

OPINION 6
RESCUE
PACKAGE

WORLD 8
TRUMP WILL ACCEPT POLL
RESULTS: WHITE HOUSE

SPORT 11
BAYERN MUNICH WIN
UEFA SUPER CUP

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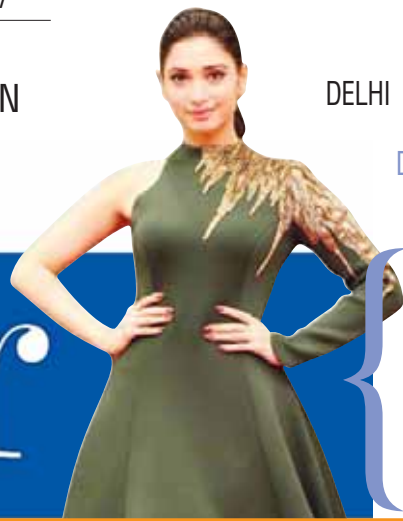
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ARDENT FAN OF
TABU'S WORK:
TAMANNAH
10 VIVACITY

Protest against farm laws rages on

Normal life affected in Punjab, Haryana, UP, Bengaluru, TN, Bihar, Karnataka, Telangana

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Thousands of protesting farmers spilled on the streets in several parts of the country hitting normal life and rail and road traffic in a big way as part of their "Bharat bandh" protest against the farm bills.

Massive protests were seen in parts of Punjab, Haryana, Bengaluru, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, etc.

After holding separate protests, farmers under the banners Bharti Kisan Union, Krantikari, Kirti Kisan Union, Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan), Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee and BKU (Lakhowal) with support of political parties, including the Congress, the RJD and the Trinamool Congress, as well as 10 central trade unions blocked highways, railway tracks, disrupted traffic and brought life to a standstill in several parts of the country.

According to reports, farmers blocked highways which include Chandigarh-Delhi, Amritsar Delhi, Delhi-Dehradun, Ayodhya Lucknow, B a g h p a t - B a d a y u n, Bommanahalli on Karnataka-Tamil Nadu highway. Meanwhile, farmers from Punjab have extended the rail roko agitation till September 29.

In Punjab, agitating farmers blocked roads, including highways. Road blockades caused hardships to commuters in both States and life to a standstill in Bathinda, Jalandhar, Patiala, Moga, Ferozepur, Fazilka, Barnala, Faridkot, Muktsar, Mansa, Bathinda and other districts of Malwa belt.

Farmers accompanied by their family members, including mothers, wives and daughters converged in large numbers at various places in Amritsar, Ferozepur, Barnala and staged sit-in and held demonstrations at all the entry points. Shops, commercial establishments and vegetable markets at many places remained shut. Shopkeepers have been appealed to keep their shops shut in support of farmers. Buses of the State-owned Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) remained off-road. The supply of essential commodities was hit badly across Punjab. The supply of milk was also partially affected in many areas.

In Muktsar, SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal led a tractor march from his Badal village residence. While he drove the tractor, wife and former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal sat beside him. Sukhbir led a tractor march from his residence in Badal village to Lambi. Prominent



Members of various farmers' organisations gather in protest at Shambu Punjab-Haryana border near Ambala on Friday

Punjabi singers, including Harbhajan Mann and Ranjit Bawa, took part in a farmers' protest in Nabha. Farmers at several places in the State started gathering on roads to stop the movement of traffic. Women protesters under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee took out a protest march in Amritsar.

A 33-second video shot on the Amritsar-Pathankot highway shows some protesters making way for an ambulance. A group of protesters, holding placards, clear up the road as the ambulance followed by a car move ahead. Some of the farmers are seen sitting on a tractor, while some trucks are blocking the road. In Barnala, a tractor was set on fire by pro-

testers against the farm Bills.

Punjab farmers blocked the Sangrur-Patiala, Chandigarh-Bathinda and Ambala-Rajpura-Ludhiana and Moga-Ferozepur roads. In Patiala, essential supplies, including milk and poultry supply, were hit as farmers held blockades on roads leading to the city. Hundreds of farmers held a protest and blocked the Sangrur-Patiala highway. In Moga, farmers blocked the rail and road traffic on the national highway at Dagru village on the border of Moga and Ferozepur districts.

Meanwhile, Haryana farmers blocked the Rohtak-Jhajjar road. Farmers held protests at several places, including Rewari and Yamunanagar.

Modi urges BJP cadre to create awareness on new laws for kisan, labourers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On day the farmers called for a Bharat bandh to protest the Modi Government's farm sector legislations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday exhorted the BJP workers to create awareness about the Government's enactments of the new laws and "authentic efforts" made by it for the betterment of the lives of farmers and labourers.

The Prime Minister said the BJP has fulfilled its "major promises" including that on Article 370 and construction of "Ram temple" at Ayodhya.

Addressing BJP workers and leaders through video conference on the day of the birth anniversary of the party ideologue Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, the Prime Minister listed progressive laws passed

by the Government to improve the lives of farmers, labourers and those in the footpath market "Rehri-patri wale". They have been aligned with the banking system, "receiving loan, salary or pension", he said.

He drew the attention of the BJP workers and leaders to the New Education Policy (NEP) which has been brought out after 30 years and asked them to organise meets of five to seven days to analyse NEP and the benefits which could be drawn from it with educated people.

Remembering Upadhyaya, Modi said post-Independence when the country was trying to adopt foreign model of development, the late leader stressed on the indigenous way of economic, social, and cultural development.

Antibodies that lead to passive Covid-19 vaccine identified

PTI ■ BERLIN

Scientists have identified highly effective antibodies against the novel coronavirus, which they say can lead to the development of a passive vaccination for Covid-19.

Unlike in active vaccination, passive vaccination involves the administration of ready-made antibodies, which are degraded after some time.

However, the effect of a passive vaccination is almost immediate, whereas with an active vaccination it has to build up first, the researchers said. The research, published in the journal Cell, also shows that some SARS-CoV-2 antibodies bind to tissue samples from various organs, which could potentially trigger undesired side effects.

The scientists at the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE) and Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin isolated almost 600 different antibodies from the blood of individuals who had overcome Covid-19, the disease triggered by SARS-CoV-2. By means of



laboratory tests, they were able to narrow this number down to a few antibodies that were particularly effective at binding to the virus.

The researchers then produced these antibodies artificially using cell cultures.

The so-called neutralising antibodies bind to the virus, as crystallographic analysis reveals, and thus prevent the pathogen from entering cells and reproducing, they said.

In addition, virus recognition by antibodies helps immune cells to eliminate the pathogen. Studies in hamsters — which, like humans, are susceptible to infection by SARS-CoV-2 — confirmed the high efficacy of the selected antibodies.

Celebrated playback singer Balasubramaniam passes away after fighting Covid

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

SP Balasubramaniam, a legendary playback singer, music director, actor, dubbing artist, and film producer, is no more. The 74-year-old maestro breathed his last at a corporate hospital in Chennai at 1.04 pm on Friday.

SPB, as he was known among friends and fans, was admitted to the city's MGM Hospital on August 5 when he was diagnosed with Covid-19. He was later put on ventilator and ECMO. After days, SPB's condition became stable and he

was looking forward to getting discharged from the hospital to watch the IPL matches.

But by Thursday evening his condition deteriorated and after a 12-hour fight with the pandemic, the singer, who rendered more than 40,000 songs in 16 languages, succumbed to the condition.

Balasubramaniam is survived by his wife, son, and daughter.

"Humility personified" that was how the film world and music lovers described SPB who was a recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards.



SP BALASUBRAHMANYAM

June 4, 1946 — September 25, 2020

PRATIBHASHALI VIDYARTHI PROTSAHAN YOJANA

Over 16K students get ₹25K each to buy laptops

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that students of the State should do everything possible to progress in life. The State Government stands with you at every step. ₹40.52 crore was transferred by single click to the accounts of 16,208 students in ratio of ₹25,000 per student for purchase of laptops under the Pratibhashali Vidyarthi Protsahan Yojana.

An amount of ₹101 crore is to be provided to 40,542 students under the scheme this year. Chief Minister Chouhan said that this scheme was discontinued. The scheme which encouraged students and creates competitive spirit is being re-launched today on the occa-



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan giving away citation and cheques to the meritorious students of higher secondary for purchase of laptops at a programme in Bhopal on Friday

sion of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's birthday. This incentive is being given to students through a virtual progra-

amme due to Covid-19. Otherwise, I would have been delighted on meeting my nephews and nieces in person.

Continued on Page 3

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 58,77,154

DEATHS: 92,883

RECOVERED: 48,12,155

ACTIVE: 9,71,286

COVID-19 IN MADHYA PRADESH

Dists	Total Cases	Fresh Cases
Bhopal	16187	277
Indore	21684	436
Gwalior	9970	152

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	12,82,963	34,345	9,73,214
Andhra Pradesh	6,61,458	5,606	5,88,169
Tamil Nadu	5,69,370	9,148	5,13,836
Karnataka	5,57,212	8,417	4,50,302
Uttar Pradesh	3,78,533	5,450	3,13,686
Delhi	2,64,450	5,147	2,28,436
West Bengal	2,41,059	4,665	2,11,020
Odisha	2,01,096	820	1,65,432
Telangana	1,81,627	1,080	1,50,160
Bihar	1,75,898	881	1,61,510
Assam	1,67,374	625	1,35,141
Kerala	1,60,935	636	1,11,327
Gujarat	1,30,391	3,394	1,10,590
Rajasthan	1,24,730	1,412	1,04,288
Haryana	1,20,578	1,273	1,01,273
Madhya Pradesh	1,17,588	2,152	93,238

ED attaches Rana Kapoor's ₹127-cr London house

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth ₹127 crore in the ₹3,700 crore Yes Bank fraud case.

The attached property is a residential flat of Rana Kapoor at Apartment 1, 77 South Audley Street, London, UK. The market value of the flat is 13.5 million pound (£127 crore). The property was purchased by Kapoor in 2017 for 9.9 million pound (£93 Crore) in the name of DOIT Creations Jersey Limited and Kapoor is its beneficial owner.

"Information from a reliable source revealed that Rana Kapoor is trying to alienate this property in London and that he has hired a reputed property consultant. Enquiries from open sources confirmed that this property has been listed for sale on several websites," the ED said in a statement.

The initiated investigation under PMLA against Rana Kapoor and others on the basis of FIR registered by CBI under various IPC Sections like cheating and criminal conspiracy and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Vodafone wins retro tax fight against India at arbitration tribunal

Legal remedies, other options open, says Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

British telecom giant Vodafone Group plc on Friday won an arbitration against the Indian Government over a demand for ₹22,100 crore in taxes using retrospective legislation.

An international arbitration tribunal ruled that India's demand in past taxes was in breach of fair treatment under a bilateral investment protection pact.

"Vodafone confirms that the investment treaty tribunal found in Vodafone's favour," the British firm said in a statement. "This was a unanimous decision, including India's appointed arbitrator Rodrigo Oreamuno. The tribunal held that any attempt by India to enforce the tax demand would be a violation of India's international law obligations." Reacting to it, the



Government on Friday said it will consider all options, including legal remedies, with regard to Vodafone arbitration case.

The Government of India's liability will be restricted to about ₹75 crore — ₹30 crore in cost and another ₹45 crore in tax refund, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

As per the award, the government has to reimburse Vodafone 60 per cent of its legal costs and half of the 6,000 Euros cost borne by Vodafone for appointing an arbitrator on the panel.

The arbitration tribunal said India's "conduct in respect of the imposition" of tax demand on Vodafone "notwithstanding the Supreme Court judgment is in breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment" in the bilateral investment protection treaty.

Bihar polls in 3 phases from October 28

Counting on Nov 10

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Friday announced that elections for 243 Assembly seats in Bihar will take place in three phases — first on October 28, second on November 3 and the third on November 7 — while counting of all votes will take place on November 10.

The EC announced the poll schedule rejecting the demand for postponement of the polls by political parties due to coronavirus pandemic and flood in the State.

The Assembly polls in Bihar will be the biggest voting exercise in the world to be held in the time of coronavirus. There will be an extra voting hour, separate voting for Covid patients, suspects and those in quarantine, and no physical

contact during the campaign.

With this announcement, the Model Code of Conduct comes into force in the State. Bihar's 243-member Assembly is set to expire on November 29, 2020.

However, the dates for by-polls to 64 Assembly constituencies and one parliamentary seat will be announced next week on Tuesday (September 29), after the EC reviews the objections of some States to the timing of the polls.

The Bihar Assembly elections are crucial for the BJP as it has suffered electoral setbacks after retaining power at the Centre with a bigger majority in 2019. It was unable to form the Government in Maharashtra despite emerging as the single largest party following disagreements with its oldest ally, Shiv Sena, over power-sharing.

Assembly Elections 2020 SCHEDULE				
BIHAR				
Constituencies	71	94	78	
Issue of notification	1/10 Thurs	9/10 Fri	13/10 Tues	
Last date for making nominations	8/10 Thurs	16/10 Fri	20/10 Tues	
Date for scrutiny of nominations	9/10 Fri	17/10 Sat	21/10 Wed	
Last date for withdrawal of candidature	12/10 Mon	19/10 Mon	23/10 Fri	
Date of poll	28/10 Wed	3/11 Tues	7/11 Sat	
Counting of Votes	10/11 Tues	10/11 Tues	10/11 Tues	
Date of completion	12/11 Thurs	12/11 Thurs	12/11 Thurs	

Source: Election Commission

3 mowed down by speeding cluster bus in Nand Nagri

New Delhi: Three persons, including a minor boy, were mowed down allegedly by a speeding cluster bus on Thursday night in Northeast Delhi's Nand Nagri area.

"It was found that the driver of the cluster bus, while going down the Mandoli flyover towards Bhauapura Border at main Wazirabad Road, lost control over the vehicle," Deputy Commissioner of Police Ved Prakash Surya said.

The bus crossed the footpath towards left side and hit a truck and later hit an eggs cart, he said.

The bus driver managed to escape from the spot. After the incident, the locals gathered at the spot and vandalised the bus.

CAPSULE

COURT ORDERS FIR ON MORPHED VIDEO OF CM

New Delhi: A court has directed Delhi Police to register an FIR on a complaint over a morphed video of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal allegedly singing an obscene song, saying its tone and manner lowers his reputation and addresses the public in an abusive manner.

KULBHUSHAN: PAK'S NO FOR FOREIGN LAWYER

Islamabad: Pakistan has once again made it clear that it will not accept India's demand of having a foreign lawyer to represent Kulbhushan Jadhav in the review and reconsideration case being heard at the Islamabad High Court (IHC), leaving his fate in the hands of the Pakistani courts.

CONDITION OF SISODIA BETTER NOW: OFFICIAL

New Delhi: The condition of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who is battling a double infection of Covid-19 and dengue, is better now.

Varsity must instill self reliance in students: Guv

Inaugurates virtually convention centre at Jiwaji univeristy

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor and Chancellor Anandiben Patel has said that university should create a strong environment for employment capacity assistance in curriculum. Apprenticeship and internship programmes should be included in degree courses.

Patel was addressing the inaugural programme of the newly built Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Convention Centre of Jiwaji University online today from Raj Bhavan Lucknow. Patel also remembered Pandit

Deendayal Upadhyaya on his birth anniversary. Governor Patel said that the university should provide appropriate culture of self-reliance and education to students. She said that the construction of the Convention Centre reflects New India's vision, economic progress through world-class infrastructure, rich cultural heritage and commitment to environment conservation. She expressed hope that the centre will become a platform to showcase the creative talent of the students as well as the youth of the region and help in the development of folk art, culture, business as well as knowledge and science.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan participated in the inaugural programme,

online from Bhopal. Chief Minister Chouhan said that on the occasion of the birthday of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya ji, the State Government has restarted the Pratibha Protsahan Yojana to encourage students and to develop a competitive spirit in them. The Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Convention Centre is also a step in this direction. Government of Madhya Pradesh is always with the students. Cooperation to students in achieving the goal is the responsibility of the State Government.

The convention centre will provide world class facilities and new opportunities to the youth of Gwalior-Chambal region. Now our aim should be that this university should also

be included in the first hundred universities of the country. Chief Minister Chouhan encouraged the students to build a strong and self-reliant Madhya Pradesh and India by developing the organizational skills, taking inspiration from the struggles of life of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Chouhan said that it is a matter of good fortune that this centre is named after the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He congratulated and extended best wishes for the inauguration of the convention centre.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Food Processing, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh

Tomar said that this Convention Centre is a major achievement for the University as well as Gwalior. Rajya Sabha Member Jyotiraditya Scindia, while participating online in the programme, said that the International Convention Centre will bring name and fame to the Jiwaji University at the world level.

Minister for Higher Education Mohan Yadav also extended the best wishes. Minister for Energy Pradyuman Singh Tomar, Minister for Horticulture, Food Processing and Narmada Valley Development Bharat Singh Kushwaha, Member of Parliament Vivek Shejwalkar and Former MLA Munnalal Goyal were present at the programme.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan goes through an exhibition after its inauguration on Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay on his birth anniversary at BJP State headquarters in Bhopal on Friday

Pioneer Photo

MPU, PGIs observe World Pharmacist Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

World Pharmacist Day was observed at Madhyanchal Professional University and Patel Group of Institutions on Friday.

At the World Pharmacists Day all students were connected through the Zoom app, and had a webinar focusing on changing the global health on the subjects given by the Pharmacy Council of India. During the webinar, students were told that how much the pharmacists have contributed to the epidemic that the world is going through today, in this way, all the youngsters have to be ready from now on to deal with such pandemics in future

On this occasion, as the chief guest Ajit Singh Patel Prof. Chancellor Madhyanchal Professional University and PK Srivastava Vice Chancellor Madhyanchal Professional University inspired all the students to become successful

pharmacists.

Professor Vishal Kapoor, OP Aggarwal and Ku. Ankita Raikwar told what is the role of us pharmacists at the world level today.

It is to be noted that World Pharmacist Day is observed globally on September 25 every year. This day is celebrated to create awareness about the role of a pharmacist in improving health. The day was an initiative of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) along with the council of this organization.

This year's theme is "Transforming global health". The organization announces a different theme every year so that associations and individuals in the pharmaceutical industry can organize national campaigns or local projects to showcase their outstanding work in helping improve the health of people around the world.

SBI Ladies Club donates ration, clothes to infant shelter Matruchaya

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

SBI Ladies Club, Bhopal has always been discharging its duties towards the deprived and needy sections of the society. The club carries out one social welfare activity every month with the active participation of its members. SBI Ladies Club has provided food and ration to a large number of poor people in the last few months in this critical phase of Covid epidemic.

These views were expressed by Vijaya Amara, President of SBI Ladies Club Bhopal Circle, at a function organized in Seva Bharati Matruchayain Bhopal. The Club donated nutritious food, cradles, cloths and canned milk for infants sheltered in



Matruchaya. Lauding the Matruchaya project run by Seva Bharti Vijaya Amara said that by giving shelter to these babies abandoned by their parents, Seva Bharti is fulfilling a very essential need of society.

SBI Women's Club President Vijaya Amara along with Vice President Vandana Saxena, Secretary Deeksha Bansal, other officials and members of the club were also present on this occasion.

IGRMS hold web lecture on 'The Mahatma and The Tribes of India'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya on Friday organised a lecture to commemorate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatama Gandhi. Director, Anthropological survey of India, Kolkata Prof Vinay Kumar Srivastava, was speaking on "The Mahatma and Tribes of India". The lecture was delivered through the Facebook, YouTube online mediums. Vinay Kumar Srivastava said that about an aspect which has not been written by the untouchable people, nor has it been the subject of discussion.

In today's topic would be discussed the Mahatma and tribes of India which is also called Adivashi. And then the thoughts of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru will be discussed.

It is believed that Gandhiji did not say anything important about the tribal problems before the 1940.

In today's, Srivastava said that this is not true, Gandhiji worked with the Zulu society which is in South Africa and during the battle of South Africa, he also served the people of this society. A depiction of tribal societies can be obtained from the thoughts of Gandhiji.

The work of Gandhiji gives inspiration for the anthropologists. Gandhiji was very much influenced by the self-reliance

Gandhiji was very much influenced by the self-reliance of the tribal's, he took the concept of village Swaraj and Khadi inspired by the self-dependent tribal's

of the tribal's, he took the concept of village Swaraj and Khadi inspired by the self-dependent tribal's.

In his lifetime, Gandhiji greatly influenced two people who gave their lives to tribal societies, his name is Amrtil Thakhar, who was born in tribal society and was truly synonymous with freedom, service, sacrifice, compassion, and Verrier Elwin, who became an important anthropologist under the inspiration of Gandhi and Worked for a lifetime with tribal's.

The ideas and methodology of both of these were also included in his statement and also stated that the visit of Gandhiji had a profound impact on the tribal societies and due to this, this society did not remain separate from the freedom struggle.

Prof Vinay Kumar Srivastava is Director of Anthropological Survey of India since August 2017. He was in the additional charge of Malulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies Kolkata.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan pays tributes to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay on his birth anniversary at BJP State headquarters in Bhopal on Friday

Pioneer Photo



BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Jyotiraditya Scindia pays tributes to BJP stalwart leader Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay on his birth anniversary in Bhopal on Friday

Pioneer Photo

Police arrest 4 persons including minor for planning to set shop ablaze

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Kamla Nagar police have nabbed four persons including a woman and a minor boy for planning and setting ablaze a shop at Nehru Nagar; plot was made by woman inspired by Crime Petrol serial.

The main accused Sheeri Apri masterminded the setting ablaze of shop at Nehru Nagar run by victim Zaheer who is Sheeri's brother-in-law. Using the CCTV cameras of the spot and nearby ITMS cameras police managed to identify the registration number of the scooter used in the crime on which three persons were spotted.

Sheeri was detained and quizzed after which she revealed that her husband Zameer's shop was impacted by Zaheer's shop due to which she wanted to damage shop to destroy his

business and provided Rs 2000 to Zaid. Zaid along with Farhan and a minor boy set the shop ablaze who were later nabbed based on the details provided by Sheeri. Meanwhile, MP Nagar police have nabbed a 25-year-old vehicle-lifter and recovered four stolen two-wheelers worth Rs 2 lakh on Thursday.

According to the police, acting on a tip-off, a youth was detained and when he was quizzed, he confessed stealing of three motorbikes and one scooter which were recovered from his possession.

The nabbed accused was identified as Rahul Suryavanshi of Aishbagh, the accused hails from Umreth Chhindwara. Police have recovered Suzuki Hayate, Bajaj Pulsar, Honda Dio and Passion Pro. Three of the vehicles were stolen in the year 2020 while one was stolen last year.

Storytelling competition held on 12th day of 'Toornayad'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The storytelling competition was organized on the 12th day of Toornayad '20. The competition was held at Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT) on Friday. Suyash Tyagi (Writer) and Jairam Shukla (Eminent newspaper editor) were present on the occasion in the judge's panel.

In the first phase under the storytelling and narration, all the participants wrote and sent their story in the form of movies. Many students from all over the country participated in this competition. The 15 contestants selected for the final phase presented several poignant and enlightening stories.

Shivangi Singh, who came from Rewa, highlighted the evils of homosexuality and child marriage in the society through the story of Gudiya. Deepak Daswani, a student of UIT, RGPV, Bhopal, told about the injustice being done to the deserving students from the scam in the examinations in the country through the story Sapna Parivartan Ka.

Yogesh Yadav, who came from Indore, satirized the corrupt government system of the country through his story Angare and Ajay. Aditi Mrinal, a student of Janaki Devi Memorial College, DU, inspired her to struggle in life, never give up and believe in God through the story Hurt.

Fraudster nabbed for duping victim of ₹10L on promise of selling land

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Baghsewania police have arrested a fraudster while his wife remained absconding who were involved in duping victim to the tune of ₹10 lakh in the name of selling land in Berasia; 7.5 acres of land was offered at ₹20.27 lakh. According to the police, Santosh Chandra sold land, which was of agriculture use to the victim Rakesh Kumar Choubey.

A complaint was lodged with the police by the victim and based on the com-

plaint after completing the investigation a case was registered by the police. The accused was nabbed on Thursday while the wife of accused Sunita Chandra went absconding and is still at large. The police have started further investigation and have claimed that there is a possibility that the duo was working with a nexus in which others aides were involved and same piece of land has been sold several victims.

The victim stuck deal of land in Bersia which was 7.5 acres worth ₹20.27 lakh

from the accused in March this year, which was in the name of his wife Sunita. The victim provided ₹10 lakh which was in parts. The victim was scheduled to pay money of the land and after which the owner ship would be transferred to accused but whenever the victim would ask accused or visit his house Sunita would escape with excuses. The accused couple refused to transfer the ownership of the land.

The victim was not provided with refund and was not provided with the land.

Crime Branch nab 3 miscreants for selling illegal firearms

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Bhopal Crime Branch nabbed three miscreants who were engaged in selling of firearms illegally and recovered four country-made pistols and three cartridges from their possession at Bhanpur Bridge on Thursday.

Acting on a tip off regarding miscreants near Bhanpur bridge carrying firearms illegally and when they were searched four country made pistols and three live cartridges were recovered. The nabbed accused were discussing to sell the firearms when they were caught. They were identified as Deepak Mangrale, Sharad Ahirwar and Netaram Panthi. From Deepak one country made pistol, two country made pistol from Sharad and one country made pistol from Netaram was recovered and three cartridges were nabbed.

After the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under section 25 and 27 of the Arms Act. Deepak is resident of Chhola Mandir area while Sharad is resident of Sagar and Netram is resident of Vidisha.

Police would check crime record details of the two from the Sagar and Vidisha police while details of the one accused who belongs to Chhola Mandir area would be sought from Chhola Mandir police. The three were working as part of nexus.

Folk story 'Raja Bhritrihari' presented under Abhinayan series on STM's You Tube channel

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The folk story 'Raja Bhritrihari' was presented under Abhinayan series on Friday at Madhya Pradesh State Tribal Museum Youtube Channel.

The play was presented in Maach style under the direction of Jitendra Tattwal, Ujjain. In the traditional Loknatya style (mach) of Malwa, depict the legend of Raja Bhartihari who became a saint after abandoning the kingdom of Ujjain.

In Indian history and folklore, 'Raja Bhartihari' is the hero of many folk stories in North India. He was the ruler of Ujjain in the 1st century BC, before

renouncing the world and abdicating in the favor of his younger brother Vikramaditya and became a follower of Guru Gorakhnath and along with his nephew Gopi Chand went to the Guru's hill abode in northern Punjab. Raja Bhartihari asks his Prime Minister how humans are also happy, goats and lions are drinking water at the same ghat without harming each other.

After the discussion, the king goes out for hunting. The king becomes very depressed after returning from hunting. When the queen asks for the reason, the king says that he is surprised and amazed at the truth of the creatures of the forest.

He talks about a Bhil who pleads with the king for help. The king leaves the forest to help him. On the way, the king asks his minister to lie to his queen Pingala, confusing his confusion that a mad lion has killed me.

When the minister says this to the queen, the queen jumps from the fort and gives up her life. Meanwhile, in the jungle, the king sees a person roaming with his hundred wives, who was later slaughtered by the king. After her husband is killed, the deities curse the king and become immortal. At the same time, the king receives information about his wife giving up his life, upon hearing which the king becomes unhappy and takes sannyasa.



Madhya Pradesh Mandi Board employees demonstrate during their strike at Krishi Upaj Mandi against the State Government's new Model Mandi Act, in Bhopal on Friday

Pioneer Photo

PROTEST AGAINST FARM BILLS

Farmers take out tractor rally

RAJENDRA SONI ■ MANDSAUR

In protest against the Farmers Bill, on Friday, farmers in Mandsaur took out a protest rally and gave a memorandum to the District Collector. Some farmers demonstrated despite being half-hearted, the police also tried to stop the farmers, but the farmers finally reached the Collector office. Let us tell you that in 2017 too, there was an agitation by the farmers of Mandsaur district to demand support price which had gone up considerably, the farmers had also died.

The farmers have demanded that they have not received the crop insurance amount of the last years which the government should give with immediate effect.

The farmer leader has clearly stated that if this black law is not withdrawn, the farmer should not be repeated in 2017 due to the Government.

Farmer leader Amritram

Patidar said that We are celebrating this day as Black Day. Farmers in the district have come from tractors with black flags and black stripes around their necks. The Government has launched a movement against three new ordinances. How many years of crop insurance and compensation has not been received. We want that the sum assured and compensation should be given immediately, the farmers are getting upset by going round the banks and the black government has enacted to take back the Government of India. Otherwise, in the coming time, thousands of farmers will be here, its responsibility will be the responsibility of the farmers of Mandsaur district. May the government not have a repeat of the 2017 farmer movement.

Collector Mandsaur Manoj Pushp said that the farmers' memorandum will be sent to the President. he said that In the memorandum, he has

THE FARMERS HAVE DEMANDED THAT THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE CROP INSURANCE AMOUNT OF THE LAST YEARS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

opposed the three laws introduced. We will send it forward.

Compensation and insurance work is in the process, which is to come to Rs 381 crore, which is to be provided to one lakh 34 thousand farmers. Out of that an amount of 84 crores has gone to the accounts of about 35,000 farmers. Processing is in next week

or 10 days, the amount will also reach. Congress leader Narendra Nahata said that This season the government had said that it would buy the support price of wheat for the farmers, but the government could not buy it completely, and the wheat of the farmer sold for 300 to ? 400 less. Due to the competition of traders in the mandis, the farmers will benefit, but the government wants to end the mandi system itself. Obviously this will be exploitation of farmers. Modi ji is saying that the purchase on the support price will not be stopped, the opposition says that the support price will not stop the purchase, then you should also put it in the Act but Modi ji is speaking but he is not putting it in the act.

This clearly shows the policy of the Government, the words have been different and are doing something. Like he said earlier that the railway will not be privatized but he privatized.

Juban Singh Bhide new Dist mining officer in Indore

PNS ■ INDORE

The State Government on Thursday ordered the posting of Juban Singh Bhide as a new district mining officer in Indore.

The Pioneer in its issue of July 20, 2020 had published that Indore which is the business capital of Madhya Pradesh is functioning without district mining officer and due to the vacant post of the district mining officer illegally laden sand trucks coming from all over MP and crushed stones mines could not be checked thus creating a heavy loss of revenue to the Government.

Around 200 trucks of sand from nearby districts come daily to Indore in which many trucks are overloaded but they could not be checked. Presently also 3 mining inspectors and four home guards are looking after the checking of minerals

The Pioneer in its issue of July 20, 2020 had published that Indore which is the business capital of Madhya Pradesh is functioning without district mining officer and due to the vacant post of the district mining officer illegally laden sand trucks coming from all over MP and crushed stones mines could not be checked

of Indore district including sand trucks stone mines and other minerals. Due to the shortage of mining officers and home guards it takes a long time for the team to reach at the spot of illegal mining and excavation from the government land. Most of the illegal mining is still going on in the outskirts of Indore city.

IN BRIEF

CM TO DIST ADMN:REINSTATE FOOD SAFETY OFFICER
Indore: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has instructed the district administration to reinstate the suspended food safety officer Manish Swamy. On the instruction of chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan instruction Indore collector Manish Singh revoked the suspension order which was issued 2 days ago.According to government public relation department news of Indore district the chief minister came to know that during his Indore visit few days back the food which was made available to him in this the chapatis were not hot and it was below normal temperature of consuming. Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan told that he is a simple person and he is not reluctant to consume dry or cold chapatis. And he felt bad when any officer was suspended for not providing him hot food. He told that during his visit to any district whenever he finds any shortcoming in his service, he doesn't keep this in mind or in heart. Chief minster Shivraj Singh urged the government officers and employees to serve the citizens of the state will full determination and responsibility.

DHAR ED SEIZES LIQUOR WORTH ₹9L
Indore:The Dhar excise department on the instruction of Dhar collector Alok Kumar Singh confiscated the liquor worth ₹9 lakh and registered around 10 cases. The assistant commissioner excise Dhar Yashwant Dhanora guided district level crime control team to conduct the raid in Manavara area of Dhar in villages singhana, jajam khedi, kala bhata, baidipura, kalikari, gulati, rajapur, jaitapura dolcha where 17,800 kg of mahua (bassia latifolia) and lahan was destroyed which was used as a raw material to make liquor on hand operated furnaces and also 180 liters of handmade liquor was confiscated. Seven cases under section 34 (1) was registered and 3 cases under section 34 (2) was registered a total of 10 cases was registered. DEO Gopal Singh Rathod, DEO Basanti Bhuria, DEO Devesh Chaturvedi, DEO Chandan Singh Meena, DEO Rajesh Kumar Jain, DEO Prashant Mandoli and Sub Inspectors S N Signath, Devendra Chandole, Rajkumar Shukla, Ekta Sonkar, Rajendra Singh Chouhan, Rohit Mukati, Munendra singh Jadaon, Priti Nargave were part of the trap team.

SECOND PHASE

Online admission begins for Delhi Govt schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government issued a circular for the second phase of the 'Online Admission Process' (OAP) of Classes six to nine and 11th under Non-Plan Admissions 2020-21.

The second phase has been launched to address the concerns of the parents who could not get their wards registered earlier for online admission. The registration has been reopened today and will last till 3rd October.

"The school allotment and verification of the documents at the allotted schools is currently on for the applicants of the first phase. In the first phase, the total number of online applications received by the Directorate of Education for classes VI to XII is 64,995. Out of these applicants, 64,450 students have been allotted school till date. The admission process of the first phase will be over by September 30," a release from the office of the Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

"The admission on the basis of application received in the second phase for which the last date is 3rd October 2020 will complete by 15th October for classes IX & XI and 26th October for classes VI to VIII," it said. "The link for submission of the online registration form is available on the homepage of the Department's website www.edudel.nic.in under 'Government School Admissions'. Applicants who



have applied earlier in the first phase and allotted schools or who are already studying or passed the previous class from government aided schools of the Directorate are not eligible to apply," it added.

While registering for classes VI to IX only one step of registration is required and the Registration Number will be sent to the registered mobile number, it said adding that the registration number will be used for future correspondence.

"The registration process for class XI consists of two steps. In the first step registration number and password will be generated. In the second step, the applicant has to complete the registration form after login at the specified link with the registration number and password provided in the first step. The applicants must complete the two steps; else the form will be rejected," it said.

Applicants will receive the status of school allotment on their registered phone number through SMS or they can check the status of allotment from 12th October at http://www.edudel.nic.in/welcome_folder/govtadmission.htm

A centralized helpline has been issued for any admission related queries at Telephone Number 1800116888 or 10580 from 07:30 AM to 07:00 PM on all working days.

"Once the admission is confirmed, the applicant will have to visit the allotted school with all the requisite original documents along with their copies for confirmation of admission as per the schedule provided to them. Admission to selected students through the online module will be confirmed only after the physical verification of requisite documents by the concerned government school," it said.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An eight week online 'Professional Development for English Teachers' (PDET) program and four week communicative language teaching and TESOL methodology for primary teachers concluded on Friday.

The online program was launched by the Delhi Government in association with the Regional English Language Office (RELO) of the American Embassy in India. "Around 600 English teachers took training whereas around 30 mentor teachers of Delhi acted as the co-facilitators under the guidance of RELO's

English Language specialists Sara Bolton, Dr Lisa Morgon and Barbara Sakamoto," the government said in a statement.

Unable to join the convening ceremony, Deputy Chief Minister and the Education Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia sent his message from the hospital where he is admitted and being treated for Coronavirus.

Congratulating all the participating teachers for successfully completing this course, he asked all the teachers to utilize this world-class learning opportunity to strengthen the English language teaching-learning approach in their schools and also share it with their peers.

Sisodia's health condition stable

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia who has been diagnosed with Covid -19 and dengue, is doing better and his health parameters are stable.

Sisodia is undergoing treatment at Max Hospital in Saket



where he was moved on Thursday evening from the Delhi Government-run LNJP Hospital due to his falling blood platelet count and low oxygen level.He is admitted to the ICU of the private hospital in South Delhi.

Over 16K students get ₹25K each...

From Page 1
Shri Chouhan said that if a person develops a roadmap and constantly strives with determination to achieve whatever goal he/she sets, he/she is sure to be successful. Chouhan said, "I have to build an Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. For this it is necessary to build your life." He called upon the students to move ahead with courage and enthusiasm maintaining independent thinking, alert mind, eglessness and patience. He said that the mantra of "Man ke hare haar hai man ke jeete jeet"-should always be followed.

The Chief Minister symbolically presented citations and cheques to six students of Bhopal namely Rajneesh Singrole, Sumit Shukla, Anchal Jain, Anjali Mishra, Ilma Khan and Shailya Singh at Minto Hall. While presenting the outline of the programme, School Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar welcomed and thanked Chief Minister Shri Chouhan for restarting the scheme.

Steps taken to improve shelter homes

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A meeting of the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) was held on Friday in which it was decided to provide three free meals a day to the homeless people living in DUSIB shelters at an annual expenditure of Rs 15.31 crores.

The meeting was chaired by the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and also took several important decisions to improve the condition of shelter homes. Various issues like providing various amenities to the people living in these shelter homes were discussed.

The Board has also decided to rehabilitate 784 people residing in Princess Park to facilitate the use of land by the Ministry of Defence for the construction of the National War Museum and Memorial, the government said in a statement.

"The families will be rehabilitated to the transit camps for 1-1.5 years, which are located



at Sector 16B Dwarka. Around 350 families living in the slum dwellings in Karol Bagh will also be rehabilitated to the transit camps. The rehabilitated people will be shifted to the flats that are being constructed in Dev Nagar Karol Bagh area," it said. The DUSIB has been providing three free meals a day to the homeless people living at DUSIB shelters since March when the Coronavirus lockdown started. This comes as a big relief to the homeless people and will continue till the end of this year and beyond, till the end of the winter season.

45-yr-old man dies after mini-truck turns turtle

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 45-year-old man died while two were injured severely after mini-truck turned turtle near culvert at Raisen road under Bilkharia police station area on Thursday.

The injured were rushed to nearby hospital where one of them was declared dead who was identified as Devi Rawat while two others were injured severely. After receiving the information FRV Dial 100 police reached the spot and reached the spot and took the injured to hospital where two

of the injured are critically injured.

Police said that the driver was speeding and lost control which lead to the accident. The body was sent for the post-mortem. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and have started further investigation. Meanwhile a 50-year-old man police personnel died under suspicious circumstances at Nehru Nagar police lines on Thursday.

The deceased, identified as Radhyeshyam Nagvanshi was rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead. Police said he used to remain alone and was suffering from illness from September 11.

On Thursday no one spotted the deceased and at around 6 when his brother Durgaprasad came and knocked the door he failed to get any response and made the entry forcefully to find deceased lying in the room.

The deceased was suffering from Jaundice but the reason could not be ascertained after the post mortem report is received. A case under section 174 of the CrPC was registered.

DG of Delhi prisons tests Covid positive



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Director General of Delhi Prisons, Sandeep Goel, has been tested positive for Covid-19. This came less than a month after the Delhi Prisons Department declared there was no active Covid-19 case among the inmates in its three jail complexes. The DG is undergoing treatment and his condition is stable.

According to a data shared by the prison authorities on September 13, the number of active COVID-19 cases in Delhi Prisons stood at 25, including 20 jail staff.

Earlier, on August 21, the Delhi Prisons Department had stated that none of the inmates in the three jail complexes of Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli are coronavirus positive and that the pandemic situation in jails here has improved.

WESTERN RAILWAY (ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION)

Tender Notice No.: EL-C-RTM-2020-03-7; **Name of work:** Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE including removal of infringements between Nimbahera-Nimach Section on Ratlam Division of Western Railway in connection with Doubling project between Chittorgarh-Nimach; **Completion period:** 15 (Fifteen) months; **Approximate value** ₹ 9.39,41,647.50; **EMD:** ₹ 6,19,700.00. **Tender document fee:** NIL; **On line bidding start date:** 27.10.2020; **Tender closing date:** 21.10.2020 upto 16:30 Hrs. **For further details please visit** www.irps.gov.in

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केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम

e-Syndicate Bank
Itarsi Branch
Itarsi

सिस्टिक Syndicate

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)] (For Immovable property)
Whereas:
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") 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 dated **12.03.2020** calling upon the borrower **Mr. Jogendra Choudhary S/o Omprakash Choudhary** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 8,16,615.42** (Rupees Eight lakh Sixteen thousand Six hundred fifteen Paise forty two only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **21st day of September of the year 2020**.
The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of **Rs. 851418.34** as on **31.08.2020** and future interest thereon costs etc.
The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of the property consisting house situated over House at P.C. No. 9, Khalsa No. 346/2, Plot No. 1/7 Area 15x40=600 sq.ft. situated at ward no. 34, Chetanya Nagar, Itarsi owned by Jogendra Choudhary S/o Shri Omprakash Choudhary Boundaries: North : Remaining land of seller, South :Plot of Anita Dubey, East : Remaining land of seller, West- 18ft. road

DATE: 21.09.2020
PLACE: Itarsi

Authorised Officer
CANARA BANK

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA
JABALPUR ZONAL OFFICE
Ph: 0761-2480065,67,68

ONLINE AUCTION
AMENDMENT NOTICE
The public in general and the concerned Borrower/ Guarantor are informed that the Authorised Office, Bank of Maharashtra, Jabalpur Zone has published online E-Auction Notice for various NPA Accounts / secured assets in Pioneer (English) Newspaper on 28/08/2020 and the date of auction decided was 30/09/2020.
The Authorised Officer by this public notice made following changes / amendment in above auction notice:-
(1) Borrower M/S APNA DHABA, Prop- Shri Anil Rathore- the auction for this account / property stands cancelled.
(2) Borrower- M/s Rekha Sahu W/o Prakash Sahu- the Khasha Numbers at the property situated at Imlikhedda Chowk, Seoni Bypass, Murmari, Tehsil Mokhada, Dist. Chhindwara in P.H. No. 43 should be read as 112/3, 112/6 and 115/4 Total area of property is 1.779 Hec.
All other details in the auction notice shall remain same.
Authorised Officer,
Bank of Maharashtra,
Date- 26.09.2020 Jabalpur Zone

BIHAR ELECTIONS

EC OK's poll rallies with social distancing norms



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Political parties and candidates can hold rallies as part of their campaigning for the Bihar Assembly polls and the grounds where such meetings will be held will have white circles to ensure distancing norms. These are among the slew of measures the Election Commission is taking in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Addressing a Press conference to announce the schedule for Bihar assembly elections, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said he wants to dispel doubts that there will only be virtual campaigning in the State. The “propaganda” that only virtual meets will take place during campaigning is way off the mark, he said.

Arora said the district election officers have already identified places where gatherings can take place. The exercise of putting markers to ensure distancing norms is on. District election officers and district superintendents of police should ensure that the number of attendees does not exceed the limit prescribed by the

State Disaster Management Authority for public gatherings, an EC statement later said. Political parties and candidates concerned should ensure that all COVID-related requirements such as face masks, sanitisers and thermal scanning are fulfilled during each of these election activities, the commission said.

Anyone violating the norms will face action under relevant sections of the Disaster Management Act and the Indian Penal Code, the EC warned. As part of restrictions put in place to check the spread of the virus, the EC has reduced the number of people who can undertake door-to-door campaigning. A group of five people, including candidates, but excluding security personnel, is allowed to campaign from door to door.

For road shows, the convoy of vehicles should be broken after every five vehicles instead of 10 vehicles. The interval between two sets of convoy of vehicles should be half an hour instead of a gap of 100 metres. The EC has revised the norms of the number of people

75% of new Covid-19 cases from 10 States/UTs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At least, 75 per cent of new cases of coronavirus in the country are concentrated in 10 States and Union Territories (UTs). But then, there is 74 per cent of new recoveries as well.

A senior health official said if there were 86,052 new cases in the past 24 hours in Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and a few others, then the number of recoveries stood at 81,177.

Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Kerala, Delhi are some of the states that continue to be worst-hit from the pandemic.

On Friday, the country registered 86,052 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, as India moves towards the 60-lakh mark. The active cases have climbed to 9,70,116 whereas over 4.75 million have recovered so far, said a statement from the Union Health Ministry.

For the past six days, the numbers of recoveries logged per day in the country have been exceeding the number of fresh cases. But in the last 24 hours, the number of recoveries stood at 81,177, said the Ministry.

It also pointed out that a minimum of 14 States demonstrated better Covid-19 response on the basis of higher tests per million population and corresponding lower positivity rate than the national average.

A total of 68,928,440 samples have been tested for Covid-19 so far out of which nearly 1.5 million samples were tested on Thursday, as per data released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Severe cases among healthy due to faulty genes, misguided antibodies, say scientists

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than 10 per cent of young and healthy people who develop severe Covid-19 have misguided antibodies that attack not the virus, but the immune system itself, according to a study published in journal ‘Science’. Another 3.5 per cent, at least, carry a specific kind of genetic mutation, causing early death of the Covid afflicted patients, as per the study.

In both groups, the upshot is basically the same: The patients lack type I interferon, a set of 17 proteins crucial for protecting cells and the body from viruses. “Whether the proteins have been neutralized by so-called auto-antibodies, or were not produced in sufficient amounts in the first place due to a faulty gene, their missing-in-action appears to be a common theme among a subgroup of Covid19 sufferers whose disease has thus far been a mystery,” said the researchers.

The findings help explain why some people develop a disease much more severe than others in their age group—including, for example, individuals who required admission to the ICU despite being in their 20s and free of underlying conditions. They may also provide the first molecular explanation for why more men than women die from the disease.

“These findings provide compelling evidence that the

disruption of type I interferon is often the cause of life-threatening Covid-19,” said Jean-Laurent Casanova, head of the St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases at The Rockefeller University and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

The study participants included various nationalities from Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. “Covid-19 may now be the best understood acute infectious disease in terms of having a molecular and genetic explanation for nearly 15% of critical cases across diverse ancestries,” Casanova said.

In one study, the researchers genetically analyzed blood samples from more than 650 patients who had been hospitalized for life-threatening pneumonia due to SARS-CoV-2, 14 percent of whom had died. They also included samples from another group of over 530 people with asymptomatic or benign infection. They initially searched for differences between the two groups across 13 genes known to be critical for the body's defense against the influenza virus. These genes govern type I interferons.

It soon became obvious that a significant number of people with severe disease carried rare variants in these 13 genes, and more than 3 percent of them were in fact missing a functioning gene.

Ultras cashing in on Covid crisis: India at UNHRC meet



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Highlighting the scourge of terrorism, India on Friday said terrorists are trying to exploit financial and emotional distress caused by the ongoing corona pandemic and Covid-19 lockdowns. Moreover, the terrorists are trying to collect funds under the garb of charitable activities but it is feared this money will be used to finance terror activities, India said.

Making these assertions at the ongoing 45th UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva, First Secretary Pawan Badhe, Permanent Mission of India to UN in Geneva, said due to widespread COVID-19, terrorists are making malevolent attempts to exploit the financial and emotional distress caused by lockdowns to disturb the cohesiveness of societies.

In his statement, he said “Terror groups have also exhorted supporters to target security forces and health workers. Another disturbing trend has been the collection of funds by proscribed terrorist outfits ostensibly for undertaking charitable activities, but which, in reality, would be used to finance terror.”

Speaking on the topic

“Human rights situations that require the Council's attention,” the Indian envoy said “The increased presence of people online and on social media has been targeted by terrorists to disseminate misinformation through hate speeches, fake news and doctored videos. The intent has been to entice and establish links with vulnerable individuals and recruit them in their cadres.”

He also said “We underscore the need to foster a society in which individuals and communities are able to counter the spread of terrorist ideologies and challenge those who espouse them.” Underlining the challenge posed by terrorism, India also urged the Council to play a major role in preventing radicalization of impressionable minds.

India stressed that the Council cannot remain immune to the devastating human rights impacts caused by terrorism. The Council has to spread awareness about the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable groups, particularly children and young persons, in order to prevent their indoctrination by terrorist ideologies.

MPs duty bound to respect democratic values: Speaker

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the unruly behaviour of MPs with the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday emphasised that the dignity of the House and its Chair is an important aspect of the parliamentary system and it is the duty of all members to respect the highest values

that our democracy represents.

Birla was talking to media on the aspects of conclusion of the Monsoon Session of the Parliament where he referred to various historic achievements of the Session at the Parliament conducted amidst the Corona pandemic.

Birla added that with the help of all political parties and Members, the productivity of

ED attaches ₹255.17 cr properties of Kanva Group under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a provisional attachment order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) attaching assets worth ₹255.17 crores in a case related to cheating of investors by Sree Kanva Souhardha Co-operative Credit Limited (SKSCCL), Benaguru and others through a Ponzi scheme.

The attached assets are in the form of immovable properties in Karnataka (agriculture and non-agriculture land, buildings and resorts) and movable properties in the form of balances in bank accounts in the name of N Nanjundaiah and his family members, Kanva Group of companies and other entities, the agency said.

The accused advanced loans out of deposits, working capitals and shared reserves

without getting any security and not following existing Rules and Regulations, it said.

Searches under PMLA were conducted in the premises of the accused N Nanjundaiah and other Directors of SKSCCL and Kanva group of companies which resulted in seizure of incriminating documents.

N Nanjundaiah was arrested on August 25 and is now undergoing judicial custody.

“Investigation conducted under PMLA so far has revealed that N Nanjundaiah, founder/ common Director of Sree Kanva Souhardha Co-operative Credit Limited and Kanva Group of companies collected ₹650 crores through unauthorised collection centres and collection agents from about 13,000 gullible investors by luring them to pay higher rate of interest (from 12 to 15 percent),” it further said.

CBI books engineer under POCSO ACT for sharing child porn material

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against a private person on the allegations of sharing child sexual abuse material.

The agency has registered the case under Section 14 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000.

“It was alleged that the accused was advertising over Instagram Account for sale of objectionable material including child pornographic material,” the agency said in a statement.

The accused Neeraj Yadav is a B. Tech. degree holder. He was working as a professional in a private firm in Delhi before the lockdown.

It was further alleged that the accused opened different accounts over cloud storage and file hosting service by using different email IDs and

storing such objectionable material including child pornographic material, the agency said.

It was also alleged that on receipt of payments from the customer (s), the accused shared the said objectionable material with them through Whatsapp, Telegram, Instagram and other social media platforms.

The agency conducted searches at the premises of the accused in Anpara, District Sonbhadra, (Uttar Pradesh) which led to the recovery of a mobile phone. The mobile phone is being analysed and further investigation is continuing, the agency added.

A Special Unit “Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention/ Investigation (OCSAE)” has been created in CBI, New Delhi for matters pertaining to online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building,
Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

O.A. No. 883/2018
State Bank of India
Applicant
Versus
Manoj Kumar Meena and Anr.
Defendants

To,
1. Mr. Manoj Kumar Meena (Borrower)
S/o. Mr. Bhagwan Singh Meena, House No. 46, Bannerjee Pala Road, Behla, Kolkata-700060.
Second Address Village Rakasapurija, ThePost-Sangod, Dist-Kota, Rajasthan-325601.
Third Address Captain Superintendent, T.S. Chankya, Karave Nerul, Pal Beach Highway, Mumbai-400706.
Fourth Address Gali No. 6, Rangpur Road, Kota, Rajasthan-325601.
Fifth Address Village-Bapawer, Kalan, P.O. Bapawer, The-Sangod, Kota Rajasthan-325601.
2. M/s. IDEA Builders Pvt. Ltd. Registered Office C-294, 1ST Floor, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-110095.
Second Address C-10, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011.
Third Address Kharsa No. 998, Red Apple Residency, National Highway-58, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201003.
Fourth Address 2-C, DDA Flats, Nirman Vihar, New Delhi-110092

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 39,28,153.45 (Rs. Thirty Nine Lacs Twenty Eight Thousand One Hundred Fifty Three and Paise Forty Five Only)** against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before LD. Registrar on **28-01-2021 at 10.30 A.M.** (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.tribunal.gov.in) Phone No. 011-23748473)

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application / Software;
(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by 'Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/ and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head.
(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 08th day of September, 2020

by order of this Tribunal for Registrar

Respondent may contact under mention phone number for further enquiry.
Amit K. Dar, Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi
Phone: 011-23748473
E-mail: regdrt1delhi-dfs@nic.in, drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sample 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 **29.10.2020 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. 245,61,14,114/- (Rupees Two Hundred Forty Five Crore Sixty One Lakh Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Fourteen only)**, i.e. **Rs. 100,01,43,038/- (Rupees One Hundred Crore One Lakh Forty Three Thousand Thirty Eight only)**, **Rs. 72,85,81,429/- (Rupees Seventy Two Crore Eighty Five Lakh Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Nine only)** and **Rs. 72,73,89,647/- (Rupees Seventy Two Crore Seventy Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Forty Seven only)** towards Loan Account Nos. **LAP0240519, LAP0240520 and LAP0240522** respectively, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **04.09.2020** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. **05.09.2020** legal expenses and other charges along with pending Tax Deducted at Source of **Rs. 2,09,66,038/- (Rupees Two Crore Nine Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Thirty Eight only)**, i.e. **Rs. 81,86,870/- (Rupees Eighty One Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy only)**, **Rs. 63,89,584/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four only)** and **Rs. 63,89,584/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four only)**, due to the Secured Creditor from **BLISS HOUSE PVT. LTD., BLISS AGRI AND ECO TOURISM PVT. LTD., IMAGINE HABITAT PVT. LTD., IMAGINE RESIDENCE PVT. LTD., B. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR) and R. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR).**

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be **Rs. 184,07,00,000/- (Rupees One Hundred Eighty Four Crore Seven Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 18,40,70,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Crore Forty 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 Nikunj, 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 (IES)

ALL THAT PIECES OR PARCELS OF LAND/ PROPERTIES AS UNDER TOGETHER WITH ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE STRUCTURES, BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, FITTINGS, STANDING AND/ OR PLANT AND MACHINERY INSTALLED/ TO BE INSTALLED AND/ OR CONSTRUCTED/ TO BE CONSTRUCTED THEREON AND ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE RIGHTS, TITLE AND/ OR INTEREST OF BLISS HOUSE PVT. LTD. THEREIN:

50% UNDIVIDED SHARE OF PLOT NO. 20 (ADMEASURING ABOUT 2,043 SQ. MTR. EQUIVALENT TO 2,443 SQ. YD.) (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS PLOT NO. 9, BLOCK NO. 48), SITUATED AT DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE, SARDAR PATEL MARG, NEW DELHI - 110003, OWNED BY BLISS HOUSE PVT. LTD. AND BUTTED AND BOUNDED BY IN THE:

NORTH BY :PLOT NO. 19 SOUTH BY :PLOT NO. 21
EAST BY : SERVICE ROAD WEST BY :SARDAR PATEL MARG

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com and www.eauction.npsource.com.

Sd/
Date : 24-09-2020 Authorized Officer
Place : NEW DELHI INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Ministry of Power's Advertisement NO.7/23/2020-T&R
NATIONAL POWER TRAINING INSTITUTE (NPTI)
(An Autonomous Registered Society under Ministry of Power)

Applications are invited in the prescribed format, for filling up the post of **Director General, NPTI on deputation basis.** The post carries a scale of pay of Rs. 67000-79000/- with annual increment @ 3% (pre-revised) [Rs.182200-Rs.224100/-, Level - 15 in the Pay Matrix as per CCS (RP) Rules, 2016] with usual allowances as per Central Government rules. NPTI (ISO 9001 & ISO 14001 organisation) is an Apex body at the National Level for development of human resources for the power & energy sectors. With its HQ. at Faridabad, NPTI operates on an all India basis through its Regional Institutes located at Neyveli (Tamil Nadu), Durgapur (West Bengal), Badarpur (New Delhi), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Guhawati (Assam), Nangal (Punjab), Alappuzha (Kerala) and Shivpuri (Madhya Pradesh) & specialized Centres viz. Power Systems Training Institute (PSTI) & Hot line Training Centre (HLTC) at Bangalore, a Centre for Advanced Management and Power Studies (CAMPS) at Faridabad, Haryana.

Conditions of Eligibility:

Persons who:

i) have at least 17 (seventeen) years experience and have shown capacity in :
a) design, construction, operation and maintenance of generating stations;
ii) transmission and supply of electricity;
iii) applied research in the field of electricity;
iv) applied economics; or
v) industrial, commercial and financial matters and;
ii) have held
a) the post of Chief Engineer or equivalent or a higher grade on a regular basis for a period of at least three years under the Central Govt, or a State Govt.
OR
b) any post equivalent to that of a post mentioned in clause (a) above for a period of at least three years under a State Electricity Board or a Semi Govt. Organization or a Public Sector Undertaking or a University or an Indian Institute of Technology.

Period of deputation :
The period of deputation shall normally be for a period not exceeding five years from the date of appointment as Director General.

Age Limit:
The maximum age limit for appointment by deputation shall not be exceeding 56 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications.

Applications complete in all respects in the prescribed format should reach **The Under Secretary, T&R Section, Ministry of Power, 'F' Wing, 2nd Floor, Gate No.2, Nirman Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi-110011** within 8 weeks from date of publication of advertisements in **Employment News.** Candidates working in Central/State Governments / Electricity Boards/ Universities/Public Sector Enterprises/Statutory /Semi-Govt. or Autonomous Organisations etc. should forward their applications **through proper channel with Part (B) of the format duly completed.** Advance copies shall not be entertained. Incomplete applications or the ones received after the prescribed date shall not be considered.

For more comprehensive details and the format of application, please visit the website of Ministry of Power (<http://powermin.nic.in>) or NPTI (<http://www.npti.gov.in>) or DOP&T (<http://www.dopt.gov.in>)

davp 34107/11/0006/2021

SC rubbishes plea seeking postponement of upcoming Bihar Assembly elections

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking to postpone the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A three-judge bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R. Subhash Reddy and M R Shah also refused to grant liberty to the petitioner to give representation to the Election Commission in this regard.

“We can’t permit everybody to go to the Election Commission. We can only permit you to withdraw the petition,” the bench said.

The matter was then dismissed as withdrawn.

The EC announced the schedule for Bihar assembly elections later on Friday.

The top court was hearing the plea filed by one Ajay Kumar who contended that the general assembly elections cannot be held smoothly due to the pandemic.

The plea sought to hold the Bihar Assembly elections till the situation becomes normal.

SC to consider about Govt's suggestion of making refund vouchers transferable



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it will consider the Centre's suggestion of making transferable the refund vouchers to be given to the passengers in lieu of the tickets booked for the flights which were cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

The top court reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions including by NGOs and passengers associations seeking refund of ticket fare for the

flights which were cancelled due to the Pandemic. A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Centre and Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), that transferable refund vouchers can be issued to the passengers, which can be used by the travel agents who had booked their tickets for the flights which were cancelled later.

FARMBILLSPROTEST



LF-CONG, TMC HOLD PROTESTS AT 100 PLACES IN BENGAL

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Left and Congress on Friday launched a joint campaign against Farm Bills organising road-blockades in at least a hundred places in the State.

Roads were blocked at Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Raiganj, Murshidabad, Nadia, Birbhum, Burdwan, Bankura, Hooghly, Kolkata and elsewhere with the leaders vowing to continue the movement indefinitely.

Earlier, the Left and Congress asked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to call a special Assembly session to pass a unanimous resolution against the farm Bills and other legislations including the amendment in essential commodity laws. The TMC had yet to respond to the proposal.

At the end of a jointly organised “central rally” from Shyambazar crossing in North Kolkata to Esplanade in central Kolkata CPI(M) politburo member Biman Bose said “the BJP Government has been introducing anti-people laws one by one with no regard for the opposition views. They have decided to ruin the farmers as they have done in Gujarat where the farmers are brutally suppressed. Now a time has come when a prolonged movement will have to start through-



out the country to assert the rights of the farmers.

The Trinamool Congress had failed to provide a direction to the farmers’ cause he said adding “the onus now fell on the Left, secular and democratic parties to launch a pan-Indian movement in the country to secure the poor man’s rights.”

State Opposition Leader and senior Congress man Abdul Mannan walked alongside the CPI(M), Forward Bloc,

RSP, CPI, RCPI and other Left parties in a long procession to register their solidarity.

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Chowdhury said “the BJP Government’s anti-farmer laws would save it Rs 1 lakh crore which is why it is bringing the anti-farmer laws which will finally destroy the public distribution system and make life more impossible for the Indian farmers.”

The ruling TMC’s Kisan

Khet Mazdoor Cell too organised processions in North and South 24 Parganas and elsewhere in the State.

Reacting to the Left-Congress’ proposal for a joint Assembly session State Minister Partho Chatterjee said “they are trying to steal the show without fighting on the streets. I ask them as to why they are not going all out against the farm bill and why they are trying play politics in Assembly.”

Farmers on road in Aligarh

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Farmer leaders here on Friday led a farmer curfew in protest against the Central Government’s Farm Bills. The demonstration was proposed in Tappal, Akarabad, Iglas, Atrauli, Pisawa. Farmers did chakka jam sitting on the streets. The district administration and police were completely on alert.

The anger against the Agriculture Bill is not ending. On one side, the farmers are raising objections, on the

other hand the Opposition is protesting.

On Friday, farmers came on the road from all over the district.

In Iglas, the peasants marched on foot, which was stopped by the police. During this time, farmers also got angry with the police.

In Gabhana, activists of the Indian Farmers Organisation blocked the highway for about 15 minutes. Later the SDM opened the jam by handing the memorandum to the President.



SP protests, sends memorandum to UP Guv

Lucknow: The Samajwadi Party on Friday held a statewide protest against the farm sector and labour reform Bills and sent a memorandum to Governor Anandiben Patel, requesting her to ensure that these are not implemented in the State.

Various farmer outfits have been protesting against the contentious bills passed by the Parliament recently.

“On the directives of Samajwadi Party’s national president Akhilesh Yadav, party

workers sent a memorandum to the Governor thorough the respective district magistrates demanding that the ‘anti-farmers’ and ‘anti-workers’ bills should not be implemented in the State,” SP chief spokesman Rajendra Chowdhury said.

Akhilesh Yadav, in a statement issued here, said the SP has always been in the forefront of raising issues of public interest and had stood against the ruling party for their “anti-people” stand.

He said under the present regime, the youth is unemployed and big capitalists have set their eyes on farmers’ land.

“Laws are being made only for multinational companies and a few industrialists. The BJP government has first introduced a bill of exploitation of farmers to benefit capitalists and now a bill of labour exploitation to benefit industrialists. They brought these bills without taking any suggestions,” the statement said. **PTI**

Farm Bills passed without consulting mandi traders, Opp: Rajasthan CM

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday targeted the Centre over three farm bills, saying they were introduced in Parliament without consulting mandi traders and Opposition parties, and were passed in a shameful manner.

He claimed that all the provisions made in the bills are anti-farmer and the mandis will be destroyed.

“Why was the law made? Why was the minimum support price (MSP) not proposed? You can understand from it that the situation is very serious and the way these three bills were passed, it was also done in a shameful manner,” Gehlot told reporters.

Attacking the government, he claimed, “These are people of fascist thinking and they do not believe in democracy. All the work is being done so that public attention can be diverted.” He said the bills were introduced without consulting mandi traders and opposition parties. **PTI**

Will try not to implement farm sector laws in Maha: Cong, NCP

Pune: The Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which are part of the ruling coalition in Maharashtra, on Friday said they would try to ensure that the farm sector reform bills are not implemented in the state.

Speaking in Pune, deputy Chief Minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar said farmers as well as the NCP and other parties are opposed to the new bills. “Farmers think that the laws are

not beneficial for them. There was no hurry (to pass them),” he said. Asked whether they would be implemented in Maharashtra, he said, “We will try to ensure that they are not implemented, but at the same time we will have to see what new issues crop up.

“We are studying what can happen if the matter goes to the court,” Pawar said, adding that the government has sought opinion of the legal department too. He had held a meet-

ing on the issue where Water Resources Minister Jayant Patil, Cooperation Minister Balasaheb Patil, leaders of Mathadi workers (head-loaders who work in APMCs) and other stakeholders were present, he added.

Earlier in the day, state Congress chief and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat said they will “work together and take a decision on non-implementation of the new farm bills.” **PTI**



Huge arms haul in erstwhile Maoist region

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a sensational breakthrough the Bengal Police on Friday unearthed arms from an erstwhile Maoist-hit region of Golkata in West Midnapore, district administration sources said.

About 30 muskets, electric wire and tin containers were found after the police acting on definite sources dug out a 40 feet area inside dense forests of Okhla in the Golkata region.

The guns rapped in rags and plastic could have been buried about ten years ago and had rusted and become dysfunctional, senior officials said adding the finds would be sent for forensic testing. The police had to use JCB machines to excavate the area after some “specific information,” sources said.

Political gunfire resumed soon after the arms were unearthed even as senior Trinamool Congress MP Saugato Roy alleged “gong by the age of the arms it seems that they could have been buried by the CPI(M) harms or maybe the Maoists ... but the most likelihood is that the CPI(M)

cadres might have buried them after their government went out of power,” reminding how “skeletons were dug out from the village of then CPI(M) minister Sushanto Ghosh.

Reacting vehemently to his suggestions CPI(M) Legislature Party Leader Suján Chakrabarty said, it was high time the Trinamool Congress stopped spreading lies. “Talking about skeletons which had been planted by one of their leaders who is now in a BJP general secretary... and why could not they prove a single charge against the Left Government... so Sougato Roy being such a senior politician should stop peddling lies... The Left has suffered the maximum at the hands of the TMC-Maoist clique ... they murdered hundreds of our cadres in cold blood.”

The BJP on the other hand said the guns might belong to the Maoists given the history of ultra-Left movement in Bengal however he would not rule out Trinamool Congress hand in the incident. “All angles must be probed to get to the truth,” he said.

2 LeT terrorists killed in Anantnag

PNS ■ JAMMU

A foreign terrorist from Pakistan along with his local associate, belonging to the proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) were neutralised by the joint teams of security forces in Sirhama area of Anantnag on Friday.

The operation in the area was launched late on Thursday evening after receiving inputs about the presence of these terrorists in the area.

According to a police spokesman, “Due to darkness the operation was suspended in the area while a tight cordon was maintained to plug the escape routes”. He said, “In the wee hours, the operation was resumed and in the ensuing encounter two terrorists were

Operation in the area was launched late on Thursday evening after receiving inputs about the presence of these terrorists in the area

killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter.”

The police spokesman said the killed terrorists have been identified as Adil Ahmad Bhat resident of Pulwama and Abu Rehan @Towheed a Pakistani national. Both the killed terrorists were commanders and affiliated with proscribed terror outfit LeT.

According to police records, Adil was involved in case FIR No. 117/2020 of PS

Nowgam pertaining to the killing of two JKP personnel and weapon snatching at Nowgam Srinagar on 14-08-2020. An Insas rifle snatched in Nowgam attack was also recovered from the encounter site.

According to a police spokesman, Pakistani terrorist Abu Rehan was an important motivator and influenced young minds for joining terror ranks in the areas of South Kashmir. He was involved in motivating local youth to carry out ‘fidayeen’ attacks on Police/SFs. He was also involved in providing logistic support to the newly infiltrated terrorists and strengthening the LeT outfit throughout the valley by distributing newly joined/infiltrated terrorists to various areas.

Sena slams move to hold Bihar polls amid Covid-19 crisis

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Questioning the very decision to hold the Assembly elections in Bihar in the midst of Coronavirus crisis, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Friday charged that the ruling JD(U) and BJP would make Sushant Singh Rajput as the main issue in the elections.

Talking to media persons here, Raut took serious exception to holding the Bihar Assembly elections at a time

when the country was still to tide over the Coronavirus crisis.

“Such has been the gravity of the situation that the Assembly and Parliament sessions have had to be curtailed. So far a minister and three MPs have died so far. That being the case, why is the state Assembly poll being held in Bihar?,” Raut asked.

“I have no objection whatsoever for the conduct of elections. But, is this right to hold elections?,” Raut said.

Raut charged that the rul-

ing JD(U)-BJP alliance would go whole hog to cash in on the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who hails from Bihar. “I am told that JD(U) has printed posters of Sushant Singh Rajput in a big way for the elections. The JD(U) has made Sushant death probe an issue with a clear eye on the elections,” Raut said.

“It was a long-planned drama. The Bihar government does not have any developmental or governance issues to

talk about in the elections. No wonder, the JF(U) has started campaigning with posters of Sushant. Hence, Sushant and the drugs matters relating to the incident are blown out of proportion,” Raut said.

Wondering as to what had happened to the CBI probe into Sushant’s death, Raut said: “The NCB is handling the drugs case. I would like to know as to what has happened to the CBI probe in the Sushant case, now that the former Bihar

DPG Gupteshwar Pandey quit IPS to contest the state polls”.

When his attention was drawn to the proposed film city in Uttar Pradesh, Raut said: “It’s a welcome development and the entertainment industry can create huge employment opportunities”. He, however, dismissed speculation that a film city in UP would reduce the importance of the Bollywood capital of Mumbai.

Replying to a question, Raut6 said: “Nobody is going

to leave Maharashtra and go to UP... People will all remain here. Mumbai’s film industry has been set up with blood, sweat and tears and it can never lose its importance... Merely by shifting the film city or a few government departments cannot impact the significance of Mumbai”.

Raut had a dig at the Centre for its failure to set up a film city in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370.

Pandemic powerplay

Nitish Kumar’s stock is low without the BJP’s heft. Can Lalu’s RJD still make a difference as leader of the Opp bloc?



The Bihar Assembly elections, right in the middle of the pandemic, will be the greatest logistical and public health challenge and if successful, could become a template of how a mass participatory process could be initiated without risking the virus. So yes, the new election code has new rules, including virtual campaigning, spread out schedule, longer voting hours, more polling booths, quarantined centres so that even the COVID-positive can vote and an unprecedented stock of preventive gear. The biggest challenge will be to ensure that the electoral process doesn’t become a super-spreader event. For the Election Commission, it is a big test, considering more State elections are to follow in rapid succession under the shadow of the pandemic. For Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar, it is time to convince his people that he is still good enough to deliver, his personal stock having taken a beating. For the Opposition and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supreme Lalu Prasad Yadav, it is a chance to prove that his sons have it in them to continue his political movement robustly and more importantly, that he is still a leader who matters in reshaping discourse. Let’s take Nitish, who is under attack for his patchy response to the pandemic, poor flood management and mishandling of returnee migrants, a new constituency that is being courted by all parties. He may coast to victory in alliance with the BJP but the latter, while acknowledging him as the chief ministerial candidate, is still as ambitious about becoming the voters’ first choice and having its own man in the future. It hasn’t helped that Nitish has lost out in ratings to his Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath in crisis management, the appreciation damagingly coming from his own people. The labourers, students and teachers are most peeved with him. Besides, unlike his initial years, he has stagnated and has nothing to show as a deliverer. The row over farm Bills may not have that much of an economic resonance in Bihar as the Government procurement here is low. Besides, it was the first State in India to have scrapped the Agriculture Produce Market Committee Act in 2006 and pave the way for the private sector to get involved in procurement of agricultural produce. But he cannot ignore the political consequences simply because Bihar’s farmers haven’t benefitted after the APMC was dismantled. The markets suffered a loss of fee revenue, there was no major private investment in the State’s agricultural sector and the smaller farmers continue to depend on trader cartels for buys as there is no guaranteed price mechanism. If anything, Bihar shows how taking down a regulatory framework hastily without necessary checks and balances can hurt the small and marginal farmers even more. The Opposition could use this for its campaign pitch. Politically though, Nitish has already neutralised the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), whose leader Chirag Paswan was attacking him almost every day, by inducting Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) founder and his protégé Jitan Ram Manjhi, into his fold. The Dalit vote is now consolidated under the NDA umbrella. According to the 2011 census, the Scheduled Castes are 15 per cent of Bihar’s population. The Mahadalits constitute nearly 16 per cent and though cultivated by Nitish, were beginning to swerve towards the RJD, which has the core traditional votes of the Muslims and Yadavs. Manjhi could return the Dalit swing in his favour. This would bring Nitish the numbers he needs to stay relevant.

Where does it leave Lalu then? The Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party (SP) announced that it will not contest and support all RJD candidates instead. Lalu still has the drawing power but he is not on the ground to smoothen wrinkles in the grand alliance of like-minded parties. And that could work to the RJD’s detriment. The problem with the Opposition bloc members is that they would only end up dividing the non-NDA vote if they do not form a strategic partnership. At the same time, they become aggressive about bargaining for seats in return for staying together and that reduces the seat quota for the RJD. A reduced number of seats for the RJD only helps the BJP to manipulate numbers in its favour and keep the former in check. The Lok Sabha election results are proof of this under-cutting. The RJD could go it alone but that would be self-defeatist considering some of its allies are already questioning the leadership of Tejashwi Yadav in public. The youth are particularly not taken in by the dynastic entitlement of Lalu’s sons, who wage their own ego battles in the public sphere than inspire confidence. Tejashwi and Tej Pratap need to be on the same page. Or at least use their father’s wisdom. Tejashwi, so far, has appeared more interested in pursuing his individual ambition, grooming his yes men and running down senior leaders of the caste movement as deadwood. The arrogance cost the RJD its dependable associations with the Left and the Congress. Besides, with the BJP waiting to splinter unhappy parties, the Opposition bloc is caught in a cleft stick at the moment. The Left parties may look down and out but they are holding on to their traditional pockets. Perhaps if they had effectively used former Jawaharlal Nehru University Students’ Union (JNUSU) president Kanhaiya Kumar as the change-making candidate, they could have become a key fringe player. The Congress is gasping for breath and though it won’t harm the RJD, another poor performance could see it losing more members to the BJP. The tide of discontent is there against Nitish but without Lalu at the helm, can the Opposition ride it?

Environmental damage

Without plastics and polymers, we might not have been able to face COVID. But it is time to start worrying about the environment



As Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora announced the dates for the Bihar Assembly elections, he also detailed the precautions being taken to conduct them. The fact is that the entire electoral process is a crowded one, and in a densely populated State like Bihar, almost guaranteed to be so, no matter what rules and regulations are put in place. So the Election Commission is deploying millions of masks and gloves and thousands of litres of hand sanitiser across booths to protect voters, booth officials and security personnel. Given that thousands of voters will touch every voting machine, each will be provided with a single disposable glove. But while the health and safety of our voters is paramount, there is another concern. That is the mountains of trash that will be generated as a result of these precautions. Given that several State Governments had declared a war on single-use plastics over the past few years, it is especially ironic that single-use plastic gloves will be needed to keep democracy alive. In fact, it is one of the side effects of the pandemic that huge volumes of non-recyclable, non-biodegradable trash have been generated. There is little doubt that COVID warriors in intensive care wards need plastic personal protective equipment. Even surgical masks worn by millions are for the large part non-biodegradable. As more cities get back to work across the world and humanity learns to live with the virus and new protocols, both the Government and citizens must ponder over medical waste management and disposal. One immediate change that millions can adopt is to move to using washable cloth masks instead of polymer-based masks. While such polymer masks will be essential in hospital wards, in regular daily use cloth masks are quite effective at protecting others and more comfortable as well. Protocols for the reuse of protective kits and other plastic equipment should also be put in place, whether that involves washing or ultraviolet sanitisation. We must look at newer incineration technologies. We might be coming to terms with the pandemic, even if we have paid a terrible price in deaths and with the economy. However, we should not make the environmental costs so dramatic as well. We will be undoing all that we have attempted to reset so far.

opinion

Rescue package

We need a supportive policy regime so that banks can lend more and there is a rigorous monitoring of end-use of credit



SC PANDEY

It sounds pretty heartless to worry about the economy and livelihoods and appear less concerned with peoples’ lives. It is difficult to weigh in golden balance whether lives or livelihoods are more important. On December 31, 2019, China first told the World Health Organisation (WHO) that 41 patients in Wuhan had contracted a mysterious pneumonia not amenable to conventional treatment. Beginning January 23, first the city of Wuhan, then the entire Hubei province and then some other cities were locked down. The unprecedented quarantine was imposed on 50 million people across 15 cities. After a 6.8 per cent contraction in January-March 2020 quarter, China’s economy recorded 3.2 per cent growth in April-June 2020. China is the first major economy to return to growth after the pandemic. For us, the pandemic is an imported calamity. The main gateways to India have been worst affected. Major democracies, including India, have failed to emulate the ruthless measures taken by China (and could be taken by China alone) to contain the damage. Maybe there is more than what meets the eye here. With confirmed infections of over 50 lakh, albeit with a somewhat modest case fatality ratio of 1.64 per cent and a significantly high 78 per cent recovery rate, the first peak is not in sight at the national level although there is significant disruption of economic activity. Individual estimates vary widely with observers’ biases as expected because the pandemic has fooled all forecasting tools. A general sense is that we face stagnation if not outright contraction in economic growth in the current year. The GDP at current market prices was ₹45.51 lakh crore, ₹49.18 lakh crore and ₹38.08 lakh crore during April-June 2018, April-June 2019 and April-June 2020, respectively. The GDP at 2011-12 prices was ₹26.89 lakh crore during April-June 2020, compared to ₹35.35 lakh crore during April-June 2019. This is the direct effect of the lockdown that was in force for almost two out of three months in the first quarter. Experts are divided as to how the GDP is going to behave in the ensuing quarters due to the impact



of the pandemic on jobs and incomes.

Another way to analyse the economic impact of the pandemic is to look at GST collections which indicate the quantum of documented sales of goods and services. Monthly GST collections during April-August have been ₹32,172 crore, ₹62,151 crore, ₹90,917 crore, ₹87,422 crore and ₹86,449 crore. In August 2019, GST collection was ₹98,202 crore, so, obviously we are far away from reaching pre-lockdown levels of spending and registering a decent growth on that level. The shortfall from August 2019 GST collection is 12 per cent in August 2020. Obviously, GST collections would not measure the impact of the pandemic on the informal economy where undocumented sales take place on *kutchha* bills.

The first quarter GDP contraction affected almost all sectors. The only sector that posted positive growth (3.4 per cent) was agriculture, with bumper Rabi crops. High-contact sectors like tourism and hospitality are very badly affected.

Past years’ trends show that the GDP is almost equally divided in the four quarters with some increase in the last quarter. In 2017-18, the contribution of the four quarters was 23.4, 24.4, 25.3 and 26.9 per cent for quarters one, two, three and four. In 2018-19, it was 24, 24.5, 25.4 and 26.1 per cent. In 2019-20, it was 24.2, 24.2, 25.4 and 26.2 per cent. This year’s quarterly GDP trends are going to be abnormal.

“MAJOR ECONOMIES ARE SURVIVING ON PEOPLE BUYING THINGS THAT THEY DON’T REALLY NEED AND LIVING ON BORROWED FUNDS. IT IS A PARADOX THAT THE RICHEST COUNTRIES ARE ALSO THE MOST INDEBTED COUNTRIES. NEW ASPIRATIONAL NEEDS ARE FELT OR CREATED AND FINANCE IS ARRANGED BY BORROWING”

SOUNDBITE

We will review progress on the economic recovery in each Budget update, but I expect phase one to remain in place until the unemployment rate is comfortably back under six per cent.

Australian Treasurer
—Josh Frydenberg



While the economy has been doing better than expected, I think there’s a downside risk to that if there is no further fiscal support.

Federal Reserve Chairman
—Jerome Powell



The malafide intent that drives the Pakistani deep state is in total contradiction to the objectives and principles that we all have gathered to promote in this temple of human rights.

First Secretary, MEA
—Vimars Aryan



Russia will in no way build its policy on the basis of taking into account these aggressive demands that have no legal force.

Foreign Minister
—Sergei Lavrov



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

China plays Nepal

Sir — The local authorities of Lapcha-Limi region in Humla have alleged that China has constructed nine buildings one kilometre inside the territory of Nepal. Lapcha-Limi is of great strategic importance to Nepal as Kailash Mansarovar can be clearly seen from this point. This sort of expansionist move isn’t the first by China. Earlier in June this year, the Nepal Government had complained that China was using road construction in Tibet to occupy its land. While Nepal is protesting against the encroachment, maybe it should also ponder on its move of releasing a new political map that claimed Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh of Uttarakhand as part of its sovereign territory, ostensibly at China’s behest.

Rahul Chouhan
Ujjain

Lost game

Sir — The Minister of State for External Affairs, V Muraleedharan, provided details of the Prime Minister’s visits abroad since 2015, including their outcome. According to the details furnished, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited 58

countries since 2015 and a total expenditure of ₹517 crore was incurred on them. He visited US, Russia and China five times each and made multiple trips to other countries like Singapore, Germany, France, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates.

To what extent did these visits help India with its bilateral, regional and global issues? Today, India is facing multiple terror-

ism challenges from three of its neighbouring countries — China, Nepal and Pakistan. The finding by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) that French aerospace major Dassault Aviation and European missile maker MBDA have defaulted on offset clauses of the Rafale deal puts a question mark on the Government’s negotiation capabilities. The same amount

should have been put to better use elsewhere.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Honour offset clause

Sir — The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) has slammed French firms Dassault Aviation and MBDA — the main companies in the

Diverting public attention

The rising numbers of COVID-19 cases, a dented economy and tension around the borders do not seem to concern us as much as the alleged seamer side of life in Bollywood. The Narcotics Control Board’s (NCB) probe into the drug use in Bollywood has captured the imagination of the nation so much so that it appears to have become the be-all-and-end-all of our lives. The information gathered during its “grilling” of celebrities, leaked to select media, has now become the staple diet of television drama.

The idiot box is now a voyeur’s delight; it wallows on prying into the private lives of screen idols. Breathless reporters heighten the drama by their delivery of the story in a frenzy of excitement. The “arrivals” of actresses at the NCB office in the morning and their “departures” in the evening are marked by hustle and bustle as if they are earth-shattering events.

What started as a probe into actor Sushant Singh Rajput’s demise and the circumstances surrounding it has meandered its way into a fishing expedition in



Bollywood to “name and shame” selective actresses who might have consumed drugs in little quantities. The way NCB is handling the case casts serious doubts on its independence and integrity. And never before has a death been so repugnantly used as a weapon to fight political battles.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

₹59,000 crore contract for 36 Rafale fighter jets — for their failure to transfer advanced technology to India. As per the deal, the French firms are required to plough back 50 per cent of the contract value to India as offsets or re-investments.

India, being the world’s second-largest arms importer, suffers from shortages of critical weapon platforms. The Government should ensure that foreign vendors aren’t allowed to view Indian contracts as easy cash cows.

N Sadhasiva Reddy
Bengaluru

Disturbing numbers

Sir — According to the 2018 annual report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 33,356 rape cases were reported across the country, or an average of 91 rapes a day. The numbers are disturbing and the legislative reforms haven’t been of much help. Our society needs to re-awaken and more serious reforms should be undertaken.


Urvi Jain
Ujjain

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Save Bollywood from ‘gutterisation’

The entire process of turning actors into marketing agents for selling certain political ideologies must stop after Kangana Ranaut



ANURAG TIWARY

ABHINAV JHA

The Government’s recent decision to set up the country’s “most beautiful” and “biggest” film city in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, has to be read in its wider socio-political context. An attempt to decentralise Bollywood, negate Mumbai as the entertainment capital of this country and control the dissemination of art and creativity is under way. The timing couldn’t be any better. The debate over nepotism, drug use and the proliferation of the so-called “mafia” of film-makers in Mumbai, amid the controversy surrounding Sushant Singh Rajput’s (SSR’s) untimely death, has changed the way we, as an audience, look at Bollywood today. The Hindi film industry is allegedly ruled by a bunch of oligarchs and dynasts who are extremely arrogant, egotistical and self-absorbed in their attitude towards “outsiders.”

Globally, the entertainment industry runs on a nonpareil image that it builds for itself. The insider-outsider debate in Bollywood has tainted the larger than life image of actors and film-makers and has brought the good, bad, and ugly side of the industry out in the open. How much of it is true remains to be seen. However, interestingly, Kangana Ranaut has emerged as the unflinching face of the rebellion against power, albeit in a highly uncouth manner. Resultantly, it has so happened that much of this controversy has led to a debate between the far-Right and the Left-of-Centre political ideologies. In their attempts at winning the hearts of the urban middle-class, political parties have paved the way for a radical overhauling of cinema, art, and artists. This will be done by creating parallel power structures within the entertainment industry that will be backed by the State. We see that happening almost ostentatiously in the SSR-Rhea-Kangana drama. We have also seen that as a gradual development since the NDA Government came to power.

The likes of Anupam Kher, Paresh Rawal and Madhur Bhandarkar, among many others, have been used to lend their voice to debates on nationalism and religion. However, the nexus between Bollywood and politicians isn’t a new phenomenon. Great politicians understand that politics alone will not get their messages to the masses. So, both the groups have, historically, looked after each other. Film personalities help politicians in their campaigns and similarly, politicians help failed actors become administrators in the name of “cultural diplomacy.” It is almost like a rule. However, what the Kangana saga has revealed is that there is an attempt to forge a parallel entertainment industry which will act as the mouthpiece of Right-wing political parties and the Government. This group will help in disseminating what is known as “fringe cultural nationalism.” The mechanism is simple, involving shifting of power structures and bringing the industry within the control of the State. For the services of such actors, the Government will either provide them with security sponsored from public money or citizenship in case you are Akshay Kumar.

What is ignored during this entire debate is that the democratisation of cinema originally meant the production and promotion of diverse ideas previously not permitted within the industry. It also meant that for an “outsider”, there would be “lower barriers to entry” without any particular pedigree. It meant experimentation with alternative modes of artistic expression and creativity. It meant due recognition for films and works of expression that display counter-culture. Diversified cinema and artistic creativity were the major goals behind the demands for democratising the industry.

The present developments pose a threat to all stakeholders, including the audience, who are the primary and the majority stakeholders in artistic expression. The emergence of newbie politicians, who are regarded as pariah actors, will serve the purposes of disseminating Right-wing nationalism and will do no good to creativity and art. Actors, on the other hand, will lose creative autonomy and will be burdened with social responsibility. Films that challenge majoritarianism or films that are against an idea imposed by the State will not be permitted to go on the floors. Existing norms on censorship will change and become worse than what they already are. Discretion will be exercised almost freely. Turning artists into marketing agents for selling a certain political ideology must stop after motormouth Kangana Ranaut. Jaya Bachchan’s “save the industry” from “gutterisation” remark in Rajya Sabha last week should act as a clarion call and must force prospective cine-goers and film-makers to do some introspection.

(Anurag is from the National Law University and Abhinav is a student of law, Amity University)

analysis07

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

INHONE LOCKDOWN MEIN BAS ANUSHKA K/BOWLING K/ PRACTICE K/ HAIN (VIRAT HAS ONLY TRAINED AGAINST ANUSHKA’S BOWLING DURING THE LOCKDOWN). —FORMER CRICKETER SUNIL GAVASKAR



OVER THE YEARS YOU HAVE RESPECTED THE PRIVATE LIVES OF EVERY CRICKETER. SHOULDN’T YOU HAVE AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF RESPECT FOR ME AND US? —ACTOR ANUSHKA SHARMA

Pacifier in the Indo-Pacific

Germany’s return to realpolitik augurs well for India as it emerges as a pivot of the aggressive counter-balancing act in the region together with the US, Japan and Australia



SANDEEP KUMAR DUBEY

Even as the world is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitics is undergoing a seismic shift. The Indo-Pacific region, which accounts for almost 40 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), has emerged as the epicentre of the “New Great Game,” especially between the US and China, for influence. The rule-based international order is being contested in the Indo-Pacific reportedly by none other than a UN Security Council (UNSC) member, the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Speaking at the Munich Security Conference on February 14, the German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said, “...(China) is selective in accepting international law only where it does not run counter to its own interests. Its actions in the South China Sea are unsettling the neighbours in the region.”

Beijing’s constant hammering on the existing global order has caused alarm in the US and among its allies. Compared to China, India has been endorsing the prevalence of a rule-based world order in the Indo-Pacific region. Delineating New Delhi’s vision for the region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue on June 1, 2018, said, “India stands for an open and stable international trade regime. We will also support a rule-based, open, balanced and stable trade environment in the Indo-Pacific Region...”

Re-ordering the world: After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, what emerged was a unipolar world order dominated by the US. It was believed that post-1991, the emergence of the US as the sole world power would expedite the restoration of global peace, security and stability and strengthen Pax Americana.

That is, the post-World War-II international order shaped and maintained by the US employing its overwhelming might. However, instead of growing in strength, Pax Americana has been fraying since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The strategic space ceded in the Indo-Pacific by the US, thanks to its “America First” policy, has been occupied by regional powers, thus turning it into a multi-polar region and the centre of a major geopolitical tussle for dominance. The fear among the world powers is that if the rules of the international order are disobeyed and disowned, the already fragile global form might collapse. What would happen next? A chaos resulting out of world disorder? Or a global re-order leading to resuscitation of peace and security?

Wary of the consequences that might ensue, India has been championing for a world based on a new global security architecture supported by multi-lateralism and mutual cooperation. During his recent visit to Russia, in a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation on September 4, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh declared New Delhi is committed to this as it will “be open, transparent, inclusive, rules-based and anchored in international laws.” Earlier in May, in his address to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) countries, Modi had appealed, “In the post-Corona world, we need a new template of globalisation, based on fairness, equality, and humanity. We need international institutions that are more representative of today’s world.”

GIVEN THE EXPANSIONIST AGENDA OF CHINA IN THE INDO-PACIFIC AND BEYOND, COUNTRIES IN THE REGION ARE FORMING A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO CONTAIN IT. THE SUCCESS OF THE ALLIANCE, HOWEVER, DEPENDS ON HOW INDIA RESPONDS TO THE EMERGING GEOPOLITICS IN THE REGION. CAN NEW DELHI PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ARRESTING BEIJING’S GROWING INFLUENCE IN THE REGION? DOES ITS GEOGRAPHIC POSITION ALLOW FOR THAT?

Indo-US partnership: In recent years, India has come strategically closer to the US and its allies to contain China through diplomatic and military means. The Indian Navy’s participation in the Malabar naval exercise led by the US Navy is one such example of the growing partnership between the two nations.

But it has not come to terms with the “America First” policy. Unlike Washington DC, New Delhi has been a proponent of multi-lateralism to promote peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. And that is why it is treading a fine line in the region by not squarely aligning with the US in its balancing act, making no explicit reference to China and opposing Australia’s entry into the Malabar naval exercise.

However, amid the growing border tension with China, India may “aggressively” pursue the Indo-Pacific balancing act together with the US, Japan and Australia. Though so far New Delhi has opposed Australia’s entry into the Malabar exercise, it might consider inviting it to the next one. This would strengthen the Quad (the US, India, Australia and Japan strategic partnership) further and probably make it anti-China. In 2015, Japan had already been elevated as a permanent member of the Malabar exercise group.

China as a sea power: In his book *Prisoners of Geography*, Tim Marshall notes, “Until now China has never been a naval power...and it was rarely ideologically expansive...It was always a land power with a lot of land and a lot of people.” However, Beijing now harbours ambitions of becoming a global power and setting the international rules on its own terms. To fulfil its ambitions, it simply follows in the US’ footsteps to gain control over the seas.

It has already taken measures to dominate the South China Sea (SCS)

and the Indian Ocean. Beijing is already making efforts to set up an Air Defence Identification Zone in the SCS and develop a Blue Water navy to defend its sea controls. Tim Marshall further adds, “China...intends to become a two ocean power (Pacific and Indian). To achieve this, China is investing in deep-water ports in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka...”

The great American naval strategist of the 19th century, Alfred Mahan, once said, “Whoever rules the waves, rules the world.” His naval strategy finds supreme place in China pursuing its strategic ends. Just like other global powers, Beijing, too is Mahanian, probably with Maoist tactics. China is expanding its sea controls in a piecemeal manner, mouthful by mouthful, a typical Maoist strategy to wipe out enemy forces one by one. Mao asserted, “In war, battles can only be fought one by one and the enemy forces can only be destroyed one by one.” Tacticisation of strategy is doomed to fail against China’s well-designed strategy of piecemeal expansion in the Indo-Pacific region. Only a coherent grand containment strategy can counter Beijing’s expansionism in the region.

India as the pivot State: Given the expansionist agenda of China in the Indo-Pacific and beyond, countries in the region are forming a strategic partnership to contain it. The success of the alliance, however, depends on how India responds to the emerging geopolitics in the region. Can New Delhi play a pivotal role in arresting Beijing’s growing influence? Does its geographic position allow for that?

Quoting naval strategist Alfred Mahan, Robert Kaplan writes in his book *The Revenge of Geography*, “Mahan thought that instead of the Heartland of Eurasia being the geographical pivot of empires, it was conversely the Indian and Pacific oceans

that constituted the hinges of geopolitical destiny.” Mahan sees India’s location in the centre of the Indian Ocean littoral, with the Himalayas protecting its rear flanks, as critical for the seaward penetration of China, adds Kaplan. This explains precisely the strategic significance of India’s geography in regional geopolitics, making it a pivot of the Indo-Pacific. Kaplan has rightly predicted, “As the US and China become great power rivals, the direction in which India tilts could determine the course of geopolitics in Eurasia in the 21st century. India, in other words, looms as the ultimate pivot State.”

Germany’s return to realpolitik: On July 1, Germany took charge of the presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU). In September it articulated its strategy on the region through a document titled “Policy guidelines for the Indo-Pacific region.” In his statement, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas declared: “We are sending a clear message today, the Indo-Pacific region is a priority of German foreign policy...We want to help shape that order, so that it is based on rules and international cooperation, not on the law of the strong. That is why we have intensified cooperation with those countries that share our democratic and liberal values.” In fact, this is indicative of Germany’s return to a realpolitik approach towards its foreign and security policies from its so-called “moral politics” and “political escapism.”

This augurs well for India, as both nations believe in a multi-lateralist approach to foreign policy and international politics. Just like Germany, multi-lateralism is key to transforming India into a global power. Their beliefs in democratic and liberal values make them natural allies and together they can play a vital role in ensuring peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

(The writer is a policy commentator)

India needs another Vidyasagar now

Just two years ago, a tribal boy was killed in Karmatar because he wished to marry a widow. Has anything really changed in modern India?



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

On September 26, 200 years ago, an extraordinary personality was born in a village in south West Bengal. By the standards of his time, why, even by today’s standards, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was unique in every respect. As Rabindranath Tagore once said, “One wonders how God, in the process of producing 40 million Bengalis, produced a man.”

The 19th century Bengali society was in an advanced state of decay brought about by a lethal cocktail of superstition, depravity and exploitation, being trapped inside a complex hierarchy of castes and sub-castes embedded within each other. One half of the society — women — was excluded from education and economic activities, being confined to homes where they had no voice. They were treated as intellectually and morally inferior, and hence unworthy of education. Superstition proclaimed that a girl’s education would inevitably beget her widowhood. Her best contribution to society was to become one of the countless wives of *Kulin* Brahmins, whose

main aim was collecting handsome dowries from multiple marriages — one had as many as 156 wives as per records. She would be lucky to enjoy her absentee husband’s company a few nights a year. She would attain salvation by burning on the same funeral pyre with her husband, who was 50-60 years older than her. Through the efforts of Raja Rammohan Roy (1772-1838), the horrendous practice of Sati was abolished in 1829, nine years after Vidyasagar’s birth.

Child marriage was the order of the day. Girls were married before attaining puberty in a custom called *gouridan*. Born into a *Kulin* Brahmin family, Vidyasagar himself was married at the age of 14 to a girl eight years old. Bankimchandra, who was born 18 years after Vidyasagar, was married at 11 to a girl only five years old. Female infanticide was also the order of the day. Female foetuses would be destroyed brutally through what was called “*ghat murder*.” These monstrosities still exist in many pockets in rural India despite all the laws we have in our books.

Women had no right to property or inheritance. Once they became widows, a lifetime of misery awaited them. They were forced to a single stringent vegetarian meal a day to rob them of their sexuality, youth and beauty. Sexual exploitation by relatives and termination of unwanted pregnancies leading to death were not only common but met with society’s tacit approval. Legal abolition of sati did not end women’s miseries. The daily privations, insults and misery of existence forced many to join the brothels that were there to sustain the perverted *Babu* culture of Bengal. In 1853, the population of sex workers in Kolkata was 12,419 and by 1867 it touched over 30,000. And 90 per cent of them, according to the *Amritabazar Patrika*, were widows. By a crude estimate, the sex worker population increased from about five to nearly 10 per cent of Kolkata’s population over this period.

This, then, was the society Vidyasagar was born into, and this was the society he had sought to reform. He did so with a gusto and a fearlessness we have not seen in any other personality ever since. To fight the orthodox society steeped in deep superstition and ruled by the semi-literate Brahmins, Vidyasagar knew he would have to beat his adversaries at their own game. So, in January and October 1855, he wrote his two famous treatises on the *Marriage of Hindu Widows*, drawing upon the *Sutras* (literary compositions) and the *Sastras* (scriptures) to establish his logical argument that there was no prohibition on remarriage of widows in the *Sastras*.

Rather the *Parashara Samhita* sanctioned widow remarriage: “Women are at liberty to marry again if their husbands are insane, dead, have renounced the family or are impotent or outcasts.” About 2,000 copies of the first book were sold in the first week itself, followed by 3,000 and then a third reprint of 10,000 copies got sold out too. But the sales figures did not indicate society’s response. He

was heaped with criticism, insults, motives, ridicule and even threatened with death.

The Hindu Widows’ Remarriage Act was finally passed on July 26, 1856 and the reform did not remain limited to Bengal alone. In 1864, Jyotiba Phule succeeded in persuading a Saraswat Brahmin widow to remarry. In 1866, Vishnu Shastri Pandit translated Vidyasagar’s book on widow remarriage into Marathi. But passing of the statute was only the first of the many obstacles. Vidyasagar personally presided over the first remarriage of a widow, Kalimati, with Srishchandra Vidyaratna, and then many others at his own expense, in the process gathering significant personal debt.

He even got his only son, Narayanachandra, married to a widow, Bhavasundari. Not many have the courage to practise what they preach. As he wrote to his brother: “Remarriage of widows is the noblest deed of my life. I don’t think I shall be able to accomplish a greater one, ever. I have sacrificed everything for this cause and won’t mind even laying down my life for it.”

He was also propagating women’s education. In 1849, he set up the Calcutta Female School along with Drinkwater Bethune for educating the girl child. In 1856, appointed Special Inspector of Schools, he established 30 schools exclusively for girls. Between 1857 and 1858, when the Mutiny was ravaging the country, he was fighting a different kind of battle, opening 35 girls’ schools all over Bengal.

After widow remarriage, it was the turn of polygamy. In 1857, he orchestrated a petition to the Government with 25,000 signatures for the prohibition of polygamy among *Kulin* Brahmins. The Mutiny postponed any action on this petition but in 1866, he inspired another petition, this time with 21,000 signatures. The Government, reluctant to interfere in Indian customs, refused to take any legislative measure, instead allowing time and education to bring an end to the practice.

In 1871 and 1873, he wrote two brilliant critiques on polygamy, arguing that it was not sanctioned by the sacred texts, but was opposed by five eminent scholars, led by his friend Taranath Tarkavachaspati of Calcutta Sanskrit College. Outlawing polygamy among Hindus, however, had to wait till 1955, eight years after Independence, through the Hindu Marriage Act. As regards child marriage, the Indian Penal Code, 1860, had fixed the age of consent to 10 years for girls, which was raised successively to 12 (1891), 14 (1925), 16 (1940) and 18 (2013). The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, also known as the Sarda Act, fixed the age of marriage at 14 for girls and 18 for boys, that was later raised to 18 and 21 respectively in 1978. This has since been repealed and replaced by the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

In 1873, disgusted with the so-called *bhadralok* society, Vidyasagar went to live with the Santhals at Karmatar, a sleepy hamlet about 20 km from the district headquarters

of Jamtara now in Jharkhand, where he would spend the last 18 years of his life till his death in 1891. There he set up a girls’ school and a night school for adults on the premises of his house, which he called Nandan Kanan. The house today lies in shambles.

The irony is that though in this village 24 tribal child widows were remarried by Vidyasagar, just two years ago, a tribal boy was killed in Karmatar because he wished to marry a widow. Has anything really changed in modern India?

Sati was abolished only in name. Countless satis continue to get burnt in 21st century India, though not on pyres. Countless brides get burnt to death in their nuptial homes for dowries, the faces and minds of countless more are scarred forever by acid attacks inflicted by spurned lovers and others. Scores of girls are murdered in “honour-killings” in rural India for marrying into another caste or community, by defying their families’ dictats.

Sati has actually metamorphosed into another form that is equally brutal and vicious. It is not about burning a woman. It is about denying her the choice to decide the course of her life. She is continued to be treated as morally and intellectually inferior to men, as she was 200 years ago. We need another Ram Mohan Roy and a Vidyasagar now, more than ever.

(The author is a retired Director-General from the Office of the CAG)

Trump will accept poll results: White House

Washington: President Donald Trump will accept the results of a “free and fair” election, his press secretary has said, allaying fears triggered after he yet again sowed doubts about the legitimacy of mail-in ballots and refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he lost the November 3 presidential polls.

Asked whether he will leave the White House peacefully if he loses the election, Trump responded: “Well, we’re going to have to see what happens.”

“We are going to have to see what happens, you know that. I have been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster...,” Trump told reporters at a White House news conference on Wednesday.

Trump’s remarks caused an uproar, with lawmakers from the Democratic Party as well as from the president’s own Republican Party rejecting his comments, insisting the winner of November’s election will be sworn in next January.



Responding to a question from a reporter on Trump’s refusal to commit to a peaceful transfer of power, White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said on Thursday: “The president will accept the results of a free and fair election. But I think that your question is more fitting to be asked of Democrats, who have already been on the record saying they will not accept the results of an election.

“I am referring to the president being asked if there would be a peaceful transfer of power and he did not say yes. So I am asking, will there be a peaceful transfer of power if he loses this election?” the reporter asked.

“I believe that question asked by the Playboy reporter - in fact, I think, have it right here - he (Trump) was asked win, lose or draw, whether he would accept the transfer of power. I am not entirely sure if he won, why would he accept a transfer of power. That is maybe the deranged wish of that reporter, but that is not how governing works,” McEnany said.

Trump has questioned the legitimacy of voting by mail-in ballot in the past, claimed that it is susceptible to massive fraud.

During an interview with Fox News earlier this year, Trump didn’t commit to accepting the election results either, saying “I have to see.”

Trump’s attacks on the balloting have led to concerns that he is undermining the trust in the election process and will contest the results if he loses.

McEnany referred to several comments made by the Democrats in the past, apparently questioning the validity of an election.

Aus think tank finds 380 detention camps in Xinjiang

AP ■ CANBERRA

China appears to be expanding its network of secret detention centres in Xinjiang, where predominantly Muslim minorities are targeted in a forced assimilation campaign, and more of the facilities resemble prisons, an Australian think tank has found.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute used satellite images and official construction tender documents to map more than 380 suspected detention facilities in the far northwestern region, highlighting internment camps, detention centers and prisons that have been newly built or expanded since 2017.

The report builds on evidence that China has made a policy shift from detaining Uighurs and other largely Muslim minorities in makeshift public buildings to constructing permanent mass detention facilities.

This is despite Chinese

state news agency Xinhua reporting late last year that “trainees” attending “vocational education and training centres” meant to deracialize them had “all graduated.”

Regional government chairman Shohrat Zakir was quoted as saying that foreign media reports of 1 million or 2 million people attending these centers were fabricated, though he would not provide any figures.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Friday dismissed the report as “pure disinformation and slander,” saying the Australian institute had “no academic credibility.”

China does not operate “so-called detention camps” in Xinjiang, Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

Citing media reports and investigations by internet users, Wang said one of the sites in the report had been identified as an electronics manufacturing park and another as a five-star residential complex.

Kim apologises over shooting death of South Korean official

Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un apologized Friday over the killing of a South Korea official near the rivals’ disputed sea boundary, saying he’s “very sorry” about the incident he called unexpected and unfortunate, South Korean officials said.

It’s extremely unusual for a North Korean leader to apologize to South Korea on any issue. Kim’s move will likely de-escalate tensions between the Koreans as it’s expected to ease anti-North sentiments in South Korea over the man’s death as well as mounting criticism of its liberal President Moon Jae-in.

“Comrade Kim Jong Un, the State Affairs Commission chairman, feels very sorry to give big disappointment to President Moon Jae-in and South Korean citizens because an unexpected, unfortunate incident happened” at a time when South Korea grapples with the coronavirus pandemic, Moon adviser Suh Hoon cited the North Korean message as saying.

On Thursday, South Korea accused North Korea of fatally shooting one of its public servants who was likely trying to defect and burning his body after finding him on a floating object in North Korean waters on Tuesday. South Korean officials condemned North Korea for what they called an “atroc-

cious act” and pressed it punish those responsible.

According to the North Korean message, North Korean troops first fired blanks after the man found in the North’s waters refused to answer other than saying he’s from South Korea a couple of times. Then, as he made moves to flee, the North Korean troops fired 10 rounds. When they came near the floating object, they only found lots of blood but no sign of him.

The troops determined he was dead and burned the floating object in line with anti-coronavirus rules, according to the North Korean message read by Suh.

Justice Dept seeks immediate ban on WeChat in US

New York: The Justice Department is seeking an immediate ban on downloads of WeChat in Apple and Google app stores, saying the Chinese-owned messaging service is a threat to the security of the United States.

Last week the U.S. Commerce Department moved to ban WeChat from U.S. App stores but on Saturday, Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler in California agreed to delay U.S. Restrictions, saying they would affect users’ First Amendment rights.

In a filing Friday, the Justice Department asked Beeler to allow for an immediate ban while the case works its way through court.

WeChat is a messaging-focused app popular with many Chinese-speaking Americans that serves as a lifeline to friends, family, customers and business contacts in China. It’s owned by Chinese tech giant Tencent.

The Justice Department says WeChat allows the Chinese government to collect and use personal data on Americans to advance its own interests. The filing states WeChat has approximately 19 million active daily users in the U.S. In a range of formats, including text, images, video, and audio.

The Trump administration has targeted WeChat and another Chinese-owned app, TikTok, for national security and data privacy concerns, in the latest flashpoint amid rising tensions between Washington and Beijing.

‘Hotel Rwanda’ hero admits backing rebels, denies violence

AP ■ KIGALI (RWANDA)

The man portrayed as a hero in the movie ‘Hotel Rwanda’ has admitted in court that he backed a rebel group, but denied that he supported any violence or killings.

Paul Rusesabagina, in a pink prison uniform for his bail hearing on Friday, told the court in Kigali, the capital, that he helped to form the National Liberation Front in order to help Rwandan refugees, but he never supported violence.

The judge has postponed ruling on his application for bail until October 2.

Rusesabagina, a Belgian citizen and U.S. Permanent resident who has been a critic of President Paul Kagame, is charged with 13 offenses that also include financing terrorism, complicity in murder, recruiting child soldiers, and forming a rebel group.

Migrants accuse Greece of pushing them back to sea

AP ■ DIKILI (TURKEY)

Shortly after reaching the Greek island of Lesbos, a group of Afghan migrants say, their hopes for a new life in Europe were cut short when Greek authorities rounded them up, mistreated them, shoved them into life rafts and abandoned them at sea.

Associated Press journalists on a Turkish government-organized coast guard ride-along were aboard the patrol boat that picked up the 37 migrants, including 18 children, from two orange life rafts in the Aegean Sea on September 12.

Two other media organizations on similar government-organized trips in the same week witnessed similar scenes.

“They took our phones and said a bus will come and take you to the camp,” Omid Hussain Nabizada said in Turkish. “But they took us

and put us on a ship. They left us on the water in a very bad way on these boats.”

Turkey, which hosts about 4 million refugees, accuses Greece of large-scale push-backs — summary deportations without access to asylum procedures, in violation of international law.

It also accuses the European Union of turning a blind eye to what it says is a blatant abuse of human rights.

The Turkish coast guard says it rescued over 300 migrants “pushed back by Greek elements to Turkish waters” this month alone.

Citing what they say are credible reports, international rights groups have called repeatedly for investigations.

Greece, which lies on the EU’s southeastern border and has borne the brunt of migration flows from Turkey, denies the allegations and in turn accuses Ankara of weaponising migrants.

2 wounded in Paris knife attack outside Charlie Hebdo ex-offices

Paris: French terrorism authorities are investigating a knife attack that wounded at least two people on Friday near the former offices of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo in Paris, authorities said. A suspect has been arrested.

The area in eastern Paris remained cordoned off by police two hours after the attack. Children were being sequestered in nine schools while police worked to determine no other suspects were on the run, according to education

and police officials.

It is unclear what motivated the attack or whether it was linked to Charlie Hebdo, which moved after its offices were targeted in a 2015 Islamic extremist attack that left 12 people dead.

Police cordoned off the area, including the former Charlie Hebdo offices, after a suspect package was noticed nearby, but the package was found to be harmless and no explosives were found, according to a police official.

An investigation was

opened into “attempted murder in relation with a terrorist enterprise,” according to an official at the prosecutor’s office.

Authorities did not release the identity of the suspect arrested in the area of the Bastille Plaza.

“I saw a guy that was in his 30s or 40s with an axe in his hand who was walking behind a victim covered in blood...I cant tell you how many victims there was, I just saw one,” witness Kader Alfa told The Associated Press at the scene.

Trump victory in Nov will be worse for Assange: Lawyer

London: A lawyer for Julian Assange said on Friday that the WikiLeaks founder’s situation will be worse if President Donald Trump is re-elected in November than if Democrat rival Joe Biden wins.

Edward Fitzgerald said at Assange’s extradition hearing in London that Assange will suffer if he is sent to the US to face spying charges regardless of who wins the November 3 election. “Much of what we say about the fate which awaits Mr Assange remains good because it’s about systemic faults in the prisons and his underlying

conditions,” he said. But, he added, “it will be all the worse” if Trump is re-elected. US prosecutors have indicted Assange on 17 espionage charges and one charge of computer misuse over WikiLeaks’ publication of secret American military documents a decade ago. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.

Assange’s defense team argues that he is a journalist and entitled to First Amendment protections for publishing leaked documents that exposed US military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** 60/65 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'4", **ID Mark:** Old Injury on right feet below knee, was wearing White T-Shirt and White Lungi. was found at Ajmeri Gate side, New Delhi Railway Station at

01:40 PM. In this regard a **DD No. 12A, dated 23.09.2020, has been lodged at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi.**

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

SHO

P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi

DP/4473/Rly/2020

Ph.: 011-23744073, 8750871305

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Shakurbasti, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

1. Name of work and location	Plantation of 2310 no of plants, transplantation of 70 no's trees and maintenance of plants/trees on land of Railway in Delhi area Delhi-Rohtak Section.
2. Completion period of the work	04 Months
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 72.31 Lakh
4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 1,44,600/-
Sale/availability of tender documents	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 05.10.2020 to 19.10.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
6. Last date/Time of upload of tenders	19.10.2020 upto 11.30 hrs. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 05.10.2020 to 19.10.2020.
Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	19.10.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after closed of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system. Financial bid of the eligible tenderer would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on.
8. Opening of tender	19.10.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after closed of uploading of tender).

No.: 370-ACS-C-SSB Date: 18.09.2020

2077/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

China aims to make 1 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses a yr

Beijing: A Chinese health official said on Friday that the country’s annual production capacity for coronavirus vaccines will top 1 billion doses next year, following an aggressive government support programme for construction of new factories.

Capacity is expected to reach 610 million doses by the end of this year, Zheng Zhongwei from the National Health Commission said. “Next

year, our annual capacity will reach more than 1 billion doses,” he said at a news conference.

American pharmaceutical giants Pfizer and Moderna aim to produce a billion doses each in 2021 as well.

Zheng said distribution of the vaccines would prioritize groups such as medical workers, border personnel and the elderly before they are made available to the general public.

Belarus detains Opp leader's lawyer amid protests

Kyiv: Authorities in Belarus detained a lawyer representing a top opposition activist who was jailed this month amid mass protests against the country’s authoritarian president, who won a sixth term in a disputed election.

The lawyer, Lyudmila Kazak, went missing on Thursday, with police confirming later in the day that she had been detained.

According to Kazak’s

lawyers, she faces administrative charges of participating in an unauthorized rally and resisting a police officer.

Kazak was defending Maria Kolesnikova, a key member of a council Belarus’ political opposition set up to push for a new presidential election.

Kolesnikova is facing charges of undermining state security that could bring a five-year prison term, if she is convicted.

Around the Globe

Stockholm: Teenage environmental activist Greta Thunberg is back. She joined fellow demonstrators outside the Swedish Parliament on Friday to kick off a day of socially distanced global climate protests.

Islamabad: Pakistan’s Supreme Court on Friday ordered the government to make public the judicial commission’s report on the 2014 Peshawar school attack. Taliban militants stormed the Army Public School (APS) in the northwestern city of Peshawar on December 16, 2014, killing at least 150 people, including 131 students.

Cairo: At least 16 migrants trying to reach Europe drowned in the Mediterranean Sea when their small dinghy capsized off the coast of Libya, the UN migration agency reported Friday, the latest shipwreck to underscore the deadly risks facing those who flee the war-afflicted North African country.

Washington: Timothy Ray Brown, the first person known to have been cured of HIV infection, says he is now terminally ill from a recurrence of the cancer that prompted his historic treatment 12 years ago.

Lahore: Two Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists, who were planning an attack on vital installations in Pakistan’s Punjab province, have been arrested, police said on Friday.

Tokyo: A woman has filed a suit against the Roman Catholic Church in Japan alleging that a priest raped her four decades ago, as the church’s unfolding worldwide sexual abuse crisis gradually reaches Japan.

Centre used GST compensation cess elsewhere, violated law: CAG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CAG has found that the Union Government in the very first two years of the GST implementation wrongly retained ₹47,272 crore of GST compensation cess that was meant to be used specifically to compensate states for loss of revenue.

In its audit report of Government accounts, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagged that the amount was to be credited to the non-lapsable GST Compensation Cess collection fund for payment to states for loss of revenue due to implementation of GST since 2017,

but the Government did not do so, and thus violated the GST law.

“The GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017 provides for levy of cess for the purpose of providing compensation to the states for loss of revenue arising due to implementation of GST for a period specified in the Act,” CAG said. As per the Act and the accounting procedure, the entire cess collected during the year is required to be credited to a non-lapsable Fund (the GST Compensation Cess Fund) which shall form part of the Public Account and shall be used for the purpose mentioned i.e., for providing com-

pensation to states for loss of revenue.

CAG said out of the Rs 62,612 crore GST Compensation Cess collected in 2017-18, ₹56,146 crore was transferred to the non-lapsable fund. In the following year (2018-19), ₹54,275 crore out of ₹95,081 crore collected was transferred to the fund.

The short transfer in 2017-18 was ₹6,466 crore and in 2018-19 it was ₹40,806 crore, CAG said adding the Centre used this money for “other purposes” which “led to an overstatement of revenue receipts and understatement of fiscal deficit for the year”.

The short-crediting was a



violation of the GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017.

The issue of compensation cess is driving a wedge between the Centre and states at the GST Council - the highest decision making body of the

GST regime that had subsumed 17 different central and state taxes such as excise duty and VAT.

States have not been paid their promised compensation for letting go their powers to

levy taxes on goods and services since last fiscal.

The Centre says a slowdown in the economy has meant that not enough money is being collected by way of cess that is levied on luxury and sin goods. The Centre has asked states to borrow for meeting the revenue shortfall. States ruled by Congress, Left, TMC and AAP have opposed the move completely arguing that the Centre should borrow and provide to states, since states have given majority of their taxation powers to the Centre under GST regime introduced in July 2017. The CAG findings run contrary to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's submis-

sions in Parliament last week that states could not be compensated for revenue shortfall from the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) relying on an opinion from the Attorney General of India which stated that there was no such provision in the law. “Audit examination of information in Statements 8, 9 and 13 with regard to the collection of the cess and its transfer to the GST Compensation Cess Fund, shows that there was short crediting to the Fund of the GST Compensation Cess collections totalling to ₹47,272 crore during 2017-18 and 2018-19,” CAG said in the audit report.

The short-crediting, CAG

said, was a violation of the GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017.

“The amount by which the cess was short credited was also retained in the CFI and became available for use for purposes other than what was provided in the Act,” it said. According to CAG, the Finance Ministry accepted the audit observation and stated in February 2020 that the proceeds of cess collected and not transferred to Public Account would be transferred in the subsequent year. “Short crediting of cess collected during the year led to an overstatement of revenue receipts and understatement of fiscal deficit for the year,” CAG said.

Chinese goods worth ₹20K Cr lying at ports

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Inflow of Chinese goods could see a rise in the October-December quarter as items worth about ₹20,000 crore - primarily comprising electronics and electrical items, gifts, toys, footwear, home and kitchen appliances - still lie at the Indian ports waiting for clearance.

The traders and importers who had placed their orders in November and December last year are yet to receive a chunk of their consignments. The unprecedented delay in delivery is due to the shutting down of Chinese borders in January and February, followed by the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lockdown in India which lasted for about two months beginning March 25.

Official data reveal India's imports from China during the April-August period of the current financial year stood at ₹21.58 billion-a drop of 27.63 per cent, compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

“Chunks of orders placed by our traders in December last year are still to arrive. The goods have not yet reached as China was initially closed due to coronavirus and subsequently from March 25, India went into a stringent lockdown for about two months. So, a great deal of Chinese goods -- essentially electronics and electrical items, gifts, toys, footwear, home and kitchen appliances -- still lying at the ports. There should be a slight increase in the inflow of Chinese goods in the coming quarter,” Praveen Khandelwal, secretary general, Confederation of All India Traders (Cait) said. However, Khandelwal said that traders have not placed fresh orders with China for these items since March. India's moves to shun Chinese goods India's growing clamor to reduce imports from China - especially cheap electronic and electrical items including mobile phones, home appliances, gifts and toys -- will deal a big blow to the dragon.

Markets snap 6-day falling streak; IT, banks lead charge

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex rallied 835 points on Friday after six days of declines as investors returned to buying mode amid a modest recovery in global markets.

A strengthening rupee - which spurred 28 paise against the US dollar - added to the momentum, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened higher following Thursday's selloff and stayed in the positive territory throughout the session.

It finally closed at 37,388.66, up 835.06 points or 2.28 per cent. Similarly, the NSE Nifty vaulted 244.70 points or 2.26 per cent to finish at 11,050.25.

All Sensex components ended in the green, with Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, L&T, TCS, ICICI Bank, ONGC, Infosys and Bajaj Finance gaining up to 6.64 per cent.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex lost 1,457.16 points or 3.83 per cent, while the Nifty tumbled 454.70 points or 4.04 per cent.

Global markets stabilised following an overnight pullback on Wall Street after reports said US lawmakers were working on a stimulus deal that could be voted on as early as next week.

Gold rises by ₹324, silver jumps ₹2,124

New Delhi: Gold prices rose by ₹324 to ₹50,824 per 10 gram in the national capital on Friday, halting its four-day decline on recovery in international price of the precious metal, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal closed at ₹50,500 per 10 gram in the previous trade. Silver prices also bounced back and gained ₹2,124 to ₹60,536 per kilogram from previous close of ₹58,412 per kilogram. Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi halted decline by rising Rs 324, in line with recovery in international prices, HDFC Securities Senior Analyst Tapan Patel said.

Govt operationalises ‘Faceless Income Tax Appeals’ system

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday issued a notification operationalising ‘Faceless Income Tax Appeals’ system which seeks to honour honest taxpayers of the country and promote transparency in tax collection.

Under faceless appeals, all Income Tax appeals will be finalised in a faceless manner under the faceless ecosystem with the exception of appeals relating to serious frauds, major tax evasion, sensitive and search matters, international tax and Black Money Act, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Necessary Gazette notification has also been issued in this regard, it added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 13, while launching the faceless assessment and taxpayers' charter as part of “Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest” platform, had announced launching of faceless appeals on September 25 on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen

NECESSARY
GAZETTE
NOTIFICATION
HAS ALSO BEEN
ISSUED IN THIS
REGARD

Dayal Upadhyay.

In recent years, the Income Tax Department has carried out several reforms in direct taxes for simplification of tax process and ease of compliance for taxpayers.

“Under the Faceless Appeals, from now on, in income tax appeals, everything from e-allocation of appeal, e-communication of notice/questionnaire, e-verification/enquiry to e-hearing and finally e-communication of the appellate order, the entire process of appeals will be online, dispensing with the need for any physical interface between the appellant and the Department,” the ministry said.

India's first RRTS train design unveiled

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) unveiled the first look of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut regional rapid transit system (RRTS) on Friday. The 82 km-long RRTS corridor will be the first of its kind in India with a design speed of 180 kmph.

According to the ministry, with a stainless steel outer body, these aerodynamic RRTS trains will be lightweight and fully air-conditioned. Each car will have six automatic plug-in type wide doors, three on each side (Business Class will have four such doors, two on each side) for ease of access and exit. The RRTS trains will have transverse 2x2 seating with adequate legroom, optimized aisle width with grab handles, and grab poles for a comfortable journey for standing passengers, overhead luggage rack, mobile/laptop charging sockets and onboard Wi-Fi among other computer-centric features. “New Delhi's iconic Lotus Temple is an epitome of sustainability as its design allows flow of natural sources of light and air circulation. On similar lines, RRTS

rolling stock will have lighting and temperature control systems to enhance the passenger experience with less energy consumption.

Equipped with modern amenities, the RRTS rolling stock will be a unique amalgamation of new-age technology and India's rich heritage,” the ministry said. The prototype of cess collected during the year led to an overstatement of revenue receipts and understatement of fiscal deficit for the year,” CAG said.

Unveiling the first look of India's first RRTS train today, MoHUA Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra said that the environment friendly, energy-efficient rapid transit trains will improve the quality of life in and around NCR by accelerating economic growth. The project will also create economic opportunities by reducing air pollution, carbon footprint, congestion, and accidents. Bombardier was awarded the contract by NCRTC earlier this year to design, build and deliver the regional commuter and intra-city transit trains with comprehensive maintenance services for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut semi-high-speed rail corridor under RRTS Phase 1.

Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building,
Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

O.A. No. 882/2018

State Bank of India

Versus

Sh. Gaurav Singh and Anr.

Applicant

Defendants

To,

1. Mr. Gaurav Singh (Borrower) S/o Late

Mr. Ajit Singh House No. 7/169, 2nd Floor,

Block-7, Pindi Tent House, Geeta Colony,

New Delhi-110031.

SECOND ADDRESS House No. 657/2D,

Shivkuli, Tehsil-Allahabad Sadar, Distt.

Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211002.

THIRD ADDRESS J-3/65B, Krishna Kunj,

J. Extn., Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi-110092.

FOURTH ADDRESS Ambedkar Institute of

Advanced Communication Technology And

Research, Geeta Colony, New Delhi-110031.

2. M/s. IDEA Builders Pvt. Ltd. (Builder)

Registered Office : C-294, 1ST Floor, Vilek

Vihar, Delhi-110095.

SECOND ADDRESS C-10, Ramprastha,

Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011.

THIRD ADDRESS Khasra No. 998, Red

Apple Residency, National Highway-58,

Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, Uttar

Pradesh-201003.

Fourth Address 2-C, DDA Flats, Nirman

Vihar, New Delhi-110092

Whereas the above named applicant has

instituted a case for recovery of Rs.

29,31,600.02 (Rs. Twenty Nine Lacs

Thirty One Thousand Six Hundred and

Paisa Two Five Only) against you and

whereas it has been shown to the

satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not

possible to serve you in ordinary way.

Therefore, this notice is given by

advertisement directing you to make

appearance before Ld. Registrar on

28-01-2021 at 10.30 A.M. (for further

details kindly visit DRT website

www.drtbunl.gov.in) Phone No. 011-

23748473)

Take notice that in case of your failure to

appear on the above mentioned day before

this Tribunal, the case will be heard and

decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the

matters will be taken up through Video

Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall

download the "Cisco Webex" application /

Software;

(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the

PNB commences Phase-3 of nationwide CSR campaign ‘Jai Jawan Jai Kisan’



New Delhi: India's second-largest public sector bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB) commenced the Phase-3 of its nationwide CSR campaign to create awareness against the menace of COVID-19 pandemic and provide its prevention materials. The third phase campaign titled “Jai Jawan Jai Kisan” is to honour the ex-servicemen and farmers through its rural and semi-urban branches in 662 districts, across India.

In the third phase, PNB senior officials across the country distributed facemasks and sanitizer kits through its rural

and semi-urban branches. As a part of its CSR initiative, PNB also believes that such actions can motivate other establishments to come forward to contribute for the betterment of our society in many ways.

After its successful Phase 1 and 2 countrywide CSR campaign, to fight against COVID-19, which was initiated with a lot of fervour, PNB in Phase - 3 of CSR campaign honoured retired soldiers and farmers across India for their unflinching commitment & services offered to the country with utmost generosity and gallantry throughout their entire life.

Surender Babbar takes over as Director (Finance) PITCUL



Surender babbar , General S Manager (Finance) of Delhi Transco Ltd has joined Power Transmission Corporation of Utrakhand, Govt of Utrakhand as Director (Finance). Babbar is a Chartered Accountant by Profession having enrolled as the member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Of India in 1990. Having deep passion and flair in law, Babbar graduated in Law(LLB) from University of Delhi in 1994 and Masters in Law(LLM) in 2006 from University of Kurukshetra. He has a multi-farious experience of 30 years in the fields of Contract law, Tax laws, electricity laws .

Google Pay doesn't share customer transaction data with any 3rd party outside payments flow: Google

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Google Pay does not share customer transaction data with any third party outside the payments flow.

The clarification from Google came after reports cited the company's submission to the Delhi High Court saying it is allowed to share customers transaction data with third parties with the prior permission of NPCI and payment service providing (PSP) banks.

This is to clarify that press reports on the basis of the affidavit filed by Google before the Delhi High Court, do not represent the complete facts,” a Google spokesperson said on Friday. The spokesperson added that Google Pay is in full compliance with Unified Payment Interface (UPI) procedural guidelines, issued by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the applicable laws.

“...And does not share customer transaction data with any third party outside the



payments flow,” the spokesperson further said. The submission by Google was filed before a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan in response to a PIL seeking action against Google Pay for allegedly violating the RBI's guidelines related to data localisation, storage and sharing.

Review meeting, CEO Narendra Bhushan gave guidelines to give speed to important projects of Greater Noida



PNS ■ GREATER NOIDA

In order to give impetus to various important projects of Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority, a review meeting of various departments of the Authority was convened today, which was given by the Chief Executive Officer of Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority, Narendra Bhushan

to all the Heads and Project Heads through video conferencing. While addressing, issued necessary guidelines. Officers associated with Project Department, Health Department, Urban Services Department participated in this meeting. Additional Chief Executive Officer Deepchandra, Additional Chief Executive Officer Krishna Kumar Gupta.

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD TENDER NOTICE NO SK/RC/03 of 2020-21 Annual Rate Contract		
Sr No.	Item	Tender ID
1	Supply of Three Phase Horizontal Mono Submersible Pump Sets. (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	427499
2	ISI Marked different size of U.P.V.C casing Pipes. (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only).	427320
3	ISI Marked different size heavy duty G.I.Column Pipes. (only Indian Manufacturer)	427491
4	ISI Marked different size H.D.P.E. Pipes (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	427498
5	ISI Marked 32mm dia Medium Duty G.I.Pipes (only Indian Manufacturer)	427322
6	Cage Type Trapezoidal Shape "V" Wine Wound Low Carbon Galvanized / Stainless Steel - 304 Screen Pipes. (only Indian Manufacturer)	427512
7	Spares for Deepwell Hand pumps-Standard and Extra Deep and Tool Kits. (only Indian Manufacturer)	427321
Pre-bid meeting on Dtd. 05.10.2020 at 12.00 Hrs. at GWSSB Last Date of Online Submission of Tender: 21/10/2020 Bid Opening Date: 22/10/2020 at 15.00 Hrs.		
Contact Office : Executive Engineer, Public Health Mechanical Store Division. "A" Block, Patnagar Yojana Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Near GH-4, Sector-16, Gandhinagar 382 016, Gujarat State. Tel/fax. No. (079) 23222844, 9978406605.		
The detailed tender notice and tender documents are available on web site: www.gwssb.org and www.nprocure.com		
For Village Level Drinking water Complaint Please Contact our toll Free No : 1916 Sd/ Executive Engineer P.H. Mech. Store Division Guj.W.S. & S.Board. GandhiNagar		
No/INF/VPN/2020/G/920		

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 6th Floor, S.D. Tower, Plot No- 7 Community Centre, Sector- 8, Rohini, New Delhi- 110085.

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See provision to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) /Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	M/s. Abhiyan Cargo Private Limited. (Borrower) M/s. Abhiyan Logistics Pvt.Ltd. (Guarantor) Mr. Narayan Prasad Lohia. (Guarantor) Mr. Pulak Vardhan Lohia. (Guarantor) Mr. Nikesh Drolia. (Guarantor) Account No.000751000404.	Commercial Property Being Premises No. 61 A, Ambassador Apartment, Park Street, Suite No.12, On First Floor, P.S. Park Street, Kolkata- 700016. Carpet Area 1700 Sq. Ft. (As Per The Sale Deed) And Super Built up Area- 2444 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 16,71,05,361.54/- (As on August 31, 2020).	Rs. 3,08,00,000/-	November 02, 2020 From 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM	November 12, 2020 From 11:30AM onwards.

The online auction will be conducted on website ([URL Link-https:// disposalhub.com](https://disposalhub.com)) of our auction agency **M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. The Mortgagors/ Noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **November 11, 2020 before 05:00 P.M.** else this secured asset will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder (s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 6th Floor, S.D. Tower, Plot No- 7 Community Centre, Sector- 8, Rohini, New Delhi- 110085** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **November 11, 2020 before 03:00 P.M.** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder (s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 6th Floor, S.D. Tower, Plot No- 7 Community Centre, Sector- 8, Rohini, New Delhi- 110085** on or before **November 11, 2020 before 05:00 P.M.** Earnest Money Deposit DD/P.O should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at Delhi.


For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 09163343439 / 09560905989** or **M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 08697008233 / 09810002996**.

Please note that Marketing Agencies 1. **M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited, 2. Auggeo Asset Management Pvt. Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s.


Date: September 25, 2020
Place: New Delhi

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited




ANUSHKA SHARMA

Mr Gavaskar, your message is distasteful and I would love if you could explain why you thought of making such a sweeping statement on a wife accusing her for her husband's game? I'm sure over the years you have respected the private lives of every cricketer while commenting on the game. Don't you think you should have equal amount of respect for me and us?




JAVED AKHTAR

If Karan Johar (producer-director) had invited some farmers too for his party, life would have been easier for our TV channels. They would not have had to choose between farmers protest and Karan's party! It seems that Karan's is the second most favourite 'party' of our channels.




RAVEENA TANDON

Half-baked truths about the film industry catch TRP ratings. The crisis in the world is being forgotten by abusive judgements/vilification, people guilty before probe is plain right a public lynching. If proved wrong, will media ever able to restore their reputations, credibility?



TAMANNAH BHATIA

I've always been an ardent fan of Tabu's work and it is such an honour to reprise a role played by her. The original film, *Andhadhun*, has this psychological influence on people and succeeded in inducing a sense of curiosity. What I loved about the film was the brilliance of the script and the screenplay. It had no hero or no villain.



TAAPSEE PANNU

Moments before I went on stage to do try my hand at stand-up comedy for the first time ever, bundles of nerves is an understatement of what I looked like. I'm glad the frequency of my humour matched the audience's expectations so we could create a moment of resonance that still gives me giggles to cherish.

FLASHBACK 60 MINUTES



Delhi's permanent rulers, Rhesus monkeys, recaptured North Avenue mocking the virus and the residents who covered inside their government flats



I still wake up on most dawns in sweat, shattered with the horror and sadness, and sheer aloneness of bodies that came, day in, day out, to the Nigambodh Electric Crematorium, the Muslim Burial Ground and the Christian Cemetery



A solitary vintage Fiat in Connaught Place's Outer Circle, facing the shut stores on the side of Minto Bridge



A doctor ready to enter the critical zone ward at AIIMS

A PICTURE SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORDS

Author and photographer PARUL SHARMA's book of black-and-white photographs, *Dialects of Silence: Delhi Under Lockdown*, presents a visual narrative of a locked-down capital, chronicling how lives were paused, lost and regained. By CHAHAK MITTAL



'Surely we belong to Allah, and to Him shall we return'

At an empty Rajpath, there was stillness, one that the city had never breathed. At the Anand Vihar Bus Station, there were crowds of migrant labourers, unprotected and unsanitised, betrayed by people's apathy and denial of their plight. At the Nigambodh Crematorium, Kashmir Gate, there were COVID dead bodies arriving in crowded ambulances. At the Muslim Burial Ground, Dilli Gate, a young widow read the *fatiah* for her dead husband. At the Christian Cemetery, an infant waited for an unknown gravedigger to perform his last rites as he was abandoned by his parents when they learned he was COVID-positive. Outside the Trauma Centre of AIIMS, there were doctors full of courage preparing to enter the Covid Care Unit, wearing PPE, just to witness another day of victory and loss at the same time.

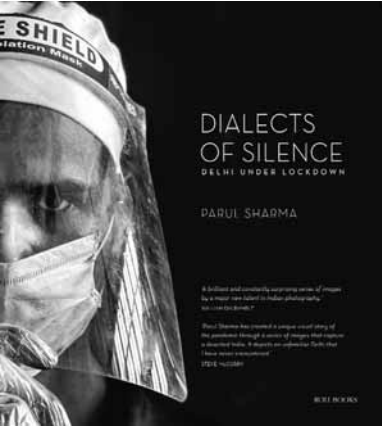
Amid all these unusual sights, there was author-photographer Parul Sharma capturing this horror show by a deadly pathogen and the frozen reality of life that the world had left behind while hiding from the Coronavirus during the lockdown. The photographs, now published into a book, *Dialects of Silence: Delhi Under Lockdown*, present a visual narrative of a locked-down capital and a chronicle of lives paused, lives lost and lives regained.

When asked, "Were you afraid?" Parul said, "Of course, I was... Of missing that one shot that I would never find again!" For her, the rush was to cover the city before its stillness shattered and the struggles for being alive turned graver.

Excerpts:

What made you go for it? Was it pre-decided that you would publish these photographs into a book?

No, when I took to the streets, there was no thought of getting a book published in my mind. It was just my obsession with photography and my passion. It was very frightening because there was nobody on the streets. Everything was shut, and not a single soul was seen in miles. I began with capturing the architecture and the deserted roads but



Dialects of Silence (Cover)



Not all have home in a village to go back to – life goes on in makeshift homes under the Dwarka flyover

then the narrative changed when the COVID death rate started rising. There was one thing — either I stopped there or I continue shooting. And so it happened. I continued capturing the migrants, doctors in the COVID wards and the burial grounds and crematoriums.

In June, we decided to turn this all into a book.

Why did you call it *Dialects of Silence*?

There is a conversation right from the beginning of the book, which is more architectural. I went out in pursuit of having a conversation with my city. I have been born and brought up here. My parents have grown up in this city. And I just went out there to cap-



ture the undisturbed view of the architecture of my city, the stillness which had crept in due to the lockdown, and above all, the beauty of Delhi. The city actually looked very beautiful during that time.

I just did not know that I'll be turning it into a book. I became a news photographer over night when the migrant story broke and when I started capturing the deaths.

It kind of highlights how even silence has its own language and speaks volumes...

Yes, that's how it actually came — the idea of having a conversation with silence. There was absence everywhere and when I interpret dialects of silence,

it also means its different kinds — some conversations were joyous and some were completely opposite, some had sorrows, some had hope, some had anxiety, some were full of fear while some had courage.

When I was shooting the doctors, it was not that I was having some long-drawn conversations with them. I was documenting them doing their job. Even though there was silence in the wards, but there was courage in the air which was speaking to me. They did not have to tell me that now they are heading towards the COVID wing to check on the patients. They didn't tell me that they had courage, it was written on their faces, in their demeanour and in their body language. I'd say, even their PPE

couldn't conceal it. And therefore, the 'dialects'.

What were the on-ground challenges?

There were many challenges, of course. But I didn't allow them to come my way. I kept trying to absorb them as they came. I don't like anything to come in between my determination. So I didn't focus much on that part.

Do you think witnessing such a phenomenon would have been possible without a lockdown ever?

I don't think so. It's Delhi we are talking about. Walking down those empty lanes, I saw police guards on duty; monkeys taking over the empty streets, having the whole road to themselves; crows and birds, in flight, unperturbed. Once some guards also asked me if I could feed the stray dogs as people have stopped stepping out and feeding them. Such gestures proved how nobody was there for each other and at the same time, everyone was. They were concerned for each other. It's both the ways and it began a dialogue between me and those dogs I fed, and the guards who were the only humans I came across. I have never seen or captured Delhi in such a frame.

You've captured the COVID burial grounds, and bodies being cremated in electric crematoriums. Witnessing such a saddening sight so closely, did it impact you personally?

Oh my god, yes! It had psychological implications. I think that's the first thing that gets hit in such scenarios — psychological health. There are people who may capture a great tragedy but at the same time, they won't be personally moved by it as that varies from person to person. But for someone like me, it affects psychologically. I could not sleep for those nights.

There are also other factors hitting you — how did the people contract the virus? What if you also contract it? And end up the same way? How active is the virus even now? Should you be near these bodies? What if it's more potent right now? How long before it dies completely? There's a constant conflict. And with this virus, you can never know. People are contracting the virus even while sitting inside their homes. You do feel scared.

Then come the sensory aspects — sight, sound, smell. Especially, when you visit a place like a crematorium, smell plays a huge role because the air is so putrid, nobody wants to be inside. Capturing such a place is not like shooting architecture or a beautiful landscape. You can leave it there and come back with a relaxed mind. You have enjoyed that moment and it lingers on with you. But after returning home from a place like this, it's difficult to switch off. You don't forget it as easily. Your coping mechanism has to be strong.

Reconciling something tragic is difficult...

Indeed, I don't know whether I would ever be able to forget those images in my head. Especially, those episodes where I saw a young widow reading the *fatiah* of her husband being buried and how the last rites of a COVID-dead child were being performed by a stranger. I remember I was inside an electric cremation centre and after a point of time, I was all alone and there were two COVID dead bodies lying three feet away from me. They were wrapped in plastic sheet. When I

turned back, I saw another ambulance arriving, which had five more dead bodies. Similar to a war-like scenario, after one round of disposal, quickly, there were more of them coming and more...

It was tough to navigate things. At times you're also fearful that something might happen to you or your family. A lot of composure was required to also capture the dead bodies with an aesthetic and giving them the due respect. You can't make it look bizarre or dramatic.

In the book, there's a caption — "June was the cruelest month..."

There were many deaths in June. The migrant crisis had broke out, the Shramik Special started, a lot of migrants died in road accidents and on tracks, and the COVID death rate in India started rising and people were dying. And it's still continuing.

You have captured how the pandemic gave birth to a migrant labour crisis in India. How do you think photographs create a history of their own?

Photographs create history. I got one of the biggest compliments recently when I was told that my photographs remind them, especially the migrant mother-and-child series, of the famous American photographer Dorothea Lange, who had shot a lot of migrants in America during the Great Depression. Lange said that 'if you're taking a picture, take it as if you were to become blind tomorrow. Don't shoot for the sake of it'.

Not that I was governed by her aesthetics but I looked for hope and beauty. The migrants that I have shot were not in motion. I didn't shoot them during movement. I saw some sitting waiting at bus stands, railways junctions or under a flyover. It was very heartbreaking to see a family of six who had a disabled, malnourished child. They could not travel with her back to their village because it was difficult to carry the child. That image has now been picked by Getty images.

What's your take on the migrant crisis?

As a Delhiite, I feel, we should have done something for those people. Buses and food supplies were organised later but as a society, there is a collective apathy we have for situations like these. We love to play the blame game — the government doesn't do its job — and just present a drawing room view of the crisis. I think the migrants were not betrayed by the government, they were betrayed by their employers. The people just washed their hands off them when the lockdown began. And no government could be prepared for a crisis like this!

Was there a specific reason of keeping the photographs black and white?

It's raw. First section of the book — architecture — reminds me of Delhi of the '40s, devoid of people, cars, and pollution, which is why I tried to give them a retro touch. I didn't want to give colour to the deaths I've captured. The doctors, whose courage gave hope to millions, and the scenario they are in, it's devoid of colours.

There is also a special photograph, the last one, the only one which has been composed. It shows how the virus took a toll on even romance and love. I had to make a couple pose to make that frame I imagined come alive. It makes the book end on a hopeful and a positive note.

Photos: Parul Sharma (in *Dialects of Silence*, published by Roli Books)

SPURS AWARDED BYE
Tottenham have been awarded a bye into the fourth round of the League Cup after their tie with Leyton Orient was called off on Tuesday following Sunday.

Jose Mourinho's men then host Chelsea on Tuesday, host Maccabi Haifa in Europa League qualifying on Thursday and travel to Manchester United a week on Sunday.



मध्यप्रदेश शासन

किसानों का सम्मान, हमारा मान मुख्यमंत्री किसान कल्याण योजना

शुभारम्भ



श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री



26 सितम्बर, 2020
पूर्वाह्न 10.40 बजे



श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान
मुख्यमंत्री

पीएम किसान योजना के हितग्राहियों को
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77 लाख हितग्राही होंगे लाभान्वित



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सीधा संवाद

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लाइव

कार्यक्रम से जुड़ सकते हैं:



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“

प्रदेश सरकार ने किसानों के हित संवर्धन के लिए अनेक कारगर कदम उठाये हैं। सरकार किसानों के कल्याण के लिये संकल्पित है।

”

- गोविन्द सिंह राजपूत, मंत्री, राजस्व एवं परिवहन



राजस्व विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश