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No offset clause in future defence deals

Defence Acquisition Procedure does away with provision in all future cases of Govt to Govt defence contracts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the CAG disclosed that the French manufacturers of the Rafale jets have failed to meet their offset obligations, the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)-2020 unveiled here on Monday has done away with the offset clause itself in all future cases of Government to Government defence contracts the type of which India and France Governments entered into as a part of the Rafale deal.

The Congress had launched a scathing attack on the NDA Government last year alleging that an Indian industrial house was favoured in bagging offset contracts worth over ₹30,000 crore in the Rafale deal.

Offset clause was brought in to allow the Indian defence industry to acquire world-class technology and tie-ups with foreign vendors. The foreign companies supplying weapon to India are mandatorily obliged to plough back at least 30 per cent of the total contract value if the tag is over ₹300 crore. In the Rafale deal, the offset cap was raised to 50 per cent.

The CAG observed in its report last week that in most of the deals critical frontline technology from abroad did not come in.

In the Rafale deal, the Government watchdog observed that, "For instance in

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- The CAG report said in many cases it was found that the foreign vendors made various offset commitments to qualify for the main supply contract but later were not earnest about fulfilling these commitments

the offset contract relating to 36 Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA), the vendors M/s Dassault Aviation and M/s MBDA initially proposed (September 2015) to discharge 30 per cent of their offset obligation by offering high technology to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The DRDO wanted to obtain value of the technical assistance for the indigenous development of engine (Kaveri) for the Light Combat Aircraft. Till date, the vendor has not confirmed the transfer of this technology."

The CAG report said in many cases it was found that the foreign vendors made various offset commitments to qualify for the main supply contract but later were not

earnest about fulfilling these commitments.

Under the new policy, the offset guidelines have also been revised to give preference to defence majors offering to manufacture products in India instead of meeting the offset obligations through other means, officials said.

However, the offset clause is not applicable to the Government to Government deals and single-vendor contracts.

The Rafale deal is one of the most prominent such contracts in the recent past. In such deals, the Government, from which the weapon platform is procured, stands guarantee for all issues, including delivery schedule and availability of critical spares besides maintenance.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the DAP that features steps to turn India into a global manufacturing hub of military platforms, reduce timelines for procurement of defence equipment and allow purchase of essential items by the three services through capital budget under a simplified mechanism.

The latest DAP also incorporates new chapters on information and communication technologies, post-contract management, acquisition of systems developed by the state-run defence entities like the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), they said.

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Brahmos, Nirbhay, Akash to ward off Chinese threat



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After deploying more than 30,000 additional troops on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, the Indian defence forces have operationalised an array of missile systems, including the Brahmos, Nirbhay and Akash, to ward off any threat from belligerent China.

With no letup in tension on the LAC in Eastern Ladakh since the stand-offs began in early May, the security establishment is not taking any chances. Ready for a long haul, the Government has hastened the supply of prefabricated tents and other related equipment to enable the troops to withstand temperatures of minus 20 degrees

Centigrade. On the other hand, missiles, tanks and frontline fighter jets are also on full alert all along the 4,000 km LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

The missiles were deployed recently to nullify any advantage China may have by bringing forward its missile in the Tibet region and Xinjiang. The indigenously-designed and manufactured Brahmos supersonic cruise missile has a range of more than 400 km. It can take out any targets, including tanks and missiles, from far away.

Similarly, the indigenously-designed and manufactured Akash surface to air missile has a range of 80 km and can neutralise any threat from air.

Anti-farm laws protest spreads

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The farmers' protests in the country seem to be growing every day across the country. On Monday, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh sat on dharna at Khatkar Kalan, an ancestral village in Nawanshahr, the birthplace of Shaheed Bhagat Singh on his birthday anniversary to protest against the farm laws, while a tractor was set on fire at India Gate in Delhi on Monday morning by Punjab Congress Youth workers.

Farmers in Punjab launched "Gherao Corporate Businesses" in the State. The silo run by Adani Agri Logistics Group at Village Dagru in Moga was gheraoed by Barnala MLA Gurmeet Hayer.

Farmers' protests backed by the Congress and other Opposition parties also spread in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Congress workers also held nationwide protests in State's Capitals.

Farmers groups observed a Statewide bandh in Karnataka while Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and its allies held protests across Tamil Nadu.

In Delhi, Punjab Youth Congress activists set ablaze a tractor at India Gate on Monday morning. The Delhi Police said five people claiming to be members of the Punjab Youth Congress — Manjot

Tractor set on fire at India Gate, 5 Youth Cong men arrested; Punjab CM sits on dharna

Singh (36), Ramandeep Singh Sindhu (28), Rahul (23), Sahib (28) and Sumit (28), all residents of Punjab — have been arrested.

"Around 15-20 people carried a tractor on a truck to Rajpath, Man Singh Crossing. They unloaded the tractor from the truck and set it on fire," said a senior police official. "Fire department received information regarding the incident at 7.42 am and two fire tenders were rushed to the spot," said a senior Delhi Fire Service official.

The Congress in Haryana held a protest outside the party's HQ in Chandigarh.

The Punjab Government is also consulting lawyers to move the Supreme Court on the issue.

The CM was accompanied by his wife and ex-Minister Preneet Kaur, new Congress in-charge of Punjab affairs Harish Rawat, PCC chief Sunil Jakhar, Vidhan Sabha Speaker Rana KP, Cabinet Ministers, around 45 MLAs and six MPs. They all sat in the memorial complex right in front of the statue and sat on dharna for over an hour.

Total now 2,12,609 Declining trend: 3,235 new +ves in State

Day's highest 506 in Khordha again;16 more die; toll rises to 813

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Covid-19 curve witnessed a declining trend in the State for second day on Monday with 3,235 positive cases being registered from across all 30 districts and the State pool.

With this, the positive tally reached 2,12,609. Of the new cases 1,915 were detected from quarantine and 1,320 were local contacts. Khordha district again reported the day's highest 506 cases followed by Cuttack 318, Angul 179, Bargarh 137, Nabarangpur 124, Sambalpur 120, Mayurbhanj 118, Jajpur 110, Nuapada 106, Kendrapada 103, Balangir,

Record 4,014 recoveries, total recoveries 1,77,585

Rayagada and Sundargarh 101 each, Baleswar 100, Jagatsinghpur 86 and Keonjhar 86 each, Puri 79, Jharsuguda 71, Dhenkanal 69, Bhadrak 67, Subarnapur 65, Kandhamal 62, Koraput 59, Nayagarh 43, Boudh and Kalahandi 42 each, Gajapati 31, Ganjam 28, Malkangiri 21 and Deogarh 12. Besides, 148 positive cases were detected from the State pool. Meanwhile, as many as 16 patients undergoing treatment succumbed to the virus on Monday. With this, the death toll climbed to 813 in the State.

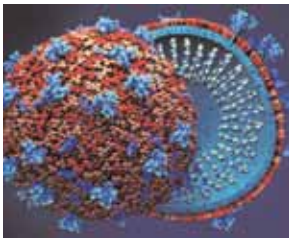
While Baleswar district registered three deaths, two each were reported in Khordha (Bhubaneswar), Puri and Mayurbhanj. One each died in Balangir, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Nabarangpur districts. The deceased in

Baleswar were a 55-year-old man, a 65-year-old woman and a 63-year-old man. The deaths in Bhubaneswar were of a 78-year-old man and a 63-year-old woman.

The casualties in Puri were of a 65-year-old man and a 79-year-old man. The deaths in Mayurbhanj were of a 70-year-old woman and a 40-year-old man.

The other deceased were a 66-year-old man of Balangir, a 67-year-old man of Cuttack, a 61-year-old man of Dhenkanal, a 55-year-old woman of Ganjam, a 45-year-old woman of Kalahandi, a 63-year-old man of Kandhamal and a 54-year-old man of Nabarangpur.

However, a record 4,104 persons recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 1,77,585. The highest 545 recovered in Khordha followed



by 404, Puri 298, Jagatsinghpur 212, Jajpur 167, Mayurbhanj 159, Sambalpur 157, Angul 143, Baleswar 131, Kandhamal 130, Jharsuguda 124, Kendrapada 119, Bargarh and Boudh 113 each, Kalahandi 90, Dhenkanal and Nabarangpur 86 each, Koraput 81, Nuapada 80, Subarnapur 78, Balangir 75, Bhadrak and Keonjhar 73 each, Sundargarh 68, Malkangiri 53, Nayagarh 42, Rayagada 41, Gajapati 31, Deogarh 12 and State pool 189.

₹10 lakh looted from BBSR bank

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a broad daylight heist, a miscreant looted Rs 10 lakh at gun point from a bank branch here on Monday. At around 4:40 pm, a youth wearing a mask entered the Bank Of India's Barimunda branch on the city's outskirts when the bank employees were closing the transactions for the day.

Brandishing a gun, the youth asked 10 employees of bank to remain silent without raising an alarm. He then went to the Cashier's chamber and took away a cash box containing Rs 10 lakh and fled the spot by a motorcycle.

On September 8, a miscreant had looted Rs 2.8 lakh at gunpoint from an Indian Overseas Bank branch at Nandanvihar. The Commissionerate Police is yet to nab the looter.

Assembly Monsoon Session from today

43 MLAs, including Ministers, test Covid +ve

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

While the fourth session (monsoon) of the 16th Odisha Legislative Assembly (OLA) is set to begin on Tuesday, a total 43 MLAs, including a half a dozen of Ministers, have tested positive for Covid-19 so far. Angul MLA and Deputy Speaker Rajani Kant Singh and Satyabadi BJD MLA Umakanta Samantaray tested positive for the virus on Monday.

With mild favour, Singh has been admitted to the SUM COVID-19 Hospital here. "With the blessings of Lord Jagannath, I wish to recover soon and continue to serve the people," he said. He urged those who came in contact with him recently to undergo Covid-19 test. Samantaray took Twitter to inform about his

infection. He urged all people who have come in contact with him in the last couple of days to isolate themselves.

Among Ministers, Tourism Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi once again tested positive for the virus. He had tested positive three weeks ago.

The other MLAs and Ministers include Susant Rout, Ananta Narayan Jena, Bikram Panda, Byomakesh Ray, Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, Pradeep Maharathy, Shankar Oram, Aditya Madhi, Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Padmini Dian, Higher Education Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo and Labour Minister Susanta Singh. Besides, Badasahi BJP MLA Sanatana Bijuli has been admitted to the AIIMS



Bhubaneswar on Monday, according to reports. It may be noted MLAs, Ministers, Assembly employees and journalists underwent Covid tests for three days from September 26 to 28. Those tested negative would be allowed entry to the Assembly. They would also undergo another test after five days.

According to the schedule, the session would sit for eight days from September 29 to October 8. There would be no Question Hour during the session. There would be no sitting on the Gandhi Jayanti (October 2), but the House would meet on Sunday. A total of 16 Bills are likely to be passed during the session.

Temples reopening not possible now: State to HC

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The State Government on Monday informed the Orissa High Court that reopening of the religious places and holding of religious congregations cannot be ordered now on the analogy of opening of business establishments such as malls, fitness centres, gyms and liquor shops as the latter are essential to ensure livelihood of the staffs employed in such establishments.

Replying to a PIL filed in this connection, a Law Department official filed an affidavit in the court stating that there are thousands of temples across the State and every village has at least one temple.

Deploying police personnel simultaneously at all the temples would be extremely difficult at a time when the State police force is already overburden with Covid-19 duties.

"Despite deployment of security personnel, maintaining social distances inside the tem-



ple premises, especially at the sanctum sanctorum will be extremely difficult as almost all the temples have narrow passages leading to the sanctum sanctorum," the affidavit said, adding that although temples have not been reopened for the public, all the rituals in the temples are being performed.

The Government is in the best position to judge the Covid-19 situation. Keeping in mind the increasing number of coronavirus positive cases, it has been decided to impose the restrictions at religious places,

the affidavit further said, adding: "...that the relaxation of restrictions in other States may not be considered as relevant to the situation vis-a-vis Odisha"

The Government affidavit was submitted in the matter of the PIL filed by advocate Jayant Kumar Bal, who has challenged the decision of the Government to close till September 30 all religious institutions, including the Jagannath Temple at Puri, in its guidelines issued in the wake of the pandemic.

342 new +ves in BBSR; total 21,197

231 locals outnumber 111 uarantine cases 2 more dic total toll reac es 88

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Out of the 506 new Covid-19 cases registered in Khordha district on Monday, 342 (67.5%) were recorded in State capital city Bhubaneswar alone. With this, the city's tally surged to 21,197.

As many as 231 cases were local contacts while remaining 111 were detected from quarantine. The local contact cases included 16 in Chandrasekharpur, 12 in Patia, nine in Nayapalli, eight cases each in Aiginia, IRC Village and Sailashree Vihar, seven each in Patrapada, Laxmisagar, Jharpada and Niladri Vihar, six each in Rasulgarh and Unit-8, five in Unit-3, four each of Kalinga Nagar, Khandagiri and Chakeisani. The quarantine cases linked with earlier positive cases included 10 of Patia, seven of Laxmisagar, six each of Chakeisani, Shailashree Vihar, Chandrasekharpur and Saheed Nagar and four cases of VSS Nagar.

'Palia' servitors for Puri temple

PNS ■ PURI

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) is considering engaging 'Palia' (temporary) servitors to perform rituals of the deities as many as 450 regular servitors have tested positive for Covid-19 so far. As most of the infected priests are in home isolation, there is a shortage of servitors to perform rituals. However, there is no disruption in rituals so far, said a servitor, who is a member of the temple managing committee. An SJTA official said if more servitors test positive in coming days, it would be matter of greater concern for administration.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 61,31,450

DEATHS: 96,212

RECOVERED:

50,84,178

ACTIVE: 9,50,201



CM NAVEEN LAYS STONE OF TWO M'NADI BRIDGES

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday laid foundation-stone of two High-Level (HL) bridges over the Mahanadi in Tirtol block of Jagatsinghpur district through videoconferencing. The proposed bridges were named Tirtol-Posal and Jaipur-Katikata

bridges. On completion of the bridges, communication would be easier for 1.5 lakh people of Kendrapada and Cuttack districts from Jagatsinghpur.

Rs 118.56 crore is estimated for Tirtol-Posal bridge while Jaipur-Katikata bridge would cost Rs 82.55 crore. Water Resources and I&PR Minister Raghunandan Das.

State to form panel on farm Bills

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Amidst protests against new Farm Bills cleared in Parliament, Odisha Government has decided to form a panel to study provisions of the controversial legislations.

Addressing a BJD Legislature Party meeting on Monday, a day before commencement of Assembly session, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said BJD has raised its concerns regarding protection of farmers interest in farm Bills.

State to be made slum-free in 3 years

CM Naveen launches slum upgradation initiative

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday launched the slum upgradation programme. The slum upgradation and de-listing initiative aims at making the State slum-free within a period of three years.

The programme has an objective to improve the living conditions of about 18 lakh slum dwellers by providing them piped water supply, paved roads, storm water drains, streetlights, sanitation, household electricity, community spaces and recreational areas.

More importantly, it encourages participation of the slum dwellers in the upgradation process.



“We had decided to empower slum dwellers with the JAGA Mission that laid the foundation of a new humane and inclusive urban development model. Today, it gives me great pleasure to launch the next stage of JAGA Mission – the slum upgradation and de-listing initiative,” the CM said. The process shall start

immediately in 1,000 slums and then scaled up to cover 2,919 slums across the State, said Patnaik. The CM also dedicated 116 multipurpose community centres in the slums which would act as the social lifeline of the slum communities.

He also commenced the distribution of Land Entitlement Certificates to 1,05,000 families living in 1,718 slums in 101 towns, thereby benefiting a 4.5 lakh population. “While Odisha is putting up a brave fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, I hope this upgradation initiative will enhance the collective resilience of the slum dwellers by improving their lives and livelihoods,” the CM said.

Prudent for Odisha to set up solar parks: Experts

As Odisha State’s power demand to reach 6K MW by 2024; dependence on renewable energy to be high

TATHYA ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha planned for 1,000 MW land based solar park more than four years back and because of the non availability of land, the capacity was reduced to 275 MW.

However, setting up such facilities in the State is taking a lot of time, for which Odisha is on the loser’s side. As Odisha’s demand for power is on rise and State’s demand is likely to reach 6,000 MW by 2024, the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) on the State will be huge.

According to officials, the requirement of RPO is now to the extent of 2,200 MW out of which 1,500 MW is from solar and 700 MW in non solar sources. Accordingly, the experts advise that it will be

prudent for the State Government to set up solar parks in the State to meet the obligations, to create employment opportunities and to demonstrate Odisha’s attractiveness as an eco-friendly investment destination as far as greenhouse gas emission reduction is concerned.

Odisha’s decision to go ahead with 275 MW solar park will bring to the State an investment of more than Rs 1,350 crore.

Accordingly, land in two patches in Sambalpur of about 981 acres is readily available which will generate 220 MW. Boudh district is ready with another 262 acres of barren land and will feed 55 MW to the grid. Though certain clarification from the Government is pending, the IDCO is ready

to hand over the land to GEDCOL for a solar park. While certain sources within the Government do not want any solar plant project inside the State as according to them, it will be cheaper to procure renewable power from solar rich States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, experts view such thoughts as myopic.

EFC, the transaction advisor of the Government, has estimated that with land contribution, external power evacuation infrastructure provided by State Government and subsidy from the Government of India, the likely tariff will be about Rs 2.76 per unit of power.

Without the Government of India subsidy, the tariff will go up by another 8 paise per unit. The tariff will be Rs 3.05

per unit only with the land contribution by the State Government.

In case of procurement of solar power from outside the State, Odisha has to bear a facilitation charge of 5 paise per unit of power and 7 paise per unit to be paid to the trading agency. Besides, Rs 3.0 per unit of power is applicable over the bidder tariff beyond June 2023 towards ISTS charges.

So even if solar power is available at Rs 2.50 per unit in other States, it would be much cheaper and wiser to take up solar projects in the State.

Besides, unless solar projects are expedited in the State, Gridco will have to procure power from the solar parks in other States harming the State’s interest, experts opine.

‘Daily dose of almonds keeps heart healthy’



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Adding a handful of nuts like almonds to your daily diet is a good starting point, which can help maintain heart in good condition.

As the World Heart Day is being observed on September 29, nutrition and wellness consultant Sheela Krishnaswamy emphasized on the need to eat right. She said,

“Heart’s health should be a continued area of focus for individuals with an emphasis on making proactive, long-term lifestyle changes.

To keep your heart healthy, it’s important to keep your weight under check, among other things.

Cong stages demo, seeks new agri laws repealed

Modi Government has subverted India’s federal structure, says Cong

Sends memo to Prez through Governor

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In protest against the three new controversial agriculture laws, the State Congress on Monday staged a massive rally here and sought President Ram Nath Kovind’s intervention for early repealing of the legislations assented by him already.

“The Modi Government has unleashed a diabolical conspiracy against India’s farmers and farming sector. It is conspiring to defeat the Green Revolution by binging in three anti-farmer Bills. This is a well designed conspiracy to destroy

the ‘Annadata’ farmers and the agriculture at the altar of a handful of crony capitalists,” read the 10-point charter of memorandum sent to the President through the Governor.

Mentioning that 62 farmers and farm labourers are agitating and 250 organisations sitting on dharna across the country, the party said the Modi Government has subverted India’s federal structure, subjugated the constitutional mandate, suppressed the established parliamentary procedure by using its draconian majority to pass the three black laws without any discussion.

The Bills were constitutionally passed in Rajya Sabha, without even permitting a division of votes and by using force



by deploying marshals and by evacuating the members of Parliament. The Annadata farmer and labourers will never forget the conspiracy of the Modi Government to convert ‘the disaster confronting the farmers’ into an opportunity for the capitalists’ under the garb of pandemic. “We urge upon

your good self to intervene and ensure that these bills are withdrawn and repealed forthwith,” demanded the party.

Though the Congress delegation wanted to meet Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal to submit the memorandum, they were not allowed. “It is unfortunate that we could not meet

the Odisha Governor. It is now evident that both the BJP and BJD are one party. While farmers are committing suicides, the farm bills have been brought only in the interest of industrialists,” said Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati.

He further stated that the party would raise the issue in the State Assembly. “Today’s demonstration was just a trailer. We will intensify our protests in coming days,” he said. Among others, PCC president Niranjan Patnaik, former president Prasad Harichandan, MLA Suresh Kumar Routray, Shibbandanda Ray, Debashis Patnaik, Mohan Jena, Naresh Mohanty, Lalatendu Mohapatra, Haladhra Sethi, Amiya Kumar Pattnaik undersigned the memorandum.

+3 admissions sans original certificates allowed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Higher Education Department on Monday directed all degree colleges to allow students for admission into Plus 3 courses without original certificates. In a letter, department asked Principals of all degree colleges to allow the students for admission with self-attested downloaded mark-sheets and undertakings.

“Due to Covid-19 pandemic, there is disruption in supplying of original certificates, mark-sheets, migration certificates, etc., to students passing out from CHSE during 2019-20.

As a result, they may fail to show original certificates for verification at time of admission,” said letter directing the colleges to take the following measures:

The downloaded mark-sheets with self-attestation may be accepted by colleges/universities with 5-year integrated courses for verification.

Colleges/universities should not insist students to handover original Migration Certificates, passing from

CHSE, other boards such as CBSE/ICSE, etc. Students shall submit an undertaking to Principal/Admission-in-Charge to show original certificates and mark-sheets within 12 days from date of admission for first selection students and 5 days for second selection students and for migration certificates/caste certificates/OHPH certificates, one month from date of admission, failing which, their admission shall be cancelled.

Students shall not be debarred from taking admission for want of any original certificates including caste/PHOH (PwD) certificates.

If any student fails to report for admission due to any reason, parents/guardians/any authorized person by student may be allowed to report for admission, on behalf of student. In such situation, they can also give undertaking for student.

But if college authority feels that downloaded mark-sheets/caste certificates/OHPH certificates as forged ones, then they may not allow them for admission.

Youths held over land row in Cuttack

Women block road, demand their release

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Tension prevailed at Shelter Chhak here on Monday as several women resorted to a road blockade opposing the detention of some youths by police in connection with a land dispute in the locality.

Vehicular communication on the Deulasahi-Stadium road and the Shelter Chhak-Satichaura road was affected due to the protest.

According to reports, some persons were trying to buy a patch of land of an organisation and a dispute was prevailing between them and members of the organisation over the matter.

The Bidanasi police detained some youths of the organisation on Sunday night.

Protesting the detention, the women blocked road and demanded the release of the detainees.

The protestors accused the police of bias in the case.

KANGAROO COURT IN B’SWAR

Man paraded naked for keeping illicit relation

Activists cry foul after video goes viral

PNS ■ BALESWAR

In social media, a video footage which showing a kangaroo court in Baliapal block giving inhuman treatment to a 37-year-old person, who was allegedly caught in an immoral act, has gone viral in the district.

The man identified as Bijay Das, a resident of Chaumukh and married, allegedly had illicit relationship with a married woman of the same village. He was caught red handed when he intruded into her house in absence of other male members.

Although the incident occurred on Saturday yet it surfaced on Sunday. Das after being dragged out of the house

was beaten black and blue and tied in a pole initially.

He was stripped by the irate villagers following the decision of a village level group and paraded naked by hanging a brick in his genitals around the village for his wrongdoings.

However, he was released after his mother prayed before them assuring he won’t commit such nuisance in future.

No case has been lodged in the local police station yet. Locals maintained that Das was a habitual offender of such crimes and although he committed the same several times yet he was not caught.

In the meantime, rights activists observing the act of villagers as insensitive and brazen breach of law of the land as well as basic human rights have demanded action against the villagers.

They observed that they have taken law into their hands instead of taking the case in proper forum.

‘Modi Govt has no right to continue in power’

Nat’l-level farm leaders opine in webinar

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Narendra Modi Government has no right to continue in power, viewed national-level farmers’ leaders in a webinar organised on the eve of Saheed Bhagat Singh 113th birth anniversary on Sunday evening.

They alleged that that the Government has played foul with the innocent farmers by adopting anti-farmer policies during its six hours of rule.

Commenting on the President assenting the controversial agriculture Bills, the speakers fired salvo at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said he should work for the interest of farmers.

Though the Bandh on Friday, farmers all over the country have already showed resentment over the Bill. It was just a trailer. Modi should learn from it, they said.

“No Government can snatch away the rights of farmers. Corporate agriculture sharks will get legal licence to exploit the farmers by the



virtue of the Bills,” they cautioned. They viewed that BJP led NDA and corporate houses’ unholy nexus would push a large number of farmers to become bonded labourers, they voices.

Stating that the MSP and Mandis are farmers rights, they viewed the Acts would be an attack on fundamental rights of farmers and farmers sovereignty would be vanished.

The leaders appealed all farmers organisations and opposition political parties to reach every village in the country and go for a strong united fight to restore the lost rights

of the farmers. Karnataka MP Prajwal Ravenna, former MP Jayant Choudhuri, former Finance Minister Panchanan Kanungo, Satya Pahal, farmers leaders like Abinash Kakde, Vipin Singh Baliyan, Manudev Sinsini, Saroj, Akshay Kumar, Praveen Bhai Patel,

Pravasini Rout, Y Dinesh, Sukhwant Singh, former MP Suvankar Sarkar, Manoj Mandi, Bidyadhar Mohanty, Prafulla Das and other leaders from Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Odisha, Rajasthan, UP, Chhattisgarh and Telangana spoke. Debiprasad Prusti coordinated the programme.

No mask, don’t talk’, Ganjam DM urges people

Directs officials, staff not to commute from other cities

PRASANT DAS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Ganjam district Collector Vijaya Amruta Kulange on Monday appreciated people for participating in the “Covid Week” meant to create awareness on precautions against the virus and urged them to take a pledge not to talk to anybody not wearing a mask. Kulange conducted a review meeting on the progress of Covid Week underway from September 24 with all BDOs,

Tehsildars, Child Development Project Officer, Chief Executive Officers, Block Health Officers through videoconferencing.

He expressed happiness saying that people have come forward themselves create awareness on precautions against the virus. Women and students are participating in large numbers. More than 8,000 schoolchildren participated in the painting competition, he said.

However, Kulange expressed unhappiness that many vegetable vendors are not adhering to 2-metre social distancing norm. He directed officials to take stringent action against such violators. In a relat-

ed message, Kulange asked Government officers and employees not to leave their office headquarters without taking his permission. In case of urgent works, they can take permission from him through their higher authorities.

“It has come to my knowledge that some officers and employees are commuting between Bhubaneswar/Cuttack and offices in the district daily while Covid situation in other parts of the State is not good.

So, I direct such officers and employees to stay in headquarters and stop commuting so that common people will not get infection coming in contact with them,” said Kulange.

Eye donation: Through eyes of 17-yr-old

ANSHUL KUMAR SARMA

As a 17-year-old, my best friends are my phone and my laptop. Whether I use them for studies or for entertainment, it is extremely difficult for me to imagine my life without them. These are just two very minor things that I use my eyes for. I cannot even start to fathom what blind go through, not being able to see world around them.

How they grope in dark and bump into obstacles, trying to find their way. It truly saddens me. But every cloud has a silver lining, and, in this case, it is that certain types of blindness (e.g. - corneal blindness) can be cured through corneal transplants. Drushti Daan, which quite literally means “donating eyesight”, is an

NGO registered with Government of Odisha since 2002. It has been relentlessly working towards cause of eye donation (cornea donation) and the cure of corneal blindness for past 18 years. Corneal blindness is caused when the cornea of the eye turns opaque, preventing light from entering the eyes.

Corneal eye donation does not mean removing entire eye of a person but instead, only the cornea (i.e. the outermost layer of the eye). By transplanting healthy cornea of a deceased person onto eyes of a corneal blind, his/her eyesight can be restored. This costs donor nothing and on the other hand brings good wishes for him/her and his/her family from donee for gifting him/her eyesight. Eye donation, unlike other

forms of donation, is done only after death of a person. This means that the donor has nothing to lose by donating his/her eyes. Rather than the cornea being buried or cremated along with deceased, and ultimately going to waste, it can help another person see again.

This can be viewed with a positive outlook in the sense that the deceased continues to see world through the eyes of someone else. Charity is voluntary giving of help, by someone who has the means, to those in need. Since we have no use for our eyes after our death, why not help somebody along way? Can any of us reading this article do so without our eyes? So, why not give somebody else opportunity to read and see as well? Usually,

we relate charity to something which involves spending of money. However, this charity does not affect us monetarily and at same time, adds meaning to someone’s life.

I am only 17 years old and that is why I cannot legally pledge my eyes. However, if pledging my eyes can help somebody see again, I would most happily and willingly do so as soon as I attain age of majority. Eye donation or any form of organ donation is not a taboo.

All religions propagate that we should help our fellow human beings and save lives however we can. So, let us resolve to do what we can to aid a visually impaired person, by donating our eyes. “Do Not Burn. Do Not Bury. Donate Eyes. Give Eyesight.”

Home Guard held taking bribe

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Vigilance officers on Monday arrested Baleswar district’s Basta police station Home Guard Chandra Sekhar Nayak for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 600 from Sunil Kumar Pradhan Thengadiha village for forwarding of an enquiry report for Passport.

Acting on the complaint of Pradhan, officers led a trap and caught Nayk red-handed while taking the bribe money from him. Further investigation was on, said an official release.

‘Unified selection of varsity teachers to lead to mediocrity’

NRO Prof writes to CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Non-Resident Odia Professor Digambar Patra of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, has urged the State Government not to conduct a unified exam to select teaching professionals in the State universities and rather follow the international pattern where research, experience, exposure and other track records are given priority. Odisha should learn from the

National University of Singapore, any other university which has excelled recently to become top 10 to 100 ranked in the world in a short period of time, where faculty recruitment is done based on emerging research field, experience in top world class universities, famous international fellowship, experience with famous cutting edge-research area/lab, etc., he opined.

"The reasons given for a unified exam is unsatisfactory. For only 12 universities, the Odisha Government is feeling too much whereas in Japan, Germany or USA there are thousands of universities which are not conducting

recruitment in a centralized manner despite having international applicants across the globe. Moreover, the number of IITs or NITs in India, who are also not conducting a centralised recruitment of faculty, are more than universities in Odisha.

I was told that these days for one position sometimes 1,000 applicants having international experience are received in IITs and they are able to choose the best one," said Prof Patra in an open letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

He further stated that university is different from colleges. Education in university is focused on innova-

tion and research. A Statewide recruitment may not be a good solution.

Top universities worldwide hire based on the emerging research field, contemporary field of research area and quality of research publications/citations, high quality research experiences etc.

rather than career evaluation and competitive exam the way it is conducted for college lecturers in States in India.

Outside India, even bachelor or master's degree grades/classes,etc., are considered irrelevant for top university hiring, which is logical for a candidate having a PhD and couple of years

postdoctoral experiences. Indian civil service exam also does not consider career evaluation, he stated. Recruitment should be encouraged to evaluate in the departmental level and then should be scrutinized in hierarchical order in the faculty, Vice Chancellor and Chancellor levels.

For transparency, any doubts in the upper level should be reached out to recheck in the departmental level before selecting the candidate.

To check transparency in research, innovation in different levels, today there are plenty of quantification parameters like Q1/Q2 jour-

nals, citations, h-index, number outstanding grants, outstanding fellowship etc. are available, which were not there in the old days.

In addition, to boost productivity in innovation, research, teaching and service to university, a tenure system can be a viable option for university.

Lowly productive Professors may be given 1 to 3-year notice to improve, if no improvement is found, then the University should have the power to terminate its contract or transfer to colleges, Prof Patra said, adding that the centralized system is on line of Bihar model, which is mediocre.

INBRIEF

NANDANKANAN TO REOPEN FROM OCT 4

Bhubaneswar: The Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) and the State Botanical Garden would reopen for visitors from October 4 after more than six months' closure, informed NZP Deputy Director Jayant Das on Monday. Keeping the Covid-19 situation in view, a special SOP adhering to the coronavirus guidelines has been prepared for the visitors. The zoo has been closed since March after the Covid outbreak. A fixed number of visitors may enter to maintain social distancing and avoid congregation in the zoo.



MAN BEATS WIFE TO DEATH IN KEONJHAR

Keonjhar: A domestic feud took a violent turn when a man beat his wife to death in the Kamarjoda area under the Joda police station in Keonjhar district late on Sunday night. Getting information police reached the spot and detained the accused Kamlesh Yadav for interrogation. Sources said an argument erupted between the couple over some family issues. In a fit of rage, Kamlesh took an iron rod and hit his wife, killing her on the spot. Police have sent the body for postmortem and carrying out further investigations.

Odisha scientist Dash wins Bhatnagar Prize

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bringing laurels to Odisha, BDr Jyotirmayee Dash from Jagatsinghpur district has won the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology for the year 2020 in the field of Chemical Sciences.

She is the first woman from Odisha to win the prize. Dash's team works on new methodologies for synthesis of diverse molecules that can be used to study structure and function of therapeutic targets.

She will receive the award comprising Rs 5 lakh from Prime Minister Modi at a ceremony by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

After pursuing MSc in Chemistry at the Ravenshaw University, Dash received her PhD in synthetic organic



chemistry from the IIT Kanpur. She is currently associated with the School of Chemical Sciences, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata.

Dash said the prize would inspire her for further research in the field. Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik have congratulated Dash for her achievement.

150 years of Gandhi Jayanti: CUO exhibition begins

PNS ■ KORAPUT

The Central University of Odisha is all set to organise a film exhibition, essay competition and an international webinar focusing on life and thoughts of Gandhiji to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation.

A week long film exhibition has begun in virtually mode from September 26 which will continue till October 2. Seven best documentaries on 'The life and thoughts of Gandhiji' will be exhibited online. The Webinar on 'Strategic Importance of Gandhian Thought for Atmanirbhar Bharat' will be held on October 2. Lord Bhikhu Chotalal Parekh, Member of The House of Lords, United Kingdom and a Political Scientist of Eminence from the London School of Economics, will be the chief guest and key speaker.

Dues not cleared, power snapped to Balarore Alloys

Fate of 2K workers uncertain after unit stops production

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

In the ongoing festive season, the fate of around 2,000 workers of Balasore Alloys hangs in balance as the production of ferro alloys company of north Odisha has come to a grinding halt.

The reason for the crisis is snapping of power to the plant due to the default of paying electricity dues by the company. The plant frequently witnesses the power snapping due to default in payment of charges and power resumption is done only after part payment. The company is while overstressed due to huge pending arrears, somehow it is surviving as it has been partly paying the dues. A report said the company has about Rs 4.5

crore dues outstanding against it towards electricity consumption in July and August.

Due to nonpayment of the amount, the power has been snapped by the Nesco this time. In the month of September, three furnaces while were operational, yet power snapping was a blow for it. The plant produces around 9,000 MT ferro alloys in a month.

As the production of the plant has been halted in the want of power, there is uncertainty over release of salary and other payments including of the workers under contractors, suppliers and vendors.

An officer besides stating the company is facing severe financial crunches, maintained that, had the plant been fully operational for the complete month, it would have earned revenue to meet the expenditures, including electricity dues, salaries and other overhead expenses.

Rail Roko held at Brahmapur station

Agitators demand halting of all trains

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Members of the Bharatiya Bikash Parishad (BBP) led by its State president Surendra Panigrani resorted to a four-hour Rail Roko at the Brahmapur railway station on Sunday protesting against the non-halting of trains since July this year on the sheer pretext of Covid-19.

Mention may be made that, halting of trains at Brahmapur Railway station has become extremely imminent since lakhs of migrant workers of Ganjam district have started returning back to their work place to Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamilnadu in search of their livelihood as the Odisha Government failed to provide them employment, the



agitators said. Owing to non-halting of trains in Brahmapur railway station, the passengers of Ganjam and neighboring districts who want to go anywhere outside the State, either have to travel to Bhubaneswar first or Srikakum to board the trains, they lamented.

Arbitrary and unilateral suspension of halting of trains in Brahmapur Railway station is a clear violation of the provisions of the Indian constitution, Panigrahi alleged.

Fire safety audit at Covid hosps every fortnight



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Following the fire mishap at the Sadguru COVID Hospital in Jagatpur of Cuttack on September 21, the Fire Service Directorate has directed the concerned officers to conduct fire safety audit at the Covid healthcare facilities across the State once every fortnight.

"The audit-cum-inspections of the Covid facilities are to be held once in every fortnight under your respective jurisdictions.

Please note that the objectives of the fire audit and emergency drill are advisory and educative in nature to respond to any fire incident swiftly with the available resources," the Directorate said in a letter to the concerned officers.

Notably, the Sadguru Covid Hospital lacked the required fire safety certificate, Chief Fire Officer Sukanta Sethi had said. As the fire broke out at the hospital.

FIR against Satbhaya colony land grabbers

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The Rajnagar police registered a case against 11 persons for constructing a house by encroaching a Government land at Bagapatia based-Satabhaya resettlement colony, reserved for rehabilitating sea erosion prone Satabhaya people, informed Rajnagar police station IIC Tapan Kumar Nayak.

According to Nayak, Rajnagar Tehsildar Bholanath Sethy, acting on the direction of the district Collector, lodged the FIR. The State Government has rehabilitated 571 families of sea erosion prone Satabhaya by setting up a resettlement colony at Bagapatia. Some lands have been reserved for the people of Satabhaya, who were left out from the project.

But for last 10 days, several persons forcibly encroaching the land have started house construction work. As a result, when the Satabhaya Rehabilitation Committee

opposed them, the encroachers allegedly started terrorising the committee members. Consequently, the Committee members brought the alleged matter to the notice of the Rajnagar Tehsildar and the district Collector of Kendrapada along with filing a petition with the Special Relief Commissioner.

Later, the Tehsildar of Rajnagar directed the local Revenue Inspector to probe the case. And when the encroachers were asked to stop construction, they did not pay any heed. As a result, the district Collector directed the Rajnagar Tehsildar to take legal action against the encroachers.

The land encroachment case has been registered against Bijaylaxmi Lenka, Akhaya Kumar Behera, Ramakant Rout, Gokulananda Parida, Pramod Parida, Binod Panda, Sridhar Sahani, Baradakanta Mallick, Akhaya Kumar Mallick, Santosh Kumar Mallick and Gagan Mallick.

Uliburu mining scam

Orissa HC grants 3-month bail to Gupta

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Orissa High Court on Monday granted a three-month interim conditional bail from October 1, 2020 to January 2, 2021 to Deepak Gupta, the prime accused in the Uliburu mining scam.

While granting the bail, the court asked Gupta him to deposit Rs 1 crore in the lower court and two surety bonds of Rs 2 crore each.

He was also directed to deposit his passport in the lower court. In case he does not have a passport, he would submit an affidavit in this regard in the lower court.

Besides, Gupta was asked to provide his address, where he would stay after release on bail, phone number and email details to the Vigilance authorities. The court also set a condition for him not to influence the witnesses.

Earlier, Gupta's bail plea had been rejected by the High



Court and the Supreme Court on several occasions. He later moved the Keonjhar Special Vigilance Court seeking bail but his plea was turned down. Following this, he again knocked at the doors of the High Court on August 7, 2019 seeking regular bail. But the court rejected the regular bail plea and directed the lower court to expedite the hearing of the case.

In his bail plea, Gupta stated that there was hardly any progress in hearing of the case in the lower court, thereby not adhering to the directive of the High Court.

In Jajpur

Man killed by son-in-laws' kin; four held

PNS ■ JAJPUR

A man was killed in an attack allegedly by his daughter's in-laws at Anyasipur village under the Bari police station in Jajpur district for protesting physical assault on his daughter. The deceased was identified as Kalandi Sethy. Police have arrested the four accused involved in the incident.

Santosh Sethy of Anyasnipur village had a love marriage with Kalandi's daughter Mamata of the same village in 2019 and started living in Ramachandi village under the Khordha Sadar PS.

A few days after their marriage, the couple fought with each other and returned to their village. On September 20, while they were returning home, Santosh left Mamata alone at a local market on pretext of buying sweets for home. Unable to find husband, when Mamata went to in-laws house alone, her father-in-law Babaji, mother-in-law Mahuli, broth-

er-in-laws Malay and Basant assaulted her physically. On receiving information about it, Kalandi reached his daughter's in-laws house and protested the assault on her. But Mamata's in-laws attacked him with sharp weapons.

The villagers rescued Kalandi and rushed him to the Bari Community Health Centre. While being shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack on September 23, he succumbed to the injuries on the way.

On the other hand, Mamata's in-laws had fled from the village following the incident. Based on allegation by Kalandi's wife Rangabati, a case was registered against all the accused under Section 307 of IPC.

Three-four teams of police led by Bari IIC Ajay Kumar Jena apprehended all the accused persons after conducting raids at different places on September 26 and seized the weapons used in murder.

Banker's body seized from home

The reason behind Rana's death was yet to be ascertained

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The Town police on Monday retrieved a decomposed body of a Deputy Manager of Canara Bank from his rented house at Bhagabanpur here.

The deceased Akhanda Kumar Rana, a resident of Loisingha in Balangir district, had attended office on Friday and returned to his house in evening.

On Monday, bank Branch Manager Chandra Sekhar Pati several times telephoned Rana as he was absent and was not picking up phone. Being informed, police rushed to the spot and broke open the door.

The reason behind Rana's death was yet to be ascertained, said police sources.

‘Tourism can revive economy during Covid’

Tourism Day celebrated in JSpur



PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

The World Tourism Day was celebrated at the district headquarters town here on Sunday adhering to Covid 19 guidelines. District Collector SK Mohapatra speaking on the occasion spelt out theme and purpose of the day and its potentiality in Jagatsinghpur district. The day held on September 27 aims to foster awareness among community of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic values, the speakers said.

If tourism will develop in rural areas it will encourage employment and be instrumental creating job. Amid the

Covid pandemic this year, thousands of people have lost jobs and tourism can help getting economic recovery and generate work in the rural sector, the Collector expressed.

"We are focusing to develop our tourist spots as Maa Sarala temple, Gorekhnath shrine, Siali seashore and Paradip," said ADM Jagatsinghpur Satchidananda Sahoo. The Tourism department displayed billboards narrating the tourist spots in the district in several locations. Sub-Collector Dharmendra Mallick, DIPRO Kaminiranjan Patnaik, OSD Sasanka Sekhar Lenka and Kabita Murmu were present.

2 boys go missing in Brahmani

PNS ■ ROURKELA

Two minor boys went missing while taking bath in the Brahmani river here on Monday. Though the Chandiposh police and Fire Service personnel launched a rescue operation, the boys were yet to be traced.

The boys were identified as Ayan Tok and Prasanna Sahu from Basanti Colony of the steel city Ayan and Prasanna along with some other students of a private coaching centre and their teachers had gone to Birutola for a picnic. When some students were taking bath in the river, four of them got swept away in the strong current of water.

Spotting the four students in deep water, some locals jumped into the river and rescued two of them. However, Ayan and Prasanna could not be traced.

3 accused arrested K'pada woman Covid warrior looted

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The Nikirai police on Monday arrested three youths for looting a Covid warrior with the help of sharp weapon on Palli-Sardeipur road on Sunday.

The arrestees were identified as Ajay Jena, Trilocan Barik of Gulanagar area and Airyakhara Bala Mallick of Indupura area.

According to police sources, on Sunday while health worker, Golap Mallick was returning in her scooter after attending a Covid test camp, four motorbike born miscreants followed her and at a lonely place looted her of money and mobile phone. A local sounded an alarm and locals of Sardeipur nabbed three of the miscreants and handed them over to Nikirai police. One of the looters managed to flee. The police have registered a case, informed IIC Kabuli Barik.

Promodini rape, murder Memo to IG SR seeks expeditious probe

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

After knocking the door of the NHRC, the high profile Promodini murder and rape incident of Ganjam has now reached the IG (SR) for justice.

BJP leader social activist and lawyer Srikant Padhi accompanied by deceased's mother Rama Nayak submitted a memorandum to IG (Southern Region) Satyabrata Bhoi here on Saturday demanding an impartial and expeditious probe against the alleged murder and rape case.

Reacting to the deliberate delay in probe, Padhi said that the rape and murder of 22-year-old Promodini Naik is another case of atrocities against women under the BJD rule in Ganjam. According to information available, Promodini along with her mother had met her friend for some work at 8 am on May 10

this year and around 10 am, she was seen going for a bath and also to clean her clothes at a canal nearby her paddy field Kantejati Nal. Thereafter, she was found untraceable. As a result, her mother being mentally upset looked out for her whereabouts with the help of local people but in vain.

Later, the mother found body of Pramodini with multiple injuries floating on a 3ft deep water in a nearby canal, said deceased's mother Rama Nayak. Though four and a half months have already been elapsed, no tangible progress is visible in the investigation so far, Padhi alleged.

Sources also said that, the local police in the process of their investigation reportedly found a pair of male sandals and clothes from the incident site which were lying close to the deceased's body. Hence, it is a clear case of rape and murder, Padhi said.

Shot by poacher

Jumbo dies in Choudwar



PNS ■ CUTTACK

A female elephant died at the Dalijoda Reserve Forest under the Choudwar police limits on Monday after it had been shot by a poacher four days ago at a forest near Banjihama village under Mangarajpur panchayat.

The ailing elephant had sustained bullet injuries on its right leg. On being informed by locals, Forest Department officials had visited the spot.

Later, arrangements were made for treatment of the animal by staffers of the Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar. However, the jumbo succumbed to the injuries while undergoing treatment.

Sonia to Cong-ruled States: Pass Act to override farm laws



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday directed Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Puducherry Chief Ministers to explore the possibility of passing laws to override the three agricultural Bills passed recently by the Parliament.

A statement issued by party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said that these States have been told to pass laws under Article 254 (2) of the Constitution that allows State legislatures to do so to negate the “Anti-Agriculture” Central laws encroaching upon the States’ jurisdiction under the Constitution.

“This would enable the States to bypass the unacceptable anti-farmers provisions in the three draconian

Ex-babus back Modi-Govt’s reform legislation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A group of 32 former public servants on Monday backed the farm reform laws enacted by the Modi Government and claimed that “disinformation” is being spread over the issue to negatively impact the morale of farmers. The group includes former finance secretary S Narayan, former banking secretary D K Mittal, former deputy secretary G Mohan Kumar, former petroleum secretary Saurabh Chandra, and former civil aviation secretary K N Srivastava.

The farm Bills, passed by

Parliament, mark the watershed in the liberation of India’s farming community from the shackles of exploitative practices that slow-pedaled their progress, the former civil servants said.

Targeting the critics of the measures, the group in a statement said, “We have reasons to apprehend the disinformation which certain sections within our society are trying to spread in the country. We have recent instances of untruths and distortions being paraded before the public with hugely negative impact on the morale of the minorities, students, and now the farmers.”

The general public has every reason to suspect attempts by well-known “vested interests” to destabilise the country and create disaffection among the minorities, students and farmers, it alleged.

In an apparent reference to the Congress, the group said the emancipation of the farmers from the middlemen and empowering them with the freedom to choose where and how to sell their produce was enshrined in the manifestos of certain political forces which oppose it now.

The statement said the government has introduced a definite game-changer in a

farmer’s life through the “far-sighted” legislations. Major impediments which retarded the seamless growth of the farming fraternity of India are given the go-by through the passage of these monumental Acts.

Citing the proposed benefits of these laws, including freedom to farmers to sell their produce anywhere they want and allowing them to enter into contracts with traders, the group said it is objectionable to “incite” farmers and create disaffection by wrongly suggesting that their interests are being bartered in favour of multinational concern.

After Punjab, Haryana, Centre asks other States to start procurement process of Kharif crops

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After allowing procurement of kharif crops in Punjab and Haryana in advance to placate farmers’ anger over farm Bills, the Centre has now allowed all remaining procuring States to commence with their procurement operations for paddy for the year 2020-21 (Kharif crop) with effect from September 28 itself.

The Centre on Monday

came out with the latest data of paddy procurement in the last 48 hours to allay any apprehensions over the minimum support price (MSP) buying. Meanwhile, the ministry of consumer affairs has allowed procurement of 13.77 LMT of Pulse and oilseeds from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Haryana.

With the latest procurement data, the government

aims to send a clear message - it has no intention of scrapping the MSP and that it has put in a mechanism for procurement of not only summer-sown paddy but also pulses and oilseeds this year. Farmers in Punjab and Haryana and several other states are protesting against new farm laws which they feel will lead to procurement in the hands of corporates and the end of the MSP regime.

Agricultural laws including the abolition of MSP and disruption of APMCs in Congress ruled States. This would also alleviate the farmers from the grave injustice done by the Modi Government and BJP,” the statement said.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi alleged that the agri-

culture-related laws are a “death sentence” for farmers whose voice has been crushed both inside and outside Parliament. “The agriculture laws are a death sentence to our farmers. Their voice is crushed in Parliament and outside. Here is proof that democracy in India is dead,” he said on Twitter.

He tagged a news report along with his tweet that claimed that Opposition members demanding a division of votes were on their seats when the farm bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha, while the government said they were not. The Congress is also protesting against the farm laws across the country.

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has started work on the lines as advised by the party high command. He has been contemplating to amend the Agriculture Produce Market Committee Act and declare the entire State as a principal mandi yard. This would circumvent the provisions in The

Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, which was passed in Parliament.

The declaration of mandi yards ensures that any procurement outside their ambit is considered illegal, farmers do not get a price less than the MSP, and the State gets its mandi fee.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel too had recently said his govern-

ment would take legal steps to ensure that private players did not get entry into the agriculture sector. At least 40 per cent of paddy production in Chhattisgarh is procured by the Food Corporation of India for the Central pool.

And unlike Punjab and Haryana, where farmers have large land holdings, 86% of Chhattisgarh’s land holdings are of less than 5 acres.

The Congress is also con-

sidering the option of moving the Supreme Court against the bills. “Certainly all options are open. I believe it strikes at the heart of federalism, which has been held repeatedly to be part of the basic structure from Keshavanada Bharati to Bommai judgements. Therefore, you have not heard the end of the story yet,” senior party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Abhishek Singhvi said.

Teicoplanin more effective in Covid-19 treatment: IIT Research

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Clinically-approved drug “Teicoplanin” is a potential therapeutic option against Covid-19 and can be 10 times more effective than several drugs being currently used, a research by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi has found. Teicoplanin is an FDA-approved glycopeptide antibiotic, which is regularly used for treating Gram-positive bacterial infections with low toxicity profile in humans.

The research by the institute’s Kusuma School of

Biological Science screened an assemblage of 23 approved drugs, which have shown leads towards being therapeutic options for coronavirus.

“While the effect of Teicoplanin was compared with other important drugs in use, Teicoplanin was found to be 10-20 fold more effective than the chief drugs being used against SARS-CoV-2, such as Lopinavir and Hydroxychloroquine in our laboratory conditions,” said Ashok Patel, Professor at IIT Delhi.

Patel, who led the research was also assisted by Dr Pradeep Sharma from AIIMS. The research has been published in the International Journal of “Biological Macromolecules.”

“Recently, there has been a clinical study carried out with Teicoplanin at Sapienza University in Rome. However, a more detailed clinical investigation is required on a large cohort, in different stages mild, moderate and critically ill patients to conclude the definite role of Teicoplanin against Covid-19,” Patel said.

Globally, over 3.2 crore people have been infected with Covid-19, and the total number of deaths from the deadly virus now stands at over 9.80 lakh.

Globally, over 3.2 crore people have been infected with Covid-19, and the total number of deaths from the deadly virus now stands at over 9.80 lakh. In India too cases are on increase with coronavirus tally crossing 60 lakh mark on Monday while the death toll from the pathogen climbed to 95,542 with 1,039 more death.

Cat que virus from China has potential to cause disease in India: ICMR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when India is struggling hard to combat Covid-19 which has spread to almost all the States in the country, scientists have alarmingly found the presence of antibodies for another virus — cat que virus (CQV) — in human serum samples tested from across India.

Incidentally, as in Covid-19, which has killed over 95,000 people so far, the CQV is also said to be largely reported

from China.

The arthropod-borne virus (arboviruses) is usually carried by culex mosquitoes and pigs, and could cause fatal illness in humans. In fact, Swines are the primary mammalian host of the CQV.

While antibodies of the virus have been found, the scientists at National Institute of Virology (NIV)- ICMR did not stumble upon the virus in any of the 883 human serum samples they tested.

The scientists said that

the arthropod-borne virus (arboviruses) is usually carried by culex mosquitoes and pigs, and could cause fatal illness in humans.

The presence of an antibody against a virus in a person indicates that the person had at some point of time been infected by the virus.

But the study, which was published in the latest issue of Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR), did not find the presence of the actual virus in any of the samples

tested.

Cat que virus, the presence of which is usually reported from China and Vietnam, causes febrile illnesses, meningitis and paediatric encephalitis in humans.

“Anti-CQV IgG antibody positivity in human serum samples tested and the replication capability of CQV in mosquitoes indicated a possible disease causing potential of CQV in Indian scenario,” the scientists said.

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Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Vipin Dhyanil/ Sonal Dhayanil/ LBDEL00001710585	Flat No. H-82, Sector-41, Noida/ Sep 22, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs.13,77,252/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Manisha Khanna & Ankur Khanna/ LBNOD00003048485	Flat No. 301, 3rd Floor, Stellar Park, Plot No. C 58/24, Sec-62 Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida/ Sep 22, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs.63,11,494/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Sashi Prabha/ Prem Prakash Kaushalyayan/ LBDEL00003197681	Flat No-604, Tower-A 6th Floor, Vendantam Plot No-Gh-01B, Sector-18C Greater Noida- 201307/ Sep 22, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs.11,55,297/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Vineet Sharma/ Amita Sharma/ LBNOD00004745285	Flat No 2303, Plot No- Gh-05 Celso County- Tower A1, Sector-121 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301/ Sep 22, 2020	February 05, 2020 Rs.82,96,888/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Sujal Khandelwal & Meenakshi Gupta/ LBNOD00004375102	Plot No-179, Ground Floor Sector-02, Aditya World City, Ghaziabad/ Sep 22, 2020	January 31, 2020 Rs.6,32,510/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Jai Bhagwan Sharma/ Jyoteshna Sharma/ LBNOD00001899200	H. No. 4/66, Sector-2, Rajender Nagar, Ghaziabad/ Sep 22, 2020	January 03, 2020 Rs.77,54,019/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Ravinder Kumar/ Pooja Devi/ LBDEL00002734751	Challan No 2614, Upavh Housing Scheme, Mandola Vihar, Gulmohar Enclave, Ghaziabad / Sep 22, 2020	October 31, 2019 Rs.10,09,916/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Aishvary & Rajender Kumar Gupta/ LBDEL00002185984	Flat No 1202, 12th Floor, Tower C, Village Shahpur Bhamheta, Aditya Urban Home, Ghaziabad/ Sep 22, 2020	February 22, 2020 Rs.12,10,893/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Taruna Chawla & Ravi Chawla/ LBGUR00002821238/ LBGUR00002821262	Flat No. Vs/ B-802, 8th Floor Plot No 1/2, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201001 Ghaziabad/ Sep 22, 2020	February 29, 2020 Rs.51,34,868/-	Delhi/ NCR
10.	Ramesh Chand & Babita Gupta/ LBDEL00001706470	Plot No-J-181, Sec-12, Pratap Vihar, Block-J, G.M.P, Ghaziabad/ Sep 23, 2020	January 9, 2020 Rs.14,27,506/-	Delhi/ NCR
11.	Jitender Sharma & Mukut Lal Sharma/ LBDEL00004860718	Plot No: L-85,3rd Floor, Without Roof Rights, L Block, Sector 12, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, Pargana Loni Tehsil & District Ghaziabad/ Sep 23, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs.62,72,361/-	Delhi/ NCR
12.	Shradha Dubey/ Deepak Dubey/ LBGHZ00003274290/ LBGHZ00003309720	Flat No -201, 2nd Floor, Block: Tower-3, Panchsheel Pebbles, Plot No: Gh-1(18a), Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad/ Sep 23, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs.69,44,509/-	Delhi/ NCR
13.	Gaurav Sabharwal/ Poonam Sabharwal/ LBNOD00001736129	Second Floor With Roof Right, Plot No. B- 236, Sec-12, Ram Prastha Colony, Ghaziabad/ Sep 23, 2020	February 26, 2020 Rs.6,64,583/-	Delhi/ NCR
14.	Sohan Pal/ Suresh Kumar Gupta/ LBNOD00002379759	Dda Lig, Flat No 50, 3rd Floor, Sector G-8, Pocket-3, Block- F7, Narela, Delhi/ Sep 23,2020	November 30, 2019 Rs.11,59,324/-	Delhi/ NCR
15.	Meena Rani/ Amit Kumar/ LBDEL00004932620	Plot No- L-85, Ground Floor Front And Rear Side, Without Roof Rights, Pratap Vihar Ghaziabad/ Sep 24, 2020	February 22, 2020 Rs.43,62,830/-	Delhi/ NCR
16.	Arun Kumar Sharma/ Neelakshi Sharma/ LBFDB00001635157	Pp/a-1002, 10th Floor, Professional Hub, 1/2 Vaibhavkhand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad/ Sep 24, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs.18,27,615/-	Delhi/ NCR
17.	Amar Anand & Damyanti Shahu/ LBDEL00002065451/ LBNOD00001212795	Flat Number S-4, Second Floor, Plot No-II- A/145, Vaishali, Ghaziabad / Sep 24, 2020	February 28, 2020 Rs.8,95,202/-	Delhi/ NCR
18.	Samay Singh & Mayya Devi/ LBDEL00001253311	H No-Se-427, Shastri Nagar, Ghaziabad/ Sep 24, 2020	January 31, 2020 Rs.5,73,826/-	Delhi/ NCR
19.	Abhishek Singh/ Gyanti Singh/ LBDEL00004904357	Flat No: PB-57-GF, Ground Floor, Parkland Pride, Sector: 77-78, Faridabad, Haryana/ Sep 24, 2020	December 31, 2019 Rs.4609307/-	Delhi/ NCR
20.	Abu Zafar/ Mohd Abulais/ Jia Interiors And Contractor/ LBFDB00004302331/ LBFDB00004309531	Plot No-634, First Floor, Surya Nagar, Phase-2, Sector 91, Faridabad, Haryana/ Sep 24, 2020	February 22, 2020 Rs.49,46,026/-	Delhi/ NCR
21.	Soniya Gulati/ Dherendra Kumar/ Vivek Chandra Choubey/ LBNOD0000490926	Flat No H/Ca 404, 4th Floor, City Apartment, Aditya World, City, Plot No Gh 06, Ghaziabad/ Sep 22, 2020	January 30, 2020 Rs.25,20,619/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : 29-09-2020
Place: Delhi/Ncr

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (Imports Section)
SOURA, SRINAGAR, JAMMU & KASHMIR- 190011
Email: ammoimports@skims.ac.in, Fax: 0194-2403404
e-NIT No: SIMS-324- NIT 11 (IMPORTS) of 2020
Dated: 24-09-2020

Subject: Abbreviated Notice Inviting Tenders for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of various Bio- Medical equipments for the department of Surgical Oncology SKIMS, Under State Cancer Institute.

On behalf of the **Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar**, e-tenders are invited from the original manufacturers/their Indian subsidiary/Indian Agents on the authorization of principal manufacturers/Indian Subsidiary if 100% subsidiary of foreign principals (for imported equipment) and manufacturers/ their authorized dealers for the J&K (for indigenous equipment) for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of following Bio-Medical equipment:

Group	Name of the item	Qty	Tender fee	EMD
A	Gamma Cordless Probe	01	1000	30,000
B	Surgical Loupe 2.5x	02	500	2000
C	Flexible Nasopharyngolaryngoscope with chip on tip	01	1000	50,000
D	Video Assisted Distending Mediastinoscopy	01	1000	30,000
E	Ultrasonic Bone Scalpel System for Osteosurgery	01	1000	50,000
F	Micro vascular Doppler Probe	01	500	1000
G	Operating Microscope	01	5000	300,000
H	Automatic Tourniquet System for Limb Surgeries	01	1000	100,000
I	Micro Drill with Attachments (Air Pen Drive)	01	500	10,000

The detailed tender document is available on **www.jktenders.gov.in** & on SKIMS website **www.skims.ac.in**. The NIT schedule is as per following :-

Last date for submission of online bids	28-10-2020 upto 4:00 PM
Opening of Technical bids	31-10-2020 at 12:30 PM

Complete bidding process will be online on e-tendering portal **www.jktenders.gov.in** & the tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed NIT.

No: SIMS-324-e-NIT 11 (Imports) 2020-3011-19-5338-41
Sd/- Asstt. Materials Management Officer (Imports)
For & on behalf of Chief of Materials Management

Harsh Vardhan releases 100-yr timeline of ICMR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Monday released the 100-year timeline history of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and inaugurated a mobile stroke unit and a COVID Vaccine and Clinical Registry portal to be hosted by the research institute.

Dr. Balram Bhargava, Director General, ICMR, Dr. R. Hemalatha, Director, ICMR-NIN and other senior officials and scientists were also present.

While launching the Mobile Stroke Unit, the Minister said, “It is disheartening to see the susceptibility of people to heart disease and hypertension. Timely

Amit Shah holds review meeting with Home Ministry officials

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday held a meeting with top officials of his Ministry and discussed several “important” and “key” matters, officials said.

This was for the first time Shah visited his North Block office to chair a meeting after returning from the AIIMS here, where he underwent a health check-up recently.

The home minister had a review meeting of the MHA with senior officials of the ministry where “several important matters and key issues” were discussed, a home ministry official said.

However, it is not immediately known as to what key issues were discussed at the meeting.

Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and other senior officers attended the meeting.

Report calls from spoofed number: Indian embassy in Brussels to Indian citizens

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian embassy in Brussels on Monday issued an advisory asking Indian citizens to report to the police there as well as the mission on the nature of demand or threat from calls received from a spoofed number of the embassy.

The modus operandi of the callers is that most of the calls originate from 0032-2-6409140. “It may be mentioned that it is the registered Embassy number but callers have spoofed this number,” reads the advisory.

“These fraudsters intimate about some wrong or inadequate information in his/her passport or immigration records due to which a case is registered by Police in India or in Belgium. Hence, perpetrators demand that a fine or penalty needs to be paid through Western Union money transfer/purchase I-tune cards through their credit/debit cards or else deportation proceedings would be initiated,” the advisory outlined the modus operandi.

The advisory further said, “All concerned are, therefore, advised to be vigilant and to be on guard against these fraudsters and their nefarious designs to extract money from unsuspecting victims. It is reiterated that Embassy does not call up people to ask for money, etc. and hence such calls be ignored and reported promptly.”

Through the advisory, the Indian Embassy in

Brussels sought to draw the attention of the Indian community in Belgium/Luxembourg about the fraudulent calls being received by the members of the Indian community, especially students and professionals from unscrupulous elements using the name of Indian Embassy and spoofed telephone numbers.

The callers generally speak English and sometimes Hindi. “It is requested that in the event of receiving such calls, the number from which call has originated, date and time of call, contact number on which call was received and nature of demand or threat may be furnished to Police as well as Embassy of India, Brussels at cons.brussels@mea.gov.in,” it said.

In some instances, the criminals have allegedly used the telephone numbers of Belgian Immigration/Foreign Office, it added.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / BID (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MAHARISHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY, ROHTAK	SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF LED BOLLARD LIGHT POLES, LAMP POST POLES, REPLACEMENT OF OLD POST TOP LIGHT AND REPLACEMENT OF OLD MUFF OF EXISTING DAMAGED POLES AT VICE-CHANCELLOR RESIDENCE + 1 OTHER WORK	25.09.2020 08.10.2020	6.20 LACS	https://mdurohtak.etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-393175 ven.civil@mdurohtak.ac.in
2	GNDIA, GURUGRAM	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF ASSET 3D 12 (VATIKA CHOKI TO VILLAGE GHATA) GURUGRAM	25.09.2020 05.10.2020	34.38 LACS	https://www.gndia.gov.in	set.gndia@gov.in
3	HSDIC	PROVIDING APPROACHES TO 2ND HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE ON ASRA CANAL FOR DHT FARIDABAD INCLUDING DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD FOR 36 MONTHS AT DHT FARIDABAD	29.09.2020 14.10.2020	282.43 lacs	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7015560930 (a.faridabad@hoidc.org.in)

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

RO NO. 83038

Another Nirbhaya case in Hathras, 4 persons held

PRADEEP SAXENA ■
ALIGARH/HATHRAS

Like Nirbhaya, a 19-year-old Dalit victim of gangrape wants to share her horrific rape story with JN Medical college about her brutal assault but her tongue is silent as monsters cut her tongue, fractured three bones of her neck, and injured her spine brutally. For 15 days, she is on a ventilator and on life support. All four accused are arrested.

The victim's father alleged that the families of all four rapists are from the upper caste and are continuously threatening to take back the police case otherwise it will lead to worse consequences. Police have registered a case against all four rapists, arrested, and sent them to jail. PAC is deployed in the village to maintain law and order.

19-year-old Nirbhaya of the Chandiya police station area of Hathras is doing struggle for life but different parties have started politics. Bheem army and SP party president came to Aligarh and said that

Uttar Pradesh has become the State of suppression for Dalits where Dalit elder and girls are not safe. He alleged that in the last few months, more than 10 Dalits have been killed every day and criminals get political protection. The way this Dalit daughter has been gang-raped, now her family is being threatened clearly shown that these upper caste people have political protection. Bheem army warned to protest if the girl does not get justice and will punish those who will persecute out sisters and daughters.

BSP chief Mayawati tweeted that the girl was first brutally beaten and then gang-raped, which is shameful and punishable. Sisters and daughters of our society are not safe in the State.

Former district president of Samajwadi Party Rubina Khannum Said that the admin-

istration must shoot such monsters publicly or else women will burn these accused alive. Because of this Nirbhaya case, women of Chandiya are boiling. She further added that the women are not safe in this

Government and criminals get the protection of the government.

The Brother of the victim said that the condition of Nirbhaya is very critical and the doctors of JN Medical College have not yet told us officially to take her to Delhi while the JN Medical College Dr. Fakhrul Huda, Head of Neuro Surgery said that the girl's family has not requested to take the girl to Delhi. Whereas Chandra Shekhar Azad and Ajay Kumar Lallu(State Congress President) said that law and order in the state is collapsed. Congress demanded from this government to admit her to AIIMS Delhi from Aligarh's medical college by airlift so that her condition will improve.

On the other hand, the Dalit family is in panic. The victim's father said that the higher caste people will target his daughter in the future as well. My daughter and the daughter of Delhi have a similar case, but TV and National News Channel are silent because they are also suppressed by this Government.

Bangladeshis with plot to kill TMC leader held

PNS ■
KOLKATA

In a breakthrough of sorts six people out of whom four are Bangladeshis, were arrested from the Birbhum district of Bengal Bengal's for hatching plans to assassinate a Trinamool Congress politician, police said.

“The police arrested the accused persons on Sunday night from Taltore village which is not far from the Viswa Bharati Shantiniketan a central university created by Poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

The police said the Bangladeshis were “supari killers” --- who were working as masons in the nearby areas --- and had been given contract to kill a senior TMC leader from the district.

“The six were arrested on the basis of some specific information we received. Details cannot be divulged for the sake of the investigation,” district superintendent of police Shyam Singh said.

NIA court sentences ISIS ultra to life imprisonment in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Subahani Haja Moideen, 36, an IS activist from Thodupuzha in Idukki district was sentenced by a NIA court in Kochi to life imprisonment for waging a war in association with terrorist forces against Iraq, India's friendly nation. The court observed that the NIA which probed the case against Moideen has succeeded in establishing that he had aligned with IS and waged war against Iraq.

This is the first case of its

kind filed in Kerala by the NIA against a person for aligning with a terrorist organization and waging war against India's friendly country.

Judge P Krishnakumar found Moideen guilty under IPC Section 125 (waging war against a friendly nation of India), 120 B, and UAPA Sections 20, 38 and 49. Moideen has to pay a fine of Rs 2,17,000 under these Sections.

The judge said that the sentence was based on the interest of the civil society. The NIA

found that Moideen had left India for Turkey in 2015 and reached Iraq via Istanbul. His locations were identified by tracking the spots from where he logged into his Facebook accounts.In a Facebook chat he had with one of his associates, Moideen had made it known that he wanted to join the IS to kill the enemies of Islam. Moideen was taken into custody by the NIA along with the group of youth who had assembled at Kanakamala in Kannur district to plan a war against India.

Guv: Mamata Govt running police State

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There was more trading of fire between the Raj Bhavan and Nabanna (State secretariat) with Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar once again attacking the Mamata Banerjee Government for running a police state drawing strong reactions from the Trinamool Congress quarters which hit back saying "he is the worst Governor we have seen in our State."

Bengal was a specific case of “collapsing rule of law” the Governor on Monday said alleging “ruthless killing of the opposition workers. Dhankhar who had earlier fought several letter wars with the Chief Minister said adding the State

Government was currently “leaning on the crutches of police” which should otherwise have been used for safeguarding human rights.

As the “administration and law and order has totally collapsed” the Government “on the crutches In Bengal the “administration and law and order has totally collapsed,” and there was an express need for the Government to run without police crutches the Governor said hours after the reports of the Raj Bhavan's request for additional budgetary allocation being turned down by the State Government became public. “Today the administration is in servitude and virtually crawling,” the Governor said asking the officials to come out of the clutches of the political bosses.

Security forces neutralises LeT key operator

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Adreaded Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) commander, directly responsible for three major terror attacks in which at least 21 security personnel were killed in action, was one among the two terrorists neutralised by the joint team of security forces in village Samboora of Awantipora area in South Kashmir's Pulwama district late Sunday night.

After the gunfight ended late Sunday night, the security forces maintained the tight cordon and retrieved the dead bodies from the encounter site Monday morning. During the operation, the dreaded terrorists had attempted to escape and had even shifted their location repeatedly but were tracked down by the joint team of security forces and neutralised.

Addressing a press conference in Awantipora District police lines, Director General of Police, Dilbagh Singh, flanked by senior army and CRPF officers said, the gunfight that took place at Samboora, Pampore was a successful operation and security forces achieved “big success” by killing one of the longest surviving terrorist commander of Lashkar-e-Toiba outfit and his close aide. Singh said the LeT terrorists have been identified as Aijaz Ahmad Reshi and Sajad Ahmad Sofi. “They were both residents of Awantipora”,he added.

DGP said, Aijaz Reshi was operational commander of LeT and was active alongside Burhan Wani, poster boy of Hizbul Mujahideen. Reshi was working as Over Ground Worker (OGW) in 2015 and joined LeT before Burhan Wani,” the DGP told reporters.

Kerala reports 4,538 new Covid cases

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Though only 4,538 new Covid-19 cases were reported in Kerala on Monday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the details remained inconclusive as the entire data for the day could not be collected.

“The details collected in the second half of the day would be furnished on Tuesday and hence the numbers would be higher than normal,” said Vijayan while briefing the media on Monday. Vijayan ruled out the possibility of any lock down in the backdrop of the surging number of Covid-19 cases. He said 20 patients succumbed to the pandemic on Monday. “We are experiencing the doubling of Covid-19 patients on every 20 days.

2021 TN Assembly polls: CM, Dy CM spar over who should be CM candidate

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■
CHENNAI

Trouble is brewing up in AIADMK over the choice of the Chief Ministerial candidate to lead the party in the 2021 Assembly Election which may take place in the months of March-April as the tenure of the current House is coming to an end by May 2021.

The executive committee (the highest policy decision making body of the party) which met at Chennai on Monday turned out to be a stormy affair as the incumbent Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and his deputy O Panneerselvam had a wordy duel over who should be the Chief Ministerial candidate.

K P Munusamy, MP, a close associate of Panneerselvam , announced at the end of the proceedings that the party would meet

again on October 7 when the name of the chief ministerial candidate would be declared.

Party insiders told *The Pioneer* that Chief Minister Palaniswami said the he had handled the Covid-19 pandemic in an exemplary manner and even the Prime Minister of the country had complimented his for the 'good work'. He also pointed out that the State has seen a number of entrepreneurs making a beeeline to set up industries and Tamil Nadu registered overall development during the last four years.

But Panneerselvam claimed he agreed to bury all the differences and accepted the post of deputy chief ministership only for this term (2016-2021). “I was the natural choice of Amma (Jayalalithaa) for the post of chief minister on both the occasions when she had to step down. Palaniswamy is the

choice of Chinnamma (V K Sasikala, late Jayalalithaa's close aide who is undergoing imprisonment in the disproportionate asset case) and was appointed by unseating me for no mistakes of mine,” said Panneerselvam.

It is known that lady luck smiled on Palaniswami in the form of Supreme Court verdict in the Disproportionate Asset case in 2017 February. The apex court upheld the verdict delivered by the Bangalore Special Court which had sentenced Sasikala and others to four years rigorous imprisonment. Sasikala was to be sworn in as Chief Minister on February 16 but her dreams were shattered by the Supreme Court verdict on February 14. Palaniswamy was a stopgap arrangement as chief minister as Sasikala wanted to induct TTV Dinakaran, her nephew, as chief minister in her absence.

HIV prevalent in street children, many thrown in flesh trade

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH ,


The HIV continues to be a global health problem and the prevention of this infection is a challenge to the Indian Government.

In Aligarh district 41% of children living in slums and 49% living on streets are suffering from malnutrition along with an alarming 38% of street children reported as HIV positive. Many of these children are thrown into the flesh trade.

According to the study of LATA organization and the health department of the Union

Government on 560 children in the age group of 8 to 15 years, 68% were male and 32% female. 56% of boys are living on the streets while 44% are living in slums with families. Mostly these are a daily wage. This study reveals that 4700 children are living at railway & bus stations and Barchi bahadur area with their families. They are vulnerable to violence and abuse. Many them are forced into the flesh trade.

BB Gupta, General Secretary of LATA said that 21% of these children are found deficient in vitamins A, B, and iron.



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
 Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)
 Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

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

(A)	1.	38/GM/SM(W.C.-8)/ET/2020-21-Name of Work :- M/o Village (M/o Community Center & Boundary wall in Village Gheja Tilptabad Sector-93) Noida Cost - Rs. 32.57 Lacs
	2.	41/GM/SM(W.C.-8)/ET/2020-21-Name of Work :- C/o Bunday wall (C/o Boundary wall of Green Belt and Park in 5% Abadi Plots in Sector-141) Noida Cost - Rs. 87.12 Lacs
	3.	42/GM/SM(W.C.-8)/ET/2020-21-Name of Work :- M/o Village (P/L C.C. and RMC work on Damaged Road/Gali of Nagar and Pandit Mohalla in Village Shadhra) Noida Cost - Rs. 94.05 Lacs
	4.	43/GM/SM(W.C.-8)/ET/2020-21-Name of Work :- Strengthening of Road (Resurfacing of Gheja Bhangel Road from Badshahi Road to 3C Project) Noida Cost - Rs. 92.44 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date **13.10.2020** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date **14.10.2020 at 11.00 AM**.

(A)	5.	55/NOIDA/GM/SM(W.C.-9)/ET/2020-21-Name of Work: - Strengthening of Roads (Resurfacing work with using plastic waste on 45.00m wide road along expressway infront ESS Sector-129 to Panchsheel underpass, Sector-91) Noida Cost - Rs. 60.97 Lacs
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Which can be uploaded by date **06.10.2020** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date **07.10.2020 at 11.00 AM**.

General Manager
Noida
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

No. RMSA/CW/Re-tender/19-20/1314/2020/10

Date : 21st September 2020

The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam re-invites b/ds for the following building works from registered contractor under PWD (Building), Assam having experience of similar nature of work in Assam. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 29-09-2020 (1100 hours) to 19-10-2020 (1400 hours). The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sl.	Pkg no.	Name of work	Estimate d value of work (in lakh)	Time of completi on (in month)	Eamest Money Deposit		Tender cost (in rupees)
					General (in rupees)	Reserved category (in rupees)	
1	RMSA/C W/18-19/03	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Malegarh HS School in Bongaigaon district.	54.77	10	109540/-	54770/-	3000/-
2	RMSA/C W/18-19/06	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Fallangoni Babuji HS School in Golaghat district.	66.27	10	132540/-	66270/-	3000/-
3	RMSA/C W/18-19/10	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Thanuram Gogoi Memorial HS School in Sivsagar district.	80.95	10	161900/-	80950/-	3000/-
4	RMSA/C W/19-20/4	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Joymati High School in Biswanath district	48.90	10	97800/-	48900/-	3000/-
5	RMSA/C W/19-20/5	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Dinabandhu High School in Bongaigaon district	45.72	10	91440/-	45720/-	3000/-
6	RMSA/C W/19-20/15	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Simanta Uccha Madhyamic Vidyalaya in Golaghat district	60.40	10	120800/-	60400/-	3000/-
7	RMSA/C W/19-20/17	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Jungle Block High School in Hojai district	45.72	10	91440/-	45720/-	3000/-
8	RMSA/C W/19-20/21	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Dadara HS School in Kamrup district	30.20	10	60400/-	30200/-	3000/-
9	RMSA/C W/19-20/24	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Duhalia Extended High School in Karimganj district	39.15	10	78300/-	39150/-	3000/-
10	RMSA/C W/19-20/25	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Kanai Lal Jew High School in Karimganj district	45.72	10	91440/-	45720/-	3000/-
11	RMSA/C W/19-20/26	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Pallimangal High School Karimganj district	76.58	10	153160/-	76580/-	3000/-
12	RMSA/C W/19-20/36	Construction of various civil work interventions for strengthening of existing secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Puthimari Anchalik High School in Nagaon district	63.58	10	127160/-	63580/-	3000/-
13	RMSA/C W/TRQ/19-20/4	Construction of teachers' residential quarter in existing Adarsha Vidyalayas under Samagra Shiksha, Assam at Adarsha Vidyalaya under Juria block in Nagaon district	60.04	10	120080/-	60040/-	3000/-
14	RMSA/C W/NSB/19-20/6	Construction of New School buiding for upgradation of secondary to higher secondary school under Samgra Shiksha, Assam at Amgoorie Halwating Mazdoor High School in Sivsagar district	244.42	12	488840/-	244420/-	5000/-
15	RMSA/C W/NSB/19-20/7	Construction of New School buiding for upgradation of secondary to higher secondary school under Samgra Shiksha, Assam at Omeo Das High School in Sonitpur district	244.42	12	488840/-	244420/-	5000/-

Sd/- Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog /CF/1971/20

Sd/- Mission Director,Samagra Shiksha, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog /CF/1971/20

COVID-19 Deaths, cases plummet in Maharashtra, Mumbai crosses 2-lakh mark

Mumbai: For the first time in 28 days, Maharashtra's Covid-19 deaths and cases plummeted drastically, though Mumbai's total cases breached the 2-lakh mark, health officials said here on Monday.

After recording 184 fatalities on August 31, Maharashtra witnessed just 180 deaths on Monday, a significant drop from the peak of 515 deaths recorded on September 15, taking the state's death toll to 35,751.

The state recorded 11,921 new cases on Monday, the lowest since August 31 when there were 11,852 new infections -- and steeply falling from the peak tally of 24,886 recorded on September 11) -- taking the state's Covid tally to 13,51,153.

The state's recovery rate also shot up -- from 76.91 per cent to 77.71 per cent -- while the mortality rate stood at 2.65 per cent on Monday.

On a positive note, 19,932 fully recovered people returned home on Monday, taking the total number of discharges to 10,49,947 till date, much higher than the 265,033 active cases currently present in the state.

As per the figures released on Monday, there was one death roughly every 8 minutes and 497 new cases added every hour to the state's tally.

Of the 180 deaths, Mumbai led the chart with 40 fatalities, followed by Thane (24), Pune (19), Chandrapur (14), Satara (12), Kolhapur (10), Sangli and Yavatmal (8 each), Aurangabad, Hingoli and Amravati (5 each), Jalgaon and Solapur (4 each), Nashik, Osmanabad and Gadchiroli (3 each), Palghar, Beed and Nagpur (2 each), and Raigad. Ahmednagar, Ratnagiri, Latur, Nanded, Akola and Buldhana (1 each).

Continuing in the sub-50 range for the third day this

month, Mumbai recorded 40 fatalities which took up its toll to 8,834, while the number of cases shot up by 2,055 to take the city's tally past the 2-lakh mark to 200,901.

Of the total 8 circles, the situation in Mumbai circle (MMR, comprising Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and Raigad) remains on the brink as deaths spiral and cases pile up.

MMR's fatalities shot up by 67 to 15,533, and with another spike of 4,098 new infectees, the total cases shot up to 471,712.

With another of 35 fatalities, the Pune circle's (comprising Pune, Solapur and Satara districts) death toll increased to 7,725 and the daily case tally zoomed up by 2,583 to 358,375 cases.

Nashik circle has so far recorded 3,607 fatalities and 178,439 cases, followed by Kolhapur circle's 2,771 deaths and 91,711 cases, and Nagpur circle's 2,344 deaths and 103,621 cases.

Latur circle recorded 1,458 deaths and 54,536 cases, Aurangabad circle had 1,309 fatalities and 51,167 cases, followed by Akola circle with 870 deaths and 40,046 cases.

Meanwhile, the number of people sent to home quarantine increased to 19,75,923, while the number of those in institutional quarantine went down from 30,467 to 29,922 on Monday. **IANS**



New look BJP

With an eye on State polls and laying ground for the next general elections, the party recasts itself with 60 per cent new faces



This took some time coming, the recasting of the BJP after JP Nadda became its new president, ostensibly halted by the Government's preoccupation with the pandemic. But nine months down the line, the party has made some key changes. Almost 60 per cent of the office bearers are new, which means that the Modi-Shah duo is now reshaping the party's legacy by putting in place a generation next. The second rung would be ready by the time the next general elections are due, when some of the existing stalwarts would superannuate. The new and younger faces serve two purposes. First, they would feel they have a stakeholder-ship in the larger scheme of things and work zealously, something that would help the party attract the younger demographic and energy in time for the next Lok Sabha verdict. Second, it would make the BJP look like a party which believes in intra-party democracy — although the new office-bearers would be so beholden to the current leadership that they are not expected to break a well-set mould — and expose the Opposition Congress as a fossil in comparison. Many crucial office-bearer posts have gone to members from Bengal and Odisha, an indication that BJP is serious about firmly stamping its footprint in eastern India. But the most significant move has been the dilution of known Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) faces in the party's command structure, with Ram Madhav being dropped as national general secretary along with others, BL Santhosh being the lone RSS presence now. But this doesn't mean that there is a sidelining of the RSS, only an appearance of it. Some of the dropped faces, including Madhav, who has been singularly responsible for the party's Kashmir and North-east strategies and gains, are expected to be rewarded with Central Ministries. And with the Prime Minister himself having risen from the cadre, the probable thinking is that the RSS is now very well ensconced in core governance and doesn't have the pressure to be visibly felt. At the same time, it helps Modi project the party as a broader, accommodative entity with representation of non-RSS cadres and should the new inclusions be successful, also help him fob off the pressure from Nagpur. There is no denying that the party cannot do without the RSS architecture that's needed to build a disciplined and committed pyramid ground up but at the same time, some free-wheeling ideologues have caused it enough embarrassment with their radical thinking. Modi, a highly individualist persona, certainly won't brook more challengers at the moment. The new national general secretaries have been selected to ensure an all-India representation, including as they do Dushyant Kumar Gautam, a Dalit leader, D Purandeswari from Andhra Pradesh, CT Ravi, an MLA from Karnataka, Tarun Chugh from Punjab and Dilip Saikia from Assam. Odisha now has four national office bearers, indicating how aggressive the BJP is about this coastal State. While Baijayant Panda continues as vice-president and Sambit Patra as spokesperson, two first-time MPs have been given a national role: Bisweswar Tudu from the tribal district of Mayurbhanj will be one of the national secretaries while Aparajita Sarangi from Bhubaneswar will be the new spokesperson. Former BJP president Amit Shah couldn't accomplish his "Mission 120" in Odisha last year and the national-level inclusions are expected to tap into the ambitions of the local unit to swing the verdict in the party's favour. The party continues to be deeply invested in the North-east, choosing M Chuba Ao from Nagaland as national vice-president and Mmholunmo Kikon, MLA from Nagaland, as a national spokesperson.

However, the appointment of turncoat leader Mukul Roy from Bengal as a national vice-president has shocked many. A former Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader and one-time confidant of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Roy's elevation shows how desperate the BJP is about Bengal. This at a time when Roy himself was becoming deeply uncomfortable about the little wiggle room he had. It also shows how the local unit hasn't been able to turn the tide of opinion in the BJP's favour as expected and, therefore, the central leadership doesn't mind using imported talent to achieve its purpose. Even Anupam Hazra, who has been appointed national secretary, is a former TMC leader. Roy can clearly help the BJP in countering the booth-level strategies of the TMC and choose candidates wisely. Yet Bengal is messy as the local BJP unit and its leaders are resentful and becoming openly rebellious. The fact that the party dropped its long-time loyalist Rahul Sinha as national secretary to make way for Hazra shows how desperate it is to use TMC rebels to dethrone Mamata. Except, that this could boomerang on itself too. For Bengal operates in binaries. Just as the disgruntled Left cadres joined TMC, nobody can rule out rebel BJP leaders crossing over. The trouble for BJP is that it cannot sit easy on its Lok Sabha performance for it lost three bypoll seats in the State subsequently, including State president Dilip Ghosh's own constituency. Roy has a twin challenge of keeping the State unit together and defeating the TMC in 2021. This could be the BJP's biggest gamble in Bengal. The national overhaul is clearly going "vocal for local" from the BJP's side with a naked ambition to get power in the States it hasn't had a chance to make inroads into historically. But this federalist approach is need-based rather than organic. And therein lies the mismatch.

Implement the rules

If farmers continue to burn stubble in their fields, they will make enemies and lose friends



Agitating farmers in north India might find a lot of fault with the recently passed legislation that dismantled the old system of agricultural commerce even if the Central Government continues to believe in the necessity of these Bills as major reforms. Richer farmers are aghast at the Bills as they hurt their well-connected eco-system as well as harm State Government revenues. That's why politicians in Punjab are protesting so loudly whereas marginal farmers in other States are less unhappy with the Bills, considering their exploitation won't end at the end of the day, big corporations just replacing middlemen. But if the

farmers are hoping to sway opinion against the Bills, then they would have to act upon their brethren burning stubble in their fields and not use it as a pressure tactic to get the Centre's attention. There is no doubt that the Punjab Government has callously thrown its hands up in the air and said it cannot do anything as the overburdened farmers need subsidised equipment and shredders that can help them dispose stubble in an environmentally-friendly way. Possibly this is in order to put pressure upon the Narendra Modi Government. And it is true that the Centre has to use funds at its disposal to subsidise this equipment. However, rules and regulations are in place and the courts have spoken in the past. There needs to be a crackdown on farmers, who willingly and callously burn their fields and are murdering the citizens of their own country as a result. Far from winning sympathy in their fight against corporates, this might even drive popular opinion against farmers to the extent that policy-influencing citizens might want increased corporatisation of the agricultural industry. As it is, the habit of farmers in the north, growing water-intensive crops in a water-stressed region, is quite alarming. Even if the Government can take proactive measures to control the pollution from burning fields this year, we should not forget that this is not the only reason for the poor air quality. Rampant and unmanaged construction activity has also led to severe dust pollution and it would be prudent for civic authorities to better manage that as well. Transport activity is still a bit down due to the Coronavirus, although, without full public transport working, many people are crowding our streets with personal vehicles. 2020 has been a rough year already, let us not make it much worse.

Last post for an officer

A soldier, statesman, scholar and politician, Jaswant Singh found himself at odds with his party as a narrow form of nationalism took roots

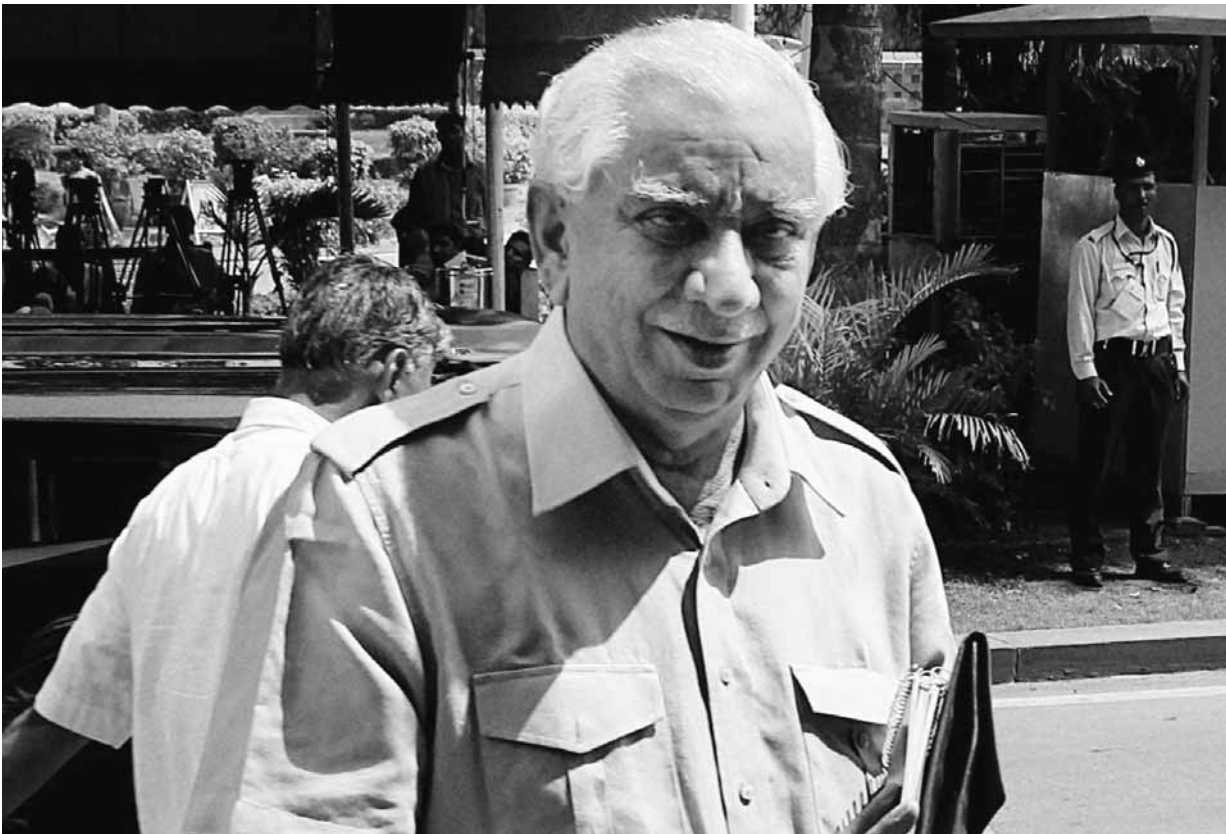


BHOPINDER SINGH

Jaswant Singh fought his last fight, as he always did, with restraint, dignity and rectitude that typified his life. Recently, life had ebbed slowly for the proverbial and literal last of the knights (former cavalry officer from the distinguished Central India Horse Regiment) as he silently passed into his Valhalla. The 82-year-old soldier, statesman, scholar and politician always stood out in public imagination with his ramrod straight posture, sartorial sense, stifled baritone, measured words and Queen's English. Singh was the quintessential "officer and a gentleman" on duty. A pleasant oddity in the mucky world of politics. Part of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's eclectic group of "diversities", Singh brought the mellifluous imprint of his rural desert district, Rajput warriors' ethos and scholarly correctness that won over many hard-nosed diplomats from across the world for his professional profundity and efficacy.

Once touted as Vajpayee's trusted "Hanuman", Singh belonged to a political era when one could be an honourable gentleman, dignified and yet a politician. He is most recognised as Vajpayee's globe-trotting troubleshooter as External Affairs Minister, but he completed a rare "D-E-F" in ministerial portfolios, as he was also Defence and Finance Minister. Vajpayee personally stood up for his friend "Jassu" whenever the knives were out from within, against a man who was clearly uncomfortable with the puritanical section of his party. But the sagacious Vajpayee sought no echo-chamber. Instead, he cherished and valued the former soldier's ability to uplift a simple draft in English into the most sublime expression. They were men of letters who respected each other for their "differences" and not feared the same. Such political large-heartedness was not to last and a very different and distinct strain of political instinct was brewing within his own party. It was clear that the space for independent-minded liberals and intellectuals was diminishing. Like his co-soldier and party colleague, Major General BC Khanduri, the narrow form of nationalism was on the rise. It was an unknown space and anathema for even old soldiers, and soon Singh was banished.

He was an intellectual rebel, not



a rabble rouser, a fine difference and a handicap, one that he would soon discover. He had left the Army as he was sick of "Sirring" and "empty posturing." To expect such a man to pander to political insecurities and insensitivities that were rising was unimaginable. In such changing times, there couldn't be a political space for a Jaswant Singh, Arun Shourie, Yashwant Sinha and so on.

Today, when both national security and diplomacy are going through extreme turbulence and relying on hyperbole, jingoism and 'economies of truth' — the reassuring and unflinching visage of Singh in the backdrop of a nuclear test, the Agra Summit, Kargil or in the midst of confabulations with Madeleine Albright and Strobe Talbott, is a fleeting memory of the distant past.

A politician's journey is rife with incidents that are both laudatory and fetching. Singh's political life was no different — the perennial question of him accompanying terrorists to Kandahar to secure the release of 160 hostages is the foremost. What is rarely posited in such questioning is if that was an individual decision or one cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the "D-E-F" ministerial trinity? While no one really stood up and vocally clarified (though, no one denied either) that it was a collective call — Singh was left to

“SINGH WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO BLOW THE BUGLE ABOUT HIS PARTY'S CHANGING TENOR, AGENDA AND DIRECTION, AND THEREAFTER SOUGHT A 'SERIOUS INQUIRY.' LITTLE DID HE KNOW OF THE CHANGING AND IRREVERSIBLE WINDS. SOON THE SOLDIER WAS IRONICALLY SLAMMED FOR 'INDISCIPLINE'”

carry this can of blemish for posterity, singularly on his hall-mark epaulette-strapped shoulders. On the contrary, the post-incident questioning always left the one-time soldier bemused, saddened and even let down by his colleagues, but beyond a point, he did not stoop to name-calling; he was too much of a thoroughbred gentleman to do that. Singh was among the first to blow the bugle about his party's changing tenor, agenda and direction, and thereafter sought a "serious inquiry." Little did he know of the changing and irreversible winds, and soon the soldier was ironically slammed for "indiscipline." Later, his lettered expression by way of a seminal book, *Jinnah: India, Partition, Independence*, was to be a convenient excuse to get rid of unwanted erudition within the new and rising ranks. Gujarat was the first State to ban the book, an indication of things to follow. Singh's prophetic words then had been that it was tantamount to "banning thinking." A fruition of that political reality plays out today. It was a regrettable political end for the distinguished career of the nine-time parliamentarian, who in his earlier book, *A Call to Honour: In Service of Emergent India*, had invoked the memories of the sun-lit land of his childhood within the four walls of "honour, courage, loyalty and faith" — old fashioned adjectives that sadly don't resonate anymore.

His wood-panelled office was

among the most impressive personal libraries and with Bach playing in the background, it was a statement of class, culture and pedigree that was equally at ease in his desert *dhani* with the hauntingly beautiful music of his native bards, Langas and Mangniyars.

Singh was a man of chivalric codes — a civilisational code, a soldier's code and even an understated feudal code that understood the fine difference between respect and servility — he was gracious and respectful and was always respected back, even by people across the "aisle." Politicians like him acknowledged their political opponents as equal patriots and human beings and he was befittingly conferred the "Outstanding Parliamentarian Award" in 2001. More comfortable with his books, writings, horses and an abiding spirit of enquiry — Singh abhorred illiberality, bigotry and the swaggering abuse of power. True to any proud soldier's moral compass, he valued respect more than anything, but as the cavalier once invoked, he was ultimately, "put out to pastures."

Today Vajpayee's "Hanuman," who seldom rested, will be laid to rest, as it were, in a better world — as they say of old soldier's, "they never die, they only fade away." The nation lost a patriot, a statesman, a soldier and above all, a decent man.

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

SOUNDBITE

Both the COVID-19 vaccine task force and the immunity task force are doing important work to help us identify the most promising vaccine options and strategies.

Canadian PM
—Justin Trudeau



Punjab, which would be the worst affected by these treacherous laws, would take this fight forward with all its might.

Punjab Chief Minister
—Amarinder Singh



These days Sanju (Samson) is striking the ball cleanly all over the ground. We will have to adapt to bigger grounds but these shots would clear everywhere.

Cricketer
—Steve Smith



It is very crucial for us to support our folk artists — our industry, workers who are keeping our heritage intact.

Singer
—Shaan



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The world needs a 'people's vaccine'

Globally, more than one million people have died from COVID-19. The real figure could be higher than the official numbers, especially in view of the fact that a lot of COVID-related mortalities outside hospitals are linked to co-morbidities and are not counted as COVID deaths. The casualty toll is growing by the day with a vaccine nowhere in sight. The World Health Organisation's (WHO's) prognosis that there could be another million deaths, even with the vaccine, before the pandemic is eventually brought under control, deepens the gloom.

Data attest that older people and those with pre-existing conditions are more at risk than others. SARS-CoV-2 is virulent and its infective ability varies from person to person. At the same time, it is possible to contain its spread and reduce its fatality by a scientific response. It is a proven fact that poverty increases vulnerability to diseases and this holds good in the case of COVID too. Social and economic conditions co-relate with public health. Obviously, the fight against the ongoing pan-



demical becomes weaker when healthcare professionals are overstretched and hospitals are under-resourced. Given its implications, herd immunity is not an option. A viable vaccine is the need of the hour but only if it is available free of cost to everyone will we be able to vanquish the virus.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Biomedical waste

Sir — Before the pandemic, India produced approximately 600 tonnes of biomedical waste per day. However, now the amount of biomedical waste has increased exponentially. For a country of more than 1.3 billion people, we have only 198 Biomedical Waste Treatment Centres (BMWTCs) and 225

medical centres with captive waste treatment facilities. We need to make sure that we are not further polluting the environment while fighting the virus.

The Government should increase its biomedical waste incineration capacity by employing mobile incinerators as Wuhan did. Additionally, proper segregation of waste should be carried out at all the centres so

that medical waste isn't dumped in public places.

Rahul Chouhan
Ujjain

Farmers' uproar

Sir — Farmers' protests have intensified after the President gave assent to the three Bills on Sunday. Their main objection is dismantling of the existing

Agricultural Produce Market Committee *mandis*, which will leave them at the mercy of big companies. They also fear that if the *mandi* system comes to an end, so will the minimum support price system. The Government should make necessary amendments and ensure that the farmers do not suffer.

BO Changa
West Bengal

Women's safety

Sir — A 22-year-old woman was allegedly raped by two Railway officers at the Bhopal station. This incident took place just days after a 19-year-old was raped by four upper caste men in Hathras district. The culprits had cut off her tongue and severely injured her spinal cord. Currently, she is on a ventilator fighting for her life at a hospital in Aligarh. The Government must ensure that the women of this country are safe. New laws need to be introduced and a strict and swift justice system should be put in place.


Khushbu Ved
Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

File ITR even for zero income

The benefits of filing taxes are many apart from the fact that we should be responsible citizens of the country



LIONEL CHARLES

Given the havoc that the Coronavirus pandemic has played on the economy of the country and personal incomes of people, the Government has extended the Income Tax Return (ITR) filing deadline for the financial year (FY) 2019-20 to November 30. However, not many people are aware that they may be liable to file their ITR this time around even if their income was below the taxable limit in FY 2019-20. Though this may make people question the intention of the Government in the face of the hardships being faced by them due to salary cuts and lay-offs, but this has been done in a bid to catch tax evaders. In a bind because of the crumbling global and Indian economy even before the outbreak proved to be the last straw that broke the camel's back, the Government last year introduced certain criteria from FY20 that make individuals liable to file ITR. The whole idea behind enhancing the return filing criteria is to catch unscrupulous taxpayers where there is a mismatch between the declared income and the expenses incurred by the assessee.

Even though most people tend to believe that filing an ITR is relevant for assesseees with income above the tax slab, it has multi-layered importance, irrespective of whether the income is above or below the taxable limit or whether there's a tax liability or not. Significantly, if the income is below the taxable limit or is "zero" the return is called "nil" return. But it acts as proof of funds accumulated in bank accounts or investments because, even if a person is earning an income below the taxable limit, over the years they create a corpus. In case there is any scrutiny after a few years, it becomes a tiring and lengthy process to prove the source of earnings, without an ITR, which is a legally-accepted proof of income.

Plus, under the seventh proviso to Section 139(1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, even if the income is below the exempted limit, an assessee will have to file an ITR if they paid an electricity bill of ₹1 lakh or above during the year; deposited ₹1 crore or more in one or more current accounts and incurred an expenditure of ₹2 lakh or more for travel to a foreign country. An individual travelling or planning to travel abroad requires a legal proof of earning. For salaried people, the employer certificate serves as proof. However, for individuals who are self-employed, the ITR can serve the purpose.

In cases where the assessee incurs capital losses during the financial year, the Income Tax Act allows him/her to carry it forward for eight consecutive years to set it off against any future gains. However, to keep track of the losses, it is mandatory to file the return before the due date even if the ITR is a loss return. Without this the losses of the year cannot be carried forward. So, even if there is no income to show, the Income-Tax Department lays it down that you declare the capital losses in your return before the due date.

In case a person has paid taxes over and above what stands payable, considering all the deductions and exemptions allowed, the assessee becomes entitled to a refund from the I-T Department. However, to get this refund, filing an ITR is mandatory. Salaried people usually believe that filing ITR isn't required because the tax on their income has already been deducted. However, it is possible that the tax deducted and deposited as per Form 16 may be in excess of what should be cut. The employer might not have taken into consideration the actual tax-saving investments, insurances or actual house rent. In that case, filing the ITR helps to claim a refund.

Although, the Motor Vehicles Act does not make it compulsory to give the ITR while arriving at a compensation in case of disability or accidental death, the ITR is needed in case of self-employed people to establish the income of the person and arrive at the compensation amount.

Also, when a person is applying for loans, be it for a house, car or a personal loan, one of the mandatory documents required to be submitted to the loaning entity include the ITR for the last two-three years as proof of income. This is because ITR helps the lender determine the person's income, payment obligations and loan repayment capacity. Plus when an individual intends to buy a high life cover, it is common for the insurance company to ask for proof of income. This is primarily done to assess the value of the cover amount that can be allowed to the person. The proof of income could be the salary slip, bank statement or the ITR of the past three-consecutive assessment years. So, for cases where the person doesn't receive a salary slip or has monthly income disbursed from different groups, ITR serves as the only solid proof of income.

Then there are people who have very small incomes from sources like dividends, bank interest, family pension or tax-free earnings like agricultural income or interest on tax-free bonds. For these people, even though the proceeds are below the taxable limit, filing an ITR serves as proof of income that can be of multi-dimensional use subsequently. The benefits of filing taxes are many apart from the fact that we should be responsible citizens of the country.

(The writer is CEO, IndiaFilings)

analysis07

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

PROVE IT (CORRUPTION) AND I'LL RETIRE FROM POLITICS. OTHERWISE, YOU RESIGN. SHOULD I ACCEPT WHATEVER YOU SAY OR READ HERE? —KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER BS YEDIYURAPPA



GRAFT ALLEGATIONS SHOULD BE PROBED BY A SITTING SUPREME COURT JUDGE OR A SIT. IF THE CHARGES ARE PROVEN WRONG, I WILL RESIGN FROM MY POST. —KARNATAKA LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION SIDDARAMAIAH

A mixed bag

The labour law reforms are being bandied about as the most crucial second generation amendments that will make it easier to do business but must not compromise workers



UTTAM GUPTA

The Narendra Modi Government recently passed three Bills on labour reforms enshrined in three labour codes, namely The Industrial Relations Code, 2020, The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and The Code on Social Security, 2020. Along with The Code on Wages, 2019, passed by the Parliament last year, these four labour law reforms are being bandied about as the most crucial second generation amendments that will make it easier to do business, improve the competitiveness of the Indian industry, make it a manufacturing hub and pursue the "Make in India" agenda successfully. Even as the landscape of these legislations is vast, there are four areas which will have far-reaching implications for the way the Centre and the States will be regulating businesses and ensuring the welfare of workers. These include (I) consolidation (call it merger) of existing 29 Central Labour Acts into four codes; (II) increase in the threshold for retrenchment, closure or lay-off for a firm (without Government permission) from existing 100 to 300 workers; (III) giving greater flexibility to the States in enacting legislation and (IV) providing for universal social security for workers. At the outset, let us recognise that labour is on the Concurrent List of the Constitution; therefore, both the Union Government and the States have the power to legislate on the subject. Hitherto, there were 29 Central Labour Acts besides 200 State-enacted laws and amendments. This meant that a company was required to take a number of licences, registrations, permissions, renewals and file numerous returns periodically under different Acts. For instance, it had to file one annual return each under the Payment of Wages Act (1936), the Minimum Wages Act (1948) and the Payment of Bonus Act (1965).

Shockingly, even a MSME (micro, small and medium enterprise) is required to maintain at least 10 different formats of wage registers, four formats of accident registers and four of muster rolls under different Acts. The regulations at the State level are even more complex. Each State enjoys the right to formulate specific rules with respect to applicability thresholds, forms, formats, calculations, dates, frequency of submissions, filing types (paper-based vs. digital) and so on. This results in different due dates, multiplicity of forms and formats, duplication in record-keeping requirements, redundancies, complex procedures, ambiguous interpretations and so on. As a result, companies which operate in several States face a nightmare.

Consolidation of the extant 29 laws into four codes should help firms in getting rid off this nightmare. They can look forward to a significant reduction in the number of licences, registrations, renewals, returns and registrations earlier required under different Acts. As a result, the compliance burden will go down. For instance, under The Code on Wages, 2019, a firm needs to file a single annual return against three different annual returns earlier. Correspondingly, at the State level too, businesses will be unshackled.

As regards (II), under the extant law, employers of industrial establishments such as mines, factories, plantations and so on, with at least 100 workers, were required to take prior permission of the Central or the State Governments before retrenchment or closure of workers. Together with a myriad of regulations and compliances, which increase in proportion to the scale of operations, this was a major impediment in the way of firms growing in size and creating more jobs. It also takes away the flexibility of firms to adjust their labour deployment in sync with changing demand conditions. It affects their ability to stay afloat in a competitive environ-

ment especially when the economy is in a downward phase. It also prompts them to hire contract workers, which is not a good sign especially for their social security. This has seriously impacted formalisation of the economy. Out of about 63 million enterprises, only one million or 1.5 per cent are in the formal sector.

This preponderance of the so-called unorganised informal economy (it accounts for roughly 50 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product and 80-90 per cent of the workforce) is the inevitable outcome of imposing such restrictions.

The increase in threshold under The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 should come as a big relief, as firms having up to 300 workers will get the much-needed flexibility to adjust to the changing business environment. But what is the sanctity of fixing the threshold at 300? Why should enterprises employing workers in excess of this be subjected to approval?

In the contemporary economic milieu, wherein the ability of firms to compete depends largely on the scale of operations (even start-ups in a matter of few years get into the position of giving jobs to thousands of workers), imposition of such arbitrary thresholds viz. 100 or 300 or even higher — a legacy of the socialist era — is totally out of place. This needs to be done away with.

The Code provides for "fixed-term employment" through contract workers on a pan-India basis. Currently, companies hire contract workers through contractors. With the introduction of fixed-term employment, they will be able to hire workers directly under a fixed-term contract, with the flexibility to adjust its tenure based on the seasonality of industry. These workers will be treated on a par with regular workers. It will be a win-win for both the companies and those aspiring for jobs.

The Code does not take away the workers' right to go on strike. However, it has been made mandatory to give 14 days' notice for giving time to sort out differences through harmonious discussion during this period. Doing away with multiplicity of unions and introduction of

the concept of a "negotiating union" is a welcome move. Coming to (III), under the present law, States have limited powers to exempt factories from labour laws. For instance, The Factories Act, 1948 allowed exemption from its provisions in cases of public emergency only for a period of three months. For making changes or giving exemptions from the law for longer duration, they had to approach the Central Government. Now, the Union Government has given a lot of flexibility to States while implementing these Codes. For instance, The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 empowers the States to exempt new factories from any of the provisions of the new law for more economic activities and employment opportunities. No timeline for giving exemption to factories is prescribed as against three months at present. It also exempts existing establishments from any of the provisions of the new Code in case of an emergency provided that certain conditions are fulfilled.

Under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, States can allow easier retrenchment, or closure norms for more firms through a notification, without the need to seek the Centre's approval. For instance, unlike in the past when they could increase the threshold only after seeking the approval of the President and then getting it passed by the legislature (16 States had hiked the threshold to 300 workers following this lengthy procedure only), now a State can do it by issuing an executive order.

The State can also exempt new establishments from "any or all provisions" of the law dealing with industrial disputes, retrenchment and trade unions "unconditionally" for a specific period of time as it thinks fit. This can be done in "public interest."

Though, prompted by the dire need to press the accelerator for industrialisation at a fast pace, these provisions may have given too much discretionary power to State bureaucrats. They need to use these judiciously and while granting exemptions, they should ensure that workers' interests are not compromised.

As regards (IV), The Code on Social Security, 2020 provides for universal social security for workers by expanding the ambit of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and Employees' State Corporation of India (ESCI) and setting up of a social security fund to cover around 400 million unorganised sector workers. However, some clauses are a bit restrictive. For instance, only sites with 10 or more building and other construction workers are covered. Likewise, for Provident Fund, only establishments with 20 or more workers are covered. This will result in exclusion of millions of MSMEs.

Worryingly, the Code does not stress on social security as a right and does not make any reference to its provision as stipulated by the Constitution of the country. Plus, it does not lay down a clear date for enforcement. This will leave workers vulnerable without social protection. It is vital that social security protection be made universal for the entire nation's workforce. However, the Code makes whimsical categorisations that will deprive millions of working poor of their rights.

While the Code defines multiple categories, most are obscure and have not been revised to determine whether a worker belongs to the organised or unorganised sector. For instance, platform and gig workers are not defined as part of the unorganised workforce, even though lakhs of people are employed as such. Similarly, the word "establishment" in the Code should have been altered to make sure that all workers come under the ambit of social security protection.

To sum up, the enactment of the four Codes is a big leap forward in labour reforms but there still needs to be some more thought put into the protection of workers. As for the outcome, a lot will depend on how the States respond as they are the ones who have to implement, frame and notify the rules and do the follow up. If, they don't and keep the regulations complex, the intended benefits won't percolate down to the last worker. Both the Centre and States have to work towards this.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

Ginsburg's long fight for gender parity will be remembered

Justice Ginsburg's death has caused a political storm in the US. President Trump plans to fill her seat with a loyal, woman conservative. That will be a tragedy



ADITYA MANUBHARWALA



HANNAH GHULAM

The tenure of former US President Bill Clinton can best be described as tumultuous. The jury is out regarding many of his decisions except one: The nomination of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as an Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court in 1993. Both, supporters as well as detractors, of Justice Ginsburg do converge on the fact that her tenure was one of the most eventful ones in the Supreme Court in the past 50 years. Justice Ginsburg passed away on September 18, after close to three glorious decades in the US top court. Later dubbed the



Union, and co-founded its Women's Rights Project. Within two years she had taken part in more than 300 gender-related cases. One of her most iconic wins at the Supreme Court was *Frontiero v Richardson* (1973), which decided that compensation and other service benefits cannot be given differently on the basis of gender alone. The case particularly challenged the service rules of the US Air Force prohibiting husbands of women officers from being listed as dependents for the purposes of housing and other benefits. This was based on the assumption that men are the family bread-winners and women the caretakers. Of the total six cases argued in the apex court by Justice

Ginsburg, she won an astonishing five, setting the foundation for a revolution in gender justice-oriented jurisprudence, which has subsequently been emulated across the world.

In her attempts to persuade an all-male Supreme Court, Ginsburg focussed on male applicants. This strategic litigation allowed her to confront the justices with the harmful effects of gender discrimination on men such as themselves. Winning their empathy in this manner, she managed to shake the foundations of the sexist system to the advantage of both men and women.

Ginsburg also landed several teaching positions and became the first woman tenure lecturer at Columbia University. Subsequently, she functioned as a surprisingly moderate federal judge. Her appointment as a Supreme Court Justice was, therefore, met with a great deal of suspicion from feminist activists, who feared that she would not be the most passionate advocate for women's rights.

Justice Ginsburg proved them

wrong. Her years at the apex court were characterised by her staunch belief in gender equality and her support for LGBTQIA+ and minority rights. She was the author of the majority opinion in *US vs Virginia*, wherein the court struck down as discriminatory the practice of male-only admissions in the Virginia Military Academy. This judgment revolutionised the US Constitution's "equal protection of laws" clause (14th Amendment) by adding equality on the basis of gender to the traditional interpretation of equality on the basis of race. Referring to the apex court's decision in *Brown vs Education Board of Topeka*, Ginsburg stated that if racially segregated schools were declared unconstitutional, then so should separate military academies for women for they would not impart the same level of military training as the male ones. Justice Ginsburg's verdict in the *Virginia Military case* in particular served to be a great inspiration behind the Indian Army permitting the commissioning of women officers.

Faced with a conservative-leaning Supreme Court, Justice Ginsburg often had to turn to dissenting opinions as well. She famously disagreed with the majority's view in *Bush vs Gore* that the manual vote recount for the presidential election ordered by the Florida Supreme Court was unconstitutional. In *Shelby County vs Holder*, the majority held the federal pre-clearance for changes in the voting laws of States with a history of racial discrimination to be unconstitutional. Justice Ginsburg vehemently protested, stating that this pre-clearance effectively protected against racial voting discrimination and that the judgment resembled "throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet." Some of her other influential dissents dealt with issues such as gender workplace discrimination and reproductive health.

Justice Ginsburg's death has caused a political storm in the US. President Trump plans to fill Ginsburg's seat as soon as possible by replacing her with a woman, loyal and conservative can-

didate. This would present the conservatives with a "super majority" in the apex court. Democrats met this news with a wave of protests and called to postpone any nomination until after the presidential election in November. Such a super majority would put the right to abortion, among others, on a shaky pedestal. A part of Ginsburg's legacy in the fight for gender equality could, therefore, be at serious risk of being erased. This is a troublesome testimony that the fight against discrimination in the US has not been won yet, but is on the contrary facing a threat of regression. Regardless, it goes without doubt that Justice Ginsburg's was one of the most influential figures in the fight for women's rights and liberal thought in the US. Her highly respected, brilliant mind will be missed in these times of growing insecurity.

(Manubharwala is the incumbent Global Peace Ambassador to India. Ghulam obtained a LL.M with a specialisation in human rights from Ghent University, Belgium. Both are LL.M candidates at the University of Cambridge)

Trump’s tax revelation could tarnish his image

Washington: The bombshell revelations that President Donald Trump paid just \$750 in federal income taxes the year he ran for office and paid no income taxes at all in many others threaten to undercut a pillar of his appeal among blue-collar voters and provide a new opening for his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, on the eve of the first presidential debate.

Trump has worked for decades to build an image of himself as a hugely successful businessman — even choosing “mogul” as his Secret Service code name.

But The New York Times on Sunday revealed that he paid just \$750 in federal income taxes in 2016, the year he won the presidency, and in 2017, his first year in office.

He paid no income taxes whatsoever in 10 of the previous 15 years, largely because he reported losing more money than he made, according to the Times, which obtained years’ worth of tax return data that the president had long fought to keep private.

The development comes at a particularly precarious moment for Trump, whose Republican campaign is struggling to overcome criticism of the president’s handling of the pandemic. It hands Biden an easy attack line heading into Tuesday’s debate. And with early voting already happening in some states and Election Day just over a month away, Trump may be running out of time to turn his campaign around.

“Donald Trump needs this election to be about Joe Biden as a choice,” said longtime GOP consultant Alex Conant. “This keeps the focus squarely on Trump’s character and the chaos going into the most important night of the campaign, the debate.” Of course, Trump has repeatedly faced — and survived — devastating turns that would have sunk any other politician.

That includes, most notably, the stunning “Access Hollywood” tape released in October 2016, in which Trump was recorded bragging about kissing and groping women

without their permission. The video’s release came just two days before Trump was set to face then-candidate Hillary Clinton in their second debate and was considered a death knell to his campaign at the time.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany told “Fox & Friends” on Monday that Democrats are replaying “the same playbook they tried in 2016 — the same playbook that the American people rejected and will do so again.”

At this point in the race, with voting already underway in many states and so few voters still undecided, it is unclear whether any new discoveries about Trump would make any difference. Trump’s support over the years has remained remarkably consistent, polls over the course of his presidency have found.

Yet the tax allegations go to the very heart of Trump’s appeal, especially among the blue-collar voters in states like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan who propelled him to the presidency in 2016. **AP**

Beijing using militarised outposts in South China Sea as platforms of coercion: US

Washington: China is using its militarised outposts in the South China Sea as platforms of coercion to assert control over waters it has no lawful claim over, the United States has said, demanding President Xi Jinping to honour his commitment that these maritime constructions “would not target or impact any country”.

Beijing claims almost all of the 1.3 million square-mile South China Sea as its sovereign territory. China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region which, in parts, is claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Beijing has impeded commercial activity like fishing and mineral exploration by neighbouring nations in recent years, saying the ownership of the resource-rich maritime territory belongs to China for hundreds of years.

US State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortugas on Sunday said five years ago on September 25, 2015 the Chinese President, standing in

the White House Rose Garden, promised ‘China does not intend to pursue militarisation’ of the Spratly Islands, and China’s outposts ‘would not target or impact any country’.

Instead the Chinese government backed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has pursued reckless and provocative militarisation of these disputed outposts, deploying anti-surface cruise missiles, expanding military radar with signal intelligence capabilities, constructing dozens of fighter jet hangars and runways capable of accommodating combat aircraft, Ortugas said.

“The CCP uses these militarised outposts as platforms of coercion to assert control over waters to which Beijing has no lawful maritime claim,” Ortugas said.

They serve as staging grounds for the hundreds of maritime militia vessels and China Coast Guard ships that regularly harass civilian carriers and impede legitimate law enforcement activities, offshore fishing, and hydrocarbon development by neighbouring

China fires back at US over SCS, green damage

Beijing: US-China friction flared again Monday, with Beijing firing back at accusations by Washington that it is a leading cause of global environmental damage and has reneged on its promise not to militarise the South China Sea.

A document issued last week by the State Department cited China’s record on issues from greenhouse gas emissions to air and water and soil pollution, illegal logging and wildlife trafficking.

“While the Chinese people have suffered the worst environmental impacts of its actions, Beijing also threatens the global economy and global health by unsustainably exploiting natural resources and exporting its willful disregard for the environment,” the document said.

Department spokesperson Morgan Ortugas followed that with a statement Sunday saying China has “pursued a reckless and provocative militarization” of disputed outposts in the South China Sea’s Spratly Islands, adding that China’s ruling Communist Party “does not honor its words or commitments.” **AP**

FIRST 2020 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Trump, Biden face off today



Washington: Republican incumbent President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden are all set to share the stage for the first time on Tuesday night when they will be going head-to-head in the first of the three presidential debates.

Dubbed as the “Super Bowl of American Democracy”, Trump, 74, and Biden, 77, would respond to questions on their track record, the Supreme Court, economy, race and violence in cities and integrity of the elections at the Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio — a key battleground state.

Popular Fox news anchor Chris Wallace would moderate the first debate, which would start at 9 pm EST (6:30 am IST). Steve Scully from C-SPAN Networks and Kristen Welker from NBC News would moderate the other two presidential debates on October 15 in Miami (Florida) and October 22 in Nashville (Tennessee), respectively.

Vice President Mike Pence, 61, and Democratic vice-presidential candidate Kamala Harris, 55, will participate in the only vice-presidential debate, to be hosted by USA Today journalist Susan Page, in Salt Lake City in Utah on October 7.

All the four debates are being organised by the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD). The debates would be of 90 minutes duration.

tion. In August, the CPD had turned down a request of the Trump campaign for a presidential debate in early September.

Trump told reporters on Sunday that former New Jersey governor Chris Christie and former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani were helping him prepare for the debates. The two were seated in the press briefing room along with the White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany during the news conference by the president. **PTI**

New US citizen refugees excited for first Prez vote

Phoenix: They came fleeing war and persecution in countries like Myanmar, Eritrea and Iraq, handpicked by the United States for resettlement under longstanding humanitarian traditions.

Now, tens of thousands of refugees welcomed into the US during the Obama administration are American citizens, voting the first time in what could be the most consequential presidential contest of their lifetimes.

With some states already sending out early ballots, the first-time voters from Arizona to Florida are excited but mindful of their responsibility in helping to choose the country’s next leader. **AP**

Around the Globe

Islamabad: Pakistan’s Supreme Court on Monday barred the Sindh government from releasing British-born al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides - the main accused in the abduction and murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002.

Seoul: South Korean President Moon Jae-in apologised for the first time on Monday for the death of a man who was shot by North Korean troops last week, saying his government failed in its responsibility to safeguard a citizen.

Berlin: Germany has launched a new search for a site to store its most radioactive nuclear waste, eliminating a disputed site at a former salt mine that was earmarked decades ago and has long been a focus of protests.

Warsaw: Polish leaders on Monday rejected suggestions that LGBT people are deprived of any of their rights in the country, after an open letter from 50 ambassadors and international representatives cited a need to work for “non-discrimination, tolerance and mutual acceptance.”

US judge suspends Trump’s ban on TikTok downloads

Washington: A US federal judge late on Sunday halted a politically charged ban ordered by the Trump administration on downloads of the popular video app TikTok, hours before it was to go into effect.

District Judge Carl Nichols issued a temporary injunction at the request of TikTok, which the White House has called a national security threat alleging that its Chinese parent firm is tied to the Beijing government.

The opinion was sealed, so no reason for the decision was released in a one-page order by the court in Washington.

The Trump administration order sought to ban new downloads of the app from midnight (0400 GMT Monday) but would allow use of TikTok until November 12, when all usage would be blocked. The judge denied TikTok’s request to suspend the November 12 ban. **AFP**

Top Afghan negotiator in Taliban talks arrives in Pak

Islamabad: Afghanistan’s top official in negotiations with the Taliban arrived in Pakistan’s capital Monday on a three-day trip during which he will meet with the country’s prime minister and other government officials.

Abdullah Abdullah, who leads the Afghan High Council for National Reconciliation, was received by top government officials on arriving in Islamabad.

Apart from meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Afghan reconciliation

leader also will meet with President Arif Alvi, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and other officials.

The council represents the Afghan government in historic peace negotiations with the Taliban which began in Qatar on September 12.

Those talks represent the most-serious effort yet at ending decades of war in Afghanistan that followed the 2001 US-led invasion that toppled its Taliban government, which then hosting al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden who

planned the September 11 attacks.

The Afghan-Taliban talks come after a deal signed in February between the US and the Taliban. That aims to allow the US to withdraw from Afghanistan and end the longest military engagement in American history.

Many Taliban leaders have lived in Pakistan since the 1980s. In those years they were part of the Afghan mujahedeen, allies of the US in ending the 10-year occupation of the country by the Soviet Union. **AP**

Armenia, Azerbaijan keep up deadly fight for disputed region

Yerevan: Armenia and Azerbaijani forces kept fighting Monday over the disputed separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh after hostilities broke out the day before, with both sides blaming each other for resuming the deadly attacks.

The Azerbaijani Defence

Ministry claimed that Armenian forces started shelling the town of Tartar on Monday morning, while Armenian officials said the fighting continued throughout the night and Baku resumed “offensive actions” in the morning.

Azerbaijan’s Defence Ministry told the Interfax news agency Monday that over 550

Armenian troops have been killed, a claim that Armenian officials denied.

According to Nagorno-Karabakh officials, 31 servicemen have been killed so far. Armenian Defence Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovhannisyan said Monday over 200 people have been wounded. **AP**

Pompeo pledges US support to ease Greece-Turkey dispute

AP ■ THESSALONIKI (GREECE)

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday the United States will use its diplomatic and military influence in the region to try to ease a volatile dispute between NATO allies Greece and Turkey over energy rights in the eastern Mediterranean.

Pompeo began a five-day regional tour Monday in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, days after Greece and Turkey committed to restarting a diplomatic dialogue on the dispute that triggered a dangerous military build-up — and fears of military conflict — in the disputed maritime area over the summer.

Spain’s top court rules to remove Catalan chief from office

Madrid: Spain’s Supreme Court on Monday effectively barred Catalonia’s regional president from his office for refusing to remove a banner that called for the release of imprisoned separatist leaders and was displayed on a public building ahead of the 2019 general election.

The ruling that Quim Torra disobeyed Spain’s electoral law triggers a new period of political uncertainty in the northeastern region where a demand by some for independence has triggered the country’s biggest constitutional crisis in decades.

According to the existing regulations, Torra’s deputy should take over as president-in-charge until the regional parliament elects a new leader or a new election is held. Pro-secession activists reacted by calling for protests later Monday in the regional capital, Barcelona.

In their ruling, the panel of judges unanimously agreed to uphold last year’s decision by a lower court to ban Torra from holding any public office for 18 months and fine him 30,000 euros (USD 35,000).

Torra, a staunch separatist who became the head of Catalonia’s government following the 2017 push for the region’s independence from Spain, had previously criticised the case as an act of repression against the democratic mandate of voters in the region.

His predecessor, Carles Puigdemont, who fled to Belgium after the Spanish government deposed him for pushing ahead with an independence declaration, criticised the court’s decision. **AP**

E TENDER NOTICE

YEAR 2020/21

Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd.
GANDHINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Multi Storied Building, B-Block, First Floor, Sector-11, Gandhinagar
Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd. is inviting tenders for the work given below Bids are invited for the e-tendering rates from the reputable agencies

Tender No.	Name of Work	Tender Fee	E.M.D.
GSCDL-ICT-16-2020	"Appointment of a Consultant/ Firm for providing Project Management Consultancy Services for Operations and Maintenance of ICT project of Gandhinagar Smart City"	15,000/-	1,50,000/-

The tender form can be filled online by downloading from website www.nprocure.com from **Dt. 29/09/2020 to Dt. 13/10/2020** upto **17.00 hours**. Pre Bid Meeting will be Scheduled on date **Dt. 09/10/2020**
Any documents for the necessary support of tender bid must be scanned in the electronic format and submitted online on www.nprocure.com. The technical bids and the amount of tender fees and the Demand Draft of EMD shall be submitted in hard copy in name of **CEO, Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd.** upto **Dt. 17/10/2020** by registered post or speed post till **17.00 hours**. Only those offers will be opened.
Online Technical Bid Opening **Dt.19/10/2020 at 15.00 hrs.**

Sd/-

Place:- Gandhinagar Municipal Commissioner, Gandhinagar and Dt. 29/09/2020 Chairman Gandhinagar Smart City No/INF/VPN/2020/G/980 Development Ltd.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Auction NOTICE

Auction of Lot No. 1, N.R. ZRT/CH, 647 numbers Dangerous trees and Lot No.2, Railway Colony, 463 numbers dangerous trees under Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Northern Railway Chandausi will be auctioned in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway Chandausi. All the interested bidders are invited to participate in this auction.

Auction place:- Office of the Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway/ Chandausi on date 15.10.2020 at 11:00 AM.

1. All the bidders will deposit cash Rs.100/- in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway/Bareilly which will not be refunded and shall also deposit Rs.8000/- in favor of Sr. Divisional Finance Manager Northern Railway Moradabad as a Demand Draft of SBI or other Nationalized Bank.
2. All the bidders who will take part in the auction will also have proper knowledge of Auction rules and others allowances.
3. Successful bidders will deposit the Demand Draft of SBI or other Nationalized Bank in favour of Sr. DFM/MB or station earning in cash on same day with following rate.
 - a 10% amount of selling price or minimum amount Rs. 25,000/- whichever is maximum on purchase of more than Rs. 1,00,000/-
 - b Balance amount will be deposited within 10 days including the date of auction.
 - c GST will be deposited as per the standard rate.
4. The work should be completed within 60 days including the date of auction.
5. Railway has right to close the work any time. In this situation the balance amount will be returned without interest.
6. Complete Details of tree with locations will be available in the Divisional Office Moradabad.
7. Bidders are requested to quote their rates according to the tree locations.
8. Trees will be delivered and handed over in the presence of SSE/works, ISA and RPF.
9. If the balance amount is not deposited within 10 days including the date of auction, then initial deposited amount will be forfeited.
10. Bidders will not make any Kutcha/Pukka construction in the land of Railway.
11. Bid will not be quoted below the base price.
12. Demand draft will be deposited in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer /Northern Railway/Chandausi from 09.00 am to 10.30 AM. After that no demand draft will be accepted.

Note: Each lot will be auctioned separately.
No. LMCT/REE/B/E/2020 Dated : 28.09.2020
Serving Customers With A Smile

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway, 6th Floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. Invites E-tender as per details given as follows.

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	WORK AND LOCATION	Approx. cost of work in ₹	EMD in ₹
1	BCT/20-21/212 dtd 28.09.2020	Zone 4 A-2 :- New works and all ordinary repair works in the jurisdiction of SSE(W-I) Lower panel (Only for MX EMU Workshop).	75,00,000.00	1,50,000/-
2	BCT/20-21/213 dtd 28.09.2020	Dadar:- Providing Dy.CE(Bridge) office, yard master office, store and signal cabin, social welfare centre, under ground tank, Over head tank and pump room at Dadar colony in connection with Rehabilitation of western railway south colony in connection with relocation of infringing structure and proposed new STR in connection with 5th and 6 th line at Dadar station.	2,48,44,199.12	2,74,700/-
3	BCT/20-21/214 dtd 28.09.2020	Dadar- Rehabilitation of Dadar Rly colony-Type II(54-units), Type IV(2-units), Type III (1 units) along with Road, Drainage line, Toilets, Garden, Boundary wall in connection with rehabilitation of western railway south colony in connection with relocation of infringing structure and proposed new STR in connection with 5th and 6 th line at Dadar station. (Two Packet)	14,25,09,697.28	8,62,600/-

Sr. No. : 1 to 2 : Date & Time of Submission : On 27.10.2020 till 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening :** On 27.10.2020 at 15.30 hrs. **Sr. No. : 3 : Date & Time of Submission :** On 03.11.2020 till 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening :** On 03.11.2020 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed tender conditions please visit www.irps.gov.in **Manual offers will not be considered.**

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SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas
A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective [successors, assigns, heirs), The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of possession of the properties are as mentioned below

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manoj Kumar Sharma & Kalpana Sharma/ LBDEL00001133502	C- 22 F, Plot No- 9, C- 22 F, Frist Floor, Delhi Police, Appt Cghs, Mayur Vihar, Phase- 1, Delhi- 110091/ Sep 22, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs. 30,73,473/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Shubhankar Das Gupta/ Binata Das Gupta/ LBDEL00000369905	Building No. 866, Unit Number F- 2 First Floor, Sector 5vaishali, Ghaziabad/ Mig- A-, 1332, First Floor, Sector- 29, Housing Board Col. Faridabad/ Sep 23, 2020	February 26, 2020 Rs. 1,69,694/-	Delhi/ Ncr
3.	Lakshminarasimhan N R/ L. Vajanthi/ LBDEL0000370533	Mig- A-, 1332, First Floor, Sector- 29, Housing Board Col. Faridabad Haryana/ Sep 24, 2020	January 31, 2020 Rs. 1,90,535/-	Delhi/ Ncr
4.	Sarman Kumar/ Nisha Sarman/ LBDEL00000389253	H. No.1599, Housing Board Colony, Sector- 29, Faridabad/ Sep 24, 2020	February 26, 2020 Rs. 2,56,747/-	Delhi/ Ncr

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

Date : 29-09-2020
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
Secured Creditor

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 65 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Sex:** Male, **Wearing:** Green pant, White and Black Colour Lindar Shirt and Plastic chappal in feet was found foot path Ajmeri Gate side New Delhi Rly. Station on 25.09.2020 at 4:24 P.M. **ID Mark :** A mole on left forehead. In this regard, a **DD No. 18A, dated 25.09.2020**

has been lodged at PS New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Dead Body preserved LHMC Hospital Mortuary For identification for 72 hrs. 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., New Delhi Rly. Station, Delhi Ph. : 011-23744073, 8750871305**

DP/4476/RLY/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 30 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead near Ring Road, Kela Ghat, Jamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with **DD No: 57-A dated 23.09.2020 at PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under: **Sex:** Male, **Age:** about 30 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Striped underwear and barefooted. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-23967889, 23968730

DP/594/N/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Named:** Pinki **D/o** Dukh Horan **Arya R/o** Jhuggi No. S-99/492, Moti Lal Nehru Camp, Shamsan Ghat, Munirka, New Delhi has been missing since 16.09.2020 from her house. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 400/2020 u/s 363 IPC dated 17.09.2020 has been registered at Police Station Kishan Garh, New Delhi.

PINKI
Her physical description is as under:-
Age : 16 Years 6 Months, **Height:** 4'6", **Complexion :** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Hair:** Black & short, **Wearing :** Pink colour top & white colour jeans and black colour shoes in feet.

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

Phone:
011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/309/SW/2020

P.S. Kishan Garh, New Delhi South-West Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-26510075, 26510085

Paddy worth ₹10.53 cr procured in last 48 hrs

MSP buying begins in all States: Government

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid widespread farmers' Aprotest against the new farm laws, the Centre on Monday came out with the latest data of paddy procurement in the last 48 hours to allay any apprehensions over the minimum support price (MSP) buying.

With the latest procurement data, the Government aims to send a clear message - it has no intention of scrapping the MSP and that it has put in a mechanism for procurement of not only summer-sown paddy but also pulses and oilseeds this year.

Farmers in Punjab and Haryana and several other states are protesting against new farm laws which they feel

will lead to procurement in the hands of corporates and the end of the MSP regime.

"About 5,637 tonnes of paddy at MSP of ₹1,868 per quintal has been procured from farmers of Haryana and Punjab till September 27. The procurement of paddy for the remaining states commenced from today," the Union Agriculture Ministry said.

Paddy worth ₹10.53 crore MSP value has been procured from 390 farmers of Haryana and Punjab in the last 48 hours, it said in a statement. Paddy procurement in the ongoing 2020-21 Kharif Marketing Season has just started from Sept 26. The Govt has kept a rice procurement target of 495.37 lakh tonnes in the 2020-21 kharif marketing season.

Besides paddy, the Govt through its nodal agencies has procured 34.20 tonnes of moong worth ₹25 lakh MSP value from 40 farmers in Tamil Nadu till September 24. Similarly, 5,089 tonnes of copra (the perennial crop) having MSP value of ₹52.40 crore has been procured, benefitting 3,961 farmers in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu against the sanctioned quantity of 95.75 lakh tonnes for Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, it said. Based on the proposal from the states, the ministry said it has given nod for procurement of a total 13.77 lakh tonnes of kharif pulses and oilseeds from states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Haryana.

Markets soar for second day; financial, auto stocks lead rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices BSEsensex and Nifty surged as much as 1.6 per cent on Monday, lifted by intense buying in financial stocks on hopes of capital support to public sector banks and stimulus measures for the economy.

The BSE Sensex settled 592.97 points or 1.59 per cent higher at 37,981.63, while the NSE Nifty surged 177.30 points or 1.60 per cent to 11,227.55 - the second straight session of rise for the indices.

In the Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank was the top gainer, rising around 8 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, PowerGrid, ONGC, Sun Pharma, ICICI Bank and M&M. On the other hand, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys and Nestle ended in the red.

All sectoral indices ended with gains, with BSE power, bankex, auto, realty, utilities, finance and metal rallying up

to 3.40 per cent. Broader mid-cap and smallcap indices surged outperformed the benchmark, rising up to 2.68 per cent.

"Key Indices ended high as bulls led the charge backed by financials and well supported by auto and pharma. Expectations of a stimulus coupled with capital support to state-run banks fuelled the rally in late afternoon trade," S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, said.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said global cues were also positive following positive industrial profits data from China, setting aside concerns about the increasing virus infections and related impact.

Indian markets were also banking on further stimulus and other measures by the government to boost the economy, he said.

According to traders, domestic equities also tracked strong buying sentiment in global equities ahead of the first US presidential debate.

Global investors are eyeing the first US presidential debate, set for Tuesday, between US President Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Joe Biden.

It could influence the course of US policies and is likely to affect share prices across the world, analysts said.

Bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended on a positive note, while Shanghai was in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading with strong gains in early deals. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.68 per cent lower at USD 42.12 per barrel.

In the forex market, the rupee settled 18 paise lower at 73.79 against the US dollar.

COAI seeks urgent allocation of E and V band spectrum via auction to access providers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body COAI has cautioned that any decision on de-licensing or administrative allocation of high commercial value E and V bands spectrum will violate prevailing policy framework, create non level-playing-field for licenced telcos and cause huge revenue loss to the government.

In a letter to Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) on Monday called for allocation of spectrum in these specified bands "through transparent auction to access service providers immediately".

The COAI emphasised that these bands "are extremely valuable resources for India for 5G as well as backhaul for mobile broadband". Radiowaves used for trans-

mitting signals to mobile phones are referred to as the access spectrum while backhaul spectrum augments signals between mobile towers at the back-end.

"...Any decision of de-licensing or administrative allocation of high commercial value spectrum in E and V bands: is technically not feasible, will be contrary to the prevailing policy framework of spectrum allocation, contrary to the principle promulgated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, contempt of Hon'ble Supreme Court..." the COAI said.

Such a move would also lead to non-level playing field for licenced telecom operators, will not guarantee the efficient use of these bands, and "cause huge revenue loss to the exchequer", COAI Director General S P Kochhar said, in the letter seen by PTI.

₹3L cr PLI scheme for 10 sectors to boost domestic manufacturing

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

In a major push to domestic manufacturing in the country, the government proposes to pump in over ₹3 lakh crore through an umbrella production linked incentive (PLI) scheme that will run simultaneously in 10 identified sectors for a period of five years.

Sources privy to the development said that the Niti Aayog has been entrusted with the task to finalise a cabinet note proposing extension of the PLI scheme with separate budgetary allocation for each identified sector for the next five years starting FY22.

The allocation will have to be worked out within the confines of the suggestions given by the expenditure department based on expected savings from the withdrawal of the existing Merchandise Exports India Scheme (MEIS) introduced in April 2015 to promote manufacturing and exports of specified goods from India.

"A plan for a mega ₹3 lakh crore PLI scheme has been finalised by an empowered group of secretaries chaired by the cabinet secretary early this month. The allocation under the expanded PLI has been worked out on the basis of savings made by withdrawal of the MEIS scheme and liabilities on account of the new export incentive scheme, Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP). This will ensure that there is no imbalance on account of introduc-

tion of PLI," said the source quoted above.

Under the proposed PLI scheme, the government will incentivise domestic production in 10 areas to begin with. These include battery storage, solar PV modules, electronics (laptop, server, IoT devices, specified computer hardware), automobile and auto components, telecom and networking products, textiles, food processing, speciality steel and white goods (air conditioners and LED).

Apart from these, large scale electronic manufacturing (mobile phones), pharmaceutical drugs and medical devices, which already have an approved PLI scheme, would be provided full budgetary allocation for next five years.

In the discussions by the EGoS, the highest allocation of close to ₹60,000 crore (over the next five years) has been proposed for automobile and auto component sectors. This is with the belief that this sector could help India become a global hub of manufacturing and source house for global industries.

The next highest allocation has been proposed for large scale electronic manufacturing at ₹40,000 crore, where the mobile phone manufacturing sector is already getting a PLI.

The PLI for pharma sector has also been proposed for a higher allocation of ₹30,000 crore to give a boost to production of API that is largely imported at present.

Housing sales up 34% in July-Sept, says JLL report



IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

India's residential market got back to action as the lockdown restrictions eased in the third quarter of 2020. Housing sales, during the July-September quarter, jumped up 34 per cent compared to the April-June quarter, which was largely impacted by the nationwide lockdown, showed a report by JLL Research.

A total of 14,415 units were sold during the quarter ended September, as against 10,753 units sold during the previous quarter.

The report showed that Mumbai accounted for 29 per cent of the total sales during the period under review, while 22 per cent of sales was contributed by Delhi-NCR.

Growth in sales activity was also driven by stronger demand in Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune.

Ramesh Nair, CEO and Country Head, India, JLL, said:

"We are feeling cautiously optimistic about the residential market, driven by sales volumes in Mumbai and Delhi. A combination of favourable factors such as low mortgage rates, attractive prices combined with developers' lucrative payment plans together reinforce the longer-term potential of the sector. For end users, the next 12 months are ideal to buy a house."

"In the subsequent quarters, the translation of demand into sales will primarily hinge on enhanced consumer confidence, which, in turn, depends upon the continued implementation of progressive government policies amidst the gradual revival of the Indian economy at large," he added.

Residential market activity is also being supported by renewed interest from NRIs in Q3 2020, resulting in more pent up demand in the market and increased enquiries received by developers, the report said.

Govt-owned NABARD gives clean chit to Reliance Commercial Finance

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Government owned National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the second largest lender to Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCF) with over ₹1,100 crore of secured loan exposure has given clean chit to RCF and has removed its red flag.

NABARD is a part of the consortium of lenders and is signatory to an Inter Creditor Agreement (ICA) executed between the lenders of RCF under June 7, 2019 circular of RBI on resolution of stressed assets.

NABARD had classified the account of RCF as Red Flag

on February 25, 2020. Thereafter lenders conducted a detailed forensic audit by Grant Thornton (GT).

At a meeting of the Consortium of Lenders led by Bank of Baroda, held on Friday September 25, 2020, NABARD informed the consortium of lenders that having examined the GT forensic report, it found no element of fraud and has therefore removed the red flag.

Earlier, Delhi High Court on August 14 had stayed a move by Bank of Baroda, the leader of Consortium of Bank, to classify the accounts as fraud, restraining banks from taking any other coercive action till the next hearing. Similar action of Punjab National Bank was also stayed

by Delhi High Court on 11th August, 2020.

As per information reported on Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC), Indian Bank and Federal Bank have classified their exposure to Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL) as a fraud account.

Indian Bank having an exposure of only Rs. 120 crore, made such classification on 29th August, 2020. The exposure of Federal Bank to RHFL is 100 crore -- out of the total RHFL debt of over Rs 10,000 crore. Action of Indian Bank and Federal Bank is despite the Delhi High Court staying such action by the lead bank Bank of Baroda on 14th August, 2020.

'Corporate vultures eyeing small banks, merge LVB with Govt bank'

Chennai: The RBI should take a prompt and correct action of merging the 93-year-old Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) with a nationalised bank, a top leader of one of the largest bank unions said.

"There are a number of corporate vultures that are circling the small-old generation private banks for a take over. These regional banks have their own tradition and culture and taking them beyond certain borders and expanding their size will result in failure," All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) General Secretary C.H. Venkatachalam told IANS.

IAN S

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



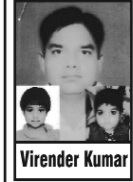
General public is here by informed that one Girl **Namely:** Laxmi, D/o Kishan Bahadur, R/o H. No. 349, Ground Floor, Munirka Village, New Delhi. **Age:** 14 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White colour Kurta, Cream Colour Legging and Green Colour Slipper in feet. has been missing/ kidnapped since 10.08.2020 at 01:00 PM from her house in the area of Kishangarh.

In this regard a FIR No. 361/2020 U/s 363 IPC dated 12.08.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kishangarh, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this Girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in P.S. Kishangarh, New Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-26510075, 7065036264
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/229/SW/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Virender Kumar** (along with two children namely **Name 1. Divisha Tanwar, Age: 07 years, and 2. Himani Tanwar Age 04 Years**) S/o: Dharmapal, R/o: H. No. 61, near Shiv Mandir, Bakner, Delhi has been reported missing since 04.09.2020 at about 8:30 AM from her house. In this regard DD No. 42A, dated 17.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Narela, Delhi. The description of missing male and her two children is as under:

- Name:** Virender Kumar, **Age:** 35 Years, **Height:** About 5'6", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Green or Black colour T-Shirt, Blue colour pant and Black shoes in feet.
- Name:** Divisha Tanwar, **Age:** 07 Years, **Wearing:** Jeans Pant-Top and Golden sandal in feet.
- Name:** Himani Tanwar, **Age:** 04 Years, **Wearing:** Jeans Pant-Top and Pink Colour sandal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing male and her two children please inform P.S. Narela, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station, Narela, Delhi
DP/488/ON/2020 Ph: 011-27280435, 7065036323

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



General public is here by informed that one female **Namely:** Mamta, D/o Unkown, R/o Bapnu Ghar, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi, **Age:** 26 Years, **Height:** 4'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, she is mute, **Wearing:** Pink Colour Kurta & Salwar and Slipper in feet, has been missing since 26.08.2020 at 3:30 am from her house, New Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 70A dated 26.08.2020 has been registered at P.S. Tilak Nagar Marg, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Tilak Nagar Marg, New Delhi
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Ph: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-23382100, 8750870526
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/112/NDD/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely **Ravi, S/o: Suresh Kumar, R/o: G-5, Gali No. 5, Wajirabad village, Delhi and gali no. 9 CM 770 Wajirabad village, Delhi was found on 15.09.2020 at In front of Batra Cinema, Delhi. Admitted in Bara Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi. Vide MLC No. 2339/2020. During the treatment the doctors declared him dead on 19.09.2020.**

Dead Body has been preserved in Bara Hindu Rao Hospital mortuary for identification. In this regard **DD No. 42A, dated 19.09.2020 U/s 174 Cr.P.C.** has been lodged at Police Station, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, **Age:** 42 Years, **Height:** 5'7", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Hair:** Black, **ID Mark:** Mark of Burn on right arm, **Wearing:** Black Printed T-shirt, gray lower and mala Orange colour..

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
DP/414/NW/2020 Ph.: 011-27654668, 27654675, 8750870231

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely **Mamta W/o Ganesh R/o C-4/8, Model Town-III, Delhi Aged-**about 24 Years has been reported missing since 15.09.20 at about 5 PM from her residence vide **DD No.52A Dated 19.09.20** registered at Police Station Model Town, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **ID:** Mentally weak, **Clothing:** Blue coloured kurta, red & black coloured salwar and Blue coloured slipper in feet.

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

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Model Town, Delhi
DP/410/NW/2020 Tel.: 011-27459202, 27120032, 27456072



Mamta

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Monika, D/o Anil, R/o H.No. 272, Village Naharpur, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 17.09.2020 at 7 p.m. Himalaya Public School, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 436/2020 dated 17.09.2020 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. North Rohini, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Monika, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 13 years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Identification Mark:** Cut mark below left eye, **Wearing:** White colour top and black colour jeans. If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/ North Rohini, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639 P.S. North Rohini, Delhi
DP/412/RD/2020 Ph. No. 011-27048210-27048211



Monika

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely **Parveen Sonkar S/o Gyanchar R/o G-1519, Jahangirpuri, Delhi Aged-**35 Years has been reported missing since 20.09.2020 at about 10 PM vide **DD No.118A Dated 21.09.2020** registered at Police Station Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Shallow, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **ID:** Put in front of the haircut, PS written on left hand, Silver bracelet left hand wrist, **Clothing:** White & blue coloured check shirt, Black coloured jeans and Sports shoes.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-27674452, 27672452
DP/406/NW/2020 Mob.: 8750870229




Parveen Sonkar

DOCYARD

DR (PROF) ALKA KRIPLANI

Director & Head —
Centre for Minimally
Invasive Gynecology
Obstetrics & ART
PARAS HOSPITALS, GURUGRAM





Don't ignore your mind's talks

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is one of the most common hormonal disorders that affect at least one in every 10 women in India. Despite it being so severe, there is still less awareness around the syndrome and its potentially devastating symptoms. Women suffering from PCOS go through a range of bodily issues like excessive body hair, weight gain, acne and sometimes infertility if it's not managed well. However, it doesn't end here. A research has shown that women suffering from this condition are more likely to suffer from mental health problems like depress, anxiety and bipolar disorder.

PCOS is a severe genetic, reproductive and metabolic disorder and is one of the leading causes of female infertility in India. It affects the way the functioning of the ovaries, which results in irregular periods, excess androgens (male hormones) in the body and polycystic ovaries. Studies suggest that up to 60 percent of women with PCOS also suffer from some form of mental illness. It can be attributed to the physical symptoms and nature of PCOS, which is so serious that the mental illness is often overlooked. Though there is no scientific research to prove what leads to deteriorating mental condition, it is generally considered to be caused by coping with the PCOS. But with so many women affected, it is important to try and identify whether or not there is a more specific cause for anxiety and depression in women with PCOS and how it can be prevented.

Link between PCOS and bipolar
When researchers at the University of Cardiff assessed the mental health history of more than 17,000 women diagnosed with the condition, the results showed those with PCOS were more likely to be diagnosed with depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder. It's still not clear what actually causes the condition whether it runs in families or related to abnormal hormone levels like high levels of insulin. Other issues associated with PCOS, such as excess hair growth and acne, can also lead to low self-esteem.

Studies suggest that up to 60 per cent of women with PCOS also suffer from some form of mental illness. It can be attributed to the physical symptoms and nature of PCOS, which is so serious that the mental illness is often overlooked

Even women, who are trying to get pregnant, also experience several mental turbulences because of with depression and anxiety caused by infertility. PCOS can host a series of mental conditions including:
■ Anxiety
■ Bipolar disorder
■ Major depressive disorders
■ Bulimia
■ Other eating disorders
■ Somatizations (physical manifestations of negative mental states)
■ Interpersonal sensitivity
It can be treated in two ways: treating the PCOS from its roots and treating the mental conditions arising from it. Many medicines are used to balance the blood sugar and insulin levels, normalize body weight and getting hormones balanced. One also needs to bring some lifestyle modifications including regular exercise, diet management by avoiding junk food and low-sugar diet and opting for healthy nutritious diet.

Treating the mental health issues needs a multifaceted approach. Cognitive behavioural therapy can be helpful in treating PCOS and anxiety attacks, and talk therapy can help people who are experiencing PCOS-related depression or general self-esteem issues. Even penning down your feelings will help to understand your patterns and triggers for mental illness. This will enable to practice self-care and stress reduction.

SUMMERCoolers

QUINOA: Quinoa contains almost twice as much fiber as most other grains which helps to relieve constipation and prevent heart disease by reducing high blood pressure and Diabetes. It makes a fine substitute for white rice or pasta when you're trying to add more fiber and nutrients to your diet. Moreover, it's flavoured, easy to digest, gluten-free, and high in protein. Quinoa contains Iron that helps keep our red blood cells healthy and is the basis of hemoglobin formation. It also increases brain function because the brain takes in about 20 per cent of our blood oxygen. Quinoa is rich in magnesium that helps to relax blood vessels and thereby to alleviate migraines. Magnesium also may reduce Type 2 Diabetes by promoting healthy blood sugar control. It is also rich in B vitamins, nutrients that help treat age spots and other conditions related to skin pigmentation by reducing the deposits of dark melanin in the skin. Quinoa is rich in lysine, which is important for tissue repair and growth.



Fight the killer

Every year, over one lakh people are diagnosed with blood cancer in India. DR SUNIL BHAT tells you the symptoms to look out for and how blood stem cell transplant can give patients a second chance at life

Blood cancer occurs when there is an abnormal blood cell growth which interrupts the normal blood cell functioning. When it comes to treating blood cancer, treatment depends on the type, age of the patient and stage of the cancer. However, the most common treatment includes chemotherapy, radiation and blood stem cell transplant.

Common symptoms:
■ Weakness or feeling fatigue due to decrease in red blood cells
■ Frequently falling ill and infections due to low immunity. Infections often develop in mouth, throat, skin, and lungs
■ Abnormal weight loss is also the primary symptom
■ Bleeding gums and blood from the nose

Blood stem cell transplant to lead a longer life

Every year, over one lakh people are diagnosed with blood cancer in India. Most often blood cancer can be treated by administering chemotherapy. However, for patients who cannot be treated with a chemo, their only hope of survival is through a blood stem cell transplant. A blood stem cell transplant infuses healthy blood stem

cells from a matching donor to the patient. Lymphoma, Leukemia, Myeloma and Hodgkin disease & other blood disorders such as Aplastic Anemia & Thalassemia can be treated with a blood stem cell transplant. A successful blood stem cell transplant in 70 per cent to 90 per cent of these patients may give them a second chance at life, depending on the disease condition and the donor type.

On registering as a potential blood stem cell donor

While lack of information is the biggest challenge faced by all potential blood stem cell donors today, multiple myths associated with blood stem cell donation pose a greater threat. These include a commonly believed notion that a few health risks are associated with the procedure; you are putting your life at risk by donating your blood stem cells etc.

A successful stem-cell transplant requires a perfect HLA type. There is a possibility of finding the perfect match from a donor of the same ethnicity. Sadly, patients of Indian ethnicity have a hard time in finding a match due to lack of potential donors.

Blood stem cell registries like

WHILE LACK OF INFORMATION IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACED BY ALL POTENTIAL BLOOD STEM CELL DONORS TODAY, MULTIPLE MYTHS ASSOCIATED WITH BLOOD STEM CELL DONATION POSE A GREATER THREAT. THESE INCLUDE THAT A FEW HEALTH RISKS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROCEDURE

DKMS-BMST help in unrelated donor transplant process that counsel donors, enroll donors, get their HLA typing done, facilitate search of the donors and later facilitate the blood stem cell collection and transplant. To reduce the gap and to ensure each blood cancer patient looking for a matching donor finds one, it is important to each of us to register as a potential blood stem cell donor.

Blood stem cell transplant during the pandemic

COVID-19 has definitely impacted healthcare delivery especially in blood cancer treatment. The virus poses a risk for blood cancer patients as they are immune deficient and are more prone to infection than any of us. We also see an impact on potential donor registration drives due to social distancing guidelines. This gap can be minimised by encouraging people to register online as potential donors and give patients suffering from Blood Cancer or other blood disorders like Thalassemia a second chance at life.

The writer is Director and Clinical Lead, Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Blood & Marrow Transplantation, Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre, Narayana Health City

GO BITE BY BITE

Most of the youngsters today suffer from heart diseases. The main reason being not eating a balanced diet. On World Heart Day, PRATISHTHA RAWAT lists out foods that can help keep your heart healthy



Eat what you may like, does not stand true in the current world shorn off physical activities. To ensure that the heart keeps running, you need to follow specific rules. It does not necessarily mean that you have to stop eating things randomly, but you should seek the advice of a health expert.

Without raising an alarm, the fact is that most of the youngsters face health issues such as Diabetes, thyroid, or hypertension. Most of these ailments or health problems are related to the quality of food that they consume. It is essential to include nutrient-vitamin rich food in diet to increase the life-line of a healthy heart. Usually, we ignore the signals that our heart gives us as we rely on old perception that heart diseases are only limited to a certain age. On the contrary, the fact is that one in four deaths in India is because of cardiovascular diseases and stroke is responsible for more than 80 per cent of this burden. On World Heart Day, here are a few food items that can be helpful to keep your heart healthy.

Berries: Berries are also full of antioxidant polyphenols, which help to reduce heart risks. They are a great source of fiber, foliate, iron, calcium, Vitamin A, and Vitamin C, and they are low in fat. You can add berries like strawberries, blueberries, raspberries with your everyday cereal or yoghurt.

Nuts: A handful of nuts like almonds and walnuts will not only be healthy for your heart but will satisfy your hunger as well. Walnuts and almonds have plant omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin E, magnesium, folate, fiber, heart-favorable monosaturated and polyunsaturated fats, and phytochemicals. Almonds help to lower blood pressure as well.

Seeds: Flaxseeds contain omega-3 fatty acids, fiber and phytochemicals to boost heart health. Chia seeds also provide omega 3, fiber and protein and can be eaten whole. You can sprinkle it on your breakfast cereal, on top of low-fat yoghurt, mix into muffins, or combine into your smoothies.

Green veggies: Vegetables like spinach, broccoli, and asparagus contain Vitamin C and E, potassium, folate, calcium, and fiber. Spinach makes an excellent base for salads and can be used on sandwiches in place of lettuce. Broccoli tastes great added to soups, mixed in with veggie dips, added to salads, or mixed with a brown rice dish. Asparagus makes an excellent heart-healthy side dish. Grill or steam lightly and sprinkle with some balsamic vinaigrette.

Simultaneously, one should also work on other lifestyle changes to prevent a heart attack. Some of the things that can help, include controlling your blood pressure and getting it checked regularly, keeping cholesterol and triglyceride levels under control, maintaining a healthy weight, eating a balanced diet and exercising regularly. The writer is a Health Coach

DadiKaKehna

While not everything can be treated with home remedies, there are a few tried and tested remedies that have worked wonders. ROSHANI DEVI shares some tips that can come in handy



Scraps and bruises are common if one has boys. There are a few remedies that can help treat them. For bruises my mother always made us eat onion or any red vegetable because it is believed to go straight to the red cells and help reproduce more. There is only one side effect — one smells of onion all the time.

Another thing that my mother always kept in handy were potato peels. She would put these on the bruises to hurry the healing. For mosquito bites,

hold half a lime over the flame of the gas till charred. Let it cool a bit. Rub the charred bit over the bite.

One natural treatment for acidity is chewing a few *tulsi* leaves after a meal. It helps the body absorb food but also prevents reflux and the formation of ulcers. There are a lot of people who suffer from acidity. Sucking a piece of clove after a meal helps in reducing the problem.

Boil six dates in 1/2 litre of milk for 25 minutes over low heat. Drink three cups a day for dry cough remedy.

TIPTOP

A groundbreaking interim report on a clinical trial being conducted in three Indian hospitals is showing that a combination treatment of an Ayurvedic Remedy called 'Immunofree' by Corival Life Sciences, and a Nutraceutical called 'Regimmune' by Biogetica has shown groundbreaking results against the present Govt SOP of conventional meds for coronavirus treatment.

The interim report shows that patients on the natural treatment are resolving most symptoms earlier than those on conventional medicines. Furthermore, numerous tests such as C reactive protein, Procalcitonin, D Dimer and RT-PCR for novel coronavirus are also showing 20 to 60% better improvement for the natural treatment, when compared to conventional treatment.

Numerous subjective endpoints such as body pain and fatigue are also leaning

towards the natural treatment. Both Clinician's Global Assessment of Symptoms and Subject's Global Assessment of Symptoms clearly showed improvements on both arms showing more significant data in the Test group. 86.66% of patients on the natural protocol have tested corona negative on day 5 vs 60% of patients on the conventional treatments. Moreover, on the 10th day test, all patients were negative, which could help in keeping the hospitals less occupied.

This CTRI approved trial is being conducted on Moderate COVID-19 positive patients. What sets this trial apart is the fact that it is the only time where half the patients in the trial have been given only natural treatment, which is being compared against the conventional treatment in use in India for COVID-19 patients.

SLIMLINE

On September 24, 2020 the Asia Pacific Medical Technology Association (APACMed) brought to fruition the first-ever hybrid virtual forum — Redefining Healthcare Agility, which welcomed more than 130 world class leaders from over 30 countries to share insights on how they are transforming the healthcare industry. The forum involved a plethora of interactive engagements, including live discussions, interviews and demonstrations.

The APACMed Annual MedTech Forum brings more than 1,000 delegates together

every year, making it one of the largest yearly forums in Asia Pacific. Owing to the pandemic, the 6th edition of the conference included on-site attendance of up to 50 people, along with virtual attendance of over 1000 delegates, thus becoming the first ever hybrid conference with a global reach to be hosted in the medical technology arena. The conference witnessed the participation of global and regional leaders, serving as the perfect setting for discussing collaboration and innovation opportunities in Asia.

INBRIEF

In the recent campaign to counter Covid-19, Narayan Garib Parivar Yojana has targeted to distribute monthly ration kits at home to 50000 families. Recently, Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) also distributed food, sanitisers and masks to 1000 families in Assam flood-affected area.

In the midst of the campaign, NGO has distributed food to over 12000 families from Udaipur, Delhi, Bhillwara, Alwar, Pali, Noida, Bikaner and Sirsa in various cities.

The NGO is also conducting health screening and clothing distribution camps. Amidst the lockdown NSS regularly undertook food distribution operations in Haryana, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra, where over 13,800 families got ration kits, 1,37,000 food packs, 68000 masks, 800 PP kits.

Prashant Agarwal, President of Narayan Seva Sansthan said: "Monthly food distribution campaign to poor-labor families, needy and differently abled with free equipment distribution camp, has attempted to share happiness in different ways.

Under the Narayan Garib Parivar Yojana, free food distribution camps are being organised in many states for the needy, so that no one who is needy starves."

The 34-year-old *seva yatra* has 418750 successful free operations of disabilities. A total of 2,63,000 tricycles, 2,70,000 wheelchairs, 2,90,000 crutches and 3,51,000 calipers are successfully distributed among the needy. Adding to this, NSS also supports education of children through free education of 200 orphans at its Campus in Udaipur.

Trend Blazer

Farhan talks about vitriolic news reporting

Actor-singer-filmmaker **FARHAN AKHTAR** on Monday spoke out against what he feels is vitriolic news reporting.

“Combined with Lata-ji’s birthday and Shaheed Bhagat Singh’s birth anniversary, here’s some more good news today.

Sincerely hope that the top brands in question follow through on their valid concern about vitriolic news reporting,” tweeted Farhan.

His tweet comes in reaction to a news piece that reads: “India’s top brands want news channels to stop being toxic, warn they could pull the plug on advertising.”



‘All this drug discussion would mean something if they pursued the actual hard drug cartels and suppliers also. It is also rather strange that a list of women stars are in the limelight even here. Like the men in film land only stick to milk and biscuits? Having said this I don’t have copious tears flowing for any film star.’

—Sona Mohapatra

Bollywood action star **TIGER SHROFF** stunned fans with his new Instagram video, where he is seen pulling off a flying kick after his recent injury.



“Feels good to fly again after injury. Hope you guys have an unbelievable week and make the unbelievable believable! #YouAreUnbelievable,” he captioned.

Recently Tiger, who is also a fitness enthusiast, flaunted his well-chiselled body on social media.

Paloma opens up on postpartum depression

Singer **PALOMA FAITH**, who is expecting her second child, has opened up about anxiety issues and postpartum depression that she faced had after her first childbirth three years ago.

“I did have a traumatic first birth and post-partum depression. So I am trying to make sure I surround myself with people who know that. I don’t think I realised I was that ill until it went away. It’s quite difficult because you wonder whether you’ll be happy again,” she said.



Restaurateur **PRIYANK SUKHIJA** redesigns the interiors of his restaurant for post-COVID continuity and a safe and sure experience. By **TEAM VIVA**

The COVID-19 outbreak has had severe economic consequences across the globe, which has led to dramatic changes in how businesses act and consumers behave. The scenario has hit the F&B industry so badly that now they are forced to change their interiors and menu to cater the current needs and safety concerns of people. Going with the current situation, Priyank Sukhija, MD & CEO of First Fiddle F&B Pvt Ltd, introduces a new concept, which encourages people to

When you are bubble-wrapped



dine out with safety at its priority as he unveils the new look his restaurant — Dragonfly.

Says Priyank, “Our industry has been unlucky since the beginning of the pandemic. Gradually, when unlock happened people returned to restaurants despite the restriction of liquor sales. When the

restrictions were finally removed, the second wave of cases came in and scared customers again. It was due to this reason that we thought of creating something which presents a safe alternative solution to our patrons. We actually did a research for approximately two months to think what could

fit in with social distancing norms yet look spectacular. Hence, pods were the answer.”

So that’s how they were introduced, for each party group who wants to dine out without being concerned about their safety. “We created pods which are open from the top, have a capacity to host up to 12

guests, enclosed with acrylic walls, allowing them the view of the restaurant as well. The concept is created to make sure that each of the diners feel safe,” says he.

The partitions, the walkways between them and just the area needed to allow the swing of the doors of each pod eats up the floor space of the restaurant but Priyank feels that it’s totally worth it if it helps gain the trust of the customers and keep them secure. The process includes thorough sanitising of each pod after every seating. While the servers will be in full protective gear, the more cautious parties can ask them to leave their food and drinks on the small serving tables placed

right outside the door so that no one enters their protective bubble.

Priyank, along with First Fiddle’s corporate head chef Sagar Bajaj, has curated a menu that comprises almost 80 per cent of exotic signature delicacies. The menu offers a blend of Asian fusion and European fusion dishes, modified to suit the tastes of Indians without losing the flavours of the authentic cuisines. Not only this, the restaurant has also introduced a few immunity booster dishes and cocktails in the menu.

Priyank believes that adapting innovative interiors will surely increase footfalls as people are very conscious now and are eagerly looking for such creative as well as safe experiences. “Pods will ensure your safety within confined limits, yet people will be able to enjoy the feel and services of the restaurant,” says he.

Expect the unexpected

In a new series, *Animal Impossible*, presenters **TIM WARWOOD** and **ADAM GENDLE** risk life and limb to discover the truth about animals. By **TEAM VIVA**

Do cats always land on their feet? Could a squid sink a ship? Is spider silk really stronger than steel? Endlessly curious presenters Tim Warwood and Adam Gendle risk life and limb to discover the truth about animals in a new series — *Animal Impossible*. In a fresh take on natural history filmmaking, the intrepid pair conducts audacious stunts, including a nerve-wracking swim with a great white shark, to find answers. However, they find more than they expected, discovering a whole host of strange and remarkable truths about the animal kingdom. Locations include Namibia, South Africa, Morocco, Germany, UK, USA, Canada, Costa Rica, Guyana and China. Excerpts:

□ **Why did you want to be involved with *Animal Impossible*?**

Tim Warwood: I have to be careful about how I answer this as my wife might read it. But basically, it was a great opportunity to meet some incredible animals up close and personal, while travelling the globe. It’s a no brainer to be honest. And to do it with my best mate was too good to be true. I also like to be the person that regals facts and stories so the whole series provides me with loads of ammo.

Adam Gendle: Same as Tim really! I’ve never had the opportunity to see wildlife like that and travel to so many incredible places. It seemed like



the job of a lifetime. Being able to share it with my best mate makes it all the more special even if I did have to look at him in a skin-tight zorbi suit in the bull’s episode.

□ **What’s going to surprise people most about it?**

Tim: So each episode has that one single fact which we set out to discover the truth behind. But we learn plenty of other facts along the way. I think I find some of those just as amazing. In the ‘can you fool a sniffer dog’ for example, I can’t believe that dogs can be taught to sniff out of USB sticks!

Adam: I think it might surprise people that they’re watching a wildlife show without wildlife experts presenting it. That’s one of things that makes it more exciting and fresh. We’re not experts at all but we get to experience these incredible animals and react to them in the same way anyone watching at home would. They’ll definitely

be surprised by some of the facts we find out along the way too.

□ **How was it like working with your best mate on this series?**

Tim: Terrible. I did this show to get away from my wife but ended up being forced to spend the whole time with him (laughs). It’s all good. It’s great to have Gendle there. Sometimes when the experts are telling us that everything will be ok, even though I know they are the experts with all the experience, all you need to hear is — ‘it will be alright mate’ — from your best friend.

Adam: It was brilliant. We’ve known each other all our lives and had some incredible times but I think this year has been on another level. It’s great to have your best friend there just so you can say ‘can you

believe we’re doing this’. In the moments where we’ve both been petrified, the other one always makes a joke to relax the other, which works most of the time.

□ **Who was the most accurate at predicting which facts were true or false?**

Tim: Me. I am generally the cleverest of the two of us. I am the worst timekeeper though. And I always lose stuff.

Adam: Me! Maybe it was pretty even but yes, Tim does lose everything. He lost about seven metal water bottles over the whole series. I kept one the whole time so I’m better than him (laughs).

□ **What all did you discover?**

Tim: I think the sniffer dog one. You can’t fool a sniffer dog. Also, the cat one. Cats always land on their feet. In fact, quite a few of them. And obviously sharks are mindless man-eaters. That’s a big one as many people in the world are scared of sharks. So hopefully on the quest to prove that one wrong, we can help a few people with their fear of the deep.

Adam: Definitely Sharks are mindless man-eaters and Piranhas can strip you to the bone. Mainly because I was the one putting my body on the line with the challenges for those ones. I got a bit obsessed with sharks in general and followed every shark channel on Instagram.

□ **Which animal fact outcome surprised you the most?**

Tim: The spider silk vs steel fact on paper is the one which you think to yourself. ‘No way is that real... The learning we did on that journey is bonkers. I like the fact that spiders produce seven different types of silk on average by seven silk glands. A single spider does not possess all seven glands but has at least three if it is male (dragline, attachment and swathing silk) or four if it is female. The additional one is for egg sac silk. They use different silk for building different parts of the web. Guess what? They never actually run out of silk. Also, keep your eye out for what the cichlid fish does in Germany. It looks like a goldfish but it can blow your mind.

Adam: Yes, I have to agree with Tim on that one. The spider silk thing was nuts and everything I learnt about spiders over the course of that episode was pretty incredible, especially because I was terrified of them to begin with. If we talk about cichlid fish, I was blown away by how smart they are. Although most cichlids are found at relatively shallow depths, several exceptions do exist. The deepest known occurrence is Trematocara at more than 300 m (980 ft) below the surface in Lake Tanganyika, African Great Lake.

□ **You did a lot of stunts on the show. Which one was the scariest?**

Tim: Personally, going in the corral with a bull was pretty sketchy. I wasn’t keen on that at all. But overall, probably watching Gendle climb into the water with a Great White Shark was the scariest. It was beyond ridiculous. I held my breath for 20 minutes.

Adam: Scary for you! How do you think I felt? Yes, the great white shark was something I’ll never forget. When I watched the show, the whole thing came back to me, the nerves of waiting and the excitement of being in the water, and of course the relief of not being bitten in half.

(The series premieres on October 5 at 9 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)



Indian-Australian choreographer **Ashley Lobo** is an advocate of movement related wellness. He believes dance is a doorway to physical, mental and emotional health. His message is particularly pertinent on September 29 which is observed as World Heart Day. This initiative by the World Heart Federation, aims to spread awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVD), including heart disease and stroke. Research has connected CVDs to sedentary, unhealthy lifestyle, unbalanced diet, excessive use of tobacco and alcohol.

Ashley reminds us that in India alone, the prevalence of CVDs is estimated

Dance your heart out

On World Heart Day, choreographer **ASHLEY LOBO** shares how dancing leads to a happy mind and a healthy body

ed to be around 54.5 million. As individuals, we may not always be able to control ambient air pollution or other environmental risk factors, but we can mitigate lifestyle risk factors. We could eat healthier, cultivate better habits and yes, dance!

Says Ashley, “Dance, I always say, is

not just about technique but also the heart and spirit. When you move to music, you shift the energy within and around you but there is research that shows us that dance is good for the heart as well. When you are dancing, you are working out, engaging multiple muscle groups, sweating it out just as you would if you were



on a running track or in a gym. It really doesn’t matter how you dance, as long as you do!”

The choreographer has students from various age groups, and he recommends dancing as a means to not just find joy in every day ennui but to keep the heart pumping to the beat of good health and peppy music. He concludes, “Don’t forget that heart is an organ too that needs to be exercised. We all have access to music and if we start moving a little every day, we will be happier and also dance our way to better heart health.”



I have been hitting it well for the past one year. So I was just sticking to my routine and feeling confident. I am happy to win a few games

That was something else, wasn't it? What we have seen from Tewatia in the nets is what we saw in that Cottrell over

Five (sixes) in the over, that is amazing. I tried to hit the leg-spinner, but unfortunately I couldn't. So I had to hit other bowlers

The kind of cricket we are playing, the brand of cricket and the plans we are executing, we are quite happy with that



Devidutt Padikkal batting during Indian Premier League between The Royal Challengers Bangalore and The Mumbai Indians held at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium

DP, AB take RCB to 201/3

PTI ■ DUBAI

AB de Villiers turned the clock back with his magnificent hitting after Aaron Finch and Devdutt Padikkal's stroke-filled half-centuries took Royal Challengers Bangalore's to an imposing 201 for 3 against Mumbai Indians in an IPL game despite another failure from skipper Virat Kohli.

It was De Villiers, who used all his might during the death overs to smash his way to an unbeaten 55 off 24 balls, taking the score past 200-run mark. His innings had four sixes and as many boundaries as the swift yet brutal assault of Jasprit Bumrah (0/42 in 4 overs) will be remembered for a long time.

Even James Pattinson (0/51 in 4 overs) received a lot of stick as two speed merchants accounted for 8 off the 10 sixes in the RCB innings.

It was De Villiers, who used all his might during the death overs to smash his way to an unbeaten 55 off 24 balls, taking the score past 200-run mark

The remaining couple were hit off MI's most successful bowler Trent Boult (2/34).

The last five overs produced 78 runs with Shivam Dube scoring 27 not out off 10 balls.

While Australia's white ball skipper Aaron Finch scored 52 off 35 balls to get his team off to a flying start, the extremely elegant Padikkal upped the ante in the later half with some delightful big hits, scoring 54 off 40 balls. The duo added 81 runs for the opening stand.

Padikkal's innings was studded with five boundaries and two sixes and a good stand of 62 runs for the third wicket with De Villiers, who then provided the final flourish as he has been doing for years now.

The tall upright Padikkal's second IPL half-ton will be remembered specially for two sixes off fast bowler James Pattinson. The first was when the left-hander rocked on the

backfoot and punched it over mid-off and the next was a stand and deliver straight into the sight screen.

This was after Finch took on the MI attack in the Powerplay overs and attacked both Bolt and Pattinson with great gusto. When leg spinner Rahul Chahar was introduced into the attack, Finch hit him for three boundaries as the 50 came off 31 balls. At that point Padikkal was only on 16.

Once Finch was holed out off a Boult slower, in came Kohli and looked as rusty as the last match during his nine ball stay. MI skipper Sharma changed Chahar's end, it yielded result as a delivery stopped on Kohli and his lazy inside out lofted shot was gleefully accepted at extra cover by Rohit.

Once De Villiers came in, Padikkal, changed gears as both started attacking the bowlers as a square cut off Kieron Pollard brought up his half century.

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



POINTS TABLE

		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	DC	2	2	0	+1.100	4
2	KXIP	2	1	1	+2.425	2
3	MI	2	1	1	+0.993	2
4	RR	1	1	0	+0.800	2
5	KKR	2	1	1	-0.767	2
6	CSK	3	1	2	-0.840	2
7	RCB	2	1	1	-2.175	2
8	SRH	2	0	2	-0.730	0

DC EYE HAT-TRICK

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Off to the best possible start with two wins on the trot, a confident Delhi Capitals will hope to keep the juggernaut rolling when they take on the winless Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match here on Tuesday.

Both sides have endured contrasting campaigns so far.

Delhi head in to the game after two morale-boosting victories. The Shreyas Iyer-led side edged past Kings XI Punjab in a thrilling Super Over before thrashing Chennai Super Kings comprehensively to jump to the top of the points table.

On the other hand, Sunrisers are the only side yet to register a win in the tournament, having lost both their games and David Warner and his men will be desperate to turn things around.

In their opening encounter, despite opener Jonny Bairstow (61) and Manish Pandey (34) putting Sunrisers in a winning position in a chase of 164, the team failed to cross the line.

Against Kolkata Knight Riders, the middle-order failed to fire and the team settled for a below-par total which the bowling unit couldn't defend.

Wriddhiman Saha was particularly slow and would be expected to play an innings more suitable to the format.

For Delhi, the South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje has looked sharp with the new ball while spinners Axar Patel and Amit Mishra have performed splendidly in the absence of



Ravichandran Ashwin.

Ashwin suffered an injury in the team's first outing and is likely to miss the match against Sunrisers.

"It is not a major injury, he bowled in the nets yesterday, he will comeback very soon. He is being monitored by physio, today again he will bowl at the nets. Maximum, he

might miss one more match," Amit Mishra said in a pre-match presser.

In batting, the onus will be on seniors such as Shikhar Dhawan to lay the foundation, and he will have the talented Prithvi Shaw at the top of the order for company.

Rishabh Pant and Iyer have also looked in good nick, after rescuing the team from a spot of bother in the first game, the two pitched in with valuable runs against CSK.

Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis has proved he is handy with the willow while Shimron Hetmyer can also compliment the strong batting line up.

For Sunrisers to do well, they would need to look beyond Warner and Bairstow. The side must click as a batting unit to post its first win of the season on Tuesday.

The 2016 champions replaced the injured Mitchell Marsh with Afghanistan off-spinner Mohammad Nabi, who played a quick cameo with the bat and also bowled an economical spell later.

However, with the batting unit letting them down in both outings, Sunrisers might consider bringing in Kane Williamson, who has recovered from his injury, to provide stability to the line-up. He would be coming in place of Nabi.

Sunrisers spinners led by Rashid Khan continue to impress but the side is lacking an out and out pace bowler who can hit the deck and push the batsman back off a good length.

Australian fast bowler Billy Stanlake is an option but with only four overseas slots available, his inclusion looks unlikely.

Dube not right choice at death: Pathan

IAN S ■ DUBAI

Former India fast bowler Irfan Pathan believes Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) should avoid bowling Shivam Dube at the death in the upcoming matches of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

RCB have so far played two matches in the tournament. In the first match, they registered a 10-run win against SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH) while in the next game, the Virat Kohli-led side suffered a crushing 97-run defeat against Kings XI Punjab.

"Look, I think they will get better as soon as Chris Morris comes in. I see Morris coming in, (Dale) Steyn going out and they are settled. What I don't want from RCB is S h i v a m Dube bowling

the death overs," said Pathan while speaking on Star Sports show Cricket Connected ahead of RCB's clash against Mumbai Indians to be played at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Monday evening. "They have a better team, they have better batsmen comparatively. They are not just dependent on AB de Villiers or Virat Kohli. This year they have Aaron Finch as well (Devidutt) Padikkal started very well," he added.

According to the former India all-rounder, Navdeep Saini should bowl a minimum of two overs at the death as "he's the guy who can nail those yorkers as well as he can just bluff the batsmen and bowl bouncers at the death as well".

IAN S ■ SHARJAH

While all the limelight was taken away by Rahul Tewatia during Rajasthan Royals' historic win over Kings XI Punjab, it was the incredible innings from Sanju Samson which laid the platform for the Steve Smith-led side during their chase at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Samson scored 85 runs as Royals chased down the target of 224 — highest ever in history of the Indian Premier League — with four wickets in hand and three balls to spare. His 42-ball knock was studded with four 4s and seven 6s.

Taking note of Samson's innings on Sunday, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said on Twitter: "What an absolutely incredible win for Rajasthan Royals! I've known Sanju Samson for a decade and told him when he was 14 that he

would one day be the next MS Dhoni. Well, that day is here. After his two amazing innings in this IPL, you know a world-class player has arrived."

However, Gautam Gambhir and S Sreesanth don't want the 25-year-old to be compared with the former India captain.

"Sanju Samson doesn't need to be next anyone. He will be 'the' Sanju Samson of Indian cricket," tweeted Gambhir replying to Tharoor.

"He is not next Dhoni, he is Sanju Samson the one and only. He should have been playing from 2015 regularly in all formats. Please don't compare him, if he had given right opportunities then, he would have been playing like this for India and would have won World Cups," said Sreesanth while replying to

Don't compare Sanju with MS



Sanju Samson plays a shot during Indian Premier League

the Congress MP. "I am sure he will still keep playing well and it's not just these two innings...He is gonna break a lot of records

Malayali from our Gods own country. His best is yet to come," he added.

The right-handed batsman had scored 74 runs off just 32 deliveries in Royals' first match of IPL 2020 which his side won against Chennai Super Kings by 16 runs.

Rajasthan Royals brand ambassador Shane Warne had praised Samson and said it was shocking to see that a talent like Samson is not a part of Team India across all formats.

"I have said for a long time and I think Sanju Samson is probably one of the most exciting players I have seen for a long time. I am surprised that he is not playing all forms of cricket for India," Warne had said in an Instagram live session done by the Royals before Sunday's game.

AP ■ MADRID

Luis Suárez quickly made an impact at Atlético Madrid. Former teammate Lionel Messi was his usual impressive self for Barcelona.

Suárez, who had his debut Sunday with Atlético after being told he was not wanted by Barcelona, scored twice and had an assist in the nearly 20 minutes he played in Atlético's 6-1 rout of Granada in the Spanish league.

Messi, who was forced to stay at Barcelona after telling the club he wanted

Wonderboy Fati

to leave, scored once and helped his team beat Villarreal 4-0 in its league opener under new coach Ronald Koeman. It was Messi's first official game with Barcelona since the club denied his request to leave in the offseason. He was outspoken against the club but had promised to give his best in what could be his final season at Barcelona.

Messi celebrated as usual after scoring from the penalty spot in the 35th minute at the Camp

Nou Stadium. He later also played a role in the own-goal by Pau Torres before halftime, as the Villarreal defender tried to intercept a cross by the Argentina great.

Messi missed a few other chances to score in the comfortable opening win for Koeman. The 17-year-old Ansu Fati, one of the players helping to make up for Suárez's absence in attack, put Barcelona on its way to victory with goals in the 15th and 19th minutes.

Thiem eases past Cilic

AP ■ PARIS

U.S. Open champion Dominic Thiem advanced to the second round of the French Open by beating former U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

The third-seeded Austrian won his first major tournament at Flushing Meadows two weeks ago and is among the favorites again at Roland Garros after losing the past two finals to Rafael Nadal.

Thiem broke the imposing Croatian's serve six times in cool conditions on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Cilic led 2-0 in the third set but Thiem reeled off the next five games before Cilic held again.



Thiem will next face American qualifier Jack Sock. He beat Reilly Opelka 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

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e Procurement Notice

BID IDENTIFICATION NUMBER - BLGR MPTY/01(01-35)/2020-21

Bid Documents consisting of work, Estimated cost, Cost of Tender paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractor and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in

1	Name of the Work	: Civil Construction work as mentioned in DTCN
2	No. of works	: 35 (Thirty Five) Nos.
3	Estimated Cost.	: Rs.1.00 Lakh to 10.00 Lakhs
4	Period of Completion	: 2 to 3 Calendar Months
5	Date and Time of on line Bidding	: from 11.00 AM of 28.09.2020 to 5.00 PM of 09.10.2020
6	Online Bids shall be Open on	: 12.10.2020 on 11.30 AM
7	Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, Balangir Municipality

8 Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

9 Further any addendum/ corrigendum/ clarification issued in connection with the tenders shall be uploaded in the above website and no news paper advertisement shall be given. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for obtaining all such details.

Executive Officer
Balangir Municipality

CAD-517

ODISHA PISCICULTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
D, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR – 751012
www.opdcld.in
mdopdc@rediffmail.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR TRANSPORTATION COST FOR SUPPLY OF FINGERLINGS TO BALIMELA RESERVOIR IN MALKANGIRI DISTRICT OF ODISHA

Eol No. 6 DATED 26.09.2020

Expression of Interest(Eol) are invited from private hatchery owners and fingerling growers of State from all the districts of Odisha by registered post/ speed post/ courier to quote transportation cost per lakh of fingerlings(81-100mm) to be supplied to the Balimela reservoir of Malkangiri district of Odisha during the year 2020-21. Cost of fingerling shall be as per Govt approved price. All the expression of interest can be submitted to Managing Director, Odisha Pisciculture Development Corporation, D-Nayapalli, Bhubneswar-751012 on or before 12.10.2020 5.00PM. All the bids shall be opened on 13.10.2020 12.30 PM. The authority reserves the right to alter the date of opening or cancel the Eol without assigning any reason thereof. The details of Eol can be downloaded from our website www.opdcld.in.

OIPR-06020/11/0010/2021

GENERAL MANAGER