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OUTWITTING  
THE GENERALS

**MONEY 9**  
INDIA TO DRIVE GLOBAL  
ENERGY DEMAND, SAYS PM

**SPORT 12**  
ROHIT OUT OF OZ TOUR  
WITH HAMSTRING INJURY

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## India, US discuss ties, China

Defence, Foreign Ministers' talks come day ahead of 2+2 meet today

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
India and the US on Monday reviewed the entire range of strategic and defence ties, besides the growing expansionist behaviour of China during the separate meetings between the Defence and Foreign Ministers of the two nations. The bilateral meetings came a day ahead of the high profile 2+2 ministerial level meeting on Tuesday when the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) will be signed paving the way for the Indian armed forces to access real-time precision data and topographical images from US military satellites.

Earlier, Esper was given a guard of honour at the South Block housing the Defence Ministry.

The two Ministers expressed satisfaction that BECA will be signed during the visit. The US also welcomed Australia's participation in the exercise MALABAR 2020 later this year in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Four navies, including India, US, Japan and Australia, will take part in the naval exercise. The participation of Australia earlier in 2007 had led to China expressing its reservations.

The signing of BECA will see the US sharing advanced satellite and topographical data for navigation for missiles in the military sphere.

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh welcomes US Secretary of Defense Mark Esper at South Block in New Delhi on Monday PTI

## Covid death rate 1.5%, lowest since March 22

Daily count below 50K 2nd time this month

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

New coronavirus infections reported in India in a span of 24 hours have dropped below 50,000 for the second time this month, while the new fatalities registered during the same period fell under 500 after 108 days.

The Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of Covid-19 has touched 1.5 per cent, the lowest since March 22 while new cases were at 45,148, taking the tally to 79,09,959. India has one of the lowest fatality rates in the world.

Out of the total Covid-19 cases, 6,53,717 are currently active, 71,37,228 have been discharged, while 1,19,014 lost the battle against the pandemic, said an official from the

Union Health Ministry. "India continues to report a trend of steadily decreasing active cases. Presently the active cases comprise merely 8.26 per cent of the total positive cases of the country standing at 6,53,717. This is the lowest since August 13 when the active cases were 6,53,622."

At least 78 per cent of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 States/UTs. Karnataka has contributed the maximum to the single day recoveries with more than 10,000 cases followed by Kerala with more than 7,000 cases.

"Similarly, India has one of the lowest fatality rates in the world. The case fatality rate is lowest since March 22 and is continuously declining. 480 deaths have been reported in the last 24 hours in the country," the official said.

With 480 new deaths, the

Covid-19 toll mounted to 1,19,014. According to the WHO, CFR is a measure of the severity of a disease and is defined as the proportion of reported cases of a specified disease or condition, which are fatal within a specified time. There are 14 States and UTs with CFR lower than 1 per cent.

Collaborative efforts of the Union and State and Union Territory Governments have resulted in the strengthening of the health facilities across the country, said the official.

"As many as 2,218 dedicated Covid hospitals are providing quality medical care. Till date, 25 tele-sessions have been held and 393 institutions across 34 States and UTs have participated in them. As a result, there are 14 States and UTs with CFR lower than 1 per cent," he said.

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## Be ready for exigency: CDS Bipin Rawat

Troops told to put on hold all peacetime activities as mark of solidarity

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

As the troops dig in for a harsh winter in Ladakh against the backdrop of the ongoing stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has exhorted the armed forces to be ready for any exigency and put an end to all peacetime activities.

He said with the soldiers

gearing up for a long haul in Ladakh where the temperatures will dip to minus 20 degrees in another few weeks peacetime activities should be curbed as a respect for frontline troops and a mark of solidarity.

As per reports, the CDS also said the situation was not normal with eyeball to eyeball confrontation with China and both the sides ramping up their troop levels besides heavy weapons.

With the whole northern command of the Army and western air command fully deployed to deal with any challenge at the 1,700 km long LAC in Ladakh, Rawat urged the

three services to refrain from ostentation and peacetime activities like playing golf during the festival season.

These reports came on a day when the Army Commanders commenced their brainstorming session here to review the situation in Ladakh. The four-day conference will see Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Army Chief General MM Naravane, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and IAF Chief RKS Bhaduria besides Rawat addressing them on Tuesday.

The commanders will also try to plug gaps if any in guarding the entire 4,000 km

long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east since the face-offs started in early May.

The operational preparedness and logistical back up for troops to perform effectively during the harsh winters will also be discussed. The Army has adequate stocks of winter clothing, food and prefabricated huts to face the winters and the conference will review seamless supply chain to sustain the troops. India and China have deployed over one lakh troops on the LAC since the stand-offs started.

Continued on Page 2

## Covid-19 IN INDIA

**TOTAL**  
CASES: 79,44,128  
DEATHS: 1,19,491  
RECOVERED: 71,95,404  
ACTIVE: 6,27,870



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	16,48,665	43,348	14,70,660
Andhra Pradesh	8,08,924	6,606	7,73,548
Karnataka	8,05,947	10,947	7,19,558
Tamil Nadu	7,11,713	10,956	6,71,489
Uttar Pradesh	4,72,068	6,902	4,38,512
Kerala	3,97,218	1,353	3,02,017
Delhi	3,59,488	6,312	3,27,390
West Bengal	3,53,822	6,546	3,10,086
Odisha	2,82,695	1,312	2,66,105
Telangana	2,31,834	1,311	2,11,912
Bihar	2,12,705	1,058	2,02,007
Assam	2,04,386	908	1,88,584
Rajasthan	1,88,048	1,853	1,69,962
Chhattisgarh	1,75,959	1,818	1,50,398
Gujarat	1,68,081	3,693	1,54,222
Madhya Pradesh	1,67,969	2,890	1,47,566

## CAPSULE

### INDIA PROBES LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE DUMPING

**New Delhi:** India has started a probe into the alleged dumping of low-density polyethylene from six countries, including Singapore and the US, following a complaint by an industry association.

### COAL SCAM: 3-YEAR JAIL FOR EX-MIN DILIP RAY

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court Monday awarded 3-year jail term to former Union Minister Dilip Ray in a coal scam case pertaining to irregularities in the allocation of a Jharkhand block in 1999, saying white collar crimes are "more dangerous" than ordinary ones because of the "damages inflicted on public morale".

### WB GUV SHARES AILING EX-CM'S PIC, SLAMMED

**Kolkata:** CPI(M) on Sunday criticised West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar for uploading photos of ailing former Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on social media, saying that it was "unethical".

## SC keeps in abeyance stubble fire panel as Centre steps in

Laws to deal with air pollution soon, Govt informs SC

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday kept in abeyance its October 16 order appointing one-man panel of retired apex court judge Justice Madan B Lokur to monitor the steps taken by neighbouring States to prevent stubble burning, which is a major cause of pollution in the Delhi-NCR.

A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde passed the order while considering the Centre's stand that it is coming out with a comprehensive legislation to deal with air pollution, including the aspect of stubble burning.

"The only issue is people are choking because of pollution and it is something which must be curbed," said the

bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that the Centre has taken a "holistic view" of the matter and the draft of the proposed law on curbing pollution would be submitted in the apex court within four days.

In its October 16 order, the top court had ordered deployment of National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme and Bharat Scouts and Guides for assisting in the monitoring of stubble burning in the agricultural fields of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-NCR, saying all it wants is that "people of Delhi-NCR can breathe fresh air without any pollution".

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing on Monday, Mehta told the SC that coming out with a proper legislation to deal with the issue is a "welcome step".

Continued on Page 2

## High-octane Bihar 1st ph poll campaign ends

Vote on Oct 28 in 71 Assembly constituencies; 6 Ministers' fate to be decided

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Rival political parties and their top leaders were busy wooing voters until the last hours on Monday as the hectic campaign for 71 Assembly constituencies across six districts of Bihar that will vote on October 28 in the first phase of the Assembly elections ended with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)-Congress-Left alliance seemingly giving a tough challenge to the BJP-JD(U)-led ruling National Democratic alliance (NDA).

The Opposition RJD is contesting 42 seats — the most number of seats in the first phase of polling by any party followed by JD(U) 35, BJP 29, Congress 21 and the Left parties 8.

In the 2015 Bihar Assembly poll, 49 Assembly segments of 10 districts went to poll in the first phase that witnessed a turnout of 57 per cent.

The political fortunes of over half-a-dozen Cabinet ministers in the Nitish dispensation like Prem Kumar, Ram



BJP MP Manoj Tiwari leaves in a chopper after an election campaign rally ahead of Bihar Assembly polls in Kaimur district on Monday PTI

Narayan Mandal, Jai Kumar Singh, Krishna Nandan Verma, Shailesh Kumar, Santosh Nirala, Vijay Kumar Sinha and Brij Kishore Bind will be decided in this phase. So will be the fate of former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, who is contesting from Imamganj Assembly constituency as an NDA candidate this time round.

The war of words between Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

and mass rallies were commonplace.

Tejashwi, whose public rallies attracted huge crowds, did not spare Kumar saying, "Nitish has no more energy left and people are tired of listening to his hackneyed and boring speeches. A tired Nitish is running away from reality, reasoning and facts. He is now looking at the stale pages of history by ruining the present and future of millions of youths."

The role of Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) under Chhag Paswan has added another flavour in the polls with the party, which is not part of the NDA now, is opposing JD(U) while backing the BJP, giving rise to speculation whether it is playing as a B-team of the BJP with an eye on the post-poll scenario.

The LJP, which is contesting 143 seats in Bihar, is fighting the first phase with the slogan "BJP se bair nahin, Nitish teri khair nahin". Its main tagline for campaign is "Bihar First, Bihari First".

## MP HC order for virtual rallies for bypolls stayed

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Madhya Pradesh High Court order asking parties to conduct their campaign for the November 3 Assembly bypolls virtually instead of holding physical rallies due to Covid-19.

A bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to take an appropriate decision with regard to political rallies keeping in mind Covid-19 guidelines.

The bench said the high court must have felt that situation on ground was not changing.

"Taking overall view of the subject matter, we stay the operation of the impugned judgment... but direct the Election Commission of India to consider the issues referred to in the impugned order(s) and proceed in the matter in that regard in accordance with law appropriately," the bench said.

Continued on Page 2

## No let-up in Delhi's air distress, farm fires set to soar pollution

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi air quality was recorded in the "very poor" category on Monday morning and likely to increase further as the share of stubble burning in the city's PM 2.5 pollution is likely to increase.

The wind direction and the speed is favourable for the transport of the pollutants from farm fires in Haryana, Punjab, and other neighbouring regions to the national Capital, according to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR.

The contribution of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 concentration was 19 per cent on Sunday, it said. The city recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 343 at 10 am on Monday. The 24-hour average AQI was



Workers use an anti-smog machine in New Delhi on Monday PTI

349 on Sunday.

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".

Calm winds and low temperatures allow accumulation of pollutants, favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion.

Continued on Page 2

## SC rejects TN plea for 50% OBC reservation in medical seats in current session

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the interim prayer of Tamil Nadu and the AIADMK for grant of 50 per cent quota in medical seats surrendered by the State in all India quota for undergraduate, postgraduate and dental courses for the 2020-21 session.

A bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and Ajay Rastogi dismissed the interim prayer made in the pleas for implementation of 50 per cent quota for the current academic year.

The Tamil Nadu Government and the AIADMK have challenged the Madras

High Court order of July 27 on the limited point by which it had cleared the decks for OBC reservation under All India Quota (AIQ) medical seats in non-central institutions and gave the Centre three months' time to take a decision on the percentage.

The State Government and the ruling AIADMK party in their limited point had sought relief saying that the HC had not specified that the OBC quota should be implemented in the current academic year itself. The Centre has contended that it would not be practically feasible to implement the 50 per cent quota in the current academic year.

Continued on Page 2

## Guj HC begins live streaming of proceedings on trial basis

**PTI ■ AHMEDABAD**

The Gujarat High Court on Monday started live streaming of proceedings of its first court on an experimental basis. Anyone willing to view the live proceedings could access the link of the Youtube channel from the homepage of the HC website, Chief Justice Vikram Nath said in an order.

The order said proceedings of the Division Bench No 1 [First Court] of the High Court will be telecast live, purely on an experimental basis, and the "aspect of continuing with or adapting the modality of live court proceedings will be decided based on the outcome of this trial".

Continued on Page 2

## 2 founders among 3 leaders quit PDP over Mehbooba's utterances on national flag

**PNS ■ JAMMU**

The Peoples Democratic Party suffered a big blow in Jammu as three of its senior leaders, including two founding members, forwarded their resignation letter to party chief Mehbooba Mufti claiming that her recent utterances regarding the national flag have "hurt patriotic sentiments".

In a joint letter to Mehbooba, former PDP MP TS Bajwa, Ved Mahajan and Hussain Ali Waffa said, "We feel uncomfortable and suffocated, forcing us to take a difficult decision of leaving the party." Waffa, is a former PDP state secretary, and Mahajan a

former MLC.

In her first press conference after over 14 months of detention, Mehbooba on Friday had said she was not interested in contesting elections or holding the tricolour till the constitutional changes enforced on August 5 last year were rolled back.

The PDP leader had also said that she would hold the tricolour only when the separate flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir was restored. The Centre on August 5 last year had abrogated the erstwhile state's special status and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Continued on Page 2

# India probes 'dumping of low-density polyethylene' from 6 nations

**New Delhi:** India has started a probe into the alleged dumping of low-density polyethylene from six countries, including Singapore and the US, following a complaint by an industry association.

Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturers

Association on behalf of the domestic industry has filed an application before the commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR for initiation of an anti-dumping investigation on imports of 'low-density polyethylene (LDPE)' from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore,

Thailand, United Arab Emirates and the US.

The applicant has alleged that the domestic industry has impacted due to dumped imports of LDPE from these countries, according to a notification of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies

(DGTR).

The association has requested for the imposition of anti-dumping duty on the import, it said.

"On the basis of the duly substantiated written application by or on behalf of the domestic industry, and having

satisfied itself, on the basis of the prima facie evidence submitted, about dumping of the subject goods...the authority, hereby, initiates an investigation," it added.

In the probe, DGTR will determine the existence, degree and effect of alleged dumping

on domestic manufacturers.

If it is established that the dumping has impacted the domestic industry, the directorate would recommend imposition of anti-dumping duty. The finance ministry will take the final decision on imposing these duties.

DGTR is an investigation arm of the commerce ministry, which probes the dumping of goods, a significant increase in imports and subsidised imports from India's trade partners.

Global trade rules, framed by Geneva-based World Trade Organisation (WTO), allow

these initiatives to guard the domestic industry against these anti-trade practices.

Countries carry out an anti-dumping probe to determine whether their domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports. **PTI**

# Andhra bars liquor transport from other States

**Amaravati:** Andhra Pradesh Government has barred the transport of liquor manufactured outside the state over which no tax or duty has been paid to the state.

"No transport of any intoxicant which is manufactured or produced outside the state and on which applicable duties, taxes, fees etc, payable under the AP Excise Act, 1968 and the rules, notifications, orders etc, issued there under are not paid is permitted," said special chief secretary Rajat Bhargava.

In the event of illegal transport in violation of AP Excise Act, 1968, it will be a punish-

able offence under Section 34 of the same act.

However, with prior permission from a competent authority, there is some relaxation which is not elaborated.

Illegal transport of liquor is causing loss of revenue to the southern state as a large number of cases of liquor transfer from other states has been noticed without paying duty.

Many people are getting caught trying to sneak in liquor from Telangana.

"This is not only resulting in loss of revenue to the exchequer but also transport of liquor through non-duty paid



means," he said.

According to Section 9 of the excise act, no intoxicant shall be imported into the state except on payment of countervailing duty and fees.

Similarly, liquor is also not allowed to be transferred into other states from different states without paying taxes under respective excise laws, such as Section 34 of Telangana Excise Act, Section 32 of Karnataka Excise Act, 1965.

Likewise, Section 55 of Abkari Act of Kerala state and Section 4 of Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937.

**IANS**

# Kamal Nath violated poll advisory: EC

**New Delhi:** The Election Commission on Monday said former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath had violated its advisory related to campaigning by using the word "item" against a woman BJP candidate and advised the Congress leader not to use such terms in public during the period of the Model Code of Conduct.

The poll panel had issued a notice to Kamal Nath after he had used the jibe against BJP candidate Imarti Devi at a poll rally a few days ago, drawing an angry reaction from the ruling party.

Addressing a poll meeting last week in Gwalior's Dabra town, where the BJP has fielded Imarti Devi, Kamal Nath had said the Congress candidate was a "simple person" unlike his opponent who was an "item". Bypolls to 28 Madhya Pradesh Assembly seats will be held on November 3.

Following a complaint by the state BJP and reference by the National Commission for Women, the EC had served the notice to Kamal Nath. The Commission on Monday issued orders against the Congress leader.

"... The Commission, hereby advises Kamal Nath, ex-chief minister Madhya Pradesh that while making public utterances he should not use any such word or statement during the period of Model Code of Conduct," the order said.

It said Kamal Nath used the word "item" for a lady and that "this constitutes violation" of advisory issued by the Commission relating to the model code. **PTI**

# Woman shot for resisting kidnap outside college in Faridabad

**Chandigarh:** A 21-year-old woman was shot dead outside her college in Ballabgarh in Haryana's Faridabad district on Monday, with police launching a manhunt to nab two persons in connection with the crime.

**The accused, who arrived at the spot in a vehicle, tried to pull the woman inside, in a bid to abduct her, but she resisted after which one of the accused shot her**

The woman had come out of her college after appearing for an exam when the incident took place, ACP, Ballabgarh, Jaiveer Singh Rathi, said.

The accused, who arrived at the spot in a vehicle, tried to pull the woman inside, in a possible bid to abduct her, but she resisted after which one of the accused shot her. She was taken to a hospital, but succumbed to injuries, the ACP said. He said during preliminary investigation, it has emerged that one of the accused was known to her. A case has been registered and the matter is being investigated, Rathi said. **PTI**

# SC rejects TN plea...

**From Page 1**  
The high court had held that on principle there is no legal or constitutional impediment for extending the benefit of reservation to OBC in the state surrendered AIQ seats of the UG/PG medical courses in the state-run medical colleges within Tamil Nadu, subject to any further directions or orders of the apex court.

It had disagreed with the contention of the Medical Council of India that permitting reservation in AIQ seats would compromise merit and said that the argument gets diluted as NEET examinations are now clearly designed to allow only such candidates to be admitted, who secure a minimum merit.

"Thus, application of any reservation rule, be it at the instance of the state specific law or as per any reservation policy framed by the central gov-

ernment for AIQ seats will not affect merit," the high court had said. It had, however, restrained itself from passing a mandamus against the Centre to provide the reservation as it relates to a policy decision.

On July 13, the top court had asked the Madras High Court to decide the pleas, including one filed by Tamil Nadu government, against the Centre's decision not to grant 50 per cent quota to OBCs in medical seats surrendered by the state in all India quota for under graduate, post graduate and dental courses in 2020-21.

The state government had moved the Supreme Court on July 2 seeking a direction to the high court to expeditiously decide its plea.

The state government and various political parties have challenged the Centre's decision not to grant 50 per cent reservation to OBCs as per Tamil Nadu law. Some of the peti-

tioners, in their interim prayers before the High Court, had sought to stall the ongoing admissions for PG medical courses.

The pleas had alleged that the Centre also did not follow its own policy of 27 per cent reserved seats for OBCs under the 2006 Act. **PTI**

# No let-up in...

**From Page 1**  
The Central Government's Air Quality Early Warning System For Delhi said the predominant surface wind direction is northwesterly with wind speed up to 12 kmph, favourable for transport of pollutants from farm fires.

A large number of farm fires were observed over Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, which is likely to impact Delhi-NCR's air quality, it said. The air quality warning system said the ventilation index - a product of mixing depth and average wind speed - is likely to be 15,000 metre square per second on Monday - favourable for dispersion of pollutants.

19-year-old girl in the BJP-ruled UP as BJP accused him of being selective and not making any comments on atrocities against women in Congress-run Rajasthan and Punjab.

The BJP went to the extent of saying "Yadav brothers" were not questioning their alliance partner on rape incidents in the Congress-ruled States as they themselves were once reportedly accused of molestation.

The conclusion of the first-phase of campaign turned aggressive in the dying moments with top political leaders addressing as many public rallies as the time and their schedule allowed them.

# SC keeps in...

**From Page 1**  
"We will come out with a legislation on this issue and please keep the last order at abeyance now," Mehta said, adding that pollution must be "curbed on war footing".

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioner who has raised the issue of pollution caused due to stubble burning, said that the legislation would come only by

next year.

To this, Mehta said, "This government acts fast". The bench observed during the hearing that the SG has informed the court that the Centre is contemplating a comprehensive legislation and if that is so "then why we should pass the order which we have passed". "We don't know what the committee is going to do and we don't know what the Government is going to do," the bench said.

# MP HC order...

**From Page 1**  
It is not expressing any opinion either way on the merits of the process to be adopted or about the decision to be reached by the ECI, the bench said in its order. The top court said all contentions available to the parties are left open as also to approach the ECI in respect of any other issue concerning the ensuing elections, to ensure free and fair election. The bench issued notice and sought response within six weeks from the PIL petitioner before the High Court on the plea.

# Covid death...

**From Page 1**  
According to the Ministry, a total of 45,148 new confirmed cases were registered in the last 24 hours in the country, the lowest since July 22 when 37,000 new cases were added.

Around 82 per cent of new confirmed cases are from 10 States and UTs. Kerala and Maharashtra contribute maximum to the new confirmed cases each followed by Karnataka, Delhi and West Bengal with more than 4,000 cases.

# Be ready for exigency: CDS Bipin...

**From Page 1**  
Moreover, both the sides are preparing for continuing deployment for next few months as successive rounds of military and diplomatic level talks have so far failed to break the logjam. The first day saw deliberations on matters related to human resource management, sources said here on Monday. The Army commanders will brain storm on a series of reform measures to cut down on ceremonial practices among other measures, a sec-

ond source said.

The biennial conference is attended by senior officers of the Army including the Vice Chief, seven Army Commanders, Principal Staff Officers (PSOs) of the Army headquarters and other senior officers. On Wednesday, the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, the only tri-service command, will give an update to the Army commanders. Several studies are currently underway for the formation of

integrated tri-service commands beginning with a joint air defence command.

The last day of the conference will include an update by the Director General of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on the various infrastructure development projects being undertaken by BRO and allied formations. Automation initiatives to optimise utilisation of manpower at various levels of the Army will also be discussed, the first source added.

# High-octane...

**From Page 1**  
He has also been dishing out the threat of putting Nitish behind the bars on charges of corruption if his party came to power in the State.

In a poll which is increasingly turning acerbic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the main face of the NDA alliance, addressed three rallies and sought to attract voters by saying the NDA under Kumar, ended "jungle-raj" of RJD rule and developed Bihar where there is "no need for lantern (RJD's poll symbol) as entire State is electrified".

Modi has sought to score over the Opposition by citing Central Government's act of abrogating Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir and thus bringing the State in the "national main-

stream". The BJP "Opposition parties dare say they will bring it back and still want votes in Bihar", he said. BJP's poll promise of providing "free-vaccine" hogged much limelight in the campaign so far and came for heavy criticism from the RJD and Congress with Rahul Gandhi describing it as yet "another jumla" of the Prime Minister. The Opposition also sought to know as to how can BJP make promise for a vaccine which is yet to come into existence.

As against the NDA's manifesto, the RJD promised that it would create 10 lakh jobs and better health infrastructure in Bihar.

Congress leader Rahul attacked BJP's failure in providing security to women in the country citing example of the Harthras rape and murder of a

# India, US...

**From Page 1**  
Called foundational agreement, the two countries have already signed three such pacts including the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) and the Communications, Compatibility and Security Arrangement (COMCASA) in the past few years. On Tuesday, besides BECA, the two countries may also sign the

Maritime Information Sharing Technical Arrangement (MISTA). This will enable enhanced navy to navy communication between India and the US.

Both the Ministers expressed satisfaction at the close engagements between the respective Armed Forces. They discussed potential new areas of cooperation, both at Service to Service level and at the joint level. They called for continuation of existing defence dialogue mechanisms during the pandemic, at all levels, particularly the Military

Cooperation Group (MCG). They also discussed requirements of expanding deployments of liaison officers.

After his meeting with Pompeo, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar tweeted: "We discussed key bilateral, regional & global issues. Reviewed progress in ties: grown substantially in every domain. Our foreign policy consultations & cooperation have expanded. Working closely on plurilateral & multilateral formats."

After the 2+2 talks on Tuesday, Pompeo and Esper

will call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval. The two countries are likely to issue a joint statement after the conference listing the major achievements. Incidentally, Pompeo and Jaishankar had met in Tokyo earlier this month during the Quad Foreign Ministers' meet.

Last week, the US said it was watching the India-China standoff in Ladakh closely and sharing information with Delhi. The US said it wanted to ensure that the situation did not escalate.

# Guj HC begins live streaming of proceedings on trial basis

**From Page 1**  
All HC benches have been functioning through video conferencing since March 24 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, in which advocates, parties, victims and corpus etc are made to participate in the video hearing.

"In the Model Video Conferencing Rules as prescribed by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India, it

has been provided that the public will be allowed to view the court hearing conducted through video conferencing," said the Chief Justice.

The Supreme Court has also directed for live streaming of court proceedings, and Gujarat HC had made observations on working out modalities of live streaming of proceedings for media personnel, he said. **PTI**

initiatives and it could emerge as a meaningful political force to attain power in a very short span and formed the government in coalition with Congress which performed very well and delivered in accordance with the set goals, achieving a lot in the direction of restoration of peace, harmony and ensuring equitable development of different regions," it said.

The PDP-Congress was in power in Jammu and Kashmir from 2002 to 2008.

Referring to the last PDP-BJP government, which collapsed after the saffron party pulled out in 2018, the leaders said the party under the lead-

ership of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed took a difficult decision of joining hands with the ideologically opposite BJP but the experiment did not work on the expected lines.

"The sudden death of Sayeed derailed the whole process and the later developments are a history and another phase of the struggle, and test of the leadership started post the August 5 last year development when the Centre abrogated the special status and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two union territories," they said in their letter.

"Despite several undesirable developments and undesir-

stood like a rock with the party and the leadership in spite of serious reservations on the handling and response of the party to the challenges of the situation in front of the party," the leaders said.

Instead of overcoming the challenges from within and outside by a process of broader consultations and trust, "some elements within the party started pulling the party and leadership in a particular direction, thus deviating from the basic principles, agenda and philosophy, making it further difficult to face the saner voices in society," the letter read.

"Some of the actions and

utterances are unpardonable and unforgettable by the people, for the party to emerge out and move in the direction of its fundamental approach and identity, besides regaining its image as a political alternative to the people," it said.

BJP leaders have hit out at Mehbooba for her remarks, saying seditious statements will not be tolerated.

Over the past two days, the PDP headquarters in Jammu saw repeated attempts by various groups and individuals to hoist the national flag, prompting authorities to deploy police personnel in strength to avoid any untoward incident. **PTI**

# GDA to build gates at entry points to avoid border area dispute

**ASHOK NIRWAN ■ GHAZIABAD**  
The Municipal Corporation has decided to make a welcome gate at the entrance of each area so that there is no border area dispute with the development oriented institutions like GDA Housing Development Campus UPSIDC regarding the border dispute.

If all is well, then soon you will get a pleasant feeling as soon as you enter the municipal limits. There you will find boards on which the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation will welcome you. The municipal corporation administration has identified about 17 areas for this, where such boards will be installed.

The purpose of the Municipal Corporation is to determine the demarcation apart from giving people a pleasant feeling. It will also get rid of disputes from other departments. Municipal Commissioner Mahendra Singh Tawar said on Monday that people are not aware of the extent of the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation as yet, as a result of this there are some colonies where the area of GDA or Housing Development Council or other departments bodies But the common man understands that the area is in the Municipal Corporation.

Due to which people also complain to other departments in the Municipal Corporation, causing inconvenience. Keeping this in mind, they have planned a total of 17 places in the Municipal Corporation area where boards will be installed on which the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation will welcome you.

**WESTERN RAILWAY CANCELLATION NOTICE**  
Please refer to this office Tender notice no. BCT/20-21/209.210 & 211 date :25.09.2020 which will be opened on 27.10.2020 may be treated as cancelled. **379**  
Like us on: [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for General Information that I M.J. DEVASSY S/O Shri M.L. JOSEPH residing at 50 Savitri Nagar Delhi, South Delhi-110017 declare the name of mine M.J. DEVASSY and SUJA DEVASSY MELE DATH and SUJA PONNAARATHIL in my minor daughter namely ANITA DEVASSY aged 16 year in her educational documents. The actual name of mine M.J. DEVASSY and SUJA DEVASSY respectfully which may be amended accordingly. **PTI**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that I, Sanjeev Mohan Krishnatreya on the co-allocattee of DDA SFS Flat No.146 on Ground Floor + First Floor (Duplex) Alongwith Car Garage, Category -III, Manuokini Enclave, Alaknanda, New Delhi - 19, Vide File No. F35(11A)85/SFS. My original documents viz. (1) Allocation Letter dated 28.10.1985, (2) Possession Slip dated 11.05.1987 / 21.05.1987 and (3) All Bank Challoans of the said property have been misplaced. An Information Report of this effect has been lodged in Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 633047/2020 on 06.10.2020. Any Person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9582591655 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director, LAB (H) or Director (H)-1, D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sदन, INA, New Delhi-12. **PTI**

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**  
**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, Rohan Bharti S/O Chaman Lal R/O 3248, Galli Nal wali Arya Pura sabzi mandi, Malka ganj S.O Delhi-110007 that in my education document my father's name is Chaman Lal Bharti wrongly mentioned where all legal and future the correct name is Chaman Lal. PD(8786)A**  
**I Munesh Chauhan W/O Vanshraj Chauhan R/O H. No-281, Gali no-3, Village-Chhalera Bangar, Sector-44, Noida, G.B Nagar, Uttarpradesh - 201301 have change my Munesh Devi to Munesh Chauhan for all purpose. PD(8788)A**

# Everyone should participate in campaign to fight pollution: Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Launching the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign in all the 70 constituencies on Monday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said that everyone should participate in the campaign leaving their political affiliations aside to combat the problem of air-pollution in Delhi.

Rai said that a single vehicle contributes to 15-20 per cent pollution while idling at traffic signals, the aim is to reduce that 15-20 per cent pollution by switching vehicle ignitions off. He also announced that from November 2, the Delhi Government will be taking this campaign forward in all the 272 wards in the city, so that more and more people can partici-

partate in the campaign.

In the coming days, the Delhi Assembly Speaker and other Delhi Cabinet Ministers as well as MLAs will be participating in the campaign to encourage more and more citizens of Delhi to play their part by turning their vehicles off to reduce pollution in Delhi.

Addressing the media, Rai said, "The 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign is starting today in all the 70 constituencies in Delhi. The government is spreading awareness at all the traffic signals in Delhi since 9AM in the morning."

Starting November 2, we will be taking this campaign forward in all the 272 wards in Delhi, so that more and more people participate in the campaign. The Delhi government believed that active participa-



tion from the people is required to combat the problem of air-pollution in Delhi."

The minister said he had invited opposition MLAs to join the campaign but "there has been no positive response

from them so far". "But I hope that they will take steps at their own level. Air pollution is not a problem of just the AAP or the Delhi government. Tackling it is everyone's responsibility," he said.

"The impact of the campaign and other measures will be ascertained by the scientists. But according to them, a single vehicle spends at least 15-20 minutes on an average at the traffic signals, and contributes to 15-20 per cent vehicular pollution while idling at the traffic signals. If they switch their ignitions off, the pollution can be reduced by 15-20 per cent," he added.

On the question of whether the government is considering issuing any advisory on pollution for the people of Delhi in the coming days, Rai said,

"The governments and all agencies such as the Supreme Court, EPCA, DPCC and all agencies are monitoring the situation of pollution in Delhi. We will take action wherever needed," he added.

The minister said that the Delhi government has not received a positive response from the BJP MLAs and MPs until now, regarding the participation in the campaign.

"It is the responsibility of all the governments and the citizens of Delhi to ensure their contribution in reducing the pollution of Delhi. The problem of pollution is bigger than politics and party affiliations and it is not of the AAP alone. I want to appeal to everybody to participate in this campaign, keeping the party affiliations aside," added Rai.

## Meet held to identify sites for EV charging points

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Transport Minister of Delhi Kailash Gahlot on Monday convened a meeting to discuss the status of identification of potential land sites owned by Government departments for setting up electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Delhi.

Vice-Chairperson of Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi, Jasmine Shah was also present in the meeting. During the meeting, the Transport Minister empha-

sized on building an effective EV infrastructure across the city of Delhi for faster uptake of Electric Vehicles (EVs).

"The first meeting for the working group on accelerated rollout of charging infrastructure in Delhi was held on 17th September 2020. The members had agreed that Delhi Transco Limited (DTL) as the state nodal agency for EVs, will pool government land parcels and integrate a state-wise tender to install charging stations across the city of Delhi," the government said in a statement.

Simultaneously, DTL and Delhi discoms will also conduct a joint-survey of the land parcels to identify sites for priority 1 of the tendering process, it said.

The Delhi EV Policy, 2020 targets 25 per cent of all new vehicle registrations by 2024 to be Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs). In order to encourage the rapid adoption of electric vehicles, the government is focusing on the speedy rollout of Electric Vehicle charging Infrastructure in Delhi.

The Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said "Delhi has

the distinction of having the maximum number of different land owning agencies. We understand how crucial making an EV friendly ecosystem is to the effective implementation of this policy, and I am happy to note that all these land owning agencies are aligned to the Delhi Government and our chief minister's vision of Delhi the EV capital of India.

The minister further said "Our working group is already working diligently on identifying probable locations for installing charging infrastruc-

ture, and in the next few weeks, we are confident of having a final list of locations where charging stations would come up."

Senior officials from Transport Department, Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Ltd. (DIMTS) and Delhi Transco Ltd. (DTL) attended the meeting.

## NMC deseals 145 properties under jurisdiction of Civil Lines Zone

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) on Tuesday de-sealed 145 properties under the jurisdiction of the Civil Lines Zone.

A senior NMC official said that these properties have been de-sealed by the department in compliance with orders of the Supreme Court of India. "These portions of still floor were sealed by the department on the directions

of the Monitoring Committee. Only two properties could not be de-sealed due to the containment zone," he said.

The corporation had earlier this month de-sealed 40 of these buildings. North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash had said that a total of 1,356 properties in north Delhi are to be de-sealed. The South Delhi Municipal Corporation had started the de-sealing process in late September. The process has been initiated in pursuance of a directive by the

Supreme Court.

On August 14, the apex court had said that encroachment is a matter of concern but the monitoring committee, set up in 2006 to identify unauthorised structures and check misuse of residential properties in Delhi, "cannot exceed its power" and take any action beyond its authorisation.

About 3,000 such properties are planned to be de-sealed by Diwali by the East Delhi Municipal Corporation.

## Centre supposed to pay ₹12K cr to MCDs: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A senior leader and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak on Monday said that the Central Government is supposed to pay ₹12,000 crores to the MCDs and under article 270 (3) of the constitution.

Pathak said that under the report of the 14th Finance Commission the Central Government provides grants to all the municipalities of our country and the Centre has Rs 2,87,636 as a grant to all the municipalities of the country. "The AAP demands that

the Centre should immediately release Rs 12,000 Crores to the MCDs. Delhi Chief Minister and Finance Minister have repeatedly written to the Centre asking them to release this fund but from 2001 the Centre has not paid a single penny to the MCDs," he added.

The AAP leader further said, "The doctors and nurses of the Hindu Rao Hospital are

**Delhi Chief Minister and Finance Minister have repeatedly written to the Centre asking them to release this fund but from 2001 the Centre has not paid a single penny to the MCDs**

on hunger strike for the last four days. They have only one demand which is that the BJP ruled MCD should immediately release their pending salary. However, the BJP is just doing politics with this situation. The BJP is in power of MCD for the last 14 years and it is their duty to pay the salaries of these doctors and nurses. Instead of finding out the solution to this situation, the BJP is blaming the Delhi government for this situation."

Under the report of the 14th finance commission, the Central government provides grants to all the municipalities of our country, he said, adding that the centre has around Rs 2,87,636 as a grant to all the municipalities of the country. "The Central Government has not given any grant to the MCDs from the year 2001. They have given a grant to the Ghaziabad, Gurugram and other municipalities. Under Article 270 (3) of the constitution, this is the duty of the Centre to give this grant to all

the municipalities," he said.

Pathak said that with respect to the population of the city, the Centre should pay Rs 488 per individual as a grant to the respective municipality. "If we multiply this grant with the population of Delhi then it becomes Rs 1150 Cr per year. If we consider the last 10 years then the Central government should pay the BJP ruled MCD around Rs.12,000 Cr under the constitutional duty," he said.

Pathak further said, "The BJP leaders of Delhi are not asking a single penny from the Central Government which is also under the BJP right now. I want to request Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the Central leadership of the BJP to immediately intervene in this matter and to release the pending fund for the MCD. The AAP demands that the Central Government should immediately release Rs.12,000 Cr for the municipal corporations of Delhi."



Bengali women wearing face masks pray on the occasion of Vijaya Dashmi during the last day of Durga Puja festival, in New Delhi on Monday

## Man held for sexually assaulting his friend in Govindpuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi police has arrested a 27-year-old man for allegedly sexually assaulting his friend in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri area.

The accused, identified as Lahu Kumar, is a resident of Patna in Bihar.

According to R P Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, on October 19, police got information that a woman was lying injured under a foot over-bridge at Harkesh Nagar. She was shifted to All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) Hospital.

"The woman's husband told police that his 25-year-old wife was missing since October 18 from her home under suspicious circumstances when he and his son had gone to attend a birthday party in Tughlakabad village," said the DCP.

**Woman's husband told police that his wife was missing since Oct 18 from her home under suspicious circumstances when he and his son had gone to attend a birthday party in Tughlakabad**

own level. During investigation, CCTV footage and technical surveillance revealed that the victim left her home alone and was seen with Kumar at Govindpuri metro station," said the DCP.

"Later, it was found that Kumar, who works at a hardware shop in Govindpuri, was missing. He went to his home without informing anyone. Police went to Patna and arrested him from his village," said the DCP.

During interrogation, he said that he was in a relationship with the victim. On the intervening night of October 18 and 19, they both went to Chandiwala park, where he sexually assaulted her, he said.

## SI arrested for molesting four women in Dwarka

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested its Sub-Inspector (SI) for allegedly molesting four women in west Delhi's Dwarka area. Police said that they have seized the grey coloured Maruti Baleno car used in commission of crime.

The accused SI has been identified as Puneet Grewal (35), a resident of Janakpuri area. He was posted at the Special Cell unit of Delhi Police and is currently under judicial custody.

According to a senior

police official, the women lodged four separate First Information Reports (FIRs) regarding molestation in Dwarka area against sub-inspector Puneet Grewal.

The incidents took place between October 17 to 20. On October 19, one of the women posted a video on social media in which she described her ordeal. She said that on October 17 morning, she was cycling in Dwarka near Dussehra ground when she saw a man inside a grey Baleno car.

In the video, she alleged that he asked her for directions

to Sector-14 and when she was about to tell him, he immediately opened the zip of his pants and started touching his private parts. The woman then started screaming, following which he fled.

Police said that the other three women were also allegedly molested by him. "During investigation, police traced the accused through his car which he used during the incident and subsequently the sub-inspector, who is married, was arrested on Saturday from his house in Janakpuri area in west Delhi," said the senior police official.

## 26-year-old motorist held for mowing down cyclist

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 26-year-old man for allegedly mowing down a cyclist by his car in south Delhi's Fatehpur Beri area.

The accused identified as Rohit, a resident of Gwal Pahari in Gurgaon, was arrested on Sunday. He runs a food stall in the same village.

Police said that the deceased identified as Akhilesh (30) was on a cycle when the incident took place. He used to work as a manager in a relative's furniture workshop at

Jaunapur village, police said.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on Saturday around 8.40 PM, police received information regarding an accident near Rosewood Farm, Janapur-Mandi Road.

"Police rushed to the spot where Akhilesh was found injured. He was shifted to AIIMS Trauma Centre where he died during treatment. During investigation, police analysed the CCTV cameras and found one Maruti Swift Dzire car on the road at the

time of the incident," said the DCP.

"It came to light that the car was registered in the name of one Ramesh Kumar, who said that his car was driven by Rohit on Saturday night and it is with him," said the DCP.

"Police conducted raids at the residence of the accused and apprehended him. The accused Rohit told police that he has given the car at a showroom in Faridabad for repairing," said the DCP.

"Thereafter, the car with damage on the front side was recovered from Faridabad, the DCP said.

## Sr doctors of NMC hospitals go on casual leave en masse

Warn indefinite strike

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid uncertainty over the pending salaries of hospital staff, senior doctors of North Corporation-run hospitals went on a day-long casual leave en masse on Monday and threatened to go on indefinite strike from Tuesday till the issue resolve.

The Municipal Corporation Doctors' Association (MCDA) on Saturday had issued a statement and threatened that its members from NDMC hospitals would go on a mass casual leave if their pending salaries of the



last three months were not released.

The MCDA, an association of senior permanent doctors of the civic hospitals, was established in 1974 and has about 1,200 members. It also includes

doctors from hospitals run by other two municipal corporations.

"If our demands are not met, we will go on indefinite strike from tomorrow," R R Gautam, president of the

MCDA told PTI.

The association already has given sufficient time to authorities concerned to resolve the issue and pay our salaries, "but they have not done anything to solve the problem, and instead they appear to be unconcerned with the plight of doctors," it had said in the letter.

Recently, it had also issued a statement expressing solidarity with their agitating colleagues - resident doctors - of Hindu Rao Hospital and Kasturba Hospital, both under the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), who are also protesting over their pending salaries.

The MCDA had recently

threatened to go on an indefinite strike from October 19, but it had later decided to defer the strike in "public interest".

"The first decision taken in the General Body Meeting was mass casual leave by all senior doctors of the NDMC on Monday. And total strike for indefinite period of all senior doctors from Tuesday, if salaries of all doctors, including resident doctors are not released by Monday, and if a permanent solution like handing over MCD health services to the central government, is not decided," the MCDA statement said.

The authorities are to be held "solely responsible for this unprecedented strike, as they are neither bothered about

their doctors - so-called 'Corona warriors' - nor are they concerned about patients and general," the statement said.

The crisis over the pending salaries has deepened as five of the resident doctors of the 900-bed Hindu Rao Hospital are sitting on a hunger strike since Friday with the Resident Doctors Association (RDA) saying the step was taken as no one is resolving the issue of their pending salaries.

Resident doctors of Hindu Rao Hospital on Sunday took their protest to the streets as they demonstrated at Connaught Place and later burnt an effigy of Ravana on the premises of the facility to draw attention to their plight.

# More Cong hates Modi, more people will support him: Nadda



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre and the BJP on Monday hit out at Congress chief Sonia Gandhi for her criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an article.

While Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said that her angst stemmed from the fact that the people chose a "poor, yet strong and fearless" leader as the Prime Minister instead of her son Rahul Gandhi, BJP president JP Nadda said the more the opposition party and its leaders "lie" and "hate" Modi, the more people will support him.

Javadekar lashed out at the Congress president for her claim that democracy is being "hollowed out" in India. The Union Minister lamented that Sonia expressed support for the anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh despite the Supreme



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Court's verdict in this regard. Lauding the Centre's handling of the Shaheen Bagh protests, he reminded her of how the police during the UPA tenure had fired tear gas shells and resorted to lethal charge on Baba Ramdev and his supporters in 2011 to end his fast on the black money issue.

For his part, Nadda tweeted: "Combination of despondency and shamelessness is dangerous. Congress possesses both. Empty rhetoric of decency and democracy by the Mother (Sonia Gandhi) is 'complemented' by live demonstrations of politics of hate, anger, lies and aggression by the Son (Rahul Gandhi). Double standards galore."

Congress's chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala responded to Nadda asking him not to divert and get back

## 'Nehru-Gandhi dynasty has never respected PM's office'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Condemning what he called "Rahul Gandhi-directed drama" of burning Prime Minister's effigy in Punjab as "shameful", BJP president JP Nadda on Monday said the act was "not unexpected" as the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty has "never respected the office of the PM" during UPA regime. "Combination of despondency and shamelessness is dangerous. Congress possesses

both. Empty rhetoric of decency and democracy by the Mother is 'complemented' by live demonstrations of politics of hate, anger, lies and aggression by the Son (Rahul Gandhi). Double standards galore."

Minister saying, "That the economy is in deep crisis is clear. But what is less appreciated is that all the pillars of a democratic system of governance are under assault."

es both. Empty rhetoric of decency and democracy by the Mother is 'complemented' by live demonstrations of politics of hate, anger, lies and aggression by the Son. Double standards galore!," Nadda tweeted referring to Congress agitation in Punjab.

He said Congress was known to show disrespect to the office of Prime Minister. BJP president was indirectly referring to the tenure of Manmohan Singh as Prime

Minister saying, "That the economy is in deep crisis is clear. But what is less appreciated is that all the pillars of a democratic system of governance are under assault."

Minister saying, "That the economy is in deep crisis is clear. But what is less appreciated is that all the pillars of a democratic system of governance are under assault."

Minister. "The Rahul Gandhi-directed drama of burning PM's effigy in Punjab is shameful but not unexpected. After all, the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty has NEVER respected the office of the PM. This was seen in the institutional weakening of the PM's authority during the UPA years of 2004-2014," said Nadda.

"If there is one party whose conduct reeks of disgust, it is Congress. Atrocities

against SC/ST communities are at an all time high in Rajasthan, women are unsafe in Rajasthan as well as Punjab, and their Punjab Ministers are committing scholarships scams", he alleged in his tweets.

The BJP president said Congress can never pontificate to others on freedom of speech. "They have contempt for dissenting voices for decades. We saw glimpses of it during

the Emergency. Later on, the Rajiv Gandhi Government made a brazen attempt to weaken press freedom. A free press rattles Congress", said Nadda who also gave a reference of governance in Maharashtra.

"If anyone wants to see a laboratory of usage of brute state power, troubling opponents, curbing freedom of speech in trademark Congress style, see the working of the Congress blessed Maharashtra

democracy is being hollowed out," Sonia Gandhi wrote. Recalling the emergency the BJP chief said the Congress can never pontificate on the freedom of speech, claiming that they have had contempt for dissenting voices for decades. "We saw glimpses of it during the Emergency. Later on, the Rajiv Gandhi government made a brazen attempt to

Government. Except governing, they are doing everything else" he said. "One dynasty's deep personal hatred against a person who was born in poverty and became PM is historic. Equally historic is the love people of India have showered upon PM Narendra Modi Ji. More Congress' lies and hate increases, the more people will support PM Modi!", Nadda claimed in his tweets.

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## NPA's should be shown exit door: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Peeved over a 'delayed' work culture at the Centre's road making agency NHAI, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday said it was time to show the exit door to 'non-performing assets' complicating and delaying projects by creating obstacles.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has become a breeding ground for inefficient officials who are creating hurdles and referring every matter to committees and it was time to 'suspend' and 'terminate' them and bring in reforms in its functioning, said the Road Transport, Highways Minister while addressing a virtual gathering during the inauguration of NHAI building at Dwarka which took about nine years to complete.

"Non-performing assets (NPAs) not worth of doing even vermiculture are preserved here and being promoted... I feel ashamed at the attitude of such officials who are carrying such legacies. They are delaying decisions and creating complications and at the helm, these are CGMs (Chief General Managers) and GMs (General Managers) sitting for years," Gadkari said while expressing his unhappiness over the delay in construction of NHAI building.

He said the building project for which tender was awarded in 2011, took almost nine years to complete and saw seven NHAI chairmen and two governments. "Finally it could be completed during the tenure of the eighth Chairman (SS Sandhu)...A research paper



should be prepared on this classic case of delay with photographs of CGMs and GMs who were behind the delays... There should be a ceremony to make their names and photos public like the ministry does to facilitate those who do exceptionally good work," the minister said.

Gadkari said he has been emphasising on widespread reforms in NHAI but of no avail and said when mammoth work for Rs 1 lakh crore Delhi-Mumbai Expressway is planned to be executed within three years, how could a single building take about ten years in completion.

"I feel ashamed... I had personally conducted three-four meetings for it... I have been insisting on reforms... Now as the tradition is, records will be prepared to blame the contractors alone," the minister said and warned officials to mend their ways.

The Minister wondered as to why the Authority was not able to retain engineers from IITs and other institutes and why those "who were not even fit to work for states were being promoted and their 'wrong decisions' were costing the exchequer heavily.

Warning the officials to change their work pattern, Gadkari said he would per-

sonally oversee termination, suspension and removal of guilty officials. Gadkari has been stressing on the need to expedite decision-making by NHAI and ministry officials while cautioning that non-performers would be given compulsory retirement.

The minister had earlier this year said that he had sought a list of non-performing officials for showing the exit door. He had warned "non-performing" officials or "dead assets" who neither take decisions nor allow others to work of showing exit door while saying that red-tapism will not be tolerated.

NHAI's new building has been constructed over a 6,086 square meter plot in Dwarka area, adjacent to NHAI's existing office complex. It has ground plus seven stories, with two levels of basement. NHAI plans to shift around 400 of its employees to the new building, which is equipped with latest building management system, computer automation and state-of-the-art facilities for enhanced work performance.

NHAI has been mandated the task to develop, maintain and manage National Highways, the arterial roads of the country, for inter-state movement of passengers and goods.

## Modi didn't accept even a cup of tea during 9-hour questioning by Gujarat riots SIT: Raghavan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Without parrying a single question out of the 100-odd ones put to him by the 2002 Gujarat riots SIT, Narendra Modi as the then Gujarat chief minister "kept his cool" throughout the marathon 9-hour questioning and did not accept even a cup of tea from investigators, the probe team's chief at that time R K Raghavan has said in a new book.

Modi had also readily agreed to come to the SIT office in Gandhinagar for the questioning and brought his own bottle of water, Raghavan has written in his autobiography, 'A Road Well Travelled'.

Before being asked to head the Supreme Court-appointed SIT that probed the 2002 Gujarat riots, Raghavan had also served as head of premier probe agency CBI. He was also involved in several other high-profile investigations over years, including those relating to the Bofors scam, the 2000 South Africa cricket-match fixing case and the fodder scam.

Talking about the time the SIT had called Modi for questioning as the then Gujarat chief minister, Raghavan writes in the book, "We had it conveyed to his staff that he had to come in person to the SIT office for this purpose and that meeting him elsewhere would be misconstrued as a favour."

"He (Modi) understood the spirit of our stand and readily agreed to come to the SIT office within the Government complex in Gandhinagar," Raghavan said. The former police officer

## Before becoming SIT chief, Raghavan had served as CBI head

further said he took the "unusual step" of asking Ashok Malhotra, a SIT member, to do the questioning, mainly to avoid any "mischievous allegation" later that Modi and he had struck a deal.

"This stand was endorsed months later by no less a person than amicus curiae Harish Salve. He told me that my presence would have vitiated Modi's statement and would have robbed it of its credibility,"

Raghavan said, adding that he had never consulted Salve prior to the event. It was his personal decision flowing from sheer intuition, said the retired IPS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, who was also appointed as High Commissioner to Cyprus in 2017.

"Modi's questioning lasted nine hours in my own chamber at the SIT office. Malhotra told me later that Modi kept his cool right through the marathon session which ended late at night," Raghavan said.

"He (Modi) never parried questions. Nor did he give the impression of padding up his responses. When Malhotra asked him whether he would like to break for lunch, he initially turned down the offer. He brought his own bottle of water and did not accept even a cup of tea from the SIT during the marathon questioning comprising a hundred-odd questions," he said.

## Trial underway for use of Cordyceps Capsules in Covid treatment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Three regional AIIMS have taken up the translational trial for using Cordyceps Capsules for treatment in COVID-19 and the efforts and trials are going on for preparing it as a preventive and curative medicine for Corona.

The first trial has already started in AIIMS Bhopal, AIIMS Nagpur and MGM Medical College, Navi Mumbai and its result is likely to be known by the end of this year.

Uttarakhand-based Ambrosia Food Farm has initiated the translational trial using Cordyceps capsules in COVID-19 patients. "The final result of the trial will be available by December. Cordyceps immunity booster capsules are food supplement capsules. Cordyceps is a herb with immunological and anti-viral

properties and the capsule has no side effects. Services of farmers are being taken for growing medicinal mushrooms and it has great potential for employment opportunities also," said Gourvendra Gangwar, Managing Director of the Ambrosia Food Farm at Nainital.

Research and Development were initiated by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Drug Research, Punjabi University, Patiala. Maj. Gen. (Dr) Vibha Dutta, SM (Director and CEO, AIIMS Nagpur) and Prof. Sarman Singh (Director and CEO, AIIMS Bhopal), both laboratory physicians, are working closely with Prof. Dr. Sankalp Dwivedi (Dean and Director SSIMS, Bilhail), who serves as the Chief Medical Advisor for the trial.

**Bharat Bhushan Finance & Commodity Brokers Ltd.**  
(CIN:L67120DL1992PLC049038)  
Tel Nos-011-49809300, Fax: 011-49809333  
E-mail: commoditytrading@bharatbhushan.com, Website: www.bbvinvestments.in  
Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi - 110 001

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing regulations) that a meeting of the Board of Directors of M/s Bharat Bhushan Finance & Commodity Brokers Limited (the Company) will be held on Thursday, 05th November, 2020 at its Registered Office situated at 503, Rohit House, 3, Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110 001, inter-alia to consider, approve and take on record, the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2020.  
Further, pursuant to Regulation 47(2) of the listing regulations, this information is also available on the website of BSE Limited at (www.bseindia.com) where the Company's securities are listed and shall also be available on the website of the Company at (http://www.bbvinvestments.in).  
For Bharat Bhushan Finance & Commodity Brokers Limited  
Sd/-  
(Nisha Ahuja)  
Director  
Place: New Delhi  
Date: 27.10.2020  
DIN: 00001875

## One in NIA net in Kerala gold smuggling racket

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday arrested fugitive Rabins K. Hameed, 42, in connection with the Kerala Gold Smuggling Case following his arrival at Kochi International Airport from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The case relates to the seizure of 30 Kg gold worth Rs14.82 crores on July 5, 2020 at Air Cargo of Trivandrum International Airport by Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate, Cochin,

from the diplomatic baggage. "Investigation in the case has revealed that Rabins Hameed while being in UAE and India had conspired with the arrested accused Ramees K. T., Jalal A. M. and others besides arranged funds and purchased gold at Dubai, for smuggling to India, through diplomatic baggage," the NIA said in a statement.

Earlier, the NIA Special Court at Ernakulam had issued a non-bailable warrant of arrest against the fugitive Rabins Hameed, a key accused in the case.

## Paddy stubble fire cases rise by 53% this year to 18,127

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The number of paddy crop residue burning incidents surged to 18,127 this year as compared to 11,780 in 2019 and 11,440 in 2018 raising fears of the air quality deteriorating further in northern India from the "very poor" levels recorded in recent days.

NASA's images have spotted 18127 incidents in four states- Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh between October 1 and 25 this year. Ferrozpur Ambala, Mathura has the highest number of farm fires on Sunday.

The farm fires rose to 14,232 in Punjab, 2218 in Haryana and 702 in Uttar Pradesh during the same period. Punjab has spotted highest number of stubble burning this year than in 2019 while in Haryana and UP, the cumulative number of farm fires are lower this year. The farm fires this year in Punjab is highest as compared to 7,572 in 2019 and 6801 in 2018. The number of farm fires rose from around 921 on Saturday to 1,515 on Sunday in Punjab. According to satellite data, 1267 farm fires were detected on October 23 as compared to 1343 on October 22.

With 2579 stubble burning

cases, Tarn Taran is on top in the list in Punjab, followed by Amritsar of 1407; Ferozpur 1361; Patiala 1180; Gurdaspur 1090 and Kapurthala 677. In Haryana, farm fires have been spotted 406 in Karnal, 382 in Kurukshetra, 342 in Kaithal and 265 in Ambala.

Madhya Pradesh reported 125 on October 25. 123 on October 24; 156 on October 23; 157 on October 22 and 88 on October 21. Between October 10 and 25, as many as 975 incidents were spotted in the state.

Meanwhile, air pollution levels remained high on Monday in entire northwest India. Baghat, Panipat, Ghaziabad, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, etc remained in the "very poor" category. This is mainly due to a reduction in wind speed across the northwest region. "Wind speed has reduced in the entire north-western region and stubble burning has also increased. Moisture levels are rising in the morning hours leading to further accumulation of pollutants and a shallow fog like situation.

As per data till October 20, the Haryana government has issued 252 challans and imposed Rs 6.50 lakh fine on farmers of 11 districts for burning crop residue so far.

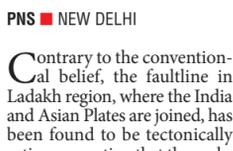
## Faultline in Ladakh region found to be tectonically active: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Contrary to the conventional belief, the faultline in Ladakh region, where the India and Asian Plates are joined, has been found to be tectonically active, suggesting that the rocks along the fault zones are very weak and fragile.

So, in terms of landslides due to rainfall, it has much more implications, said Indian scientists in a study published in the journal 'Technophysic'. Earlier, the suture zone was conventionally thought to be locked.

India and Asian Plates are joined at the suture zone of the Himalayas or the Indus Suture Zone (ISZ) in the Ladakh region. The findings could have major implications in terms of earthquake study, prediction, understanding the seismic structure of the mountain chains well as its evolution. The Scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, found through observations and detail mapping of geo-



logical features that the suture zone of Himalaya that was conventionally thought to be locked is tectonically active.

The Indus-Tsangpo suture zone marks the limit of the Indian plate where it collided with the Asian plate.

"Since we have shown that fault in this area (Ladakh) is also active, the rocks along the fault zones are very weak and fragile. So, in terms of landslides it has much more implications. Seismically, this area is also active, but the activity is very low to moderate.

"If there is any major rainfall event along the Indus river fault, it is more prone to landslides," said Koushik Sen, one of the co-authors of the paper.

The geologists observed that sedimentary beds are tilted and thrust broken, the rivers are associated with uplifted terraces, and the bedrock shows brittle defor-



mation that occurred at much shallower depths. These deformed geological features were then dated in the laboratory at Dehradun using a technique called Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) (method for carrying luminescence dating of geological sediments) and data of seismicity and denudation rate was reviewed.

The combination of field and lab data suggested the region of the Indus Suture Zone (ISZ) has been neo-tectonically active since the last 78,000-58,000 years and a recent earthquake in 2010 of low magnitude 4.0 near the village of Upshi occurred due to a thrust rupture.

Himalaya were known to be made up of north dipping thrusts like the Main Central Thrust (MCT), the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT), and the Main Frontal Thrust (MFT).

As per the established models, all of these thrusts except MFT are locked, and overall deformation in the Himalayas is being accommodated only along with the MFT.

## SC stays contempt proceedings against Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the contempt proceedings initiated against Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal for alleged non-compliance of the Uttarakhand High Court's last year order on payment of rent by former Chief Ministers of the state for occupying Government accommodation.

A bench headed by Justice R F Nariman stayed the contempt proceedings on a plea filed by the Union Minister of Education.

The Uttarakhand High Court had on May 3 last year ordered the former Chief Ministers of the state to pay market rent for the entire period they continued to occupy Government accommodation since demitting office.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that SUNITA KHANNA W/o ASHWANI KHANNA R/o Flat No. 9284 SF Type-F, LIG Flats, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-70, am the owner of DDA LIG Flat No. 9284 on second floor, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, Vide DDA's File No. L0371/45/89/VKNP. My original documents viz. 1. Demand Letter dated 03.07.1989-06.07.1989 2. DDA possession Letter dated 19.09.1989, 3. NOC for Electricity and Water Connection dated 19.09.1989 and House Tax Receipt and Water Bill of above said flat have been misplaced. An Information Report of this effect has been lodged in Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 681753/2020 on 23.10.2020. Any person(s) claiming any right, Interest having any objection or found in Possession of the said original Documents may Write/Contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9910402925 within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is information to the general public that shop number 139 New Grain Market was allotted in Hissar year 28/04/1966 for shop number 139 Mr. Sushil Garg Ji resident 101/A, Nanjloi Extension-2 New Delhi-110087 by his father Late Sh. After the death of Ram Kumar son Late Shri Shiva Narayan, the Honorable Tehsildar, Hissar has got the shop declared as the heir, and the report is presented in the Market Committee office, which is follows:  
Sr. No. Name Wife of deceased  
1. Chanderkala Wife  
2. Madan Lal Garg Son  
3. Pawan Kumar Son  
4. Ashok Kumar Garg Son  
5. Sushil Garg Son  
6. Richi Pal Son  
7. Prem Lata Daughter  
8. Seema Jindal Daughter  
9. Gaytri Devi Daughter in law  
10. Vishal Garg Grand Son  
11. Teena Rani Grand Daughter  
12. Sweetly Goyal Grand Daughter  
Apart from the above 12 claimant, if there is no claimant of the above shop number 139, then within 1 month of publication of the advertisement, within 30 days, if any person express reservations about the above claimant, then the Market Committee can file a complaint in writing in the Hissar office. No objection will be accepted 30 days after the advertisement is published.  
Secretary and Executive Officer  
Market Committee - Hissar  
S.K. Gupta (Advocate)  
Ch.No. D-209, Karkardooma Courts,  
Delhi-110032, Mob: 999956267

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Narendar Kumar S/o Shri Girdhari Lal Gupta have lost my Original Property Documents i.e. Original Eligibility Letter, Allotment Letter, EMD slip, all Payment Challans of Plot No. 208, Sector-G, DSIIDC Industrial Area, Borgharh, Bawana-II Delhi-110039, Mob.No: 8222033609. Finder please contact above address.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Manish Goel one of the Partner of the firm M/s Ram Karan Goel Office at G-41, Pushkar Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-63 bearing Index No. B-229 Registered with CE, WC. Due to the sudden demise of my father Sh. Ram Karan Goel one of the partner of the firm I want to change the constitution of the firm from Partnership to Proprietorship. If anyone has any objection to this, he may notify objection to CE, Western Command, Chandni Mandir within 7 days.

# Maha Dy CM Ajit tests Covid +ve, hospitalised

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar got himself admitted to Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital on Monday, after he tested positive for Covid-19.

In a development that came two days after the leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Devendra Fadnis of the BJP tested positive for Coronavirus, Ajitdada - as Ajit Pawar is known in the state political circles - announced through a tweet that he had tested positive for Covid-19.

"I have tested positive for Coronavirus. I am doing well. As a health precautionary measure, I have got myself admitted to Breach Candy Hospital," Ajitdada tweeted.

"My appeal to citizens, NCP workers leaders, office bearers and workers is that there is no need for you to get worried. My health is good. After some rest, I will resume work," he added.

Sixty-one-year-old Pawar

had not been keeping well. After his tour of flood-affected areas of Solapur and Pune districts last week, he had developed fever. On Thursday, the senior NCP leader had tested negative for coronavirus but was in home quarantine as a precautionary measure.

After he skipped the function organised by the NCP at the party headquarters in south Mumbai on Friday last to welcome ex-BJP Ajit Pawar, party chief Sharad Pawar had said: "If Ajit Pawar is absent today, it is because of Covid-19 precautions he is taking. We have asked party leaders and workers to take adequate precautions"

Monday's development comes close on the heels of Fadnis and Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das testing positive for Covid-19. While Fadnis had himself



admitted to the State-run St George's Hospital on Saturday, Das went into home isolation after his report came positive on Sunday.

Ajitdada has become the 15th minister in the Uddhav Thackeray Cabinet to have tested positive for Coronavirus.

Earlier, ministers like Varsha Gaikwad (School Education), Eknath Shinde (Urban Development), Bacchu Kadu (MoS, School Education), Nitin Raut (Energy), Hasan Mushrif (Rural Development), Jitendra Ahwad (Housing), Ashok Chavan (Public Works), Dhanaanjan Mundre (Social Justice), Sunil Kedar (Animal Husbandry), Balasaheb Patil (Cooperation), Aslam Shaikh (Ports, Textile), Abdul Sattar (MoS, Rural Development), Sanjay Bansode (MoS, Environment) and Vishwajeet Kadam (MoS for Cooperation) had tested positive for Covid-19.

# LDF suffers jolt wife of kingpin reveals MLA's role in gold smuggling

**KOCHI:** The CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front in Kerala suffered a jolt on Monday as the wife of one of the kingpins in the gold smuggling scam busted by the Customs at Thiruvananthapuram airport reportedly told the agency that the stuff was being smuggled for Karat Razack, an MLA supporting the front and his relation Karat Faizal, a municipal councillor in Koduvalli Municipality.

Soumya, wife of Sandeep Nair, one of the key accused in NIA custody told Customs officials that she knew her husband and another accused K T Rameez were smuggling gold for the Karat cousins. According to sources in Customs, the sleuths could identify the prime accused Swapna Suresh and Rameez based on the statement by Soumya.

Faisal, a business baron with interests in jewelry trade was in the news earlier because of his close connection with Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, the CPI(M) strongman in Kerala.

Balakrishnan had used the high end car owned by Faisal for his 2016 Kerala Yatra. Faisal was accused in gold smuggling cases at that time and the incident had embarrassed the party cadre.

Razack said he has no interests in gold business and denied any role in gold smuggling. "If the case is in the right direction, I will not be called for interrogation as I have no role in it. But if there is any conspiracy, I will also be called for questioning," he said.

Though the Customs had taken Faizal into custody last month, he was let of after questioning. Razack was a member of the Muslim League till 2016 and had contested against the official League candidate as an LDF supported independent.

The CPI(M) was in for another dilemma when the RSS mouthpiece Jannabhummi had carried the WhatsApp chat between M Sivsankar, the former principal secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, and Venugopal Iyer, a chartered accountant. **PNS**

# Fake document vehicle selling gang busted

**Aligarh:** Noida and Aligarh police busted a gang selling vehicles on fake papers that were bought on finance. In this case, police station sector 24 and the anti-auto theft team arrested 8 accused from sector 32. They have recovered fake papers, 5 trucks, canters and fake number engraving equipment. The network of this gang is spread in many states. Police are searching for 4 absconding members of this gang.

ACP Rajesh Verma, the nodal officer of the Noida zone's anti-theft and anti-auto theft, said that Shakil, a resident of Mussoorie Ghaziabad, Shah Nawaz, a resident of Sanjay Nagar Ghaziabad, Ziaul Haq and Sagar Chaudhary, residents of Baghpat, Wasim Rana, Harun, resident of Tappal Aligarh, Indrapal and Greater Noida based Harish Chandra Naagar has been arrested. Police recovered an Eicher canter, 2 trucks of 14-wheel, 1 truck of 12-wheel, engine and chassis number engraving equipment, fake papers of vehicles, fake number plate from them. **PNS**

# In fresh war of words, Kangana calls Uddhav 'worst product of nepotism'

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut on Monday unleashed a fresh war of words against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray over the latter's criticism of her at his Dusshera rally, by dubbing him as a "petty person" "worst product of nepotism", accusing him of indulging in "open bullying" and saying that her home state of Himachal Pradesh was the land of "Gods" and "not Ganja fields".

A day after Uddhav slammed her for much-discussed comment likening Mumbai to Pak-Occupied Kashmir (POK) and efforts to defame Mumbai police, Mumhai and Maharashtra, Kangana took to twitter to hit back at the chief minister in an unbecoming and nasty manner.

"You should be ashamed of yourself chief minister, being a public servant you are indulging in petty fights, using your power to insult, damage and humiliate people who don't agree with you, you don't deserve the chair you have acquired by playing dirty politics. SHAME," Kangana said in one of the several tweets put out during the day.

Alluding to Uddhav's comment that people without anything to fall back upon in their homes come to Mumbai to eke a living but speak indulge in acts of "namak haram" (betrayal) against Mumbai and Maharashtra, Kangana tweeted: "Raut called me Haramkhor now Uddhav called me namak haram, he is claiming I won't get food in my state if Mumbai does not give me shelter, shame on you I am your son's age this is how you speak to a self made single woman, Chief Minister you are the worse product of nepotism".

"Look at the audacity of a countrying CM he is dividing the country who has made him Maharashtra ka thekedar? He is just a public servant, there was someone else before him, soon he will be out, someone else will come to serve the state, why is he behaving like he owns Maharashtra?", Kangana asked.

Among other things, Uddhav had hit out indirectly at Kangana, who had "maligned" Mumbai police, Maharashtra, the state government and Thackeray family over the investigations into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. "Even Aditya Thackeray was defamed... Those crying for justice for Bihar's son indulged in character assassination of Maharashtra's son," the Sena chief said in his reply.

Responding to Kangana's comment likening Mumbai to POK, Uddhav had said: "If someone thinks or says that Mumbai is POK, it reflects the failure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

In reference to Uddhav's comment that Ganja and charas comes from Himachal Pradesh, a state she comes from, Kangana tweeted: "Chief Minister you are a very petty person, Himachal is called Dev Bhumi it has the maximum number of temples also no zero crime rate, yes it has a very fertile land it grows apples, kiwis, pomegranate, strawberries one can grow anything here".

"Chief Minister I am not drunk on my father's power and wealth like you, if I wanted to be a nepotism product I could have stayed back in Himachal, I hail from a renowned family, I didn't want to live off on their wealth and favours, some people have self respect and self worth," Kangana tweeted.

# Kerala temple performs ritual for victory of Trump

**KOCHI:** Closely behind the campaign in Kerala by the Christian Association and Alliance for Social Action (CASA) exhorting the people of Indian origin in the US to vote for Donald Trump in the November 3 presidential election, a devout Hindu became a cynosure of all eyes in Thiruvananthapuram by holding a Homam (a special ritual) for the victory of Trump.

The ancient Sree Bhadrakalepuram Devi Temple saw a rare spectacle on Sunday when a Sathru Samhara Homam (a rite for the elimination of all enemies) was performed for the benefit and win of President Trump. The pooja was held at the instance of Dr Purushotham Bharati, an economist turned social activist.

Chief Priest Raghunathan Potti and his two sons undertook the two-hour long ritual which was conducted as per the specifications of Covid-19 protocol. "Many devotees attended the Homam and prayed for the success of Trump. Usually we conduct Poojas but Dr Bharati insisted on a Homam and that's why we made it a Sathru Samhara Homam," said K S Radhakrishnan, administrator of the

temple. Christian-born Bharati got converted to Hinduism in 1979. He has followed all developments in the US and is of the view that Trump should win in this election. "The world is undergoing a crucial phase and we need a statesman like Trump whose love for India is known all over," said Bharati.

He said unemployment was the lowest in US in the last 48 years just before the breaking out of the Covid-19 pandemic. "The Trump administration has done well in controlling the disease despite the absence of a vaccine. His declaration that the US would stand by India in the event of an attack by Chinese should be noted by our countrymen. I am confident of Trump winning this election," said Bharati.

The Joe Biden camp is also active among the Malayalee expatriates though the fervor associated with Trump's campaign is absent in Kerala. Sajith Menon from Thrissur, is moderating a webinar on October 28 featuring lawmaker Steny Hoyer, Chris Vanhollen, Ben Cardin and known Democratic Party supporters like Srinivasan from Thiruvananthapuram. **PNS**

# 4 students test corona positive after re-opening of school

**PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH**

As soon as the school opens, the risk of corona infection in students is also increased.

In Pandit Deen Dayal Inter College, 4 students have been found infected, now the Education Department is worried.

DIOS in-charge Ravindra Kumar said that an order has been issued to close the school till further notice with immediate effect and has also made arrangements of corona test for students and teachers who came in contact with the infected.

All four students are of Class 9th. Samples of all students were taken on 21 October.

On that day, 25-30 students were present in the class. All these students will also be examined by the Health Department. **PNS**

# CMS asked to investigate cause of patient's death

**Aligarh:** The Chief Medical Officer has written a letter to the Superintendent to investigate the cause of death of the patient at the gate of Malkhan Singh District Hospital.

At the same time, he has requested additional arrangements in the ward to prevent dengue.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. BP Singh Kalyani inspected the Malkhan Singh District Hospital. A patient named Rajendra Singh, 45, a resident of Dubey Padao, died at the emergency gate of the district hospital due to not given timely treatment.

He was sick for several days. CMO sought information from health workers in this regard. **PNS**

# 'Gender equality first step towards women empowerment'

**Aligarh:** "Gender equality is the first step towards women empowerment and this is enshrined in our constitution that gives us power to frame policies and programmes accordingly," said Professor Shahid Ali Siddiqui, Principal, JN Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

# Doctors share Covid frontline experience

**Aligarh:** Alumni of the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMCC), Aligarh Muslim University from various parts of India and USA came together to share experience of fighting Covid-19 in the third session of international webinar on 'JNMCCites' Experiences from the COVID frontlines: USA and India' organised by Alig's Academic Enrichment Programme (AAEP) in association with Aligarh Medical Alumni Association of North America (AMAANA). **PNS**

# BJP's J&K unit celebrates 'Accession Day' with fervour

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

Union of India on October 26, 1947.

In Srinagar, BJP workers assembled at the Tagore Hall first garlanded the pictures of Maharaja Hari Singh, Bharat Mata and Maqbool Sherwani and later they took out a Tiranga rally from the Tagore hall to SKICC.

Dozens of vehicles, with the tricolor hoisted on each of them, were part of the rally which passed through Gupkar Road and the activists raised slogans outside the residences of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti there.

# In PNB scam case, UK court rejects Nirav Modi's latest bail attempt

**London:** A UK court on Monday rejected the latest bail plea of fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, who has been lodged in a London prison since his arrest on an extradition warrant in March last year.

The application was reportedly made on the basis of "new evidence", but Westminster Magistrates' Court District Judge Samuel Goozee was not convinced to reverse previous bail rejections in Modi's case.

The 49-year-old jeweller, fighting extradition to India on charges of fraud and money laundering in the estimated USD 2-billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam case, has made around six previous attempts at bail - at the magistrates' court as well as at the High Court level.

However, each of the applications, which came with an offer stringent conditions akin to house arrest and a bail bond security of 4 million pounds, have been rejected each time as he has been deemed to have the financial means and motivation to abscond. **PTI**

**United Textiles Limited**  
Regd. Office 7<sup>th</sup> K.M. Stone,  
Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001  
(Haryana)  
CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

**Notice**

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 11th November, 2020 at 11.00 AM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Unaudited Quarterly Results for the Period Ended 30th September, 2020. Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 30.09.2020 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results. The said information is also available on Company's Website [www.unitedtextileslimited.com](http://www.unitedtextileslimited.com) & also on the website of Stock Exchanges [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).

For **United Textiles Limited** (Amit Kumar Aggarwal) Director  
Dated: 23.10.2020 (DIN 07079171)

# Maha daily Covid death down to 84

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

On a day when the Maharashtra Government on Monday slashed the charges for the basic Covid-19 tests to just Rs.980 in private laboratories, the Covid-19 deaths came down below 100 for the first time five months, while the infections plummeted to more than a five months' low figure of 3645.

A day after the daily pandemic deaths dropped further to 112 and the infections went down further to 6059, the state authorities were in for another pleasant surprise as the death dropped to 84 and infections plummeted to 3645. Monday's death tally should be seen in the context of the fact that the previous low of 97 deaths was witnessed way back on May 26. With 84 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths in the state mounted from 43,264 to 43,348.

Similarly with 3845 fresh infections, the total infected cases in the state jumped from 16,45,200 to 16,48,665.

As 9,905 more people were discharged from various hospitals in the state, the number of people discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 14,70,660. The recovery rate in the state rose from 88.88 per cent to 89.2 per cent.

In a related development, Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced that the state government had slashed the charges for the basic Covid-19 tests to just Rs.980 in private laboratories.

Monday was the fourth occasion during the last eight months that the state government has cut the test rates in private laboratories, starting from the original rate of Rs.4,500 to now only Rs.980 per test.

# Web talk held on Prof Masood Husain Khan

**ALIGARH:** Muqaddam Tareekh-e-Zaban-e-Urdu is a landmark academic work on the origin and historical development of Urdu language and Professor Masood Husain Khan's theory is considered in academic circles as one of the most consistent work on the origin and development of Urdu, with plausible arguments," said Prof Mirza Khalil A Beg, former Chairman, Department of Linguistics (AMU), while delivering a web talk on "Masood Husain Khan's Contribution to Urdu Language and Linguistics".

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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

STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04084			
	Existing time		Revised time	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
Moradabad	01:55	02:03	02:30	02:38
Bareilly	03:21	03:23	04:03	04:05

STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 02226			
	Existing time		Revised time	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
Lucknow Jn.	03:00	03:20	Same	
Malhaur	03:50		04:00	
Shahganj Jn.	08:00	08:25	08:10	08:35
Azamgarh	09:30		09:40	

**Note :** The timings of 02573 at Barabanki Jn. to be revised as 20:30 hrs instead of 20:40 hrs.

The change in Stoppage timings over Lucknow Division for train no 02226 (Delhi Jn. - Azamgarh) special train are as under:-

Change Timing	STATIONS		Existing Timing	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
04:17	04:19	Barabanki Jn.	04:07	04:09
05:12	05:13	Rudauli	05:00	05:01
05:48	05:50	Faizabad Jn.	05:35	05:37
06:08	06:10	Ayodhya	05:55	05:57
06:53	06:55	Akbarpur	06:44	06:46
07:20	07:22	Malipur	07:04	07:06
08:10	08:35	Shahganj Jn.	08:00	08:25

**Above change is only for 02226 (Delhi Jn. - Azamgarh) Spl. train not for 12226 (Delhi Jn. - Azamgarh) Kafiyat Express.**

# Train No. 04059 Varanasi - New Delhi Clone Special Train

STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04059			
	Existing time		Revised time	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
Ghaziabad	Pass	06:30	Pass	07:38
New Delhi	07:20	---	08:30	---

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

**Beware of Touts** Always buy your tickets from an authorised railway counter or authorised rail travel agent only.

**Note:** For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website: [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

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**E-TENDER NOTICE**

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

(A)	13/GM/SM(WC-1)/2020-21. Name of Work:- M/o Road (R/O Interlocking Tile, CC, B/W, Plaster on Internal Road Sector-14), Noida. Cost - Rs. 69.73 lacs.
(B)	14/GM/SM(WC-1)/2020-21. Name of Work:- M/o Road (C/O CC Pavement and Repair of Drain, Culvert in C-Block Sector-55), Noida. Cost - Rs. 90.51 Lacs.

Which can be uploaded by date 10.11.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 11.11.2020 at 11.00 AM

(B)	18/E-Tender/GM-R/SM(WC-3)/2020-21. Name of Work:- M/o Building (Repairing and Renovation of Block C-1, C-2 and C-12 Sector-40 Staff Quarters), Noida. Cost - Rs. 58.80 Lacs.
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Which can be uploaded by date 05.11.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 06.11.2020 at 11.00 AM

**General Manager**  
**Noida**

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**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(ies) mortgaged/ charged to **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029]** ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 27.11.2020 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of **Rs. 2,44,82,977/- (Rupees Two Crore Forty Four Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Seven only)** towards Loan Account No.HLAPGRG00197882 respectively, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 09.10.2020 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 10.10.2020 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from ACE PURE PRODUCTS (THROUGH ITS PARTNER VIZ. ABHIMANYU SINGH), BRIJESH KUMAR @ BRIJESH SINGH, AJAY SINGH, ABHIMANYU SINGH, ANJANA SINGH and ACE FAB OVERSEAS (THROUGH ITS PARTNER VIZ. AJAY SINGH).

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be **Rs. 2,27,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Twenty Seven Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 22,70,000/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Seventy Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of **INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 114505001412 with ICICI Bank Ltd. (IFSC: ICIC0001145)**, having its branch at **B1 and B2, Vanija Nikun, Enkay Tower, Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon - 122015 (Haryana)** before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY CONSISTING OF HOUSE ON PLOT NO. 324 (ADMEASURING 166 SQ. MTR.), RESIDENTIAL COLONY CALLED "SURYA NAGAR", SECTION 7, VIL. CHIKAMBERPUR, PARGANA LONI, TEH. GHAZIABAD - 201011 (UTTAR PRADESH).**

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**EAST BY : FLAT NO. 325**  
**WEST BY : FLAT NO. 323**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.indiabullshomefinance.com](http://www.indiabullshomefinance.com) and [www.auctofocus.in](http://www.auctofocus.in).

Date : 22.10.2020  
Place : GHAZIABAD

**Sd/**  
**Authorized Officer**  
**INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**

## Scaling new peaks

No matter who comes to power in the US after the elections, a common suspicion of China will drive Indo-US relations even closer



The visit of US Secretaries of State and Defence Mike Pompeo and Mark Esper to New Delhi, meant to fructify the 2+2 dialogue between them and their Indian counterparts S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh, is an important step in firming up India-US ties as both nations fight Chinese expansionism. And while it appears increasingly likely that the US will have a 46th President come January 20, 2021, the strengthening of bilateral ties and the antagonism between the world's two largest democracies against the Chinese Communist Party-run People's Republic of China will only grow. The visit just confirms the continuity of diplomacy on this front and

a commitment to a shared purpose. There is no doubt that Donald Trump is a polarising figure and his negligence in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic might cost him the presidency. But he has decisively changed the discourse around China's malignant nature, of which India is just the latest victim. The third India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue focusses on a comprehensive global strategic partnership and expansion in cooperation to promote stability and prosperity in the India-Pacific region as well as the world. This will include regional security cooperation, defence information-sharing so that the two sides can tackle neighbourhood challenges more effectively, including public health collaboration to cope with COVID-19, and economic alliances. The two nations are also expected to sign the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), one of four so-called foundational pacts. It will provide for sharing of high-end military technology, logistics and geospatial maps between the two countries. With both India and the US becoming more upfront about countering China's hegemonic claims, our eastern neighbour has clearly become anxious and deeply uncomfortable. So in its official mouthpiece, *Global Times*, it ran down the partnership, saying, "It's difficult for Washington to form an alliance with New Delhi as it has with Tokyo. As a country which believes it is destined to become even more 'powerful,' India will not be subject to any other global competitor." However, in the past few months, the US has been consistent in its interest in the region, calling out China directly and making India its arrowhead, too. It has been ramping up attack on China over a range of contentious issues, including the border row with India, its military assertiveness in the South China Sea and the way Beijing handled the anti-Government protests in Hong Kong. India is not only buying additional hardware from the US, its closer military and economic collaborations will be important in case of any potential future conflict with China. Indeed, the speed with which Boeing, not only an airplane maker but also one of the latest military contractors in the US, delivered the last batch of Apache and Chinook helicopters following the incidents in the Galwan Valley, highlights the strengthening of bilateral relations. There is also no doubt that the US has pushed India to stop dilly-dallying on confronting China and take sides. It is almost certain that our invitation to the Australian Navy to join the Malabar exercises with Japan and the US, thereby formalising the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad coalition, would not have happened without the US pushing New Delhi. The grouping has definitely helped to create resilient supply chains, explore alternative markets, counter disinformation and increase maritime security and clearly needs to be upscaled to the heads-of-State meeting level.

India will have to work assiduously and overtly in building a coalition against China and shed all pretensions of pursuing the dream of a multi-polar world. It is the US vs China now and New Delhi has to extract the best advantages for itself by engaging with nations one-on-one. Chinese President Xi Jinping has already used economic imperialism to get malleable leaders like Turkish President Recep Erdogan on his side. And though Russia may want India to fob off Chinese help, the fact is its President Vladimir Putin is sufficiently compromised by long-standing infrastructural and economic deals to sacrifice India at the altar of Chinese money. India must reconsider the amount of Russian military hardware it buys. The US might have courted India for years but now the latter must formalise the shotgun marriage with Washington. The dragon is not India's friend and if that means strengthening ties with the US, that may not be a bad thing after all.

## Mamata's gamble

Gorkha leader Bimal Gurung drops BJP for TMC. But how much has the latter had to give up to meet him half-way?



Bimal Gurung has been a bit of a maverick as a leader who won't settle for anything less than a separate State of the Gorkhas by fair means or foul. He has been absconding for three years after an agitation for statehood turned violent, killing a police officer. And for his disruptive and militant value, he has been patronised by the BJP to make significant inroads in north Bengal and increase both seats and vote share in the State during both the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) that he founded is itself a divided house today with moderates wanting a rule-based political solution and wary of Gurung's

wild ways. One that the BJP has also not encouraged after an unexpected Lok Sabha verdict in Bengal last year. So Gurung has switched sides and decided to support Trinamool Congress (TMC) in next year's Assembly elections. Turncoat politicians are not trustworthy but TMC leader and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is a bit hemmed in here, having failed to break through Gorkha parties on her own. She is now using him to contain the BJP and wrest the political ground she ceded to it. This is not quite a coup but a political necessity for her though she has exposed herself to the criticism that she may have had already conceded Gorkhaland as part of a trade-off and forgiven Gurung after issuing a lookout notice for him in 2017. Of course, having rehabilitated and protected himself with this new arrangement, Gurung is taking the high moral ground, saying 12 years of aligning with the BJP, which as a Central party he thought could make statehood a reality, had been an empty promise. And claims that while the BJP never fulfilled his demands, Mamata always delivered whatever she committed to. This has led to speculation on what she must have promised in exchange for his support. TMC has steadily waned in the region as BJP, which propped up Gurung in 2009, has made huge gains and more or less become a national champion for the Gorkha cause. Now after the BJP's powerful showing in the Lok Sabha, Mamata is scrounging for every bit of cushion that she can get as the Central party chases her down to the finish line. Faced with a threat to her political survival, she is willing to take a risk with Gurung. Apart from Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong, Gorkhas matter significantly in about 17 Assembly seats in north Bengal. Gurung still has a magnetic hold on the Gorkha vote and can determine political outcomes of any party he chooses to align himself with. Although the TMC had some hold here, with 23 of the 54 seats in 2016, post-Gurung and his tie-up with the BJP, it has been virtually wiped out. With him, it hopes to improve its performance in the region and halt the BJP run.

But how encashable is Gurung after three years of being in the wilderness? Now that the GJM has factions, can he hold it together? Also many are wondering if he has compromised his original stand on full statehood in return for the TMC Government pausing the cases lodged against him. Yes, the TMC may hold the Damocles' sword over him but that could also mean that Gurung cannot afford to sound as fiery as before. The risk here is that another firebrand leader could then easily be inspired or propped up by parties to replace him. Gurung has cleverly bought time till 2024, saying he will work with Mamata to fulfil the dream of statehood. He can always jump ship again if things don't work out. Gorkhaland is more about the political economy than the realisation of a people's dream. And no party that wants to rule Bengal would want to part with it but keep it on the boil.

# Outwitting the Generals

In one stroke, Sharif has torn the traditional Pakistani cover of the 'civilian govt' and made the military directly accountable and responsible for the country's fate



BHOPINDER SINGH

Mian Saheb is an unlikely Pakistani politician who has spent a career trying to be someone he really isn't. When the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, was incarcerated in jail and was asked about his health, he had spouted Mirza Ghalib, "Unko dekhne sey jo aa jati hai muh par raunaq, woh samjhtey hai ke bemaar ka haal acha hai" (On seeing her, my face lights up and she presumes that I'm much better now)." The portly Punjabi politician is the principal Opposition leader to the reigning Pakistani Prime Minister, Imran Khan, except that he is not based out of Pakistan (declared "absconder" of bail and currently in the United Kingdom) and is actually of Kashmiri ethnicity (paternal side from Anantnag and maternal side from Pulwama). Nevertheless, the thrice elected and the longest-serving PM is a trapeze artist who revels in managing contradictions. Sharif has now fired his most calculated salvo against the Pakistani "Deep State" or military.

In Pakistan's stuttering democracy, the ubiquitous shadow of barrel-chested military men operating out of Rawalpindi headquarters is mentioned only in deferential whispers — addressed euphemistically as *Farishtas* (angels) or *Khalai Maqlook* (alien creatures), who usually manipulate from the background. And occasionally they step in formally, like Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan, Zia-ul-Haq or Pervez Musharraf. But the veteran of Pakistani intrigues has broken traditions of indirect allusions and brazenly name-called the Chief of Pakistan Army Staff, General Qamar Bajwa, along with the infamous Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to be the real movers and shakers of Imran Khan's Government. In one stroke, Sharif has torn the traditional Pakistani cover of the "civilian government" and made the military directly accountable and responsible for the country's ongoing and inevitable fate and predicament in the public imagination.

Sharif's current democratic grandstanding notwithstanding, he himself is a product of the Pakistani military establishment and its machinations. While it is widely presumed that Sharif was born of the former military dictator, General



Zia-ul-Haq's personal preference, it was actually another quintessentially slippery Pakistani General, Ghulam Gilani, to whom *Mian Saheb* owes his political initiation.

Lieutenant-General Ghulam Gilani's colourful past had included taking a year-long sabbatical to fight in the Kashmir valley as an "irregular" (Indo-Pak war of 1947-48), fighting the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars, serving as the Director-General of the notorious ISI, partaking in Zia-ul-Haq's *coup d'état*, which was ironically code-named "Fair Play" and ill-advising Zulfikar Ali Bhutto till his end to the gallows.

Later, General Zia appointed Lieutenant-General Ghulam Gilani as the Governor of the all-powerful Punjab province, where he deliberately plucked out an ostensibly safe, non-feudal and pliant industrialist, Nawaz Sharif, to be the Finance Minister of Punjab. The urbane, obliging and malleable Sharif soon wormed his way to be the Chief Minister in the dark and transformational days of Zia's Shariaised Pakistan, even though Sharif was hardly a modicum of religious piety.

Though not really a Punjabi, feudal or a military man, Sharif was a player, manipulator and a survivor. Soon after Zia's mysterious plane crash, he tactically aligned with religious parties, took ISI's beneficence and split with a rival faction within Zia's political party, Pakistan Muslim League (Pagara group) to later form Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) or PML-N. Sharif's then rival Benazir Bhutto (Pakistan People's Party) had earlier paid a

THIS TIME, SHARIF HAS DRAWN BLOOD, REDRAWN THE BATTLE LINES AND FOR ONCE, BOXED THE MILITARY GENERALS INTO A HUDDLE. UNFORTUNATELY, FOR THE PAKISTANI GENERALS, THE IMRAN KHAN GOVERNMENT IS FAILING DESPERATELY AND THE MILITARY IS UNABLE TO EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM THE 'TITANIC' PORTENTS

more personal price of losing her father in the fight against the Pakistani Generals but Sharif was more conversant with the inner workings of the "Deep State."

But even the wily Sharif has erred, miscalculated and underestimated the power of Pakistani Generals. *Mian Saheb* has had to deal with six Pakistani military chiefs (including appointing four of them personally) and has the dubious record of fractious relations with all, without exception. Sharif's first appointee, General Waheed Kakar, had later pressured him into resigning as the PM. By Sharif's second term, he had inherited Benazir Bhutto's appointee, General Jehangir Karamat, with whom Sharif differed and who he forced into a premature resignation. In hindsight, hardly-the-wiser, Sharif selected an ostensibly safe *Mohajir*, General Pervez Musharraf, who not only initiated Kargil on his own but also bumped off Sharif to Saudi Arabia after yet another *coup d'état*. In his third innings as the PM, Sharif had to tread carefully with the unpredictable General Pervez Kayani (appointed earlier by Sharif's *bête noire*, Pervez Musharraf), who, too, extended his tenure unilaterally. Sharif's third personal and unlikely (again superseding others) choice of General Raheel Sharif was to be no different with the "Army House" routinely calling all shots and defining the "red lines" for the Sharif dispensation.

General Raheel Sharif elicited embarrassing retractions (for example, post Ufa summit), policy flip flops and publicly lectured the civilian Government on cor-

ruption (for example, Panamagate). But it is the fourth personal choice of Sharif who is at the centre of the ensuing gambit, General Qamar Bajwa — who too superseded others and was supposedly apolitical and low profile. The Generals have historically got the better of Nawaz Sharif, because they consistently outwitted or bulldozed *Mian Saheb* by tactically propping his political rivals with no real ideological preferences, except for protecting their own institutional turf. The invaluable cover and protection to the Pakistani military was afforded by the façade of the civilian Government.

This time, Sharif has drawn blood, redrawn the battle lines and for once, boxed the military generals into a huddle. Unfortunately, for the Pakistani generals, the Imran Khan Government is failing desperately at all levels and the "Deep State" or the Pakistani military is unable to extricate itself from the "Titanic" portents.

The Pakistani public is increasingly restive, suspicious and convinced of the military ghosts at work. And the Generals cannot be saddled with the "failures" of the civilian Government as they delegitimise the institution that has thrived despite the humiliations of 1965, 1971 and Kargil. Sharif has punted on forcing the military establishment to pull the plug on the Imran Khan Government, as they have historically done, whenever in such situations. This time, *Mian Saheb* may just have outwitted the Generals?

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

## SOUND BITE

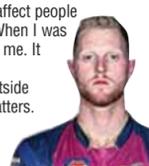
It is unfortunate that he (Emmanuel Macron) has chosen to encourage Islamophobia by attacking Islam rather than the terrorists who carry out violence.

Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan



Outside noise can affect people in different ways. When I was younger, it affected me. It took me a while to understand that outside noise isn't what matters.

Cricketer —Ben Stokes



Life is art. The greatest art does not matter. When you let go of your story and live in the present, infinite possibilities show up.

Writer —Rituparna Chatterjee



It's a shame that at a time when the pandemic is raging, the doctors are forced to hit the streets, hold placards at places like Jantar Mantar to highlight their plight.

IMA chief —Dr Rajan Sharma



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Breathing toxic air

Sir — Air pollution has worsened in several parts of north India. If anything, US President Donald Trump's remark that India has "filthy" air should encourage more introspection than anger. There is no denying what he said or the fact that nobody suffers more than Indians themselves. According to the State of Global Air 2020 report, India had the highest exposure to particulate matter (PM 2.5) last year. Fourteen of the 20 most populous countries have recorded a gradual improvement in air quality but India is among those with an increase in pollution levels. Vehicular and industrial pollution, farmers burning crop stubble to clear fields and festive fireworks, all contribute to the deadly cocktail. The courts and the National Green Tribunal have been actively pushing the authorities to do more. The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was also launched in January 2019 as the first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target. However, a concrete policy has not materialised. The endless bickering

### Political drama continues in Bihar

ast crowds are turning out to attend the public meetings addressed by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav in a clear indication that the young leader has captured the imagination of voters in Bihar. People's response to such rallies enable us to see which way the wind is blowing. Yadav's promise to create 10 lakh new Government jobs on being elected to power seems to have galvanised the State's youth and rallied them together. In contrast, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar now looks a shadow of his former self. In the absence of any worthwhile achievement during the Janata Dal (United)-BJP rule, the latter is once again relying on its stock-in-trade of tapping "nationalist sentiments."

Narendra Modi has conveniently skirted his failure to fulfil promises on special State status and special packages for Bihar and the establishment of a central university in Bhagalpur made in the run-up to the 2015 Assembly elections. Bihar is at the bottom of the pyramid of economic indicators. Lok Janshakti Party (LJP)



leader Chirag Paswan's open hostility towards Nitish Kumar and his idolisation of Narendra Modi highlight that some moves in the game of politics are at times beyond our comprehension. Bihar is a politically significant State and the election result is bound to have a significant impact on the course of national politics.

G David Milton Maruthancode

lakes for turning them into parks and recreational spots. Also, the story of urban flooding is more or less the same for most Indian cities because the pattern of accumulation of rainwater and its drainage has been conveniently forgotten in the last several decades. These disastrous floods should be a wake-up call for the administration to start working on the city's infrastructure that will be able to tackle future cases of urban flooding.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

### Second Corona wave?

Sir — India, Brazil and the US account for over 51 per cent of the world's COVID-19 cases. Corona cases in India are declining significantly with 90 per cent recovery rate. However, the US is witnessing a new surge. And as India's festival season has just started, a few super spreader events can change the course of the virus. People need to be careful while strictly following the WHO's guidelines.

Avani Jain Ujjain

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## FIRST COLUMN

## Poll promises up the ante in Bihar

In the end, it is for voters to make intelligent choices and elect a charismatic and incorruptible leader to govern them



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

Electoral time is a season of promises, of unleashing new hopes and aspirations and above all, a long-awaited occasion to demonstrate the real power of the people. In fact, as some political pundit rightly said, "it is the only *charan* (phase) when political parties are at the *charan* (feet) of the electorate, for, in the second *charan* (phase), once elected, the voters are at the *charan* (mercy) of those elected for the next five years." The battle at the hustings in Bihar is full of electoral rhetoric and promises and they contain something for everybody, but proportionately more for the numerical segment which is likely to impact victory. The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the *Mahagathbandhan* leader, Tejashwi Yadav, stole the electoral rhetoric when he announced that if elected, his Government would give jobs to over 10 lakh people, creating, for the moment, a youthful surge in his rallies. He was ridiculed and lampooned by his arch adversary as being utterly impractical. The promise of job creation was termed as the rant of an inexperienced and half-literate youth. Yet, sensing the ground swing, the BJP election *Sankalp Patra*, launched soon after, promised the creation of 19 lakh jobs and a free vaccine for every Bihari, giving credibility to the promise of the RJD.

Job creation is, indubitably, the biggest challenge, but a most alluring promise in these times of unemployment and despair, especially in Bihar. This has been accentuated by the colossal migration of the working class back to their homes and hearths and lockdown hunger. The unemployment rate, over 46 per cent in Bihar, has worsened due to lockdown migrants. And 52 per cent of the population of Bihar is below 35 years of age, which is a most restive segment and capable of swinging the popular pendulum. The turnout of the unemployed youth and their verbal outpouring are indicative of great simmering discontent and dissatisfaction.

There seems to be a certain disenchantment in a good segment, arising out of the long incumbency of 15 years and the opportunistic politics of holding on to the reins of power by Nitish Kumar. Fodder and other scams seem to have become things of the past. The magic of good governance is waning as the people want jobs and economic growth. Tejashwi has been described as callow, cribbed by a large family and too dominant a caste, constituting about 14.4 per cent of Bihar's population. The voters are reminded of the rampant extortions and jungle raj of Bihar, leading to the exodus of the industry. The counter claim is that his father Lalu Prasad gave voice to the people if not prosperity: "*Swar diya hai, swarg nahin*." Tejashwi, regardless of the baggage of being Lalu's son, who has been convicted for squandering public money and is in prison for it, is attracting large crowds of youths. His public speeches and interaction with the media are suggestive of a certain maturity, poise and balance. He has certainly dented the constituency of the youth, blurring the deeply divisive caste lines.

"*Sushasan babu*" Nitish Kumar, who has a formidable reputation for good governance, is terse. His political moves are unpredictable. He has been Chief Minister (CMs) for long but there have been leaders who served as CMs for four or more terms consecutively. Leaders like Jyoti Basu in West Bengal, Pawan Kumar Chamling in Sikkim, Gegong Apang in Arunachal, Lal Thanhawla in Mizoram and Manik Sarkar in Tripura ruled continuously for 20 years or more. Naveen Patnaik, the current CM of Odisha, has been elected for the fifth consecutive term. Nitish sternly opposed the return of migrants to their homes in Bihar during the lockdown and was unable to manage the handling of the floods efficiently. This has certainly affected his popularity.

Elections are the biggest festival of democracy. It is enthusing that even a pandemic cannot dampen the spirit of our people, the home of many ancient republics, as evident from the election rallies in Bihar. Promises are made to win elections. The vow of peace and prosperity is the very cornerstone of a democracy. It's not that all election promises are empty boasts. In a democracy, the mandate of the people has to be renewed periodically. So political parties in power endeavour their best to fulfil the promises made to the people in the interest of their credibility and hold over power. Studies show that a substantial percentage of promises are redeemed in stable democracies. In Bihar, the voters face a challenge of choice. One thing is certain, the promise of job creation has enthused the youth across the caste divide. It is for voters to make intelligent choices and elect a charismatic and incorruptible leader to govern them. After all, the old adage — we choose the people we deserve — is not without basis.

(The writer is former Additional Secretary Lok Sabha and an author)

THE REVOCATION OF ARTICLE 370 IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR WAS DONE CONSTITUTIONALLY AND IT WILL NOT BE RESTORED.

—UNION MINISTER  
RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



UNLESS YOU ARE SUGGESTING THE SUPREME COURT TAKES DICTATION FROM YOU, PLEASE DON'T PRESUME TO KNOW WHAT JUDGES WILL DECIDE.

—NATIONAL CONFERENCE VICE-PRESIDENT  
OMAR ABDULLAH

# Stop the flip-flop

The policy drift on gas pricing must stop. The November 2014 norms provide a robust system of gas pricing which balances the interests of both the producers and consumers



UTTAM GUPTA

The Narendra Modi Government is keen to promote the use of gas and support it by increasing domestic production. But it wants to keep the gas price low so that it is affordable to key sectors, such as fertilisers and power producers, and is in sync with the macro objectives of keeping subsidy payments and fiscal deficit under check. This overarching objective is glossed over when it comes to pricing, even as the Centre is obsessed with giving a higher price to exploration and production (E&P) companies. Under the November 2014 guidelines for pricing of domestic gas, it did make an attempt to strike a balance between the interests of producers and consumers. Since March 2016 however, it has drifted to a point whereby the very soul of the extant formula is being undermined by fixing a floor price. This should be avoided.

However, the two major domestic producers of gas, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL), who together account for about 90 per cent of the total production in the country, have raised a hue and cry over the recent reduction in price of the fuel from \$2.39 per million British thermal units (mmbtu) during April 1-September 30 to \$1.79 per mmbtu from October 1. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP&NG) has promised a change in the methodology of pricing and set up a committee to examine various options. The relook is unjustified. The pricing of a crucial input such as natural gas has to strike a judicious balance between the overarching need to encourage consumption of this environment-friendly fuel (in sync with the Government's aim to increase its share in the energy mix from the current level of about six per cent to 15 per cent by 2030) on the one hand and give necessary incentive to companies, who undertake investment in exploration and production in order to reduce dependence on import (currently about 50 per cent), on the other.

In particular, the price has to be affordable for major consumers such as the fertiliser and power manufacturers, which together account for nearly three-fourths of the total gas consumption. A vast majority of the consumers of fertilisers being poor farmers, the Government controls their price at a low level, unrelated to the cost of production, and reimburses the difference between the two as subsidy to the manufacturers. In power, too, the situation is similar, especially when it comes to fixing tariff on supplies to farmers and households. In this backdrop, a higher gas price will lead to higher subsidy payments; hence it is not desirable.

Prior to November 1, 2014, domestic gas was priced under an Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM). There was a multitude of prices depending upon the source of supply, namely from fields given to the ONGC and OIL on a "nomination" basis; blocks given to private operators or their joint ventures (JVs) with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) like ONGC/OIL and those awarded under the NELP (New Exploration Licencing Policy). The price varied from about \$2 per mmbtu for supplies from ONGC/OIL to a high of over \$7 per mmbtu applicable on supplies from private operators/JVs.

The allocation was done by a Gas Linkage Committee (GLC) headed by Secretary, MOP&NG, which decided which sector/industry would get how much and even within each industry, which company would get how much and from which field. The guiding principle was to allocate most of the low-priced gas from ONGC/OIL to fertiliser and power

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT OUR POLICYMAKERS DON'T CARE ABOUT PROTECTING THE INTEREST OF CONSUMERS. THEY ASSUME THAT USERS WILL PAY ANY PRICE THAT SUITS THE PRODUCERS. DON'T THEY REALISE THAT INCREASED PAYMENTS BY FERTILISER AND POWER MANUFACTURERS ON ACCOUNT OF HIGHER GAS PRICE WILL HAVE TO BE REIMBURSED AS ADDITIONAL SUBSIDY AND LEAD TO A HIGHER FISCAL DEFICIT?



manufacturers — in line with the priorities laid down by the Government based on the recommendations of committees from time to time.

This GLC also had the responsibility of allocating imported LNG (liquefied natural gas). LNG is imported mostly by PSUs such as Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and so on, who are also responsible for its handling, re-gasification/processing and transportation to consumption points. The APM regime suffered from several flaws, the most striking being controls on every aspect in the supply chain, multiplicity of prices and exercise of discretion by bureaucrats. As for basic objectives, it was neither helping consumers nor producers.

Though a price of \$2 per mmbtu on supplies from the ONGC/OIL was intended to help fertilisers and power producers, the requirement of these sectors being far more than what these PSUs could supply, the balance had to be met from LNG at a much higher price. This also led to an anomaly whereby some manufacturers would get away with a major share of their requirement (or even all it) from ONGC/OIL at a low price even as others had to contend with high-priced LNG. The Government then decided to introduce a uniform pricing structure and in November 2014, it fixed the price of almost all domestic gas (except for supplies from pre-NELP fields where the production-sharing contract with the operator did not provide for approval of price by the Government) based on a weighted average of gas prices at four international locations — Henry Hub (US), NBP (National Balancing Point) (UK), AGR (Alberta Gas Reference) (Canada) and Russian price for a full year, three months prior to the date from which the price takes effect.

This formula-based approach provided a "certain" and "stable" policy environment under which firms can take decisions based on their assessment of the expected movement in gas price at these trading hubs. It provides a level-playing field to all firms. It maintains a "neutral" stance between producers and consumers i.e. when, the price increases, the former gain whereas, under a decreasing price scenario, the latter benefit. As per the above guidelines, the price was \$5.61 per mmbtu from November 1, 2014; \$5.18 per mmbtu from April 1, 2015; \$4.24 per mmbtu from October 1, 2015; \$3.39 per mmbtu from April 1, 2016. During these periods, the producers were happy. Thereafter, even as the price declined further (from October 1, 2016, it was \$2.78 per mmbtu and from April 1, 2017: \$2.75 per mmbtu) they started mounting pressure on the Government to ensure that it does not go below a certain threshold. The latter refused to bow down, rightly so. But yielding to pressure in other ways, in March 2016, under a special package for supplies from deep/ultra-deep, high-pressure/high-temperature fields, it allowed a "premium" price linked to the prices of alternate fuels, including fuel oil, naphtha and imported LNG. In July 2017, it allowed Market-Based Price (MBP) on supplies from fields given under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP). The MBP was also made applicable to unconventional fuels viz. shale gas, coal bed methane (CBM) from fields under NELP.

With these new introductions/packages, the Government has given a slipshod treatment to uniform pricing. With a multitude of prices back on the table, bureaucrats will rule the roost. They have the power to decide which pricing class a particular field has to be placed in or approve "how much of shale gas or CBM is coming from a field under NELP" as that quantity is eligible for higher price. Now

producers want even the base price of domestic gas to be altered to protect them from the downside. Reportedly, an option is to have a floor price to be determined on the basis of the Japan-Korea Marker (JKM), a benchmark index used to determine LNG tariff in North Asia with a discount. With JKM prices hovering over \$5 per mmbtu, even with \$1 mmbtu discount, the floor price will be close to \$4 mmbtu.

It would appear that our policy-makers don't care about protecting the interest of consumers. They assume that users will pay any price that suits the producers. Don't they realise that increased payments by fertiliser and power manufacturers on account of higher gas price will have to be reimbursed as additional subsidy and lead to a higher fiscal deficit?

This policy drift must stop. The November 2014 norms provide a robust system of gas pricing which balances the interests of both the producers and consumers. It also adequately takes care of so-called difficult fields like KG-DWN-98/3 operated by Reliance Industries Limited, which entail higher investment when compared to shallow or on-shore fields. The former yield output, which is "many times more", resulting in corresponding higher revenue generation even with the same (albeit uniform) price. At the committed production rate of 80 million standard cubic meter per day even at \$4.2 per mmbtu, RIL would have recovered its entire investment of \$5.6 billion in KG-DWN-98/3 in 15 months.

There is not only a strong case for keeping the November 2014 guidelines intact but also rolling back subsequent pricing decisions. While the latter may not be possible, the least the Government can do is not tinker with the extant guidelines.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

## SAARC must watch divisive neo-imperialism

Unless trade ties between India and Pakistan are normalised, South Asian economic cooperation will not succeed



EDUARDO FALEIRO

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was created in 1985 to promote economic development and social progress in South Asia. At present, it has eight member countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

India was the Chair of the SAARC Summit in 2007 and this was arguably the most productive session that the group ever witnessed. The launching of negotiations to bring services into the South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA), the unilateral granting of zero duty access by India to SAARC Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the formal induction of Afghanistan into

SAARC as the eighth member, the setting up of the South Asian University, the establishment of the SAARC Food Bank and the SAARC Development Fund, the signing of the Convention on Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters were some of the significant steps for regional integration taken at the Delhi Summit. The momentum generated was carried forward by the SAARC summit held in Colombo in 2008.

The economic and social welfare of a country is greatly advanced if it interacts as part of a regional bloc rather than individually. The emergence of a number of regional blocs in Asia, Africa and the US is evidence of this reality. An integrated regional economy accelerates the fiscal growth of member countries through the advantages of geographical proximity and economies of scale. Furthermore, member countries enjoy better leverage in dealing with the global systems of finance, investment and trade. A regional bloc also provides a stabilising cushion from the destabilising fluctuations in the global economy. Regional cooperation is pivotal for prosperity in South Asia.

Economic synergy often leads to

solution of disputes, including political differences. However, intra-regional trade among SAARC countries is at present less than five per cent, while it is 62 per cent in the European Union, 55 per cent in the North American Free Trade Area and 35 per cent in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. SAFTA is the first step towards a more intense synergy, which should ultimately lead to a South Asian Union and a single currency.

Though the Governments of the SAARC nations have made efforts since independence to improve the condition of their people, these attempts are often thwarted by multifarious religious, ethnic and linguistic problems. Discontentment and frustration among the masses, faced with such tribulations, embolden subversive forces both within and outside to exploit national inadequacies.

The solution to our common predicament requires peace and an atmosphere of dialogue and cooperation rather than of conflict and confrontation. Peace is essential for national as well as regional prosperity. For centuries the European continent was the stage of power rivalries and war. Now

Europe appears to be a rather peaceful continent. The very first step towards peace was found in the doctrine of "defence and detente." While defence is an element indispensable in uncertain circumstances, detente stands for dialogue, arms control, the exchange of views at all levels and alternative thinking. Detente influences the understanding of a situation and broadens the scope of ideas on how to deal with a tense situation that causes war and affects the image of a country abroad. Europe has now progressed beyond "defence and detente" and has entered the path of effective regional integration. Experience has shown that bilateral agreements between countries of South Asia are mutually beneficial. The Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement became operational in 2000 and produced good results within a short period of time. The Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty, too, is a good example of bilateral cooperation between two countries. India has now bilateral agreements with Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

There are problems sometimes and stumbling blocks on the way to economic cooperation but they can and

should be removed in the larger interests of all the countries involved. Unless trade ties between India and Pakistan are normalised, South Asian economic cooperation will not succeed. The normalisation of economic relations between the two countries is indeed crucial for the success of SAARC. The Governments of India, Pakistan and other countries of SAARC ought to join hands across national borders and religious differences, agree on zero tolerance towards every form of extremism and terrorism and redress the grievances of the disaffected and marginalised. They must beware the machinations of neo-imperialism and its strategy to divide and rule.

Governments apart, civil society, intelligentsia, the business community and the non-governmental organisations must all emphatically promote awareness about the need and advantage of regional cooperation. There ought to be a much greater interaction between civil society and the political class across the different countries of South Asia. Regrettably, such an interaction is minimal. South Asia continues to have the highest number of people in the world living below the

poverty line, outstripping sub-Saharan Africa in this regard. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) points out that among the 154 countries for which data are available, 28 did not attain any of the three objectives which the international community gathered at the World Education Forum had agreed should be achieved by all nations by 2015. The three goals are: universal primary education, free schooling of acceptable quality and the removal of gender disparities in education. All the countries of South Asia with the exception of Sri Lanka are among these 28 countries.

Regrettably, the subcontinent invests more in armaments than in social infrastructure. India and Pakistan spend more than three times as much on weaponry as they do on education or health. There ought to be a drastic reduction in the defence expenditure of both countries so that our scarce resources are utilised towards the welfare of our people rather than on the purchase of military hardware from abroad.

(The writer is a former Union Minister)



FOREIGN EYE

### FREE THE WORLD OF WEAPONS

Though the responsibility of maintaining global peace falls on the UN, the problems we are facing are matters of concern to everyone. Not only the state, but all non-state actors, including civil societies, persons with international stature and scholars, should put in efforts and show their solidarity to make the world free of weapons. This will be in favour of all in general and the developing countries and their peoples in particular.

(The Kathmandu Post editorial)

US PRESIDENTIAL POLL

# 59 mn postal ballots could delay results

**New York:** More than 58.7 million Americans have voted in the 2020 presidential election so far, surpassing all early ballots cast in the 2016 polls, but an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots has given rise to the possibility that the result could be delayed as counting of votes may stretch beyond November 3, according to a media report.

The report in the CNN said that according to a survey of election officials in all 50 states and Washington DC conducted by the US-based network, Edison Research and Catalist, more than 58.7 million Americans have voted so far in the election, with still 9 days left for November 3.

The report said in 2016, around 58.3 million pre-election ballots were cast, including ballots in the three vote-by-mail states that year. That early vote accounted for about 42 per cent of all ballots cast in the 2016 presidential election.

"Pre-election voting for the

November election has surpassed all 2016 early ballots cast with 9 days left until Election Day," the report said.

"Pre-Election Day voting is skyrocketing nationwide amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and states are reporting record-breaking turnout as voters are energised to vote by mail or early in person before November," it said.

Another CNN report, however, noted that despite the unprecedented mail-in voting, there is a possibility that full results of who between President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden will win the Presidential election may not be known on election night.

"Election night can be synonymous with unpredictability - just look at 2016 - but this year might be even murkier than usual. The pandemic has changed the way millions of Americans vote for president," the report said.

While voters have already

cast an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots, in many locations, including potential battleground states, the mail-in ballots will not be counted until after the election, "potentially leading to long delays in the news media's ability to call the election on election night," it said.

CNN cited media experts to say that the counting could go longer than election night and "could last until the next morning or until the next afternoon or even later.

It said that 54 per cent of those 58.7 million votes already cast this cycle comes from 16 most competitively ranked states, which will play a crucial role in determining who wins the presidency this year.

Among those states, Minnesota has currently seen the largest percentage increase in early voting turnout compared to last cycle, according to Catalist data from both years in 14 key states. **PTI**

# Trump intensifies fracking assault on Biden in Pennsylvania

AP ■ HARRISBURG (US)

In a late gambit to win the battleground state of Pennsylvania, President Donald Trump and his GOP allies have intensified attacks on Joe Biden over fracking, hoping to drive a wedge between the former vice president and the white, working-class voters tied to the state's booming natural gas industry.

That assault is playing out in a barrage of TV ads and conservative and right-wing websites, and is repeated at every Trump rally in the state.

It relies on a series of confusing statements from the former vice president — including remarks on the oil industry from last week's debate — to claim he intends to "ban" or end national gas extraction, although that is not the Democrat's official position.

Trump's fracking play comes as polls show the president is struggling to overtake Biden in Pennsylvania and in need of a boost from the rural and exurban white voters who helped him to a narrow victory in Pennsylvania in 2016.

It also shoots to snap the tightrope that Biden is walking between the Democratic Party's left wing, which is hostile to fossil fuels, and its bedrock blue-collar union base that is building an expanding network of gas pipelines, power plants and processing facilities in Pennsylvania.

Biden's climate change plan aims to reach net-zero greenhouse gases emissions by 2050, and does not involve banning fracking, the process formally named hydraulic fracturing that along with horizontal drilling made the United States an oil and gas superpower over the past decade.

He argues that net-zero threshold can be achieved by helping eliminate emissions from natural gas infrastructure, while redirecting federal subsidies for oil and gas to cleaner energies.

"I do rule out banning fracking because ... We need other industries to transition to get to ultimately a complete zero-emissions," Biden said in Thursday night's debate.

# Supporters chant 'Super Trump' at election rally

**Washington:** President Donald Trump's supporters have started calling him "Super Trump" as he has fully recovered from the coronavirus and started addressing multiple election rallies a day.

At an election rally in the battleground state of New Hampshire, which was attended by thousands of people, Trump said that he felt like Superman upon being given an antibody treatment when he had COVID-19.

"I took something called Regeneron. Then following morning I felt so good. I felt like Superman. I wanted to get back (to work). I did not want to cancel anything," Trump told his cheering supporters in the Londonderry city of New Hampshire.

Soon, his supporters started chanting "Super Trump, Super Trump," to which the president acknowledged with a smile and said "Thank You".

Trump, 74, after resuming his normal life and hectic election campaigning following his recovery from coronavirus, appears to be more energetic.

Most of his speeches are

more than an hour long and some have lasted for over 100 minutes. On Saturday, he addressed as many as four election rallies, from morning to late night and on Sunday, he addressed two including the one in New Hampshire.

On Monday, Trump is scheduled to address election rallies in the key battleground state of Pennsylvania. In all these rallies, Trump makes it a point to tell his supporters that he got infected with the COVID-19 virus because he decided to work and not to hide in a basement or lock himself in a White House bedroom.

At the same time, he alleges that his Democratic challenger Joe Biden preferred to spend most of his time in a basement hiding from coronavirus.

Trump jokes that Biden's election meetings are attracting a few people and describes the former vice president as a "low energy" individual or "Sleepy Joe".

"I don't know what's wrong with him (Biden). He never goes anywhere..." Trump said, referring to the drive-way rally of the Democratic presidential candidate in Delaware. **PTI**

# Foreign students show less zeal for US since Trump took over

**Chicago:** On a recruiting trip to India's tech hub of Bangalore, Alan Cramb, the president of a reputable Chicago university, answered questions not just about dorms or tuition but also American work visas.

The session with parents fell in the chaotic first months of Donald Trump's presidency. After an inaugural address proclaiming "America first," two travel bans, a suspended refugee program and hints at restricting skilled worker visas widely used by Indians, parents doubted their children's futures in the U.S.

"Nothing is happening here that isn't being watched or interpreted around the world," said Cramb, who leads the Illinois Institute of Technology, where international scholars have been half the student body.

America was considered the premier destination for international students, with the promise of top-notch universities and unrivaled job opportunities. **AP**

# Spokesman: China to sanction US arms suppliers to Taiwan

AP ■ BEIJING

China will impose sanctions on US companies including Boeing and Lockheed Martin for supplying weapons to rival Taiwan, a foreign ministry spokesman said on Monday.

Raytheon also will be affected, said the spokesman, Zhao Lijian. He gave no details of what penalties might be imposed or when.

China and Taiwan split during a civil war in 1949 and have no diplomatic relations. Beijing claims the democratically led island as part of the communist mainland's territory and has threatened to invade.

## China and Taiwan split during a civil war in 1949 and have no diplomatic relations. Beijing claims the democratically led island as part of the communist mainland's territory and has threatened to invade

"In order to safeguard national interests, China decided to impose sanctions on the American companies that were involved in arms sales to Taiwan," Zhao said at a regular news briefing.

# Sharif attacks Pak Army ISI chief as Opposition says 'sun about to set' on Imran Govt

**Karachi:** Pakistan's deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has blamed Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed for the current political situation in the country, as the Opposition parties held their third massive joint rally against Prime Minister Imran Khan-led government.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), a coalition of 11 Opposition parties, was formed to oust Khan from power on September 20. The alliance held two massive back-to-back gatherings in Gujranwala and Karachi this month. The third rally was held in Quetta, capital of the restive Baluchistan province, on Sunday.

Addressing the gathering via video link from London, the three-time prime minister and chief of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) again blamed Army chief Bajwa and ISI Director General Hameed for Pakistan's current situation.

"Gen Bajwa, you will have to answer for record rigging in the 2018 elections, for horse-trading in Parliament, for making Imran Niazi prime

minister against people's wishes and [by] tearing apart the Constitution and laws, for pushing people towards poverty and hunger," 70-year-old Sharif said.

Sharif, who is entangled in a number of corruption cases, has been in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treating the heart disease and an immune system disorder.

He also accused the ISI chief of "interfering in politics for several years with impunity" in violation of his oath. Sharif said that he names individuals "because I don't want my Army to be defamed".

Pakistan's powerful Army has denied meddling in politics. Prime Minister Khan also denies that the Army helped him win the election in 2018.

"Looking at this enthusiasm, I am sure that no one will be able to violate the voters' mandate now. I saw this enthusiasm in Gujranwala and Karachi, and now I'm seeing it in Quetta," Sharif said, addressing the huge crowd at the stadium. **PTI**

# France reacts to boycott calls; Erdogan ups Macron insults

**Paris:** French authorities denounced Turkish "propaganda" against France that they said was aimed at fanning hate at home and abroad, and asked on Sunday for calls to boycott French products cease immediately, saying such attacks were the work of a "radical minority".

Meanwhile, the president of Turkey took a second insulting swipe at French President Emmanuel Macron in a growing, potentially high-risk dispute.

A day after saying that Macron needed his head examined for condoning caricatures of the prophet of Islam, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that the French leader has "lost his way." In an unusual move, France announced on Saturday it was recalling its ambassador for consultations.

The French Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday evening that its diplomats were mobilising to ask countries where boycotts were being organised or hate calls issued not to back them, and to provide assurances that French citizens would be safe.

"In numerous countries of the Middle East, calls to boy-

cott French products...and more generally, calls to demonstrate against France, in some times hateful terms, have been relayed on social media," the French Foreign Ministry said. It added that such calls "denature" France's positions on freedom of expression and conscience.

Meanwhile, Pakistan and a bloc of Muslim nations condemned, without using insults, remarks by Macron last week in which he refused to condemn the publication or showing of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

France considers religious satire to be among the kinds of speech that fall under the freedom of expression, while many Muslims consider any perceived attack on their prophet as a grave offence.

An 18-year-old man of Chechen origin behaved near Paris on October 16 a teacher who had shown caricatures of Muhammad in class. While eulogising the teacher, Macron said last week that France will not renounce its freedoms.

The Turkish leader criticized his French counterpart during a party congress on Saturday, questioning the state of Macron's mental health. **AP**

# Greece, Turkey wrangle over military games in eastern Mediterranean Sea

**Athens:** Greece said on Monday that Turkey plans to carry out a maritime military exercise on October 28, a Greek national holiday, just hours after NATO's secretary general said both Greece and Turkey had called off wargames on each other's national holidays.

Government spokesman Stelios Petsas said Ankara's move showed it was an "unreliable" partner when it comes to negotiations. Over the last few days, Turkey has been making a persistent effort to prove that not only is it a troublemaker in our wider region, but it is also a completely unreliable interlocutor," Petsas said.

Neighbours and NATO allies Greece and Turkey have had often frosty relations through the years. Most recently they have been locked in a bitter dispute in over maritime boundaries and energy exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Turkey has sent a seismic research vessel, the Oruc Reis, to prospect for energy reserves on the seabed in an area Greece that claims is on its own continental shelf and where it has exclusive economic rights. **PTI**

# Thai Parliament meets to debate political protest tensions

AP ■ BANGKOK

Thailand's Parliament began a special session on Monday that was called to address tensions as pro-democracy protests draw students and other demonstrators into the streets almost daily demanding the prime minister's resignation.

As Speaker of the House Chuan Leekpai began the session, only 450 of the total of 731 members of both houses had signed in for the meeting.

The demonstrations by student-led groups in the Bangkok and other cities have three main demands: that Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha step down, the constitution be amended to make it more democratic and reforms be made to the monarchy to make it more accountable.

Public criticism of the monarchy is unprecedented in a country where the royal institution has been considered sacrosanct, and royalists have denounced the protesters for raising the issue.

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**E-Procurement Tender Notice**

Delhi Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA) is inviting tenders through E-Procurement to supply the animal Feed and Fodder items from contractor/ suppliers for the year 2020-21. Only those bidders can apply who have valid registration with the application service provider of **NIC Delhi State Centre. Tender Enquiry No. 2020\_DSPCA\_195820-1.**

Last date/time for downloading of tender through e-procurement solution.	17.11.2020 up to 3.00 p.m.
Last date/time for submission/receipt of tender through e-procurement solution.	17.11.2020 up to 3.00 p.m.
Last date/time for submission tender and Original EMD in physical form in the office of Secretary, Delhi S.P.C.A. Boulevard Road (Tis Hazari) Delhi-110054.	17.11.2020 up to 3.00 p.m.
Last date/time for submission of samples of Feed and Fodder to the Supdt., Delhi S.P.C.A. Boulevard Road (Tis Hazari) Delhi-110054.	17.11.2020 up to 3.00 p.m.
Date and time of opening of Technical bids (online) by the technical committee in the office of Secretary, S.P.C.A. Boulevard Road (Tis Hazari) Delhi-110054.	17.11.2020 up to 4.00 p.m.
Date and time of opening of Financial bid (online) in the office of Secretary, S.P.C.A. Boulevard Road (Tis Hazari) Delhi-110054.	Will be informed later

The details are available on the home page of <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>

Sd/-  
 (Dr. Rakesh Singh)  
 Secretary, DSPCA

DIP/Shabdarth/0385/20-21

# Australia protests Qatar examinations of women passengers

**Canberra:** Australia on Monday condemned Qatar authorities' treatment of women passengers on a flight to Sydney who were subjected to internal examinations after a newborn baby was found abandoned at a Doha airport.

The women, including 13 Australians, were examined at Hamad International Airport on October 2 after Qatar Airways Flight QR908 to Sydney was delayed.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade described the treatment of the women as offensive, grossly inappropriate and beyond circumstances in which they could give free and informed consent.

"The Australian government

is deeply concerned at the unacceptable treatment of some female passengers," a department statement said.

"The government has formally registered our serious concerns about this incident with Qatari authorities. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is engaged on this matter through diplomatic channels," the statement added.

Hamad International Airport management said the baby was safe and being cared for by medical and social workers. Medical professionals were concerned for the mother's health after the infant was found and had requested she be located, the airport said in a statement. **AP**

# Typhoon displaces thousands, floods villages in Philippines

**Manila:** A fast-moving typhoon forced thousands of villagers to flee to safety in provinces south of the Philippine capital on Monday, flooding rural villages and ripping off roofs, officials said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from Typhoon Molave, but authorities reported at least one person was missing and seven others were rescued after their yacht sank off Batangas province south of Manila. The typhoon has sustained winds of 125 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 180 kph per hour and was blowing westward at 25 kph.

Molave is expected to start blowing out of the country into the South China Sea on Monday, government forecasters said.

At least 25,000 villagers were displaced with about 20,000 taking shelter in schools and government buildings which were turned into evacuation centers, according to the Office of Civil Defense.

"Villagers are now asking to be rescued because of the sudden wind which blew away roofs," Humerlito Dolor, governor of Oriental Mindoro province, told DZMM radio.

Dolor said pounding rains overnight swamped farming villages in his province then fierce winds toppled trees and power posts early on Monday, knocking off power.

Authorities were clearing roads of fallen trees and debris in some towns after the typhoon passed, he said. **AP**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Anjali Kumari, D/o: Jitender Kumar, R/o: H.No. B-8, Street No. 8, Shalimar Village, North West, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped since 20.10.2020 at 6:00 am.** from the area of P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 626/2020 U/s 363 IPC dated 20.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. The description of the missing /kidnapped girl is as under: **Age:** 17 years 7 months, **Height:** 4' 6", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Red colour T-shirt and white colour legging. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

**Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>**  
**E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641** **SHO**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639** **P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi**  
**DP/465/NW/2020** **Ph.: 011- 27495198, 8750870226**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON**

General public is here by informed that one person **Name: Imtiyaz, S/o: Late Sh. Inamul Haque, R/o: L-134, Laxman Puri, Nabi Karim, New Delhi, Age: 50 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: White Colour Shirt and Black Colour Pant** has been missing/kidnapped his house since 13.10.2020 at 08:00am from the area of P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi. In this regard a FIR No. 305/20, U/s 365 IPC, dated 21.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

**E-Mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)** **SHO**  
**Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>** **P.S. Nabi Karim, New Delhi**  
**Fax: 011-24368639** **Ph. 011-23521081, 8750870428**  
**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641** **DP/431/CD/2020**

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: approx. 65-70 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: Linedar white colour shirt and linedar black colour pant, who was found at Labour Chowk in front of Govt. Toilet, Town Hall, Chandni Chowk, Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No. 19A Dated 22.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.****

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

**Sd/- SHO**  
**P.S. Kotwali, Delhi**  
**Tel.: 011-2395 3442**

**DP/673/N/2020(UIDB)**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON**

General public is here by informed that one person **Name: Imtiyaz, S/o: Late Sh. Inamul Haque, R/o: L-134, Laxman Puri, Nabi Karim, New Delhi, Age: 50 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: White Colour Shirt and Black Colour Pant** has been missing/kidnapped his house since 13.10.2020 at 08:00am from the area of P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi. In this regard a FIR No. 305/20, U/s 365 IPC, dated 21.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

**E-Mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)** **SHO**  
**Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>** **P.S. Nabi Karim, New Delhi**  
**Fax: 011-24368639** **Ph. 011-23521081, 8750870428**  
**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641** **DP/431/CD/2020**

# INDIA TO DRIVE GLOBAL ENERGY DEMAND, SAYS PM

## Calls for responsible pricing

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

With the pandemic pummeling global demand, India will drive the energy consumption in the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he pitched for global oil and gas suppliers to adopt responsible pricing and move towards transparent and flexible markets.

Speaking at the 4th India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK, he showcased his government's reforms in oil and gas exploration licensing policy and natural gas marketing as well as unveiled an ambitious plan to almost double refining capacity.

This while sticking to India's commitment to reduce carbon

project that there will be a contraction in global energy demand over the next few years also. But, these agencies project India to emerge as a leading energy consumer. India is set to nearly double its energy consumption over the long term," he said.

India consumes 5 million barrels of oil equivalent per day currently. The Prime Minister, however, added that energy suppliers should adopt responsible pricing.

"For too long, the world has seen crude prices on a roller-coaster. We need to move towards responsible pricing. We have to work towards transparent and flexible markets for both oil and gas," he said.

Stating that there were many areas of vibrancy, Modi said India is the third-largest and the fastest-growing aviation market and domestic carriers



are projected to double their fleet size to 1,200 by 2024.

"India believes that access to energy must be affordable and reliable," he said.

Even during the pandem-

footprint, he emphasised.

"Our energy sector will be growth-centric, industry-friendly, and environment conscious. That is why, India is among the most active nations in furthering renewable sources of energy," he said. "India is the most attractive emerging market for clean energy investment."

India, he said, was well on track to meet its commitment on carbon emissions.

"We had aimed to increase the renewable energy installed capacity by 175 GW by 2022. We have further extended this goal to 450 GW by 2030. India has one of the lowest carbon emissions than the rest of the industrialised world. Yet, we will continue to make efforts to fight climate change," he said.

Highlighting recent efforts of his government, Modi said India has achieved 100 per cent electrification and LPG cover-

age has increased. Distribution of over 36 crore energy-efficient LED bulbs and installation of 1.1 crore smart LED street-lights have saved 60 billion units of energy annually, reduced green-house gas emission by over 4.5 crore tonnes and saved ₹24,000 crore in the energy bill.

On reforms in the energy sector, he said in February 2019 changes were made in oil and gas exploration and licensing policy to shift focus from revenue maximisation to raising production.

Also, increasing gas production to help achieve the goal of a gas-based economy was a priority, he said, adding greater marketing freedom was granted earlier this month.

"We plan to grow our refining capacities from about 250 to 400 million tonnes per annum by 2025" to sync fuel

production with rising demand, he said.

The 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' or self-reliant India campaign will be a force multiplier for the global economy, the Prime Minister said.

India's energy map will have seven key drivers — accelerating efforts to move towards a gas-based economy, cleaner use of fossil fuels particularly petroleum and coal, greater reliance on domestic sources to drive bio-fuels, achieving the renewables target of 450 GW by 2030, increasing the contribution of electricity to de-carbonise mobility, moving into emerging fuels including hydrogen and digital innovation across all the energy systems, he said.

"There will be continuity of these robust energy policies that have been in place over the last six years," Modi added.

## Modi brainstorms with global CEOs on energy paradigm

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday brainstormed with global energy sector leaders on the post-pandemic world order and discussed strategies for accelerating investments in the oil and gas value chain.

The fourth annual meeting deliberated on demand scenario as well as ways to revive investment, particularly in oil and gas exploration and production, official sources said.

The meeting stretched beyond the allotted two hours as Modi engaged with the industry leaders to discuss reforms and future blueprint.

The meeting, held over a virtual platform, was attended by nearly two dozen top CEOs, including UK's BP Plc head Bernard Looney, French energy giant Total's Chairman Patrick Pouyannet and Russian oil major Rosneft CEO Igor Seginov.

Abu Dhabi National Oil Co CEO Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber and Qatar Petroleum President Saad Sherida al-

## SC dismisses plea of Vijay Mallya's UBHL against HC order to wind up firm

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea filed by United Breweries Holdings Limited (UBHL) of liquor baron Vijay Mallya against an order of the Karnataka High Court upholding the winding up of the firm for recovery of dues payable by Kingfisher Airlines Ltd.

A bench comprising justices UU Lalit, Vinet Saran and S Ravindra Bhat refused to entertain the plea of the UBHL against the March 6 order of the high court.

The division bench of the high court had upheld the winding up order passed by a single judge on February 7, 2017.

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the consortium of banks led by the SBI, submitted that so far around ₹3,600 crore have been recovered but ₹11,000 crore was still to be recovered from Mallya and the UBHL. **PTI**

## Sensex sinks 540 pts as Amazon-RIL clash spooks investors

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Equity indices spiralled lower on Monday following heavy losses in Reliance Industries after Amazon won an interim arbitration award against its partner Future Group for selling its retail business to Reliance Industries for ₹24,713 crore.

(RIL), Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, SBI, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.

Index heavyweight RIL accounted for most of the losses, sinking 3.97 per cent, after Amazon.com Inc won an interim arbitration award against its partner Future Group for selling its retail business to Reliance Industries for ₹24,713 crore.

## Gold falls ₹59; silver tumbles ₹753

**New Delhi:** Gold prices fell ₹59 to ₹51,034 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had in the previous session closed at ₹51,093 per 10 gram.

Silver also tanked ₹753 to ₹62,008 per kilogram from ₹62,761 per kilogram in the previous trade.

In the international market, both gold and silver were fell marginally from their previous close to quote at USD 1,901.30 per ounce and USD 24.26 per ounce, respectively. **PTI**

## 'Digitisation utmost requirement for Indian logistics sector'

**New Delhi:** As the Indian logistics sector returns to normal operations after being severely impacted by the pandemic and the lockdowns, sector players feel that digitisation is the need of the hour for the segment.

They are of the view that the National Logistics Policy which is currently under works would digitally integrate all stakeholders and the processes involved in the operations. "The foremost expectation from the National Logistics Policy is a digital integration of the highly fragmented players and processes of the logistics sector in India. The non-availability of such single window platforms makes the logistics sector too complicated," said Ambrish Kumar, Founder of Zipaworld and Group CEO, AAA 2 Innovate Private Ltd.

Noting that digitisation is the need of the hour, Kumar said that government should promote and encourage the tech players to come forward to assist in a swift turnaround of the orthodox working model of the logistics sector. **IANS**

## Future Retail hints at challenging arbitration award against its deal with Reliance

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Kishore Biyani-led Future Retail on Monday hinted at challenging an arbitration order that put a temporary hold on its ₹24,713 crore deal to sell assets to Reliance Industries.

Future Retail said it wasn't party to the agreement under which Amazon.com Inc had invoked arbitration proceedings.

Amazon, which acquired an indirect minority stake in the retail and fashion conglomerate last year, alleged that Future's sale of its retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing businesses to Reliance breached its pre-existing contract, which included a right of the first offer and a non-compete clause.

On Sunday, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre restrained Future Retail and its founders from going ahead with the sale until a final decision is given.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is notice for the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of "RASHTRAVADI VIKAS PARTY." The office of the party is located at -- "Rashtravadi Vikas Party" 217, 2nd Floor, Devaki Tower, Chandra Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201011. The party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

Party Office Bearers:-

- 1. President-** A.C. Bhatnagar, C-186 A, Hari Nagar Clock Tower, N. Delhi 110064
- 2. General Secretary-** Brigadier Anil Kumar Srivastava, A-801, Sujjan Vihar, Sector-43, Gurgaon, Haryana, Pin-122003
- 3. Treasurer -** Smt. Kiran Srivastava, A-802, Sujjan Vihar, Sector-43, Gurgaon, Haryana, Pin-122003

If any one has any objection to the registration of **Rashtravadi Vikas Party** they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned for an on behalf of the Shivaji Co-operative Housing Group Society, Plot no 4/1, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi for the Proposal of the Clearance of two members for allotment of flat in the above mentioned society namely.

1. Roshan Lal S/o Mamam Chand Jain	Mem No. 67
2. Purshotam S/o Jagdish singh	Mem No. 14

The Objection if any, for the above Proposal may kindly be sent to the Society at the address given above within fifteen days of the publication of this public notice.

**ADMINISTRATOR, SHIVAJI CGHS**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Shila Devi is the owner of Plot of Land Area Measuring 200 Sq. Yds. Part of Mustail No. 270, Killa No. 12/3 (3-11), 19 (8-0), 12/1 (3-2), Situated at Palwal Distt. Faridabad, Haryana inherited vide Will dated 04.07.2011 executed by her husband Mr. Mangal Singh about to sell the same to Mukesh Kumar

All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said Property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

**Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)**  
Shop No. 5 & 6, CSC, Pkt-E, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-110091  
Office: 011-43052822  
Mobile: 9717419444  
Email: kkgmyurivihar@gmail.com

## General Manager N Railway holds performance review meet

**New Delhi:** Rajiv Chaudhry, General Manager, Northern & North Central held a review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway & North Central through video conferencing. Deliberations were held on keeping focus on safety on tracks, Freight loading and transparency in working of Railways.

Rajiv Chaudhry, informed that Northern Railways freight loading has increased from 23 million tonne to 33.40 million tonne (1 April- 15th October, 2020). The total food-grain loading are 18.74 million tonne during this period. He informed that Northern Railway also operated a total no. of 435 Annapuran 5000 tonnes Long Haul Foodgrain Trains to contribute towards food security of India. An earning of ₹3.46 Crore received through movement of e-commerce consignments.

The Northern Railway maintained a good track record by achieving 96% punctuality of trains.

He further emphasized that the railway working should be transparent. He stressed upon maximum use of technology so that human intervention can be minimized and transparency in all sphere of railway working may be established. He told the efforts should be enhance to

## C'garh Chief Minister chairs Cabinet Meeting



**New Delhi:**

Following decisions were taken in the meeting:-

Proposal for amendment in Industrial Policy 2019-24 has been approved. Under this amendment, Special Investment Incentive Package (Forest Region Industrial Package) has been approved to encourage manufacturing, processing and value addition of forest produce, herbal and forest based products, as well as food processing, manufacturing and value addition related works in the state.

Under these amendments approved by the Cabinet, in addition to the provision of permanent capital investment grant, industries after they start production will be provided subsidy on permanent capital investment as follows- in 'C' category development blocks, 40 per cent of the total investment in 5 years (maximum 40 lakh per year) will be provided, and in 'D' category development blocks, 50% of the total investment in five years (maximum 50 lakh per year) will be provided as per the eligibility. For availing the special package, industries would have to invest minimum 50 lakh and maximum 5 crore on Plant and Machinery.

Amendment in Chhattisgarh Industrial Land and Management Rule-2015 has been approved, under which minimum land required for establishing power substations in industrial areas operated by Industry Department will be allotted on token money of ₹1, without any lease rent, security deposit.

The clause of post-allotment regulation and management of the industrial land, building, shade, division and the land allotted from land bank, under Chhattisgarh Industrial Land and Management Rule-2015, has been amended.

Making amendments in the rules for industries that have been allotted land under Chhattisgarh Industrial Land and Management Rule-2015, Cabinet has decided to provide additional time period of one year for the proposed industries that could not be established due to COVID-19 crisis and recession.

Draft of Chhattisgarh Agriculture Produce Market (Amendment) Bill -2020 was approved by the cabinet.

Cabinet approved the reformation proposal of Chhattisgarh State Rural and Other Backward Areas Development Authority, which was constituted in 2012 by the State Government for accelerated and all-inclusive development of rural areas in the state.

Regarding implementation of Chhattisgarh Excise Policy in year 2013-14, Cabinet has decided to hand over Bharat Mata Vahini Yojana to the Social Welfare Department for conducting De-addiction Drive in Chhattisgarh.

Regarding the implementation of the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' by the Government of India, Ministry of Water Power, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Cabinet has decided to cancel the entire Tender Life Mission (EOI) and take action as directed by the Government of India.

**ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL**  
PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCE ADVISING  
Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
[Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas,  
The Authorized officer of the **ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED**, 1st Floor, Vijaya Building, N-17, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 dated 16.08.2019 Calling upon the Borrowers/co-Borrowers of M/s Dangus RM India Company through its Proprietors/Mortgagors Mr. Sanjay Singh, Mrs. Archana Singh to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1,41,01,652.72 (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakhs One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two Rupees and Seventy Two Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rule on this 24th Day of October of the year Two Thousand and Twenty.

The borrower/ Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Finance Limited, 1st Floor, Vijaya Building, N-17, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 for an amount Rs. 1,41,01,652.72 (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakhs One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two Rupees and Seventy Two Paise Only) and interest thereon.

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

Description of the Immovable Property	
Immovable Property	Equitable Mortgage of property jointly owned by Mr. Sanjay Singh and Mrs. Archana Singh located at House bearing No.H-16 on 2nd Floor, Admesingh area. 1720 sq.ft. (with terrace rights), Sector-57, The Whitehouse, Mayfield Gardens, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.
East-Open, West-Plot No-H-15, North-Other Plot No-H-01, South-12mt. wide Road	
PLACE : Gurugram, Haryana	Authorised Officer
DATE : 24.10.2020	(Aditya Birla Finance Limited)

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely: Tamanna, W/O: Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: 55 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Normal, Wearing: White Colour Kurta with Black strips, Pink Payjama** and She is Mentally weak has been found on 14.10.2020 at Karol Bagh Metro Station, Delhi and admitted in IBHAS. In this regard **DD No. 84A, Dated 15.10.2020**, has been lodged at **P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi.**

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

**Phone: 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229 & 23015218 ext. 210**  
**Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in**  
**E-Mail ID: cbc@cbi.gov.in**  
**Fax: 011-23011334**  
**DP/436/CD/2020**

**SHO P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-25726870, 28721152**

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Shakir S/o Roshan Lal R/o E-311-312, DDA Flat, New Seemapuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 341/20 u/s 392/397/34/120B IPC, P.S. Seemapuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Shakir cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Shakir has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shakir of FIR No. 341/20 u/s 392/397/34 IPC, P.S. Seemapuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **10.12.2020.**

By Order,  
**Sh. Prayank Nayak**  
Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No.38  
Karkardooma Court, Delhi

**DP/213/SHD/2020**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a girl **Namely Vishaka, D/o Raj Kumar, R/O B-417, Anna Nagar, ITO Delhi, Age: 14 years, Height: 5'3", Built : Medium, Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Blue colour jeans, black colour Kurta and black colour chappal in her feet** has been missing/kidnapped since **20.10.2020** from the area of **P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi.** In this regard a case **FIR No. 217/2020, u/s 363 IPC** dated **20.10.2020** has been registered at **P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi.**

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

**E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in**  
**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax : 011-24368639**  
**DP/441/CD/2020**

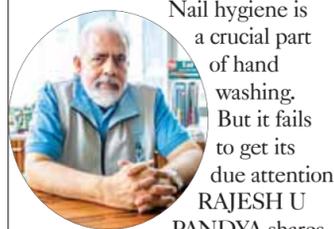
**SHO PS I.P. Estate, Delhi**  
**Ph. : 011-23370928**  
**23378387, 8750870426**

AI Say

A new artificial-intelligence-based tool can help clinicians predict which hospitalised patients face a high risk of developing acute kidney injury (AKI), say researchers, including one of Indian-origin. AKI is common among hospitalised patients and has a significant impact on morbidity and mortality



WHAT'S IN YOUR NAILS?



Nail hygiene is a crucial part of hand washing. But it fails to get its due attention. RAJESH U PANDYA shares tips that can help you keep nails clean and healthy

We are diligently washing our hands with soap and water every now and then and using hand sanitisers after touching any alien objects. But, are we maintaining the nail hygiene? We have been always taught to take care of our nails and keep them clean, but we are forgetting these habits. In India, all the things including eating, washing clothes, utensils and even mopping the floor are done with bare hands, so it is important to keep our hands and nails clean. Nail hygiene is crucial as without which hand hygiene is incomplete. It's an integral part of our overall health. However, it is also one of the most neglected aspects. While the need for washing hands and maintaining appropriate hand hygiene is adequately underscored but nail hygiene often fails to get the attention it deserves.

Practicing good nail hygiene involves following a systematic process to ensure longevity of your nail health structure. It includes ensuring that food particles are not sticking to your nail for a long duration and there is no build up of bacteria. It is important therefore to maintain healthy manicure practices. That means washing your nails, thoroughly, sanitising under and around them, and keeping them away from your mouth (i.e. no nail biting). Having a hygienic and personal nail clipper is another critical component of nail hygiene. Most people have no qualms about sharing nail clippers with others. This is however an extremely unhygienic practice. Nails harbor abundant germs, bacteria and viruses and sharing nail clippers is tantamount to exchanging those microorganisms.

Thankfully, maintaining good nail hygiene is not a difficult task. A little diligence, awareness and attention is sufficient to keep your nail healthy:

**Keep fingernails dry and clean,** this prevents bacteria and fungal infections from growing under your fingernails. It has been seen that prolonged contact with water can lead to split fingernails. It's always advisable to wear cotton-lined rubber gloves when washing dishes, cleaning or using harsh chemicals.

**When you use hand lotion,** rub the lotion into your fingernails and cuticles, too. Our fingernails are made up of laminated layers of a protein called keratin and they grow from the area at the base of the nail under your cuticle. Healthy fingernails are smooth, without pits or grooves. They're uniform in colour and consistency and free from spots.

Here are a few ways through which one can prevent damage of nails:

**Stop biting your fingernails:** It damages the nail bed. A minor cut alongside your fingernail can allow bacteria or fungi to enter and cause an infection. Plus, biting nails ill transmit all the dirt and germs to your mouth.

**Never pull off hangnails:** Instead, carefully clip off hangnails. Refrain from using harsh nail care products.

**Don't have your cuticles removed** — they act to seal the skin to the nail plate, so removal can lead to nail infection.

The writer is MD, Kai India

Don't let stroke strike you

According to the World Stroke Organisation, one in every four person suffers a stroke attack in their lifetime. DR VIPUL GUPTA tells you how by making simple changes in the daily routine, one can eliminate the risk

Since the COVID pandemic has shaken the world, the number of daily cases reported is on the rise. Along with this the addiction to screen has picked up pace giving rise to a new pandemic — a pandemic of addiction to screen.

According to the World Stroke Organisation (WSO), one in four person will suffer from a stroke attack in their lifetime. But a pertinent question that has transposed the notion of stroke risk is that instead of the geriatric population being highly vulnerable, the younger population is now equally seen susceptible to a stroke attack.

Earlier, stroke was considered to be a disease of the elderly (people in the age bracket of 60 years and above) but in recent years more stroke attacks are seen in the younger population. A current study elaborated that even though the overall incidence of stroke saw a downward trend in the recent years, there was a striking rise in the incidence of stroke among the younger aged 25 to 45 years. In comparison to the US, and other developed countries, India has a much higher prevalence of stroke cases among the younger group, which are almost double.

Stroke has been considered to be one of the most common and leading causes of morbidity and disability. It is estimated that, in every 40 seconds someone suffers from stroke and a person dies of stroke in every four minutes globally. While increased screen time is known to result in adverse health outcomes, stroke is one such complication that has recently been linked to it.

**More screen time — higher the stroke risk**

According to a recent US based study, the digital screen time has been found to be inversely proportional with the life expectancy. As per the study, for every hour of digital screen time, the life expectancy reduces by upto 22 minutes. The amount of screen time also had adverse outcomes including heart attacks, stroke, and cancer.

A large scale study from the United Kingdom with over 40,000 participants concluded that the stroke risk was significantly higher when screen time was more than two hours a day. Higher physical activity (1 hour walk a day for seven days a week) offered some protection against the adverse effects of prolonged screen time. In fact the cancer risk also increased with an increase in screen time.

One develops an addiction to the screen over a period of time and can be looked upon similar to addiction to recreational substances. There is a constant balance in the brain between the center for rationalisation (decision making) and the centers for motivation and rewards. Over time, the center for motivation and reward has an



upper hand over the center for rationalisation at which point addiction behavior develops.

A certain chemical substance called dopamine increases in the brain when an activity results in a pleasurable experience. With time a person addicted to screen would no longer perceive his/her favorite food, family and vacation time as a pleasurable experience anymore. This is because the threshold for dopamine levels that results in a rewarding experience increases.

Beyond two hours, every hour spent in front of the digital screen raises the risk of stroke by 20 per cent, a major contributing factor for stroke risk among the younger population.

Researchers have found that if one resorts to two to five minutes of physical activity for every 20 minutes spent on the screen, it significantly reduces the chance of developing diabetes and obesity.

Avoid blue light emitting devices when you go to bed. This reduces the amount of melatonin, a chemical substance that switched your brain from the wake to the sleep state. Using a device at night will prevent you from sleeping and in turn predispose you to a higher risk of stroke.

With recommendations and conclusions from the study explained that toddlers within two years of age should strictly refrain from digital screens, and an adult aged 16+ should maximum expose only two hours a day to cut down on the long-term risk of stroke.

**Risk of stroke in younger population**

Apart from other major factors contributing for stroke, regular physical inactivity also accounts for the onset of stroke at an early age.

“AVOID BLUE LIGHT EMITTING DEVICES WHEN YOU GO TO BED. USING A DEVICE AT NIGHT WILL PREVENT YOU FROM SLEEPING AND IN TURN PREDISPOSE YOU TO A HIGHER RISK OF STROKE”

Regular exercise not only helps in maintaining the overall health but also keeps at bay a list full of diseases. Other ailments that are related to raising the risk of stroke include hypertension, Diabetes and high cholesterol levels.

Hypertension is one of the biggest risk factors for stroke, attributing to over 50 per cent of ischemic strokes (due to blockage) and increasing the chances of hemorrhagic stroke (bleeding in the brain). Thus regular exercise helps in maintaining the blood pressure levels, thereby reducing the risk for brain stroke by upto 80 per cent.

As it is a well known fact that Diabetics have a twice likely chance to suffer from stroke, as the increased blood sugar levels damages all the major blood vessels providing a gateway for onset of ischemic stroke. Regular exercising not only helps in controlling the blood glucose levels but also curbs down the chances of developing a stroke attack in diabetics.

A high cholesterol level in the body is another attributing factor for stroke. With increased levels of LDL (bad cholesterol) the risk for plaque build up also increases causing atherosclerosis. This makes them prone to losing the integrity of their lining leading to formation of clots, which in turn can prevent blood flow and lead to a stroke. Lack of physical exercise leads to major complications and can have devastating effects on the vascular system of the brain as well.

Stroke is a reversible disease provided one comes to the hospital on time and the appropriate treatment is provided. In almost 70 per cent of the cases, all the symptoms can be reduced/ reversed.

Delay of every minute in seeking the right treatment leads to loss of about 20 lakh brain cells and hence it becomes a time dependent therapy. The golden window period to arrive at a stroke unit should be within six hours of stroke attack, delaying which would lead to irreversible damage causing permanent disability in around 80 per cent of the cases. Now with recent advances, and imaging techniques, first 24 hours of stroke are very important for reversal of the condition.

The writer is Director, Neurointervention, Agrim institute of neuroscience, Artemis Hospital Gurgaon

DOCYARD

DR JAGDISH CHINNAPPA

Consultant paediatrician with interest in Pulmonology and ENT

MANIPAL HOSPITAL, BANGALORE



Let your child breathe easy



Allergy occurs when a person's immune system reacts to the exposure of any substances in the environment that are harmless to most people. These substances are known as allergens and are found in dust mites, pets, pollen, insects, ticks, moulds, foods and some medications.

According to American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology, people who have a genetic tendency to develop allergic reactions time and again suffer from disease called Atopy. Common symptoms are allergic rhinitis, asthma and atopic dermatitis (eczema). When atopic people are exposed to allergens, they can develop an immune reaction that leads to allergic inflammation. It results in the release of metabolites which can have an adverse effect on the eyes, nose, throat, lungs, skin, and the gut. The risk factors due to which a child can develop allergies are the genetic history, exposure to allergens and the duration, amount, and frequency of exposure.

**Respiratory allergies and children**

According to WHO's report *Air pollution and child health: prescribing clean air*, every day around a staggering 93 per cent of the world's children below 15 breathe air that is so polluted it puts their health and development at serious risk.

**One of the most common allergies impacting children is allergic rhinitis. Symptoms include a runny and itchy nose, sneezing, postnasal drip, nasal congestion and blockage. Children with allergies also exhibit itchy, watery, red eyes and chronic ear problems**

The immune system of children is in the developmental stage, lungs are still developing, and their bodies are less able to metabolise and detoxify toxicants present in air pollution. Children inhale more air per unit of body weight than adults, hence the exposure to allergens is more in proportion to adults. This results in impacting them severely as they are highly susceptible to various kinds of allergy.

One of the most common allergies impacting children is allergic rhinitis. Symptoms include a runny and itchy nose, sneezing, postnasal drip and nasal congestion and blockage. Children with allergies also exhibit itchy, watery, red eyes

and chronic ear problems.

**Identifying and managing allergies**

Identifying allergies at an early stage is very crucial and important. It is recommended to respond to the symptoms quickly to help improve child's quality of life and their day to day productivity. Visit and consult an allergist immediately when your kid showcases such symptoms persistently. Antihistamines nose sprays, decongestants and over the counter medication is prescribed on a case to case basis to avoid further aggravation of symptoms.

Few precautions that need to be taken are to ensure keeping indoors clean and dust free, identify causes of allergy, especially during seasonal changes, use clean cooking sources with exhaust systems and ensure children wear masks while outdoors. Continuous use of air conditioners also increases exposure hence limit use and keep windows open for cross ventilation and circulation.

In these unprecedented times, medicines and lifestyle management is a must to treat allergies and keep them at bay. Take your child to the doctor when the first symptoms appear so one can control and manage them appropriately. The right approach with lifestyle modifications and treatment is the key to manage your allergies especially during the pandemic.

WARMFOODS

**ASHWAGANDHA:** It is an ancient medicinal herb with multiple health benefits. It is used to tone, support, and revitalise body functions. It has been revered over time for its dual capacity to energise and calm at the same time.

Stress can cause fatigue, often manifesting as hyper signs like agitation and difficulty sleeping. By providing a nourishing, yet energising effect, *ashwagandha* can support a healthy nervous system.

With the use of *ashwagandha*, stress doesn't impact the nervous system with such intensity, and the signs of stress and agitation

will naturally resolve over time. Due to its heating effect, a small quantity of it can also help to cure cough and cold, which is undoubtedly the best property during the current time.

It also supports a healthy immune system and fosters healthy sleep patterns. It promotes thyroid health and proper functioning of the adrenals.



DadiKaKehna

*Canker sores are common, especially if one suffers from poor digestion and a weak immune system.*

ROSHANI DEVI shares easy home remedies that can help ease the pain and discomfort



We all might have had that steaming red ulcer in our mouth at least once in life. While one of the most common reason is poor digestion, certain medication can also result in canker sores.

However, it is advisable to consult a doctor if the ulcer is large in size and lasts longer than two weeks, but in mild cases home remedies work just as fine.

Take ice cubes and allow them to melt on the ulcer. This will help reduce the redness and pain.

Rinse your mouth with salt water twice a day. This will help in reducing

extreme pain. Coconut oil can work wonders. Take a spoon of coconut oil and rinse your mouth with it to get relief.

Honey is known for its antibacterial and anti-inflammatory abilities. Apply honey on the sore thrice a day.

Canker sores can also be a result of a weak immune system. Zinc is a mineral that boosts your immunity. Taking zinc lozenges regularly may help your immune system fight off bacteria that cause these sores.

And last but not the least, don't forget to eat yogurt daily.



Secrets to beautiful skin

Beautician SHAHNAZ HUSAIN offers tips to get you a skin glow this winter

Do you want to add glow to your skin this festive season? Here is one important secret. Looking after the skin according to its type and needs is the essence of a glowing skin. With the festive season just starting, everyone would like to look good, especially after a hard year owing to the COVID pandemic. I would suggest everyone should adhere to a simple DIY regimen, from Head to Toe to feel and look good.

**SKINCARE MADE EASY**

For glowing skin on the body, tie a mix of powdered milk, ground almonds, rice powder and rose petals in a clean cloth, wet it and rub gently on your face. The ingredients work on your skin, gently cleansing it and leaving it soft, smooth and vibrant. It also leave the body naturally perfumed and refreshed, feeling as smooth as silk.

Night time cleansing is more important, in order to remove pollutants and make up before bedtime. So, cleanse



the skin daily at night and rinse well with plenty of plain water. For normal to dry skin, use a cleansing cream or gel. For oily and combination skin, use face wash or cleansing lotion.

Tone the skin daily with chilled rose water, using cotton wool pads. Wipe and stroke the skin with them. Then, pat briskly with the rosewater-soaked cotton wool pads.

skin, *mix multani mitti* with rose water into a paste and apply on the face, avoiding the lips and area around eyes. Wash it off when it is dry. For combination skin, apply the mask on oily areas of the skin.

**HAIR CARE AND STYLE**

For dull hair, have a quick conditioning treatment before your shampoo. Mix one teaspoon each of Vinegar with one egg or a little almond oil. Massage into the hair. Then do the hot towel wrap. Wash hair after half an hour. It will look smooth, thick and shiny.

To soften rough frizzy hair, mix some water with creamy hair conditioner and put it in a spray bottle. Spray the mixture on the hair. Then comb the hair, so that it spreads through the hair.

INBRIEF

A robust immune system ensures a strong inner resilience to fight all perils, and rightly so. In line with the thought that tough times call for tougher mindsets and stronger immunity, Vahdam Teas, the award-winning Indian Tea and Superfoods brand, has launched a range of Turmeric Superfoods Lattes & Teas fearlessly boosting immunity amidst stressful schedules.

The Ministry of AYUSH highly recommends Turmeric, aka the Golden Son of Ayurveda, for boosting immunity. Curated with special attention to ongoing global predicament, Vahdam Teas, offers an exclusive range of certified Organic and Vegan Turmeric Teas and Latte Mixes.

The key active ingredient of turmeric, 'Curcumin' is responsible for Turmeric's multiple life-enhancing properties. The Turmeric range is also blended with black pepper which is scientifically proven to increase curcumin's bio-absorption significantly, thereby dramatically increasing the benefit of turmeric to one's overall health. Balancing premium & world's best quality Indian Turmeric, with other time-honored healthy ingredients such as ginger, ashwagandha, moringa, amongst an array of other spices which are 100% natural, pure and caffeine free, this turmeric range is sure to be an inevitable element of fitness in no time.

**Trend  
Blazer**

**A film is beyond just actors: Jim**

Actor **JIM SARBH** says not much credit is given to all the pieces that go into making a film.

"Everyone likes to think that actors are the greatest things on earth, but no. It's all (about) good film, good direction and things puts together, the way it is edited," he said.

"I think we give credit to all the pieces that go into a film. So, as long as you can stop thinking about yourself as the main and start thinking about more in terms of telling great stories I think things are fine," he added.

Jim will soon be seen in Bejoy Nambiar's revenge dram *Taish*, which also features Pulkit Samrat, Kriti Kharbanda, Harshvardhan Rane and Sanjeeda Sheikh.



**'I was probably the first one to start serious fiction on the net. Maaya and Twisted are in their fourth**

**season now and that makes me really happy. However, in these years the OTT game has changed, and both content and competition are much more fierce. You need to get out there and play a scintillating knock every once in a while.'**

**—Vikram Bhatt**

Actor **MANDIRA BEDI** and her husband, filmmaker **Raj Kaushal**, have adopted a four-year-old girl named Tara. Mandira has revealed on Instagram that Tara became a part of the family on July 28 this year.



"She has come to us like a blessing from above... Our little girl, Tara. Four years and a bit. With eyes that sparkle like stars. Sister to her Vir. Welcoming her home with open arms and pure love. Grateful, thankful. Blessed. Tara Bedi Kaushal became a part of our family on July 28, 2020," she wrote.

**Swift's Folklore million-selling album**

Singer **TAYLOR SWIFT** has a reason to celebrate this year as her album, *Folklore*, has become the first million-selling album of 2020 in the US.

The album, which had released on July 24, returned to top spot on the Billboard 200 chart for an eighth non-consecutive week (on the chart dated October 31). It has also become the first album to sell a million copies in the US in 2020, reports billboard.com.

With another 57,000 copies sold in the US in the tracking week ending October 22 (according to Nielsen Music/MRC Data), the total album sales of *Folklore* jumped past one million (to 1.038 million), making it the first album to sell a million copies in 2020.



**TIE IT LATER**

Out of 15 countries, wedding reception cancellations have been found to be the highest in India amid the COVID-19 scare

With 23 per cent of couples going ahead only with the wedding ceremonies amid COVID-19, marriage reception cancellations in India is higher compared to other countries, according to a survey of to-be-weds in 15 countries.

However, wedding ceremony cancellations in India will remain low with 76 per cent of couples going ahead with the chosen dates, revealed the report by wedding technology company, The Knot Worldwide.

Most couples will reduce the size of their guest lists (68 per cent) and hire fewer ven-

dors (60 per cent) to ensure that COVID-19 norms are followed.

Abiding by local rules and regulations, a vast majority of to-be-weds (80 per cent) will encourage social distancing — between people and tables, said the survey.

About 90 per cent of the couples in India will be inviting only immediate family and close friends. A quarter would want their guests to take a COVID-19 test ahead of the event as a precautionary measure, the results showed.

"We are glad to see that couples in India are staying pos-



itive and are keen to celebrate their special day, despite the pandemic, by making necessary arrangements and precautions," Ankur Sarawagi, India Country Head, said.

At the ceremony, 75 per cent of Indian couples will conduct temperature checks for attendees, said the survey. Guests will be provided with complete safety measures like

hand sanitisers, face masks, and members of the staff and vendors such as photographers and makeup artists will be required to wear masks or PPE kits.

The traditional concept of an Indian wedding, one that spans through days, has also changed with 27 per cent of the couples opting for several small events on one day with limited people rather than several large one-day events.

Only 40 per cent of couples in India anticipate that their budget will be 25 per cent or more lesser than what they had originally planned, according to the 'Global COVID-19 Weddings Report.'

The findings are based on data among 9,767 couples who originally had weddings planned between October 2020 and February 2021. The survey was fielded in September 2020 to its users.



**BAPU AS A MUSE**

**SUMATHI RAMASWAMY** traces the journey of the most analysed Indian of the 20th century through 131 paintings, sculptures, installations and multimedia works by various artists. **UMA NAIR** pans her latest book — *Gandhi in the Gallery: The Art of Disobedience*

Traversing an odyssey of the prophet of disobedience who came to be known as a Mahatma, author and indologist Sumathi Ramaswamy's book, *Gandhi in the Gallery: The Art of Disobedience*, published by Roli Books, is a well-researched magnum opus. Brilliant erudite and deeply driven by a rare quality of fine observation and critical prowess, Ramaswamy, a James B Duke distinguished professor of History at Duke University, has been scouring the nation, galleries, book periodicals and exhibitions to create this labour of love that looks at the Mahatma as a muse.

**LN TALLUR**

On the cover is LN Tallur's magnificent sculpture, *Eraser Pro* (2012, Nature Morte), which was unveiled at his historic show in New Jersey, *Interference Fringe*, which seemed more like a select retrospective of his series of definitive works. This sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi, which has been created as a dulcet fragmentation, incomplete in its insignia and dynamic in design, is a work that keeps one pondering. Tallur loves to keep his viewers guessing. He uses sculpture, wall pieces, interactive work and site-specific installations to expose the absurdities of everyday life and the anxieties that characterise contemporary society. His work incorporates handmade craftsmanship, found objects, organic and industrial material. They are symbolic of a developing India, at times, creating a correlation between its traditional and contemporary customs.

**NAWAL KISHORE**

Ramaswamy reveals the many ways in which Gandhi has served as a muse for painters, sculptors and multimedia artists over the decades. The second example in the book, which contains 131 paintings, sculptures, installations and multimedia works on Gandhi belongs to the exhibition, *Bapu@150 Years*, was exhibited at the Lalit Kala Akademi, last year. This acrylic on canvas by Nawal Kishore is a flashback to January 10, 1908, when Gandhi was arrested for the first time, as he refused to carry an obligatory ID card in South Africa. *Gandhi: An*



*Untold Story* retraces when he was arrested for the breach of the registration law and was later clapped into prison for the same. The following month he was released after an understanding was made with the government. A few days later, he was severely beaten up by a compatriot, who accused him of betraying the Indian cause. Kishore creates Mahatma with mask and wings. The mask was used as a metaphor for being silenced in the fight for recognition of exploitation and subjugation.

**GIGI SCARIA**

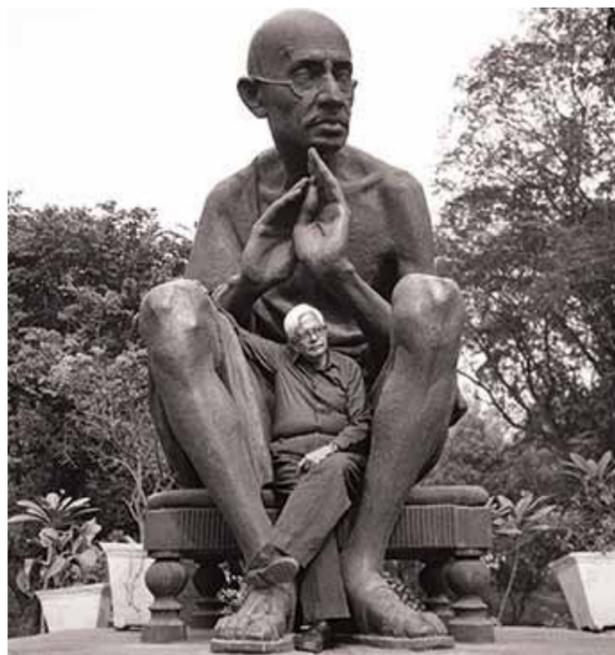
Yet another powerful image in the books is that of Gigi Scaria. It is a morphed photograph of Devi Prasad

2010 work (digital print on archival paper) is based on the iconic Gyarah Murti sculpture in Delhi by Devi Prasad Roy Chowdhury that depicts the Dandi March led by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930. I was part of a group of artists who retraced that route in 2010, to commemorate 80 years of the iconic march. Gandhi had conceived this as a non-violent protest against the colonial salt laws. In my photograph, I have the 10 leaders walking in the opposite direction, who ask the viewers — When did we decide to deviate from the path? Gandhi has been relevant in different times in history but in our quest to reach higher goals, we have forgotten his ideals. The route we take to attain and assert freedom also matters. But that freedom comes with responsibility, and we need to be answerable for our actions. It is not just about the people who lead. Today, our nation is taking over us. To be willing to kill someone with the rationale that you are protecting Mother India is entirely wrong. This tragic understanding of the nation will only kill freedom, it can't lead to it," he said.

**OTHER ARTISTS**

Ramaswamy creates some immeasurable and unending islands of thought and contemplation. From MF Hussain, Atul Dodiya, Upendra Maharathi to Ram Rahman's famous image of Bhupen Khakar, sitting in the lap of a Gandhi statue in Delhi, the book is a collectible, rather, a souvenir, that every book and history lover must invest in.

One of Ramaswamy's aims is to bring to light the labour of art that an artist puts in creating Mahatma. She wrote in her introduction, "Gandhi is arguably the most analysed Indian of the 20th century, and my fellow historians and other social scientists have produced an enormous body of important scholarship on the man and his movement from which I have benefited. But the deep suspicion of the image that is ingrained across the Social Sciences, and indeed, an unfounded conviction regarding its irrelevance, has meant that the labour of art in producing the phenomenon that we name the Mahatma has been largely ignored."



Chowdhury's perennial sculpture of the Dandi March in Delhi, which was conceptualised many years ago and executed by DG, NGMA, Adwaita Gadanayak.

Scaria turns around the figures that follow Gandhi with the question — "Who deviated first?" Scaria explained the analogy. "The

**Glorious drive**

Driving around Delhi in the mellow autumn sunshine is a pleasure



urers were unable to meet these stringent norms but Hyundai ensured the Venue did. The 'Sport' moniker on the Venue is not just a marketing term, the punchy engine powers the car

forward to highway cruising speeds rapidly, almost always has power on tap for overtaking and is a real delight to drive. Yet, with careful driving, the diesel engine can deliver incredible

real-world efficiency. We found over 17 kilometers per litre in efficiency. At a time when fuel costs are taking a big bite of your wallet, the Venue Sport offers a blend, which might seem contra-

dictory to some, frugal enjoyment!

On the beautiful greenery of the capital, the Venue Sport was a joy to drive. The combination of looks, power and fuel econo-

my make it a combination that will please every buyers' heart and make the competition wary. If you are looking for a compact hatchback that offers just about everything, don't look any further.

**TODAY**  
SUNRISE VS DELHI CAPITALS  
Live from 7:30pm  
STAR SPORTS 1



**KL Rahul** | 595 runs  
**Kagiso Rabada** | 23 wickets

When you have Anil Kumble as the coach, it's not surprising that we have two leg-spinners. Complete team effort, a lot of credit has to go to the coaches

It took so long to get one for the team. I would have preferred to get this form two or three games before when we weren't relying on other results to get us through to the qualifiers

Sometimes you have to give credit to the opposition, and I feel that they really batted well. Our bowlers had not much to do; it was their skills & execution, which worked for them

Jofra has been magnificent for us in every game and bowling beautifully, we just need a bit more consistency from other guys around, trying to help him out

## Final call for Orange Army

**PTI ■ DUBAI**  
Delhi Capitals would look to complete the unfinished business and seal their place in the playoffs when they take on Sunrisers Hyderabad in a crucial Indian Premier League match here on Tuesday.

Two back-to-back defeats against Kolkata Knight Riders and Kings XI Punjab must be hurting but DC need to shrug it off and add two points to take their tally to 16, which will elevate them to the top of the table.

On the other hand, Sunrisers' hopes to reach the playoffs are hanging by a thread. David Warner and his men occupy the penultimate spot with eight points from 11 outings.

To reach the qualifiers they must win their remaining three games and hope all other results go their way.

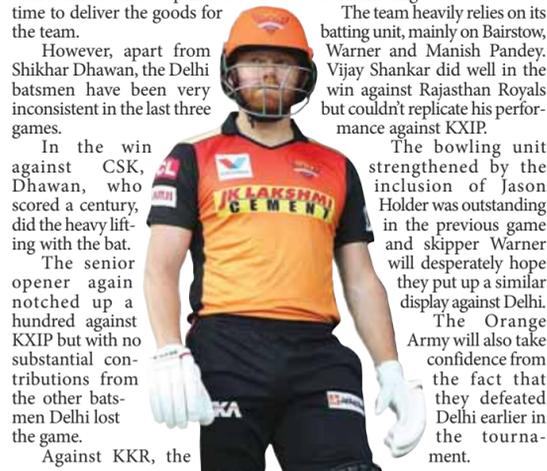
The Capitals possess an explosive batting department as well as a formidable bowling unit. They have not been dependent on any one person, as different players have raised their hands at different points of time to deliver the goods for the team.

However, apart from Shikhar Dhawan, the Delhi batsmen have been very inconsistent in the last three games.

In the win against CSK, Dhawan, who scored a century, did the heavy lifting with the bat.

The senior opener again notched up a hundred against KXIP but with no substantial contributions from the other batsmen Delhi lost the game.

Against KKR, the



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

India's limited-over vice-captain and senior opener Rohit Sharma was on Monday left out of all three squads for the tour of Australia due to a recurring hamstring injury which is set to oust him from the remainder of the IPL as well.

In Rohit's absence, the in-form KL Rahul will be Virat Kohli's deputy in the white ball teams and is also back in the Test squad after a considerable period of time. Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant failed to make the cut for the limited overs even though he retained his place in the Test squad.

"The BCCI Medical Team will continue to monitor the progress of Rohit Sharma and Ishant Sharma," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a press release announcing the squads.

The tour of Australia comprises three T20Is, as many ODIs



Olympique Lyonnais' forward Memphis Depay sends out warm message to Van Dijk after scoring against AS Monaco in Ligue 1



Mandeep Singh raises his bat after scoring fifty against KKR

**PTI ■ SHARJAH**

Chris Gayle channelised his inner anger while Mandeep Singh played through immense personal grief as they conjured to script another chapter in a beautiful comeback story for Kings XI Punjab which beat Kolkata Knight Riders by eight wickets in the IPL on Monday.

Chasing a target of 150, KXIP achieved the target in 18.5 overs losing only two wickets as they have now won their fifth successive match to keep play-off hopes

alive. Gayle, who was over-looked and was also ill during the first phase showed why he is the *Universe Boss* during his innings of 51 off 29 balls with five sixes. Mandeep, who is grieving the loss of his father, anchored the chase with an unbeaten 66 off 56 balls as the duo added 100 runs in 10.1 overs.

Such was the effect of Gayle-storm that it rubbed off on Mandeep (8x4, 2x6) who also completed a splendid sixth IPL half-century.

The duo added 100 runs from 61 balls to take them

# SINGH IS KING

## Mandeep-Gayle duo takes KXIP to top four with 8 wicket win

home with seven balls to spare. KXIP's dream run of five wins on the bounce not only took them to top-four but also opened up the table before the penultimate round. KKR slipped to fifth with 12 points from 12 matches as with a negative run rate of (-0.479) things have become more difficult to make the last-four.

Opting to field, Kings XI Punjab dished out a disciplined bowling show, especially at the back-end, to restrict Kolkata Knight Riders to a modest 149/9.

Mohammed Shami (3/35) was the pick of the Kings XI Punjab bowlers while leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (2/20) and Chris Jordan (2/25) claimed two wickets apiece to put brakes on KKR who were invited to bat first.

After a familiar jittery start, KKR got the momentum going with opener Shubman Gill (57 off 45 balls) and skipper Eoin Morgan (40) firing all cylinders inside the Powerplay.

But KXIP's last match hero Jordan pulled things back for his team by brilliantly mixing up his slow deliveries, while Bishnoi took the prized scalp of Morgan after KKR reached 54/3 inside the Powerplay.

Morgan holed out to Murugan Ashwin at deep square leg as Bishoi ended the

**This was very special. My father always used to tell me to remain not out in every game, definitely special. He always used to tell me, whether you score 100 or 200, you should be not out.**

**MANDEEP SINGH**  
AFTER HIS FIFTY AGAINST KKR

## THE SQUADS

**T20I squad:** Virat Kohli (C), Shikhar Dhawan, Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul (VC &wk), Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Sanju Samson (wk), R Jadeja, Y Sundar, Y Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd Shami, Navdeep Saini, Deepak Chahar, Varun Chakravathy

**ODI squad:** Virat Kohli (C), Shikhar Dhawan, Shubman Gill, KL Rahul (VC & wk), Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Mayank Agarwal, R Jadeja, Y Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd Shami, Navdeep Saini, Shardul Thakur

**Test squad:** Virat Kohli (C), Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, KL Rahul, Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (VC), Hanuma Vihari, Shubman Gill, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Bumrah, Shami, Umesh Yadav, Navdeep Saini, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin, Mohd Siraj.

# Rohit out of Oz tour with hamstringing injury

## Siraj in Test squad, Chakravathy in T20Is; Pant & Shaw only in Test team

and four Tests. It is set to get underway from November 27.

It is learnt that in case of Rohit, it might take a good six to eight weeks for complete recovery from the injury that he picked up during the IPL.

"It is unlikely that Rohit will take any further part in this year's Indian Premier League. He will have to go back to India and be at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) for the rehabilitation," a senior BCCI source told PTI.

The story of Monday's selection was undoubtedly Rahul, who is also now India's first-choice keeper in both T20Is and ODIs as selectors finally ran out of patience with Pant.

"Rahul is being looked as

India's first choice white-ball keeper till the 2021 World T20 and beyond. Also he has impressed everyone with his leadership skills and that's why this elevation as vice-captain," the source said.

Sanju Samson will be the second wicket-keeper in T20I squad which also features Kolkata Knight Riders' mystery spinner Varun Chakravathy.

Among other notable inclusions, pacer Mohammed Siraj has been rewarded with a Test call-up for his consistent red-ball per-



formance. The absence of the injured duo of Ishant Sharma and Bhuvneshwar Kumar also paved the way for his selection. "Siraj and (Navdeep) Saini were automatic choices in Test team once Bhuvi (thigh muscle) and Ishant (Left rib cage) were ruled out," the source said. It is understood that Pant's dodgy fitness and tendency

## Boxing Day Test to have fans

"I am very confident that we will get a crowd at the MCG for the Boxing Day Test. I don't know how big it will be but there will be a crowd, that's the advice that I have, that's what we're working towards." More than 80,000 people attended day one of last year's Boxing Day Test when New Zealand were playing.

Andrews' comments are also good news for tennis fans with the Australian Open due to be held in the city from January 18-31 and organisers desperate to welcome spectators.

**AFF**

## Kulusevski saves Juve day

**AFF ■ TURIN**

Dejan Kulusevski came off the bench to rescue a point as champions Juventus, playing without Cristiano Ronaldo, were held to a third Serie A stalemate at home against Hellas Verona on Sunday. Portuguese forward Ronaldo remains absent after testing positive for coronavirus with Juventus preparing for next week's Champions League tie against Barcelona in Turin.

"We had a too wait-and-see first half, we weren't very aggressive with the midfielders but we had the most dangerous opportunities," said Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo.

Substitute Andrea Favilli put Verona ahead after an hour in Turin but Swedish forward Kulusevski rescued Pirlo with 13 minutes to go.

"In the second half after the goal there was a good response, but we shouldn't need a slap in the face to wake us up.

## Zverev wins back-to-back Cologne titles

**AP ■ COLOGNE**

Alexander Zverev made it back-to-back ATP Tour titles when he beat Diego Schwartzman 6-2, 6-1 in the final of the Cologne Championship.

Zverev hit nine aces, saved the only break point he faced and converted five of his own to beat the French Open semi-finalist. The first set was over in 38 minutes, the second in just 33.

"It's getting better. I'll be back to my best form soon," Zverev said, referring to problems with his hip.

"I didn't know two days ago if I could finish the tournament. I'm happy I didn't give up."



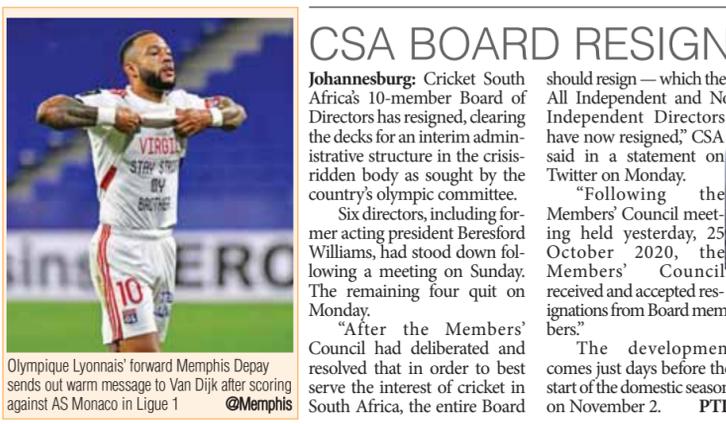
The German got the better of Felix Auger-Aliassime to win last week's Cologne Indoors final for his 12th title.

## CSA BOARD RESIGNS

**Johannesburg:** Cricket South Africa's 10-member Board of Directors has resigned, clearing the decks for an interim administrative structure in the crisis-ridden body as sought by the country's olympic committee.

Six directors, including former acting president Beresford Williams, had stood down following a meeting on Sunday. The remaining four quit on Monday.

"After the Members' Council had deliberated and resolved that in order to best serve the interest of cricket in South Africa, the entire Board



The development comes just days before the start of the domestic season on November 2.

## DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Mumbai Indians all-rounder Hardik Pandya takes a knee in support of Black Lives Matter movement after completing his fifty against Rajasthan Royals on Sunday



Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma bats during team's nets session in Abu Dhabi on Monday



Waleed Bukhatir and Abdul Rehman Bukhatir, Chairman Sharjah Cricket stadium during IPL match b/w KXIP and KKR

## SAINI DOUBTFUL STARTER AGAINST MI

RCB pacer Navdeep Saini is a doubtful starter for their next IPL match against Mumbai Indians after sustaining a split webbing in his right hand against CSK. It must be noted that Saini, who is set to be a part of India's touring team to Australia will also need the permission of BCCI's medical team, which is a keeping a tab on all the international players. In the 18th over, Saini was hit on the right thumb while fielding off his own bowling. He immediately left the field and got his webbing stitched up by a surgeon. "Saini has split his webbing in the last ball there," RCB team physio Evan Speechly told *ACB TV*. "He obviously got hit on the right thumb. Fortunately, we had a good hand surgeon, who stitched up nicely, put five stitches. "So we will monitor him overnight and check whether he can ready for next match. I cannot be sure when he's good to go but hoping he will play next match."

## SHASTRI, COACHING STAFF ARRIVE IN UAE

India head coach Ravi Shastri and his support staff have all arrived in Dubai and entered the bio-bubble as they get ready for the team's two-month tour of Australia next month. Shastri, batting coach Vikram Rathour, bowling coach Bharath Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar have all reached from their respective home cities on Sunday. "The head coach and his team arrived yesterday. They are now in isolation and getting their three mandatory RT-PCR tests done. There is a separate bio-bubble created for the support staff along with Cheteshwar Pujara and Hanuma Vihari," a senior BCCI source told PTI. It is expected that once Pujara and Vihari end their six-day isolation period, they will be training at the ICC Academy.

## POINTS TABLE

	P	W	L	NRR	PTS	
1	MI	11	7	4	+1.252	14
2	DC	11	7	4	+0.434	14
3	RCB	11	7	4	+0.092	14
4	KXIP	12	6	6	-0.049	12
5	KKR	12	6	6	-0.479	12
6	RR	12	5	7	-0.505	10
7	SRH	11	4	7	+0.029	8
8	CSK	12	4	8	-0.602	8



Jamie Vardy celebrates with Leicester players after scoring against Arsenal

## Vardy hurts Arsenal again

**AFF ■ LONDON**

Brendan Rodgers saluted bring Jamie Vardy into the game and he can stretch it," said Rodgers. "He makes the big contributions in the big games," he added after Leicester's first win at Arsenal since 1973. "That shows you the level he is at and he is a world-class player. I'm lucky to have him."

Leicester climbed to fourth after ending a run of two successive league defeats. While Arsenal are languishing in 10th after a second consecutive league loss following their 1-0 defeat at Manchester City last weekend.