

**OPINION 6**  
WHEN BABU  
BECOMES NETA

**WORLD 8**  
IF TRUMP LOSES, HE MAY  
REFUSE PEACEFUL SHIFT

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HAVERTZ NETS HAT-TRICK  
IN CHELSEA WIN

BHUBANESWAR, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹4



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## From Rail Roko to Bharat Bandh

### Farmers begin protest in Punjab; others to join nationwide bandh today, indefinite Rail Roko protest from Oct 1 against farm Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Farmers' union in Punjab began their three-day "Rail Roko" protest on Thursday against the three farm Bills, while others have given a call for a nationwide "bandh" on September 25, and indefinite "Rail Roko" protest from October 1. According to farmers' leaders, roads, highways and rail tracks will be blocked.

Farmers from Western Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have decided to join the farmers' protests. The farmers have also received support from 18 political parties, including the Congress which has Governments in four States, TMC in West Bengal, Left in Kerala, AAP in Delhi, TRS in Telangana, Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh, Shiv Sena and NCP in Maharashtra.

As many as 10 Central trade unions, including All India Trade Union Congress, National Trades Union Congress, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, All India United Trade

Union Centre and Trade Union Coordination Centre have come out in support of "Bharat Bandh". The Ola Cab Drivers' Association and lorry drivers' association too have decided to support the farmers and are unlikely to operate on Friday.

Meanwhile, several social media users were quick to point out that NCB has summoned Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone on September 25 itself in a drug case, on the day of nationwide protests by farmers. Social media is abuzz with speculation that this may act as a diversionary tactic.

In view of the mass protests, Railway authorities said 26 pairs of special trains and nine parcel trains will remain suspended from September 24 to September 26, while 20 trains have been partially canceled, five terminated before destination.

Among the trains that will remain suspended are the Golden Temple Mail (Amritsar-Mumbai Central), Jan Shatabdi Express (Haridwar-Amritsar), New Delhi-Jammu Tawi, Karambhoomi (Amritsar-New



Farmers block a railway track as they participate in Rail Roko Andolan during a protest against the Farm Bills passed in both the Houses of Parliament, at village Devi Dass Pura, about 20km from Amritsar, on Thursday

Jaipuri), Sachkhand Express (Nanded-Amritsar) and Shaheed Express (Amritsar-Jaynagar), officials said. Many freight and parcel trains have also been rescheduled.

Farmers under the banners of Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee and the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) squatted on rail tracks in Barnala, Sangrur, Ferozepur and Amritsar on Thursday morning.

They have set up tents on railway tracks in the State. Farmers in Fazilka and Abohar districts took out tractor rallies in their districts. They vowed to gherao BJP leaders and socially boycott those who

voted in favour of the farm Bills. According to farmers leaders, over 100 farmers and arhatiya (commission agents) will participate in the nation-

wide shutdown.

A representative of organisations said roads and railway tracks will be blocked at 125 places across Punjab.

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## In a first in State ED to probe money trail of drug peddlers



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will investigate money trail and money laundering angles of a brown sugar seizure case registered in Nilagiri of Baleswar district in March.

This is for the first time that the Central agency specialised in probing financial irregularities will investigate the drug case in Odisha.

On March 18, the Special

Task Force (STF) of State Crime Branch had arrested two persons in Nilagiri and seized 2.729 kg of brown sugar from their possession. The estimated market value of the seized contraband sugar was Rs 2.7 crore, said an official.

The accused were Lokanath Behera and Pradeep Kumar Das. The official added the accused used to purchase brown sugar from West Bengal and supply it to several parts of Odisha.

## Nuclear scientist Sekhar Basu dies of Covid-19

Kolkata: Veteran atomic scientist and former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Dr Sekhar Basu succumbed to Covid-19 on Thursday at a private hospital here, a health department official said. He breathed his last just three days after turning 68. "Dr Basu was suffering from Covid and other kidney ailments. He died at 4.50 am," official said.

## Covid-19 IN INDIA

### TOTAL

CASES: 57,91,690

DEATHS: 91,740

RECOVERED: 47,23,809

ACTIVE: 9,75,323



## India's fresh Covid count twice of Asia's

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

Six months after India first imposed lockdown, the country has emerged as the worst global hotspot — so much so that India's daily tally is more than double of Asia and one and a half times more than that of entire Europe. Put together, these two continents have more than 100 nations.

India's daily spike is also 10 times more than the total number of cases recorded by 57 African nations.

When India declared the first of a series of lockdowns on March 25, the country had less than 500 Covid-19 cases and was placed at the bottom of the world tally. In six months, the cases have shot up to nearly 6 million, and India now occupies the second spot in the world. During the same period, barring India all other Asian countries have staged remarkable fightbacks against coronavirus. On Thursday, while India recorded nearly 87,000 cases, 48 Asian countries put together reported just 40,000 cases. India's close neighbours like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal recorded just 1,666, 533, 11 and 1,172 cases respectively.

While India is nearing 6 million caseloads, the next in the Asian list is Iran with just 4.32 lakh cases. Bangladesh, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey occupy third, fourth, fifth, and sixth spots with 3 lakh plus cases. Pakistan has 3,07,418 cases. The latest trend shows that while Asian countries



A healthcare worker takes swab sample from a passenger for Covid-19 test at Sarai Kale Khan Bus Terminal in New Delhi on Thursday

## Market tanks for 6th day on eco recovery fear

Mumbai: Sensex plunged 1,115 points while Nifty crashed below the 10,850-mark on Thursday as investors dumped equities amid a sharp global selloff and concerns over economic recovery. World markets were bathed in a sea of red as fears about a second wave of Covid-19 infections in major economies and lack of fresh stimulus from central banks clobbered sentiment.

A sharp depreciation in the rupee and volatility on F&O expiry day further weighed on the bourses.

Detailed report on P9

## Daily Covid cases to fall as 2nd peak has hit Capital: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said the second wave of coronavirus pandemic has hit its peak in the national Capital with experts hinting that the cases of infection will decline

in the coming days.

"We noticed that cases increased and it reached 4,500 new Covid-19 cases on September 17 and now coming down.

So experts believe that the second wave of coronavirus which had hit the Delhi is now on peak and its intensity will be less in the coming days," Kejriwal said while speaking to the media.

The CM said the high-level virtual review meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review Covid-19 response and management was fruitful.

## Sisodia, admitted to hospital with Covid, also has dengue

New Delhi: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who was admitted to hospital a day ago after earlier having tested positive for the coronavirus, also has dengue, officials said on Thursday.

Total jumps to 19,893

## 349 more infections in BBSR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As many as 349 new Covid-19 positive cases were reported in the State capital city Bhubaneswar on Thursday. With this, the city's total tally rose to 19,893.

Out of the new cases, 229 were local contacts and 120 were quarantine cases. However, 373 persons recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 16,119 in the city.

"Further contact tracing are still continuing. Primary contacts and nearby houses are being quarantined, sanitised and would be under active surveillance," the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

## State registers highest-ever Covid +ve cases, deaths

### 16 more covid patients die; total count reaches 752

Spike of 4,340 new cases; total 1,96,888; Khordha again reports daily maximum 653

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The coronavirus curve continued to rise alarmingly as the State on Thursday recorded its highest-ever single-day spike of the virus cases with detection of 4,340 positives, taking the total infection count to 1,96,888. surged to 752. Khordha district reported five deaths (including three in Bhubaneswar), followed by four deaths in Puri district, two in Kendrapada and one each in Balangir, Mayurbhanj,

Nayagarh, Rayagada and Subarnapur districts. Health and Family Welfare Department said. The deceased in Khordha district were a 57-year-old man, a 69-year-old man and a 65-year-old man, a 76-year-old man and a 72-year-old man (all of Bhubaneswar).

The Puri fatalities were of a 79-year-old man, a 67-year-old man, a 82-year-old man and a 39-year-old man. The two deceased in Kendrapada were a 58-year-old woman and an 82-year-old man. The other deceased were a 43-year-old man of Balangir, a 58-year-old man of Mayurbhanj, a 54-year-old man of Nayagarh, a 57-year-old man of Rayagada and a 70-year-old man of

Subarnapur. However, another 3,779 patients recovered on the day, taking total recoveries in State to 1,61,044.

The highest 550 recovered in Khordha followed by Cuttack 427, Puri 158, Baleswar 155, Bargarh and Jharsuguda 152 each, Kandhamal and Mayurbhanj 135, Sambalpur 127, Rayagada 118, Jajpur 113, Jagatsinghpur 105, Ganjam 99, Balangir 98, Bhadrak 92, Nabarangpur 81, Nuapada 77, Keonjhar 76, Dhenkanal 74, Kendrapada and Koraput 69 each, Kalahandi and Subarnapur 65 each, Sundargarh 62, Gajapati 58, Nayagarh 47, Malkangiri 46, Boudh 44, Angul 39, Deogarh seven and State pool 284.

## Farm Bills in interest of MNCs: Digvijay

BJD, BJP anti-farmer, says Narasingha

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Congress Rajya Sabha member and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijay Singh on Thursday alleged here that the Narendra Modi Government has brought the farm Bills in the interest of multinational companies (MNCs). Addressing a Press meet, Singh said the Modi Government has always acted against farmers and the farm sector even since it came to power in 2014.

"The Congress Government had never accepted the WTO stricture that prohibits giving subsidy of more than 10 per cent of cost

of production to farmers. But this Government has done it. Under the provisions of the new farm bills, farmers will not be ensured minimum support price for their produce and no action can be taken against buyers for buying agriculture produces at less prices.

By virtue of these Bills, multinational companies will enter into the Indian agriculture market and create monopolistic business," alleged Singh. Stating that agriculture is a State issue, Singh said existing MSP and Mandi Acts would now come under the control of the Union Government which would ultimately cause heavy damage to farmers.

Congress State Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra termed the Bills as "anti-farmer". Giving an example, Mishra said the Orissa



High Court had accepted the fact that farmers were being exploited by mill owners and directed the FCI to directly buy farm produces at MSP directly from farmers.

However, both the BJD Government in the State and the NDA Government at the Centre approached the Supreme Court to challenge the HC order. But the apex court didn't accept the petition for

hearing. "As per Mandi system, a farmer can sell his produce at Mandi or in the open market. But the Modi Government is now telling a lie that there is no such provision in the Mandi system.

Both the BJD and the BJP are anti-farmer," alleged Mishra. Among others, PCC president Niranjan Patnaik and working president Pradeep Majhi were present.



# Accused cop under probe purview: CP

## BBSR minor girl gang-rape

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The policeman accused in the minor girl gang-rape case in Bhubaneswar is also under the purview of investigation, said Twin City Commissioner of Police (CP) Sudhanshu Sarangi on Thursday.

He told reporters that a proper investigation of the incident is underway and action would be taken once the truth and evidence come out. However, he refused to divulge further details saying that it is too early to comment on the matter. "Any kind of statement now will hamper the investigation process. We will inform

the court and concerned authorities about the findings of the probe when the time comes," Sarangi added.

Earlier on September 21, OTV managing director Jagi Mangat Panda had reappeared before the Odisha State Commission for Women responding to the notice served by the panel in connection with the incident. However, she could not stay for the hearing and left citing a prior engagement.

Commission Chairperson Minati Behera has said a fresh notice has been issued to Panda for her appearance through the DCP. Notably, as per a complaint lodged by the rape victim's mother with Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPR), her daughter was raped by several employees of the TV channel and a police-

man for around 15 days during April and May. The accused committed the crime after tying the hands and legs of the girl. They also recorded videos of the incident and threatened the victim to leak it.

It may be mentioned that the girl's mother was then working as a receptionist at the OTV.

The woman has further alleged that the accused had threatened her daughter to kill her and her mother if she disclosed their names.

The woman has mentioned in her complaint that though she reported the matter to the OTV MD, the latter did not take any action against the accused and suppressed the incident. The MD also surprised her not to proceed further in the case, she has further alleged.

## 'Odisha among least happy States'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Amidst the battle against Covid-19, Odisha is found among the least happy States in a nationwide survey.

As per India Happiness Report 2020 released by Professor Rajesh K Pillania, Odisha has been placed 34th in the list of 36 States and Union Territories.

While Mizoram, Punjab and Andaman and Nicobar Islands are among top three in the list of overall happiness ranking of States and UTs, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh are found at the bottom. Punjab, Gujarat and Telangana are among the top three larger States in happiness rankings.

The survey shows Maharashtra, Delhi and Haryana are the worst-affected States due to Covid-19 and Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir are neutral.

# Veteran Congress leader Matlub Ali passes away at 78

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former State Minister and veteran Congress leader Sk Matlub Ali passed away on Thursday. He was 78.

Ali had been admitted to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar on September 7 after he complained of illness. He breathed his last while undergoing treatment on Thursday morning.

Ali had been elected to the State Legislative Assembly four times (1974, 1980, 1985, and 1995) from the Mahanga constituency as Congress candidate. Ali was also a writer and associated with several literary and cultural organisations.

He was deeply involved in propagating the essence of works of Ganakabi Baishnab Pani, who belonged to



Mahanga. Politicians cutting across party lines, including Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, PCC president Niranjan Patnaik and BJP State president Samir Mohanty condoled over Ali's demise.

# BDA to transfer Khandagiri bus depot to OSRTC

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The traffic congestion and inconvenience to people at the Baramunda bus-stand would soon be over as the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) would complete construction of a bus depot at Khandagiri in October for shifting of the present Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) bus depot from Baramunda.

The new bus depot for OSRTC at Khandagiri is part of the mega Inter-state Bus Terminal (ISBT) project at Baramunda, the cost of which is Rs 179.94 crore.

The bus depot, spread over 2.5 acres of land, is in the finishing stage.

The construction work was affected due to restrictions on movement of labourers for lockdown and shutdown for Covid-19.

The facility would have amenities like office, store-

cum-driver rest room, workshop, washing bay and security room. Besides, there would be a dedicated electricity substation, lighting and illumination facilities at the depot. Two high-mast lights and 13 yard lights would be installed in the bus parking area.

The project is being developed by the Bridge and Roof Company India Ltd, a Central Government undertaking.

The construction works of the bus depot had started in November last year soon after the agreement was signed with the developer.

"The Khandagiri bus depot will be completed next month; and then, it will be handed over to the OSRTC by October 15," said BDA Chief Engineer-cum-Engineering Member Rajendra Kumar Nayak, adding, "It will have a maintenance period of five years and a defect liability period of five years." The depot can accommodate around 40 buses at a time.

# AAP requests Prez to reject farm Bills

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Aam Aadmi Party, Odisha unit on Thursday urged President Ram Nath Kovind to reject agriculture Bills, which were passed in the Parliament recently, and prevent them from becoming law.

Party activists staged protests against the Bills in all district headquarters and submitted memorandums, addressed to the President, in respective district Collector offices

"The farm Bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha undemocratically with complete disregard to all Parliamentary norms and rules," the memorandums sent to the President read.

The party also urged the



President to direct the Rajya Sabha Chairperson to revoke the suspension of members, who were protesting against the anti-farmer provisions in the Bills.

On the occasion AAP State Convenor Nishikanta Mohapatra said the State unit of his party would fully support the Bharat Bandh call given by all opposition political parties on Friday.

Among others, general secretary Soumyaranjan Swain and treasurer Santosh Kumar Panda led the protests.

# Child trafficking rampant in Covid time

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With the Covid-19 pandemic having induced job losses and impoverishment of a large number of people, cases of child trafficking, child labour and all forms of exploitation of children have come to the fore.

Accordingly, the State Government has been requested to immediately evolve a coordination mechanism among various departments to handle human trafficking during Covid-19 pandemic.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued an advisory to curb trafficking for preventing and combating human trafficking especially during the period of Covid-19. Sources said, Kalilash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF), which is working in Odisha along with other States, has requested the State Government to take up col-

laborative action in this regard as outbreak of Covid-19 has aggravated the situation and several cases of child missing and exploitation are rampant.

On an average, over 2,000 children are reportedly missing from Odisha every year and most of them are girls. Looking at the plight of the missing children, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had directed the State police to take up rescue and rehabilitation operations.

Last year, the Odisha police along with officials of Women and Child Development (WCD) department had rescued 3,188 children, including 82 from outside the State, under an initiative to help minors in distress. The police had launched Operation Paree during August last in which 3,138 children, missing from homes, were rescued from roadside eateries in Odisha.

The children, rescued from outside the State were found in

such eateries, garages and engaged in household work in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Delhi, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The children were handed over to the respective Child Welfare Committees for their rehabilitation. Official sources said, 1,792 children, including 1,291 girls, went missing in 2016, while 1,851 children met the same fate in 2017.

The number was 1,360 in 2017. In 2018, 2,334 children, including 1,875 girls, went missing. During last year, over 2,000 children were reported missing and rescue operation was launched to save them from the clutches of the exploiters. Now in Covid-19 pandemic, situation is reportedly grave as millions have lost their livelihood and have been rendered jobless.

Impact of pandemic induced critical situation in

rural areas is serious and a majority of children from villages are trafficked, who are exploited and root of the exploitation is poverty, which is rampant in rural areas, experts opined.

Under this backdrop, KSCF, which is active in Odisha has advised the State Government to immediately evolve a coordination mechanism among various Government agencies to handle the issue of human trafficking in an effective way.

District Magistrates are needed to coordinate the efforts and there is an urgent need to maintain a register containing information about the people leaving villages so that their movements can be tracked.

The Gram Panchayats are needed to maintain the register with complete information about the persons leaving their villages and keep a tack of their movement.

# It was cloudburst in BBSR on Monday

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The deluge caused in Bhubaneswar on Monday afternoon was the result of a cloudburst, according to the Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) at the SOA University here.

The intensity of rainfall between 3 pm and 3.50 pm was measured at 96 mm per hour as per the rainfall data and temperature-humidity data recorded at the CEC, its director Dr SC Sahu said. Extremely heavy precipitation of about 100 mm per hour over a small area is termed as 'cloudburst' but it generally occurs in mountainous and

desert regions though it is often experienced over continental landmasses due to strong vertical velocity with continuous flow of moisture from nearby water bodies, he said. "The rainfall to come down in a steady shower caused excessive condensation in the clouds as new drops form and old drops are retracted back into it by the updraft," he said.

Dr Sahu said that while rainfall was recorded over an hour starting from 3 pm in Bhubaneswar, nearby surrounding places like Khordha, Cuttack, Begunia and Puri did not report such high-intensity precipitation. The rainfall

recorded at the CEC observatory during the 24 hours on that day was 109.2 mm whereas 80 mm of rainfall was recorded between 3 pm and 3.50 pm.

He said towering cumulus clouds were being formed over city during the past 10 days due to rising temperature and availability of plenty of moisture by flow of monsoon wind, but sporadic low-intensity rainfall recorded in spells though temperature was more than 34-35 degrees Celsius.

The low pressure system which formed over the north-east Bay of Bengal on September 20 was positioned over north-west Bay of Bengal.

## Two spl trains to Surat and Ahmedabad

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of heavy rush in special trains towards Surat and Ahmedabad from Odisha and witnessing the high number of passengers getting long waitlist position in other Gujarat-bound special trains, the East Coast Railway is providing two more special trains towards Gujarat.

These trains are Khordha road -Surat-Khordha road weekly special via Sambalpur, Titilagarh and Raipur and Khurdha Road-Ahmedabad-Khurdha Road via Vizianagaram-Duvvada-Vijayawada-Wardha.

## INTERNET PROBLEM

# NHRC notices Centre, State over students' plight

SEEKS ATRS IN FOUR WEEKS

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a notice to the Secretary, Education Department, and the Secretary, Ministry of HRD, asking them to submit action taken reports (ATR) in connection with the hardships and miseries being faced by financially poor students living in remote and inaccessible areas in getting education online due to lack of internet. The NHRC issued the notices on a petition filed by human rights activist and

lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy. In his petition, Tripathy mentioned that 38 lakh students in Odisha are deprived of teaching due to non-availability of mobile network in their areas.

Students are walking kilometers, climbing water tanks, trees and hills for getting internet connection required for online education during covid-19 pandemic in remote and inaccessible areas, he mentioned, adding that the State Government has also admitted it. He said more than one crore students across India have been deprived of education due to lack of active Government intervention. He requested the



NHRC to ensure smart mobile phones to each one of financially poor students and to ensure proper electricity supply and network connectivity for online classes at home during exigencies and digital connectivity throughout the year in the entire country.

## Post floods

# ₹ 283-cr damage to embankments due to floods

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The total damages caused to river embankments and canals due to last month's floods have been estimated to be over Rs 283 crore, said Water Resources Engineer-in-Chief (EIC) Jyotirmaya Rath on Thursday.

In a letter to Principal Secretary of concerned department, EIC said that after recession of floodwater, a final report of damages in embankments and canals under major and medium sector has been prepared and damages were estimated at Rs 283.74 crore.

## SOCIAL CANVAS

# Odisha still denies SC/ST/OBC status to Dalit Muslims



MANAS JENA

In recent times, the citizenship of the Muslims has been a hot topic for discussion, while many more important socio-economic issues concerning them are swept under the carpet. The issues of participation in employment, business, education, health and access to basic amenities, own-

## Their socioeconomic problems nobody's concern

ershup over land and most importantly, participation in governance of the Muslims are ignored inspite of two major landmark commission reports on Indian minority in post independent India.

The first commission was headed by Justice Rajindara Sachar (2006), former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court and the second was headed by Justice Ranganath Mishra, former Chief Justice of India (2007). Both the reports are an eye-opener to public about the status of religious minorities in India.

Among the religious minorities, the situation of Dalit Muslims is worst as they are prosecuted because of their caste based social identities. They continue to suffer inspite of change in their faith while they are almost disconnected from their social groups by

legally losing status of Scheduled Caste. The SC status is not legally religion neutral and has been restricted to Hindu, Sikh (1955) and Buddhists (1990) only till date. The Dalit Muslims are also socially alienated from the major Dalit population of India commonly identified as Scheduled Caste. After OBC reservation, many of Dalit Muslims are included in OBC category in different States.

Islam is the second largest religion of India. Studies by many such as ISI, New Delhi (2010), Abdur Rahman, Denial and Deprivation, (2019), Dalits in the Muslim and Christian communities, National Commission for Minorities, report by Satish Deshpande and Geetika Bapna, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi (2008), and the various commission reports found that

the Muslim society in India is not homogeneous as they are divided into four major social and economic classes under the influence of caste system in India. In Indian society the Ashraf, (Sayyads, Sheikhs, Mughals, Pathans) are the land owners, civil and religious leaders. Ajlafs (mostly similar to Hindu Sudras/OBC) are mostly artisans and occupational groups such as barber, tailor, weaver etc.

The Arzals are the lowest like their Hindu counterparts. The Arzals are the Dalits of the Muslim community. They constitute a separate most deprived group within the Muslim society. Similarly the untouchables/scheduled castes converted to Christianity are called as Dalit Christians. The change in religion has not contributed much to upgrade their social and economic status in the new

religion and even within their own religious fraternity; rather they continue to face the same discriminatory treatment in social life and majority of them are engaged in age old unclean occupations such as scavenging, washing, cleaning etc.

These issues are swept under the carpet. Landlessness is very high among these communities. They are deprived of basic amenities such as homestead land, good housing, drinking water, toilet, electricity and sanitary facilities in their hamlets/Muhallas which are segregated in case of Dalit Muslims.

Usually the Government schemes very seldom reach to these hamlets because of their locations and discriminatory attitude of the governing elites. The condition of elders, women and children in family is very miserable. They cannot enter into any petty business but they are only selec-

tively allowed to do few jobs since generations together.

Very less has been done for their schooling and economic development and also for socialization and secularization. Inter caste /jamaats marriage is rare and often leads to social tension because of social hierarchy among Muslims. The suffering of Dalit Muslims is not addressed properly.

The Kaka Kalelkara Commission of 1955 and Mandal Commission of 1980 have very well recognized the issues of social and educational backwardness among major Muslim groups /castes and recommended to include them in OBCs.

The implementation of OBC reservation though is late but placed Muslims as socially and educationally backward classes and also entitled them to avail reservation in education and jobs. The States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, AP, Telangana and Karnataka,

Manipur, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have made specific percentage of reservation for Muslims as backward class and most backward class. But in Odisha there is no minority commission and backward caste Muslims are not identified either as OBC or SEBC whereas Dalit Christians are included in the SCBC list in the State.

Reservation in education and employment is necessary to revamp the social and economic status of the downtrodden. It has certainly contributed to change hereditary caste based occupations.

Modern Education exposes to rational thinking, global outlook and aims at building a world where every individual lives with dignity and self-respect which Jyoti Rao Phule, Dr Ambedkar and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Hamid Dalwai always advocated for. In Odisha minorities constitute 6 per cent of the total population

of the State where Muslims with 10 lakh population account for 2.5 per cent of the population. However, thr Muslim communities have been neglected much with denial of OBC or SEBC status. The State Government has not set up any minority commission to look after the issues of minorities including Muslim minorities.

There is no dedicated minority department with Minister from minority groups heading it. Also there is absence of any minority financial corporation to encourage self-employment among minority youths.

There is no allocation for upgrading of Madrasas for quality education of Muslim children and promotion of Urdu language. But almost all parties have minority cells to satisfy the minority political leaders as party agents.

(manasbbsr15@gmail.com)



# ‘Set up textile park for Ganjam migrant returnees’

**Memo also seeks revival of Aska cotton mill**

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

Activist and lawyer Srikanta Padhi has submitted a memorandum addressed to the State Governor through the RDC (Southern Division) on a five-point charter of demands on the miseries of Ganjam migrant returnees.

Even though Ganjam is the most populous district in the State with all natural resources but its place in earning and employment map of the country is quire precarious, he pointed out. In view of the country-wide Covid-19 pandemic, more than 4 lakh Ganjam migrants have



returned back to their native places in Ganjam and are in great fiscal stress. They are passing through mental trauma since last seven months, he added.

The key demands raised in the memorandum include establishment of a textile park at national heritage village Padmanabhapur in Ganjam district and engagement of more than 3 lakh skilled and non-skilled migrant workers;

registration for workers from Ganjam migrating to other States and a data base; halting of all trains passing through Brahampur Railway station; development of neglected Odia migrant workers in Surat and posting of a senior IAS officer of the State to look after the issue; revival of the Aska Cotton Mill and establishment of another cotton mill at Hinjilikatu to generate employment for the locals.

# ‘Include B’ngir, Subarnapur in Swadesh Darshan’

MP urges Tourism Minister

**PNS N BALANGIR:**

Balangir MP Sangeeta Singh Deo has urged the Union Tourism Minister to include Subarnapur and Balangir as heritage, spiritual and rural circuits in the Swadesh Darshan scheme.

Raising the matter during the Zero Hour in Lok Sabha on Wednesday, Singh Deo pointed out that Sonepur, located near the confluence point of the Tel and the Mahanadis, has several ancient temples of historical, architectural and religious importance, established between 8th and 13th Century. Baidyanath Temple,

Sureshwari Temple, Kapileshwar Temple, Godhnesswar temple, Papakshya Ghat, Patalisrikeshtra are some of the historical shrines.

The Samadhi peetha of famous saint poet Bhima Bhoi, whose poems have been inscribed in the Parliament and in the UNO premises, and pre-historical cave in Puja Dunguri and Aareto are also located in the district.

Two heritage sites, Harishankar and ChousathiYogini Temples, in Balangir district need to be preserved and developed to help boost the economy of district, said Singh Deo.

# CBI arrests MES JE for taking bribe

**PNS ■ PARADIP**

The CBI has arrested a Junior Engineer (JE) of the Military Engineer Services (MES) here for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 from a contractor.

The accused Rajiv Ranjan had reportedly demanded the bribe from Pabitra Mohan Parida, a private contractor with MES in Paradip, for forwarding resumes of six employees of his firm to the office of GE(I), MES, Bhubaneswar for formal approval relating to the work order.

Parida lodged a complaint with anti-graft agency authorities, following which a trap was laid by CBI sleuths and the JE was caught red-handed at his office while accepting bribe from complainant.

# INBRIEF

## MAN FOUND DEAD IN B’PUR TEMPLE PREMISES

**Brahmapur:** The body of an unidentified man was recovered from the premises of a temple near Mentu Chhak under the Bada Bazar police station in Brahmapur town on Thursday. The deceased was found lying in a pool of blood with two bricks lying near the body. It is suspected that he was bludgeoned to death. The person's identity was yet to be established, till last reports came in. Police have sent the body for postmortem and started an investigation to ascertain the motive behind the crime.

## 130 KG GANJA SEIZED; 2 HELD IN GAJAPATI



**Paralakhemundi:** Police have launched a massive crackdown against the ganja smugglers in Gajapati district on the instructions of Superintendent of Police Tapan Kumar Patnaik. In a raid on the residence of a person of Gamusahi of Anuguru panchayat under the R Udaygiri police station, police seized 130 kg of the contraband and arrested two persons in this connection. The accused were identified as Samson Majhi and his associate Allo Majhi. Later, the seized ganja was weighed in the presence of Nuagad Assistant Tehsildar AK Pradhan. A case was lodged at the R Udaygiri police station.

## HYENA FOUND DEAD NEAR BALANGIR RAILWAY TRACK

**Balangir:** Much to the dismay of animal lovers, a hyena was found dead near railway tracks at Karuanjhar village under the Lathore forest range in Balangir district this morning. The nocturnal animal is believed to have been died after being hit by a train. The exact cause of death would be known after autopsy, said a forest official. "Earlier, we had informed railway authorities about the movement of wild animals in this railway section," said Lathore Forest Range Officer Prabhati Seth.

## IDEAL TEACHER OF BHAPUR PASSES AWAY

**Bhapur (Nayagarh):** Panchanan Sethi, an ideal teacher of Nandabar village under Bhapur block's Karabar grama panchayat ub Batagary district, died due to cardiac arrest on Wednesday. He was 69. Many noted persons of the area visited Sethi's house and paid last respect to him. His body was cremated at village graveyard. His eldest son Biranchi Nayaran lit funeral pyre. Bhapur block Vice-Chairman Gayadhar Parida mourned his death.

## ₹ 2L LOOTED IN FRONT OF BANK IN K'JHAR

**KEONJHAR:** Unidentified miscreants looted more than Rs 2 lakh from a person in front of the DCB Bank in Keonjhar town on Thursday. Jajati Behera, a trader, had come to the bank in a car with his brother for depositing money. He was carrying a bag containing Rs 10 lakh. Jajati took out Rs 7.7 lakh from the bag and went inside the bank leaving Rs 2.3 lakh in the possession of his brother. Moments later, three bike-borne miscreants stopped near the vehicle and had a conversation with Jajati's brother. Soon later, one of the looters picked up the bag containing the cash from the car and the trio fled the spot. A complaint in this regard was lodged with the Keonjhar town police and efforts were on by cops to trace and nab the robbers.

## IN NUAPADA

# Man found dead with hands, legs tied

**PNS ■ NUAPADA**

The body of a man with hands and legs tied was found on a road in Nuapada district on Thursday. The deceased was identified as Dabbang Sabar of Tipajhar vilage. The body bore grievous injury marks, for which it is being suspected that he was murdered. On being informed, police reached the spot, sent the body for postmortem and started an investigation.

On the other hand, the deceased's involvement in poaching is being suspected by police. Worth mentioning, tiger hide and boar flesh were recently seized from a house in Tipajhar village. As many as seven persons were arrested in this connection while involvement of deceased inoffence is also under the police scanner.

## IN RAYAGADA

# Man shot accidentally by fellow hunter

**Charred body recovered; 18 held**

**PNS ■ RAYAGADA**

The bid to hunt a wild boar went wrong when a hunter was shot dead by one of his aides accidentally in the Andirakanch police station area under Kshipur block in Rayagada district on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Khageswar Jhodia, a resident of Kalijajodi village in the district. Police recovered charred body of the deceased and arrested as many as 18 persons involved in alleged murder case, police said on Thursday.

According to reports, around 20 youths of Kanchaguma and Kalijajodi villages under the Andirakanch PS had conducted an operation on September 22 to kill a wild boar that was destroying crops for

the past few days in the area. Khageswar was also part of the team in search of wild boar. Source said that during search of wild boar, a bullet accidentally fired from one of his associate's gun directly hit his head and he died on the spot. Fearing arrest, his associates burnt the body.

On Wednesday, Khageswar father Shukr filed a missing complaint. On receiving information, the police immediately started a probe and recovered the half-burnt body from the burial ground near Kalijajodi village. A country-made SBBG gun was also seized. Later, the body was sent to the Kshipur CHC for postmortem. The police also collected evidence like blood stained earth and ashes from the spot.

# JSpur NGO patted, granted financial aid

For disposing bodies of Covid deceased

**PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR**

NGO Samaj Bikash Mission [SBM] from Raghunathpur which volunteered to dispose of bodies of Covid deceased was felicitated and granted financial assistance as per Government guidelines on Thursday here.

District Collector SK Mohapatra handed over an appreciation letter and cash award Rs 45,000 to SBM secretary Sarit Kumar Mohapatra and described the organisation's efforts as praiseworthy.

The NGO disposed six bodies of persons who died of Covid 19 in Jagatsinghpur district of the total seven deaths



reported so far. As per the Government guidelines, an amount Rs 7,500 is given to an organisation or individual group per body towards expenses incurred for disposal. While disposing of a body at the crematorium, the family members are allowed to perform last rites according to their religion without touching the body by using masks and gloves.

The organization while disposing of the bodies ensured that the process was done decently and according to social distancing norms.

## IN KANDHAMAL

# Lawyers seek better facilities in corona hospital

**PNS ■ PHULBANI**

The District Bar Association of Kandhamal gave a memorandum to the district Collector, through the ADM, Kandhamal, demanding sufficient staff, specialists, medicines, ventilators and ICU facilities in the Covid hospital, besides proper maintenance of toilets and quality food to the patients.

In another memorandum sent to the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Association alleged that while Covid positive cases were increasing day by day in Kandhamal district, the Covid hospital did not have adequate numbers of ventilators.

Citing an example, it said on September 15, advocate and special public prosecutor, Vigilance Suresh Mahapatra of Phulbani was referred to KIMS, Bhubaneswar from the Covid hospital, Phulbani. But he passed away after 3 days.

The information of his death was communicated to his family members after 18 hours. "It proves the gross negligence of private hospital towards the Corona patients," said the association, demanding a high level inquiry.

# World Maritime Day organised at Paradip

**PNS ■ PARADIP**

With the theme "Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet", the Paradip Port observed the 43rd World Maritime Day on Thursday.

Unlike the National Maritime Day, there is no fixed date of celebration of the World Maritime Day. But generally, it is celebrated on last week of September.

It depends on the individual Governments to decide a suitable date for celebration during last week of September,

and the DG, Shipping, Government of India, has decided to celebrate the World Maritime Day on September 24 in India this year.

At Paradip, PPT Deputy Conservator Capt AK Mohapatra hoisted the World Maritime Day flag at the Marine Site office. Due to the Covid-19 situation, the celebration was conducted in a restricted manner.

The significance of the day is to emphasise the importance of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for the maritime sector and

highlight its contribution towards maritime safety and security and marine environment. It can be simply explained that the day is celebrated for carrying out commercial sea transport in a safe, secured and environment-friendly manner.

The first celebration of the day was done on March 17, 1978 to mark the occasion of enforcing the first convention of IMO in 1958; and since then every year, during last week of September, the World Maritime Day is observed globally.



# Half of J'suguda town made containment zone

## Dist's Covid count now 3,778

**PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA**

Following detection of some Covid-19 positive cases, half of the Jharsuguda Municipality area was sealed on Wednesday.

Beheramal, Sarbahal, Purnabasti and Ektali which come in two-and-a half-km radius have been declared as containment zones. People residing in these areas are not

allowed to step out of their houses. Medical emergency has been exempted from the restrictions.

Bamboo barricades have been erected by the municipality and traffic police at various places to block movement of vehicles. The factory workers returning to their homes in the evening were astonished to see these obstructions in front of their homes.

People of the Sarbahal area have expressed resentment saying that they were not informed prior to the sealing of the area. However, Covid Magistrate Golak Bihari Mangaraj refuted the charge and requested people to cooperate with the district administration in containing spread of the virus.



Meanwhile, the Jharsuguda Chamber of Commerce and Industries has proposed to the district Collector for complete shutdown of Jharsuguda for seven days. The number of Covid-19 positive cases in the district rose 3,778 with 53 cases detected during the last 24 hours. So far, 3,097 have recovered and 18 died.

He was the second Odia to achieve first-class in English MA from Utkal University, the first person being Prof GK Das who retired as Prof of English from Delhi University.

# A tribute to illustrious Prof DK Ray

**SUGYAN CHOUDHURY ■ BHUBANESWAR**

What a piece of work is a man, how noble in reason, how infinite in faculties, in form and moving how express and admirable, in action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a god," thus sings the immortal bard Shakespeare.

One such species of humanity overflowing with the milk of human kindness and sympathy for his loving students was Professor Devendra Kumar Ray. He was like a holy angel who had led his flocks of students imbuing them with a passion for literature and with a love for reading and scholarship.

He opened his innings to his first love teaching in the newly-opened BJB College in the year 1959 and subsequently joined as HoD English, Khalikote College and was a faculty in the PG Department of English in Ravenshaw College.

A brilliant teacher of English, he had assimilated in him the quintessential traits of his illustrious band of predecessors like Prof KPS Pillai, Prof PS Sundaram, Prof Obrien, Prof. Dr Prafulla Pati and Prof Sarbeswar Dash. He had enriched the glorious tradition of the Department of English in Ravenshaw College by his inimitable style of teaching and unique individual talent.

Climbing the hierarchical ladder, he was appointed Registrar, Utkal University, Director of Textbook Printing



and Publication, Director of English Language Teaching Institute and Director of Public Instruction of School and Mass Education, Odisha.

He was leading a life of isolation for the last three years after his wife left him alone and joined the other world. He is survived by his son, who lives in Canada, and two daughters who stay in Bhubaneswar.

Finally, he joined his pilgrimage to eternity on September 14, 2020. He may not be physically there, but he will be spiritually alive in the minds and hearts of his students and his teachings shall ever be deeply embedded in the psychic residue of the collective unconscious of the student community.

The alumni of PG Department of English of 1973-1975 batch offer their deep condolences to the bereaved family and their prayers rest with Lord Jagannath for allowing his soul to rest in the eternal abode of celestial bliss!

cordial person who exhibited a deep love for his profession that earned him love and admiration from the student mass. Anyone who is someone in Odisha today is unmistakably his student.

He belongs to a family of repute and renown. His late father was an illustrious headmaster of a High School. His two brothers SK Ray and DK Ray were Director of Veterinary Services and Chairperson of OERC, respectively. He was leading a life of isolation for the last three years after his wife left him alone and joined the other world. He is survived by his son, who lives in Canada, and two daughters who stay in Bhubaneswar.

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(The writer, a senior journalist, was a student of PG Department of English, Ravenshaw College, 1973-1975 batch)



**ACHYUTA SAMANTA**

India's rapid evolution post Independence into one of the largest economies in the world today has a lot to do with contributions from every segment of our society. In retrospect, it

would perhaps not be incorrect to state that over the bygone decades, we have been successful in pushing several million Indians out of the lower layers of the existing societal strata.

Yet, if there has been any inaction on our part to undertake administrative reform securing the valid interests of one particular group of people, it is our sanitation workers.

Neglect and apathy towards sanitation workers, who shoulder the herculean task of keeping our towns and cities spick-and-span, has for long been the norm.

In recent years, our news channels have been flooded with the tragic stories of deaths of manual scavengers, the ones

who help clean the gutters, sewer lines and the like. A national English daily reports that in 2019 alone, 110 such workers were killed due to no safety standards during their job. They have lived in marginalisation. This should prick our collective conscience because despite standing in the cusp of modernity, our society has failed them for so long.

I appreciate the GARIMA scheme which has been launched under the astute leadership of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Keeping the core sanitation workers and their needs in mind, the scheme shall act as a supportive pillar in their lives. This decision is certainly a pioneer-

ing effort in both its extent and magnitude. As an added plus, GARIMA shall cover not only the sanitation workers but also their families by providing them with financial support, access to healthcare facilities and administrative aid wherever necessary. The nitty-gritty has already been worked out; and by credible estimates, the plan shall initially extend immediate benefits to around one lakh people.

On the administrative side, Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), retirement benefits and post-retirement pensions have been prioritised for these workers and their families. An initial corpus of ₹50 crore has also been sanctioned by the State Government, which will help

the cause further. Of course, this is the beginning. In the future, I am certain that the scheme shall be extended to cover all sanitation workers in the State who may at present have been left out of its ambit.

My idea is that it is crucial to begin with whatever is at hand. While the wrongs of the past cannot be wholly undone, it is upon our hands to effect whatever changes we possibly can because future is in our hands. I am hopeful and confident that GARIMA shall bring about a definitive transformation in the lives of our sanitation workers.

(Dr Samanta is MP, Kandhamal, and founder, KIIT & KISS)



# SAARC must defeat terrorism: Jaishankar

‘Blocking connectivity, obstructing trade other hurdles’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Listing cross-border terrorism as one of the main challenges, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has to overcome it to ensure everlasting peace in the region. The other hurdles are blocking connectivity and obstructing trade, he said.

The Minister made these observations in an obvious reference to Pakistan while addressing an informal virtual meeting of foreign ministers of the eight-member grouping. It was not functioning for some time now because of differences between India and Pakistan.

The meeting of the foreign ministers is an annual event held on the margins of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. These meetings have often seen sharp exchanges between the two nations in recent years.

“Cross-border terrorism, blocking connectivity and obstructing trade are three key challenges that SAARC must overcome,” Jaishankar said in a string of tweets highlighting the contents of his speech. “Only then will we see enduring

peace, prosperity and security in our South Asia region,” he added.

The Minister said, “Over the last 35 years, Saarc has made significant progress. But our efforts towards collective collaboration and prosperity have been hampered by acts of terrorism and threats to national security.

“Such an environment impedes our shared objective of realising the full potential of our collective endeavour. It is, therefore, crucial that we collectively resolve to defeat the scourge of terrorism, including the forces that nurture, support and encourage it. This will generate the much needed trust and confidence to collectively build a stronger and prosperous Saarc.”

India holds Pakistan responsible for cross-border terror in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

Jaishankar said he had also reaffirmed India’s commitment to its “neighbourhood first” policy and towards building a connected, integrated, secure and prosperous South Asia. He also highlighted India’s Covid-19-related cooperation efforts, including a commitment of \$10 million to the emergency fund for the region, the supply of essential

drugs, medical consumables, and protection and test kits to the region, and a video conference of health professionals from the region to share information and best practices on the pandemic.

India had also launched a Covid-19 Information Exchange Platform (COINEX) to facilitate exchange of specialised information, helped the development of an innovative website by the Saarc Disaster Management Centre to provide reliable information and updates on the evolving situation, and activated the Saarc Food Bank mechanism to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, he said.

In his address, Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi spoke of his country’s “willingness to host the 19th SAARC Summit and for obstacles created in its way to be removed for SAARC to function as an effective instrument of regional cooperation.”

The summit was scheduled to be held in Islamabad in November 2016 but was called off after an attack on an Indian Army camp at Uri in Kashmir that was blamed on Pakistan-based terrorists. Since then, SAARC has largely been dormant.

## India posts more Covid-19 recoveries than fresh infections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Thursday said that new recoveries in India have continued to exceed the new cases for the last six days, pushing the national recovery rate to 81.55 per cent.

This even as India’s Covid-19 caseload breached the 57-lakh mark and the death toll went past 91,000.

In all, 87,374 recoveries have been registered in the last 24 hours in the country, while the number of new confirmed cases stands at 86,508. With this, the total number of recoveries are 46.7 lakh (46,74,987). The death toll climbed to 91,149 with 1,129 people succumbing to the disease in a span of 24 hours.

The Covid-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection was recorded at 1.59 per cent.

There are 9,66,382 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 16.86 per cent of the total caseload, the Ministry said.

India’s COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and it went past 50 lakh on September 16.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 6,74,36,031 samples have been tested up to September 23 with 11,56,569 samples being tested on Wednesday.

Nearly 74 per cent of the new recovered cases are found in 10 States/UTs. Maharashtra has maintained this lead with 19,476 cases (22.3 per cent) for the sixth consecutive day, said the Ministry.

There has been sustained focus of the Union and State/UT governments on improved and effective clinical treatment in hospitals, supervised home isolation, use of non-invasive oxygen support, use of steroids, anticoagulants, and improved services of the ambulances for ferrying patients for prompt and timely treatment.

## Farm Bills: Cong launches nationwide stir against Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday launched a two-month-long nationwide agitation against the Centre for passing the farm bills during the Monsoon Session of Parliament. The Congress said they will be also supporting the protests announced by various farmers groups across the country.

Widespread protests, especially in states like Punjab and Haryana, where farmers and farmer organisations have taken to the streets while opposing the move, are going on.

A farmers’ body will hold a ‘rail roko’ agitation till September 26 to lodge their protest against the three agriculture ordinances passed by the Union Cabinet. “We have decided to hold a rail roko agitation from September 24 to 26 against the three agriculture ordinances,” said Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee General Secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher.

Different farmers’ organisations in Punjab have already given a call for a ‘bandh’ on September 25 in protest against the Bills.

Senior Congress leader and party spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said that the decision to call for a silent protest and lend support

to protesting farmers were taken at a meeting of the State Unit Chiefs and General Secretaries early this week. The protest across the country will be led by party chief Sonia Gandhi and former chief Rahul Gandhi who have returned from the abroad after the former’s treatment.

Party chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala informed that in due course the protest may be joined by other Opposition parties and like-minded parties.

Several opposition parties have protested the passage of the farm bills in Parliament and have boycotted the proceedings of both Houses. Opposition parties had also taken out march inside Parliament during this Monsoon Session.

“The Government has destroyed the democratic system. The agricultural bills are neither in the interest of the state government nor the farmers. We raised our voice against this in Parliament and will now take to the streets,” senior Congress leader Ahmad Patel said.

Opposition parties also made a representation to President Ram Nath Kovind and requested him not to give his assent to the contentious farm bills. They conveyed to the President that the passage of the bills in Rajya Sabha was “unconstitutional.

## U'khand's 'tiger safari' project inches towards reality

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand’s ambitious tiger safari, proposed in the buffer zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve, inched towards reality with the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) under the Union Environment Ministry giving its nod to the project that aims at boosting the tourism revenue as well as providing home to the injured and old wild animals in the big cat habitat. “We have been informed that

the proposal has been cleared by the FAC in a recent meeting. But we are yet to get the minutes of the meeting,” Rahul, Field Director of the CTR, said adding that the safari will come up in the area sprawling over 106.16 hectares in the buffer area of the CTR.

He said that the ₹ 25-crore project envisages construction of five enclosures with each having 35 hectares area for two males and three female big cats. The safari will ease tourism pressure on the CTR which

is visited by over 3 lakh tourists every year.

“Since tiger sighting at the safari will be 100 percent, it will mostly cater to the tourists who just want to see tigers and are not interested in enjoying other wildlife. Diverting such tourists to safaris will lessen the burden on the CTR and hence the wildlife,” explained Rahul. CTR has over 231 big cats as per the latest census.

Besides ex-situ conservation, the safari will also have an off-exhibition centre for the rescued animals or those injured in infighting and in human-animal conflicts in the CTR, said the Field Director.

The purpose is to divert tourism from the famous Dhikala zone and other adjoining areas of Bijrani, Jhirna and Sona Nadi to the Dhela range in the State.

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) have already given in-principle approval to the project.

When contacted, NTCA Chief SP Yadav said that the authority will fund the safari which will have to follow the design approved by the CZA. The NTCA guidelines issued in 2016 allows setting up of tiger safaris in buffer and fringe areas of tiger reserves, aiming to reduce tourist pressure on the key areas of these reserves.

As per the guidelines 70 per cent of earnings from safaris will be ploughed back into tiger reserves while 30 per cent will go into the management of such safaris.

Such safaris are allowed for only those reserves that have achieved full carrying capacity of the tourists in core and critical areas. The guidelines also clearly states that for such safaris, “no tiger shall be obtained from a zoo” and only animals such as injured and orphaned tiger cubs (which are unfit for re-wilding) would be selected and that too from the same landscapes as that of the area where the tiger safari is being established.

## Ministry allows airlines to set ‘baggage limit’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has amended provisions regarding baggage limit on domestic flights, giving airline carriers the freedom to decide on it as per their internal policy. Ahead of this, passengers flying domestic routes were only allowed to take one hand baggage and one check-in luggage.

Issuing a new memorandum, the MoCA said, “Baggage Limitation would be as per the airlines’ policies.” “The matter with regard to check-in baggage has been reviewed based on the feedback/inputs received from the concerned stakeholders,” the ministry noted. Following the notice, airlines will be able to reset the domestic check-in baggage limit back to 15 kg as it will help them slightly increase their revenues.

When the domestic passenger flights resumed on May 25 after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus pandemic, the ministry had stated that only one check-in baggage and one

## Saudi Arabia partially relaxes ban on flights to India, allows only outbound passengers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Saudi Arabia has partially relaxed its suspension order for travel to and from India. It has decided that flights would be allowed from Saudi Arabia to India but not from India to Saudi Arabia.

Air India Express, which operates maximum flights between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, informed passengers of the partial relaxation.

The airline’s official Twitter handle said, “Air India Express Vande Bharat flights would continue to carry passengers on its flights from Saudi Arabia to India. The Airline would not carry passengers from India to Saudi Arabia.”

When the domestic passenger flights resumed on May 25 after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus pandemic, the ministry had stated that only one check-in baggage and one

The General Authority of Civil Aviation in Saudi Arabia, in its order two days ago said, “Suspending travel to and from the following countries (India, Brazil and Argentina) including any person who has been in any of the mentioned countries above in the last (14) days prior to their arrival in the Kingdom.” Saudi Arabia said this was in view of the growing number of Covid-19 cases in these countries. They however, excluded passengers who have official Government invitations from this order. Kuwait have a blanket ban on travel to and from India, jurisdictions like Hong Kong have an ongoing suspension on Air India’s flights to its airport till October 3.

hand baggage per passenger must be allowed. Passengers were also allowed to carry check-in baggage up to 20 kg without any additional charge.

Currently, airlines are permitted to operate not more than 60 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic flights.

Recently, in a significant statement Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday told the Rajya Sabha that by the time its Diwali and towards the end of the year, India would have pre-Covid aviation figures of 3,00,000 passengers a day.

## MES Jr engineer, GST officials arrested for graft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday arrested a Military Engineer Services (MES) Junior Engineer for accepting a bribe of ₹30,000. In a separate case, the agency arrested three GST officials in a graft case of ₹5 lakh.

The MES Junior Engineer Rajiv Ranjan Reddy was posted at Paradeep (Odisha) and was nabbed while demanding and accepting the bribe from the complainant, officials said.

The agency has registered a case under various Sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act on a complaint alleging that the accused official demanded a bribe of ₹30,000 from complainant’s relative for forwarding bio-data of six persons of the complainant’s firm to the Office of GE (I), MES, Bhubaneswar for formal approval relating to the Work Order in favour of victim firm. The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount from the complainant.

Searches at the office and residence of the accused officials were conducted leading to recovery of incriminating documents, the agency said.

In the GST graft case, the agency arrested two Superintendents and one Inspector, all working in the office of Commissioner, Central

Goods & Service Tax, Central Excise, Belgaum (Karnataka) in an alleged bribery case

**Public Notice**  
Be known to all that my client, SMT. JASBIR KAUR W/O S. GURCHARAN SINGH RO-5A, UDAY PARK, NEW DELHI, is the owner of PROPERTY BEARING NO.5A, UDAY PARK, NEW DELHI, and my client have applied for Substitution and Conversion of leasehold to freehold in respect of said property. The original document is RECOMMENDATION LETTER, DEMAND/CUM-ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, POSSESSION SLIP, DFO and SANCTIONED PLAN, of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable inspite of her best efforts. An FIR/NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi (LR No.50/128/2020 dated 24.06.2020). Any persons claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or being in possession of original document may wish to contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.9811041565 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (LAB) (Residential) or Director (LAB) (Residential), Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate)  
Ch. No. M/1, Near SBI, Western Wing Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The public at large is hereby informed that late Mr.G.G.Arora s/o late Mr.Sita Ram/y/o C-90,kalkaji,New Delhi-110019 may wish to contact with above named person at above project,Vatika Business Park, flat no. 425,block C,sector 49 and measuring 500sq ft which his legal heirs Mrs.Kuldeep Arora(w/o late Mr.G.G.Arora)/Mrs.Sonali Arora(w/o late Mr.Gagan Arora:son)/Miss Simran and Mr.Raghav Arora(children of late Mr.Gagan Arora) and Mr.Pawan Arora(s/o late Mr.G.G.Arora) requested the company to be transferred to Mr.Raghav Arora(grandson).Any person having an objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under: within 15 days after which NO CLAIM would be accepted.Vatika limited,Vatika triangle, 4th floor,Sushant Lok-1,Block AMG road,Gurgaon,Haryana

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Our client MR. ASGHAR JAVED KHAN (ASGHAR KHAN) S/O LATE BABUNOORMOHD. KHAN, RO/ 579/10, GALI NO. 10, ZAKIR NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110025, has served that he has disown and declared from his all immovable and moveable property to his son MR. SALMAN KHAN and his daughter MS. SAMREEN KHANAM (SHAZIA) W/O MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMAD and any relationship from them our client shall not be responsible for their acts, deeds and things doing by them.  
**MD. IRFAN (ADVOCATE)**  
Chamber No. 362, Lawyers Chamber Block, Saket Court, New Delhi  
**Dated: 23.09.2020**

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS**  
1) **Tender Notice No. & date:** BCT/20-21/207 dtd. 24.09.2020  
**Work and Location :** CCG - VR Section:- Improvement /upgradation of LC gate surface by providing Rubberized surface at LC No. 41 under DEN/S/BCT. (Two Packet System) **Approx cost of work:** ₹30,51,111/- **EMD:** ₹ 61,000/-  
2) **Tender Notice No. & date:** BCT/20-21/208 dtd. 24.09.2020  
**Work and Location :** CCG - VR Section:- Improvement /upgradation of LC gate surface by providing Rubberized surface at LC No. 19 under DEN/S/BCT. (Two Packet System) **Approx cost of work:** ₹44,16,846.40 **EMD:** ₹ 88,300/- **Date & Time of Submission for both tenders will be:** 20.10.2020 till 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening for both tenders will be:** 20.10.2020 at 15:30 hrs. please visit our website **www.ireps.gov.in** to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.  
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**Govt. of Bihar**



**OFFICE OF THE SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER**  
**BIHAR RAJYA PUL NIRMAN NIGAM LTD.**  
**WORKS DIVISION, GAYA.**



ISO-9001:2015  
Reg.no.:1017QFH01

**Re-Tender Inviting Notice**  
(Only through e-tendering system on website (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in))  
**NIT No-BRPNL / GAY /C 003/ 06**  
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING AND MAINTANANCE OF PASSENGER ROPEWAY SYSTEM AT BRAHMAYONI HILL AND DUNGESHWARI HILL IN DISTRICT GAYA, BIHAR.

Sl. No.	State	Name of Project	Estimated cost of the Project (Rs.in lacs)	Bid Security (Rs.in lacs)	Cost of RFP Document (Rs.)	Bid Processing Fee (Online Payment) (Rs.) (Non-Refundable)	Time of Completion	Maintenance of the 'Project after Commissioning (in month)
1	Bihar	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of passenger ropeway system at Brahmayoni Hill (Gaya) in Bihar on Turnkey Basis.	330.00	6.60	10,000/-	17,700/-	12 (Twelve Months)	06 (Six)
2	Bihar	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of passenger ropeway system at Dungeshwari Hill (Gaya) in Bihar on Turnkey Basis.	682.00	13.64	10,000/-	17,700/-	15 (Fifteen Months)	06 (Six)

**2. Important dates :-**

i.	Date of issue of Notice inviting Tender	>: 22-09-2020
ii.	Period of sale of Bid document	>: From 17-11-2020 (10.00am) to 25-11-2020 (03:00pm) on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
iii.	Pre-bid meeting date & venue	>: 23-11-2020 at Conference Hall of BRPNL Head Office, Patna.
iv.	Last Date of Submission/uploading of Tender/completed bid documents	>: 26-11-2020 upto 03:00 pm. on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
v.	Last Date of Submission of Cost of RFQ- cum-RFP document, Bid Security (EMD) etc. (Hard copies in original).	>: Till 3:00 pm. on 27-11-2020 (Next working day after receipt of tender) Place :- In the office of 1- Senior Project Engineer,Works Division, Gaya 2- Dy. Chief Engineer, Works Circle-01, Patna
vi.	Date & Time for opening of Technical Bids	>: 27-11-2020 upto 03:30 pm. on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

**3. Sale of Bid Documents**

(A) The interested bidders who have experience in execution of similar works and fulfilling technical and financial capacity may obtain bid document which will be available on website **www.eproc.bihar.gov.in** from **17-11-2020 (10.00am) to 25-11-2020 (3:00pm)**. The cost of bid document as indicated in table above will be in the form of non refundable Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque payable to **"Senior Project Engineer, Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd., Works Division, Gaya"**. and payable at **Gaya**.

(B) Bid Processing Fees is mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e. internet payment gateway (Credit/Debit Card) Net Banking, NEFT/RTGS.

**4. Earnest Money** The Earnest money as indicated in the table above shall be accompanied with bid in the shape of 8th issue of 6 years NSC/KVP/TD issued within the state or as per Bihar Financial Rules & Rule 161 of revised PWD code and duly pledged in favour of **"Senior Project Engineer, Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd., Works Division, Gaya"**. The Earnest Money shall also be acceptable in the form of Demand Draft/Fixed Deposit Receipt or unconditional Bank Guarantee (valid upto 45 days after bid validity period) of any Scheduled Bank which has Branch in Bihar and duly issued in favour of **"Senior Project Engineer, Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd., Works Division, Gaya"**. Earnest money and the cost of Bid Documents shall be submitted in original in the office of the Senior Project Engineer, Works Division, Gaya, Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd. / Dy. Chief Engineer, Work circle-01, Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd. Patna, 7- Sardar Patel Marg, Patna up to 27-11-2020 (3:00pm), otherwise bid will not be considered as responsive.

**5. Qualifying Criteria:-** Qualifying Requirements, Specification etc. will be as per rules & conditions, which along with detailed NIT can be seen on website **www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/www.brpnll.bihar.gov.in**.

**6. Pre Bid Meeting**  
A pre-bid meeting will be held on **23-11-2020 at 3:00 PM** in the Conference Hall of BRPNL 7, Sardar Patel Marg, Patna – 800015. The minutes of pre-bid meeting shall be intimated through website **www.eproc.bihar.gov.in**

**7. Last Date of Submission of Tender**  
Last date of submission of tender will be on 26-11-2020 upto **3:00 PM** through website **www.eproc.bihar.gov.in**. All documents / Demand Draft / Earnest Money etc. should be scanned and uploaded with the proposal.

**8. Technical Bid Opening**  
Technical Bid will be opened on 27-11-2020 at **3:30 PM** on website **www.eproc.bihar.gov.in**.

**9. Validity of Bid**  
120 days from last date of submission of Tender.

**10. Date of Opening of Financial Bid:**  
Date of opening of financial bid will be intimated later through website **www.eproc.bihar.gov.in**.

**21. For clarification and further enquiry, if any, regarding e-tendering process and registration, the bidder may contact e – procurement Helpdesk, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, M/22, Bank of India Building, Road No. 25, S.K. Nagar, Patna- 800001 (Tel 0612- 2523006, 7542028164) Visit our website; **www.brpnll.bihar.gov.in**.  
Contact person for enquiry:- Senior Project Engineer Mob. No.-9431820181  
Project Engineer Mob. No.-8544419028**

**Senior Project Engineer,**  
**B.R.P.N.N.Ltd,**  
**Works Division, Gaya**

**PR- 07634 ( Ni Ni ) 2020-21**

नौवल कोरोना के संबंध मे विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु  Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते है।

खाद्य सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS**

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx Cost of work ₹	EMD ₹
1	BCT/20-21/204 dtd. 24.09.2020	Udhna - Jalgaon section: Repairs to road surface of LC gates No 5, 17, 35, 36, 53, 65, 73, 69, 27,43 and height gauge of LC-17 under ADEN-Vyara	1,10,53,286.50	2,05,300.00
2	BCT/20-21/205 dtd. 24.09.2020	Udhna - Jalgaon section: Nandurbar : providing portable water fighter tanker to meet emergency condition in year 2020-21	5,21,218.30	10,400.00
3	BCT/20-21/206 dtd. 24.09.2020	Udhna - Jalgaon section: Reconditioning of Tongue rails, S.E.K and slide chairs etc., under DEN/East section	51,14,891.96	1,02,300.00

Date & Time of submission of above mentioned tenders will be **27.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs.** and Date & Time of opening of above mentioned tenders will be **27.10.2020 at 15:30 hrs.**  
Regarding detailed nature of containing cost of tender document (Non Refundable), EMD, Eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender condition please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**. Manual offer will not be considered.

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**वेस्टर्न रेलवे**

**बिहार सरकार**

**पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग, बिहार सरकार**

कार्यालय-वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, शोध प्रशिक्षण एवं जन सम्पर्क प्रमण्डल, पटना

**शुद्धि पत्र**

**P.R No – 006560/20-21**

इस कार्यालय से निर्गत **Notice Inviting Proposal for Selection of Social Media Agency** निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना के पृष्ठ संख्या 13 में EARNEST Money Deposit (EMD) का मूल्य 1,00,000/-/- रुपया अंकित है एवं पृष्ठ संख्या 21 में EARNEST Money Deposit (EMD) का मूल्य 50,000/-/- अंकित है। पृष्ठ संख्या -13 में अंकित EARNEST Money Deposit (EMD) का मूल्य 50,000/-/- रुपया ही समझा जाय। इसे इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाय।

**वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी**  
**PR. No. 007662 (Forest) 2020-21 शोध प्रशिक्षण एवं जन सम्पर्क प्रमण्डल, पटना**

नौवल कोरोना के संबंध मे विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु  Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते है।

खाद्य सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।



# CRPF officer martyred in Budgam terror attack

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A senior officer of the Central Reserve police Force (CRPF) attained martyrdom in a terror attack in the central Kashmir district of Budgam while a joint team of the security forces eliminated a hardcore terrorist of Al Badr terror outfit in a separate encounter in Machama area of South Kashmir's Awantipora on Thursday. Meanwhile, another operation was launched by the security forces in Sirhama area of Anantnag late Thursday evening after receiving inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area.

Later last evening a Block Development Council Chairman of Khag Budgam, Bhupinder Singh, was shot dead by the 'unidentified' terrorists in the Budgam district. His mortal remains were shifted to Jammu on Thursday to perform his last rites. According to the official sources, terrorists targeted a CRPF officer in a bid to loot his service weapon at Kaisermulla in Budgam district. The officer was identified as Assistant Sub Inspector NC Badoley of 117 Bn, hailing from Nagpur area of Maharashtra.

According to the local police authorities, after seriously injuring a CRPF officer the terrorists ran away with his service

weapon. Later ASI Badoley succumbed to injuries at the Army's 92 base hospital at Badami Bagh. In a second operation of the day, the joint teams of the security forces eliminated an Al-Badr terrorist in Machama area of Awantipora. According to a police spokesman, the operation was launched by the Awantipora Police, 42 RR and 180 BN CRPF in the said area.

"During the search operation, as the presence of terrorists got ascertained they were given an opportunity to surrender, however instead the terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter.

## Vijayakant tests Covid-19 positive, admitted to hospital

CHENNAI: Film star-turned-politician Vijayakant, founder of DMDK, who was diagnosed with Covid-19 is undergoing treatment in a private hospital in Chennai since September 22. This was announced by the managing director of the hospital MIOT International in Chennai through a release. "Vijayakant tested positive for Covid-19 on September 22. He is completely stable and admitted to MIOT Hospitals, Chennai. PNS

## Advocate shot dead in Srinagar

Jammu: Less than 24 hours after a Chairman of the Block Development Council in the central Kashmir district of Budgam was shot dead by 'unidentified' terrorists from a close range, a famous Advocate who appeared on TV news channels and participated in 'volatile' debates on Kashmir issue was gunned down in Hawal area of Srinagar on Thursday evening.

The deceased Advocate has been identified as Babar Qadri. According to the local police authorities, Advocate Babar Qadri was shot at from a close range and was rushed to

the SKIMS where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Qadri had recently locked horns with his opponents on the social media who often labeled him an agent of 'agencies' in Kashmir valley.

In one such case, Qadri had even posted a tweet urging the police authorities to register FIR against one social media user.

"I urge the state Police administration to register FIR against this Shah Nazir who has spread the wrong campaign that I work for agencies. This is a true statement can lead to threat to my life." PNS

## 6,324 new cases in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

In yet another sign that the situation arising out of Covid-19 has gone out of control in Kerala, the State on Thursday diagnosed 6,324 persons with the pandemic (the highest number to test positive on a single day till date). Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that 21 persons died in the State during the last 24 hours due to Covid-19.

Briefing the media on Thursday evening, Vijayan said that there were 45,919 Covid-19 patients across the State as on date. Kerala may overtake Tamil Nadu if this is the trend, according to medical profes-

sionals in the State. Tamil Nadu succeeded in containing the number of new patients on Thursday to 5,692 while there were 46,405 patients across the State.

For the first time, Kozhikode topped the table of districts with the highest number of patients-883. Out of this, 820 contracted the pandemic through social contacts, said Vijayan.

Thiruvananthapuram district had 875 Covid-19 patients as on Thursday evening. The chief minister disclosed that out of the 6,324 persons tested positive on Thursday, 5,321 persons contracted the disease through social contacts.

## Singer SPB's condition critical

Chennai: Tamil Nadu is in a state of anxiety as the health condition of legendary singer S P Balasubramanyam (SPB to friends and fans) deteriorated by Thursday evening, according to the corporate hospital where he had been admitted since August 5 for Covid treatment.

"His condition in the last 24 hours has deteriorated further warranting maximal life support and his condition is extremely critical. The team of experts at MGM Healthcare are closely monitoring his health condition," the health bulletin issued by Dr Anuradha Baskaran, Assistant Director-Medical Services, MGM Healthcare hospital said. PNS

## Monsoon may start withdrawing from west Rajasthan Mon onwards

New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday southwest monsoon is likely to start withdrawing from west Rajasthan Monday (September 28) onwards. The hot and humid conditions are also likely to reduce thereafter. Widespread and heavy rain will continue in parts of Bihar, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and some northeastern states till September 26.

"Conditions are likely to become favourable for withdrawal of southwest Monsoon from West Rajasthan and adjoining areas around 28th September. The Low Pressure Area lies over central parts of East Uttar Pradesh and neighbourhood. The associated cyclonic circulation extends upto mid-tropospheric levels. It is likely to move

east-northeastwards to Bihar during next three days," the IMD said. It's been delayed by a week compared to the normal date for commencement of monsoon withdrawa

This year, monsoon rain over the country is 9% in excess as on Thursday. In September, northwest India recorded a 46.8% rain deficiency while south peninsula received 67.7% surplus rain; east and northeast India received 12.8% surplus rain; central India recorded a 6.1% rain deficiency.

The normal date for commencement of monsoon withdrawal from northwest India is September 17 and for complete withdrawal from the country is October 15, as per the new monsoon onset and withdrawal dates issued by IMD in April this year. PNS

## Aligarh lock company faces copyright charges

Aligarh: A Talanagri-based company has been accused of stealing the designs of Delhi's renowned lock company and selling its exact lock's copy in the market. On this, following the order of Tis Hazari court, the police along with the Delhi firm officials raided the company and found a huge quantity of manufactured locks. The local firm could not able to show any document related to this design. Currently, the stock has been seized and further action is in progress. PNS

## Madras High Court quashes Palani Temple's move to appoint contractors

CHENNAI: The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Wednesday delivered a verdict with respect to the holy shrine of Lord Muruga at Palani Hills in Tamil Nadu by cancelling the tender issued by the executive officer to appoint contractors for providing house keeping services in the temple and establishments attached to the temple.

Justice G R Swaminathan, who heard a writ petition filed by T R Ramesh, president, Indic Collective, challenging the executive officer's move to float tenders for the same accepted the contention of the petitioner that devotees were authorized with the maintenance and cleaning of the temple and its premises as per "Uzhavara Pani", an age old voluntary service ritual. Ramesh also argued that the executive officer by entrusting the cleaning and maintenance works of the temple to outsiders on a commercial basis was infringing on the rights of the devotees. PNS

## Drive to remove encroachment in Agra to clean blocked drains

Aligarh: Nagar Nigam Aligarh started a campaign to remove encroachment from Madagarte to Sasni Gate intersection. The Additional Municipal Commissioner Arun Gupta inspected this area and directed for action. He said that during an inspection of Sasni Gate intersection from Padhao Dubey, Anchal Tal, Madagarte, Khirmi Gate, permanent and temporary encroachment was found over the drains due to which the drains are not being cleaned properly. PNS

## Mamata announces monetary aids for Durga puja organisers

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced liberal largesse to the clubs organising Durga Puja prompting the Opposition BJP and Left to link her actions with next year's Assembly elections.

The Chief Minister's latest announcement include a grant of ₹50,000 to the clubs organising Durga Puja. This apart, Banerjee also announced a 50 percent rebate in electricity charges for the Puja committees and requested the private-owned Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation to follow

suit. Last year the State Government had allowed only 10 percent rebate in power charges for the Durga Puja committees.

There are about 28,000 Durga Puja committees in Bengal and the dole could cost the Government about 200 crore, sources said.

Besides, she said that no tax would be charged by the municipal authorities including Kolkata, Howrah, Ansansol and Siliguri Municipal corporations and panchayats were. The Fire Brigade Department too would not charge any fees from the Puja organisers, Banerjee said.

## Bengaluru violence: NIA conducts searches at 30 places, arrests key conspirator

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after registering two cases in connection with the large-scale violence in Bengaluru in August, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted searches at 30 locations and arrested an alleged key conspirator related to the incident.

The arrested conspirator Sayed Saddiq Ali, 44, resident of Bengaluru, is alleged to have been involved in the attack on KG Halli Police Station in Bengaluru that took place late in the evening on August 11 resulting in "huge" damage and destruction of public and government property, including damage to the police station building and vehicles parked in its premises and

nearby areas.

Ali works as a recovery agent with a bank and has been absconding since August 11, immediately after the riots.

In addition to Ali's arrest, searches were also conducted at 30 locations in Bengaluru city to unearth the conspiracy behind the attacks on DJ Halli and KG Halli police stations.

"During the searches, airgun, pellets, sharp weapons, iron rods, digital devices, DVRs and many SDPI & PFI-related incriminating documents and materials have been seized," the NIA said in a statement. On Wednesday, pursuant to Union Home Ministry's directions, the NIA took up the investigation of two Bengaluru violence cases registered by the State police at DJ Halli and KG Halli police stations on August 12.

## Teenager gangraped in Aligarh

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

A teenager from a village in the Atrauli police station area was taken hostage and raped for three days by two youths and they escaped after throwing her in the field of berries. Angry teenager's relatives reached the police station along with dozens of villagers and demanded action against the accused. Late in the evening the police have registered a case. Efforts are on to arrest the

accused youths.

According to the victim, on 20th September afternoon, she visited her field when two youths of the village caught her from behind and knocked her unconscious with a handkerchief on her face. After this, both the youth took her to some unknown place where she was raped by both for three days. On Tuesday night, they threw her in the field of berries near the village in unconscious state and escaped.

## Woman raped for five years on pretext of marriage

Aligarh : A girl, resident of Pisava police station area has approached the police alleging that the youth from the same village had raped her in the name of marriage. According to the victim, five years ago, a youth from a community forcibly dragged her into the forest and raped her. He then threatened to kill her if she tells someone. When the victim tried to complain to the police, the family of the accused youth silenced her by giving her the assurance of marriage with him, since then the youth continued to exploit the girl. PNS

## SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN DELHI AND AZAMGARH

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to run Kafiyat Express Superfast Special train between Delhi and Azamgarh w.e.f. from 27.09.2020 as per schedule given below:-

02226 / 02225 Delhi - Azamgarh - Delhi Kafiyat Express Superfast Special Train (Daily)					
Train No.: 02226		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No.: 02225		
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	
-	19:10	Delhi	07:10	-	
19:51	19:53	Ghaziabad	06:28	06:30	
21:48	21:50	Aligarh Jn.	04:46	04:48	
23:42	23:44	Etawah	02:32	02:34	
01:37	01:42	Kanpur Central	00:45	00:50	
02:03	02:04	Unnao Jn.	00:08	00:10	
03:00	03:20	Lucknow	22:55	23:15	
04:05	04:07	Barabanki Jn.	21:39	21:41	
04:59	05:00	Rudauli	20:28	20:30	
05:35	05:37	Faizabad Jn.	19:50	19:52	
05:55	05:57	Ayodhya	19:22	19:24	
06:42	06:44	Akbarpur Jn.	18:38	18:40	
07:02	07:04	Malipur	18:20	18:22	
08:00	08:25	Shahganj Jn.	17:35	18:00	
08:46	08:48	Khorason Road	17:03	17:05	
08:58	09:01	Saraimir	16:53	16:55	
09:30	-	Azamgarh	-	16:25	

Days of Run : 02226 Ex. Delhi Daily from 27.09.2020 and 02225 Ex. Azamgarh Daily from 28.09.2020.

Accommodation : 1st Tier AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper.

The passengers shall adhere to the COVID-19 related safety norms & guidelines.

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

Integrated Helpline No. 139

Security Helpline No. 182

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## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified New Born Baby **Namely:** Unknown **D/o** Unknown **R/o** Unknown **Age** : New Born Baby **Complexion** : Shallow, **Wearing:** Without cloth has been found dead in a vacant plot behind H. No. B-233, Laxmi

Park, Nangloi, Delhi on 20.09.2020. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 930/20 dated 20.09.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found New Born Baby may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi Outer Dist., Delhi Ph. 011-25946700, 25946710 DP/436/OD/2020

## SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Rajender **S/o** Ram Shah **R/o** Raj Nagar, Ward No.37, Hindaun, District-Kirauli, Rajasthan Aged-26 Years has been reported missing since 09.08.2019 vide **FIR No.29/2020 u/s 365 IPC Dated 19.01.2020** registered at Police Station Anand Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Hair:** Black, **Clothing:** Blue coloured Lining Shirt, Grey coloured Pant and barefoot.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Anand Vihar, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Sd/-  
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Anand Vihar, Delhi  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-22384300, 22384600  
DP/200/SHD/2020 Mob.: 7065036022



Rajender

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MAN

General Public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo) namely Ravi Shankar **S/o** Sita Ram **R/o** H. No. 24, Extn. 2-A, Nangloi, Delhi Aged-52 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 13.07.2020 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi vide **DD No. 113-A Dated 22.07.2020** has been Registered at Police Station Nangloi, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'9", **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Blue checked shirt, blue coloured pant and black coloured sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing man, may inform SHO, Nangloi, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Sd/-  
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Nangloi, Delhi  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-25949470, 25947225  
DP/315/OD/2020 Mob.: 7065036127



Ravi Shankar

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Gulshan Sharma @ Ajeet** **S/o** Govind Ram Sharma **R/o** H.No. F-192-B, Pratap Vihar, Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 130/12 u/s 420/468/467/34 IPC P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Gulshan Sharma @ Ajeet** cannot be found and where as it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Gulshan Sharma @ Ajeet** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Gulshan Sharma @ Ajeet** accused of FIR No. 130/12 u/s 420/468/467/34 IPC P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 17.11.2020.

By Order: Ms. Prigya Gupta Metropolitan Magistrate-08  
DP/364/CD/20 Room No. 272, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi



# Stifling more voices

Salman Khurshid named in Delhi Police chargesheet on riots but there are no specifics on provocative speeches



This is more than a witch-hunt, it is a theatre of the absurd, this partisan investigation into the Delhi riots. One cannot even blame the police anymore, trotting out as it does the script that is handed down to it by the Home Ministry, having long lost the spine to stand up to its constitutional mandated functions and bending instead to the political masters of the day. The message, howsoever unpalatable to our Indian ethos and civilisational DNA, is clear — there can be only one ideology that works, anybody else choosing the other end of the divide just won't be tolerated. And that the democratic right to dissent, even one in defence of the Constitution, is as good as treason. In this case, challenging the new law that makes grant of citizenship conditional on religion and tears asunder the secular rights of all Indians. What else can explain the names in the outrageous chargesheet of the Delhi Police on the February riots? Congressmen, Leftists, scientists, filmmakers, civil society activists, students, basically everybody who agreed to disagree with the Government. Take the case of Salman Khurshid. Forget that he has been a Congress veteran, a Union Minister handling key portfolios, an educationist, a legal eagle, a liberal Muslim who refused to be card-boarded into stereotypes or become an apologist of his faith. Forget his pedigree and lineage as the grandson of our third President Zakir Husain. Has there been any precedent of his anti-India intentions or has there been any visual footage of him delivering divisive and hate speeches? Or having an aggressive tenor of words? Yet he has been listed for instigating the riots in the city this February through provocative speeches and a studied design. No specifics have been mentioned. He has been named with his party colleague Udit Raj and CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat for fanning sentiments during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act. The police claims to have “protected” witnesses, who were conspirators themselves and perhaps needed intense “security” to spill the beans on the complicity of senior leaders. And to indicate the weightage and seriousness of the statements, the police said they had been recorded before a Magistrate under Section 164 of Code of Criminal Procedure. Other big names in the disclosure statements include those of Left leader Kavita Krishnan, student activist Kawalpreet Kaur, scientist Gauhar Raza and advocate Prashant Bhushan. The bigger question is then what does one do with the stronger visual evidence of incendiary speeches by ruling BJP leaders, like “*goli maaro, saalo ko,*” that were repeatedly played out on news television. The likes of Anurag Thakur and Kapil Mishra have been spared, the latter spewing vitriol and issuing barely veiled threats under police watch. There were videos of a group of people cheering and chanting “*Jai Shri Ram*” as bricks and stones were unloaded. It was clear that violence was being planned and frantic appeals were made to Delhi Police to act. Later shops were set on fire in Muslim localities in Maujpur. So why was no action taken against the BJP motormouth for his hate speech and disruption of peace and communal harmony? Simply because he held rallies in favour of the new citizenship law and was the Government’s mouthpiece? If hate begets hate, then there ought to have been two guilty parties, not one.

The brutality of targetting is even more evident as names uncomfortable to the establishment are circled out while provocateurs friendly to it are let off. Earlier, too, there was a motivated leaking of information about noted civil society activists figuring in a supplementary chargesheet based on disclosures of the accused. While the police had then claimed that the disclosure was not the sole basis of further action, and needed to be backed up by corroborative evidence, cross-checking and information, why were their names listed? CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury was labelled as an instigator for representing an ideological polarity. Riots probes by their very nature are sensitive and it is all the more necessary for the police to sift fact from fiction, identify the perpetrator and the victim, regardless of fear or pressure. For a society needs healing and by the Government’s own figures, the minority communities have been affected more in the arson and violence that followed. What makes the Delhi riot probe a dangerous precedent is that there is nothing that separates the protester from the rioter, the dissenter from the conspirator and the citizen from an arsonist. If this is going to be the template going forward, then there would be no need for a trial by court. By deriding and selectively targetting some of the best educated and informed minds in the country, the new India is about using knowledge and wisdom to be a qualified conformist than a disgruntled critic. Disproportionately and sadly, the Government narrative of stereotyping the riots as another volatile expression of communal angst has swamped every logical argument on why citizenship should not be selective. Most disturbingly, such actions prove that the Government can well do without civil society which might either become a voiceless and rare species or be coopted. But dangerously, we are also losing the Muslim intelligentsia to hate politics. One dreads to imagine its fallout.

# Rafale under fire again

CAG says offset obligations under jet deal yet to be fulfilled; LCA project could be hit



The ruling BJP might have capped the Rafale deal as a non-issue during the general elections and there was general acceptability of the acquisition of the fighter jet for improving our strategic competence. But now the ghost of murky deal-making has returned with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) finding that French aerospace major Dassault Aviation and European missile maker MBDA have defaulted on off-set clauses. The report says that till date they have “not confirmed” the transfer of technology for the indigenous development of the engine for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the off-set contract relating to the nearly ₹60,000 crore deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets. Under the off-set policy, a certain percentage of the deal value with foreign firms should flow into India as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which would eventually include technology transfer, local manufacturing of advanced components and creating jobs. Most vendors over-commit to get the contract and breaches of this nature aren't new. But such a lapse could prove costly for the Government. According to the CAG report tabled in Parliament, as the vendor has not confirmed the transfer of this technology till date, the targets for doing so had already been delayed badly and could not be met before deadline. In its defence, Dassault Aviation has said it will eventually meet its obligation, which has slowed down in the last few months due to the pandemic. If Dassault does not make good on its commitment, then the Kaveri engine project will continue to hang fire. For the DRDO, which has been involved in the LCA project for long and has been unable to give its engine the kind of performance and thrust that it had planned, had to choose one made by the US firm GE. However, hopes of indigenisation of the project were raised again when during the Rafale negotiations, France agreed to help India work on an upgraded Kaveri engine.

Worryingly, the CAG also warned against the efficacy of our off-set policy, saying it did not find a single case of foreign vendors transferring high technology to Indian industry, particularly in the defence sector, which ranked 62 out of 63 sectors receiving FDI. The failure on the part of Dassault to keep its end of the bargain would give more ammunition to the Opposition, which has also opposed and questioned Anil Ambani's Reliance entering the deal as an off-set partner for Dassault Aviation. The CAG report further said that “non-fulfilment of off-set obligations by the vendor, especially when the contract period of the main procurement is over, is a direct benefit to the vendor.” This questions the Government’s ability to drive a bargain. Would this report be a can of worms?

# When *babu* becomes *neta*

## Restrictions need to be placed to account for situations where the independence of the judiciary and of the civil services could be threatened



AJOY KUMAR

Like most people, I enjoy listening to music in my free time. Other than being an expression of art, songs are often a great medium to get a message across. Some are subtle where you have to find understated and intelligent references to the message that is hidden. However, at the same time you have songs with lyrics like “Sushant superstar, you were Bihar’s treasure... The DGP came, he faced attacks but he took the case to the CBI. (The DGP) is the pride of the nation...” It is safe to say that this music video, which was released on the same day as the voluntary retirement of the DGP, can be a lot of things but “subtle” is certainly not one of them.

The release of the music video and the reports of Gupteshwar Pandey (the DGP in question) making a foray into politics, do, however, give us an opportunity to examine the situation in the country and the question of ethical conduct by certain individuals from the Indian civil services and the judiciary, two pillars on which the modern Indian state stands. The title of this week’s piece may seem a tad ironic, especially considering that the writer himself was one time a “*babu*” and is now in active politics. However, having joined politics close to a decade after leaving the civil services, I believe that I can offer a unique perspective on the topic.

To be clear, this is far from the first time questions regarding the ethics of appointment or nomination of individuals who come from the civil services or the judiciary have been raised. Even in a meeting of the Constituent Assembly, this issue was discussed. Professor KT Shah moved an amendment, which contemplated restricting judges who had served for more than five years in the Supreme Court or on any of the High Courts, from being appointed to any executive office or Ministers in a Government. The intent, as explained by a supporter of the amendment, was imperative because “if the temptation of being appointed to other high positions after retirement is not removed, it will also be liable to be abused by the Executive or by any party in power and they may hold out such temptations which might affect the independence of the judiciary.” The amendment was ultimately rejected by Dr BR



Ambedkar because at the time he believed that this was only a theoretical protection as the “opportunity for the executive to influence the judiciary is very small”. While there is no such restriction, the Constitution of India does lay down administrative details like retirement of judges and remuneration in the Constitution. Similarly, civil servants are granted privileges like pension after retirement. Furthermore, removing a civil servant from service is an extremely difficult proposition. The intent of such protections is to ensure that both civil servants and judges carry out their duty as contemplated under the Constitution without fear or incentive to act otherwise.

Dr Ambedkar, in all probability, believed that the individuals, who would form part of the judiciary or the civil services, would exercise their personal ethical framework and to this extent the issue of independence of these institutions would not be tarnished. However, it is becoming increasingly obvious that there is a need for us to legislate ethics and punish its abdication.

Most recently from the judicial sphere, you have the case of the former Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi, getting nominated to the Rajya Sabha. This move drew sharp criticism from judges and lawyers alike, pointing to the fact that his appointment came barely months after his tenure as Chief Justice ended. Such is the criticism around the appointment that a news personality noted that the DGP’s move to take voluntary retirement and possibly

“THE UPSC CAN BE TASKED WITH SHORTLISTING CANDIDATES FOR POST-RETIREMENT ASSIGNMENTS INSTEAD OF LEAVING SUCH DECISIONS TO THE WHIMS AND FANCIES OF ANY GOVT IN POWER. THE CRITERIA FOR SUCH APPOINTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC AND GO THROUGH A POINTS SYSTEM. THERE IS NEED FOR A STRUCTURAL SOLUTION”

join politics would be akin to “doing a Gogoi.” Another move that attracted criticism was of a Central Vigilance Commissioner joining a large corporate house immediately after retirement. But like I said, this is not about one particular instance. According to a study done by Vidhi, a legal think tank, close to 70 out of over a hundred retired judges have taken up assignments after their retirement. Unfortunately, this is inevitable considering the number of statutory authorities that require a retired judge to hold office under their parent statute.

Therefore, what is the way ahead? It is obvious that relying on the integrity of individuals to take the right call every time is not a tactic that has worked. While there are a number of individuals who have displayed and continue to display courage, integrity and a strong conscience, the damage by a few to the institutions that they have served can be so scarring that its impact would be felt on the core foundations of a democratic republic such as ours. Therefore, there is a need to legislate to account for situations where the independence of the judiciary and of the civil services may be threatened. One solution is to do away with post-retirement posts and to appoint only senior personnel who are currently serving as judges or civil servants. Another option is to legislate like the US has done, where in case of former senior civil servants (in certain departments) there is a permanent ban on appearing before Government authorities on mat-

ters where they may have participated personally or substantially. An alternative restraint could be establishing a separate authority like the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), as former civil servant Anil Swarup talks about in his book *Ethical Dilemmas of a Civil Servant*. Swarup suggests that the UPSC can be tasked with shortlisting candidates for post-retirement assignments instead of leaving such decisions to the whims and fancies of any Government in power. I would add that the criteria for such appointments should be made public and be through a points system. There are many possible solutions but in order to implement any solution, we need to first accept that there is a problem and that there is a dire need for a structural solution.

As said by Dr Martin Luther King, “The arc of the moral universe is long but bends towards justice.” Therefore, I am hopeful that in the long run our institutions will survive, not least because of the many righteous individuals who serve these institutions. I am hopeful that the examples that exist today will only serve as examples to future generations to keep their guard up, similar as to how examples from the Emergency serve as examples for today. However, with the benefit of hindsight, if Dr Ambedkar had a chance to discuss Professor KT Shah’s amendment in the Constituent Assembly today, I have a feeling that the outcome would be quite different.

(The writer is a former IPS officer, a former MP and currently a member of AAP)

SOUNDBITE

In our four biggest provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec), the second wave isn't just starting, it's already under way. We're on the brink of a fall that could be much worse than the spring.

Canadian PM  
—Justin Trudeau

The Morrison Government will undertake the most significant reforms to Australia's insolvency framework in 30 years as part of our economic recovery plan.

Australian Treasurer  
—Josh Frydenberg

The European Union is our key partner in restoring sovereignty, territorial integrity and supporting reforms... However, Ukraine wants full integration into the European Union.

Ukrainian President  
—Volodymyr Zelensky

He (Sunil Chhetri) spoke about putting hard work and practice first, and the importance of rest and nutrition.

Footballer  
—Sahal Abdul Samad

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Labour-friendly laws

Sir — The Constitution allows migration across the country for employment needs. However, there has been no comprehensive legal framework to protect the workers from exploitation. More than one crore migrant labourers returned home on foot during the lockdown and around 29,415 lost their lives in the process. This is the harsh reality of how safe the workers are under the present labour laws. Adding to the problem are the recently passed three key labour reform Bills that further dilute workers' rights than protect them. A more pragmatic approach with a full understanding of the problem must be put in place to alleviate labourers' underlying distress due to the Government's apathy.

SK Nag  
Mumbai

### Monsoon Session ends

Sir — The Monsoon Session of Parliament came to an end amid protest by the Opposition parties and suspension of eight members. The Rajya Sabha passed 25 bills, including 15 on the last two days, when the Opposition

### The actual beneficiaries of farm Bills

The Central Government claims that farmers will have unfettered freedom to sell their produce at higher prices in any market in India hereafter, under the “revolutionary” Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and Farmers’ Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services (Empowerment and Protection) Bill. However, the fear of traders about corporates dictating procurement terms is not altogether unfounded. With the dismantling of Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis* and the Government having no power to keep a watchful eye on the deals struck between farmers and traders, there is a greater chance of the farmers being exploited by the heavily cartelised corporate giants. Also, the State Governments stand to lose the revenues from the APMCs, which fund the various farmers-related welfare measures.

Another claim made by the Government is that there will be an explosion in infrastructure in the agricultural sector with the inflow of massive private investments.

N Nagarajan  
Secunderabad



It would be dishonest to construe that the modern markets and the infrastructural facilities created with private funds will be available to the farmers at even nominal, if not free of charge. The Bills in no way give any freedom to the farmers, rather it is the private industries that will be benefitting.

Haridasan Rajan  
Kozhikode

### Fair and responsible

Sir — It is a matter of deep concern that some media houses are using their platforms to create communal disharmony and spread hatred. *Sudarshan News' Bindass Bol* programme, that was aired on August 28, targeted the Muslim community and questioned the credibility of the UPSC. The Central Government

allowed the channel to air the show again on September 10 in the name of freedom of speech. It was only later on that Supreme Court barred the channel from going ahead with the telecast of the remaining episodes.

Hate speech should not be allowed to be disguised as freedom of speech. And media being the fourth pillar of democracy should act responsibly and not

further the communal agenda of the Government.

M N Musaeed  
Mumbai

### Rising COVID cases

Sir — COVID-19 cases in India crossed the 57 lakh mark with 86,508 new cases and 1,129 deaths reported in the last 24 hours. There are 9,66,382 active cases and 91,149 people have died. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised the need to increase focus on “effective testing, tracing, treatment and surveillance” to bring the coronavirus outbreak under control. In his virtual review meeting with Chief Ministers of seven states with the highest number of coronavirus cases in the country, he spoke of the need for clear messaging to dispel rumours about testing. However, the initiatives taken by the Government don't seem to help curb the crisis. It is, therefore, important that the people take the utmost precautions and follow WHO's guidelines.

Urvi Jain  
Ujjain

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



FIRST COLUMN

The threat posed by hospital waste

Efficient bio-medical waste clearance is as important as efficient handling of the Coronavirus crisis. Else we will have to face a secondary wave



Imagine a public health epidemic of colossal proportions that also doubles up as a threat for the environment close on the heels of the devastating COVID-19. This is a possibility that can well turn out to be true if the mounting bio-medical waste generated while battling the pandemic is not managed and disposed properly. At the last update, COVID-19 had already caused a loss of 90,000 lives in India with a further 5.6 million active cases. This state of affairs can get considerably worse if a callously disposed bio-medical waste triggered a secondary wave of infections across the nation. Countless hospital premises, morgues, cremation grounds, ambulance parking lots and even garbage dumps in residential locations are replete with carelessly discarded PPE kits, gloves, suits and masks. This is in spite of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines that clearly state that COVID-19 related waste must be double-bagged and labelled. However, looking at the waste lying around, it is clear that this is not being followed and needless to say, these items carry the virus that can spread to healthy people, especially sanitation workers and those involved in sorting waste at landfills and waste incinerators. Delhi has two biomedical waste treatment facilities that can handle 63 tonnes of medical waste per day. But a study by Toxic Links noted that much of this waste is being disposed of as municipal solid waste. To make matters worse, many of the facilities generating this waste were not registered with the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

The study's findings also revealed that 27.9 per cent of the hospitals did not have mandatory needle cutters whereas 34 per cent of the facilities did not have wheeled transportation for medical waste. As a result, the same was carried by hand for disposal through patient areas. Adding to this dismal state, a further 26.4 per cent of the facilities were also found to be disposing liquid medical waste into the public sewage system. With disturbing conditions such as these, India surely is not in a fit condition to handle the contagion-generated bio-medical waste. The gravity of the condition of bio-medical waste generation and its disposal can be gauged by the fact that the Union Home Ministry had to answer queries for the same in the Rajya Sabha recently. According to a paper published in *ScienceDirect*, India, the country currently generates approximately two kg of medical waste per bed, which includes anatomical, cytotoxic and sharps, but this is set to increase manifold due to the pandemic. Before the impact of the outbreak became acute, Delhi on an average generated 25 tonnes of medical waste but this output jumped to 349 tonnes per day in July. Similarly, Mumbai's per day waste generation went up from 12,200 tonnes in June to 24,889 tonnes in August. This deluge of waste has caused the already creaky waste management infrastructure to be stretched to its limit. There is an urgent need to address the issue before the metro cities become overwhelmed with biomedical waste and there is a need to follow the Government's guidelines on this.

As per the rules, the waste needs to be segregated into recyclable and non-recyclable bins and then isolated for 72 hours so that its infectious intensity is neutralised. Medical institutions must be inspected from time to time to ensure that they have the requisite equipment needed to safely dispose biomedical waste. More importantly, the liquid medical waste needs to be sent by authorised bio-medical waste collection companies for requisite treatment and not dumped in the sewage system.

Western nations are setting high standards in Coronavirus waste management and a peek into their practices also tells us why these nations are getting back on their feet faster as far as biomedical waste management is concerned. Some of the best practices being followed in France and Germany include keeping a very strict record of the waste generated by each medical facility and ensuring the same quantity is actually and properly incinerated. Other advanced measures being followed include the usage of sodium hypochlorite solution in regularly cleaning the waste bins in the medical facilities.

France has moved a step further by focussing on the households where quarantined patients are. Waste is being collected at source by the authorities so that no inadvertent cross-contamination occurs. The quarantined residents are able to procure free sealable waste bins from pharmacies on producing their prescriptions, which they can then use to dispose their waste by handing over to the authorities. Germany on the other hand has set up specialised waste incinerating facilities in Bavaria. These measures have helped these nations save themselves from the boomerang effect of bio-medical waste and its harmful impact. Efficient bio-medical waste generation is as important as efficient handling of the crisis. This alone will prevent a secondary wave of infection and contamination.

*(The writer is an environmental journalist)*

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I CAME IN TO BAT AT NUMBER SEVEN POSITION TO GIVE YOUNGSTERS A CHANCE AS I HAVEN'T BATTED FOR A LONG TIME. A 14-DAY QUARANTINE DOESN'T HELP. —CSK CAPTAIN MS DHONI

YEAH, YOU GOT TO GET UP. YOU HAVE TO AT LEAST GIVE YOURSELF THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE GAME. I'M NOT BUYING THAT. —FORMER CRICKETER KEVIN PIETERSEN

Corona paints a bleak picture

Art talks to us like nothing else does. It re-awakens our senses and reminds us of the power of imagination in the face of the death and economic destruction brought about by the pandemic



The pandemic has brought the art world to its knees. The silence is ominous and the webinars and online propaganda are somewhat stifling when you think of how suddenly it is only about talking and voices and voices and talking. Amid the many cancellations of fairs, exhibitions, films, plays, performances and dances globally, we must ask ourselves questions about the value of art and culture at a time when humanity is under great stress. When it is fighting for its very survival as the virus throws up a kind of socio-economic disparity and devastation we have not witnessed in recent times.

At a time when people tell us that there are much more important things to worry about in this world than art, one would beg to differ. Art talks to us like nothing else does. It re-awakens our senses and reminds us of the power of imagination in the face of the death and destruction brought upon us by the pandemic.

*The New York Times* states that though fairs have been cancelled and galleries have closed, the wealthy are still buying. In India it's difficult to get true stories of buying and selling from art galleries/dealers/consultants/artists. The physicality of looking at a work and buying is something that needs to be worked upon. An image does not do justice to a work of art. Perhaps private appointments by clients are the way to go in the new pandemic scenario. But there are hectic announcements of online shows and galleries coming together to host prized possessions on the internet and social media. Some galleries are stating that they have a few sales but it's not as much as they would like in a stagnant market.

In the West, a report of 795 galleries representing 60 different national markets, called *The Impact of COVID-19 on the Gallery Sector*, written by the cultural economist Clare McAndrew, is the first major survey of how the contagion has hit art dealers globally. Until sales statistics are shared by galleries all over India, it's difficult to add a percentage of propensity to the real figures. But one scene that has remained buoyant is that of online auctions.

**Pundoles looking West:** Pundoles Mumbai ruled the roost the past month with its *Looking West* auction split into two parts, featuring a part of the collection of fish baron Masanari Fukuoka, who decided he wanted Pundoles to handle the sale rather than international houses like Christies, Sotheby's or even Saffronart. With blue chip names on its avant-garde list, the auction threw up some magnificent numbers. VS Gaitonde, the abstract master, was top draw. His untitled 1967 work set a new record at ₹32 crore as the selling hammer price. Two sculptures also set their own highs. The first was a "Bull's Head" (1998) by Tyeb Mehta, who created this sculpture as his tribute to the trussed bull (he used to hear their heart-wrenching cries when he lived next to a slaughterhouse in Mumbai). It sold at a new record of ₹3.2 crore.

The second sculpture was printmaker and sculptor Somnath Hore's "Goat" (1988) that sold at ₹65 lakh, a new high for this venerated master. India's greatest figurative master Jogen Chowdhury's "The Couple" (1999) sold for ₹1.7 crore, setting a new record for the 80-year-old Kolkata artist.

“ INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE LALIT KALA AKADEMI HAVE A GREAT ROLE TO PLAY IN OPENING THEIR SPACES TO AS MANY SOLO SHOWS AS POSSIBLE TO LIFT THE DARKNESS IN THE WORLD OF THE LONELY ARTIST WAITING IN THE WINGS. THE INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE AND AIFACS DO YEOMAN'S SERVICE FOR THE ARTS. BIG ARTISTS, TOO, NEED TO GET OUT OF THEIR COCOONS AND HELP OTHERS IN NEED ”

**Saffronart's success:** The next auction high was Saffronart's *Evening Sale*. The highly-anticipated online live auction — the first since the pandemic — closed at 88 per cent lots sold, achieving a total sale of ₹66.4 crore amid enthusiastic bidding. The 300th auction in Saffronart's 20 years, this sale was a unique hybrid experience that allowed bidders from across the globe to participate virtually.

The sale was led by VS Gaitonde's masterpiece painting of 1974 from the collection of Sabira Merchant, which sold for ₹35.5 crore, making it the second-highest price achieved for the artist, as well as for a work of Indian art to be sold in an auction worldwide. Among the best works Gaitonde ever produced, this ethereal, luminescent work embodies his preoccupation with Zen Buddhism as well as his associations with the sea.

Among the top highlights of the sale were two exquisite works by modernist NS Bendre, including a figurative work from 1971 which sold for ₹1.56 crore, more than tripling its pre-sale estimate, and an untitled work (possibly a view of Mandu), 1982, which sold for ₹1.14 crore. Jehangir Sabavala's "The Cactus Wave", 2006, sold for ₹2.63 crore.

**Artists in studios/homes:** Across the land in homes, in studios that belong to them as well as others, artists are still pouring out their imagination. Those who have computers and laptops are busy with Zoom webinars and the like but my heart goes out to artists who have no technology. They continue to be inspired in their own small rooms with minimal media and



materials. Questions arise as to how they are eking out their living.

The buyer's market is not so well laid out. Galleries have their own list of collectors and buyers but it is only established artists who can share in that bouquet of well-being. One of the greatest contributions to an artist's life can be through corporate houses, hotels, Government and private offices and complexes that can use art works and help artists to thrive in a market that has fallen to the Covid climate.

Take for instance Tom Vattakuzhy, a brilliant artist in Kerala who lost out on a historic series of illustrations in the *Malayala Manorama* because of a misunderstanding with the Church. His works echo his solitude. They make everyone empathise with him and stir their inner recesses. Vattakuzhy, a Masters from Shantiniketan and then Vadodara, is a prime example of a brilliant artist waiting to be shown by a curator, gallery or promoter who will not throw him to the sharks. Let's face it, the art world thrives on profit margins and cut-throat competition. India needs more institutions and philanthropic agencies to help artists all over the country.

Institutions like the Lalit Kala Akademi have a great role to play in opening their spaces to as many solo shows as possible to lift the darkness in the world of the lonely artist waiting in the wings. The India International Centre and AIFACS do yeoman's service for the arts. Big artists, too, need to get out of their cocoons and help others in need.

**Black Lives Matter:** The most beautiful example of an artist helping others has been that of the great artist Banksy. The British street artist financed a boat to rescue refugees attempting to reach Europe from north Africa. The vessel, named *Louise Michel* after a French feminist anarchist, set off in secrecy on August 18 from the Spanish port of Burriana, near Valencia, and was in the central Mediterranean Sea, where on August 30 it rescued 89 people, including 14 women and four children.

It was looking for a safe port to disembark the passengers or to transfer them to a European coast guard vessel. Since setting off from Burriana, the boat, registered in Germany and manned by a crew of activists from across Europe led by Pia Klemp, rescued more than 150 people off the coast of Libya. The majority of the passengers were transferred to a larger rescue vessel a few days ago, after European authorities appeared to ignore Mayday calls from the *Louise Michel*, which had become too overloaded to steer. The survivors finally arrived in the port of Palermo, Sicily.

Underscoring the hypocrisy of governments shouting out for racial equality while simultaneously taking a hardline anti-immigration stance, Banksy's video of the rescue mission, posted on Instagram, concluded with the words: "All Black Lives Matter." Perhaps in a blanket equation of everyone in the world, we could tweak it to say "All Lives Matter." Maybe the virtual world is here to stay until the virus is tackled with a vaccine that says: "Get thee behind me."

*(The writer is a senior art critic and independent curator)*

# A double whammy to the girl child's survival

## The rising crime against women has emerged as yet another factor for augmenting the traditional preference for sons



Last week, a six-month pregnant woman in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh (UP), was attacked by her husband with a sharp-edged weapon. Her family alleged that he slit her stomach to find out the gender of the unborn baby. They told the police that the father of five daughters was so desperate for a son that he resorted to this brutal way to check if the foetus was that of a boy or a girl. Although a First Information Report (FIR) has been registered and the husband arrested, this gruesome crime underlines once again the deeply-entrenched preference for sons in our culture. Despite the best efforts of the Union Government, States and non-governmental organisations over the years, there seems to be very little change in attitudes towards the girl child in the country. This is not just deeply worrying but also frightening. It is not, however, surprising that

girls are less valued than boys in UP, a State that has recorded the most crimes against women in the country. The latest 2018 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data ranked the State as the worst for women's security with 59,443 crimes against them. Incidentally, in 2018, the crime rate was the highest for cruelty by husbands and relatives. Although the NCRB data for 2019 has not been released as yet, media reports of crimes against women in UP during the last two years do not inspire confidence in the possibility of any turnaround.

But do the rising crimes against women have any bearing on the preference for a son? Yes, says a new study conducted in UP and Haryana. Its objective was to examine discrimination against the girl child and its linkages with the declining child sex ratio and violence against women. The report states that the responsibility of security and maintaining the chastity of daughters in the context of rising sexual violence in the country has added to the larger concern of wanting a son. In other words, the increasing crime against women has emerged as yet another factor for augmenting the traditional preference for a son.

Supported by the Indian Council

of Social Science Research (ICSSR), the study was conducted by Bijaylaxmi Nanda, Nupur Ray and Ritwika Mukherjee. The preliminary findings indicate that perceptions about crime play a pivotal role in the increasing preference for a male child. Thus, as long as women continue to remain insecure in the nation, chances that girls will be unwanted by families will be high.

Further, with three out of every 10 women, who had more daughters than sons, reporting that the husband/family members express dissatisfaction at the birth of a girl child, the study also reinforces the fact that gender inequality remains at the heart of violence against women in UP. The male offspring is preferred because he is culturally perceived as a protector and provider during the old age of the parents. An earlier study to understand the intrinsic relationship between masculinity, son preference and intimate partner violence came to similar conclusions.

The 2014 study by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), found that in UP, the two most important reasons for having a son were to carry on the family name and to provide

support to parents in their old age. Six years later, as the ICSSR study shows, little seems to have changed on the ground.

The ICRW-UNFPA report found that of the seven States studied, UP had the largest proportion of men reporting high control over their intimate partners and the lowest proportion of men displaying gender equitable attitudes.

Education is a big tool to engender transformation in beliefs, attitudes and practice. It is an equally important predictor of son-preference attitudes. In UP, the ICRW-UNFPA study found that 55 per cent of men with no education had a high preference for sons compared to 39 per cent of men with graduation or higher degrees.

Studies have shown that spouses of men with no or little education are unlikely to have ready access to sexual and reproductive health services. In the Badaun case, the fact that the woman had five children and was pregnant with her sixth child indicates she may have faced barriers in accessing family planning services. The fourth National Family Health Survey (NFHS 2015-16) states that the unmet need in UP was 18 per cent for currently married women aged between

15 and 49 years. This means an estimated 8.2 million women have been denied access to family planning. In Badaun, which has a more than 70 per cent rural population, the total unmet need is almost 14 per cent. This is higher than the national average of 12.9 per cent.

The preference for sons puts women under so much pressure to produce a male heir that many times they are forced into numerous pregnancies and a series of abortions until they do so. The preference for a son has led to around 4,60,000 girls going missing due to sex selection at birth each year between 2013 and 2017, according to the UNFPA's *2020 State of the Population Report*.

Last month, noted researcher Fengqing Chao of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia, and his colleagues projected an even darker future for girls in India. According to their research published in the journal *PLOS ONE*, the average annual number of missing female births between 2017 and 2025 was likely to be 4,69,000 per year and would increase to 5,19,000 per year for the time period between 2026 to 2030. This research singles out UP as the Indian State most likely to have the

maximum missing female births due to the preference for a boy and accounting for almost a third of the total number projected.

But girls don't just go missing at birth. India also has the highest rate of excess girl child deaths at 13.5 per 1,000 births. This critical data suggest post-birth sex selection. An estimated one in nine deaths of girls below the age of five may be attributed to post-birth sex selection, says the UNFPA report. So, while gender-biased sex selection accounts for about two-thirds of the total missing girls, post-birth girl child mortality accounts for about one-third.

UP lags behind on many indicators of gender equality, including early marriage and crimes against women.

If Yogi Adityanath really wants development, the Chief Minister must make greater investments in improving gender indicators. Prejudice against girls can be countered by programmes that focus on engaging boys and instilling values of gender equality in them at an early age. Comprehensive sex education in schools could help redefine notions of masculinity and foster respect for women.

*(The writer is a senior journalist)*



### PAKISTAN MUST LEARN FROM INDIA

Numerous factors have been identified to ascertain the reasons behind the huge Corona outbreak in India. The lockdown was hastily imposed and the resultant mass return home of workers from the cities led to the virus' spread. The stories from across the border, raise a question that crops up frequently in the history of Pakistan-India affairs: Is there something that one neighbour could learn from the other? They could if they so wish.

*(Dawn editorial)*



# If Trump loses, he may refuse peaceful shift

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the November 3, 2020, election to his Democratic rival Joe Biden.

Trump, a Republican, also said he believed the election result could end up in the US Supreme Court, as he again cast doubt on postal voting. Many American states are encouraging mail-in voting, citing the need to keep Americans safe from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed over two lakh people in the country.

"Well, we're going to have to see what happens," Trump

said when asked whether he would commit to a peaceful transition, one of the cornerstones of American democracy.

"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 when asked about a peaceful transition of power after the presidential polls in November irrespective of the outcome.

"President, real quickly, wins, lose or draw in this election, will you commit here today for a peaceful transferral of power after the election? And there has been rioting in Louisville, there has been riot-

ing in many cities across this country — red and so-called red and blue states — will you commit to making sure that there is a peaceful transferral of power after the election?" he was asked.

Not satisfied with Trump's answer, the reporter again asked. "Do you commit to making sure that there is a peaceful transferral of power?"

Trump exuded confidence that there will be a continuation of power. "We want to get rid of the ballots and we will have a very peaceful — there will not be a transfer. Frankly, there will be a continuation. The ballots are out of control, you know it, and you know who knows it

better than anybody else? The Democrats know it better than anybody else," the president said as he refused to entertain any other question from the same journalist.

"Go ahead. Please go ahead. Yes, go ahead. You asked a question. Go ahead please," he said. Trump's reluctance to commit to a peaceful transition was rooted in what he said were concerns about ballots, extending his assertion that widespread mail-in voting is rife with fraud.

In 2016, Trump also refused to commit to accepting the election results in his contest against the Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton,

which she characterised as an attack on democracy.

Trump was eventually declared the winner, although he lost the popular vote by three million, an outcome he still questioned. Meanwhile, Senator Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican who has stood at odds with the President in the past, slammed Trump's remarks.

"Fundamental to democracy is the peaceful transition of power; without that, there is Belarus," Romney tweeted.

"Any suggestion that a President might not respect this Constitutional guarantee is both unthinkable and unacceptable," he said.

# China's military flew surveillance planes on 3 days, says Taiwan

AP ■ TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Taiwan on Thursday condemned recent Chinese military activity after Beijing sent two military surveillance planes toward the island for three straight days, calling it a "deliberate provocation."

Tensions have risen in the Taiwan Strait as the U.S. has stepped up its official engagement with the self-ruled island that China considers part of its national territory.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, China sent two planes into Taiwan's air defense identification zone, according to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense. In response, the Taiwanese side dispatched air patrols, the ministry said.

"We oppose China using military force against Taiwan, deliberately violating Taiwan's naval and airspace safety and damaging the status quo," added Chiu Chui-Cheng, deputy minister at Taiwan's

Mainland Affairs Council. "Our government will continue to cooperate with countries with similar values."

Last week, China sent a total of 37 warplanes, including bombers and fighter jets, across the Taiwan Strait in a warning as a high-level U.S. State Department official visited the island. The Taiwanese defense ministry said the planes crossed the midline of the Taiwan Strait.

The midline has acted as an unofficial buffer zone between China and Taiwan for decades, in what Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council on Thursday called "a tacit agreement that has kept the peace."

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin on Monday denied the existence of any midline, saying that Taiwan is part of China. He also warned that China would retaliate for the U.S. visit. "We will take countermeasures, including against relevant individuals," he said.

## US: Growing cooperation with India vital to free, open Indo-Pacific

Washington: Underlining that the scope of India and the United States partnership continues to expand, US State Department on Wednesday (local time) said that Washington's growing security and diplomatic cooperation with New Delhi is vital to a free, open, and inclusive Indian-Pacific region.

"The pace and scope of the #USIndia partnership continues to expand! Whether it's at @UN or with Quad partners, our growing security and diplomatic cooperation with India is vital to a free, open, and inclusive #IndoPacific," tweeted State Department for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA).

Indian-Pacific region is largely viewed as an area comprising the Indian Ocean and the western and central Pacific Ocean, including the South China Sea.

China's territorial claims in the South China Sea and its efforts to advance into the Indian Ocean are seen to have challenged the established rules-based system.

Amid China's growing assertiveness in the Indian-Pacific region, foreign ministers of Quad — India, Japan, the US and Australia — are planning to hold a meeting in Tokyo next month. The officials are likely to affirm their countries' cooperation to realise the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" vision upheld by Japan and the US.

## Trump-appointed judges under an election-year political lens

AP ■ NASHVILLE

US District Judge Eli Richardson, a Trump administration appointee who bucked the President's conservative base by blocking a Tennessee law that restricts mail-in voting, had an announcement to make before wrapping up his decision: it had nothing to do with politics. The declaration dropped as lower-court judges, like Richardson, face greater scrutiny over their perceived ideological purity. Richardson even took the step of addressing potential critics in his opinion.

Richardson ruled in favor of expanding the ability of first-time voters in this reliably Republican-leaning state to cast mail-in ballots this election. But first, the lifetime-appointed judge said, he had to "address head-on the proverbial elephant in the room," declaring his own impartiality in the case.

In his September 9 ruling, Richardson wrote that he was "not concerned about how his decisions could aid one side or the other on the political front." The judge from Tennessee's Middle District also said his personal opinions on election laws have "simply no bearing" on the constitutional claims brought before his bench. For months, President Donald Trump claimed without proof that there could be widespread voter fraud in November, even as officials in states that have relied on mail-in ballots cited little evidence of such.

# Trump, Biden clash on handling of coronavirus

Washington: US President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden have clashed on the coronavirus pandemic, both putting forward their plans to bring America out of the worst health crisis if voted to power.

The US is the worst-affected country from the pandemic with over 200,000 Americans losing their lives to the disease. The virus has also battered the country's economy with millions of people losing their jobs.

Trump, a Republican, and Biden are pitted against each other for the November 3 presidential election.

"Our plan will crush the

virus. And actually, Biden's plan will crush America, if you think about it. You can't lock down. Again, we're growing at levels that nobody has ever seen before. Our plan is unleashing a rapid recovery. Our opponent's plan would hurt America very badly. It would send us into a depression," Trump told reporters at the White House on Wednesday, asserting that his Democratic challenger would not have been able to handle the pandemic.

"Our approach is pro-science. Biden's approach is anti-science. I don't think they know what their approach is, although a lot of it's copied from

what we've done," Trump said. Talking about Johnson & Johnson announcing that their vaccine candidate has reached the final stage of clinical trials, Trump said, "this is record time. This is the fourth vaccine candidate in the United States to reach the final stage of trial. So, we have four candidates already at a very late date. 'Late' being a very positive word, in this case," he said.

Trump also announced that his administration is awarding \$200 million of CARES Act funding to all 50 states to prepare to distribute the vaccine to high-risk residents.

## Seoul: N Korea kills S Korean official, burns his body

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea said on Thursday that North Korea troops fatally shot a South Korean Government official who may have attempted to defect and set his body on fire after finding him on a floating object near the countries' disputed sea boundary.

South Korean officials condemned what they called North Korea's "atrocious act" and urged it to apologize and punish those responsible. North Korea is unlikely to accept the South Korean demand, and ties between the rivals — already strained amid a deadlock in broader nuclear diplomacy — will probably suffer a further setback, observers say.

According to Seoul, the man disappeared from a government ship that was checking on possible unauthorised fishing in an area south of the boundary on Monday, a day before he was found in North Korean waters.

North Korea sent officials wearing gas masks aboard a boat near the man to learn why

he was there on Tuesday afternoon. Later in the day, a North Korean navy boat came and opened fire at him, South Korea's Defense Ministry said.

Sailors from the boat clad in gas masks and protective suits poured gasoline on his body and set it aflame, the Defense Ministry said, citing intelligence gathered by surveillance equipment and other assets.

It's unclear how he ended up in North Korea. But a defense official said the man might have tried to defect to the North, citing acquired information.

He refused to elaborate. The official, requesting anonymity citing department rules, said the South Korean official was wearing a life jacket and was on a small floating object when he was found in North Korean waters.

He said North Korea may have decided to kill him in line with its stringent anti-coronavirus rules that involve shooting anyone illegally crossing the border.

## UN rejection of sanctions marks 'victory' over Trump: Iran

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani declared "victory" over the United States after the UN Security Council rejected the Trump administration's bid to reimpose UN sanctions on the Islamic republic.

"The Iranian nation has

achieved great political, legal and diplomatic success at the United Nations," Rouhani told a televised weekly meeting of his cabinet.

"The reason for this victory lies solely in the support and resistance of the people," he said.

"America's greatness has

collapsed (just like) the global hegemony they thought they had."

In May 2018, US President Donald Trump withdrew from a landmark deal that gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for UN-verified guarantees that it is not seeking nuclear weapons.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Deen Dayal, S/o: Padam Singh R/o: H. No. 40/2980, Beadon Pura, Karol Bagh, Delhi** has been missing /kidnapped since **26.01.2020** from the area of **P. S. Karol Bagh, Delhi**. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 70A dated 26.01.2020** has been registered at P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi. The description of the missing person is as under:

**Age:** 60 years, **Height:** 6', **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Oval, **ID Mark:** Hanuman ji tattoo on right hand, **Wearing:** Grey colour shirt & lower and black colour sleeper in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

**Website:** <http://cbi.nic.in>  
**E-mail Id -** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Ph:** 011-24368638, 24368641  
**Fax No:** 011-24368639  
**DP/382/CD/2020**

## SEARCH FOR SUSPECTED PERSON



General public is hereby informed that one unknown person (depicted in the photo) has stolen one Water Motor Crompton Greaves 1 HP and one meter of Delhi Jal Board, from the shop no. 142, Ground Floor, DB Gupta Market, Karol Bagh, Delhi on 05.04.2020. The description of the suspected person is

as under:- **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age:** About 28 years, **Height:** About 5'7", **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White colour shirt, white colour jeans and black colour sandal in feet. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 000155/2020, u/s 379 IPC dated 26.05.2020** has been registered at P.S. DBG Road, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this suspected person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this suspected person may kindly inform to P.S. DBG Road, Delhi.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi**  
**Ph:** 011- 23613252, 8750870429  
**DP/362/CD/2020**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Komal** with her daughter **Divyanshi** age 2 years, **W/o Rajan R/o H.No. A-130, Camp No.4, Jwala Puri, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 27.07.2020 from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. In this regard, **DD No. 97-A dated 29.07.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped lady is as under:

**Name:** Komal, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 22 years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Pink colour suit, black colour leggings and black colour chappal in his feet. If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped lady, kindly inform SHO/ P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.

**E-mail :** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Ph:** 011-24368638, 24368641  
**Fax :** 011-24368639  
**SHO**  
**P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.**  
**Ph. No. 011-25268394, 25280980**  
**DP/392/OD/2020**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Neelam D/o Ram Khilawan R/o CB-21, Ring Road, Naraina, New Delhi** **Aged :** 17 years, has been reported missing/ kidnapped since 12.09.2020 at about 01:00 P.M. from her house, vide **FIR No. 597/2020** Dated 12.09.2020 u/s 363 IPC registered at Police Station - Naraina, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Complexion :** Shallow, **Height :** 5', **Face :** Long, **Build :** Medium, **Identification :** Mentally Disturbed, **Clothing :** wearing orange colour kurta, blue colour payjama and hawai chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may inform SHO, Naraina, New Delhi at **E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>,** **Tele No.: 24368638/24368641, Fax: 24368639.**

**SHO : P.S. Naraina, New Delhi**  
**Ph. : 011-25891181, 25892010, 8750871122**  
**DP/215/WD/20**

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 50 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Grey Colour Pant & Multicolour Check shirt has been found dead from the area of Police Station Vijay Vihar, Delhi on 19.09.2020.

In this regard a **FIR No. 359/20 U/s 279/304A IPC**, dated 19.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi**  
**DP/416/RD/2020**  
**Ph.: 011-27511294, 8750870329**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Tara D/o Sh. Bhola Mandal R/o Jhuggi No. A84/118, Indra Camp, A-Block, N.I.A. Phase-1, Naraina, New Delhi, Age:** 14 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Printed White Suit & Brown Colour Salwar and Yellow Colour Sandle in feet is missing/kidnapped since 20.12.2016 at 08:00PM from the area of **P.S. Naraina, New Delhi**. In this regard a case **FIR No. 255/2016 dated 21.12.2016 u/s 363 IPC** has been registered at P.S. Naraina, New Delhi.

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

**E-mail :** [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in)  
**Ph:** 011-24368638, 24368641  
**Fax :** 011-24368639  
**SHO**  
**P.S. Naraina, New Delhi.**  
**Ph:** 011-25891181, 25892020,  
**8750871122**  
**DP/212/WD/2020**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely:** Ganga, **W/o:** Rajesh, **R/o:** H.No. A-333, Gali No. 7, Rao Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi, **Age:** 33 Years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Yellow Kurta-Salwar has been missing/kidnapped since 10.08.2020 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 68-A, Dated 12.08.2020** has been lodged at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

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

**Web-site :** <http://cbi.nic.in>  
**E-Mail ID:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Fax:** 011-24368639  
**SHO**  
**P.S. Nangloi, Delhi**  
**Ph:** 011-25947225, 25949470  
**DP/352/OD/2020**

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER, RUHS COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, Sector-11, Kumbha Marg, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur-302033 Ph.: 0141-2795624, 634, E-mail : [principal@ruhscms.org](mailto:principal@ruhscms.org)

No. RUHS CMS/Store/2020-21/21022 Date : 22-09-2020

Short Term E-bid Notice

Single stage, two envelope short term e-bids are invited upto 02.00 pm of 12-10-2020 for Supply and Installation Automated Extraction System on Reagent Rental basis at Covid-19 Test Lab, Dept. of Microbiology, RUHS College of Medical Sciences, Jaipur. (Total Approx. Cost in Rs. 144.00 lakh) (Pre Bid Meeting on 25-09-2020 at 11.00 am) Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at the Website <http://eprocure.rajasthan.gov.in>, [www.ruhscms.org](http://www.ruhscms.org) or [sppp.raj.nic.in](http://sppp.raj.nic.in). (UBN - CMS2021GLRC00044)

Principal & Controller  
Raj. Samwad/C/4841/2020-2021 RUHS College of Medical Sciences, Jaipur

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"All the tenders issued by CIL and its subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works & Services are available on i) Website of Coal India Limited: [www.coalindia.in](http://www.coalindia.in), ii) Website of ECL: [www.easterncoal.nic.in](http://www.easterncoal.nic.in), iii) CIL e-Procurement Portal: <https://coalindiaticketers.nic.in>, iv) Central Public Procurement Portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal: <https://gem.gov.in>".

By Order  
ECL







Trend Blazer

‘Glad to do some memorable comedies’

Actor **PANKAJ TRIPATHI**, who is loved for his versatility on screen, says he is glad that he got a chance to essay several interesting comic roles in Bollywood. Tripathi’s comic streak as an actor has been particularly popular in films such as *Stree*, the *Fukrey* franchise, *Bareilly Ki Barfi*, *Luka Chuppi* and *Angrezi Medium*. “Every piece of work has to make a point. That’s the whole point of art. Although the nineties had a certain brand of comedy, new-age films demand that we poke fun more responsibly and use comedy to say something effective. In such a scenario, comedy films have to offer more than just about laughs and fun,” Tripathi said.



**‘I think it’s unfair. Right now, they are talking about the consumption of drugs. It is the choice of an individual, not of an industry. So do not blame the industry. Whether it is in politics, fashion or in the corporate world, there are people who are doing drugs. We should not generalise the situation.’**  
—Karan Kundra

Actor **SHWETA TRIPATHI SHARMA** believes it is essential to discuss mental health as the unlock process continues all over India.



“A detailed conversation around mental health must ensue during the unlock phase. Considering people are stepping out to work amid the fear of COVID-19, it’s important to conduct systematic counselling sessions,” she said. “Lockdown experiences are different from case to case but the phase has been riddled with existential questions,” she added.

Mariah felt not worthy of existing

Singer **MARIAH CAREY** has recalled the time when she did not feel worthy of existing. The pop star was a guest on Oprah Winfrey’s show *The Oprah Conversation*. In a short video of the episode, Carey and Winfrey can be seen discussing topics ranging from the time the singer was held in the back-seat of a police car to a moment in her life when she didn’t feel “worthy of existing.” “I wouldn’t have gone here if I hadn’t been treated as an ATM machine with a wig on,” Carey says in the clip. It’s unclear what or who Carey was specifically referring to but Winfrey responds, “The loneliness and sadness behind the facade, I now understand it.”



The illegal tiger trade is threatening the survival of one of nature’s most beautiful beasts. Exposing the shocking secrets of illegal tiger farms and the power players who profit, former Royal Marine Commando Aldo Kane uncovers key trafficking routes connecting Malaysia, China, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, covertly filming the traffickers, and meeting those trying to conserve tigers. He calls the series, *Tigers: Hunting the Traffickers*, a gripping, fearless and an action-packed investigation into the sickening network of ruthless, organised wildlife crime. It’s also a crusading film, with enough clout to ignite a campaign for real change, before a majestic species is wiped out completely. Excerpts:

**□What is the film about?**  
We look at how the growth in illegal tiger farms throughout Southeast Asia and China is stimulating a demand for tiger products like tiger bone, wine and glue. Tiger trafficking is now big business and this rise in demand is having a devastating effect on the world’s wild tiger population as a premium is now paid for its wild provenance. This film investigates the murky underworld of the illegal tiger farms feeding this demand. It is about the complex issues that surround the trade and tries to raise awareness of the immediate threat to these endangered animals. I, alongside a team of investigators, try to expose and piece together the shocking secrets of the illegal tiger farms and those who profit. Numbers of wild tigers in much of Southeast Asia are declining and wild tigers risk getting extinct if this illegal trade continues and is left unchecked.

**□What attracted you to this project?**  
Since I first joined the Royal Marines at the age of 16, I have spent many years travelling the globe and a huge amount of time in the jungles of Southeast Asia. I still remember the exhilarating feeling of sharing the dense forests with the wild tiger — for me, the most majestic Apex predator. Since then, I have been fascinated by these beautiful creatures and acutely aware of their plight as an endangered species.

A few years ago, I was talking with director Orlando Von Einsiedel from Grain Media about such risky stories which needed to be told. And this one topped the list. Telling a story of a species closer to extinction partly due to man’s desire to turn it into “luxury” products would require intricate storytelling, investigative journalism and a healthy dose of risk-taking. It felt like the perfect project to me.

**□You have spent the last few years working with anti-poaching patrols. What motivated you to expose tiger trafficking?**  
I have been working over the years with a charity that offers former service



the Counter Tiger Poaching units in the Taman Negara National Park, Malaysia. We spent weeks in the jungle tracking down tiger poachers. They have dedicated their lives to the protection of the few wild tigers left in Malaysia. It’s frustrating that their efforts are being completely undermined by the industrial scale poaching taking place in their own back-yard. The wild tigers are being trafficked North into Vietnam and China where a premium is fetched as the dead or butchered ones are worth more than those alive and wild. It was truly great to spend time with these dedicated and loyal teams, learning how they operate and what their biggest challenges were. This gave me the background knowledge and drive to find out more about the illegal trade.

For me, the most shocking scenes revealed how large some tiger facilities were. I also visited some places where hundreds of tigers were locked up in cages. The tiger trade is hidden from sight, unlike the ivory or rhino trade where the brutality is on show for the world to see. The world is largely unaware of the brutal way in which they are farmed and ultimately slaughtered for their bones. Breaking into these facilities to expose the cruelty these tigers are exposed to is a vital part of bringing the truth to the wider world.

**□Why should people watch the film and what do you hope they’ll take away from it?**  
Anyone with an interest in conservation should watch this film. It is an investigation into the destruction and extinction of an apex predator, an insight into how the commodification of a farmed product can affect an entire wildlife species. It is an action-packed, thrilling shocker of an investigation that will take the viewer to some unexpected places. I hope that this film will make a small difference and add to the weight of work that international and local NGOs are doing in the field of tiger protection and conservation. (The series premieres on October 3 at 9 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)

Another kind of hunter

Presenter and former Royal Marine Commando **ALDO KANE**’s forthcoming series, *Tigers: Hunting the Traffickers*, is a secret investigation into the destruction of the apex predator in Southeast Asia, providing an insight into how the commodification of a farmed product is pushing an entire wildlife species towards extinction. By **TEAM VIVA**

personnel the opportunity to play a critical role in conservation and the prevention of wildlife crime around the world. As highly military trained individuals, our work on the ground is very much focussed on training and mentoring anti-poaching units to deal with illegal poaching. The poachers, who are risking their lives for very little in return, are very often the ones with the least options. The real issue is the organised trafficking networks across Southeast Asia and the increasing demand for illegal products. Poaching happens because there is a demand for an illegal animal product.

It soon became very clear to me that all anti-poaching operations were being continually undermined by this growing demand, high-tech trafficking syndicates and endemic governmental corruption. Where there is a demand, there will always be someone willing to risk their life to supply. That is why I wanted to try and find out more about the networks, the organised crime and the government complicity in this illegal and lucrative trade.

**□What were the on-ground challenges?**  
Carrying out this investigation was fraught with challenges. The trade spans

nearly all across Southeast Asia — from Malaysia right up through Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and further into China. Due to the nature of the trade in these countries, trafficking can also be linked to other illegal activities such as drug smuggling, illegal logging and human trafficking. So the level of risk and danger is quite high. But the biggest challenge and risk was to the investigators we worked alongside because in some of these countries they could risk their lives for exposing these illegal trade operations. For me, the biggest challenge was feeling quite helpless at the industrial scale of the trade.

**□You have put yourself in some extremely risky situations to make this film. How has your former life as a Royal Marines Commando Sniper equipped you to deal with them?**

My background turned out to be valuable throughout the filming. I was able to use many of the skills I was taught in the Marines like collecting useful information for the investigation. Often, it was just myself and my director Laura out on the ground, gathering information. We had to plan operations as if they were a military tasking, taking into account vehicle moves, communications, actions and worst-case scenario planning. Flexibility is the biggest asset to any live investigation. Sometimes, we would be out on the ground for 18 hours and then all of a sudden, we had to follow a different lead into a different country, the whole time being aware that what we were doing was incredibly risky and dangerous.

**□Any memorable or shocking moment...**  
One of the most memorable parts about the filming was spending time with



Young at heart

The Nissan Kicks 1.3 Turbo CVT proves the adage ‘the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak’

First things first, this new 1330cc turbocharged petrol engine on the Nissan Kicks and on the Renault Duster is a blast. It is by far and away the most powerful small engine available in India right now. Its 156PS of power is 10 per cent greater than the 1.4 GDi turbo on the Creta and Seltos. When you press the throttle pedal, you realise that it is not just a number, the Kicks can move. With this car, you genuinely need to be constantly wary of the hundreds of speed cameras that the Delhi Traffic Police have been installing across the city since once you get the hang of the power band, you just ride the turbo. It is addictive — the power on this car. The Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) is not bad either. It does ensure that you stay within a proper engine range for fun if that is what you want and is conservative at lower urban speeds as well.

However, then you show this car a corner. Of late, I have become quite accustomed to even mass-produced small hatchbacks having good handling at higher speeds. Some small cars have even surprised me with handling that you would have thought is far above their price band, the Hyundai Grand i10 comes to mind here. The Kicks, on the other hand, feel odd. That is because it is old, based on the first-genera-



NISSAN KICKS 1.3 Turbo XV
<b>ENGINE:</b> 1330cc Turbocharged Petrol
<b>POWER:</b> 156PS
<b>TRANSMISSION:</b> CVT Automatic
<b>EX-SHOWROOM PRICE (AS TESTED) ₹13.44 LAKH</b>
<b>MILAGE (RATED/TESTED):</b> 14.2 kmpl/11 kmpl
<b>RATING:</b> 6.5/10
<b>COMPETITION:</b> Hyundai Creta, Kia Seltos, Maruti S-Cross, Renault Duster Turbo
<i>“Lots of power for the money but not for the untrained driver”</i>

tion Duster platform. In fact, the Duster and Kicks have been upgraded with this engine and transmission at the same time. Initially, I thought this car did not have traction control as there was no ‘off’ switch for that feature. But later, I discovered that it did have a permanently enabled TCS. Maybe the TCS needs a bit of fine tuning but it is a good thing that owners cannot switch it off at the push of a button. It’s because the Kicks will teach you understeer if you hit a corner a bit aggressively. But at speeds that the Korean twins and even the S-Cross can man-

age fairly nonchalantly. However, in a straight line, the Kicks Turbo is fabulously fun. The other issue I have with this car, in addition to the silly card-like keys that Nissan and Renault keep using, are the quality of the interiors and the plastics. The seats with their quilted leather are very comfortable but the instrument cluster feels rather like a low-end display, given the display on competition cars. The Kicks’ remarkably tiny pedal area still feels small even with one pedal removed. The plastics also feel a bit low-end and you feel



Fast and steady

The BMW X4 is great but not the most practical car



BMW X4 30d M Sport
<b>ENGINE:</b> 2993cc six-cylinder Turbocharged Diesel
<b>POWER:</b> 265HP
<b>TRANSMISSION:</b> 8-speed Dual-Clutch
<b>EX-SHOWROOM PRICE (AS TESTED) ₹67.9 LAKH</b>
<b>MILAGE (RATED/TESTED):</b> 16.8 kmpl/11 kmpl
<b>RATING:</b> 8/10
<b>COMPETITION:</b> Mercedes-Benz GLC Coupe, Jaguar F-Pace, Porsche Macan
<i>“Brings the ‘Sports’ back in to Sports Utility Vehicle but the X3 makes more sense”</i>

the X4, giving it a lower stance than the X3 on which it is based. On the twisty hill roads in the Carolina’s, the X4 was really fun to drive. Well, the X4 30d, the top-end variant that BMW India sells, is just how I remember it around the corners. Fast and steady. But then you realise that out here in India, it is quite difficult to make a case for a car like this. The BMW X3 might not have this amazing engine and definitely cannot take the corners as well, but it makes much more practical sense here. Firstly, the X4 is a far more driver-oriented car than the X3, and unless you

are driving yourself all the time, one can question the extra ₹5,00,000 you spend on a comparable 30i petrol-engine variant. I agree that the 265hp 30d variant with the three-litre turbocharged diesel is not available on the X3 but that just highlights my point that the X4 is a driver’s car. If you really want drivability, the five-seater sedan with the petrol engine is ₹10,00,000 less, although the M Sport 530i with all the toys costs 61 lakh, the sedan is better. Yes, the X4 will stand out and the 30d has a lot of power to get out of almost any situation. But the X4 is targeted at a single person or a young couple because the X3 is a lot more practical with its shape able to hold a lot more luggage inside. I feel that the X4 30d is better value in terms of its overall package than the Jaguar F-Pace or even the Porsche Macan, the latter being a bit pricier. The Mercedes-Benz GLC Coupe 300d is its biggest rival. While, even in the case of the Merc, I’d buy the standard GLC body shape, I think the Bimmer wins on the handling front. The X4 is an excellent vehicle but maybe this is because I’m getting older now, I just cannot see the logic of it when the X3 is around.





It's a well-known fact that rice has always been a staple food in Asia but we usually think or talk about white rice. However, did you know about black rice, the surprising health benefits that it consists? Well, it has properties such as anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, anti-diabetes and antioxidants. This superfood is also a rich source of nutrients and minerals like protein, fiber, iron and copper. Unprecedented times like these calls for boosting our immune system. The rich source of antioxidants in black rice helps to build up the immunity and improves the body's ability to fight diseases.

Black rice, also known as as forbidden rice or purple rice, used to be a valuable commodity in ancient China and this is why every grain of it was seized and consumed by the royalty only. Hence, the term forbidden was coined. It mainly grows in the Northeast (called as Chak Hao) and the Southern parts (called as Kavuni in Tamil) of India. In order to select the best variety, closely look at the colour of the rice — the darker the shade, the more nutrition it has. Here are a few benefits and uses of it:

**RICH IN ANTIOXIDANTS**

Black rice is a grain, which is loaded with antioxidants. The deep black colour is a mark of its antioxidant properties. The anthocyanin content found in it is way more than most of the grains and this is what makes it stand out in comparison to other superfoods such as quinoa and red rice. Despite being less popular than other rice

# CHOOSE THE DARK SHADE

Did you know about the surprising health benefits of black rice? Nutrition coach PRIYA PRAKASH lists some



varieties, research shows that black rice has the highest overall antioxidant capacity and activity. Antioxidants protect cells against oxidative stress caused by free radicals. Adding black rice to your meal helps in more disease protecting antioxidants. Studies have shown that the anthocyanin antioxidants in grains helps the body to protect

against heart diseases, cancer and many more. It is good for eye, immune health and skin as well.

**LOADED WITH FIBER**

Black rice is loaded with fiber and minerals. A typical bowl of 100 gm of black rice serving has over 4.9 grams of fiber. This is

double the amount available in brown rice. If you are looking for a fiber rich diet then it is better to start consuming black rice.

**ANTI-INFLAMMATORY PROPERTIES**

Black rice is a natural healing food. Research has shown that it helps in reducing inflammatory compounds in your body and increase the anti-inflammatory compounds. This increase in the anti-inflammatory compounds further help in reducing inflammation in various diseases such as cancer, arthritis and allergies.

**A NATURAL DETOXIFYING AGENT**

It is a rich and natural detoxifying agent. Studies have shown that the phytonutrients in black rice help detoxify your body and remove harmful toxins from your liver. It helps the liver to flush out waste material with its antioxidant property. So next time you throw a party, have a detox week by consuming it.

**A GLUTEN-FREE GRAIN**

Gluten is a group of seed storage proteins found in cereal grains. Eating foods with gluten causes an immune reaction that damages the lining of their small intestines. Since most nutrients are absorbed through

the small intestine, this can lead to nutritional deficiencies. And black rice is naturally gluten-free. If you are allergic to gluten and have the Celiac (an autoimmune disorder that's triggered when you eat gluten) disease, then you should consider having black rice in your daily diet plan. The potential to cause intestinal damage is a major disadvantage of gluten. Gluten can also cause abdominal and bloating pain. Not everyone can digest it easily. Black rice provides all healthy nutrients including protein and fiber.

**FIGHTS DIABETES**

The black rice bran contains fiber, which in turn helps glucose to be absorbed by your body over a longer period of time. Research has proven that eating whole grains like black rice helps your body lower the risk of Type 2 Diabetes and also keeps your weight in check in addition to boosting your energy levels. It maintains consistent sugar level. So if you are a diabetic person, you must substitute your regular rice with black one as it's way better and helps fight diabetes.

**YOUR WEIGHT LOSS PARTNER**

Since it's a whole grain and super-rich in fiber, this combination helps your body reduce signals of hunger, thus, helping in

preventing overeating. In addition, researchers have found out that it helps prevent insulin resistance in your body, which leads to and is related to the risk of becoming overweight or obese. So if you are someone who is looking to reduce weight, start with including black rice in your weight loss regime.

**PROMOTES HEALTHY HEART**

A healing food like black rice has been shown to reduce the atherosclerotic plaque formation in the arteries, which is the main reason for a heart attack and stroke. In addition to this, it also helps to reduce the two common factors in heart disease, namely LDL, triacylglycerol and total cholesterol. Consider including forbidden rice to promote a healthy heart and keep heart-related ailments at bay.

**SUPPORTS EYE HEALTH**

It includes zeaxanthin and lutein that protect retina from damaging free radicals. Hence, black rice is an ideal food for achieving a healthy body. They are a package of nutrients with several health benefits. Switch to black rice to stay fit!

(The author is the co-founder of Naturally Yours.)

## R E C I P E S



### OLD BOMBAY NANKHATAI

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Ghee: 1/2 cup
  - Powdered sugar: 1/2 cup
  - Refined flour: 3/4 cup
  - California Walnuts powder: 1/4 cup
  - Salt
  - Semolina: 2 tbsp
  - Baking soda: 1/4 tsp
  - Cardamom powder: 1/2 tsp

- For glazing:**
- Milk: 2 tbsp
  - Powdered sugar: 1 tbsp

- METHOD**
- In a mixing bowl, put *ghee* and powdered sugar. Whip for 10 minutes until smooth as it needs to be soft, white, fluffy and creamy.
  - Add refined flour, walnut powder, salt, semolina and baking soda, cardamom powder.
  - Mix well and knead the dough manually. Do not over-knead.
  - Roll into a baking sheet till the dough is one cm thick. Transfer onto a baking tray.
  - Cut into long rectangles.
  - Mix milk and sugar in a bowl and apply on top of the cut triangles using a brush.
  - Bake at 180 degree C for 10 minutes.
  - Remove the tray and allow the cake to cool completely.
  - Store in an airtight container.

Courtesy: Chef Varun Inamdar.



- STUFFED RAVIOLI**
- WHAT YOU NEED**
- For ravioli filling**
- Pumpkin: 600 gm
  - Shallots: 5-6
  - Garlic cloves: 3-4
  - Olive oil: 1 tbsp
  - Salt: To taste
  - Pepper: To taste
  - Walnut: 60 gm
  - Parmesan cheese: 100 gm
  - Oregano
- For ravioli dough**
- All-purpose flour: 250 gm
  - Egg yolk: 8
  - Whole egg: 1
  - Olive oil: 20 gm
  - Salt: 25 gm

- ALMOND PUMPKIN KEBAB**
- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Pumpkin: 500 gm
  - Green chillies (chopped): 1 1/2 tsp
  - Garlic and ginger (chopped): 2 tbsp
  - Cumin seeds: 1 tsp
  - Cracked coriander: 1 tsp
  - Red chilli powder: 1 tsp
  - Nutmeg powder: 1/8 tsp
  - Chat masala: 1 tbsp
  - Dry mango powder: 1 tbsp
  - Desi ghee: 40 gm
  - Almonds (slivered): 20 gm
  - Almonds (chopped): 40 gm
- METHOD**
- Peel, deseed and grate the pumpkin.
  - Heat *desi ghee* in a thick bottom casserole pan and sauté ginger and garlic, green chillies, cumin seeds and all the spices.
  - Add the pumpkin. Cook for 15 to 20 minutes till the water has dried out.



- Add the chopped almonds and cook for another five minutes. Let the mixture cool down. Cut them into rough, thin patties of 30 gm each. Coat them with slivered almonds.
- Heat *desi ghee* in a pan and place the patties in medium hot oil. Cook till the bottom caramelises and then carefully turn the patties. Cook them till they are crisp from outside.

Courtesy: Chef Manish Mehrotra.

- SMOKED SALMON FISH CAKES**
- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Smoked salmon: 400 gm
  - Mashed potatoes: 300 gm
  - Melted butter: 2 tbsp
  - Wholegrain mustard: 2 tbsp
  - Fresh dill (chopped): 1 tbsp
  - Fresh parsley (chopped): 1 tbsp
  - Fresh chives (chopped): 1 tbsp
  - Lemon juice
  - Salt and freshly ground black pepper
  - Flour (seasoned): ½ cup
  - Eggs, beaten: 2
  - Breadcrumbs: 1½ cups
  - Oil: 100 ml



- METHOD**
- Preheat the oven to 190 degree celsius.
  - Place the salmon in a roasting dish, cover with foil and place in the oven for 15 minutes to heat through.
  - Flake the salmon with a fork and place in a large bowl together with the

- mashed potatoes, butter, and mustard. Mix well.
- Add the dill, parsley, chives, lemon juice and zest. Season well with salt and pepper and mix thoroughly.
- Divide the mixture into 12 portions and form into balls. Flatten each ball to

- about one cm thick.
  - Dip each fishcake in the seasoned flour, then the beaten egg and finally the breadcrumbs to coat each one.
  - Fry the fishcakes in two tbsp oil over medium-high heat for five to eight minutes on each side until golden brown and crispy.
- Courtesy: Le Creuset.



Bravo is progressing very well, and if he has a couple of good days of training, he could come into selection consideration for the next game

It's unfair to judge Cummins right now. He is one of the best going around in the world. I trust him and I'm sure, he will come good. We are just happy to have him

I back myself to play the pull shots and have practised quite a bit. Pretty happy with the performance of my squad. All my shots were good

We were actually keeping things pretty simple, we knew what strokes are to be executed on this ground, so we just stuck to our plan and it went out really well

# KLassic knock

## Rahul's unbeaten 132 powers KXIP to 206/3 against RCB



Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul celebrates with teammate Karun Nair after he hits Dale Steyn for a six

PTI ■ DUBAI

Skipper KL Rahul smashed the first century of the 2020 Indian Premier League to propel Kings XI Punjab to a daunting 206 for 3 against Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Thursday.

Rahul, who was dropped in the 17th and then again in the 18th over by RCB skipper Virat Kohli, played the role of sheet anchor, scoring 132 off 69 balls that was laced with 14 boundaries and seven sixes.

With his spectacular knock, he surpassed Rishabh Pant to post the highest individual score by an Indian in IPL history.

Playing his 60th innings,

**KXIP CAPTAIN KL RAHUL SMASHED AN UNBEATEN 132 OFF 69 DELIVERIES AGAINST RCB TO RECORD THE HIGHEST-EVER SCORE BY AN INDIAN IN THE HISTORY OF IPL. IT IS ALSO THE HIGHEST-EVER SCORE BY A CAPTAIN IN IPL. RAHUL ALSO BECAME THE FASTEST INDIAN BATSMAN TO REACH 2,000 IPL RUNS, TAKING 60 INNINGS**

Rahul also became the fastest Indian to reach the 2000 IPL runs.

The stylish batsman clipped away a full length delivery to fine leg for four to break Sachin Tendulkar's record, who reached the milestone in 63 matches.

Opening the batting with Rahul, Mayank Agarwal (26) looked dangerous and shared a 57-run stand with his captain. However, with the introduc-

tion of spin into the attack in the seventh over, Yuzvendra Chahal (1/25) struck with the last ball, cleaning up Agarwal (26) with a delightful googly.

Nicholas Pooran (17) and Glenn Maxwell (5) once again failed to make an impact as Shivam Dube (2/33) accounted for the duo. Karun Nair pitched in with an eight-ball 15.

The pace trio of Umesh Yadav (0/35), Dale Steyn (0/57) and Navdeep Saini (0/37) had a torrid time as the KXIP skipper was on fire in his second game as captain.

All players wore black arm-bands to honour Australian cricketer turned commentator Dean Jones, who died in Mumbai due to a cardiac arrest on Thursday.



IPLT20.com

## Youth vs Experience

### CSK Dad's Army take on Iyer's youth brigade

PTI ■ DUBAI

Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's much-awaited promotion in the batting order will be an area of interest when Chennai Super Kings strive to pick up pieces against a confident Delhi Capitals in their third IPL encounter on Friday.

The shock defeat against Rajasthan Royals on a batting belter at Sharjah could be primarily attributed to a poor show by their spinners along with a disastrous 20th over but the batsmen can't absolve themselves completely, especially Murali Vijay, Kedar Jadhav and the skipper himself.

MATCHES	21
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	15
DELHI CAPITALS	06
Stats: Faisel Features	

Dhoni had come in to bat at number seven, promoting the likes of Sam Curran, Jadhav and Ruturaj Gaikwad ahead of himself but the play backfired badly leaving Faf du Plessis with too much work in too little time.

While his fans still swear by his six-hitting ability, a closer look would show that Dhoni is unable to change the gears against express pace and it was only when Tom Curran came with his medium fast, Dhoni launched an attack. That too when the match as a contest was over.

However on a big Dubai ground with bigger-sized boundaries, the skipper can rotate the strike better unlike Sharjah and also take those extra deliveries to settle down.

For Delhi Capitals, winning a cliffhanger right at the onset would have given them a lot of confidence even though Ravichandran Ashwin's probable absence after a shoulder injury could force them to reshuffle their bowling line-up.

Senior spinner Amit Mishra could be an option to partner Axar Patel in case Ashwin is unable to

make it.

The cushion of bigger boundaries can always help a wrist spinner attack more by tossing the ball up.

Another aspect will be pacer Mohit Sharma's performance. While Mohit got KL Rahul at the beginning but his loose deliveries at the back-end made things difficult for the Capitals even as Kagiso Rabada bowled tightly at one end.

Against a side like CSK which revels in attacking the last 10 overs, the Capitals might like to try Harshal Patel, who is also a handy batsman at any number having opened in domestic cricket.

This is if Ishant Sharma, who is still nursing an ankle injury is available.

Anrich Nortje in his first IPL game wasn't bad but left-arm Daniel Sams could create those awkward angles that batsmen dislike.

Shimron Hetmyer is likely to get one more chance unless Ricky Ponting wants to bring in some stability in the form of Alex Carey.



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones, one of the finest exponents of ODI cricket, died of a sudden cardiac arrest in Mumbai on Thursday.

Jones, 59, was in Mumbai with the *Star Sports* commentary team for the Indian Premier League. He was in a bio-bubble in a city hotel. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Jones played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia and was part of the 1987 World Cup winning team.

"It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing away of Mr Dean Mervyn Jones AM. He died of a sudden cardiac arrest," *Star Sports* said a press release.

"We express our deep condolences to his family and stand ready to support them in this difficult time. We are in touch

with the Australian High Commission to make the necessary arrangements," the release added.

According to an IPL source, it happened in matter of seconds.

"Deano was standing in the hotel lobby and he suddenly collapsed. Brett Lee was standing by his side. Brett tried to revive him by applying CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) but he didn't respond," said the source.

"He was then taken to Harkisan Das Hospital in Girgaon where he was announced dead on arrival."

Jones' family is in Melbourne and the Australian High Commission is in touch with them.



A player well ahead of his time, Jones scored over 6068 ODI runs at an average of 44.61 with seven hundred and 46 fifties.

For Indian fans, he will for-

ever remain in their memory for the historic tied Test in Chepauk, where he laid the foundation of a big Australian score with an unbeaten double hundred in challenging conditions.

There was an iconic picture of Jones throwing up while batting and so severely dehydrated he was that he had to be admitted to a hospital during the course of the Test match.

In ODI cricket and those numerous World Series Cup matches on Australia's *Channel 9*, Jones, clad in yellow jersey and the lips lined with zinc cream is still etched in memories of the late 80s and early 90s generation.

In ODI cricket, he would often charge down the track against fast bowlers and hitting them over in-field. He played a match winning knock against India in the 1992 World Cup in Brisbane, a thriller that India lost by one run.

In his post retirement life he

performed the role of a cricket analyst for various channels, primarily in South Asia — India and Pakistan, where he was immensely popular.

One of the Indian news channel named him *Professor Deano*, a moniker that stuck with him and was also his Twitter handle.

He could polarise opinion and would often get trolled. He also once courted controversy for calling Hashim Amla "terrorist" on air, a light-hearted comment but the racist undertone forced the particular broadcaster to take him off air.

His online banter with fellow commentator and Trans Tasman all-rounder Scott Styris was enjoyed and lapped up by new generation of cricket followers.

# Hat-trick hero Havertz

AFP ■ LONDON

Frank Lampard said Kai Havertz is just getting started after opening his Chelsea account with a hat-trick in a 6-0 thrashing of Barnsley, while Arsenal also booked their place in the League Cup fourth round with a 2-0 win at Leicester.

Havertz had struggled to make an impact in his first two Premier League games since sealing a reported \$94 million move from Bayer Leverkusen as the most expensive signing of Chelsea's £200 million spending spree in the transfer market.

But the 21-year-old German was one of just three players to retain his place from Sunday's 2-0 defeat to Liverpool and Lampard's decision reaped its reward as he scored his first senior hat-trick.

"I am delighted with Kai, it was everything I wanted from him," said Lampard.



"He had no pre-season so I wanted to give him more time on the pitch with his teammates, learning how we play and press. It was a great night for Kai and it is the first of many for him."

Thiago Silva and Ben Chilwell also made their Chelsea debuts, while Tammy Abraham and Ross Barkley made the most of rare starts to get their names on the scoresheet.

Abraham pounced on loose pass deep in the Barnsley half to slam home the opener before Havertz's calm finish

tapping into an empty net before Olivier Giroud completed the scoring.

"I am very happy to score three goals, but this is just my beginning at the club and I want to score more and more goals," said Havertz.

Chelsea will face either Tottenham or Leyton Orient in the last 16 with the outcome of that tie yet to be decided after the match was postponed on Tuesday due to a number of coronavirus cases among the

Orient players.

Arsenal won the only all-Premier League tie of the night as Christian Fuchs's own goal broke the deadlock at the King Power.

Eddie Nketiah added a late second for the Gunners, who could face Liverpool at Anfield twice in three days next week should the Premier League champions progress past Lincoln on Thursday.

"It's the toughest place to go in Europe and the world,"

GOVT. OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA

Bid Identification No.: BPT/Online-03/2020-21 Date: 14.09.2020  
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS UNDER ROAD WORK IN ODISHA  
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Improvement to Road & CD works Jhanjimura to Khairani in the district of Nuapada under RIDF.

2. No of Works : 1 No.

3. Location details : Nuapada District

4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT.

5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.

6. Cost of tender paper : Rs.10,000/- per set.

7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding	Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From 23.09.2020 11.00 A.M.	To 12.10.2020 5.00 P.M.	09.10.2020 14.10.2020 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site "www.tendersorissa.gov.in"

OIPR-25102/11/0003/2021

Sd/-Superintending Engineer  
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Sl No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Paper	Period of Completion
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	M/R to E.I of B.D.A office building, Bhubaneswar (Fire fighting works of Akash Sova building)	11,81,920.00	12,000.00	6000.00 + 12% GST	30 (Thirty days)

1. The Bid documents will be available in the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 25.09.2020 at 10.30 Hours up to 06.10.2020 at 17.00 Hrs. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can only be seen in the said website.

2. Bids shall be received only "Online" on or before 06.10.2020 up to 17.00 Hours. The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.

3. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

4. The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Division - IV, BDA, BBSR