to our party office. We are nowhere responsible for it," the Congress Bihar in-charge told mediapersons.

Govt eases travel curbs for all, except tourists

Persons on tourist visas barred; those allowed must follow Covid guidelines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday further leased visa and travel restrictions imposed amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card holders and all other foreign nationals intending to visit India for any purpose, except on a tourist visa, have been permitted to enter by air or water routes through authorised airports and seaport immigration check posts.

This includes flights operated under Vande Bharat Mission, Air Transport Bubble arrangements or by any non-scheduled commercial flights as allowed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.



All such travelers will, however, have to strictly adhere to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regarding quarantine and other health/Covid-19 matters, the Home Ministry said in a statement.

"Therefore, this decision will enable foreign nationals to come to India for various purposes such as business, conferences, employment, studies, research, medical purposes, etc," said the statement.

Continued on Page 2

Oxford vaccine trial continues amid death

Independent study claims Covid-19 vaccine trial doing everything fine

AP ■ LONDON

The University of Oxford says the late-stage trial of its Covid-19 vaccine in Brazil will continue following reports of a participant's death.

The university said it can't comment on specific incidents but an independent review found no reason to be concerned about the safety of the Brazilian trial.

It says an "independent review, in addition to the Brazilian regulator, have recommended that the trial should continue."

The Oxford vaccine is being developed in conjunction with the international pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. Trials are underway in the United States and the UK, as well as Brazil, to

determine whether the potential vaccine is safe and effective in humans.

Meanwhile, independent study claimed that Oxford Covid-19 vaccine is doing "everything expected", which means good news in the fight against the deadly virus.

A team at Bristol University used recently developed techniques to validate that the vaccine accurately follows the genetic instructions programmed into it by the Oxford University team. The experts say that the novel analysis provides even greater clarity and detail about how the vaccine successfully provokes a strong immune response.

"This is an important study as we are able to confirm that the genetic instructions underpinning this vaccine, which is being developed as fast as safely possible, are correctly followed when they get into a human cell," said Dr David Matthews, Reader in Virology from Bristol's School of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, who led the research.

Govt warns Twitter CEO over misrepresentation of India map

IT Secy's letter says disrespect to India's sovereignty, integrity totally unacceptable

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The Narendra Modi Government has written a strongly-worded letter to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey conveying its strong disapproval over the misrepresentation of map of India by his micro-blogging platform and making it clear that disrespecting the country's sovereignty and integrity is totally unacceptable.

In his stern letter, IT Secretary Ajay Sawhney pointed out that such attempts not only bring disrepute to Twitter, but also raises questions about its neutrality and fairness as an intermediary.

Twitter had shown the geographical location of Leh in Jammu & Kashmir as People's Republic of China. The warning to Twitter comes days after the social media platform landed itself in

controversy after users shared screenshots of its blunder.

Twitter's blunder triggered a wave of angry outbursts on social media, with most requesting the Government to take strict action against the social media platform and some seeking total ban on it in India.

The IT Secretary, in his letter, reminded Twitter that Leh is the headquarters of Union Territory of Ladakh and both Ladakh as well as Jammu & Kashmir are integral and inalienable parts of India, Governed by the Constitution of India.

The Government asked Twitter to respect the sensitiv-

ities of Indian citizens, and also made it clear that any attempt by Twitter to disrespect sovereignty and integrity of India, which is also reflected by the maps, is totally unacceptable and unlawful.

The Government's warning to Twitter comes amid the tense standoff with China along the LAC. Indian and Chinese soldiers have been locked in a standoff at the LAC, or the de-facto border between the countries, in Ladakh since May. Tension peaked in June when 20 Indian soldiers were killed in the line of duty in a clash with the Chinese at Galwan Valley.

This is not the first time that the Government has expressed displeasure and warned the micro-blogging sites in the country. During the riots in Delhi, the Ministry of Home Affairs warned the representatives of social media platforms for not blocking objectionable content, hate messages and videos flagged by the police during the communal riots in North-East Delhi.

CAPSULE

SEAT AVAILABILITY FEATURE IN DTC SOON

New Delhi: With an aim to let the passengers know about availability and non-availability of seats, Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has decided to display info in its buses.

IB OFFICIAL'S MURDER CASE: MAN DENIED BAIL

New Delhi: A Delhi court Thursday dismissed the bail plea of a man arrested in connection with the murder of Intelligence Bureau (IB) official Ankit Sharma during the riots in North-East Delhi in February.

BALLIA FIRING: COPS TAKE BJP LEADER IN CUSTODY

Ballia: The police on Thursday took in custody BJP leader Dhirendra Pratap Singh, who was arrested for allegedly shooting dead a man in Ballia's Durjampur village during the allotment of a ration shop.

Pak House panel OK's Bill to seek review of Jadhav's conviction

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani parliamentary panel has approved a Government Bill that seeks a review of the conviction of death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav, complying with the directives of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), according to a media report on Thursday.

The draft Bill titled "the International Court of Justice (Review and Reconsideration) Ordinance" was discussed and approved by the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Law and Justice on Wednesday despite stiff resistance from the Opposition.

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Delhi's air deteriorates to 'very poor'

SAFAR advises people to stop outdoor activities in morning, evening

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Pollution levels in the national capital dropped to 'very poor' category on Thursday evening and is likely to worsen in the coming two days, Government agencies said.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) have been recorded at 302, which is in the "very poor" category. An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good"; 51 and 100 "satisfactory"; 101 and 200 "moderate"; 201 and 300 "poor"; 301 and

400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

Though the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and other agencies had predicted an improvement in air quality for Thursday, the AQI turned out to be worse than Wednesday. Delhi's AQI was in "poor" category on Thursday morning at 254 and it deteriorated to "very poor" at 302 by evening.

The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), a unit of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), advised people to stop outdoor activity early morning and after sunset and avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.

According to SAFAR, Delhi's air quality will remain very poor till October 24. The pollution monitoring agency

recommended for short walk instead of a jog and suggested to take more breaks during walk. It also exhorted people to use masks N-95 or P-100. SAFAR said, "A significant increase in stubble fire count observed around Haryana, Punjab, and neighbouring regions. Stubble fire counts

stood at 1,428 on Wednesday the highest of this season."

Additional Director General of IMD Anand Sharma said, "Air quality will deteriorate in the coming two days till October 24. There are factors other than farm fires which are worsening the air quality, such as vehicular pollution and waste burning. PM 2.5 will increase and PM 10, which is now in 'poor' category, will be 'very poor' by October 24."

Values of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) on Index for PM2.5 and PM 10 were 265 and 125 which may shoot up to 306 and 147 for Friday, as per SAFAR forecast.

After three days, Delhi may get slight relief from noxious air quality as marginal dip noted in pollutants values.



POST DEMONETISATION PERIOD

ED files prosecution plaint against 4 for illegal cash transaction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

tion.

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet in police parlance) before a special court in Patna in a money laundering case relating to misuse of banking channels for suspicious huge amount of illegal cash transaction post-demonetiza-

assets worth Rs 4.61 crore in the form of movable and immovable properties in the name of Raj Kumar Goenka, Ratan Kumar Goenka and in the name of his family members.

The Enforcement Directorate initiated investigation against Raj Kumar Goenka and others under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on

the basis of FIR registered with Mithanpura police station in Muzaffarpur, Bihar for IPC Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery among others.

"Investigation under PMLA has revealed that Raj Kumar Goenka along with his brothers fraudulently and dishonestly opened several bank accounts by misusing photo-

graphs and other documents of their employees and huge cash transactions were affected from these bank accounts without the knowledge of the actual account holders," the ED said in a statement.

Subsequently, by way of RTGS/NIFT, the said deposited cash was transferred to the bank accounts of Goenka's counterparts in various cities

like Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai.

Goenka's associates in other cities used to receive cash against cheque from various entities and the cash so received were given to the person/entity on behalf of whom, cash was received by Goenka Brothers in Muzaffarpur, the agency said.

Proceeds of crime amount-

ing to Rs. 25.80 crores were deposited in these bank accounts and the same were dishonestly transferred and layered through various bank accounts with an intention to launder the tainted money to project the same as untainted. Earlier, Proceeds of Crime (POC) worth Rs 4.61 crore was provisionally attached.

Investigation also revealed

that Pankaj Agarwal was facilitating the money laundering at Kolkata in collusion with Goenka brothers at Muzaffarpur.

The accused Pankaj Agarwal and Raj Kumar Goenka were arrested by ED on September 22 this year and they are undergoing judicial custody at Adarsh Kendriya Kara Beur, Patna, it added.

Covid curve flattening in Maha as daily cases down to 7,539

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

ed cases jumped from 16,17,658 to 16,25,197.

On a day when 16,177 people were discharged from various hospitals in the state, the number of people discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 14,31,856. The recovery rate in the state rose from 87.51 per cent to 88.10 per cent.

Of the 198 deaths, Mumbai topped the list with 49 deaths, followed by 20 deaths in Nagpur, 16 in Thane, 14 each in Ahmednagar and Pune, 11 in Solapur and 10 in deaths in Satara.

In the lower range, there were nine deaths in Sangli, 7 in



Raigad, 6 in Kolhapur, 5 each in Palghar and Nashik, 4 each in Ratnagiri, Osmanabad and

Chandrapur and one death each in Nandurbar, Aurangabad and Gondia. In addition one person from outside the state died in Maharashtra.

With 49 deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 9,912 to 9,961 while the infected cases mounted by 1,463 to trigger a jump in the infections from 2,15,869 to 247,332 now. The case doubling rate in Mumbai has gone up to 108 days.

Meanwhile, the mortality rate in the state stood at 2.64 per cent. The number of "active cases" in the state dropped from 1,58,852 to 1,50,011.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected

city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,26,785 to 3,27,670, while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 6581 to 6595.

Thane district remained in the third spot -- after Pune and Mumbai -- after the total number of infections from 2,15,679 to 2,16,596 while the pandemic toll rose from 5238 to 5254.

Out of 84,02,559 samples sent to laboratories, 16,25,197 have tested positive (19.34 per cent) for COVID-19 until Thursday.

Currently, 24,58,436 people are in home quarantine while 24,621 people are in institutional quarantine.

Yogi: Western UP freed from clutches of mafia, goons

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said due to the sweeping law and order measures and steely resolve of his Government, the Mafios and hooliganism had become a thing of past.

"These are the same mafia who were being harboured by the opposition parties and now they are on the run, begging for their lives," Yogi Adityanath said while addressing public meetings in the bypolls-bound UP Assembly constituencies of Bulandshahr, Amroha and Tundla on Thursday.

He said that the western part of the state had been freed from the clutches of mafia elements and goons. "Their properties are being razed and they have no place left to hide themselves," he added.

The chief minister said that the state government was continuously working towards transforming Uttar Pradesh into 'Uttam Pradesh' for the past three years.

"Not only the dues of sugarcane farmers are being cleared, the sugar mills that were shut down during previous regimes are operating with full capacity and productivity," the chief minister said.

Addressing a group of farmers from Delhi and nearby villages at the BJP headquarters here, Nadda also took a swipe at West Bengal.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for not implementing in her state the Center's scheme to deposit ₹6,000 into every farmer's account under the 'Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.'

She has been creating hurdles in farmers' development, but this will not go on for long, he said and stressed that the BJP will come to power in the state next year and implement the scheme.

The Assembly polls in West Bengal are due in the first half of the next year.

Modi invokes Nari Shakti...

From Page 1

Reminding how Poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee inspired nationalism through their works. Modi said, "if I continue to take names of such Bengalis, the day will end but the list will not."

Reminding that Durga Puja gives the country a feeling of unity, strength and oneness he said, "In Bengal Maa Durga is worshipped like a daughter which in itself is a symbol of Bengal's awakened consciousness, spirituality and heritage.

Modi's speech comes barely seven months ahead of the

State Assembly elections in which his party BJP has emerged as the main challenger to the Trinamool Congress displacing the Left Front.

Taking a dig at the Prime Minister's urgency to inaugurate Durga Puja senior TMC leader and Bengal Minister Firhad Hakim said, "Where the Prime Minister was in the past years... why is he here to inaugurate Durga Puja when the elections are coming near... everyone understands the political intention behind this initiative. The people of Bengal are too conscious to understand these things."

Govt eases travel curbs...

From Page 1

The Government had suspended all visas on March 11. However, in June, it allowed the entry of foreign minor children with at least one parent who is an Indian citizen or an OCI card holder, foreigners married to Indian citizens and single foreign parents whose children hold an Indian passport or an OCI card.

Incoming and outgoing air travel was restricted since February this year due to the pandemic. While scheduled international passenger flights have been suspended in India since March 23, the Government resumed scheduled domestic passenger flights on May 25. It had then allowed the airlines to operate a maximum of only 33 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic flights. But from June 26 onwards, the Civil Aviation Ministry increased the limits to 45 per cent.

LOST & FOUND

Original title documents of my property No. C-10/85 Yamuna Vihar Bhajanpura North East Delhi 110053 i.e. Allotment & Possession letter by DDA, Lease Deed dated 16.02.1977, G.P.A., A.T.S. Receipt and Will dated 11.11.1992 and CD dated 16.07.2000, MCD Mutation Letter, Building plan and site plan have been misplaced/lost by Bank of Baroda and LR no. 573188/2020. If found kindly contact Mr. Harish Kumar S/o Bal Krishan Dass at Mobile No. 9899130360, e-mail: dass.harish16@gmail.com.

CENTRAL RAILWAY

25 KV AC MEMU

TRANSFORMER 1050 KVA

Dy. Chief Material Manager's Office, Matunga, Mumbai - 400019. Tender Notice No. CWE/MTN_85205571/2020. Item Description : 25 KV AC MEMU TRANSFORMER 1050 KVA WITH HV TURRET AND ACCESSORIES COMPLETE CONFORMING TO RDSO SPEC. NO RDSO/PE/SPEC/EMU/0137

REV. Quantity : 01 No. Due date for opening : 23.11.2020. Complete details of tender is available at Central Railway Official website www.ireps.gov.in the complete documents can be downloaded from the website.

Railway Helpline 139

Plea seeks transfer of PILs on uniform marriage age from Delhi, Raj HC to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A plea was filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking transfer of two pleas from the high courts of Delhi and Rajasthan to it on the issue of 'Uniform Minimum Age of Marriage for Men and Women' to "avoid multiplicity of litigations and conflicting views".

The Delhi High Court had in August last year issued notice to the Centre and the Law Commission of India on BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay's plea seeking uniform marriage age for men and women.

On February 5 this year the Rajasthan High Court sought response from the Centre and the Law Commission of India on BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay's plea seeking uniform marriage age for men and women.

Seeking an authoritative pronouncement and to avoid multiplicity of litigation, a fresh plea seeking transfer of these cases to the top court has been filed by Upadhyay through his lawyer Ashwini Kumar Dubey.

The transfer plea has been filed in order to "secure gender justice, gender equality and dignity of women", the lawyer said.

Currently various laws

state that minimum age for getting married should be 18 in case of women and 21 for men.

"Petitioner is compelled to approach this Court as more PILs may be filed in other High Courts seeking 'Uniform Minimum Age of Marriage for Men and Women'. Therefore, in order to avoid multiplicity of the litigations and conflicting views on interpretation of Articles 14, 15, 21 and international conventions. Hence, minimum age of marriage shall be 21 years for all citizens," it said.

While men are permitted to get married at the age of 21, women are married when they are just 18, it said.

"The distinction is based on patriarchal stereotypes, has no scientific backing, perpetrates de jure and de facto inequality against women, and goes completely against the global trends," it said.

The differential bar discriminates against women thus contravenes the fundamental principles of gender equality, gender justice and dignity of women and offend Articles 14, 15, 21 of the Constitution and international conventions, it said.

The petitioner said more than 125 countries in the world have a uniform age of marriage for men and women and the National Human Rights Commission, pursuant to the National Conference on Child Marriage held in New Delhi in August 2018, had also recommended that India follow suit.

"Alternatively, being custodian of the Constitution and protector of the fundamental rights, declare that the discriminatory minimum age of marriage offends

SC notice to Centre on plea for SOP mandating pre-litigation mediation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has sought response from the Centre on a plea seeking formulation of standard operating procedure (SOP) for mandating pre-litigation mediation across the country to reduce pendency of cases.

A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde, A S Bopanna, and V Ramasubramanian issued notices to the Ministry of Law and Justice and various high courts on the plea.

"Issue notice returnable in four weeks," the bench said.

The apex court was hearing a petition filed by Youth Bar Association of India and advocate Sanpreet Singh Ajmani which suggested that alternate and pre-litigation processes be made mandatory to reduce pendency of cases in various courts.

According to the petition, use of alternate dispute reso-

lution mechanisms will help to control frivolous matters coming up for hearing by giving an opportunity to parties to settle their disputes amicably before any litigation can start.

The plea contended that pre-litigation mediation is an attempt to resolve the dispute among the parties amicably with the help of neutral third party called Mediator before going to the court or even before filing litigation or sending a notice.

"It gives a chance to both the parties to end the dispute in a win-win position. In it issues can be sorted out sooner and this process is inexpensive compared to the expenditure incurred at every stage of the case/issues in litigation.

To reduce the number of pending cases, the Government should work on a mechanism to introduce a pre-litigation mediation process, so that avoidable cases can be prevented from reaching the courts and settle the issue effectively," the plea said.

The Assembly polls in West Bengal are due in the first half of the next year.

Bilateral, regional and global issues to figure in Indo-US 2+2 dialogue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The third edition of the two-plus-two dialogue between India and the US on October 27 for the high-level dialogue aimed at further boosting defence, security and global strategic ties between the two countries.

The Indian side at the talks will be represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The third ministerial dialogue will entail a comprehensive cross-cutting bilateral issues of mutual interests.

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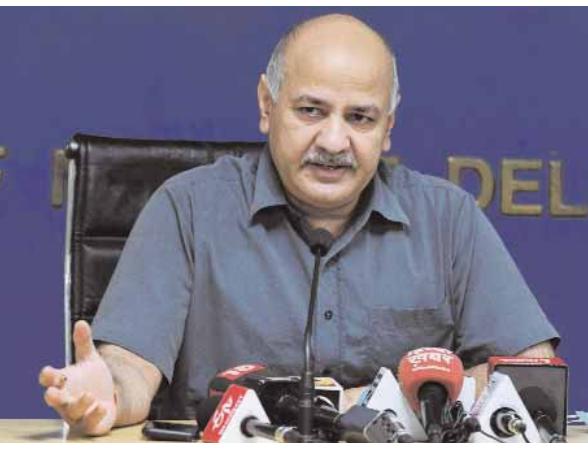
Festive package gift for city Govt staff announced

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

2018-21.

"The Delhi Government has always been very sincere and empathetic towards its employees. In the time of the Covid-19 pandemic the employees of the Delhi Government have showcased extraordinary work and have shown great courage to work from the frontline," he said.

Keeping in mind the service and the efforts of its employees the Delhi Government has decided to come up with these incentives, he said, adding that the government is very hopeful that through these



steps it will bring some ease to lives of the employees and they will be able to happily celebrate the upcoming festival with their family.

In the view of Coronavirus pandemic and nationwide lockdown which has created a disruption of transport and hospitality sector, the Delhi Government has observed that a number of its employees are not in a position to avail the leave travel concession fare for travel to any place in India or their hometowns in the current block of 2018-21, he added.

With a view to compensate and incentivise consumption by the Delhi government employees thereby giving a boost to consumption expenditure, the Government has decided that cash equivalent of LTC will be given to its employees by way of reimbursement if an employee opts for this in due of 1LTC in the block of 2018-21.

The Delhi Government has also decided that the employees who are entitled to business class airfare will get Rs 36,000 LTC followed by Rs 20,000 for the employees who are entitled

to an economy class of airfare. Lastly, the employees who are entitled to rail fare of any class will get Rs 6,000 LTC.

On the other hand with a view to enabling government servants to meet expenses relating to festivals and to encourage spending thereby giving a boost to economic activities, in pursuance of the decision taken by the government it has been decided that a special festival package of advance will be accorded to all the Delhi government employees for any important festivals up to March 31, 2021, he said.

Under this initiative, the amount of the package is Rs.10,000 and it would be interest-free. This amount will be paid as advance to the government employees. Earlier this provision was only there for the non-gazetted employees now it would be applicable to both gazetted and non-gazetted employees, he added.

The Finance Minister further said that from day one of the pandemic, the Delhi Government employees have stayed at the frontline and worked for the people of Delhi.

2 women held for robbing senior citizen of ₹50,000

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two women on Thursday nabbed for allegedly robbing a senior citizen of ₹50,000 in South Delhi. The accused have been identified as Renu (36) and Jyoti (34), both residents of Rajgarh district in Madhya Pradesh.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, a 62-year-old man withdrew Rs 50,000 from a bank in the Tigris area on October 14 and visited a nearby dispensary, where he realised that the money had been stolen from his bag.

"He suspected two women who followed him from the bank to the dispensary to be involved in stealing the money. A case was registered and investigation was taken up. During investigation, police checked the CCTV footage and noticed two women near the complainant with suspicious movements," said the DCP.

"On Thursday, police after receiving specific inputs apprehended the accused women from near NBCC Plaza, Khokha Market, Pushp Vihar, at 8.35 AM," said the DCP.

"Police recovered Rs 20,000 from their possession. During interrogation it was revealed that there were three women involved in the crime. The third accused, identified as Kali, has left for her native village after taking her share of the loot," said the DCP adding that further investigation is going on.

DTC to display seat availability, non-availability info in buses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to let the passengers know about availability and non-availability of seats, Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has decided to display the seat availability and non-availability position in its buses.

The conductor will be issued two A-4 size placards or boards with information, "Seat Available" and "Seat Not Available" for displaying it through side window glass from the conductor's seat. The seat availability board will be in Green Colour and non-availability board will be in Red Colour, the DTC said in a statement.

'Class 10, 12 board exams should be discontinued after NEP roll out'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

values be created.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has said 5+3+3+4 model recommended in the National Education Policy (NEP) can attain its full potential if the existing one year per grade system is removed.

Speaking at the 57th General Council meeting of NCERT on Thursday, he said that instead of existing class system where all children of class move together in all subjects despite being at different learning levels, multi-year stage will help child move as per their learning need in different subjects at their own pace.

Sisodia also said that a stage-wise curriculum with a clearly stated learning goal in terms of knowledge, skills and

not piecemeal". Elaborating the point, he said that "it is about time that we introduce multi-year stage wise classes and external assessment at the end of each stage replacing the existing year wise classes and two board exams in 10th and 12th."

Further, when the mandate of the National Testing Agency (NTA) is to conduct entrance exams for admissions in higher education institutions, there is no need for class 12 board exams. Hence, class 12 board exam should not be a high stake exam anymore, he added.

On the current academic session, which is seriously disturbed due to ongoing Corona crisis, Sisodia said that the syllabus on all classes be reduced to 50 per cent because of the continued loss of school days.

He also suggested that next

The Deputy CM also gave some important suggestions to realise the vision of NEP—2020

year's entrance exams like JEE, NEET should also be based on this reduced syllabus to align with the current year's class syllabus.

Sisodia further suggested that CBSE should not hold class 12 board exams before May 2021 so that students get some more time to study.

The Union Education Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" who chaired the online meeting, asked the officials to consider Sisodia's suggestions.

Sisodia also expressed his gratitude to all the teachers across the country for leading the relief efforts of the governments from the front. He said our teachers are the real heroes in these difficult times.



Devotees offer prayers on the first day of Durga Puja at Kali Bari Temple Mandir Marg in New Delhi on Thursday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Red light on, Gaadi off drive in full swing

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

to the residents of Delhi that they should take part in the mega campaign."

The political capital of India is fighting tough battle against pollution, all public representatives- Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) have been made part of this campaign.

"The Delhi Government along with the people of Delhi has started the "red light on,

gaadi off" campaign against pollution. This campaign calls for a collaborative effort for the betterment of the citizens of Delhi.

As mentioned earlier, 15-20% vehicle pollution can be reduced by way of mass participation. This campaign will go on until November 15, 2020. On Thursday the MLAs of Delhi joined the campaign and on Friday the councillors of Delhi will join the campaign

at the Barakhamba road crossing," he said.

"To make this a mass movement, the campaign will be carried out at all the 70 assembly constituencies from October 26. On that day we will launch a mega campaign in Delhi to make people aware of this initiative to combat vehicular pollution", Rai added.

He said, "The Delhi government has already launched anti-dust pollution campaign.

The decomposer produced by Pusa Research Institute which can turn straw and stubble into manure for further use, has been produced at a large scale and is being sprayed in various parts of the city to cease pollution caused by stubble burning and at the same time pro-

viding an effective alternative to the same. I am very happy that the people of Delhi are actively participating in this campaign. I want to request every citizen to join the campaign at their respective assembly constituency on October 26."

"The Delhi government is working round the clock to combat the air pollution of Delhi. But we cannot control the stubble burning at the neighbouring states and because of the stubble burning the air pollution is increasing in Delhi. We are repeatedly requesting the Central government and state governments to cooperate and to stop the stubble fires," the minister said.

"The victim was rushed to

2 minor girls sexually assaulted in 24 hours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJRM Hospital. A case under relevant IPC sections and 6 POCSO Act has been registered," said the senior police official.

In the second incident, a 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her neighbour in southeast Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan area.

Police said that the accused is also suspected to be a minor and police are verifying it. Police said that both are neighbours and known to each other for more than three years.

"The girl is fine. She had minor medical issues. The boy has been detained," said the senior police official adding that further investigation is going on.

Man held for cheating people on pretext of providing tender of FCI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

T he Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has arrested a man who used to cheat people on the pretext of providing tender of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and agency of Toyota company.

Police said the accused has cheated people to the tune of Rs 4.62 crores. The accused has been identified as Praveen Kumar Singh. Police said that he is also found involved in two cases of cheating. According to Dr O P Mishra, the Joint

Commissioner of Police, EOW, a complaint was received from Sunil Vikram, a resident of Punjab in which he alleged that Praveen Kumar Singh along with his associates had induced the him on the pretext of arranging tender of Food Corporation of India and agency of Toyota company.

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Indian Penal Code (IPC) and investigation was taken up," said the Joint CP.

During the investigation, the police team found that Praveen had introduced himself as well connected with politicians and residing in Members of Parliament (MP) Flats in North Avenue.

He had promised the complainant that he will make arrangements for getting FCI tenders and agency of Toyota for the Punjab region in his favour," said the Joint CP. "The accused had taken Rs 4.62 Crores for this

job from the complainant. However, neither any FCI tender was allotted nor any agency was given in the name of the complainant.

Later, it was found that the accused was a fraud and had cheated the complainant," said the Joint CP. "Initially, accused Praveen Kumar Singh had joined the investigation of the case, but later on, he stopped joining investigation at EOW and was absconding. Finally the accused was arrested, while he was visiting his lawyer's office.

BJP-ruled MCD wants to impose 34% house tax on people: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday alleged that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled North MCD wants to impose a steep 34 per cent house tax burden on the people of Delhi amid the Covid pandemic under pressure from doctors and advertising con-

tractors.

AAP senior leader Durgesh Pathak said the civic body intends to propose hike in house tax by 34 percent and waive off the tax on parking and advertisements.

"North MCD gets crores of rupees as tax from advertising and parking, BJP should use this money for salaries of doctors but they are waiving it," he

said. Pathak said that due to the corrupt nexus between BJP leaders and builder lobby the North MCD wants to waive off this tax.

"People are extremely troubled during the ongoing pandemic. They have lost jobs and lives. People working in hospitals, doctors, nurses who are putting their lives at stake

to serve the nation are not being given proper dues for their services. It is their right to get the salary, but the BJP run MCD is unable to do so. On one hand, corruption in BJP and financial mismanagement has led to complete destruction of MCD but on the other hand, to repent for their own misdeeds, BJP is planning to increase the tax

levied on Delhi citizens," he said.

The AAP leader further said, "I want to enlighten doctors and nurses protesting in Hindu Rao Hospital, Kasturba Gandhi Hospital, Rajan Babu Hospital, Balak Ram, that the reason behind them not getting salaries is BJP waiving off the crores of revenue they get from contractors."

DJB vice-chairman seeks Puri's intervention in recovering ₹216 cr arrears from CPWD, DDA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Vice-Chairman of Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Raghav Chadha met with Hardeep Puri, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and requested him to intervene in recovering exorbitant arrears due worth ₹216 crore from the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and Delhi Development Authority towards the DDA.

Chadha apprised the Central Minister of how the Board is planning to expand its operations and to bring some vast technological advancements and changes in the current structure of water supply as well as water management, which require proper flow of finances.

"While it is commendable how all government departments have come together to fight COVID-19, we cannot overlook the paucity of funds, which is a huge challenge for those every government departments. If the DJB gets its dues from CPWD and DDA, we can perhaps cross one tiny hill," he said.

Chadha also informed the Union Minister of financially precarious situation the DJB is in resulted in delay in carrying out developmental works.

"I am glad that the Minister gave us time and patiently heard us out and assured us of his help. I am certain that DJB will now be able to recover its relevant dues and begin the several projects that are in the pipeline," he said.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The lowering work of the first ever 'Tunnel Boring Machine' (TBM) of Delhi Metro's Phase 4 work has been started at Vikaspuri on the Janakpuri West - RK Ashram Marg corridor. As part of this tunnelling drive, two tunnels (for up and down movement) of a length of 1.4 kilometres will be bored between Vikaspuri and Krishna Park Extension stations of the corridor.

A senior DMRC official said that the tunnelling work with the TBM is expected to start next month, after the lowering and assembling of the giant 73 metre long machine is completed.

These tunnels will be located between the Janakpuri West and Krishna Park Extension stations of the corridor. The tunnelling will start from Vikaspuri area in continuation of the Magenta line tunnel that has been already constructed for the presently operational Botanical Garden - Janakpuri West corridor.

The TBM will be constructed approximately at a depth of 14 to 16 metres. About 2,040 concrete rings will be installed in these tunnels. Each tunnel will have an inner diameter of 5.8 metres. The entire tunnelling work on this stretch is expected to be completed in about 15 months' time. The alignment of the tunnel will

along the Outer Ring Road," he said. As part of the Phase 4 work approved so far, about 27 kilometres of underground lines will be constructed. The Janakpuri West - RK Ashram Marg corridor will have underground sections of 7.74 kilometres in total.

A TBM, is a machine used to excavate tunnels with a circular cross section through a variety of soil and rock strata. They can be designed to bore through anything from hard rock to sand. TBMs have revolutionised the way tunnelling work is done all over the world as now tunnels can be bored without disturbing the buildings and other structures on the surface.

TBMs are especially useful for underground tunnelling work in congested urban areas. DMRC has been using TBMs for its tunnelling work since Phase 1. In Phase 3, when about 50 kilometres of underground sections were built, about 30 TBMs were pressed into service in the national Capital.

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Bihar BJP manifesto offers 19L jobs in 5 yrs

Earlier, RJD chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav had promised 10L Govt jobs



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman releases manifesto for Bihar poll in the presence of senior leaders Bhupender Yadav, Nitayand Rai, Ashwini Choubey and Pramod Kumar in Patna

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

Besides free Covid-19 vaccination, the BJP on Thursday released its manifesto for the Bihar Assembly polls, promising 19 lakh jobs in the next five years, almost double the numbers that RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's promised. Interestingly, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had wondered about how Tejaswi could possibly raise the money to pay for "10 lakh Government jobs".

The manifesto, titled 'Paanch sutra, ek lakshya, 11 sankalp', was released by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the presence of senior leaders Bhupender Yadav, Nitayand Rai, Ashwini Choubey, and Pramod Kumar in Patna.

The manifesto envisions a self-reliant Bihar and lists out the roadmap for the next five years. The manifesto States: "Atmanirbhar Bihar Ka Roadmap 2020-25. Lakshya (objective) — Atmanirbhar Bihar. 5 Sutra — development of villages, cities, industries, education and agriculture."

Sitharaman stressed that only Nitish Kumar will be Chief Minister for the next five years

and appealed the people to vote for NDA and make it win.

Interestingly, job has become a major poll issue in the state after opposition leader Tejashwi promised 10 lakh government jobs to lure the unemployed youth voters. BJP's Bihar chief Sanjay Jaiswal said of the 19 lakh jobs listed in the manifesto, only four lakh - three lakh teachers and one lakh in health sector - are in the government sector. The rest are linked to promises to make Bihar an "IT hub" and to create an agriculture hub in the state.

Among others, the BJP promised to introduce Hindi as a medium of instruction for medical, engineering and other technical courses.

The BJP also promised the appointment of three lakh new teachers in one year in all types of schools, universities and institutes of higher education, 30 lakh pucca houses for poor by 2022 and one lakh jobs in the health sector.

The party proposed to develop the state, which has so far remained largely untouched by the boom in information technology, into an IT hub holding out the promise of five

lakh jobs in the sector. The manifesto further said a large number of people will be provided employment in the health sector which is in for a major facelift through projects like the AIIMS at Darbhanga.

The manifesto promised to develop supply chain of special crop products like maize, fruits, vegetable, chuda, makhana, paan, masala, honey, mentha, medicinal plants across the state. It will add 1000 new farm producer organization in Bihar.

It also promised a fresh impetus to the dairy sector with setting up of 15 milk processing units. The manifesto said that this will create 10 lakh employment opportunities in the state.

"Bihar is a politically sensitive state. Here people cannot be fobbed off with empty promises. Claims made by parties are likely to be weighed against their past track record. This is where the BJP scores," Sitharaman said.

"GDP in Bihar has seen a sharp rise under NDA rule, it has grown from 3 to 11.3 per cent in the State in the last 15 years of NDA Government and not during the 15 years of jungle raj. It was made possible because our Government gave priority to good governance for people," Sitharaman added.

Soon after Sitharaman released the party's manifesto, Tejashwi took a jibe at the BJP, saying it doesn't have a face in Bihar and the Finance Minister had to come to release the vision document. "Since she's here, Sitharaman Ji should first tell why she never gave a special package and special state status to Bihar," Tejashwi added.

Chirag uses Shah's b'day to show his loyalty to BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As good wishes poured in

from across the political leaders for Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who turned 56 on Thursday, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) president Chirag Paswan described him as an "inspiring" figure and his "guardian", in what is perceived as another indirect attack on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar against whom he opened a front.

Even though he has walked out of the NDA refusing to accept Nitish as the NDA's chief ministerial candidate in Bihar, Chirag has, interestingly, continued to show his allegiance to the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, he said, resided in his heart.

This has been Chirag's strategy in Bihar poll as BJP has cautioned him against using the PM's name for his own ends saying JDU is the party with which it would form the Government. BJP has been trying to allay JD(U)'s apprehensions that LJP is its 'B-team' in Bihar polls.

But Chirag again used Shah's birthday to demonstrate his loyalty to the BJP. "Best wishes to the country's Home Minister, guardian Amit Shah

on his birthday. Sir you inspire lakhs of youth like me to do something for the country. May god always keep you healthy," Chirag tweeted.

The 37-year-old LJP MP also spoke to Shah on the phone.

Shortly before the birthday greetings, Chirag had, in three tweets, targeted Nitish Kumar over what he alleged were "five years of scams". He asserted that if he came to power, he would have all those responsible jailed.

Chirag's Paswan's strategy to underscore his continued ties with the BJP while fighting the JDU in the Bihar election has become a huge challenge for Nitish. The BJP's multiple pronouncements that Nitish Kumar leads the NDA in Bihar have not convinced his supporters that the ruling party is not secretly backing Chirag in his mission to oust the five-time Chief Minister.

As Chirag rained accusations on Nitish, Shah had to step in to mollify the upset Chief Minister and reassure him that he remained the face of the NDA.

The LJP leader, however, has played on Nitish's insecurities by stressing that he remains devoted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

hopes to form a government in Bihar with the BJP.

The Prime Minister and several other political leaders wished Home Minister on his birthday.

The Prime Minister took to Twitter and lauded Shah for his contribution in nation development. "Birthday wishes to Shri @AmitShah Ji. Our nation is witnessing the dedication and excellence with which he is contributing towards India's progress. His efforts to make BJP stronger are also noteworthy. May God bless him with a long and healthy life in service of India," Modi tweeted.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said. "Happy Birthday to the Home Minister Amit Shah. You have played an important role in making the country strong and secure. May God grant you a healthy life and long life."

BJP leader Varun Gandhi took to Twitter and wished the Home Minister on his birthday. "Shri @AmitShah Ji's life has been one of great tyaga and tapasya towards making India prouder, stronger & more self-reliant. He is a perfect mix of tradition & modernity. May all divine blessings protect him & fill his path with happiness & peace. Happy birthday, Sir."



India test-fires anti-tank missile 'Nag', to be deployed at LAC soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the ongoing drive to hone operational readiness, India on Thursday successfully test fired the Nag anti-tank guided missile(ATGM). It was the final user trial of the indigenously designed lethal weapon system and will shortly be deployed at the Line of Actual Control(LAC) facing China.

The missile system will act as a major force multiplier and help the infantry to take out enemy tanks at range of five to seven kms. At present, China has amassed its tanks in the plains of Depsang valley and some other places in Eastern Ladakh since the stand-offs began in early May.

Moreover, the latest test by the Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) comes at a time when it has ramped up its efforts by conducting nearly back to back tests of various missiles in the last one month. These validations on the one hand exemplified rapid self-reliance and on the other the capabilities to meet any challenge in the backdrop of ongoing tension at the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

Giving details of the Nag test, officials said here the final user trial of third generation Nag was carried out at 0645 hrs from Pokhran range. The missile was integrated with the actual warhead and a tank target was kept at designated range. This was launched from Nag Missile Carrier NAMICA. The missile hit the target accurately defeating the armour. The missile underwent more than ten trials before the final clearance on Thursday.

The missile was developed by the DRDO to engage highly fortified enemy tanks in day and night conditions. The missile has "Fire & Forget" "Top Attack" capabilities with passive homing guidance to defeat all Main Battle Tanks(MBT) equipped with composite and reactive armour.

The NAG missile carrier NAMICA is a BMP II based system or armoured personnel carrier with amphibious capability. With this final user trial, the Nag will enter into production phase. The missile will be produced by the public sector Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), whereas Ordnance Factory, Medak will

Stepping up the momentum of readiness, the DRDO in the last one month also tested Rudram -1. Also, the laser

guided anti-tank guided missile and nuclear capable hypersonic missile 'Shurya' were test fired. The successful test firing of Rudram-1 was seen as a major milestone as it is India's first indigenously developed anti-radiation weapon.

INS Kavaratti to ensure maritime security of country: Gen Naravane

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief said the "commissioning of INS Kavaratti marks yet another significant step in securing our country's maritime goals. I congratulate and extend my best wishes to Team Kavaratti," said Naravane.

"The ship derives the name from the beautiful capital of the Lakshadweep island, Kavaratti. This indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) vessel is equipped with advanced weapons, composite superstructure and stealth features is a beauty by itself. It has been constructed with numerous novel design features and indigenous equipment fit is demonstrative of collective abilities in realising the aim of making India Atmanirbhar Bharat," he added.

Facebook and Twitter summoned by Parl panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliamentary panel examining the Personal Data Protection Bill on Thursday summoned social media giants Facebook and Twitter. Google and Amazon are also expected to be summoned by the panel. Representatives of Facebook India have been asked to appear on Friday before the Joint Committee on the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, chaired by BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi, while Twitter officials are required to appear before the panel on October 28, as per the notice issued by the Lok Sabha

Secretariat. When contacted Lekhi said, "Whosoever is required, whether an individual or an entity, will be asked to depose before the panel on the issue of protection of data and its privacy and their respective social media platforms will be thoroughly examined by the panel.

"It would be inappropriate and unfair to look at the calling of social media platform from the political prism. The committee has representatives from across the political spectrum and the deliberations on the bill are being held from the national interest perspective," she said.

CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION /SHORT TERMINATION/ SHORT ORIGINATION/RESCHEDULING/DIVERSION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel / Partially Cancel / Short Terminate/Short Originate/Reschedule/ Divert following Passengers Special Trains / Puja Special Trains/Cargo Parcel Express Trains in view of the Kisan Agitation at Punjab:-

CANCELLATION OF MAIL / EXPRESS TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02425/02426 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	Upto 04.11.2020
02054/02053 Amritsar-Haridwar-Amritsar Janshatabdi Express	Upto 04.11.2020
22439/22440 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Exp.	Upto 04.11.2020
02462/02461 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	Upto 04.11.2020
02011/02012 New Delhi-Kalka-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	Upto 04.11.2020
02029/02030 New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	Upto 04.11.2020
04624 Amritsar-Saharsa Express	Upto 04.11.2020
04623 Saharsa-Amritsar Express	Upto 05.11.2020
04656 Firozpur-Patna Junction Express	23.10.2020 & 30.10.2020
04655 Patna Junction-Firozpur Express	24.10.2020 & 31.10.2020
05251 Darbhanga-Jalandhar City Express	24.10.2020 & 31.10.2020
05252 Jalandhar City-Darbhanga Express	25.10.2020 & 01.11.2020

CANCELLATION OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02422 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Express	Upto 04.11.2020
02421 Ajmer-Jammu Tawi Express	23.10.2020 to 05.11.2020
02231 Lucknow - Chandigarh Express	Upto 04.11.2020
02232 Chandigarh-Lucknow Express	23.10.2020 to 05.11.2020
04888 Barmer - Rishikesh Express	Upto 04.11.2020
04887 Rishikesh - Barmer Express	23.10.2020 to 05.11.2020
04520/04519 Bhathinda-Delhi Jn.-Bhathinda Express	Upto 04.11.2020
02471/02472 Shri Ganganagar - Delhi Jn. - Shri Ganganagar Express	23.10.2020 to 04.11.2020
04998 Bhathinda-Varanasi Express	25.10.2020 & 01.11.2020
04997 Varanasi-Bhathinda Express	26.10.2020 & 02.11.2020
04612 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Varanasi Express	25.10.2020 & 01.11.2020
04611 Varanasi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	27.10.2020 & 03.11.2020
04401 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	Upto 04.11.2020
04402 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Express	23.10.2020 to 05.11.2020
04924 Chandigarh-Gorakhpur Express	29.10.2020
04923 Gorakhpur-Chandigarh Express	23.10.2020 & 30.10.2020
02587 Gorakhpur-Jammu Tawi Express	26.10.2020 & 02.11.2020
02588 Jammu Tawi-Gorakhpur Express	24.10.2020
05098 Jammu Tawi-Bhagalpur Express	27.10.2020 & 03.11.2020
05097 Bhagalpur-Jammu Tawi Express	29.10.2020
03255 Patliputra-Chandigarh Express	25.10.2020 to 04.11.2020
03256 Chandigarh-Patliputra Express	Upto 05.11.2020
09027 Bandra Terminus-Jammu Tawi Express	24.10.2020 & 31.10.2020
09028 Jammu Tawi-Bandra Terminus Express	26.10.2020 & 02.11.2020
09612/09611 Amritsar-Ajmer-Amritsar Express	Upto 05.11.2020
09613 Ajmer-Amritsar Express	Upto 04.11.2020
09614 Amritsar-Ajmer Express	Upto 06.11.2020
02331 Howrah-Jammu Tawi Festival Special	23.10.2020 to 03.11.2020
02332 Jammu Tawi-Howrah Festival Special	25.10.2020 to 05.11.2020

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02903 Golden Temple Mail	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar

BALLIA FIRING

UP Police takes BJP leader into custody

PTI ■ BALLIA (UP)

The police on Thursday took custody of BJP leader Dhirendra Pratap Singh who was arrested for allegedly shooting dead a man in Durjanpur village of the district during the allotment of a ration shop.

A Ballia court had on Wednesday remanded the BJP leader in police custody for two days.

A Ballia court had on Wednesday remanded the BJP leader in police custody for two days

took Dhirendra Singh's custody from the district jail, officials said without elaborating further.

He was later taken to his house in Durjanpur village, sources said.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Ramesh Kushwaha had

remanded the BJP leader in police custody to enable the police to recover the murder weapon, a country-made pistol, from the accused and for his custodial interrogation as part of the ongoing probe into the case.

The court had remanded Dhirendra Singh in police custody for only two days, rejecting the prosecution demand for seven-day custody. The BJP leader was arrested from Lucknow on Sunday.

Reoti SHO Praveen Singh

October 22 observed as Black Day to condemn Pak's invasion in Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Residents of Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday observed 'Black day' to mark the 73rd anniversary of Pakistan's invasion of Kashmir in 1947. The streets of Srinagar were seen dotted with king size hoardings exhibiting images of atrocities committed by the Pakistani invaders.

In Srinagar, small groups of residents also took out protest rallies shouting slogans against Pakistan. A separate Symposium & Exhibition to commemorate the memories of October 22, 1947 was inaugurated by Lt-Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha in the virtual presence of MoS (IC) Culture & Tourism Prahalad Patel at SKICC, Srinagar.

Large number of events including webinars, seminars and discussions were also organised by different institutions and study groups in Jammu. The main event was organised by the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology at SKICC, Srinagar. The

Exhibition on the 'Memories of 22 Oct 1947' was also inaugurated, comprising graphic panels and videos showcasing a chronology of events as well as prominent narratives of the invasion on 22 Oct 1947 and the subsequent unfolding of actions.

The organisers of the event in their concept note informed the audience, "The consequences of this water-shed event are still affecting the country. It is necessary to portray such a historic narrative in order to create a dialogue among the people. The aim of such an initiative would be to bring about awareness among the people about this phase of our history. It will help in remembering how the country fought in the very first conflict faced by (independent) India".

Meanwhile, addressing the audience after inaugurating the symposium the Lt Governor observed that the two-day Symposium and Exhibition is a medium to expose the atrocities inflicted by the Pakistani government and its army upon innocent women, children and men of Jammu & Kashmir on October 22, 1947.

Essay competition results out in AMU

Aligarh: Iqra Shamim, M Yaqoob and M Umair received the first, second and third prizes respectively in the recently concluded online essay writing competition on 'Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Modern education'.

The competition was organised by the Centre for Distance Education (CDE), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) to mark the centenary year of AMU.

PNS

Former Mizoram Governor booked in cheating case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The BJP in Kerala suffered an embarrassment on Thursday as the Police registered a case against former Mizoram Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan for cheating and breach of trust. The case has been registered following a complaint by C R Harikrishnan that he was cheated of Rs 28.75 lakh by Rajasekharan and five others offering partnership in a company manufacturing plastic-free banners with a mixture of paper and cotton.

The complainant alleged that Praveen, who was the private secretary to Rajasekharan while the latter was the Governor of Mizoram, took the money from him. Harikrishnan said in his complaint that he decided to part with the money at the instance of Rajasekharan who encouraged him to invest in the company.

There are nine persons including Rajasekharan and Praveen who have been listed as accused in the case.

Rajasekharan termed the case as an act of victimisation and vendetta. "I do not know anything about the financial dealings though I had told that the company was a good venture," he told reporters.

A section of the BJP leaders in Kerala are of the view that this police complaint was part of a move by the other group in the party which is out to discredit Rajasekharan.

Valmikis say that due to the extremely backward society, the high society still looks at us in a doubtful vision even after 70 years. Therefore, they have made it a decision to leave the Valmiki community and adopt

Buddhism. This has started in Ghaziabad. It may be recalled that a dalit girl was raped in Hathras by four upper caste men after which the victim's family was being accused of honour killing because of which they are also thinking to adopt Buddhism.

Hurt by Hathras incident,

on 14th October, in the area of Karheda village of Sahibabad,

236 people of 50 Valmiki have

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Ambedkar Mr. Raj Ratan

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Pawan Budh, who first

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being tortured in the Hathras

case.

PNS

Post Hathras row, Valmiki families plan to convert to Budhism, decision soon

Aligarh: There is an outrage among the Dalits (Valmiki) after the Hathras rape case and seeing the soft corner for rapists among the Government and the administration. Discussion among the Valmiki community for conversion into Buddhism is going on in full swing. Valmikis are being under siege in Aligarh, Hathras, Bulandshahr etc. Just as the Valmikis of Ghaziabad have embraced Buddhism, in the same way, there is also the fragrance of conversion to Buddhism here also.

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PNS

Al Badr ultras surrendered in Sopore

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Two youngsters, who had recently joined the ranks of Al-Badr terror outfit less than a month ago, surrendered before the security forces after their parents made passionate appeals to them to lay down their arms and join the mainstream. However, no arms and ammunition were recovered from their custody at the time of the surrender.

In the video released by the Indian army, two terrorists were seen stepping out of their hideout in Shalpara Tujar area of Sopore.

Last week an over ground worker (OGW) was also captured live by the security forces after a brief exchange of fire and later he too had surrendered before the security forces in Chadoora area of Budgam. So far, 29 terrorists have returned to the mainstream after laying down their arms since January 1, 2020.

The surrendered terrorists have been identified as Abid Mushtaq War and Mehraj-Uddin by the Jammu and Kashmir police. They were both residents of Wadoora Payen, Sopore.

Briefing media persons about the incident, GOC Kilo Force, Maj Gen H S Sahi said, "On 22 October 2020, based on intelligence inputs, an operation was launched by the Indian Army and JKP in village Tujar of Sopore".

He said as the cordon was laid, we received inputs about the presence of two local terrorists inside the target house. "After verifying the identity of the hiding terrorists, their parents were summoned to the spot and appeals were made to them to surrender before the security forces. He said, the security personnel present at the location also appealed to them to surrender and they responded to the calls".

Sharing further details, Maj Gen HS Sahi said, "these two youngsters had gone missing from their native village Wadoora Payen in Sopore on September 23, 2020. He said the same evening a grenade blast was reported from Sopore in which they were both involved".

A week later the family members of these newly recruited youth were approached and their assistance was sought to bring them back to the mainstream.

"Since then the joint teams of security forces were making all out efforts to track down their footprints. Assurances were also given to the parents to ensure safety of their sons", he added.

At 95.1%, Andhra Pradesh tops all-India Covid recovery rate

IANS ■ AMARAVATI

of the pandemic, Andhra has emerged as one of the states which has vigorously tested samples for the virus.

By Wednesday, it had tested 72.7 lakh samples, translating to 1.36 lakh tests per million people.

Katamaneni Bhaskar, health commissioner, said, "We are testing the most in the country, therefore detecting more cases. Detecting cases early gives the doctors the chance to treat the patients and reduce mortality."

He said the state's health department is testing more in vulnerable zones and stated that more Coronavirus testing will continue on a war footing.

Country recording 55-56K cases daily down from 80-85K in last two weeks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

701 deaths on October 21; 714 on Oct 20; 589 on Oct 19; 582 on Oct 18; 1032 on Oct 17; 840 on Oct 16 and 882 on Oct 15.

The five most affected states by total cases are Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. There is also a drop in daily fatality rate from 1085 on September 22 to 701 on October 21.

Maharashtra has reported 7,539 new cases, 198 deaths and 16,177 discharges in the last 24 hours. The total cases in the state is now to 16,25,197, including 42,831 deaths and 14,31,856 recovered patients. The active cases are now at 15,01,110. The COVID-19 tally in Thane has reached 2,03,727 after detection of 1,101 new cases.

With 7,482 new cases and 23 deaths in the last 24 hours taking the total tally to 93,291 in Kerala. As compared to the Wednesday tally of 8369, Kerala has reported a decline of 887 on Thursday. Andhra Pradesh recorded 3,620 new infections and 16 deaths. There is a decline of 126 cases from Wednesday.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

NIT No.	09 (A, B, C) 20-21 dated 22.10.2020
1 Name of Work with its location	A) Outsourcing of maintenance activities to provide habitable condition in loco colony DEE in the S/o SSE/WDKZ1 under ADEN/E/IV B) Outsourcing of maintenance activities to provide habitable conditions at Ananc vihar, Tilak Bridge colony & BH office for one year in the S/o SSE/W/B.H under ADEN/E-I C) Outsourcing of maintenance activities to provide habitable conditions in Rail Bhawan for two years in the S/o SSE/WIRB under ADEN-E-II
2 Approx. Cost of work	A) Rs. 603225 00 B) Rs. 45506 00 on Oct 19; 56519 00 on Oct 18; 61893 00 on Oct 17; 62304 00 on Oct 16; 63441 00 on Oct 15; 67811 00 on Oct 14 and 63717 00 on Oct 13.
3 Earnest Money	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2015/CE-IC/CT5/1 dated 31.08.2016) A) Rs. 120700 00 B) 218000 00 C) 238600 00
4 Completion period of the work	A) 350 Days B) 365 Days C) 730 Days
5 Cost of tender on cash/by post	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CE-IC/CT5/1 dated 31.08.2016) A) 5900 B) 5900 C) 5900
6 Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 17.11.2020 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs on 17.11.2020
6 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.reps.gov.in

No. 128-W/269/OET/20-21/WE/NIT 09 (A, B, C) Dated : 22.10.2020

2327/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Komal D/o Jasbir R/o. H. No. 523, Harshu Panna Pooth Khurd, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from her house in the area of PS: Bawana since 07.10.2020. In this regard, a case **DD No. 51-A dated 08.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi.** The description of the missing girl is as under.

Age: 19 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5' 2", **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Green Suit-Salwar. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped girl then please inform P.S. Bawana Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Phone: 011-27751949, 27756090,
DP/539/ON/2020



KOMAL

UJVN Ltd.
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O. UJJWAL - Maharan Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 & Fax-0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

RO. No. 667 CORRIGENDUM Date: 22.10.2020

After minor correction in BOQ, serial No.-1 to 5 of Tender No: 13/EE/M&G/DLR/ 2020-21 invited by Office of Executive Engineer (M&G), Dhalipur Power House shall be read as "Unit A" in the place of "Unit A&C". Other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvn.com.

(Executive Engineer)

The federal might

Punjab and Maharashtra have taken the Centre head on by contesting farm Acts and CBI's rights. Will this be the new trend?



Two States are taking up the fight for federal rights against the unilateralism of the Centre — Punjab and Maharashtra — showing an emerging trend of a new Opposition strategy, that of politically counteracting the ruling BJP in States controlled by it and compelling a discussion on consensus politics. So Punjab has challenged the three farm Acts and brought its own amendment Bills while Maharashtra has withdrawn its consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct probes in the State. Constitutionally speaking, the Punjab Government would have to wait for the Bills to be sent to the Governor and then to the President,

who, acting as he does on the advice of the Union Government, is unlikely to give his assent. Then the State Government could take legal recourse in the Supreme Court. Similarly, while a State's consent is needed in pursuing CBI investigations, it cannot deter those that are ordered by the Supreme Court. So other than political point-scoring, in real terms, the sore point would remain. But it would be worth a fight. The Punjab Government is basing its legal argument on the fact that agriculture is part of the State List and the Centre has no authority over it. The latter contends that since the three Acts deal with the trade and commerce of farmers' produce, its jurisdiction is valid under the Concurrent List. The Punjab Government's amended Bills seek to address the fears of State farmers about being forced to sell their produce at less than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in an open market. They seek to ensure that growers are not browbeaten by the heft of food corporations and that the older system continues without being weakened by a parallel market. The first amendment says that the sale of wheat and paddy (which are the State's cash crops) will be valid only if the seller pays a price equal to or greater than the MSP announced by the Central Government and that any violation would be punishable. The second Bill reintroduces the market fees or licences for private players outside the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis*, which the Central law has abolished. This, it says, will be used to create a distress fund for small and marginal farmers. The third Bill attacks the central Act that gives unlimited power of stocking essential commodities to traders and reassigns that right back to Punjab, arguing that production, supply, and distribution of goods is a State subject. The State Government is also planning to use the amorphous definition of a "trade area", where farmers, traders and e-transaction platforms are given the freedom to deal in farmers' produce without any restrictions, to cover the whole State. It is given that the Centre rushed through the farm Acts, packaging them with good intentions but skimming over the devil in the detail and glossing over the practicalities of implementation. And the farmers, who have so far operated in some sort of regulatory mechanism and built trust within it, would indeed be vulnerable in the absence of guaranteed protections or an elaborate explainer, a fact that would but naturally be used by food majors to their advantage. The Agriculture Minister's refusal to meet stakeholders or even assure them in person, considering that the BJP's own farmers' organisations have raised objections, has only made the Government look more brazen than concerned. Why, instead of being vague about the continuity of MSP, could it not say that "notwithstanding the provisions, no trade transactions should take place below the notified MSP?" That would have allayed the anxieties of farmers. Now, the patchy resistance across States would mean that there would not be a holistic understanding of reforms or their implementation. Had the Government followed the consultative and inclusive model that it used to get the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rolling and referred the Bills to parliamentary committees, things would not have come to such a pass. Many would argue that agriculture merely makes up for 16 per cent of the GDP but farmers make up a majority of every party's voter base and should deserve a listen. They are having it rough anyway, battling high input costs, low productivity and falling pick-up prices. A policy pushed without taking them into confidence will always run the risk of being hijacked by populism and politics.

With the Centre's persistent needling, the Maharashtra Government is following other Opposition States in refusing permission for CBI probes. Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan had withdrawn general consent earlier, calling such inquiry interventionist and politically motivated. The Modi regime did follow some form of cooperative federalism, GST being a prime example, in its first run post-2014. But after the mammoth victory of 2019, it has begun appropriating federal space, be it under the guise of monitoring Centrally-sponsored schemes, using the ruse of national security and interest and manufacturing consensus by co-opting self-serving regional players, like the Biju Janata Dal, to push through major policies despite the lack of numbers in the Rajya Sabha. Post-COVID, the coercive federalism gave way to consultative federalism again as health is a State subject. And now that most States have evolved after managing a public health crisis, they are becoming more confident about asserting themselves and carving out their own policy positions vis-à-vis the Centre. The spate of resolutions in Assemblies against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act was just the beginning. And if more States are to override Central laws with their own legislative framework, then the Opposition is hell-bent on proving why India is a Union of States.

Legalise marijuana

India can accelerate technology and innovate around a plant that is part of its botanical heritage



There are several logical arguments to be made about why marijuana and products derived from the plant, colloquially known as *ganja*, should be legalised in India. For one, the draconian Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was only brought in 1985 by the Rajiv Gandhi administration as the then First Lady of the United States, Nancy Reagan, was leading a "war on drugs" and India was trying to side up to the US. The inclusion of marijuana products was a surprise, given the plant's long history of usage in India from ancient times but the NDPS was rarely enforced against small, private users and it is a common joke how easily *ganja* and resin-based products are available across the country. That all changed with the Sushant Singh Rajput case where the Narcotics Control Board went after his girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty with what would be considered a comical use of the NDPS Act.

However, as all this was going on, there appeared to be a growing clamour to change the NDPS by a whole host of organisations and think-tanks in India. Some, like the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, issued a white paper on the subject. The points being raised usually come under law enforcement, arguing that police resources, already strained in India, would be better utilised in tackling high-end drug crimes rather than going after small-time peddlers and private marijuana smokers. However, it might be more radical to consider legalisation of marijuana for another reason, that of riding the major agricultural technology and product development wave. As more and more countries in the Western world legalise marijuana, including many large US States, there is not only demand for the active ingredients of the plant but also major opportunities in the product sphere. In the US, a few companies have become billion-dollar entities selling marijuana products. Cultivation of the plant has led to major innovations in "Ag-Tech" that are now being used for other commercial crops. The rapid development of hydroponics was mainly thanks to marijuana.

There are many reasons why India should legalise marijuana, not just because it will prevent the incarceration of innocent people but because we can accelerate technology and innovate around a plant that is part of our botanical heritage. Why should foreign companies be allowed to create "Big Weed" when India should have the first rights?

Politics of prohibition

In its enthusiasm to ban liquor, Nitish Kumar's Government may have actually driven a fair few towards alcoholism. There are better ways to tackle addiction



AOJY KUMAR

In the US, the Volstead Act was passed in 1920 to ban alcohol. This prohibition stretched for nearly 14 years and established a parallel illegal economy, which led to the emergence of the mafia and promulgated a State-sponsored structure that protected the rich and powerful but came down heavily on the poor. Media reports of the time in the US noted that in a particularly amusing incident, when the police raided a bar in Denver, they found the local Congressman, the mayor and the sheriff sharing a drink. Who would have thought that Denver of the 1920s and the Bihar of today would have so much in common?

The interesting point is that even if you had not read the end of the first paragraph of this piece, you would have known that we are talking about Nitish Kumar's Bihar and more specifically his prohibition. I use the two terms interchangeably because prohibition and the reckless and arrogant manner in which it has been introduced and implemented in Bihar is also a summary of the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) rule in the State. Prohibition, just like the NDA's rule in Bihar, has been chequered with problems of administration and governance, and has led to a diversion of resources that could have been used elsewhere.

Let us start with the arrogance of the move. Nitish, almost whimsically, decided one fine day that Bihar would be a prohibition State. Any rational Government would have done some research on the effectiveness of the ban prior to taking such a huge decision or would have at least examined the abject failure of the policy on the ground and admitted that it had made a mistake. However, the current NDA Government lacks the foresight to make deliberated decisions and the humility to acknowledge its mistakes.

Why do we say that Nitish's prohibition is a barometer of his governance in Bihar? Let us start with the suddenness of the move. Reminiscent of the catastrophic decision of demonetisation taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the ban was absolute. One would have hoped that the Government had already checked whether prohibition had popular support on the ground or not. No such deliberation was, however, done. As a



result, what this policy has led to, is a rise in what Gary Becker, a Nobel prize-winning economist, calls "rational crimes." That is, crimes committed by rational people since they weigh the possible penalty for being caught against the chance of actually being caught. In Bihar, while the penalty is severe, the chances of being caught are actually minimal. Let me rephrase. In Bihar, your chances of being caught are minimal if you can oil the palms of the police and the relevant authorities or if you are a VIP. But if you are a common citizen, your fortune rests with the Almighty. In reality, there is no real prohibition in Bihar. Yes, liquor is banned as a concept but in practice, it is available when one wants to get it. As a travel agent told a reporter of a large national daily — "What prohibition? Daru (liquor) is available everywhere...even at local police stations?" What Nitish's prohibition has introduced is mob violence between competitors who supply liquor to their customers. Since you cannot take another distributor to court for supplying liquor, the only option is to establish a local monopoly through violence. In the US, this violence was largely perpetrated by mobsters, who profited heavily due to the ban. In Bihar, it is often the police and Government officials who help establish monopolies and tend to profit heavily from them. The ones who suffer are not the suppliers of liquor but

the consumers. According to the latest records of the police headquarters in Patna, a total of 2,12,323 arrests were made with respect to possession of illegal liquor, between April 2016 and January this year. Out of these arrests, only 19,500 were suppliers. Most of those arrested were poor, who could not afford to pay bribes, while the officials who made money off them suffered few ill consequences. The widespread proliferation of this corrupt system of bribing for liquor is well-known and many have complained about it and even more, have suffered due to it.

Another issue with prohibition is that it leads to dangerous forms of spurious liquor being widely available. This is because since possessing liquor carries a certain amount of risk, bootleggers tend to make the spurious drink more potent so that it has the desired effect in a small amount. Therefore, it is no surprise that reports of deaths due to consumption of hooch have been on the rise, especially in the rural areas, where many cannot afford the fancy liquor that the rich and powerful consume.

You may be of the view that the BJP would try to check this behaviour of Nitish and course correct but the party is supporting him. And going by the example of Gujarat, a State that also follows strict prohibition, it is obvious that the ban in Bihar comes with the blessings of the Centre.

This heady cocktail (excuse the pun) of ill-planning and arrogance displayed by the NDA is ultimately only at the cost of the common man of Bihar. The situation in the State is so appalling that one can say that the Nitish Government in its enthusiasm to ban liquor may have actually driven a fair few towards alcoholism.

(The writer is a former IPS officer and a member of the Congress Party)

The resources and attention

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ACCORDING TO THE LATEST RECORDS OF THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN PATNA, A TOTAL OF 2,12,323 ARRESTS WERE MADE WITH RESPECT TO POSSESSION OF LIQUOR BETWEEN APRIL 2016 AND JANUARY THIS YEAR. OUT OF THESE ARRESTS, ONLY 19,500 WERE SUPPLIERS. THE REST WERE POOR ALCOHOLICS

”

SOUND BITE

I reiterate my hope for the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct. I call for peaceful dispute resolution, in conformity with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

UN Secretary-General
—Antonio Guterres

When it comes to cricket and IPL, I am a really big Virat Kohli fan. He never gives up and always gives his 100 per cent. I find that very inspiring.

Wrestler
—Ritu Phogat

Unless the Government puts money in the hands of the bottom half of the families and puts food on the plates of the poor, the economy will not revive smartly.

Former Finance Minister
—P Chidambaram

Due to sheer hard work and labour of farmers, we could mitigate the adverse impact on the economy during the extraordinary Corona crisis.

UP Chief Minister
—Yogi Adityanath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Action against hunger

Sir — India now ranks 94th among 107 countries in terms of hunger and continues to be in the "severe" category, according to the Global Hunger Index 2020. Additionally, 14 per cent of the country's population is undernourished. On the other hand, the collective net worth of half the nation's 100 richest people, on the 2020 *Forbes India Rich List*, saw a rise of 14 per cent. The Sensex, an index of 30 companies actively trading on the Bombay Stock Exchange, which is used to observe "the overall growth, development of particular industries, ups and downs of the Indian economy," closed at 38,673 points on March 31, 2019, witnessing an increase of 17.3 per cent from its closing value of 32,969 as on March 31, 2018. One needs to consider all these and more, along with the data released by the National Statistical Office, which shows that the economic growth slumped to an 11-year low of 4.2 per cent in 2019-20. One school of thought holds that the rise in wealth — despite the sharp Corona-inflicted downturn in economic and business activities — was partly due to the cut in the

Centre might drop plasma therapy

The Indian Council for Medical Research's (ICMR) trial findings indicate that convalescent plasma therapy does not in any way benefit Corona patients. A randomised controlled trial was conducted on 464 patients in 39 hospitals of 25 districts across 14 States and Union Territories from April 22 to July 14. The off-label plasma therapy has been tried in the "hypothetical" hope that the antibodies derived from plasma, filtered from the blood of those who recovered from the virus, would neutralise replicating viruses and check the growth of infection. But it was not to be. The clinical evidence was contrary to this and it showed that plasma therapy neither reduces mortality nor prevents the progression of the disease. What was thought to be a silver bullet for Coronavirus treatment and a life-saver has turned out to be clinically unviable.

It is clear from ICMR chief Dr Balram Bhagwati's statement that the removal of plasma therapy from the National Clinical Management Protocol is in the

offing. The rush to declare a line of treatment, even in the absence of evidence, while a runaway pandemic is on the rampage is understandable. However, the trial findings do not diminish the value of altruism shown by donors to do everything they could to aid the recovery of other Corona patients.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

cities for its Smart City Mission, launched in June 2015, but to take it further, it needs Australia for new and innovative technology. The latter, on the other hand, seeks qualified engineers and doctors from India to augment its technological needs and nourish its healthcare system. Hence, India's decision to include Australia in the naval exercises marks an important inflection point in the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Hope and caution

Sir — The Calcutta High Court (HC) had earlier declared Durga puja pandals as no-entry zones. However, easing its previous order, the HC has now said that entry of up to 45 people will be allowed. Now the question that arises is who will regulate the number of people entering the pandals? It is imperative that people realise that we are still living in a pandemic-hit world and health needs to come first.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

US and Japan as the other two members, scheduled to be held next month. This strategic decision comes against the backdrop of the India-China standoff in east Ladakh. However, there is another dimension to this development and one can possibly infer that New Delhi seeks to take its bilateral relations with Canberra forward. The Central Government had selected many

The right call

Sir — India has invited Australia to the annual Malabar naval exercises, which include the

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

An ancient, crumbling city

No matter how glitzy or well-ranked a metro is, without an efficient network of drains, it can be brought to its knees within days



KOTA SRIRAJ

Hyderabad usually evokes images of nawabs, Nizams and royalty on one hand and information technology prowess on the other. But for the last few days, the city, famous for its flawless pearls, has made it to national news for all the wrong reasons. Heavy flooding in the wake of incessant rains has led to the loss of 50 lives besides causing enormous damage to property. Hyderabad has always been a dynamic destination for multinational corporations and Indian businesses alike to set up shop. This is due to the pleasant weather and enabling systems set up by the Government that fast-track foreign investments. Plus, being the de-facto information technology hub of the country, it has an abundant supply of talent, manpower and money. These factors are helping the city score over traditional choices like Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai.

Not only corporations, families and individuals, too, are increasingly choosing to make the city their home. According to the Mercer's Quality of Living Ranking 2019 survey, Hyderabad has been adjudged as the best Indian city to live in for the fifth year in a row. With a global ranking of 143, it left Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi behind to capture the tag. Mercer's findings were echoed by the survey of 34 cities done by holidify.com which placed it as the best city to live in with four out of five points. The survey highlighted the dual charm of a city steeped in history combined with all the attractions and facilities of world-class new development like the Financial District and HITEC City.

However, it is the old part of the city which is now turning out to be the root of all problems in this otherwise splendid metro. The new residential and commercial areas of Hyderabad have always had a relatively better-designed civic infrastructure, drainage and sewage system. They have a comparatively improved layout that consciously steered clear of low-lying lake beds, dried river beds and other areas, where flooding was normal in the event of heavy rains, and opened upstream reservoir gates. But the same cannot be said of the old city area, which still survives on sewage and drainage infrastructure built in the early 19th century. As these relics of a bygone era crumble, the citizens are paying the price for it.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has largely done a good job of handling the civic infrastructure of the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, including the old city areas. But the unplanned development and construction that happened in the early 1980s and 1990s has come to haunt it today.

There was unfettered development on canals, lake beds and other water bodies that should have otherwise been left untouched. The water bodies of a city are its margin spaces that not only play a critical role in absorbing unexpected flood waters but also protect its ecosystem and biodiversity by providing habitat for a variety of flora and fauna. The moment these bodies are encroached upon, urban flooding becomes an obvious outcome. Over the last few years, many of our metros, such as Mumbai and Chennai, have experienced the painful reality of urban flooding. This year it was Hyderabad's turn. The fact that the city witnessed such huge strides of development has not eased its experience with the recent floods.

Another aspect that is making things difficult is the natural undulations that abound. These varied levels in the city's topography result in the water gravitating towards low-lying areas with exceptional force, sweeping away whatever lies in its path. The twin cities need to quickly hammer out a long-term strategy to handle weather extremities in the future, since these floods may not be the last that Hyderabad will see.

The GHMC needs to resuscitate the water bodies so that it can fall back upon them in case of heavy rains and floods. Additionally, the water drainage system must be interlinked with the rainwater harvesting network so that excess water is seamlessly channelised into large capacity underground storage facilities. This can later be utilised to irrigate public parks, roadside trees and so on. The municipal corporation will do well to take cues from other metros in the world that are handling similar problems. Many cities in Europe for instance have adopted channel and pipeline systems that carry excess water to the nearby rivers. They have also strengthened embankments so that the increased water load is handled without any undue concerns.

No matter how glitzy or well-ranked a city is, without an efficient network of drains, a proper sewage disposal system and rain water harvesting, it can be brought to its knees within days. That is what has happened in Hyderabad.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

analysis

07

POINT COUNTER POINT

FIRST, CONGRESS CALLED ME 'HUNGRY AND ILL-CLAD' AND NOW SHE (IMARTI) HAS BEEN CALLED AN 'ITEM'. THIS SHOWS THE FEUDAL MINDSET OF KAMAL NATH.

—MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUDHARI



IF I SAID SOMETHING, IT WASN'T TO INSULT ANYONE. I JUST DIDN'T REMEMBER THE (PERSON'S) NAME...THIS LIST SAYS ITEM NO.1, ITEM NO.2. IS THIS AN INSULT?

—FORMER MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER KAMAL NATH

A timely innovation

If Universal Health Coverage has to be achieved, there needs to be less dependence on DOT and greater acceptance of VOT and other patient-centric treatment modes for TB



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

After being diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB), Niyam Mohammed was asked to follow the standard Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS). In the beginning, he abided by the procedure, which meant taking the TB medication in front of a DOTS provider (usually a healthcare worker or volunteer). This was done to ensure compliance and completion of the treatment and also to prevent the development of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DRTB). But for him, visiting the healthcare centre for medicines and registration of compliance daily meant missing many hours of work. As a construction worker, Mohammed's survival depended on his daily earnings and unable to afford this loss of income, he slowly became irregular, not just in his visits to the healthcare centre but also in treatment adherence. So, it wasn't surprising when he was detected as having DRTB during a door-to-door TB screening programme in March. Realising that counselling and behaviour change was needed to get him back on track, ZMQ Global, a social enterprise using technology for development, which conducted the screening drive, took him under its wing.

Once the team understood that Mohammed was more likely to adhere to the regime if he didn't have to miss work, he was given an innovative Patient's Active Compliance and Treatment (PACT) tool kit, a patient-centric mobile solution designed especially for people with DRTB. By using PACT, the construction worker didn't have to miss work to access treatment because he no longer had to present himself in front of a healthcare worker daily. Instead, he could show that he was following the regime by clicking a video while having his medicines and use the app to send the video to the TB unit located in his primary healthcare centre.

Just as Mohammed began his treatment using Video Observed Therapy (VOT), a countrywide lockdown due to the COVID pandemic was announced. But the worker knew that he didn't have to worry about access to treatment and care because he had been given medication to last for two months. More importantly, the patient knew that he could use the app to consult the doctor via tele-conferencing if he had any problems.

At a time when 51 per cent TB patients in India, who were surveyed by the Global Coalition of TB Activists, said that they were less likely to seek care during the outbreak because they feared contracting the Coronavirus, ensuring continued access to DRTB care and management is critical.

By leveraging tele-medicine and patient-centric mobile tools to put treatment and care directly into the hands of patients, PACT has been able to enhance adherence support.

“

AT A TIME WHEN 51 PER CENT TB PATIENTS IN INDIA, WHO WERE SURVEYED BY THE GLOBAL COALITION OF TB ACTIVISTS, SAID THAT THEY WERE LESS LIKELY TO SEEK CARE DURING THE OUTBREAK BECAUSE THEY FEARED CONTRACTING THE CORONAVIRUS, ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO DRTB CARE AND MANAGEMENT IS CRITICAL. BY LEVERAGING TELEMEDICINE AND PATIENT-CENTRIC MOBILE TOOLS TO PUT TREATMENT AND CARE DIRECTLY INTO THE HANDS OF PATIENTS, PACT HAS BEEN ABLE TO ENHANCE ADHERENCE SUPPORT

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ry and follow-up schedules. Second, the app allows patients to remotely connect with the TB Unit (TBU) or Senior Treatment Supervisor (STS) for consultation or emergency care using the video connect tool. This means that visits to the TBU can be substantially reduced and with the pandemic showing no signs of slowing down in India, this can be a life-saving feature for immunity-deficient TB patients.

The third strategy to boost treatment compliance was to incorporate digital behaviour change communication and motivational content for DRTB patients. Interesting digital stories, learning tools and messages have been developed in the local language and attractively packaged in the form of audio-visuals to connect, engage, inspire and motivate patients. In this way, even those with low literacy levels can use the app with ease.

At present, PACT is being rolled out in Nuh (Mewat), Haryana, which is just 100 kilometres from the national capital Delhi and considered the most backward district in India. In 2018, it was included in the Niti Aayog's list of "aspirational districts" or backward districts demanding special attention for its poor healthcare and development indicators. This happened after a study by Sehgal Foundation, a not-for-profit, found that the district lagged behind other areas in Haryana.

Nuh has a TB load of over 2,800 patients every year. With the treatment initiation of DRTB patients being 24 per cent and the success rate of treatment being only 35 per cent, it was decided to implement PACT in Nuh first. Planners believe that anything which works in this district has the potential to be scaled up to 114 other aspirational districts of

India.

It has just been seven months since the initiative was launched but there are already signs that the PACT is boosting adherence and compliance. Mohammed, one of the 120 DRTB patients in Nuh, has recorded 85 per cent treatment adherence using the VOT technology. He returned to work after the lockdown was eased and hasn't let that come in the way of completing his treatment. He sends videos to his designated healthcare centre to show his intake of medicine from the construction site even now.

Although Mohammed is considered a successful case because he changed his behaviour and adhered to his treatment, the team continues to monitor him. Since he has DRTB, he will have to undergo a longer and more arduous period of treatment. The team wants to ensure that the worker remains vigilant till the end, so it will continue to monitor him over the next six months as all patients under PACT are monitored for at least a year.

PACT, in fact, was specially designed to ensure continuum of care for those diagnosed and undergoing treatment for DRTB in the wake of the contagion. It recently won the Drug Resistant-TB Lifeline QuickFire Challenge instituted by pharmaceutical major Johnson & Johnson's Global Public Health and Johnson & Johnson Innovation.

According to Hilmi Qurashi, co-founder of the not-for-profit, they focussed on making the solution patient-centric. Since they have been engaged in providing mobile technology solutions for TB and other health issues in other parts of India and Africa, they adapted from their existing bottom-up technology-linked model to provide appropriate

tools in the hands of the patients.

This could not have come at a better time as recently the World Health Organisation in its global report sounded a warning that the pandemic would cause an excess of 1.8 million TB deaths in 2020. India is among the countries expected to bear the maximum burden of these casualties.

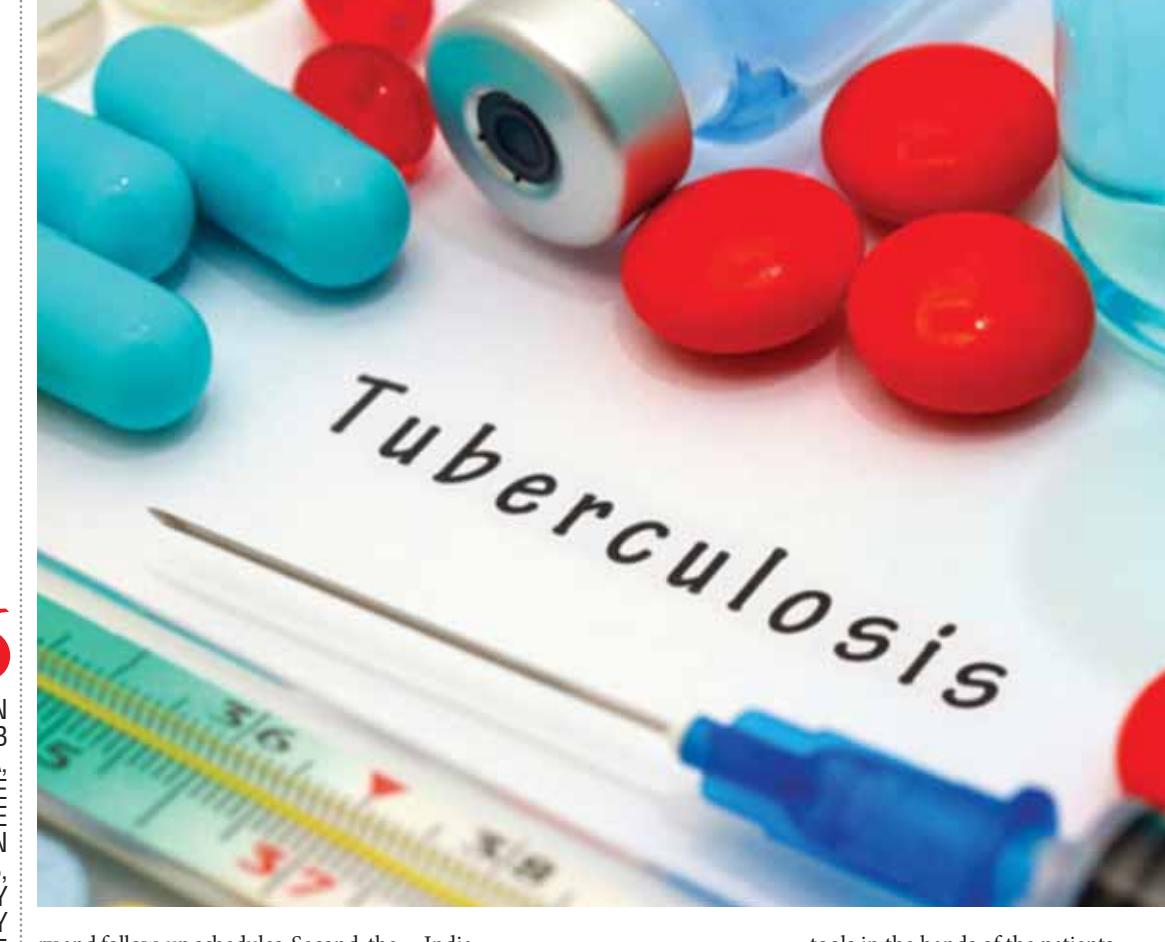
The need for innovation has also been flagged by the ongoing 51st Union World Conference on Lung Health convened virtually by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), the world's first global health NGO. Failure to invest in the health of citizens and defeat preventable, treatable and curable diseases such as TB would enhance exposure to the Novel Coronavirus and future pandemics, said José Luis Castro, Executive Director, The Union.

With 75 per cent of TB researchers saying that they do not have the necessary resources, the need to protect existing ones becomes vital. The concern that TB medicine, tests, vaccines, even sputum cups may not be available has been expressed by Dr Madhukar Pai, director, McGill University TB Centre.

This makes the new tools for TB prevention and care, like PACT, even more necessary. Never has this innovative tool kit been needed more, considering the necessity to reduce visits to healthcare centres and contact with healthcare workers in the Corona era.

If Universal Health Coverage has to be achieved, there needs to be a reduced dependence on DOT and greater acceptance of VOT and other forms of innovative patient-centric treatment modes for TB.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



The pandemic of violence against women rages on

In today's modern, digital India, the caste factor and group identity further accentuate a dominant-submissive gender role culture, especially in the northern States



ARCHANA DATTA

The Hathras incident forced us all to relive the horrific Nirbhaya gang rape. What stands out in public memory is the burning of the Dalit girl's mortal remains like "trash" in the dead of the night, with policemen standing guard. Official figures confirm that on an average 87 rape cases (ten among them are of Dalit girls/women) are reported daily in India. There has also been a 7.3 per cent rise in all crimes against women, with Uttar Pradesh (UP) registering the highest number of cases, accounting for 14 per cent of the total incidents in the country, says a National Crime Records Bureau, 2019, report.

In 2018, a Thomson Reuters Foundation Survey labelled India "as the most dangerous country for women...where rape, marital rape,

sexual assault, harassment, female infanticide go on unabated." Many dismissed the report as being "perceptual rather than based on actual experiences", while the Government declined to comment on the findings.

Sadly, violence against women is globally pervasive, and one in three women (35.6 per cent) has been a victim of physical and/or sexual violence either by intimate partners or non-partners in their lifetime. The prevalence of intimate partner violence was found to be the highest (37.7 per cent) in the South-East Asian region, says a 2017 World Health Organisation study.

Many researchers ascribe "toxic masculinity", which breeds sexual aggression, as the outcome of an unequal power relationship, more common in cultures that foster the notion of male superiority *vis à vis* the socio-cultural inferiority of women. Kamala Bhasin, a social activist, says that "in deep-rooted patriarchy, a boy inherits a sense of entitlement from his upbringing, whereas a girl becomes a victim of stereotyping as the weaker sex. The existing imbalance in gender relations has much to do with violence

against women." Shockingly, in today's modern, tech-savvy digital India, the caste factor and group identity further accentuate a dominant-submissive gender role culture, especially in the northern States.

Ravi Verma, Director, International Center for Research on Women, Asia, says, "A strong sense of impunity among higher caste men, who consider dehumanising women's bodies as an ultimate expression of control and power, is the reason behind continued violence against women from marginalised and poor communities, including Dalits." In 2019, among the 3,500 Dalit women raped in India, one third of them were from Rajasthan and UP.

But, beyond the socio-cultural structures, studies have also indicated a negative correlation between the sex ratio and the hike in sexual violence cases. Now, India is a land of "missing women", contributing one in three to the world's missing girls due to sex selection, both pre and post-natal, says a United Nations Population Fund, 2020 report. Rape cases in India rose to 32,033 in 2019 from 2,487 in 1971, an astronomical jump of 1,188 per

cent, while the sex ratio registered a negative growth of 0.65 per cent, plummeting from 930 girls in 1971 to 924 girls per 1,000 boys this year.

Moreover, the rising rate of sexual violence is likely to create a further dip in the sex ratio, especially in the Hindi belt. A recent field report of the Indian Council of Social Science Research in UP and Haryana corroborated that "there is an increasing trend for son preference in the face of growing crimes against women, as a male child is culturally viewed as a protector of the family honour, thus safeguarding the chastity of daughters from the unsafe public spaces."

Now, if public places are "unsafe", then how safe is the home for Indian women? Certainly, it is not. The majority of the violence-related cases under the Indian Penal Code have been registered under cruelty by husband or his relatives (30.9 per cent), followed by assault on a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty (21.8 per cent) and abduction of a woman (17.9 per cent). India's criminal law doesn't proscribe sexual violence by a husband unless the wife is under 18 years of age, and there is no culpability

for marital rape. Another unique dimension of crimes against women in India is that 85 per cent of sexual assaults go unreported as there is a high share of known offenders, even if one excludes marital rape. An analysis of demographic and health surveys from 43 developing countries from 2010 onwards revealed that women's reporting of sexual violence is very low in India.

Nonetheless, the Nirbhaya case was a watershed moment in our criminal justice system. Asha Devi, Nirbhaya's mother, while recalling her seven-year-long struggle in nailing the perpetrators, said, "The road to justice is very difficult, arduous and also hopeless. If you don't have police support, even if the death penalty is handed out, it has to move through a tortuous process and is hardly implemented."

Unfortunately, the post-Nirbhaya changes in criminal law failed to make much of a dent in the justice dispensation system. The conviction rate of offenders remains as low as 27.2 per cent and is only five per cent in case of the death penalty, though rape constitutes 11.5 per cent of the total crime

statistics. Many activists lament that the cases get weakened by easy grant of bail to the rape accused. "Even though it is a non-bailable offence, evidence gets tampered and extraneous influences dilute the process of investigation, while the police remain hand in glove ... as happened in the Hathras case, when it more or less acted like an accomplice and not as the upholder of rule of law," they point out.

Meanwhile, the much-awaited police reforms get frozen in political cold storage. Even the Supreme Court's directives in 2006, which included separation of investigation and law order functions to make the police more "people-centric rather than ruler-centric" are yet to hit the ground. A committee to review the existing criminal justice system also ran into rough weather when a group of women lawyers protested over the non-representation of women on it "when its remit is largely to reform sexual offences".

So, how does one fight it out? Mohini Giri, former Chairperson, National Women Commission, opines that the issue has no tailor-made solutions. "The law cannot be the only

instrument. What is needed is a strong and supportive family, an awakened civil society and coordinated action among the various service providers in society to nurture a girl child. We also need a complete overhauling of our educational inputs to detoxify the overdose of stereotyping for bringing in attitudinal changes, both in the oppressed and the oppressors," she says. While Bhasin emphasises that "it is high time that we focus on men and talk in the active voice, like why a man commits a rape, rather than pushing the victimisation theory of why and how a woman has been raped."

Well, women across the world raised their voices against sexual violence under several banners like #MeToo, #TimesUp, #NotOneMore et al. In today's pandemic-ravaged world, the alarming spike in gender violence has generated a global movement #orangetheworld and #generational equality to wage an all-out war against rape. Like before, India cannot remain untouched by it.

(The writer is a retired Indian Information Service Officer and a media educator)

5 questions as Trump-Biden prepare for final debate

Nashville: President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, meet on the debate stage for the second and final time Thursday night in Tennessee. The 90-minute prime-time meeting comes just 12 days before Election Day.

Some key questions heading into the debate:

CAN TRUMP CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY OF THE RACE?

Trump cannot afford a status quo debate. National polls show him losing to Biden, and while some battleground state polls are tighter, even some of Trump's own allies are worrying about the prospect of a serious defeat. This debate represents his best, and perhaps last, opportunity to change the contours of the race while tens of millions of Americans are watching.

The president fumbled his chance in the opening debate last month, when his attack-all-the-time approach backfired. Trump missed another opportunity when he refused to participate in the second debate after organizers decided the candidates would face each other virtually because of concerns about the president's coronavirus infection.

Trump needs to find a way to focus the debate — and the election more broadly — on Biden and his liabilities. But to do that, he needs to avoid making himself the center of attention, something that doesn't come naturally to the president.

WILL THE MUTE BUT TON KEEP THINGS CIVIL?

The mute button has gotten a lot of attention leading up to the debate, but its impact may be overstated.

Given Trump's unrelenting interruptions in the first debate, the Commission on Presidential Debates added a new rule for Thursday's affair that will keep each candidate muted while the other delivers his two-minute remarks at the outset of each of the six debate topics. The remainder of each 15-minute

block will be open discussion, without any muting, the commission says.

The change will ensure the candidates have at least some time to answer questions without interference. Ultimately, however, the mute button can only be used for a combined total of 24 minutes of the 90-minute debate. That's plenty of time for the candidates to mix it up.

DOES TRUMP HAVE A BETTER ANSWER FOR THE PANDEMIC?

Whether he wants to or not, the president will have to talk about the coronavirus at length. And he has to come up with a better answer than he did during the first debate to convince persuadable voters that he has the situation under control. It won't be easy.

Coronavirus infections are surging to their highest levels in months. More than 220,000 Americans are dead. And rather than working on a comprehensive plan to stop the spread based on science, Trump has spent recent days attacking the nation's most respected infectious-disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, while undermining his own administration's recommendation to wear masks.

HOW WILL BIDEN HANDLE ATTACKS AGAINST HIS SON?

Trump and his allies in the conservative media have ramped up their focus on alleged maleficence by Biden's son Hunter in recent days. Biden's team expects Trump to make those allegations a centerpiece of his debate strategy.

The president tried to make an issue in the first debate of Hunter

Biden and his drug use, which the younger Biden has publicly acknowledged.

But Trump's attack may have backfired when Biden declared that he was proud of his son, who, like many Americans, had fought to overcome an

addiction.

Trump believes he has more ammunition this time around, however, following the publication of a tabloid report offering a bizarre twist to familiar concerns about Hunter Biden's work overseas. The report centers on data allegedly recovered from Hunter Biden's laptop, though the data has not been verified and, if it is legitimate, does not tie candidate Biden to any corruption.

Biden's team considers the issue a distraction from much more pressing concerns — namely, the pandemic — but Biden will certainly have to defend himself and his family again on Thursday night.

CAN BIDEN AVOID PLAYING INTO GOP NARRATIVE?

"We never had anything like it — and sacrificing American blood and treasure in endless foreign wars in countries that you've never even heard of. And they're all coming back. You know that, right? I hope nobody objects," Trump told his supporters on Wednesday at an election rally in Gastonia, in the battle-

ground state of North Carolina.

"I think 19 years in

Trump: US has had enough of 19 yrs in Afghanistan

Washington: The US has had enough of 19 years in Afghanistan, President Donald Trump has said, reiterating that American troops, who are the greatest soldiers in the world, but as acting as a "police force" in the strife-torn country, are returning.

Trump has repeatedly said that he would bring home all the US troops from "endless wars". It was also one of the promises he made during his 2016 Presidential campaign.

Last month, he said that the United States will reduce the number of its troops in Afghanistan to 4,000 in a very short period of time.

"They are right but we are all coming home, they are all coming home," Trump said.

Early this month, Trump announced that he will bring all troops back from Afghanistan by year end. The Pentagon had expressed surprise over it, while the Taliban had welcomed the move.

The US and the Taliban signed a landmark deal in Doha on February 29 to bring lasting peace in war-torn

Afghanistan and allow US troops to return home from America's longest war. PTI

For 4th time, Hariri is back as PM in crisis-hit Lebanon

Beirut: Lebanon's president tasked former Prime Minister Saad Hariri with forming a new government Thursday, bringing back the veteran politician a year after he was toppled amid nationwide protests against widespread corruption and a flunking economy.

President Michel Aoun designated Hariri to form the next government after a slight majority of votes from lawmakers, securing the return of an old name to lead the country desperate for change. Hariri now faces a more impoverished Lebanon, devastated by a mas-

sive August explosion that defaced Beirut, but also a more determined opposition.

The 50-year-old politician takes the helm with a sense of urgency and more involvement by international leaders who have warned Lebanon is on the verge of collapse.

Hariri pledged to quickly form a new government — his fourth in the last decade — to halt the economic collapse, calling it the "last and only" opportunity.

The task is enormous, amid an unprecedented economic crisis and stiff opposition, including from former political allies and protesters who had been demanding change.

"Saad, don't dream of it," read posters raised by protesters, who see him as a symbol of an entrenched political class they blame for the country's woes. AP

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Sri Lanka lodges appeal against move to de-list LTTE as terrorist group in UK

Colombo: Sri Lanka has appealed against a judgement from Britain's Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission, which has delisted the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as a proscribed terrorist organisation.

A foreign ministry statement issued here said that Sri Lanka has been made aware of the Open Judgement by the Commission on Wednesday.

It said the decision of the Commission arises from an appeal filed in May 2019 by an LTTE front organisation chal-

lenging the decision of British Secretary of State for Home Affairs dated March 8, 2019, which refused the application by the group to de-proscribe the LTTE from the list of Proscribed Organizations under the UK Terrorism Act of 2000.

While Sri Lanka was not a party to these proceedings at the Open Judgement by the Commission on Wednesday.

It said the decision of the Commission arises from an appeal filed in May 2019 by an LTTE front organisation chal-

lenged terrorist activities. "The Open Judgement of the POAC while allowing the Appeal, provides for further hearings, and the Government of Sri Lanka will continue to closely monitor the progress of the case in the UK," the statement said.

Sri Lanka maintains that it has sufficient evidence to prove that the remnants of the LTTE and groups aligned with its terrorist ideology are active in foreign countries, working to incite violence and destabilize the country. PTI

Around the Globe

Brussels: The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to the Belarus opposition movement and its leader, Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya, for their challenge to President Alexander Lukashenko's long, hard-line reign. "It is an honour to announce that the women and men of the democratic opposition in Belarus are the 2020 Sakharov Prize laureates," European Parliament president David Sassoli said.

United Nations: The United States is urging countries that have ratified a UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons to withdraw their support as the pact nears the 50 ratifications needed to trigger its entry into force, which supporters say could happen this week.

Beijing: China on Thursday defended its vaccine research and development capabilities, a day after Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro cancelled plans to buy a potential COVID-19 vaccine from it with a libe that the Brazilian people will not be "anyone's guinea pig".

Kabul: At least four civilians were killed in their homes by militant rocket fire in northern Afghanistan on Thursday, the country's Ministry of Defense said. The ministry statement blamed the Taliban for the firing, which it said wounded another 14 civilians and destroyed several houses in the Sharin Tagab district of Faryab province.

Dubai: A Saudi Arabian governmental body on Thursday insisted that executions have been abolished for crimes committed by minors, after Human Rights Watch said earlier this week that Saudi prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against a number of young men from the predominantly Shiite eastern region of the kingdom for protest-related crimes they allegedly committed as children.

Deport Sharif from London: Pak requests UK for 3rd time

Islamabad: Pakistan has requested the UK for a third time to deport former prime minister Nawaz Sharif from London to serve his prison term in the country after being sentenced in corruption cases, according to a media report on Thursday.

Sharif, the 70-year-old supremo of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) who was ousted from power in 2017 by the Supreme Court on corruption charges, is in London for medical treatment.

A letter for the deportation of the three-time prime minister was handed over personally to the British High Commissioner here some three weeks ago, Dawn newspaper

Biomedical waste management urgent to halt virus: UNIDO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The United Nations has on Tuesday said that there is an urgent need to adopt proven biomedical waste management practices and techniques, and never before has it been so urgent to adopt these.

He was speaking at a webinar on "Managing bio-medical waste to ensure near-zero infections spread among waste management workers" organised by UNIDO Regional Office in India on Tuesday said that we need to halt the spread of Covid 19 through all possible infection

All other conditions relevant to tender process can be seen and given in bidding documents. For further details please log on to www.uktenders.gov.in Note- All documents will be submitted Electronically on E-Portal www.uktenders.gov.in only. No Physical Document needed.

Letter No 2049/Adv/2020-21

Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Hardwar

NAGAR NIGAM HARIDWAR

E-Tender Notice

Nagar Nigam Hardwar invites bids from the interested parties for allotment of exclusive outdoor advertisement rights for Unipole and Pole Kiosk within Nagar Nigam Hardwar area for a period of two years. The bid document is available online on www.uktenders.gov.in from 23/10/2020 Last Date/time for receipt of Bid though e-procurement is 09/11/2020 upto 12:00 Hrs, which will be opened on same date at 3:00 pm by tender committee. For submission of the Bids online the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one authorized certifying authorities.

Shri René Van Berk, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation Representative, UNIDO Regional Office in India on Tuesday said that we need to halt the spread of Covid 19 through all possible infection

Dr René Van Berk, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation Representative, UNIDO Regional Office in India on Tuesday said that we need to halt the spread of Covid 19 through all possible infection

He was speaking at a webinar on "Managing bio-medical waste to ensure near-zero infections spread among waste management workers" organised by UNIDO Regional Office in India on Tuesday said that we need to halt the spread of Covid 19 through all possible infection

UNIDO-India.

channels, including from contact with or mismanagement of infectious waste. He also added that this is possible with proven biomedical waste management practices and techniques, and never before has it been so urgent to adopt these.

He was speaking at a webinar on "Managing bio-medical waste to ensure near-zero infections spread among waste management workers" organised by UNIDO Regional Office in India on Tuesday said that we need to halt the spread of Covid 19 through all possible infection

UNIDO-India.

UJVN LTD. H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharan Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephones : 0135-2763808 & Fax : 0135-2763507 CIN No: U40101UR2001SGC025866 Web: www.ujvn.com Letter No. 669

Tender Notice

Dated 22.10.2020

Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Distribution Division, Dakpathar (D.Dun), invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No. PDD-16/2020-21: Repairing and commissioning of 11.0/4KV 250KVA, 500KVA & 630KVA Transformer. Estimated cost: Rs. 7,50,000/- GST extra.

Last date for downloading of tender: 17.11.2020 (Upto 16.00 Hrs.).

Last date for submission of tender: 18.11.2020 (Upto 13.00 Hrs.).

For eligibility criteria and full & further details, kindly visit our website. Tenders can only be downloaded from our website "www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com".

Executive Engineer

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

ICICI Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No. **Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers/**

No business visa for H-1B speciality occupations

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The State Department has proposed not to issue temporary business visas for H-1B speciality occupations which allowed several companies to send their technology professionals for a short stay to complete jobs on site in the US, a move which could affect hundreds of Indians.

The proposal, if finalised, will eliminate any misconception that the "B-1 in lieu of H policy" provides an alternative avenue for foreign professionals to enter the US to perform skilled labour that allows, and potentially even encourages them and their employers to circumvent the restrictions and

requirements relating to the H non-immigrant classification established by Congress to protect the US workers, the State Department said.

"The proposed changes and the resulting transparency would reduce the impact of foreign labour on the US workforce of aliens performing activities in a specialty occupation without the procedural protections attendant to the H-1B classification," it said.

In its federal notification issued on Wednesday, the State Department said the US architecture firm seeking protection from rising labour costs in the country might believe it could lay off its US architects and contract for the same professional architectural services to be provided by a foreign architecture firm.

rather than H-1B visas, the State Department said.

The move, made public on Wednesday, less than two weeks ahead of the November 3 presidential election, is likely to impact several Indian companies which send their technology professionals on B-1 visas for a short stay to complete jobs on site in the US.

On December 17, 2019, the Attorney General of California announced a USD 800,000 settlement against Infosys Limited to resolve allegations that approximately 500 Infosys employees worked in the state on Infosys-sponsored B-1 visas

If the foreign firm sought H-1B visas for its architects, it would be required to pay the prevailing wage for architects in the area of intended employment in the United States, presumably the same wage the US architects had been paid, and meet the other requirements enacted by the Congress to protect US workers.

But under the B-1 in lieu of H policy, the foreign architects could ostensibly seek B-1 visas and travel to the US to fill a temporary need for architecture services, as long as they retained a residence in the foreign country and continued to receive a salary, perhaps significantly lower than what is customary for US architects,

dispersed abroad by the foreign firm (or under the auspices of a foreign parent or subsidiary), the State Department said.

Under the Department's guidance, visas could be issued for multiple architects planning temporary work in the US in certain situations. However, a foreign employer may succeed in undermining the US immigration law and policy by rotating architects between the US and the foreign country to effectively fill the position of one US architect at a significantly lower cost, the notification said.

"If the architects who intended to perform skilled labour were of distinguished merit and ability... seeking to

perform (temporary architectural services) of an exceptional nature requiring such merit and ability, one might argue the current regulatory language suggests this type of labour is a permissible basis for B-1 non-immigrant visa issuance," the State Department said.

This potential outcome is harmful to the US workers and contrary to the policies of the Trump administration, it said.

The State Department said the application process for a B-1 visa does not include similar procedural requirements to protect the US workers like that of H-1B visas.

Also, the fees for the B-1 visas are far less than that of H-1B visas.

Measures to deal with market volatility to be in place till Nov 26: Sebi

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Thursday said the measures to deal with market volatility will remain in place till November 26.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the watchdog, in March, came out with various measures, including revision of market wide position limit, to ensure orderly trading and settlement to contain high market volatility.

Besides ensuring orderly trading and settlement, the steps were aimed at effective risk management, price dis-

covey and maintenance of market integrity.

"On review of the Covid-19 pandemic related situation, it has been decided that the regulatory measures introduced vide Sebi press release dated March 20, 2020, shall continue to be in force till November 26, 2020," the regulator said in a release on Thursday.

The stock exchanges and clearing corporations will be issuing necessary instructions to market participants in this regard, it added.

PTI

Markets snap four-day rising streak as IT, bank stocks weigh

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic equity indices snapped four sessions of gains on Thursday as investors trimmed their exposure to IT, banking and energy stocks amid a negative trend at global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 148.82 points or 0.37 per cent to finish at 40,558.49.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 41.20 points or 0.35 per cent to close at 11,896.45.

IndusInd Bank was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, declining 3.10 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, Infosys, Titan, HDFC Bank, Nestle India, Maruti and Tech Mahindra.

On the other hand, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank and Tata Steel were among the major gainers, jumping up to 3.10 per cent.

Global equities stayed on the backfoot as the rising COVID-19 cases and protracted US stimulus negotiations hit investor sentiment.

"Domestic equities finished lower after four consecutive days of gains amid mixed global cues. Barring metals, FMCG and realty, most of sec-

Gold declines by ₹95 on weak global trend

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell ₹95 to ₹51,405 per 10 gram in the national capital on Thursday amid a weak global trend and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at ₹51,500 per 10 gram in the previous trade.

Silver prices also declined ₹504 to ₹63,425 per kilogram from ₹63,929 per kilogram in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi declined by ₹95 on weak global prices and rupee appreciation," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

Accordingly, the brokerage firm's EcoScope report said favourable base effect, pent-up demand and strong inventory re-building in the hope of a grand festive season have led to the better-than-expected economic growth in Aug-Sep'20.

"It is likely that these factors will push the growth even higher in Oct'20, which is also expected to be the peak," the report said.

However, the report makes a revelation that recent improvements are more likely to be fleeting than sustainable in nature.

Report: Festive season to give temporary boost to economy

New Delhi: Festival season is expected to give a temporary boost to India's economic prospect, brokerage major Motilal Oswal Financial Services said.

Accordingly, the brokerage firm's EcoScope report said favourable base effect, pent-up demand and strong inventory re-building in the hope of a grand festive season have led to the better-than-expected economic growth in Aug-Sep'20.

"On close inspection, none of the above seems to be formulating in the Indian economy," the report added.

According to the report, the real GDP could contract by 7.1 per cent YoY in Q2FY21 and 6.5 per cent for the full-year FY21.

"However, with better-than-expected incoming data since Aug'20, it is almost certain that Q2FY21 will be a positive surprise, leading to upward revisions for full-year FY21," the report said.

IANS

"Higher growth can be sustained only if households' income grows faster, government receipts or payments for households are exceptionally high or low to offset low income, and credit growth is much higher-than-usual." On close inspection, none of the above seems to be formulating in the Indian economy," the report added.

According to the report, the real GDP could contract by 7.1 per cent YoY in Q2FY21 and 6.5 per cent for the full-year FY21.

"However, with better-than-expected incoming data since Aug'20, it is almost certain that Q2FY21 will be a positive surprise, leading to upward revisions for full-year FY21," the report said.

FII's hike stake in Reliance Industries to 25.2 per cent

New Delhi: Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have raised stake in billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries to a record 25.2 per cent in the quarter ended September 30, according to the company's regulatory filing.

Reliance Industries (RIL) on Thursday filed a statement showing the shareholding pattern for the quarter ended September 30.

The statement showed FII holding 165.8 crore shares or 25.2 per cent of the total shareholding.

In the previous quarter ended June 30, foreign investors held 163.07 crore shares of 24.72 per cent.

In an investor note, JP

Labour Min releases new series of retail inflation for industrial workers with 2016 base year

New Delhi: Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar on Thursday released a new series of retail inflation for industrial workers (CPI-IW) with a revised base year of 2016 against 2001 earlier.

The Consumer Price Index-Industrial workers (CPI-IW) is the single most important price statistics with financial implications.

The CPI-IW is primarily used to regulate the dearness allowance of government employees and the workers in the industrial sectors. It is also used in the fixation and revision of minimum wages in scheduled employments besides measuring the inflation in retail prices.

In future, the base revision will be done every five years, Gangwar said in a statement.

Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment, released the new series of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker (CPI-IW) with the base year 2016, being compiled and maintained by Labour Bureau, an attached office of Ministry of Labour & Employment, the ministry said in the statement.

The new series of CPI(IW) with the base year 2016 will replace the existing 2001 series, it added.

PTI

₹ clocks 1st gain in 4 days, ends 4 paise higher to \$

Mumbai: The rupee snapped its three-session losing streak, edging 4 paise higher at 73.54 against the US dollar on Thursday, aided by dollar selling by exporters.

Starting off the session at almost the day's lowest level of 73.77, the domestic currency clawed back its lost territory as trade progressed. Intra-day, it

touched a high of 73.53 and low of 73.78. Ending its three-day downturn, the rupee ended at 73.54, a gain of 4 paise over its previous close.

Forex dealers said that a strong dollar against major currencies overseas restricted the rupee's gain to some extent.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength

against a basket of six currencies, surged 0.13 per cent to 92.73. The rupee appreciated for the first time in four sessions against the greenback, as the dollar selling by exporters and speculators outweighed the impact of weak risk appetite in the region," Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said.

However, the report makes a revelation that recent improvements are more likely to be fleeting than sustainable in nature.

GAIL provides 18 CNG vehicles for waste collection to Bengaluru municipality

Bengaluru: Lending support to the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' in the city, GAIL (India) Limited today handed over 18 four-wheel CNG "Dry Waste Collection Vehicles" worth Rupees one crore to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The vehicles were flagged off by Shri Gaurav Gupta, Hon'ble Administrator of BBMP and Shri Manjunath

Prasad, Commissioner, BBMP in the presence of Shri P Murugesan, Executive Director (Southern Region), GAIL (India) Limited and Shri Vivek Wathodkar, Chief General Manager (CGD), GAIL Gas Limited.

The vehicles, provided under GAIL's Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, are going to be used for dry waste collection. They run on dual fuel, i.e., compressed natural gas (CNG) and petrol. CNG is an environment-friendly fuel which is cheaper than conventional fuels and reduces maintenance cost too.

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the dates below mentioned, for recovery of amount mentioned below due to the Capri Global Capital Limited Secured Creditor from Borrower mentioned below. The reserve price, EMD amount and property details mentioned below.

SR. NO.	1. BORROWER(S) NAME 2. OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY	1. DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION 2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD 3. DATE & TIME OF THE PROPERTY INSPECTION	1. RESERVE PRICE 2. END DATE OF THE PROPERTY 3. INCREMENTAL VALUE
1.	1-Mala Electricals ("Borrower") 2-Mr. Yogesh Kumar Sharma 3-Mrs. Mala Sharma (Co-borrower) LOAN ACCOUNT No.LNCGCKKDTL0000004418 Rupees 1,12,27,895/- (Rupees One Crore Twelve Lacs Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five Only) as on 22/10/2020 along with future interest and other charges . Sd/- Himanshu Batra DIN-06508998	All Piece and Parcel of Property No. 10/47, area measuring 87 Sq Yds Khas No. 4941/1043 to 1042/797 Min. Patel Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both.	1. E-AUCTION DATE: 09.11.2020 (Between 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.) 2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD WITH KYC: 06.11.2020 3. DATE OF INSPECTION: 04.11.2020	RESERVE PRICE: Rs. 79,18,800/- (Rupees Seventy Nine Lacs Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Only). EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT: Rs. 7,92,000/- (Rupees Seven Lacs Ninety Two Thousand Only). INCREMENTAL VALUE: Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Capri Global Capital Limited Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.Capriglobal.in/auction/ CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED
Registered & Corporate Office :- 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013
Circle Office :- Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 3B Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005
APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the dates below mentioned, for recovery of amount mentioned below due to the Capri Global Capital Limited Secured Creditor from Borrower mentioned below. The reserve price, EMD amount and property details mentioned below.
1.The Property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHETHER THERE & WITHOUT RECOURSE AS". As such sale is without any kind of warranties & indemnities.
2.Particulars of the property / assets (viz. extent & measurements specified in the E-Auction Sale Notice has been stated to the best of information of the Secured Creditor and Secured Creditor shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission. Actual extent & dimensions may differ.
3.E-Auction Sale Notice issued by the Secured Creditor is an invitation to the general public to submit their bids and the same does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute and may represent on the part of the Secured Creditor, Interested bidders are advised to peruse the copies of title deeds with the Secured Creditor and to conduct own independent enquiries / due diligence about the title & present condition of the property / assets and claims / dues affecting the property before submission of bid.
4.Auction/bidding shall only be through "online electronic mode" through the website https://sarfaesi.auctontiger.net Or Auction Tiger Mobile APP provided by the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad who shall arrange & coordinate the entire process of auction through the e-auction platform.
5.The bidders may participate in auction bidding from their place of choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by bidder himself. Secured Creditor / Service Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash own, power failure etc.
6.For details, help, procedure and online bidding on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider M/S e-Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger, Ahmedabad (Contact no. 079-61200531/576/596/559/587/594/), Mr. Ramprasad Sharma Mob. 800-002-3297 - 79-6120 0559. Email: ramparsad@auctontiger.net,
7.For participating in the e-auction sale the intending bidders should register their name at https://sarfaesi.auctontiger.net well in advance and shall get the user id and password. Intending bidders are advised to change only the password immediately upon receiving it from the service provider.
8.For participating in e-auction, intending bidders have to deposit a refundable EMD of 10% OF RESERVE PRICE (as mentioned above) shall be payable by interested bidders through Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS/Chq favouring Capri Global Capital Limited.
9.The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid Form (format available on https://sarfaesi.auctontiger.net) along with the Demand Draft remittance towards EMD in a sealed cover addressed to the Authorized Officer, Capri Global Capital Limited Regional Office Plot no. 3B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi 110 005 latest by 03:00 pm on 06-Nov-2020. The sealed cover should be super scribbled with "Bid for participating in E-Auction Sale - in the Loan Account No. _____" (as mentioned above) for property of "Borrower Name".
10.After expiry of the last date of submission of bids with EMD, Authorised Officer shall examine the bids received by him and confirm the details of the qualified bidders (who have quoted their bids over and above the reserve price and paid the specified EMD with the Secured Creditor) to the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited.
11.Inter-se bidding among the qualified bidders shall start from the highest bid quoted by the qualified bidders. During the process of inter-se bidding, there will be unlimited extension of "10" minutes each, i.e. the end time of e-auction shall be automatically extended by 10 Minutes each time if bid is made within 10 minutes from the last extension.
12.Bids once made shall not be cancelled or withdrawn. All bids made from the user id given

Trend Blazer

Ajay's favourite childhood memory

Actor AJAY DEVGN shared a special memory from his childhood during the launch of Rajkummar Rao-starrer *Chhalaa*.

"When we used to go to school, we didn't have all these gadgets, for us, our entertainment was physical. Which is what I miss with today's kids but I'm constantly behind them to go outdoors and stay outside instead of playing on their PSs and all those gadgets because I feel that it is very important."

He further adds, "Physical activities were the only recreation we had so we enjoyed it a lot."



'I got a role in Mirzapur 2 soon after Gully Boy. They told me about the part and I was already a fan of the show. I was offered an interesting part so it was an easy decision for me. That's how I got locked in. My character is from a new family that is getting introduced in the series. It is a very flamboyant, bold and humane character.'

—Vijay Varma

Actor RITWIK BHOWMIK will be seen in the music video of a new song by Papon, after garnering pan-India recognition for his starring role in the web series *Bandish Bandits*.



Titled *Khidki*, the song aims to bring back old school romance with a new-age twist and also stars Ashnoor Kaur. The song is written and composed by Amarabha Banerjee.

He said, "Growing up in a family of art enthusiasts, music has been a constant in my life. I'm blessed to get the opportunity. *Khidki* is a song that brings back the simplicity of old school romance with an interesting twist of storytelling."

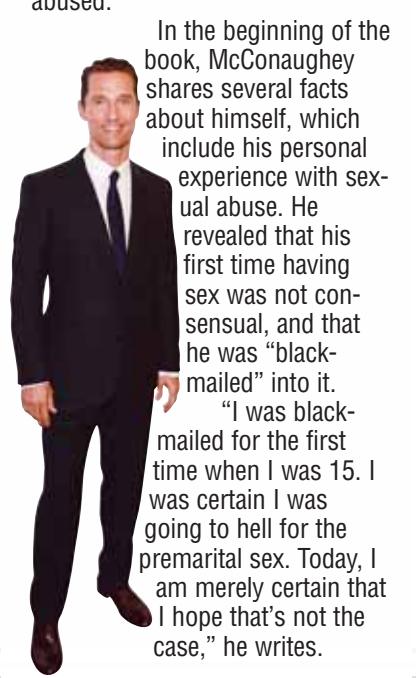
Matthew sexually abused as teen

Actor MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY has revealed that he was a victim of sexual abuse several times during his teenage years.

In his new memoir, *Greenlights*, McConaughey opened up about being sexually abused.

In the beginning of the book, McConaughey shares several facts about himself, which include his personal experience with sexual abuse. He revealed that his first time having sex was not consensual, and that he was "blackmailed" into it.

"I was blackmailed for the first time when I was 15. I was certain I was going to hell for the premarital sex. Today, I am merely certain that I hope that's not the case," he writes.



FIGHT EVIL AT HOME

Since the current situation demands we stay indoors, your ambience and décor can cheer you up. Here are a few ideas to light up Dussehra. By TEAM VIVA

Time and again, traditional décor themes have carved an evergreen niche for themselves. And when it comes to festivities, which mark the beginning of prosperity, good health and celebrations, what could be better than going traditional? If we are to encapsulate the essence of festivities, all we can think of is delicious food, rituals, get-togethers and house makeovers. However, in the times of Coronavirus, when the vibrance of the festive season might have dulled a tad bit, why not create it at home through a little tweaking and mix 'n' match of modern trends? Certainly, since the current situation demands for us to stay at home, your ambience and décor holds utmost importance.

Here are a few ways as to how you can add vibrancy and enthusiasm to your home in no time this Dussehra!

Illuminate your moments

After the tedious job of cleaning the house comes the most happening part — uplifting the face of your interiors. This Dussehra, give a royal touch to your festivities by opting for dark tones and shimmering elements.

For instance, you can choose to revamp your otherwise plain walls with a glamorous grained pattern of Vavona Burl. To provide an edge to the brown-red shade of your veneer, go for golden metallic antiques that makes up for a vintage-perfect

look. We also suggest to pair beige or cream net curtains that will allow the fairy lights and candles to illuminate your precious moments.

Farmhouse style

When you blend a warm colour like brown with a décor theme that is full of charm and simplicity, the outcome is a look beyond beautiful. Very simple to replicate, one can start with having a colour palette of various hues of brown with a pop of classic white. Go for Buen Walnut, Arizona Oak and Oak Fissure as these rich brown shades and elegant textures will give a visual treat to your walls.

As the current times call for a fusion of safety and style, it is more important to opt for laminates that can keep your surfaces hygienic and germ-free. These laminates also provide health and hygiene features — antivirus, antibacterial, antifungal and bacteria, which come in contact with the surface.

Further, embrace the natural look of your space by opting for engineered wooden floors like a Noce Imperial to add a pinch of drama in the festive mood while they are easy to maintain as well. Take out your fruit baskets and storage boxes made with jute to enliven the comfort and coziness. Lastly, a woven chair and stool in white colour will provide more definition to the entire look.

Create a timeless panache

A calm and refreshing ambience is every season's favourite.



How about we bring in some excitement to a neutral colour palette that enlightens up your spirit of festivals? Start with pairing your classic white furniture with natural-looking engineered wooden floors like the Oak Stockholm. The light brown shade of your floors will seamlessly accentuate your little pops of colour in your accents.

Alternatively, you can reuse your old lanterns to bring in a timeless panache. Since, these are composed of three stability providing layers — real hard wood, a stabilising core and a balancing layer — you don't have to worry about the climate change. Lastly, for your in-house parties, go for the very trending wooden crockery to serve your guests which will also complement your décor theme.

Perfect refuge of 'Classic Blue'

You can drive away all your 'not going out this festive season' blues by incorporating the shade smartly in your bedroom. The best part about the pantone colour of the year is that it is easily accessible and looking at the wide usage of it, you don't have

to worry about extra purchasing. To design a subtle look, layer your bedding with blue sheets, topped with velvet pillows. One can also add some pop of colour to the blanket but remember to go for a neutral or pastel shade of pink or yellow. The combination will keep the elegance intact.

To experiment with the look, marry the charismatic charm of wood with blue shades. Amplify your interiors with a metallic-rimmed bedside table and place glassware to complete it.

The exciting little corners

All the little things and speckled corners hold equal importance while giving a festive makeover to your home. Start with placing a glass bowl with floating candles and flowers in the corner of your room. It will stand out yet blend with your exquisite woodgrain texture of a Chiaro Laminate by Greenlam Industries Ltd, which also offers a safegaurd plus technology with health & hygiene features.

Notch-up the entire look with two mini-planters in rose-gold matte finish and your breathtaking corner is simply festive-ready.

The black beauty

The dramatic and timeless essence of the black colour is everyone's favourite. It effortlessly adds depth and panache to an otherwise plain room. Without going overboard with this intense shade, balance out your palette with other contrasting hues. For your furniture and walls, opt for a grain-textured HDBX Smoked Knotty Pine that will blend well with your living room's black sofa and grey stools.

Since veneers have a natural wooden look, go for Jaipur rugs or handcrafted stools to create a fusion of modern and traditional décor. With matte finish topping the preference chart, go for black and silver metal when it comes to ceiling lamps. The sparkle of metal and the glamour of matte will stand out against your white ceiling and blend with the wooden veneers and add to the festive Dussehra vibe. We suggest keeping the space uncluttered and go less on accents as it will surely leave everyone talking about the graceful aesthetics of your room.

Well, these traditional themes will also get your imagination running and help you unfold your creative side!

Big, loaded and Chinese

How can one bring geopolitics into a car review? Well, one can

Let me be very honest at the outset, the MG Gloster for what it offers with regards to technology features, comfort, space and size is tremendously good value. Everything may not gel together all that well at times but the car is a beast that gets the job of transporting its passengers in luxury done very comfortably. It is easily larger than the competition, the Toyota Fortuner and Ford Endeavour. And while I did have some issues with the body roll and the lethargic get up and go, these are not uncommon traits in vehicles of this size unless you fit them with expensive suspension get-ups and big engines.

Sure, there were some technology issues after I had enabled most of the Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), those acronyms you hear of in the MG advertising. I have driven cars with many of those features in the past but it is noteworthy that MG has brought many of them to a price-point that was unheard of. Stuff like Lane-Keeping Assist (LKA) is useful, particularly on highways but of course, as I've noticed on other cars, these features tend to be let down by poor road markings. If you have been on the entry to the Barapullah Elevated Road from the Kidwai Nagar end in Delhi, you will know what I mean. The other thing is features like Collision Warning and Automatic Braking; I have had some interesting experiences with the latter in particular in India on a Mercedes-Benz S-Class and a Volvo XC60.

Your brakes might be excellent but many drivers in India follow the car ahead, without leaving, forget adequate, any space whatsoever. Emergency braking is intense and it cannot account for the idiot behind you. So with traffic weaving in and out in front of you, pedestrians dashing across roads, and while I'm aware that several of the MG Gloster's features will not work above certain speeds, automatic emergency braking could lead to some rear-end accidents. Don't get me wrong, I am not advocating for the features to be removed but possibly in Indian urban conditions outside central Delhi, it makes sense to run such features at lower sensitivity. I would love other manufacturers in India to take this lead from MG and bring more such safety features in India.



MG GLOSTER SAVVY 4WD

2.0 litre twin-turbocharged Diesel
215hp power
Four-wheel drive
Six seats
7/10
"Great car but the Shanghai Surprise is a problem."

ous, I do not presently believe that MG India's business will not suffer major material changes thanks to the current standoff in Ladakh. It is apparent to every Indian, no matter what their position on cars is, that China views India as a rival and would go as far as a military conflict to resolve any issues. If you have been following the news, this has led to several things such as the ban on Chinese applications and stricter controls on how money from China is routed into India. And it is the latter that creates problems for MG. It is known that further investments from SAIC into India are being delayed by the Indian Government, stalling any plans that MG had to invest in their plant in Halol. Unconfirmed reports of the government delaying imports of crucial parts using the Customs Department. News items have emerged where MG India is apparently in talks with Volkswagen to use the German company's group manufacturing facilities in Chakan outside Pune but there is little guarantee that permissions will be given.

Basically, I have severe doubts at the present moment whether MG India will survive in its present shape or form. These are matters far beyond the control of the company's management. If things hot up on the Eastern Ladakh border, buying any MG product would be stupid, not just for patriotic reasons but for reasons of maintenance. A car is, unfortunately, not a smartphone. It is not something you can easily write-off. Yes, it is a good product and the top-spec car at ₹35.38 lakh is very good value, let alone the entry-level specifications. But can I in good faith recommend this car knowing what the current situation at the border is? Sadly, I cannot.

Wait, what?

The lack of a single feature can irritate a car buyer

FORD ENDEAVOUR SPORT 2.0 4x4

2.0 litre EcoBlue diesel
168hp power
Four-wheel drive with low-range gearbox
Seven seats
6/10
"Capable vehicle, but behind the ball in the segment. And lack of features is an issue."

new special edition. While truth be told, I would not have cared about the lack of ISOFIX harnesses six months ago, today I do. Here is the thing, it is neither an expensive or a major fix and one would have assumed Ford, a global car company would do a bit better. I was really disappointed.

As for the car? Well, it is blacked out everywhere. I'm not a huge fan of blacked-out vehicles, since we live in North India which tends to be very hot. If you remember your middle-school physics black paint absorbs heat more effectively than any other colour, which is why most aircraft are white since they get a lot of solar radiation. But then blacked-out cars portray a self-important image very effectively. So yeah, if you don't have child seats and are extremely image conscious, you could consider this, because it is just a special edition and similar to the 2020 Ford Endeavour.

On another note, this was the first time I drove Ford's ten-speed gearbox on the Endeavour. While I cribbed and cried about the four-speed automatic on the 2020 Maruti-Suzuki S-Cross, this felt like overkill since in city traffic, I never got past fifth, well there was this small stretch on the Delhi-Noida Flyway where I hit seventh. I like the Endeavour. I like the fact that it has a proper low-range gearbox and can do proper off-roading. But this gearbox, while it claims to make the car more efficient just didn't do it for me. Then again, it did get my mind off the other major thing I've been rattling on about on top.





LET FESTIVALS ADD SPICE TO YOUR LIFE

Nutrition expert KAVITA DEVGAN shares some easy tips and tricks which will help you avoid weight gain while you enjoy those calorie-rich feasts

Food has always been an integral part of each and every celebration in India. And as the festive season kicks off, one problem that concerns people is the added pounds or unwanted weight gain during this time. The festive delicacies, especially sweets, are so tempting that resisting these 'once-a-year desserts' seem being unfaithful with our traditions. And that might be the mere reason why most of us tend to put on extra a few kilos between Dusshera and New Year every year. However, don't let this guilt spoil the festival for you. Instead, strive to find the right balance, where you manage to enjoy while keeping the guilt minimal. Here are some basic tips and tricks for taming the festive food devils.

EAT SMART

Sweets are the most difficult to resist. After all, it's easy to pop a few in the mouth every time you see the *mithai ka dabba*. The idea should be to eat the *meetha*, not gorge. Eat mindfully, not mindlessly. Portion control is the only key as saying no doesn't work. It's a good idea to make your own *mithai* at home such as *besan ladoos*. This age old sweet holds multiple health benefits as it is high in folic acid, which is essential for iron production and rapid growth of red and white blood cells in our body. It is a good *desi* sweet that one can keep handy to satiate the cravings in a healthy way. Just source good quality packaged *besan* made from 100 per cent pure *chana dal* and you are good to go. Another smart idea is to make jaggery-haldi-ghee-flaxseeds balls and pop one whenever you are craving for something sweet.

EXPERIMENT A LITTLE

Festive season is a great time to explore a bit by trying some interesting delicacies from regions other than those in which we live or are native. Indian local ingredients best suit and nourish our bodies. This somehow goes with the spirit and it also brings variety to the regular fare that you get sick of consuming. Instead of eating the regular food why not try Pongal from Tamil Nadu. This rice and moong dal delivers a balanced mix of carbohydrates and proteins and the good fat in cashews, adds satiety and crunch. Try it, it's easy to make: Dry roast 50 gm of rice and 30 gm of moong dal (green gram). Add 400 ml of water, cover and cook until done. In the meantime, make a *tadka* (tempering) of cumin seeds, black peppercorns, curry leaves, ginger and garlic, with a few cashew nuts in a teaspoon of ghee. Pour over the rice and dal. Season to taste and stir in fresh curry leaves. Enjoy this quintessential Indian dish that is *sampann* in all (health, taste, convenience) ways.

Also, if you have a heavy dinner planned, then try eating something that is light on the stomach for lunch (or vice versa), like red rice poha. While people often reach out to white poha, many don't know that there is red poha too that exists. This is widely consumed in South India. This is an acquired taste but once you get used to it, you will appreciate its goodness and gain from it. Make sure to opt for packaged poha



over loose from a trusted source as it assures 100 per cent quality. It has no residual powder at the bottom of the pack. It is also high on dietary fibre. Experiment your red rice poha in pilaf-style with raisins, nuts, black pepper, salt, green chillies and sugar to taste. Or, give it a continental twist by making red rice poha with peppers, mushrooms and cheese. Soak your poha in water, sieve it, add curd and a pinch of table salt in it. Then relish it with mango or lime pickle. This is a perfect way of experimenting with Indian way of nutrition!

AVOID GORGING FOOD

Somehow, the craving for food has increased considerably during this season. One, because there's just so much around, and the other, because the changing season whets the appetite a little. One big mistake we make is to think that we can leave the balancing out until later-after the festivities are over. So learn how to eat smart. If heavy dinner is planned then through the day eat healthier options like *besan cheela*. You can make it healthy with 50:50 ratio of veggies and *besan* or ready to cook *cheela* mix. Add lots of spinach, garlic and mint. Pair it with a glass of buttermilk. And if the lunch was

festive and way too indulgent, then opt for a balanced, easy-to-digest food like multi-grain *khichdi* from a trusted brand. *Khichdi*, the best comfort food for all time is also rich in dietary fibre and is convenient to cook. You can maintain a conscious equilibrium on a daily basis and keep your splurges down to a minimal.

Also, if you're going to a big party in the evening, it's a bad idea to deprive yourself all day in. Instead, eat a low-fat, nutritious snack before you head out, say a bowl of yoghurt with some nuts or even better — a sprout chart made with unpolished dals. This will prevent you from attacking food and eating too much at the party.

End the day with drinking *haldi* milk with a pinch of pepper every night. The curcumin in *haldi* will hold your immunity up and help to soothe your body's inflammation after all who wants to fall sick during the festive season. Just make sure you source turmeric that has 3 per cent curcumin guaranteed and has its natural oils intact to score *sampann sehat* all through the festive season.

(The author is the nutrition expert at Tata Sampann.)

R E C I P E S



NAVRATRA SPECIAL ALOO TIKKI

WHAT YOU NEED

- For tikki:
- Boiled mashed potato: 200 gm
- Chopped green chilli: 1/2 tsp
- Chopped ginger: 1/2 tsp
- *Kuttu ka atta* (for binding): 3 tbsp

- Chopped coriander: 1/2 tsp
- *Senda namak* to taste
- Oil
- For saunth:
- *Amchoor* powder: 50 gm
- Jaggery: 80 gm
- Fennel: 1/2 tsp
- Roasted cumin: 200 gm
- Black peppercorn crushed: 1/2 tsp
- Mint: 50 gm
- Coriander: 20 gm
- Green chilli: 1-2
- Lemon juice: 1/2 tsp
- *Senda namak* to taste
- For garnishing and plating:
- A pinch of *senda namak*
- A spoonful of beaten yogurt
- Pomegranate seeds

- Beetroot julienne : 10 gm
- Pomegranate seeds: 20 gm
- Beaten yogurt: 100 ml
- Chopped coriander: 1/2 tsp

METHOD

- In a bowl, take mashed potatoes. Add chopped ginger, chillies, seasoning, *kuttu ka atta* and mix them well to make a mixture.
 - Divide the mixture into equal proportion roundles.
 - Made the medallion shape (*tikki* shape) out of the roundles.
 - Deep fry them in *kadhai* till they turn golden brown.
 - Spread some beaten yogurt on the plate and place the *tikkis* over it.
 - Top with *saunth*, mint chutney and beaten yogurt.
 - Garnish with chop coriander, beetroot julienne and pomegranate.
- Courtesy: Jr sous chef Rubal Pupneja at Samrat Hotel.

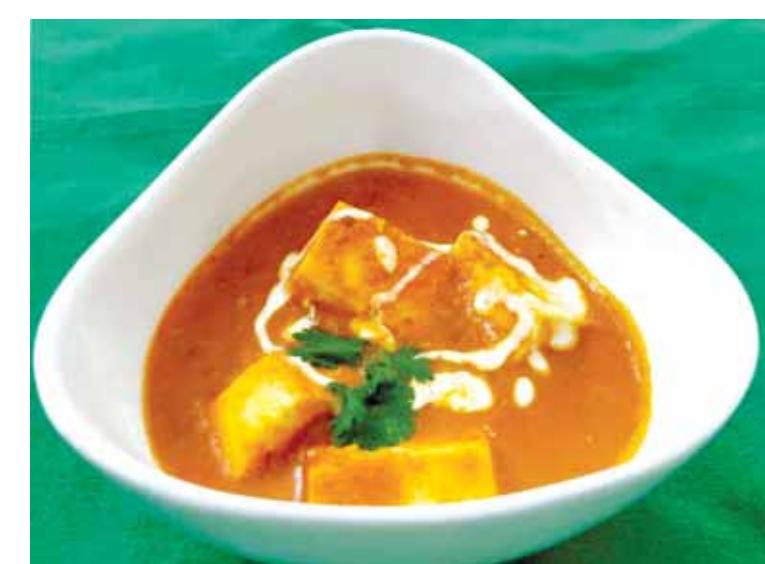
PANEER MAKHANI

WHAT YOU NEED

- Paneer: 250 gm
- Tomatoes: 4-5
- Cashews: 3-4 tbsp
- Fresh cream: 4 tbsp
- Unsalted white butter: 2 tbsp
- Oil: 2 tsp
- Cumin seeds: 1 tsp
- Cinnamon: 1 stick
- Cloves: 4
- Green cardamom: 2
- Black peppercorns: 5-6
- Turmeric powder: 1/2 tsp
- Kashmiri red chilli powder: 1 tsp
- Chopped green coriander and ginger: 2 tbsp
- Sugar: 2 tsp
- *Senda namak* to taste

METHOD

- Boil water in a saucepan. Add cut tomatoes, ginger and cashew nuts for 10 minutes.



the sauce on medium-high flame for 10 to 12 minutes.

- Cut the paneer into cubes and add into it.
- Garnish with fresh cream and chopped coriander leaves.

Courtesy: Executive chef Arvind Rai at The Ashok Hotel.

PLUM AND CINNAMON TART

WHAT YOU NEED

- For pastry:
- Plain flour: 225 gm
- Butter: 125 gm
- Icing sugar: 2 tbsp
- Semi skimmed: 8 tsp

For pastry filling:

- Purple skinned, dessert plums: 450 gm
- Butter: 75 gm
- Caster sugar: 75 gm
- Semolina: 50 gm
- Plain flour: 125 gm
- Ground cinnamon: 1 1/2 tsp
- Eggs: 2
- Soured cream: 2 tbsp

- Plum or damson conserve or jam: 5 tbsp

METHOD

- For pastry:
- Pre-heat the oven to 190°C/375°F. Put the flour and diced butter into a mixing bowl. Rub the butter lightly into the flour until the consistency resembles fine breadcrumbs.
- Stir in the icing sugar and mix to a firm dough with the milk. Knead on a floured surface for a few seconds until the texture is smooth. Cover in cling wrap and let it rest for 15 minutes.
- On a floured surface, roll the pastry into a circle large

enough to line the base and the sides of the dish. Using the rolling pin as a support, lower the pastry into the dish, pressing it gently over the base and into the flutes. Trim away excess pastry from the top edge and prick all over the base with a fork.

- Transfer to the refrigerator for 30 minutes or one hour. This helps prevent shrinkage of the pastry when it goes into a hot oven.
- Line the pastry with a piece of aluminum foil or greaseproof paper and fill with baking beans or dried beans.
- Bake for 12 minutes at the higher temperature. Remove



the foil or paper and beans and bake for two minutes more. Cool the pastry case for 15 minutes.

For pastry filling:

- Prepare the plums. Cut into halves and remove the stones. Cut each half in half again. Drain, skin side up, on kitchen paper whilst making the filling.
- Put all the ingredients for the filling, except the conserve, into a bowl. Beat until smooth (or use a food processor and process for 30 seconds).
- Spread the conserve evenly over the base of the pastry case. Top with the filling, spreading it right to the edges

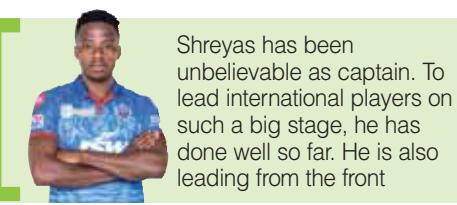
so that the conserve is sealed beneath it.

- Press the plum quarters, skin side up, gently into the filling, making a close circular pattern.

● Bake for 15 minutes at the higher oven temperature, then reduce to the lower setting and continue baking for 15 minutes more.

- The filling should be just firm at the centre and the plums tender. The top can be dusted with a little caster or icing sugar before serving warm with vanilla ice cream or whipped double cream.

Courtesy: Le Creuset.



Shreyas has been unbelievable as captain. To lead international players on such a big stage, he has done well so far. He is also leading from the front



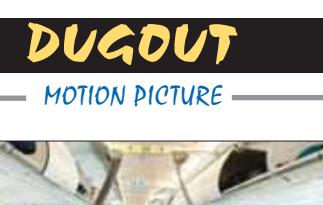
We hadn't planned that I would open but when we went out, Virat bhai said Miyan, ready ho jao (Sir, get ready!), you will have to bowl. It boosted my confidence



I didn't think there was a lot in the wicket. Siraj obviously bowled well and (Chris) Morris at times also. But if anything, we were just a little timid in our approach



Initially I was bowling safe balls, I wasn't attacking, but Zaheer kept on telling me that you are an attacking bowler and can take wickets, go attack, don't worry if you are hit for a six



DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Indian women cricketers pose for photo after boarding flight to UAE for Women's T20 Challenge

INDIA EYES CONTINGENT REACHES UAE

The top 30 women cricketers from India arrived in Dubai on Thursday to take part in the Women's T20 Challenge, which is also popularly known as 'mini WIPL' and scheduled to be held in Sharjah from November 4-9. Seasoned Indian players such as T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, batswomen Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues had a nine-day quarantine in Mumbai where they had undergone multiple RT-PCR tests. Just like their male counterparts, the women will also now undergo a six-day isolation before entering the 'bio-bubble'. They will be tested on the first, third and fifth day before being allowed in the bio-secure environment created for them. The tournament will mark the beginning of the Indian women's cricket season.

DESTINY STILL IN OUR HANDS: BAZZ

Disappointed with his team's "timid approach" with the bat, KKR head coach Brendon McCullum has admitted that the crushing defeat against RCB would definitely affect the morale of the side, but their destiny is still in their hands. He believes KKR can go all the way to the final, despite just hanging on to the fourth spot with 10 points from as many games. "This (loss) is going to affect a little bit in terms of our confidence. We need to work hard on ensuring our morale doesn't drop at the same time having those honest conversations around how we improve," McCullum said after the eight-wicket loss. "But I still firmly believe that we have a side which can be there later on in the tournament come finals. We just need to improve slightly. "We're still fourth in the tournament, which is very fortunate for us. Destiny is still very much in our hands. We have just got to tighten up some of those areas where we're deficient and make sure we improve on our performance," he said.

SLOW WICKET ALLOW TO ATTACK MORE

Mumbai Indians leg-spinner Rahul Chahar on Thursday said the pitches getting gradually slower in the UAE and bigger grounds than India has allowed him to attack the batsmen consistently in the IPL. Chahar has taken 11 wickets in nine games with a decent economy rate of 7.40. Asked to compare between the pitches here and the Wankhede in Mumbai, Chahar said, "In the starting matches, we felt that the wickets (here) were similar to the Wankhede stadium...easy for batsmen." "Now gradually the wickets are getting slower, and hence I have to make adjustments in lengths. "Like at Wankhede a spinner had to bowl on a shorter side, like five meter length, but here we are bowling fuller, because the grounds are big and pitches are slightly slow, we can bowl fuller, and can attack batsmen," said Chahar.

UAE PITCHES SLOW BUT HELPING SEAMERS

In a tournament where playing surfaces have been getting slower and drier with every passing day, it remains a surprise that the most successful bowlers in the IPL so far have been the pacemen. According to Kagiso Rabada, the surfaces in the UAE have aided swing, helping pace bowlers get something out of the wickets. "The conditions here have been tricky. It is a little bit different. There is seam movement sometimes. In Abu Dhabi, the ball has been seaming around. All wickets have been slow like India but they have been different kind of slow. I feel there is some seam movement sometimes," said Rabada.

POINTS TABLE

		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	DC	10	7	3	+0.774	14
2	RCB	10	7	3	+0.182	14
3	MI	9	6	3	+1.201	12
4	KKR	10	5	5	-0.828	10
5	SRH	10	4	6	+0.092	8
6	KXIP	10	4	6	-0.177	8
7	RR	11	4	7	-0.620	8
8	CSK	10	3	7	-0.463	6

It's Now or never for CSK

PTI ■ SHARJAH

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Their campaign turning from bad to worse, Chennai Super Kings are expected to try out a few of their younger players when they take on defending champions Mumbai Indians here on Friday.

Though skipper MS Dhoni conceded after the loss against Rajasthan Royals that the season might be already over them, CSK can still get to 14 points if they win their remaining four games, giving them an outside chance of making the play-offs.

As head coach Stephen Fleming pointed out, the ageing squad may have finally "run out of juice" after doing well over the past two seasons when they won in 2018 and reached the final the following year.

Things have gone pear-shaped for CSK since their win over MI in the tournament opener on November 19.

The team received a hammering at the hands of Rajasthan Royals and would be without the services of the injured Dwayne Bravo, who is out of

the tournament.

The Super Kings batsmen struggled against Rajasthan Royals and it remains to be seen if the untested players in the side get their chance as indicated by Dhoni after the drubbing on Monday.

Dhoni himself has not been at his best along with the others barring Faf du Plessis. The team's persistence with a struggling Kedar Jadhav has come in for a lot of flak and it needs to be seen if he makes way for either N Jagadeesan or Ruturaj Gaikwad.

However, they would be up against a formidable MI side which won five games in a row before Kings XI Punjab halted the juggernaut, turning the tables in a double Super Over on Sunday.

The four-time IPL champions have been in ominous form and the varied bowling attack could prove a challenge for the CSK batters, who are low on confidence.

At Sharjah, which was a tough venue for bowlers to start with, things seem to have changed with the wicket slowing down and sort of evened out things.

Also, the MI batting line-up has been in good nick with Quinton de Kock in splendid form while Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan have had their moments.

That's not all, the power-hitting abilities of Kieron Pollard

MATCHES
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS 28
MUMBAI INDIANS 12
STATS: Faisel Features

and Hardik Pandya have rescued MI when the big guns have not fired.

Krunal Pandya has underlined his utility with some crucial cameos and tight spells in tandem with leggie Rahul Chahar.

The Mumbai bowling unit has been doing well but the think-tank may consider bringing in James Pattinson for Nathan Coulter-Nile, who has proved expensive.

A well-rounded and consistent Mumbai Indians unit could provide a huge challenge for an under-fire CSK to salvage some pride.

Two points on Friday match would take Rohit Sharma's men closer to sealing a play-offs berth while the Super Kings, who are theoretically still in with a chance, would aim to finish strongly in what has been a nightmare of a season so far.



Liverpool's makeshift centre back Fabinho makes stunning goal line clearance to stop Ajax from scoring equaliser goal during Champions League clash at Johan Cruyff Arena on Wednesday

of their last seven Champions League home games. This was also a second defeat in five days as they prepare to go to Barcelona for the Clasico on Saturday.

LUKAKU DOUBLE

Real are already up against it in Group B, even if rivals Inter Milan and Borussia Moenchengladbach cancelled each other out in a 2-2 draw at San Siro.

Romelu Lukaku scored twice for Inter, opening the scoring early in the second half and then turning in a late equaliser.

In between Romelu Lukaku netted a penalty for Gladbach and Jonas Hofmann scored what he thought was a late winner.

Luka Modric and Vinicius Junior pulled goals back and Fede Valverde thought he had grabbed an injury-time equaliser but his deflecting shot was ruled out for an offside.

Missing the injured Sergio Ramos, Real have now won just one

Sadio Mane shot into his own net on 35 minutes.

"It was not sunshine football but we wanted three points and we got it," said Klopp.

The 2019 European champions will hope to build on this result when they host Midtjylland next week.

The Danes were outclassed at home by Atalanta on Wednesday, losing 4-0 with Duvan Zapata,

Alejandro 'Papu' Gomez and Luis Muriel scoring in the first half and debutant Aleksei Miranchuk adding a late fourth.

Pep Guardiola's City made it three wins for English clubs this midweek as they came from behind at home to beat Porto 3-1.

Also in Group C, Egyptian substitute Ahmed Hassan headed in a stoppage-time winner as Olympique Marseille downed

England to travel SA next month for 3 ODIs, 3 T20s

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

England will travel to South Africa next month to play six limited-overs games against the Proteas after the South African Government agreed to exempt the touring team from its coronavirus travel restrictions.

South Africa currently doesn't allow anyone to travel from what it terms "high-risk" countries, with Britain on the list of 22 countries.

But South Africa eased the rules for the England squad, which will be based in Cape Town throughout the three-week tour. The teams will play three T20 games and three One-Day Internationals.

Four games will be at Newlands in Cape Town with the other two in the nearby city of Paarl, meaning England can stay in a bio-bubble at the same hotel for the entire tour. South Africa has more than 700,000 confirmed cases of the virus.

England will travel on a chartered flight and depart for South Africa on November 16. The T20s are on November 27, 29 and December 1. The ODIs will be played December 4, 6 and 9. No fans will attend the games.

The England players and staff are expected to be in quarantine for at least a week after arriving but will be allowed to attend training during that time.

AFP ■ MADRID

Bayern Munich began their defence of the Champions League title in ominous fashion by crushing Atletico Madrid 4-0 on Wednesday, while Liverpool and Manchester City also won but Real Madrid suffered a shock defeat.

Madrid, the record 13-time European champions, went down to a 3-2 home loss against Shakhtar Donetsk, showing how far Zinedine Zidane's side are just now from the standards being set by Bayern.

Two months after scoring the winner in the final against Paris Saint-Germain in Lisbon, Kingsley Coman put Bayern ahead against Atletico in Group A and later scored a stunning individual effort

to wrap up the victory at an empty Allianz arena.

In between Leon Goretzka and Corentin Tolisso were also on target for the German champions, with the latter's strike a stunner from long-range.

The winning goal in last season's final is a good motivator, but it's in the past now and we have fresh goals this season," Coman told Sky Sports.

It was Bayern's 12th consecutive Champions League win while the result for Atletico equalled their

worst defeat under Diego Simeone.

Bayern next go to Russia to play Lokomotiv Moscow, who battled back to draw 2-2 at Red Bull Salzburg on Wednesday.

DISASTROUS NIGHT FOR REAL

Real were 3-0 down at the Alfredo di Stefano stadium and fell short with a second-half fightback to get their European campaign off to a disastrous start.

A depleted Shakhtar were without 10 first-team players and nine

members of staff due to coronavirus infections and had seven starters aged 21 or under.

Strikes from Tete and Manoel Solomon, either side of a Raphael Varane own-goal, gave the Ukrainian champions a three-goal half-time lead.

Luka Modric and Vinicius Junior pulled goals back and Fede Valverde thought he had grabbed an injury-time equaliser but his deflecting shot was ruled out for an offside.

Missing the injured Sergio Ramos, Real have now won just one

LIVERPOOL WIN WITHOUT WD

Liverpool shook off the absence of Virgil van Dijk to edge Ajax 1-0 behind closed doors in Amsterdam in Group D.

Van Dijk is set to miss the rest of the season with a knee injury but Jurgen Klopp's side kept a clean sheet and took all three points after Nicolas Tagliafico turned a wayward

Sadio Mane shot into his own net on 35 minutes.

"It was not sunshine football but we wanted three points and we got it," said Klopp.

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