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China stalling bid to defuse tension at LAC

Beijing yet to confirm date of upgraded military-level talks planned for this week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After agreeing to hold upgraded military-level talks this week, China is yet to confirm the date, stalling attempt to defuse the volatile situation prevailing at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. The situation is so grim that the border saw at least four incidents of firing by the Indian and Chinese armies in the last 15 days.

Tension cooled down after extensive talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on September 10. It was agreed there to continue the military and diplomatic-level talks.

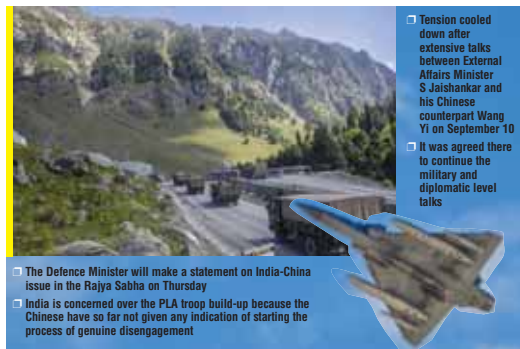
Sources said China was yet to inform India about the next date though they had agreed in principle to have the next round sometime this week.

With the Opposition seeking to know from the Government if China occupied any part of our land during repeated attempted transgression since May, the Defence Minister will make a statement on India-China issue in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. This announcement came after a meeting chaired by the Defence Minister resolved that the Government will allow dis-

cussions on issues like the China crisis, GST, Covid and National Education Policy. During the meeting, Rajnath agreed to take one or two questions on the LAC situation after his speech in the Rajya Sabha.

India is concerned over the PLA troops build-up because the Chinese have so far not given any indication of starting the process of genuine disengagement. So far Lt General Harinder Singh and his Chinese counterpart Liu Lin have held five rounds of talks since June but could not achieve any breakthrough. In the last round of talks on August 2, both sides agreed to withdraw their troops from the friction points and pull back additional troops from the depth areas as a confidence-building measure. However, China later refused to do so and the stalemate continues.

Holding a bilateral meeting at the political level in Moscow for the first time since the stand-off on the LAC in Eastern Ladakh started in May, the two Foreign Ministers agreed on a five-point plan to disengage and de-escalate at the border. Since then relative peace prevailed with both the armies staying put at their positions on all the friction points.



■ The Defence Minister will make a statement on India-China issue in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday
■ India is concerned over the PLA troop build-up because the Chinese have so far not given any indication of starting the process of genuine disengagement

As regards incidents of firing, sources said here on Wednesday the border witnessed four such episodes. This revelation came even as both the sides so far maintained that one incident had taken place on September 7. While China had blamed India of opening fire, India flatly denied the accusation and held responsible Chinese troops for breaching the 45-year-old peace.

The third incident also

took place there on September 7 when the belligerent Chinese troops fired warning shots in the air but the Indian Army maintained calm. This

provocative act by the Chinese was part of a failed attempt to dislodge the Indian Army troops now positioned on the strategically important hill tops

in the area.

This firing incident was just four days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart held more than two hour-long bilateral meetings in Moscow during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet on September 4.

The fourth episode of both sides firing in the air as a warning was reported from the northern bank of the Pangong Tso (lake) on September 9. It was a day before Jaishankar was to hold parleys with Wang Yi.

The Indian Army in a pre-emptive move readjusted its troop deployment and occupied heights on the north bank in the first week of this month. The Chinese have intruded more than five km here and have deployed a large number of troops.

However, the surprise move by the Indian Army now has placed it in an advantageous position as it now overlooks the Chinese posts at

most points in the zone. This rattled them and the Chinese tried to dislodge the Indian troops on September 7 and 10 leading to firing, sources said. Since then, the Indian Army is now deployed on key hills, including Black Top

besides Rezang La and Rechin La. Mountain passes are known as La in the Tibetan language. The latest attempt by the PLA to remove the Indian soldiers was in the area between these two mountain passes at Mukphari, sources said.

No infiltration reported along India-China border in last 6 months, RS told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the massive troop buildup along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh and several skirmishes between China's PLA and the Indian Army since May, the Centre on Wednesday informed the Rajya Sabha that "no infiltration has been reported along the India-China border during the last six months".

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply that since February there had been 47 cases of attempted infiltration along the India-Pakistan border and added that "no infiltration has been reported along India-China border during the last six months".

BJP MP Anil Agarwal asked the Upper House in a written question whether it was a fact that cases of infiltration from Pakistan and China had increased in the last six months.

On Tuesday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh informed the Rajya Sabha that China had mobilised a large number of troops and armament along the LAC as well as in the "depth areas". He said the LAC was not commonly delineated.

Singh said that in early May, the Chinese side took action to hinder the normal, traditional patrolling pattern of Indian troops in the Galwan valley area, causing a face-off.

However, MHA officials said the answer by Nityanand Rai is not in conflict with what Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said. "Infiltration as terminology is associated with terrorists or action where a hostile element sneaks into our territory and moves to the hinterland," a senior official said.

MHA officials added that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had also spoken about attempted transgressions by Chinese troops in his address to the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Withdrawal of Army's purported statement on readiness to take on China creates confusion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A purported statement from the Indian Army about its operational preparedness to take on China in a war has created a lot of confusion after the statement was cancelled on Wednesday evening.

The source of the confu-

sion was an email sent by the PRQ of Udhampur (Defence) to Jammu-based reporters of all major TV channels and print media. The statement attributed to a spokesman of the Northern Command said, "The Indian Army is fully prepared and more than capable of fighting a full-fledged war even in winters in Eastern

Ladakh." The spokesman said the Indian soldiers have experience of winter warfare and are psychologically tuned to operate at short notice.

He said, "The Indian Army has experience in Sichen where conditions are much more demanding than the frontiers with China."

Babri demolition verdict on Sept 30

Advani, Joshi, Kalyan and Uma asked to be present in court

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The special CBI court hearing the Babri mosque demolition case of December 6, 1992, in which senior BJP leaders LK Advani, MJP Manohar Joshi, Kalyan Singh and Uma Bharti are among the 32 accused, will pronounce its judgment on September 30.

Special judge SK Yadav has completed all the arguments and reserved his judgment on September 2 last.

The special court has directed all the 32 accused, including former Deputy Prime Minister Advani, former Union Minister Joshi and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, to be present in the court on the day of the judgment.

The hearing of the trial was completed on August 30 but the written submission was

made on September 2, after which the verdict was reserved.



The special judge SK Yadav, who has retired but was on extension by the orders of the Supreme Court, has been asked by the SC to complete the formalities by September 30.

Advani, who recorded his statement on July 24, 2020 through video conferencing, had denied all charges of the CBI made against him on the conspiracy to demolish the Babri mosque structure.

18K-page chargesheet filed against 15 for Delhi riots

Anti-CAA WhatsApp groups used to trigger violence, says chargesheet

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police on Wednesday filed a 17,500-page chargesheet against 15 people at Karandooma court in a "larger conspiracy" case under the stringent anti-terror law — Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act — related to the communal violence that broke out in February in the national capital.

Police have so far arrested 21 people and 15 names mentioned in the chargesheet are based on scientific, documentary and testimonial evidence gathered during investigation. Police said the chargesheet against the remaining six names will be filed after collecting sufficient evidence and completing statutory and pro-



cedural requirements. Among those named in the chargesheet are Pinjra Tod members and JNU students Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha, former Congress Councillor Ishrat Jahan,

Meeran Haider, Jamia Coordination Committee members Safoora Zargar, expelled Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Councillor Tahir Hussain and activist Khalid Saifi. Apart from these, the names of Mohammad Pervez Ahmed, Mohammad Illas, Shahab Ahmad, Taslim Ahmad, Salim Malik, Mohammad Salim Khan and Athar Khan appear in the chargesheet as key conspirators.

According to police, the chargesheet includes accounts of over 700 witnesses, technical evidences WhatsApp chats and call data records (CDRs).

Police teams have specifically mentioned about the WhatsApp chats on February 24 as evidence in the chargesheet. That was the time when riots were happening in the city. At that point, the key conspirators were guiding their foot soldiers about violence in the Northeast area. They were directly in touch with rioters," said the sources.

Provide slum dwellers along rly tracks pucca houses: Jain to Centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain has requested the Centre to provide pucca houses to thousands of slum dwellers residing across the railway tracks.

Jain said, "Jahan jhuggi, wahan makaan" was the promise made by both the AAP and the BJP. "Not only that, on the orders of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal but the Delhi Government has also made it a legal right of these poor families by formulating a policy to provide them pucca houses near their slums."

The Centre Government has also accepted this policy of the Delhi Government by filing an affidavit in another case in the Delhi High Court. "The Delhi Government has over 40,000 flats, of which some are ready and some will be ready soon. These flats can also be used if needed, and the Delhi Government had also written a letter to the railways last week in this regard. But, these flats are located on the outskirts of Delhi. These flats can be given to slum dwellers who live in areas that do not have vacant land around and who cannot be provided houses under 'Jahan jhuggi, wahan makaan' policy," he said.

Jain said the BJP and AAP have both promised the slum dwellers to provide them pucca houses located near their slums and the Delhi Government has set up this policy for the development of the slum dwellers.

10 farmer organisations in Punjab call for Punjab bandh on September 25

Chandigarh: Up in arms against the Central Government's move of enacting three agriculture-related laws, no less than 10 farmer organisations in Punjab have announced 'Punjab Bandh' on September 25 to protest against "anti-farmer Bills".

The decision was taken in a meeting of the organisations, held in Ludhiana on Wednesday. It was decided that all businesses, road and rail transport would be completely shut down across Punjab on September 25.

To decide upon the strategy of the statewide bandh and make it a success, a joint meeting of all the farmers' organisations of Punjab has been convened on September 19 in Joga to bring all the farmers' organisations on one platform and intensify the farmers' movement.

The meeting was attended by Jamhuri Kisan Sabha general secretary Kulwant Sandhu, Kirati Kisan Union president Nirbhaj Singh Dhurandik, Bhartiya Kisan Union (Dakshin) president Buta Singh Buri Gill and general secretary Jagmohan Patiala, Krantikari Kisan Union president Manjit Dhanraj, general secretary Gurmeet Mahima, Ruldu Singh Mansa, Sarat Singh of All India Kisan Sabha, Kisan Sangharsh Committee general secretary Harjit Ravi, leaders of Azad Kisan Sangharsh Committee, Jai Kisan Andolan, Punjab Kisan Sabha Sambar, and All India Kisan Sabha Punawal.

PNS

SAD issues three line whip to RS members to oppose central Ordinances

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

An ally of the ruling NDA at the Centre, Shriomani Akali Dal (SAD) Rajya Sabha chief whip Naresh Gujral on Wednesday issued a three line whip to all members of the Rajya Sabha to oppose the three central Ordinances related to agriculture, including as well as amendments in the Essential Commodities Act.

In the whip, Gujral has directed all SAD Rajya Sabha members to oppose the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020, The Farmers Produce, Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020 and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill 2020.

Detailed reports on Pg 3

Haryana sees 2nd highest single day surge of 2,694 Covid-19 cases

Total tally crosses one lakh

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana State Health Department on Wednesday said the state has reported the second highest single day surge of 2,694 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking tally to 101,316 in the State.

Nineteen people succumbed to coronavirus infection-related deaths in the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 1,045.

Of the fresh deaths, five were reported from Karnal, two each from Gurugram, Faridabad, Panchkula, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar and one each from Kaithal, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh, Ambala, according to the state health department's daily bulletin.

Among the 1,045 fatalities, 731 are males and the rest females. The State has 21,334 active cases while 78,937 have been discharged following recovery.

As of Wednesday, the State has a recovery rate of 77.91 per cent, fatality rate was 1.03 per cent, doubling rate is 27 days and positivity rate 6.50 per cent, according to the bulletin.

Steepest single day hike of 2,717 cases in Punjab, 78 succumb

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Registering the 2000-plus cases of the novel coronavirus for the eighth successive day, Punjab on Wednesday hit another unfortunate milestone of steepest hike of 2,717 fresh cases in a single day, pushing the state's COVID-19 tally to 87,184. Besides, 78 more lives were snuffed due to the deadly contagion in the past 24 hours, taking the death toll to 2,592 in the state.

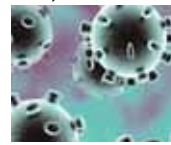
The state had registered the highest number of cases earlier on September 13 with 2,628 fresh infections. Punjab had reported 2000-plus cases for the first time on September 7 with 2,110 cases, followed by 2,137 on September 9, 2,464 on September 10, 2,526 on September 11, 2,441 on September 12, 2,496 on September 14, 2,481 on September 15, and 2,717 on September 16.

Till date, as many as 33,192 cases and 1,139 deaths have been reported in the first fortnight of September — that is on

an average, 2,075 persons are testing positive and 71 are succumbing to the contagion every day in Punjab.

The number is alarmingly higher than the figures recorded during the month of August, which has been the crudest month till now. In August alone, the state reported whopping 37,873 cases and 1,067 casualties — on an average, 34 deaths and 1,222 fresh cases every day in August.

Ludhiana, with 562 fresh cases in the span of 24 hours, topped the higher number of cases on Wednesday, followed by 272 from SAS Nagar (Mohali), 267 from Amritsar, 247 from Patiala, 209 from Jalandhar, 206 from Hoshiarpur, 144 from Gurdaspur, 131 from Sarikh, 119 from Bathinda, 78 from Ropar, 72 from Kapurthala, 54 each from Fazilka and SBS Nagar, 53 from Sangrur, 50 from Mansa, 39 from Ferozepur, 37 from Pathankot, 35 from Fatehgarh Sahib, 32 from Moga, 25 from Barnala, 19 from Muktsar, and 12 from



Tarn Taran.

The deadly contagion claimed maximum of 15 lives in Ludhiana district on Wednesday; followed by 11 in Patiala; 10 in Jalandhar; nine in

Amritsar; six in Bathinda; five each in Sangrur and Hoshiarpur; three in Moga; two each in Fazilka, Kapurthala, Muktsar, and Ropar; and one life each in Barnala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Mansa, and Pathankot.

Of the total 2,592 fatalities in Punjab, highest 622 deaths have been registered in Ludhiana district, 281 in Jalandhar, 278 in Amritsar, 264 in Patiala, 139 in SAS Nagar, 121 in Sangrur, 108 in Kapurthala, 103 in Hoshiarpur, 100 in Gurdaspur, 81 in Bathinda, 80 in Ferozepur, 61 in Fatehgarh Sahib, 53 in Moga, 47 in Ropar, 46 in Tarn Taran, 40 in Pathankot, 33 each in Fardkot and Barnala, 32 in SBS

Nagar, 27 in Muktsar, 25 in Fazilka and 18 deaths in Mansa district. In COVID-19 tally, Ludhiana is also leading with 14,738 cases, followed by Jalandhar 10,358, Patiala 9,459, SAS Nagar 7,443, Amritsar 7,236, Gurdaspur 4,504, Bathinda 4,320, Hoshiarpur 3,304, Sangrur 2,948, Pathankot 2,592, Ferozepur 2,501, Kapurthala 2,263, Fardkot 2,174, Moga 1,953, Muktsar 1,848, Fazilka 1,572, Fatehgarh Sahib 1,538, Barnala 1,521, Ropar 1,486, Tarn Taran 1,251, Mansa 1,154 and SBS Nagar 1,106.

A total of 2,756 patients — including 661 from Ludhiana, 610 from Ferozepur, 527 from Jalandhar, 206 from Patiala, 187 from Gurdaspur, 183 from Amritsar, among others — were discharged in the past 24 hours after recovering from the contagion.

With 63,570 patients cured of the virus in the state so far, the state still has 21,022 active cases, of which 451 patients are on oxygen support and 82 are critical and on ventilator.

Classified

LOST AND FOUND

I. It is notified for the information that my original certificate of 10th Examination year 2011, Roll No. 22069690 issued by CBSE has been actually Lost. Candidate Name: Rakesh Singh, R/o Village Dargah, Distt. Patankot.

I. Indar Singh Declares That Original Conveyance Deed No. 4214 Of 22.02.2005 Favoring Baksh Singh Of House No. 712/A, Sector-65 Mohali is Lost. D/O No. 019475/2020 Of 16.09.2020 Is Lodged. If anybody has this Deed, please contact 9898910000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sada Nand S/o Sush Singh and Nayab W/o Sada Nand R/o Village Rajpur, Rani, Distt. Patankot, Haryana Declares that on my Arvind Sharma and his wife Anika Sharma are out of our control. We disown them from our all moveable and immovable properties. Anybody deals with them at their own risk.

I, Girdhar Kapoor S/o Late Sh. Baderaj, Raj Kapoor R/o 72/37 Sector-11 Panchkula my wife Late Kapoor and my both daughters Jyotsna Kapoor and Ekta Kapoor are out of my control and I disown them from all their assets.

I, Roshni W/o Late Sh. Ranohara R/o Neta Ji Colony, 12, Quander Road, Hissar (Haryana) declare that my son Monu Kumar is out of my control. I disown him from all my moveable - immovable property if any body deals with him, they are at their own risk. I & my family will not be responsible.

We Sanjay Kumar S/o Late Sh. Sham Lal and Smt. Pratibha Rani W/o Sanjay Kumar VPO Rajpur Rani, Distt. Panchkula Haryana Declares that we have disowned my son Rahul Sharma who is out of our control. We disown him from all his moveable and immovable property. Anybody who deals with him, they are at their own risk.

I, Gyanwalee Devi W/o Late Sh. Bahadur R/o 72, S/N-2, Mohalla Sunder Nagar, Patiala had disowned my son Yoginder Singh earlier. Now he is good people and under my control. I revoke my earlier notice. Now I have no issue. He is my legal heir.

I, Yashvir Singh S/o Smt. Ram R/o Village Kharkhal, Teh. Charkhola, Distt. Karnal Declared My Son Anurag Arya is My Out Of Control S/o Disowned To My All Property.

I, Sikander S/o Bakhra Ram R/o Village Bhawal, Teh. Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, have disown my son Santy Kumar from all my moveable immovable properties, as he is out of my control.

I, Darshana Devi W/o Punam Rani R/o Gali No. 7, Kailash Nagar, Kurukshetra, have disown my son Harish Kumar and his wife Anika Sharma from all my moveable immovable properties, as they are out of my control.

I, Minu Kumar S/o Rameshwar Dass R/o Vikas Nagar, Karnal declared that I have no concern with my father Rameshwar Dass. My brother Sonu Kumar, not responsible for their legal or illegal. Anyone deal with them at their own risk.

I, Harday Singh S/o Sandhu Singh have changed my Address VPO Mauz Tehsil Patiala Distt. Sangrur To My New Address Neta Ji Colony, Lal Ward No. 1 VPO Bhadour Tehsil Patiala Distt. Barnala Punjab Pin 146102.

I, No. 155667991, Rank LNK Rajendra Singh S/o Sardar Singh, R/O Ward No. 8, Vill. Nagda, Alatan, Patiala, Punjab declare that in my army record my name is changed wrongly written as Jodhvir Singh instead of his correct name Yudhvir Singh as per his educational & others documents, concerned.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Krishan Ram Date Of Birth 10/03/1982 S/o Sh. Pothi Ram R/o 55 Ramganga Panchkula Distt. Panchkula have changed my Name From Krishan Ram to Krishan Ram.

I, Sahil Sharma S/o Subhash Sharma previously R/o 3994, Sector-22, Chd has changed my name to Saahin Sharma and now residing at 47/51, Sector-41-A, Chd.

I, Nagesh Kumar S/o Gopal Charan R/o Naveen colony house No. 124 Naranagar Distt. Ambala Haryana have changed my name to Nagesh Chauhan.

I, Gurucharan Kaur is legally wedded spouse of Late Army No. 334372 NK Manjit Singh. I have changed my name to Sasthi Sharma and now residing at 47/51, Sector-41-A, Chd.

I, Nagesh Kumar S/o Gopal Charan R/o Naveen colony house No. 124 Naranagar Distt. Ambala Haryana have changed my name to Nagesh Chauhan.

I, Gurucharan Kaur is legally wedded spouse of Late Army No. 334372 NK Manjit Singh. I have changed my name to Sasthi Sharma and now residing at 47/51, Sector-41-A, Chd.

I, Nagesh Kumar S/o Gopal Charan R/o Naveen colony house No. 124 Naranagar Distt. Ambala Haryana have changed my name to Nagesh Chauhan.

I, Abhishek S/o Rajesh Kumar R/o VPO Jundla Distt. Karnal declare that I have change my name Abhishek to Abhishek Jangra. For all future purposes.

I, JC-490913N Rank - Ex Sub. Major - Dhanraj Pal S/o Babir Dass R/o Vill & P.O. - Gharola, Teh. - Distt. - Patankot, (PB) declare that in my service record name of my son Deepansu wrongly written. Please correct it. Deepansu has changed my name to Kunal Thakur. Executive Magistrate, Patankot.

I, Poonam Saranaj Singh R/o VPO Kunal Thakur R/o #31, Wadhawa Nagar, Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar, Punjab have changed my name to Poonima Singh Thakur.

I, Kunal Saranaj Singh Thakur S/o Rajinder Kumar Thakur R/o #31, Wadhawa Nagar, Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar, Punjab have changed my name to Kunal Thakur.

I, 15462324W Ex LD Manjit Singh Dhillon S/o Sh. Prabh Dill Singh VPO Mazara Dingrith Tehsil Gharhankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name to Harje Jan Kaur to Harbhajan Kaur. Concemed note.

I, 2468811Y Ex Hav Ashini Kumar S/O Sh. Hans Raj V/O P/O Badli, Tehsil, Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my son's name from Rethika Rana to Rethika Rana. Concemed note.

I, Sukhwant Singh S/o Lechananda Singh, H No. 10, Nagar, Nangal, Tehsil Nangal (Ropar), have changed my name Sukhwant Singh Sheeran.

I, Rajat S/o Roshan Lal, R/o P.O. Ram Colony, Street No. 1, Fazilka, have changed my name to Rajat Sarodia.

I, Deshpal S/o Late Sh. Dulchandra R/o # 2133/1, Piphalwa Distt. Karnal, Haryana is hereby declared that Deshpal and Deshpal Wives is one and same person.

I, Rajesh Kumar S/o Indar R/o Village Chuhamaur, Sub Tehsil Dhandi, Distt. Karnal (U.C. Policy No. 176314901), declare that Rajesh Kumar alias Hattarajal is the name of same person i.e. me. I know with both name.

I, No. 7009503EX Hav Harbir Singh # 2111 Gurga Narak Pura, Ambala City, Haryana. My Daughter Name from Baby To Gurucharan Kaur.

I, Beena Gahlaut W/o Sh. Manoj Kumar, Gahlaut R/o P.O. 1524, Sector-5, Sonapat declared change My Name from Beenu Gahlaut to Beena Gahlaut. Now I known as Beena Gahlaut past and future. Beena Gahlaut.

I, Gurpreet Singh S/o Pinder Singh R/o Village Ghilaur Radour, Yamunaganj, have changed my name to (Give name) Gurpreet and (Surname) Singh.

I, Brinder Singh Tomar father of Army No. 15468489P Rank DFR Nara Singh, R/o 14, Sector-5, P.O. Gailtha, Teh. Jaisr, Distt. Morena, State MP. 476218 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Brinder Singh Tomar vide affidavit dated 16/09/2020 before Session Court, Hissar.

I, Sneha Late spouse of Army No. 1546492P Rank DFR Nara Singh, R/o 14, Sector-5, P.O. Gailtha, Teh. Jaisr, Distt. Morena, State MP. 476218 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sneha Late to Sneha Late vide affidavit dated 16/09/2020 before Session Court, Hissar.

I, Kishna Devi spouse of Army No. JC244924X Rank RIS Name Bharat Singh VPO Takra, Teh. Chhambra, Distt. Karnal, State U.P. 209731 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Kishna Devi to Kusuma Devi vide affidavit dated 16/09/2020 before Session Court Hissar.

I, No. 3186185-L, EX NK Rajesh Kumar S/o Ram Bahaj Singh R/o Village Khanpur Kalan, Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana. I hereby declared that have change my name from Panekj Kumar and DOB 01-06-2002 (existing name and date of Birth) to Rajesh Kumar and DOB 11-06-2001 (proposed New name and DOB) vide Affidavit dated, 15.09.2020.

I, Paramjit Kaur W/o Service No. 6487519H Rank Hav. Amrik Singh R/o Vill. Sonala, PO. Sidhuwal, Teh. & Distt. Patiala. I hereby declared that I have changed my name from Paramjit Kaur to Paramjit Kaur and DOB from 02-02-1977 to 01-01-1978 in my husband's public record.

I, Raminder Kaur Legal Spouse Of Hav Sarbjit Singh Unit 310 Field Regiment And Resident Of Jai Gitanwalee Po. Dhanpur Distt. Gurdaspur State Punjab. I have changed My Name From Raminder Kaur To Raminderjit Singh. My Date Of Birth Is 11-09-2020 Before Executive Magistrate Gurdaspur Punjab.

I, No. 2487935X Ex NK Nirmal Singh S/O Aji Singh, Tehsil Dhandharnat Post Office Singh Pura Tehsil Dera Baka Nanki Distt. Gurdaspur (Punjab), have changed my name to Nirmal Singh. My Date Of Birth Is 25-10-2000 To 25-10-2000.

I, 2487935X Ex NK Nirmal Singh S/O Aji Singh, Tehsil Dhandharnat Post Office Singh Pura Tehsil Dera Baka Nanki Distt. Gurdaspur (Punjab), have changed my name to Nirmal Singh. My Date Of Birth Is 25-10-2000 To 25-10-2000.

PNB SHIMLA

After almost six months, the Himachal Pradesh government has allowed unrestricted movement of people in the hill state as per the Union Ministry of Home Affairs' guidelines, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said on Thursday.

Speaking in the state assembly, the chief minister said the state Cabinet on Tuesday decided to open the interstate movement as all other states were already doing so. We had continued restrictions till now just for containing in case any person tests positive for COVID-19.

The unrestricted movement guidelines to spur economic activities, the chief minister said. He further said as per ICMR guidelines, those corona patients would not be tested again if they have remained in isolation for ten days without any symptoms for the last three days. Such people will be asked to remain in further isolation at home for a week, he added. Expressing concern over increasing corona cases, especially during the last 10-15

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an application has been received from Mr. Navin Kumar S/o Shri Begraj Saini R/o Village & Post Office Ram Saran Majra, District Kurukshetra and Sita Rawat D/o Shri Channa Singh Vijay Gaur Rawat R/o Via Trieste N/A/ Falconara Marittima, Italy, Now Resident at Village Ram Saran Majra, District Kurukshetra for the solemnization of Marriage under special Marriage Act, 1954, any person having any objection to the marriage may, within thirty days of the date of this notice, apply in writing to the undersigned specifying grounds for such objection.

Place : Kurukshetra Date : July 29, 2020

Deputy Commissioner, Kurukshetra

Marriage Officer, Kurukshetra

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.

Public Notice

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Himachal Pradesh unrestricted movement in State

Delhi. Thakur urged legislators to make the general public aware of the home-isolation for asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic patients. The CM further stated that five makeshift hospitals, each of 50-bed capacity, in Shimla, Tanda, Nahau, Una and Nalagarh respectively, in the next 15 days.

OPENING OF BARS ALLOWED

The Himachal government has allowed opening of bars in the state from 15 September onwards, a statement said here.

All the norms and Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) specified by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs have to be followed properly. As per the order, no liquor will be sold without social distancing and they will have to keep sanitizers. Provision for thermal scanning, hand wash and sanitizer would be made at all entry points besides ensuring regular health checkups of all the staff to monitor the ILL symptoms.

Justifying the Cabinet's decision of home isolation of corona patients, Thakur said as many as 95,000 corona patients were cured of the virus in the state.

He said the government is fully prepared to provide treatment to corona patients. The CM said currently a total of 1,655 corona patients – both asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic – are in home isolation which amounts to 45 percent of current active cases in the state.

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Russia inks deal with Dr Reddy's for Sputnik-V trial in India



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the world races to develop vaccines to combat the deadly Covid-19, India on Wednesday witnessed two major developments in the sector: While the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) inked a deal with Dr Reddy's Laboratories to conduct a clinical trial and distribution of 100 million doses of its Covid-19 vaccine, Sputnik V, in India, the Serum Institute of India (SII) got the DCGI nod to resume the clinical trial of the Oxford vaccine.

Covid cases in paramilitary forces cross 33K mark

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 infections in the paramilitary forces have surpassed the 33,000-mark and the deaths due to the disease have breached the 100 tally.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has reported 9,253 cases of Covid-19 infections till now and 42 patients have succumbed to the illness. While 1,463 patients continue to be active, the remaining have been cured.

Likewise, the Border Security Force (BSF) has reported 9,337 cases of infection and 25 casualties to Covid-19. As many as 1,860 cases continue to be active in the BSF ranks.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has reported



The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has reported 5,719 cases of Covid-19 infection in its ranks and 24 personnel have died due to the disease. A total of 1,293 patients continue to be active.

The Sashastha Seema Bal (SSB) has reported 3,132 cases of Covid-19 and seven casualties due to the infection.

"Deliveries could potentially begin in late 2020 subject to completion of successful trials and registration of the vaccine by regulatory authorities in India," it added.

Assam Rifles has reported 1,605 cases of Covid-19 and deaths due to the viral disease.

The total number of Covid-19 infections across the paramilitary forces stand at 33,280 cases and 111 deaths due to the viral disease.

Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, said, "We are very pleased to partner with Dr.Reddy's in India. India is amongst most severely impact-

The National Security Guards (NSG) has reported 230 cases of novel coronavirus infection without a single casualty in its ranks. Forty five patients are still active in the NSG ranks.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has reported 493 cases of Covid-19 infection and one death due to the pandemic. Ten cases are active in its ranks.

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Next of kin of CAPF personnel to get addl ₹15L in case of Covid death

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday informed the Parliament that in addition to the normal benefits available to a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel on death, it has been decided to provide ₹ 15 lakh to the next of kin through Bharat Ke Veer funds in case of fatality due to the viral infection contracted while deployed on Covid-19 related duties.

The DCGI had on September 11 directed SII to resume the clinical trial of the Oxford vaccine in the phase two and three clinical trial of the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine candidate till further orders in the backdrop of pharma giant AstraZeneca pausing the clinical trials in other countries for management of adverse events.

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Nadda accuses Cong of being 'double faced' over farmers' Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of three bills related to farmers being voted in Parliament, BJP President JP Nadda on Wednesday charged the Congress with being "double faced" and playing politics by opposing the "revolutionary bills" in the two houses even as he asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is actually implementing what the opposition party had promised to the farmers in its 2019 manifesto.

A day after the Lok Sabha passed the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, had turned outdated as it was then needed to regulate the market and prevent hoarding.

The produce of wheat, rice and dal, he said, has now increased ten, four and two and half-times respectively and the market requires to be deregulated.

"You can now sell produce outside mandi Rajio in a competitive market to get the best price in a transparent manner," said the BJP President.

Nadda said contract farming would be on a written document on the produce and not on the land with "assured price, bank and varieties for the farmer," he claimed.

Charging Congress with having a "double-faced" stand, the BJP chief said Congress promised to remove all restrictions on the agriculture produce in its 2019 manifesto and demanded replacement of 1955 Act.

"Modiji has implemented what Congress promised. The same Congress is now opposing these bills in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha," Nadda said and asserted they were meant for the "azadi of kisans".

He said despite the progressive legislation for farmers, the system of Minimum Support Price for the farmers would continue.

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June 19 a 'black day', Modi lied to nation on Chinese aggression: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday called June 19 a "black day" in India's history, alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "lied" to the nation on the day about the Chinese transgressions in Ladakh.

The party also attacked the Modi Government for taking loans to the tune of ₹750 million (₹5.21 crore) from Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to provide financial support to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMKAY), a scheme launched to help the poor hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, at a time when the armed forces were fighting China's People's Liberation Army in eastern Ladakh.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi also attacked the government on the issue. "Understand the chronology: PM said no one has entered Indian territory, then took loans from China-based bank, then defence minister said China has intruded into our territory and now

home minister says no infiltration along India-China border. Is the Modi government with Indian armed forces or with China? Who is there so much of fear?" Rahul, who is currently abroad, tweeted.

Addressing reporters outside the Parliament House complex here, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera claimed that the Union ministers are speaking in different languages on the India-China border standoff.

"June 19 is a black day in the history of India because that was the first time that any Prime Minister lied to the nation. Not only did he give a clean, hit to China that day, but also signed a loan agreement with the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to the tune of ₹750 million (₹5.21 crore)," he said.

"By then, 20 of our brave soldiers had sacrificed their lives while protecting our sovereignty in violent clashes with Chinese troops," added Khera.

SC orders fresh probe into mysterious death of NLU student in 2017

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered a closure report filed by Rajasthan Police and ordered a fresh investigation into the mysterious death of a third-year student of the National Law University, Jodhpur, in August 2017.

A bench of justices R F Nariman, Navin Sinha and Indira Banerjee said, "We have set aside the closure report. We have directed a de-novo investigation with certain more directions."

On September 8, the top court had said there is a need for a re-investigation in the case. "We may direct re-investigation. This is not the way," the top court had observed after perusing the report filed by the Rajasthan Police in the matter.

In July, the top court had said that the investigation in the matter should be completed within two months and a final report be filed before it. While claiming that an FIR was lodged in the case after 5.21 crore," he said.

"By then, 20 of our brave soldiers had sacrificed their lives while protecting our sovereignty in violent clashes with Chinese troops," added Khera.

"June 19 is a black day in the history of India because that was the first time that any Prime Minister lied to the nation. Not only did he give a clean, hit to China that day, but also signed a loan agreement with the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to the tune of ₹750 million (₹5.21 crore)," he said.

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Centre approved anti-viral medicines to treat Covid-19 patients, says SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said there was an approval by the Central Government on use of Remdesivir and Favipiravir as medicines to treat COVID-19.

The top court was hearing a plea seeking registration of an FIR by the CBI against ten Indian pharmaceutical firms for manufacturing and selling these two medicines for treating COVID-19 patients allegedly without valid licences.

Remdesivir and Favipiravir are antiviral drugs and their efficacy in treating COVID-19 patients have been a matter of debate among medical experts.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramaswami, during the current fiscal year 2021 as on September 12, 2020, is ₹29 crore," he said in a statement.

More than 1.04 crore migrant workers across the country returned to their home states amid the coronavirus pandemic-led livelihood crisis.

There is a budgetary allocation of ₹61,500 crore during fiscal year 2021 under Mgnrega and ₹60,599 crore has been released so far, the statement said. When asked if the government has any plan to allow employment for workers under Mgnrega in private agricultural activities, Kumar said no such plan is in the works.

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Archaeological hotspot 'Sinauli' gets 'national importance' tag

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Archaeological hotspot rich site in Uttar Pradesh's Bagpat area in Sinauli where "sacred chambers", chariots, decorated

"legged coffins" as well as fascinating artifact pointing to the presence of a warrior class around 4,000 years ago has got the tag of 'national importance'. The Government

issued a notification in this regard recently.

The Union Culture Ministry, which supervises the functioning of the country's premier conservation body, Archaeological

Survey of India (ASI), had issued a preliminary notification in June to bring the site under its fold.

The aim is to protect the site from encroachment, looting and destruction. Around 28 hectares of land mostly belonging to the locals in the region has been brought under protection, according to which while the farmers of the land will be allowed to carry on agricultural practices but they will not be permitted to con-



struct any permanent structure. "Sanauli is an important site from an archaeological point of view as artifacts found from the venue are not only of national importance but of international importance too. Much remains yet to be explored," said archaeologist SK Manjul who is credited for the unearthing of coffins and sacred chambers important artifacts from the site in 2018.

Sanauli is located on the

left bank of the River Yamuna, 68 km north-east of Delhi which brought to light the largest necropolis of the late Harappan period datable to around early part of second millennium BCE.

Manjul said that the unearthed chariots, some coffins, shields, swords and helmets points towards the existence of a "warrior class in the area around 2,000 BCE".

The three chariots found in burial pits indicate the possibility of royal burials, while other findings confirm the population of a warrior class here, he added.

"These findings are important to understand the culture pattern of the Upper Ganga-Yamuna doab," he found copper swords, helmets, shields and chariots," Manjul said.

He claimed that the discovery of chariots put India on a par with ancient civilisations in Mesopotamia and Greece, where chariots were used extensively.

NOTICE EXTENTION OF DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR SELECTION OF SOCIAL WORKER MEMBERS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE BOARDS AND CHAIRPERSONS & MEMBERS OF CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEES.

As per provision of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016, Social Welfare & Social Education Department, Government of Tripura, applications have been invited earlier from the eligible candidates for selection of Social Worker Members of Juvenile Justice Board for South Tripura District, Sepahijala District, West Tripura District, Khowai District and Dhalai District and Chairperson & Members of Child Welfare Committee for South Tripura District, Sepahijala District, West Tripura District and Khowai District of Tripura, last date for submission of application has been extended from 18-09-2020 to 23-09-2020.

Applications are received at the Directorate as per prescribed proforma which is available in the website of the Social Welfare and Social Education Department www.socialwelfare.tripura.gov.in. Application may be submitted either in person or by post or through e-mail at dswe_agt@yahoo.com, addressed to the Member- Secretary, Selection Committee (Director, Social Welfare and Social Education Department), Directorate of Social Welfare & Social Education, Ujan Abhynagar, Agartala, Tripura, Pin -799005. The detailed eligibility criteria and terms & conditions of service for the above positions are also given in the cited website.

Application should be submitted during office hours of all working days. Incomplete & defective application and without passport size color photograph, self-attested copies of relevant necessary documents shall not be accepted for selection. Applicant may be called for personal interaction, if necessary.

Interested persons may visit www.wcd.nic.in or www.socialwelfare.tripura.gov.in for details about the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016.

Sd/- Member Secretary Selection Committee (Director, Social Welfare & Social Education Department)

IC/A/D-505/2020-21

Tripura.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location	30-Elect-23-1-2020-21-63
Address of the office	Planning and operating of multi utility road vehicle type 207 (One MT) 4/6 seater - four doors for (Round the Clock) accident breakdown, regular maintenance details etc for three years.
Approx cost of the work in (Rs.)	Rs. 28900.00
Earnest Money	Rs. 28900.00
Date & time of submission of tender	12.10.2020, 12:00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	12.10.2020, 12:00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.irps.gov.in & Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/ New Delhi.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Tender Notice	
Name of work	Fabrication, supply, installation & commissioning of rain water arrester for roof in LHB type AC coaches (1st AC, 1st AC, Chair car & Parity car) of Delhi Division.
Tender No.	30-Elect-1TR-Crg-2020-21
Approx cost of the work in (Rs.)	Rs. 31,59,000/-
Cost of tender form	Rs. 3,540/-
Address of the office	Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/Crg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 63,200/-
Period of completion of work	04 Months
Last date & time of submission of tender	12.10.2020, 15:00 hrs
And opening of tender	12.10.2020, 15:01 hrs
Website & notice board	www.irps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Crg/Dly
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sl. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH.	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / BID (APPROX.) RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH.	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHANAKOTA (UD)	BID FOR DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION SEPARATION TRANSPORTATION AS WELL AS PROCESSING OF WASTE IN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, KHANAKOTA - 1 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 24.09.2020	457.70 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	secmcc0301@gmail.com
2	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE SHARADHA	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY AT BANGARUPUR DRAINAGE SITE - 1	15.09.2020 24.09.2020	28.68 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	1748-250070 Secmcc, etenders@hry.nic.in
3	UHEVN	APPOINTMENT OF AN AGENCY FOR DESIGN, MANUFACTURING, SUPPLY & INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF SUPERVISORY CONTROL & DATA ACQUISITION (SCADA) SYSTEM FOR KARNAL CITY GANGA-YAMUNA DOAB - 1 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 05.10.2020	10 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	9317554907 sepmcc@hry.nic.in
4	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE SHARADHA	DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION AND SEPARATION AT SOURCE AND SECONDARY SEGREGATION AND BURNING POINT AND DISPOSAL SITE OF SOLID WASTE IN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, SHARADHA.	CLOSING DATE 24.09.2020	Quoted By Agency	etenders.hry.nic.in	Secretary
5	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RAIPAL	MAINTENANCE OF VARIOUS PANS FROM ROAD NO 01 TO 31 WITHIN HC RAIPAL - 4 OTHER WORKS	Opening of Technical Bid - 24.09.2020	71.13 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	7014419674
6	HARYANA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION	APPOINTMENT OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCE MANAGEMENT OPERATOR(S) AT INLAND CONTAINER DEPOT CUM CONTAINER FREIGHT STATION (ICDFS) AT BAWANA (HARYANA)	16.09.2020 22.09.2020	5 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	SECRETARY
7	HPCL, PANDEY	UNIT RENT & MAINTENANCE SUB - ANNUAL RENTING CONTRACT FOR OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF CENTRAL AC PLANTS & EVAPORATING PLANTS OF UNIT FMS, NEW DELHI BUILDING AND SEVA BHAVAN, FTPS, PANDEY	CLOSING DATE 10.10.2020	1.05 CRORE	www.nagpl.org.in	0180-2566615 sepmcc@hry.nic.in

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

RQ NO. 8282A

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 82824

JAYA BACHCHAN REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF BOLLYWOOD

Mumbai Police ramps up security outside 'Jalsa'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After actress-turned-Samajwadi MP Jaya Bachchan spoke vociferously in Rajya Sabha against the attempts being made by certain people to 'vilify' Bollywood, the Mumbai Police on Wednesday beefed up security outside the outside Bachchans' bungalow 'Jalsa' at Juhu in north-west Mumbai.

Taking serious cognisance of intense trolling that Jaya has come under after remarks in Rajya Sabha made in response to BJP MP and Bhojpuri actor Ravi Kishan and actress Kangana Ranaut, the Mumbai police deployed police personnel outside Bachchan's residence 'Jalsa' to ensure against untoward incidents.

Simultaneously, the Mumbai Police Cyber Cell is looking into trolling and virulent social media posts that have targeted the Bachchans during the last two days. Talking to media persons here, Mumbai Guardian Minister Asmita Shukla said, "I have told the Mumbai police to increase security for the Bachchan family which is being trolled and targeted viciously in the social media after her remarks in support of Bollywood Parliament."

It may be recalled that actor Ravi Kishan said that there was a drug problem in Bollywood, Jaya Bachchan had hit back saying that some attempts were being made to 'vilify' Bollywood.

"Just because of a few people, you cannot vilify the whole

industry... I was really embarrassed and ashamed that yesterday one of our members in the Lok Sabha, who is from the industry, spoke against the film industry. Jis thahi mein khaate hain us mein chhed karte hain (they are biting the hand that feeds them)," Jaya had said in Rajya Sabha, without naming Kishan.

"At a time when the financial situation is in a depressing state and employment rate at the worst levels, in order to divert the attention of people, we are being flooded on social media and there is no support from the government... the entertainment industry in the country provides direct employment to lakhs of people and indirect employment to 5 million people," Jaya had said.

After 6-month, Mamata to resume administrative meetings soon

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After almost a six-month gap Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has decided to visit the districts to hold administrative meetings. Her district tour will begin with visits to North Bengal towns where the Chief Minister will take stock of situations, officials at State Secretariat Nabanna said.

The resumption of Banerjee's administrative meetings or crisis committees in the backdrop intensified movements on the part of principal Opposition party BJP.

The Chief Minister will reach Siliguri on September 21 where she will stay for a night before heading to other district officials of Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri districts at

"Uttarkanya" building which is the second secretariat of the State.

After meeting officials there she would the district officers of Darjeeling, Coochbehar and Kalimpong before returning to Kolkata on September 24, sources said.

Soon after coming to power Banerjee had started regular administrative trips to district headquarters taking along with him respective ministers, and secretaries. During administrative meetings she would confront local authorities and evaluate their progress report on various pending projects. Besides she would also meet local people to take feedback from them.

The last such tour yielded results with the effect that projects were speedily completed.

Banerjee had held an administrative meeting out of Kolkata for the last time in the month of March when she visited Malda. Subsequently with the outbreak of corona pandemic the programmes had to be halted.

On whether corona protocols would be compromised in the crowded meetings in the district a senior official said "all precautions are being taken."

Meanwhile, pooh-poohing the resumption of administrative meetings, BJP leader Sayantan Basu said "such eye-washes would hardly yield any result because the people have already made up their minds to throw out this Government... We had said that in 2019 we would be including the BJP in the government but they have done that by reducing the TMC to 22 out of 42 seats ...

State BJP to stage Nabanna march on Oct 6

Now we have promised to make them 'saaf' (clear them out) and we will do that with the help of the people. No amount of administrative meeting will help."

Bengal Minister Partho Chatterjee however said "The victory of 2019 has gone to BJP's head and in the past one year they have shown their metal to the people. Now they have once again made up their mind because they know that their future lies with Mamata Banerjee and not with the communal party like BJP."

Meanwhile, the State BJP had decided to stage a Nabanna march on October 6, party sources said adding the march will be organized to raise a number of issues including corruption, syndicate raj, falling law and order situation etc.

BJP: Vijayan direct beneficiary of gold scam, LIFE

Mission corruption

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

For the first time in the history of Kerala, leader of a political party stood in front of the main gate of the Kerala Secretariat on Wednesday and shouted that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was the direct beneficiary of the gold smuggling scam, LIFE Mission corruption and even the drug trafficking cases in the State.

"Pinarayi Vijayan is the direct beneficiary of gold smuggling scam, LIFE Mission corruption and drug trafficking. That's the reason behind his over enthusiasm in saving and protecting K Jaleel, the minister for higher education and sports, who has been questioned by the Enforcement Directorate," declared K Surendran, president of the Kerala BJP on Wednesday.

Surendran, who was addressing hundreds of party members including activists of Mahila Morcha, said that Vijayan was afraid of his own shadow. "It is because of his sense of guilt. We want the investigating agencies to question Vijayan's daughter and son-in-law in these cases," said the BJP leader.

The BJP president was referring to Vijayan's press briefing on Tuesday evening when he shouted at the former describing him as a person who lost his mental balance. A sense of fear is haunting Vijayan and it is because of his involvement in the criminal deeds," charged Surendran.

Earlier VV Rajesh, senior BJP leader, alleged that the CPI(M) was conspiring with the Police in sabotaging the rallies and demonstrations organized by the saffron brigade all over Kerala.

Kerala Cong braces up to celebrate Chand's golden jubilee

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Though the Congress presence is not felt in the State-wide agitation against the CPI(M)-led Kerala Government over the gold smuggling scam and LIFE Mission corruption charges, the Grand Old Party is busy with warming up for a two-day mega event to be held at Kottayam and Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday and Saturday respectively. The fact that Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are addressing the virtual rallies live from New Delhi shows the importance of being Oommen Chandi, the face of the party in Kerala.

Congressmen and cadre in the State are getting ready to

celebrate the Golden Jubilee of former Chief Minister Oommen Chandi's membership of the Kerala Legislative Assembly. Chandi (75) is the only law maker in the Kerala who has been elected to the assembly in all elections he had contested since 1970. Though he was playing a subdued role in politics after the 2016 election in which the Congress-led UDF was defeated by a huge margin by the CPI(M)-led Left Front, the Congress staged an impressive return in the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Kerala.

The Congress High Command in a major reorganization of the party, inducted Oommen Chandi as a member of the Congress Working Committee making it clear

that who would be the chief ministerial candidate of the party in the 2021 election. It has its own explanations. "Chandi is always the man of the hour to whom the High Command turns to in emergency times. He has the capability to disarm even hardcore critics of the party with that disarming smile. Moreover he has only obsession and that is Kerala politics," said Sam Rajappa, editor of Mathrubhumi and veteran observer of Kerala's politics.

Though belonging to the Christian community, Chandi is acceptable to all including Hindus in the State and that makes him the frontrunner for the chief minister's post. Allegations levelled against him by the CPI(M) prior to the 2016 have fallen flat. The

Hindus have understood that had the Government of Kerala followed the affidavit filed by his Government in the Sabarimala Case, the unpleasant events that took place in the holy shrine would not have been there. The CPI(M) Government took back that affidavit and filed another one which earned it the wrath of the people," said P Rajan, former editor of Mathrubhumi and veteran commentator.

In a politically surcharged State like Kerala, it is impossible to any person to win successfully and successively from a single constituency all elections. But Oommen Chandi, popularly known as Kunjoonji is different and he is here to stay for some more years, say friends and foes alike.

UP Defence Corridor: Search on for land in Khyamai, Barakalan and Jalalpur

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Along with progressing the defence of setting up the Defence Industrial Corridor in Andhra, the UPEIDA team is also actively looking for land in Khyamai, Barakalan and Jalalpur in Gabbana. Today, two UPEIDA land officers OP Adnan and Sanjay Chawla also visited Khyamai, Barakalan and Jalalpur.

60 hectares of government land is being found in Khyamai, 20 hectares in Jalalpur and 50 hectares in Barakalan. ADM D V Pal told that the land in Andhra by setting up an explosive making factory. Therefore, the land is being searched in a safe and

secured place.

He further stated that these three locations are good for expansion for the Defence Corridor. The land is also cheaper because it belongs to the government, so these lands are a better option for expansion. Recently, in the video conference of CM, Home Secretary Avnish Awasthi had instructed the investors to transfer the land of Andla at the earliest under their firm's name. After this, the local administration has started the process of transferring the land. The forest department has been asked to clear the land in Andhra by cutting down trees.

The current circle rate of land in Khyamai is around Rs

32 lakh per hectare while the land is being sold for Rs 26 to 27 lakh per hectare. If the land is taken for the defence corridor, the farmers will get double the circle rate, that is, around Rs 64 lakh per hectare. Therefore, farmers are also excited to sell their land.

Along with UPEIDA officials, Navneet Varshney, Minister in Charge of Industries of the Federation of Innovative Manufacturers also inspected the land and talked to the farmers. The total land of Khyamai can come up to 60 hectares in this project. Therefore, all the connectivity routes from Andla to Khyamai are being looked at, so that the connectivity can be improved.

Prof Habib: Raja Mahendra Pratap not mentioned giving land to AMU

PNS ■ ALIGARH

In the preparations to give back the land leased by Aligarh Muslim University to the descendants of King Mahendra Pratap, the famous historian Professor Irfan Habib has said that despite being close to him, Raja Mahendra Pratap never told him that he had given any land to Aligarh Muslim University. This matter is between the taker and the giver.

A 90-year-old Professor Irfan Habib has said that in 1962, he helped Raja Mahendra Pratap in contesting Parliament election. He and his father Prof Habib had good relations with Raja Sahab, but he never mentioned anything like giving land to the university. He said that as far as taking and giving land is concerned, there must be some documents of a lease. Those who have given should be having some papers.

Aligarh admin braces up for panchayat poll preparation

PNS ■ ALIGARH

As soon as the information campaign about the voter list revision campaign was released from the State Election Commission for the Panchayat elections, stir started in the villages and towns. The administration also has tightened up. From 1st, B.O. visit start door to door visit.

On 10th Chandra Bhushan Singh told that orders have been issued regarding the Panchayat elections from. In this, door to door survey will start from 1st October, while inspection of online application will be done from 6th to 12th November.

Claims and objections will be sought on the list from 6th to 12th December and will be cleared in 4 days. Last list will be made available on 29th December.

'Govt should study time capsule before burial in AMU'

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

On the completion of 100 years of establishment, Aligarh Muslim University is preparing to bury the time capsule. Hathras MP and AMU court member Rajeev Diler in a written question to the Education Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, has demanded from a government to study a time capsule before its burial so that the next generation can know correct history.

The latest COVID-19 bulletin said, 10,845 patients had fully recovered in 24 hours and 9 deaths in AMU on Wednesday, while 64 more recovered.

The State COVID-19 table now showed a total of 5,92,760 positive cases, 4,97,376 recoveries and 5,105 deaths. The active cases came down further from 90,279, according to the bulletin. After 48.06 lakh sample tests, the infection positivity rate stood at 12.33 per cent, as against the national average of 8.44 per cent.

Higher Covid-19 cases in East & West Godavari dists, 8,835 cases in AP

Amaravati: The two Godavari districts, East and West, continued to witness a virulent spread of coronavirus while most other districts in Andhra Pradesh continue to witness a lowering their numbers as the state reported 8,835 fresh cases on Wednesday.

The latest COVID-19 bulletin said, 10,845 patients had fully recovered in 24 hours and 9 deaths in AMU on Wednesday, while 64 more recovered.

The State COVID-19 table now showed a total of 5,92,760 positive cases, 4,97,376 recoveries and 5,105 deaths. The active cases came down further from 90,279, according to the bulletin. After 48.06 lakh sample tests, the infection positivity rate stood at 12.33 per cent, as against the national average of 8.44 per cent.

increased to a record 90,016. East Godavari district, which revealed one of the lowest antibody levels of 14.4 per cent in the Sero prevalence study, continued to be under regulation 1,400 daily cases.

It has now touched a total of 81,064 cases, with 12,036 of them being active. The neighbouring West Godavari, which too had a lowest Sero prevalence of 12.3 per cent, added 1,051 in the last 24 hours, pushing its overall tally to 53,571.

The district currently has 8,710 active cases. Chittoor reported nine COVID-19 deaths in 24 hours, followed by SPS Nellore seven, Guntur and Prakasam six each.

Kadapa, Krishna, Srikulam and West Godavari saw five new fatalities each, according to the bulletin. PTI

NCB seizes 2 kgs of charas, arrests 2 peddlers from Palghar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Mounting its crackdown on the drug peddlers in and around the metropolis, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officials on Wednesday seized 2.04 kg of Charas (weed) and arrested two peddlers from the neighbouring Palghar district.

Identifying the arrested alleged drug peddlers as Avinash Arun Singh (24) Shrawan L. Gupta (38), the NCB officials said that both Avinash and Gupta were residents of Nalaspore in Palghar district.

Acting on a tip-off, a Mumbai Zonal NCB team apprehended Avinash and found the narcotics hidden in a backpack on his person. Immediately afterwards, the team arrested Gupta near his Nalaspore residence.

Gupta had been in touch with Avinash earlier for delivery of a bag containing Charas received from an alleged supplier Baliram alias Balli, a resident of Bhandarer (east) in Thane district.

The NCB officials said that the seized contraband was found in eight taped packets sewn in cloth bags. The bags were concealed in Avinash's backpack.

The NCB officials are investigating the antecedents of the arrested accused, the source and destination of the seized drugs and the supply chain involved.

Wednesday's operation involving the drug seizure and arrest of two alleged peddlers was independent of the ongoing investigations into the much-discussed drug case related to actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

Tirupati Lok Sabha MP Balli Durga Prasad dead

PTI ■ TIRUPATI (AP)

Tirupati Lok Sabha MP Balli Durga Prasad Rao, who was undergoing treatment for COVID-19, died at a hospital in Chennai on Wednesday, family members said here.

The 65-year-old ruling YSR Congress MP was admitted to the hospital in Chennai, about 140 km from here, three weeks ago after he tested positive for the coronavirus, they said.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, his Deputy K Narayana Swamy, Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy and several MLAs from Chittoor District expressed shock and condoned the death of Prasad.

Maha: Cong stages stir against Centre's ban on onion export

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Wearing onion garlands around their necks, the Congress staged protests in Nashik district - "defence their hopes, at a time when the onion crop was fetching good prices in the market, the Modi government suddenly decided to ban exports, causing huge losses to farmers," Maharashtra Congress president and State Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat said.

Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat said. "There's anger among the farmers against the Modi government's decision to ban onion exports and the state government stands firmly with the farmers. The Congress' agitation will continue till the time when the government withdraws the ban on onion exports," Thorat said.

Slamming the Modi government's decision to ban onion exports, Thorat said: "Recently, the Centre's decision to import milk powder deprived the opportunity to thousands of dairy farmers to sell tonnes of milk powder lying with them, resulting in a

drop in milk prices. Just as when onions were fetching a good price in the market, a decision to ban exports was taken which has led to the price of onion crashing by Rs 700-800 per quintal."

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra Cabinet on Wednesday expressed serious displeasure over the Centre's decision to ban onion exports.

At a weekly State Cabinet meeting, Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Chhagan Bhujbal and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat criticised the Centre for its "anti-farmer" decision of banning the export of onions.

Briefing the ministers present, Principal Secretary Anup Kumar said that during 2018-19 farmers from Maharashtra had exported 21.83 metric tonnes of onion, while they had exported 18.50 metric tonnes of onion during 2019-20.

Senior Minister Eknath Shinde told the Cabinet that currently, 4 lakh metric tonnes were lying at the Jawahar Nehru Port, while more than 500 trucks carrying onions were waiting in a queue near the Nepal border.

Kerala logs single-day highest spike with 3,830 new cases

Thiruvananthapuram: A single-day highest ever spike of 3,830 COVID-19 cases in Kerala took the state's infection count to 1,17,863 on Wednesday, the government said. The state also recorded 14 deaths, taking the toll due to the disease to 480, Health Minister K K Shailaja said.

Out of those infected today, 49 came from abroad, 153 from other states while 3,562 contracted the virus through contacts. At least 66 health workers are also infected," she said in a release here.

Amidst the districts, Thiruvananthapuram logged the highest number 675 cases, followed by Kozhikode (468), Alappuzha (323) Ernakulam (319) and Kollam with 300 cases.

The deceased included three in their 40s and as many three in their 80s. A 45-year old woman from Kozhikode was the youngest among those who succumbed to the virus on Wednesday while a 84-year old man from Palakkad was the eldest. Palakkad accounted for a maximum of six deaths among the fresh fatalities, the Minister said. PTI

Recoveries eclipse fresh cases in TN

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Recoveries outnumbered fresh COVID-19 cases in Tamil Nadu for the 11th straight day on Wednesday with the cumulative number of those cured rising to 4.64 lakh, while the infection count mounted to 5.19 lakh.

The state added 5,652 fresh cases, taking the tally to 5,19,860 while the death toll mounted to 8,559 with 57 more fatalities, a government bulletin said.

The day saw 5,768 patients getting discharged from various hospitals. As the trend of recovery eclipsing new cases continued since September 6.

Totally 4,64,668 people have got cured and the active cases stood at 46,633. Of the fresh infections, Chennai district logged 983, Coimbatore 549, Chengelpet 319, Tiruvallur 282, Salem 280, Cuddalore 263 and Kancheepuram 189 and the remainder was scattered across the state, the bulletin said.

Bihar reports more recoveries than new coronavirus cases

Patna: Single-day recoveries outnumbered new COVID-19 cases in Bihar on Wednesday as 1,724 people were cured of the disease and 1,531 tested positive for the infection, health department bulletin said.

The recovery rate in the state has increased to 91.16 per cent on Wednesday which is 13 per cent more than the national average, Information and Public Relations Department Secretary Anupam Kumar said.

The number of recoveries has shown a steady increase in the state since August 17, except on September 3 and 4. Out of the total 1,62,631 COVID-19 cases, the number of people who have recovered from the contagion increased to 1,48,257.

Twelve fatalities have been reported in the past 24 hours taking the death toll to 848, the bulletin said.

Four deaths were reported

from Patna district, two each from Aurangabad and Bhojpuri, and one each from Buxar, East Champaran, Samastipur and Vaishali.

There are 15,326 active cases in the state. As many as 1,07,970 samples were tested for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours while 52,02 lakh samples have been examined for coronavirus infection across Bihar so far, it said. PTI



Migrants from various States arrive at Thane Railway Station to reach their workplaces, amid the coronavirus pandemic, in Thane on Wednesday

Pak renews map war

Despite Russia's protests, it circulates fictitious map showing parts of India at SCO. Is China behind this adventurism?



Pakistan is playing a dangerous geo-political game, needling India from the other end as China's serif State, without realising that all of it could boomerang on itself. Having failed to internationalise the Kashmir issue despite the abrogation of Article 370, it has now taken its territorial aggression to redrawing its maps and appropriating what it fancifully feels is owed to it. So in August it released a new map, incorporating Kashmir, parts of Ladakh and Junagadh in Gujarat. India had rightly called this vacuous and unilateral declaration, which is not backed by any credible reasoning, support groups, historical reasoning or legal validity, as a "political absurdity." So Pakistan, in a bid to legitimise its claims, circulated this map at a virtual meeting of the national security advisors of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries, despite host Russia's resistance. India rightly walked out of the meeting, saying Pakistan's move violated SCO norms, which mandated that no bilateral issue would be discussed and that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member-states would be respected. The Russia-India-China axis dominates the SCO, which, as a counterweight to the US-dominated NATO, has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations accounting for almost 44 per cent of the world population, stretching from the Arctic Ocean to the Indian Ocean and from the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic Sea. China is seeking to use it in its global domination against the US and while it has sufficiently debt-trapped Central Asian republics and other regional players to do its bidding, it is trying to neutralise Russia by becoming its biggest investor and is now needling India. Considering that India is intransigent on yielding to China's terms on the Ladakh standoff, regardless of the meetings of the Foreign and Defence Ministers of both nations on the sidelines of the SCO, it just wanted to embarrass India, making it look like an "occupier" at a public forum. And for this it used its proxy, Pakistan. China has also been trying to convince Russia to scale down its defence deals with India following the border standoff and the map fiasco, which undoubtedly has left Moscow red-faced, was about strong-arming it as well. True, Russia is pragmatic enough about keeping both China and India on its side to establish its relevance in a multi-polar world and even front India to counter Chinese heft. But China certainly doesn't want India, which has won brownie points at international fora for being decorous and respecting the rule of law, to prevail at SCO. In fact, it was what Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said recently that shows this cartographic offensive to be a part of a larger pattern and not just Pakistan's independent move. "The new map shows Kashmir shares a clear border with China," a clear indication that like Nepal, this attempt to redraw boundaries was made at China's behest and underlines our eastern neighbour's desire for strategic contiguity in the region than Pakistan's any real concern for Kashmir. While India is firm on Chinese withdrawal from eastern Ladakh that seems to have driven a wedge in their greater plan to control the Karakoram by squeezing us with salami-slicing, Pakistan's map claims are clearly intended to warn us of a two-front offensive. Pakistan is heating up the Line of Control (LoC), having moved almost 20,000 soldiers recently to match Chinese deployment on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Its ceasefire violations and infiltration bids have gone up by about 60 per cent this year, something which didn't happen even after the Balakot airstrikes. If recent reports are to be believed, then the Chinese are no longer shadow-boxing. Just like in Nepal, their officials have had a series of meetings with their Pakistani counterparts in Gilgit-Baltistan and have been aiding them clandestinely to revive old terror networks against India. Debt-trapped by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with its economy in the doldrums and heavily dependent on borrowings and bailouts, Pakistan is but a pawn in China's gameplan.

Yet Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan forgets that such unilateralism will beget unilateralism from the Indian side as well. And hurt its interests. The new map is nothing but an adventurist version of its 1947-48 map and in one blow scythes through all bilateral agreements that came after it, primarily the 1972 Shimla Agreement. If Khan wants to negate the understanding that bilateral disputes will be resolved bilaterally, is he also prepared for the negation of all other bilateral treaties we have regarding water-sharing? And if he has taken the liberty of depicting territories under Indian control as Pakistani territory, then how would he counter other valid land claims from our side? In that sense, Pakistan's latest offensive is nothing short of playing with fire. Realising that the US is now more an ally of India and is humouring it, Pakistan is desperately coopting the Kashmir issue under the banner of pan-Islamism. So it is involving Turkey, which wants to be a leader of the neo-Islamic world, in its criticism of India and seeking Chinese endorsement. Only Pakistan doesn't realise that its Kashmir strategy is still not quite exportable. And that China, while using it for posturing, will continue to engage with India for geo-strategic reasons.

Life on Venus

There's proof of life in the unlikely planet, also known for being one of the least explored



For years, the search for extraterrestrial life inside our solar system has always concentrated on the "red" planet Mars. That is because Mars is similar in size to Earth. There is now clear evidence that there was once water on its surface and most importantly, like Earth, it is also in the so-called "habitable" zone, close enough to its star for enough radiation but not so much that life wouldn't take off. Mars is, therefore, considered to either have life or to have once harboured life and capable of supporting a human expedition. As a result, we are constantly sending probes to Mars and even to its tiny moons. Probes that circle the planet as well as robotic vehicles

that have roamed its surface. We actually have a greater grasp of the surface of Mars than we do of the bottom of our oceans. Even now, the aim for mankind, both in real and reel life, is to make Mars the first step on our eventual voyage to the stars.

Venus, the second rock from the Sun, is, however, given as an example of where global warming will take us. A planet benign on the outside but one where every probe sent since the start of space exploration has been dissolved in acid in the atmosphere or fried by the extreme heat that the greenhouse effect has caused. Even though the Soviet Venera programme did land several probes on Venus and many survived a few hours, there was a succession of lens cap failures. As a result, Venus is one of the least explored planets of the solar system, lacking the romanticism of Mars and the grandeur of Jupiter and Saturn, which have both seen billion-dollar spacecraft visit them in the past decade. Yet, the discovery of phosphine in the Venusian atmosphere is an intriguing prospect because the only way for this gas, with three hydrogen molecules attached to one phosphorus molecule, to occur naturally is as a byproduct of biological processes. While the gas can be made industrially by man, that isn't clearly a possibility on Venus. So, have we been barking up the wrong tree for decades? After all, as the old adage goes, "Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus" and as we all know, women have all the answers. Maybe some strange process creates phosphine on Venus that we are unaware of and we should send a probe or two to the planet we never thought could harbour life. But as we know from Earth herself, life can survive in some really extreme conditions. This time though, let us make sure that the lens caps work.

Teachers too must learn

The NEP expects every teacher to develop a comprehensive perspective on life and living and follow an application-based module



JS RAJPUT

For over six decades, one has never witnessed such a strong projection of the national resolve to implement a policy. This rare privilege goes to the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. The President of India addresses the nation, the Prime Minister addresses the nation, the Union Education Minister and his team seem busy 24x7, conducting and guiding national-level webinars on specific topics that would require new initiatives and action at the implementation stage. It's evident that the nation has realised that for equitable growth, progress and development, it has to be "education, education, and education." India is now determined to create a pool of teachers who would not only be degree-holders but possess "personalities." These would be people imbued with a comprehensive multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional perspective.

In fact, the new approach to teacher preparation would expect every instructor to develop a comprehensive perspective on life and living. They would internalise the higher goals of education. The focus, henceforth, would be on them believing in *Sarva Bhut Hite Ratah*. And as was the ancient tradition, they would be life-long learners, *yavadjeevait adhyatye viprah*. It is, in a sense, a revolution in the levels of integrity and development that by 2030 all teachers would be prepared in multi-faculty colleges and universities through four-year integrated programmes. As one goes through the various sections of the NEP, this expectation becomes evident to everyone.

The objective of achieving *sharyutva* would require a strong support system that must emerge from the establishment and society. There are clear indications to ensure that: "In order to improve and reach the levels of integrity and credibility required to restore the prestige of the teaching profession, the regulatory system shall be empowered to take stringent action against sub-standard and dysfunctional Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) that do not meet the basic educational criterion, after giving one year for the remedy of breaches. By 2030, only educationally sound, multi-disciplinary and integrated teacher education programmes shall be in force." This objective of restoring the credibility



of TEIs is achievable. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) had, during 1998-99, successfully exercised this authority, and certainly well-known but sub-standard teacher preparation programmes were closed down. Once teacher educators accept this responsibility, they could transform the entire system. Let them never forget that the recommendations on teacher education arise from the expectations and aspirations of the young. But somewhere besides these is also the hidden pain and anguish which was recorded — with a heavy heart — by late Justice JS Verma: "A majority of standard TEIs — over 10,000 in number — are not even attempting serious teacher education but are essentially selling degrees for a price." One could mention it only with immense pain, as the first chairperson of the NCTE said, that all these 10,000 institutions selling degrees were certified by senior teachers, teacher educators, professors and other academics. The policy has done its part, no more stand-alone colleges. Now it is the responsibility of teachers, teacher educators and professionals in the field to ensure that in future regulatory mechanisms are not trivialised. This policy suggests alternative regulatory structures, which would transform the manner in which future multi-disciplinary

teacher preparations institutions and universities would emerge. The responsibility of teachers at every stage would grow multi-fold as autonomy would be the in-thing. When one goes through the various general recommendations in the policy, one finds serious concern for drastic change in teacher education in content and pedagogy, and the need to achieve an attitudinal transformation among aspiring teachers. It is now learning, learning and more learning. Examinations shall no more be days of nationwide anxiety and widespread tension. The focus of assessment in schools shifts to application of knowledge gained and internalised. The present pattern of examinations was transplanted in this country by alien rulers. It had been discarded in Britain much earlier but we still adhere to it in India. Teachers, and teacher educators, have a tremendous task ahead in implementing curriculum load reduction, to ensure that textbooks and textual materials are neither deficient on new knowledge nor too overloaded with obsolete content. Teaching and learning shall become more interactive, and much would transpire outside the closed classroom. Skill development and bringing in vocational education elements early in

schools would require TEIs absorbing them in their own curricula. Those who know the story of Richard Feynman would find it much easier to visualise its great transformative and inspiring impact on the system as a whole. It would be possible only when the promises to ensure the assured recruitment process are put to practice, and the assurances on the professionally acceptable teacher-student ratio is implemented without any aberrations. One must not ignore considerable dilution in the quality of education and decline in the acceptability and credibility of schools funded by the public. The policy realises this.

The ancient Indian tradition of knowledge spread over four stages: *adhyayan, manan, chintan* and *upayog*. And its relevance is eternal. It is the essence of the process of transfer of knowledge to generations ahead. Every teacher, henceforth, would be expected to comprehend the essence of Indian philosophy of education that finds reflection throughout this policy. Let me recall three sentences of Sri Aurobindo; first being that the process must begin with "from near, to far"; and hence the mother tongue medium and other aspects. His second principle was that "nothing can be taught." Every active, alert and vibrant teacher shall

have to grasp its essence. It is "learning the treasure within." It is the perfection within that the child is discovering, and teachers are assisting, supporting, guiding, and much more.

When Sri Aurobindo states that the "mind must be consulted in its growth," he is emphasising how pertinent it is to "know the child." It is the comprehension of these basic principles that has led to the restricting of the school education system to 5+3+3+4. The most significant is the addition of initial three years, after the age of 3. India would need very specialised teachers for this age group.

A couple of years ago, India had anticipated the importance of open and distance learning. That experience comes very handy as the global attention diverts to online learning. Creation of digital platforms and e-learning already begun in full swing and has come handy during the corona crisis, as children are confined to their homes. The pedagogy is undergoing unprecedented change, teachers associated with schools will have to gear up to learn new skills. While tools and techniques shall change — sometimes beyond recognition — the pedagogical principles would remain the same.

(The writer works in education and social cohesion)

SOUNDBITE

I call on the Palestinian leadership to recognise reality and show responsibility as did the UAE leaders, by returning to negotiating table.

Israeli Minister — Gabi Ashkenazi



Security Council reform is very important, not only for the member states but also to the United Nations as a whole.

Turkish diplomat — Volkan Bozkir



We will be taking action to counter the unjust tariffs put on Canadian aluminium by the United States. We will always be there to defend Canadian workers, defend our aluminium sector.

Canadian PM — Justin Trudeau



If J&K UT government is of the view that it has no concern on the feelings of Kashmiri masses, then it must take that position, categorically.

Former Union Minister — Saifuddin Soz



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Medical education

Sir — The Tamil Nadu Assembly has unanimously passed a Bill to provide 7.5 per cent horizontal reservation in medical admissions for State Government students who clear the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). The provisions of the new law are applicable to all government and private medical, dental, Indian medicine and homeopathy streams. The reservation will benefit 300 underprivileged scholars annually and will be implemented from this year onwards.

Amit Singh Kushwaha
Madhya Pradesh

No arrest warrant

Sir — The Uttar Pradesh Government has issued a notification for setting up a Special Security Force (SSF). It will be given responsibility of important Government buildings, industrial establishments, major sites, airports, metros and other important places. Empowered to make "arrests" and conduct "searches" without any prior

MPLADS should be permanently scrapped

In the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak, the Government has decided to reallocate the funds from the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). Amounting to ₹5 crore a year per Member of Parliament (MP), the money will now be allocated by the Centre for relief packages. Rather than just suspending the scheme, it should be permanently scrapped.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Parliament and Planning Commission termed MPLADS useless and as encouraging corruption. A sting operation caught few parliamentarians accepting bribes to approve schemes to be funded through MPLADS. The then Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee had argued for scrapping the scheme. Many members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly have been over-generous by funding their favourite organisations through this scheme even though such funding may have had nothing to do with public welfare. It may be recalled that trusts floated by the then Chief Election Commissioner

Inflation a concern

Sir — Inflation is primarily driven by food prices, which account for 39 per cent of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket, and a sharp spiral in prices of transport and communication services, which amount



Navin Chawla were generously funded by parliamentarians cutting across party-lines from MPLADS. Already, the Bihar government has abolished such a programme. All such suggested reforms should be implemented both at the Centre and in States.

Madhu Agrawal
Chandni Chowk

eggs have doubled. Even fruits are extremely costly. While the CPI in August is lower than that of July by 0.04 per cent, it is still higher than the upper limit of the RBI's comfort level of six per cent for the fifth consecutive month. The data is not at all encouraging.

CK Ramanathan
Ghaziabad

A proud moment

Sir — India got elected as Member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the principal global body focussed on gender equality and women's empowerment, beating China in a hotly-contested election. India garnered 38 votes of the 54 ballots cast.

India and Afghanistan will join Argentina, Austria, Dominican Republic, Israel, Latvia, Nigeria, Turkey and Zambia, which were elected by acclamation, to the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term between 2021 and 2025. This is a proud moment for us indeed.

Vihan Gupta
Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Mitigate data intrusion worries

Instead of thinking of security as a prevention tool, firms must incorporate it into product design from the start so that the architect systems are impenetrable



RIPU BAJWA

In the new digital era, where data is growing at an unprecedented rate by the second and where organisations are quickly becoming data-first, one thing has become crystal clear. That the "this is good enough" approach by businesses, across the globe and in India, is no more acceptable when it comes to safeguarding the most precious capital, i.e. data, from an external intrusion. Ever since businesses have become increasingly dependent on their data to fuel innovation, drive new revenue streams and so on, Information Technology decision-makers have not just been evaluating their current data protection preparedness but have also been ramping up their investments in this regard.

However, over the past few months, since organisations have been fixated on quickly transitioning towards remote working due to the Coronavirus pandemic, they might have missed out on something vital that they should have been focussing on and that is the threats that come along with this work culture. As a result, the world and India with it, has been witnessing a steady uptick in the instances of cyber attacks.

For example, as per a recent report, India witnessed a 37 per cent increase in cyber attacks in the first quarter of this year as compared to the last quarter of 2019. The data also show that India now ranks 27th globally in the number of web-threats detected in the first quarter of this year as compared to when it ranked on the 32nd position globally in the fourth quarter of 2019. India also ranks 11th worldwide in the number of attacks caused by servers that were hosted in the country, which accounts for 22,99,682 incidents in the first quarter of this year as compared to 8,54,782 incidents detected in the fourth quarter of 2019, says the Kaspersky Security Network report.

Another report claims that data of over 21,000 Indian students, including their Aadhaar cards, photos and so on, have been put on sale on the Dark Web. Another instance of data being leaked on the Dark Web came to light in June, with a massive data packet — nearly 100 gigabytes in size — being put up for sale. The data comprises sensitive identity documents of over one lakh Indians, including passports, PAN cards, Aadhaar cards, voter IDs and driver's licences. Thus, given the rising data security concerns and incidents, chief technology officers (CTOs) need to look for a holistic approach towards data protection and management. Now, they need to be cognisant about how to respond, recover and learn in case a cyber intrusion occurs. Here are a few tips for CTOs that will help them redefine their data protection strategy.

Drift away from security to resilience: With the evolving nature of cyber attacks, it's time for businesses to stop reacting and start anticipating. Loss of critical data has the power to not just cripple a company in no time but also damage its reputation for the long-term. Hence, instead of relying on traditional methods of data security i.e. identify, protect, detect, respond and then recover, organisations must instil state-of-the-art resilience strategies i.e. learn, respond, monitor and anticipate.

Adopt a security strategy ingrained in product mindset: Businesses must not only think about making security intrinsic to technology infrastructure but also aim at ending security professionals being intrinsic to future product development. They need to transform into a data-first and product-first mindset organisation in order to be able to remain competitive in the future. Thus, instead of thinking of security as a prevention tool, the need of the hour is to incorporate it into the product design from the beginning so that it will make the architect systems and processes impenetrable.

The key to a winning strike is the right digital partner: In the past, businesses have been using a hit and trial method with regard to choosing their digital partner and this approach has brought in more vulnerability to their sensitive data assets. As per a report by Vanson Bourne, organisations in the Asia Pacific and Japan, which were relying on more than one data protection solution provider, were almost four times more vulnerable to a cyber incident that prevents access to their data. Hence, in order to combat the external threats, businesses must choose a single technology partner that delivers multi-platform security.

While it is critical to invest in the right technology, it has also become almost important for businesses to ramp up their education and awareness levels to stay abreast with new security threats. Therefore, to end the constant tussle between finding the right data protection architecture and keeping up with the modern security approaches, CTOs must focus on strategies that redefine their data protection ecosystems from time to time.

(The writer is Director and General Manager, Data Protection Solutions, Dell Technologies)

WE WANT TO WORK WITH YOU TO REALLY RECOGNISE THE CHANGE IN CLIMATE AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR OUR FORESTS. WE CAN'T BURY OUR HEAD IN THE SAND.
—CALIFORNIA SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES
WADE CROWFOOT

POINT COUNTERPOINT



IT WILL ALL START GETTING COOLER SOON, YOU JUST WATCH. I DON'T THINK SCIENCE KNOWS, ACTUALLY
—US PRESIDENT
DONALD TRUMP

The pleasures of victimhood

If impersonating was Jessica Krug's way of legitimising herself as an academic, mobilising the disenfranchised and then representing them as perpetual victims is another



JYOTIRIMA TRIPATHY

The recent confession of Professor Jessica Krug about her true identity may have enraged many. However, it offers an opportunity to re-evaluate what academics given to consciousness-raising often do. Krug, a historian teaching African history at George Washington University, admitted in a blog that she is a Jew born of White parents and has nothing to do with African-American Blackness, something which she had been claiming for a long time. She regretted that her action was "the very epitome of violence, of theft and appropriation, of the myriad ways in which non-Black people continue to use and abuse Black identities and cultures." In the same breath, Krug declared that she is no culture vulture but a culture leech. Her actions though have proved otherwise. Prior to her outing of herself in the blog, Krug had used a more African-sounding name (Jessica La Bombalera) in her activist avatar, and during a demonstration had questioned the gentrification of New York by calling out the "White New Yorkers" for having failed to spare a thought for Black and Brown New Yorkers.

We don't know what prompted her to come out as White though it is said that there were increasing murmurs about her identity that forced her to do so. The knowledge market: On the face of it, a situation such as this is not representative of the academic environment in the US or India. This is where the present intervention marks its departure. Krug's admission, no doubt, betrays her inability to let go any longer, but more importantly, it reveals the malaise of contemporary academic knowledge production. The difference between usurping the voice of the weak (what academics do) and pretending to be the weak (what Krug did) is perhaps one of degree and not of kind. When Krug claimed to be a culture leech rather than a vulture, she was highlighting that subtle difference. We can be reasonably sure that Krug is not the first one and won't be the last, at least until the academic market stops converting experience of marginality to elitist knowledge and suspends paying a premium on the dish of victimhood.

Those who see Krug's problem as an individual transgression are either oblivious of what goes in the name of knowledge or are beneficiaries of such methods. Academic scholarship has often been obsessed with not just representing cultural difference but also in producing, controlling and owning it. Few questions are raised about the moral foundation of such knowledge. It is taken for granted that if cultural difference does not exist, it is to be invented and if academic knowledge has to sustain itself, "savagely" are to be continuously filled. Krug took it one step further. Instead of being content with immersion or academic self-othering, or sponging on cultural difference of the Blacks like a leech, she chose to become indistinguishable from what she was writing about.

A few years ago, Harvard University had gone to the market advertising its culture of diversity by projecting Elizabeth Warren, a law professor who claimed to be a Cherokee Indian (and went on to have a thriving political career). The difference between his identity and the one he projected may appear as academically adventurous and a cool way of moving beyond fixed identities, but in reality, and for the people whose identity is thus stolen, it is an act of violence. In a post-modern academic world, race is increasingly seen as a political invention rather

“ KRUG CONVERTED THE BLACK EXPERIENCE TO SOME BARE CODES DEFINING BLACK AUTHENTICITY: ANGRY, VIOLENT, ABUSIVE. THAT IS WHAT SHE WAS DOING WHILE APPEARING AS JESSICA LA BOMBALERA. THE RESONANCE OF THIS MENTALITY IN INDIA IS NOT DIFFICULT TO FIND. DALITS AND MUSLIMS ARE OFTEN PROJECTED IN THE MEDIA AS ANGRY AND VIOLENT BECAUSE THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO BE WEAK AND A MINORITY. BEING HELPLESS AND BEING VIOLENT ARE THE EXPRESSIONS OF THE SAME AUTHENTIC CORE ”



than a frozen identity, thus creating a pathway for becoming someone else, or belonging without believing. That way, what Krug did was chic because she was making herself a trans-individual. But we all understand that Blackness as knowledge and Blackness as experience (not just individual but collective and communal) are different things. One is of romanticisation, appropriation, exoticisation, even silencing, and the other of everydayness and its struggle.

Though living the marginal life involves costs in real life — humiliation, powerlessness, sub-human life and so on — the academic world knows the benefits of being Black or minority, at least in the latter's potential for being objects of knowledge. In the market of scholarship, victimhood sells and is safely monetised: Black or Coloured in America and Muslim or Dalit in India. Cultural difference and victimhood are a minefield of fame and money.

That said, the demonstrations over the death of George Floyd or over atrocities against Dalits reveal a mindset of remembering the victim only when they can be used as a medium of accumulating symbolic capital. It is not just about dehumanising and instrumentalising them for advancing one's career but also the belief that being a victim pays. The willingness to barter away one's identity, as Krug did, springs from the conviction that academic benefit from such impersonation outweighs the losses.

Imaginary victims: What Krug did not acknowledge in her confession is that her violence was not only directed at genuine Black experience but also at White experience. While faking to be Black, she was creating a template in which Whiteness is antagonistic to Blackness and so was perpetuating a race binary. She was reducing her own race by making it appear inflexible, intolerant, exclusivist and the negation of Black experience. Her impersonation implied that sincere appreciation

of Black history is not possible while being White. She also pandered to those radical elements who believe that genuine understanding of the other is possible only by denying one's own authenticity. Her pretension perpetuated the academic world of make-believe that being majority is a matter of shame and its disavowal or degradation is necessary to speak for the weak.

Krug converted the Black experience to some bare codes defining Black authenticity: Angry, violent, abusive. That is what she was doing while appearing as Jessica La Bombalera. The resonance of this mentality in India is not difficult to find. Dalits and Muslims are often projected in the media as angry and violent because that is the only way to be weak and a minority. Being helpless and being violent are the expressions of the same authentic core. Academics like Krug not only stereotype or steal identity, they also create norms which guide victimhood. As long as the Black man is anti-police or a Muslim is anti-State or a Dalit is anti-Brahmin, they are authentic; a republican African-American is beyond this template as is a nationalist Indian Muslim.

An academic from Hunter College named Yamin Bonilla said something very revealing about Krug, that the latter not only fooled others about being a woman of colour, but also about thinking that they are actually inferior, intellectually and politically. Krug was denying them their being, their worth outside her own writings and activism. What it reveals is that being a victim of violence has more moral, academic and perhaps political worth than being normal and majority.

So behind minority identity, its production and circulation, there is a political economy of cultural difference and of diversity that can be a passport to capital — economic or symbolic. Becoming the other involves a life-time of dedication to live another life. Krug must have internalised the new identity. In the acknowl-

edgment section of her book *Fugitive Modernities*, she thanked her "ancestors, unknown, unnamed, who bled life into a future they had no reason to believe could or should exist. ... Those whose names I cannot say for their own safety, whether in my barrio, in Angola, or in Brazil." It may be mentioned here that Krug had received financial assistance for writing this book from Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

It is not important to know whether being White or feigning Blackness is better for being a scholar of African history. What is important is the knowledge itself of victim and minority. As long as we are getting ethnic food in Delhi *haat* (market), it does not matter if the cook is White or Brown. There may be many service providers but the good/service is the same.

Impersonation as passport: If impersonation was Krug's way of legitimising herself as an academic, making common cause with a supposedly discriminated law or mobilising the disenfranchised and then representing them as perpetual victims is another. The latter is much more rampant and a fairly common practice governing funding agencies that guide research on minority cultures. Though such politically engaged research may appear as a fight for an inclusive policy, it also betrays the desire to be the source of all cultural politics.

That partly explains Brahmin academics monopolising Dalit experiences. At a poetry reading session, a very fair-skinned Brahmin poet advocated "our own" Dravidian cause and how her Dravidian skin will always be a marker of her identity. She spoke with a flair even as the complexion struggled to adjust itself to the victim narrative. Playing around this politics of "we" and trying too hard to be someone else in order to be legitimised is an effort complementary to Krug's.

(The writer is Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras and a cultural critic.)

Why the double standards on demolition of holy places?

Will the global Muslim community raise its voice for the restoration of the holiest of Islam's revered sites that were destroyed by the Wahhabis?



HASAN KHURSHID

The five centuries-old Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was demolished on December 6, 1992 by a Hindu mob, mostly comprising diehard Kar Sevaks (volunteers) of the Vishva Hindu Parishad led by Sangh Parivar leaders. Intellectuals across the globe, irrespective of caste, creed and religion condemned the demolition, as did the Supreme Court (SC). No sane person will justify the demolition of the Babri Masjid but the bigger heinous crimes of massacres, multiple demolitions and destruction of the holiest of religious and heritage sites, shrines, relics have taken place in Saudi Arabia. This was done at the behest of its Wahhabis/Salafi rulers of Zionist ancestry who, wearing the cloak of Islam, in the middle of the

18th century introduced a new and distorted version of the faith based on terrorism. The demolished and desecrated holiest of Islamic religious places included the birth place of Prophet Muhammad.

Wahhabism, the new, distorted version of Islam, aimed to capture worldwide political power using terrorism. The dreaded terrorist, Abu Bakr Bagdadi, is one such using this diabolical plan. This negative ideology was created by one Sheikh Najdi ibn Abd-ul-Wahhab, in association with a Bedouin tribal leader Muhammad ibn-Saud. Wahhabism ideology should not be mistaken as Islam's tenets, although its practitioners shrewdly camouflage their real identity under the cover of Sunni Islam and associate the names of their terror groups with typical Islamic names, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and so on.

Wahhabism ideology manifestly flags their real identity under the cover of Islam. According to renowned British historian and writer Charles Allen, all dreaded terrorist organisations like the ISIS, the

Taliban, the Al-Qaeda, the Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Boko Haram, and so on, follow Wahhabism ideology. And, Abu Bakr Bagdadi's ISIS, following the Wahhabism ideology alone, murdered more than 20 lakh people. A majority of them were Muslim youth in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

On December 6, 2019, the day marking the 27th anniversary of the demolition of Babri Masjid, several religious petitions were filed in the SC by individuals who were party to the case. The pleas were supported by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. Earlier, the Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind had also filed a review petition against the order saying justice can be done only by ordering the Centre by individuals who were party to the case. The pleas were supported by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. Earlier, the Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind had also filed a review petition against the order saying justice can be done only by ordering the Centre by individuals who were party to the case.

Surprisingly, the entire Muslim community across the globe, including the intellectuals, remained silent spectators when Saudi ruler Abd-ul-Aziz, the son of Muhammad ibn Saud, who was also the son-in-law of Sheikh Muhammad Najdi ibn Abd-ul-Wahab, the founder of Wahhabism, in 1802 attacked

Karbala in Iraq. He allowed the desecration of the shrine of Hazrat Imam Husain (grandson of Prophet Mohammad).

Giving the details of the attack, Charles Allen in his book *Terrorists: The Wahhabi Cult and the Hidden Roots of Modern Jihad*, has quoted Lieutenant Francis Warden who wrote, "They pillaged the whole of it and plundered the tomb of Hazrat Imam Husain, slaying in the course of the day, with circumstances of peculiar cruelty, about 5,000 of the inhabitants. A huge amount of booty was seized."

In 1803, Abd-ul-Aziz ibn Saud obtained a visit permit from the Sharaf of Mecca on the pretext of performing Hajj, whereupon his Wahhabi fighters laid waste Islam's holiest shrine the Kaaba, wherein Muslims across the globe perform the ritual of Hajj. Abd-ul-Aziz ibn Saud followed in the footsteps of Yazid who had earlier desecrated Kaaba in 682 A.D.

According to TE Ravenshaw, author of *A Memorandum on the Sect of Wahhabites*, "They robbed the splendid tombs of the Mahomedan

saints, who were interred there and their fanatical zeal did not even spare the Prophet's Mosque (in Medina), which they robbed of the immense treasures and costly furniture to be used in the building of the mosque in Europe, Asia and Africa had contributed his share."

In 1804, a Wahhabi gang crossed the great desert in the Hijaz and destroyed tombs of Prophet Mohammad's family members at Jannat-ul-Baqi, the ancient cemetery of Medina, and even despoiled the grave of the prophet. After this, the Wahhabi gang reached Mecca and demolished another heritage site, the cemetery of Jannat-ul-Mualla, where the ancestors and other close relatives of Prophet Mohammad are interred. Again on April 21, 1925, Wahhabis demolished the shrine of Prophet Mohammad's daughter Hazrat Fatima Zahra as well as those of his grandsons, namely Imam Hasan, Imam Zain ul Abideen and Imam Mohammad Baqir. The shrines are still being demolished and the Saudi Government does not repair them or allow pilgrims to offer prayers at the revered sites.

Again in 2014, a leading Saudi academic had proposed to destroy the tomb of the Prophet Mohammad in Medina with the mala fide intention of removing the remains of the Prophet from there and burying them anonymously in the Jannat-ul-Baqi cemetery. However, the nefarious plan to destroy the tomb under the custody of Saudi monarch Abdullah was exposed by another academic, hence it could not be executed. Had it been executed, the motionless Muslims would have remained calm as the perpetrators were Wahhabis in Muslim attire and not people from any other religion.

In India, those who demolished the Babri Masjid are still facing trial in the Special CBI Court at Lucknow, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. In all, there are 32 accused and the apex court has directed the Special CBI Court to conclude the hearing by September 30 this year. Till now, the court has presented 351 witnesses before the court.

What legal action has the Saudi Government or the groups of

Muslim countries taken against the perpetrators of mass destruction and demolition of heritage and revered sites and massacres committed by Wahhabis feasting on Saudi petrodollars and spreading terrorism in the name of Islam? There is a deafening silence on that account.

The cacophony created by the Muslim leadership and millions of their followers on the matter of Babri Masjid may be based on the presumption that its perpetrators were Hindu bigots and the thugs behind the demolition of the holiest of Islamic sites, like the Jannat-ul-Baqi in Medina and the Jannat-ul-Mualla in Mecca, were Muslims. It matters little to them that the perpetrators of the crimes against Islam are Muslims just in name.

Will the global Muslim community raise its voice and take a conscious decision for the restoration of the holiest of Islam's revered sites of religious and heritage importance that were systematically destroyed by the Wahhabis? If they don't it will smack of hypocrisy and bigotry.

(The writer is a legal journalist and author)

PAK 'EPICENTRE OF TERRORISM': INDIA

Persecutes Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, says India at Geneva; slams OIC, Turkey, Pakistan over Kashmir

PTI ■ GENEVA

Describing Pakistan as an "epicentre of terrorism," India has said that no one deserves an unsolicited lecture on human rights from Islamabad that has consistently persecuted ethnic and religious minorities including Hindus, Sikhs and Christians.

Exercising the Right of Reply to the statements made by Pakistan at the 45th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) here, the Indian representative on Tuesday said that it has become habitual for Pakistan to malign India with false and fabricated narratives for its self-serving malicious purposes.

"Neither India nor others deserve this unsolicited lecture on human rights from a country that has consistently persecuted its ethnic and religious minorities, is an epicentre of terrorism, has the distinction of providing pensions to individuals on UN Sanctions list and has a Prime Minister who proudly admits training tens of thousands of terrorists to fight in Jammu & Kashmir," the Indian diplomat said.

It was not surprising that other relevant multilateral institutions have been raising serious concerns on Pakistan's failure to stop terror financing and lack of effective actions against all terror entities in Pakistan, India said.

Highlighting the nefarious designs of Pakistan in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), it said, "the mass influx of outsiders has whittled down the number of Kashmiris to an insignificant number in Pakistan occupied parts of Indian Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh."

"In its zeal to reassert its theocratic ideology, it (Pakistan) has ensured that ethnic and religious minorities have no future through systematic persecution, blasphemy laws, forced conversions,

targeted killings, sectarian violence and faith-based discrimination," India said.

Thousands of Sikh, Hindu and Christian minority women and girls have been subjected to abductions, forced marriages and conversions in Pakistan, it said.

On the plight of people in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, India said, "Not a single day has gone by when a family in Balochistan doesn't find its members picked up or kidnapped by the security forces of Pakistan."

"Pakistan does well when it comes to intimidation and attacks against journalists, human rights defenders and political dissidents in particular by its state machinery. It is not without a reason that Pakistan has been highlighted by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as a country where journalists are slain and their killers go scot free," India said.

India also slammed Pakistan for "abusing various HRC mechanisms and platforms for raising issues, which are extraneous to the mandate of the HRC and irrelevant to the internal affairs of India, with a view to distract the attention of the international community from serious human rights violations committed by it against its own people, including in Indian territories occupied by it."

India also rejected the reference made by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to Jammu & Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. "The OIC has no locus standi to comment on internal affairs of India. The OIC has allowed itself to be misled by Pakistan to subvert its own Agenda. It's for the members of the OIC to decide if it is in their interests to allow Pakistan to do so," it said.

India also advised Turkey to refrain from commenting on its internal affairs and develop a better understanding of the democratic practices.

He's taking something: Trump accuses Biden of using drugs

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump, in his latest shredding of political foes, suggested Tuesday that his Democratic opponent Joe Biden has taken drugs to improve his performance in debates. The Republican, who is well behind in national polls, initially insinuated during a Fox News interview that "something was strange" with what he saw as Biden's improvement during the Democratic primary season debates.

Early on, when there were multiple Democratic candidates lined up on stage, Biden was "a disaster" and

"grossly incompetent," Trump said. But at a later debate where Biden was one-on-one with leftist rival Bernie Sanders, "he was OK."

Trump told Fox he didn't want to say what he thought was the reason for the improvement. Seconds later, he did. "He's taking something (that) you know, gives him some clarity, or whatever," he said.

Trump repeated his demand that Biden should undergo a drug test before their first of three presidential debates scheduled for September 29.

"I would take one too," he said.

Biden responded by telling a Florida radio station "I'm looking for-

ward to the debate and he's a fool. The comments are just foolish."

Trump, 74, has for months tried to persuade voters that Biden, 77, is suffering from mental decline.

The former business titan Biden's penchant for gaffes — which some believe to be linked to the Democrat's lifelong struggle with stuttering — and his reluctance to face unscripted questioning from reporters. Trump — who takes questions from reporters almost daily but is known for his own frequently garbled and baffling statements — said, "Joe is lost. We can't have a president that is mentally lost."

German think tank closes Hong Kong office over new law

Berlin: A German think tank said on Wednesday it is closing its Hong Kong office following China's imposition of a sweeping new national security law on the territory. The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, which is linked to Germany's opposition Free Democratic Party, said it could no longer ensure the safety of its employees as a result of the new law.

It said it is freezing its activities in the former British colony, giving up its office and parting company with its four remaining staff members there. One employee already had left because of concerns over his personal safety, it added. "A climate of fear and permanent danger prevails in Hong Kong today," foundation director Kai-Heinz Paque said in a statement. "Those who stand up for democracy and freedom in Hong Kong today put themselves in danger. We cannot expose our employees and partners to this risk."

Pak court indicts 4 close aides of Hafiz Saeed in terror financing cases

Lahore: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Wednesday indicted four top leaders of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD), including the brother-in-law of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, for more cases of terror financing. "Terror financing charges were framed on Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki (brother-in-law of Saeed), Yahya Mujahid (JuD spokesperson), Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf in four more cases," a court official told PTI after the hearing. The suspects were brought to the AT-II hall amid heavy security from the Kot Lakhpat Jail. The official said judge Ijaz

Trump making dent in Indian-American vote bank: Survey

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has made an impression in the Indian-American vote bank, the biggest ever by a Republican president, according to a survey which has sent worrying signals to the Democrats that the support of this influential ethnic community can no longer be taken for granted.

The survey by Indopatra and Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPPI) Data on Tuesday showed that a majority of Indian-Americans still favour former vice president Biden, the Democratic Party's nominee in the November 3 US presidential election.

It found that 74-year-old Trump, seeking re-election, is making a big dent into the Indian-American vote bank despite the fact that Biden has a strong relationship with the community and played a key role in bilateral ties over the past few decades. Biden, 77, also scripted history last month by electing Senator Kamala Harris, 55, as his running mate.

According to the survey, 66 per cent Indian-Americans

currently favour Biden and 28 per cent favour Trump while six per cent were undecided.

Not only in the November election, 77 per cent voted for former US secretary Hillary Clinton, and 16 per cent for Trump. In 2012, as many as 84 per cent Indian-Americans voted for Barack Obama, Dr Karthik Ramakrishnan, president of public policy and political science at University of California, Riverside and founder of AAPPI Data who is author of the survey, said that the Indian-Americans' support to Trump, in case of a swing of the undecided Indian-Americans, would probably reach the 30 per cent mark.

"Democrats absolutely should be concerned about making sure that they conduct sufficient outreach to the Indian-Americans," Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said. "The Democrats should conduct sufficient outreach to the different groups that comprise Indian-Americans, because every vote is going to count, especially in those battleground states as the survey result indicated," he said.

Report: Biden holds lead over Trump among Indian-American voters

AGENCIES ■ SAN FRANCISCO/ WASHINGTON

Sixty-six per cent of Indian Americans currently favour Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden for the 2020 presidential election as compared to only 28 per cent who prefer President Donald Trump, according to a survey released on Tuesday.

Indiopatra, a nonprofit member organisation of global Indian diaspora leaders, and Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPPI) Data on Tuesday released their joint report on Indian American voters' attitudes in the upcoming 2020 US presidential election.

"66 per cent of Indian Americans currently favour Vice President Biden, 28 per cent favour President Donald Trump, and 6 percent were undecided. In the 2016 presidential election, 84 per cent voted for Secretary Hillary Clinton, and 16 per cent voted for President Trump. If the remaining undecided voters broke in the same pattern as those who have made up their mind, Joe Biden would secure 70 per cent of the vote, compared to 30 per cent for Trump," the report said.

Election experts project that Democrats should be worried about Indian American voters' attrition considering the overall percentage number may have dropped down for the Democrats from the 84 per cent that supported Obama in 2012 and the 77 per cent who supported Hillary Clinton 2016

as compared to the 66 per cent supporting former Vice President Joe Biden. Meanwhile, President Trump's vote share has gone up from 16 per cent in 2016 to 28 per cent. "The survey results are absolutely should be concerned about making sure that they conduct sufficient outreach to Indian Americans that they conduct sufficient outreach to the different groups that comprise Indian-Americans because every vote is going to count especially in those battleground states," said Raja Krishnamoorthi, a Democrat congressman.

An Indian American himself, a representative from the Illinois, Raja Krishnamoorthi further said that the states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Florida and North Carolina could be a part of tipping factor this election. "And because of that I think the Joe Biden campaign has to be especially attentive," Raja Krishnamoorthi further asserted. The survey report also documents the strengthening political power of the Indian American electorate in the U.S. due to factors such as their rapidly growing population and increased political participation.

"With increased attention being paid to the Indian American vote given our growing numbers, increasing political contributions and overall political engagement, we wanted to shine a spotlight on the issues that really matter to Indian American voters," said MR Rangaswami, founder of Indopatra.

China sends 9 satellites into space in first sea-based commercial launch

Beijing: China has successfully sent nine satellites into orbit in its first commercial launch of the Yellow Sea on Tuesday, media reported on Wednesday.

The satellites, one of which belonged to video-sharing platform Bilibili, were deployed by a Long March 11 rocket from the Yellow Sea on Tuesday, media reported.

The Long March 11, designed to be deployed quickly and from mobile launch sites such as a ship, is mainly used to carry small satellites. The rocket made its first sea launch in June last year.

"Sea launch platforms will

increase the number of China's launch areas, improve launch efficiency, and make launches safer and more flexible," the official People's Daily cited Li Zongli, director of the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, as saying. China has three inland space launch centers, where used rocket stages return to the Yellow Sea on Tuesday, media reported.

China has made its space programme a top priority in recent years as it races to catch up with the United States and become a major space power by 2030.

Agencies

Chola CHOLAMALAND INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: No. 2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Road, Chennai - 600 001.
Branch Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No. 6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005.

DEMAND NOTICES ISSUED TO THE FOLLOWING BORROWERS UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

Sr No	Date of Loan	Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor	Address	Secured Asset	Due Date of Loan	Loan Amount	Outstanding
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1.	23/06/2008	1. Dayanand Desoya 2. Jaspal Desoya	85, Paksh Mahalla East of Kailash Delhi - 110 065.	Property Bearing Municipal No.226-B/5a, Measuring 194 Sq Yds., (Said Portion) Of The Property Measuring 200 Sq Yds., Out Of Khajura 180/150 Min, Situated At Paksh Mahalla, East Of Kailash, Delhi. (Jharia Mansa), Delhi.	31.07.2020	Rs. 50,00,000/-	Rs. 50,00,000/-
2.	03/05/2018 & 24/03/2018	1. Faruk Malik 2. Parveen Begam 3. M/s V R Enterprises 4. Shahid V	H.No-8-58-59, Shalimar Garden, Subahdar, Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh-201002. F-71, B.L.K-F, Seemapur Shalimar New Delhi-110 053.	Portion of Plot No. 8-58 & 59 area measuring 100 sq. Yds., i.e. 83.61 sq. mtr., Said Portion out of entire land 200 sq.yds, situated in the residential colony known as Shalimar Garden, Main Village, Pashana, Pargana Loni Teh. & Dist. Ghazipur Uttar Pradesh.	20.03.2020	Rs. 40,00,000/-	Rs. 40,00,000/-
3.	31/12/2014 & 27/10/2016	1. Jaideep Singh Kumar 2. Sheetal Devi 3. M/s Gautam Hardware And Paints	RZ-701, Plot No-8, Raj Nagar, Palam Colony, Delhi - 110 045.	Property 1: Plot No. RZ-69(A/1), area measuring 50 sq.yds, out of Khajura No.64/121 & 13/4 & 13/2, Situated in Village Palam, Known as Raj Nagar Part-1 Palam Colony New Delhi. Property 2: Plot No. RZ-69B, area measuring 31.5 sq.mtrs. (37.12 sq.yds), out of Khajura No.64/121, Situated in Village Palam, Known as Raj Nagar Part-1 Palam Colony New Delhi.	20.03.2020	Rs. 62,00,000/-	Rs. 62,00,000/-
4.	31/03/2014 & 16/03/2015	1. Manoj Mendiratta 2. Bhoja Ram 3. Deepika Mendiratta	H.No 2 N 3, NIT Ward No. 8, Block-N, Faridabad, Haryana 121 001.	Back side portion of property bearing No.2-N/3 area measuring 240 sq.yds, NIT Faridabad, Haryana.	20.03.2020	Rs. 78,72,000/-	Rs. 78,72,000/-
5.	28/04/2018 & 28/04/2018	1. Ramesh Chand 2. Sushil M 3. M/s Vanish Enterprises	2053, Sec-3, Ballab Garh, Market Faridabad, Haryana 121 003.	Property No.2053, HIG on Ground Floor, area measuring 140.69 sq yds, in Sector-3 Housing Board Colony, Faridabad, Haryana.	20.03.2020	Rs. 75,00,000/-	Rs. 75,00,000/-
6.	31/03/2003	1. Ravi Kumar Bansal 2. Sneha Lata Bansal	AM-141, S/F, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi 110 088.	Property No. 167, Entire First Floor, Block-AB, Addressing 68.75 Sq.Mtr., Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.	31.07.2020	Rs. 70,00,000/-	Rs. 70,00,000/-
7.	30/03/2018, 04/01/2019 & 04/01/2019	1. Vinita Sharma 2. Nishu Kumar Sharma 3. M/s Sharma General Store 4. M/s Yash Keshav	H.No-5/79, Gajju Katra Bada Bazar, Shop No-452 A, Anand Mandi Shalimar New Delhi 110 032. Shop No. 453, Bata Bazar, Shalimar New Delhi 110 032.	Property Bearing No.V/78 & V/79 area measuring 33.61 sq.yds, out of Khajura No.642 situated in the area of Village Chandrawali alias Shandara in the block of Gajju Katra Village Shalimar Delhi. Bounded as East-Portion of others, West-Property No.79, North-Side of others, South-Gate of others.	20.03.2020	Rs. 74,00,000/-	Rs. 74,00,000/-

The Under signed is the Authorized Officer of Cholamaland Investment and Finance Company Limited hereinafter called the secured creditor, under Rule 2(a) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules framed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

In pursuance to loan agreement on the dates mentioned in column (A) the above named borrowers in column (C) residing at the addresses in column (D) were sanctioned loans indicated in column (G) in loan account number indicated in column (H). Towards the due repayment of loan, equitable mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the assets in column (E) was created by the borrowers. On persistent default in repayment of the loan amount the loan accounts of the borrowers have been classified by the secured creditor as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directions and guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. Consequently notice under Sec. 13(2) of the Act was also issued to the secured creditor on the dates mentioned in column (F), which have been returned undelivered.

I state that under section 13 (B) of the Securitisation Act, you can redeem the secured assets by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

In view of the above, the above named borrowers are called upon to discharge in full their liabilities towards the Secured Creditor by making the payment of the entire outstanding indicated in Column (H) above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of notice, failing which, the secured creditor shall be entitled to take possession of the Secured Asset and shall also take such other actions as are available to the Secured Creditor in law. In the absence of full discharge of dues even after the transfer of secured assets the secured creditor reserves its right to proceed against the borrowers before a Sole Arbitrator, in terms of the Loan Agreement.

In addition the above named borrowers shall not alienate by way of transfer, sale, lease or otherwise or create third party interest or dealing with the Secured Asset in column (C) mentioned against the name of the each borrower in any manner except with specific prior written permission of the Secured creditor.

Date: 17.09.2020
Place: Delhi
Sd/-Authorized Officer
Cholamaland Investment and Finance Company Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location: 304-Elec-24-T-2020-21-E-3
Electrical work in connection with replacement of overhead with underground cable & augmentation of power supply arrangement with other allied works at S.P. Marg.

Approx cost of the works in Rs. 72.98 lacs
Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money: Rs. 1465000.00
Date & time of submission of tender: 12.10.2020, 13.00 hrs.
Opening of tender: 12.10.2020, 13.00 hrs.
Website & notice board: www.nreps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 20/10/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (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 NODA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A) 1. 28/GM/SM/VC-21/2020-21, Name of Work:- M/o Drain (Construction of RCC drain and culvert in F-Block Sector-27) Noida Cost: Rs. 45.39 Lacs
2. 34/GM/SM/VC-10/2020-21, Name of Work:- Annual Maintenance of Road in Work Circle-10, Area, Noida Cost: Rs. 28.97 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 05.10.2020 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 06.10.2020 at 11.00 AM. General Manager NODA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

J&K PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.
(A J&K Govt. Undertaking)
e-NIT No: 33/E/J of 2020-21 Dt. 07.09.2020

On behalf of Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Ltd., the Deputy General Manager, Unit Electrical, JKPCCL Ltd. Jammu invites e-tenders from approved and eligible electric contractors registered with JKPCCL under the following work:

S.No. 1. Name of Work :- Internal Electrification work for Workshop Block, Polytechnic College at Udhampur. Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs) :- Rs. 13.50 Lacs, Cost of document :- Rs. 1,000/-, Earnest Money (Rs) :- Rs. 27,000/-, Time of completion :- In tandem with civil works, Class of Contractor :- "A"

Qualification criteria, scope of work, tender documents, BOQ and all other terms & conditions can be seen and downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in

Critical Dates:
1. Period of downloading of NIT :- 09.09.2020, to 30.09.2020 up to 1400 Hrs.
2. Pre-Bid Meeting :- 16.09.2020 at 1230 Hrs. in Office of Deputy General Manager, Unit-Electrical, JKPCCL Ltd., Rail Head Complex, Jammu.
3. Bid submission dates along with proof of cost of Tender Document and EMD :- 09.09.2020 to 30.09.2020 up to 1400 Hrs.
4. Date of opening of technical Bid :- 01.10.2020 at 1230 Hrs. in Office of Deputy General Manager, Unit-Electrical, JKPCCL Ltd., Rail Head Complex, Jammu.
5. Hard Copies of Technical Bid will be invited from L1 only. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of undersigned or e-tendering Cell, Jammu.

No. DIP/J-1638-P/20
Dated: 15.09.2020
Sd/-Deputy General Manager, Unit-Electrical, JKPCCL Ltd. Jammu.

UK TO RATION COVID TESTING Amid FAILURES
London: The British government plans to ration coronavirus testing, giving priority to health workers and care home staff after widespread reports that people around the country were unable to schedule tests.

The Yellw Sea on Tuesday, media reported.

The Long March 11, designed to be deployed quickly and from mobile launch sites such as a ship, is mainly used to carry small satellites. The rocket made its first sea launch in June last year.

"Sea launch platforms will

BARBADOS TO REMOVE UK QUEEN AS STATE HEAD
London: Barbados wants to remove Britain's Queen Elizabeth as its head of state and become a republic, the Caribbean nation's government has said. A former British colony that gained independence in 1966, Barbados has maintained a formal link with the British monarchy as have some other countries that were once part of the British empire.

N KOREA MAY CONDUCT MISSILE TEST: SEOUL
Seoul: North Korea may soon conduct its first underwater-launched ballistic missile test in about a year, a South Korean military official said amid long-stalled nuclear talks between the North and the US.

'EU SANCTIONS TO HALT TURKEY'S GAS SEARCH'
Nicosia: The European Union should not discard imposing tougher sanctions to get Turkey to give up an "unlawful" hydrocarbons search in the eastern Mediterranean that has ratcheted up tensions, the president of Cyprus said.

SMOKE FROM US FIRES REACHES EUROPE
Paris: Smoke from the fires devastating swathes of the US West Coast has reached as far as Europe, the European Union's climate monitoring service said Wednesday in its assessment of the "unprecedented" blazes.

TRUMP: VACCINE COULD BE READY IN A MONTH
Philadelphia: President Donald Trump said a coronavirus vaccine may be available within a month — an acceleration of even his own surprisingly optimistic predictions — but added that the pandemic could go away by itself. "We're very close to having a vaccine," he told a town hall question-and-answer session with voters in Pennsylvania aired on ABC News.

Just monkeying around: Primate takes phone, then selfies!
Kuala Lumpur: A Malaysian student whose cellphone was stolen while he was sleeping has tracked down the culprit: a monkey who took photo and video selfies with the device before abandoning it.

The 20-year-old student, who was missing from his bedroom when he woke up Saturday. He found the phone's casing under his bed but there was no sign of robbery in his house in southern Johor state.

When his father saw the monkey the next day, he launched a search in the jungle behind his house. Using his brother's phone to call the device, he found it covered in mud under a palm tree. But a bigger surprise came when he checked his phone and found a series of monkey selfies and videos recorded in the phone.

"My uncle was joking that maybe the monkey took some selfies with the phone... So when I checked my phone picture gallery, I was shocked. The suspect's face was plastered on the screen. It was hilarious," Zackrydz said.

Israel strikes Gaza after rocket fire during US ceremony
Jerusalem: The Israeli military struck Hamas militant sites in the Gaza Strip early on Wednesday in response to rocket fire toward Israel the previous night that coincided with the signing of normalisation agreements between the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Two Israelis were lightly wounded.

The barrage against Israel began on Tuesday night just as the ceremony in Washington was getting underway to formalise the new agreements with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Two Israelis were lightly wounded.

The rocket fire continued overnight, with sirens sounding across southern Israel. The military said five projectiles landed in open areas where the rocket intercepted by Israel's rocket defense system.

In response, the military said it struck about 10 sites belonging to Gaza's militant Hamas rulers, including a weapons and explosives manufacturing factory, underground infrastructure and a military training compound.

Trend Slazer

'Love the lockdown life'

Actor **SONAKSHI SINHA** says she is not fretting about getting back to work or how the industry will change in the COVID era.

The actor shared that she is loving the lockdown life for now.

"I am just going to admit that I am loving lockdown life. In the last 10 years, I haven't gotten a break for so long where I have been able to spend time with myself, understand what I want from life, do the things I like to do and just be one with yourself, sort your head out, contemplate and understand what's important and what's not," Sonakshi said. "I am not worried about when work will start and how it will be," added she.



'In our younger years, the idea of a villain was rather limited. It was obviously by

virtue of how the stories played out, but villains were a little over the top in their tonality. With Mirzapur and Gurgaon or even Sacred Games, I have been able to explore the dark side of the human psyche in greater depth. I choose the negative characters wisely.'

—Pankaj Tripathi

Actor **KANGANA RANAUT** says only people with strong spiritual core can recognise the delusion that is showbiz.

"Show business is absolutely intoxicating. It makes one believe in an alternate reality, a little bubble of their own, it takes a very strong spiritual core to recognise this delusion," Kangana tweeted.

Earlier, she criticised Samajwadi Party MP and actor Jaya Bachchan for her remarks against people who are trying to tarnish the image of the film industry, and questioned whether her stance would change if her children were involved.

Kim freezes her Insta, FB account

Reality TV star **KIM KARDASHIAN WEST**, who has one of the biggest Instagram followings in the world — 188.8 million — decided to freeze her social media accounts to protest against the spread of 'hate, propaganda and misinformation'.

Kim wrote: "I love that I can connect directly with you through Instagram and Facebook, but I can't sit by and stay silent while these platforms continue to allow the spreading of hate, propaganda and misinformation."

Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Orlando Bloom, Kerry Washington and Sacha Baron Cohen are among those who took part in the protest.



VOCAL FOR LOCAL

From import subsidisation to vendor development, creation of green supply chains, minimising carbon footprints, the Indian hospitality sector uses more than 90 per cent local resources, making it an embodiment of an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. By **AYUSHI SHARMA**

The Indian tourism sector has had a long journey of growth and finding its place on the world map. The era after the economic liberalisation of the 90s in India sparked the growth of the sector and attained new heights. In 2018, tourism contributed more than nine per cent to India's GDP and accounted for eight per cent of the country's employment. As per the statistics, states like Sikkim, tourism helped increase its employment rate to 33 per cent. And the hospitality industry constitutes a majority share of the tourism sector. Hotels are a part of essential tourism infrastructure as providers of tourist accommodation in all categories. From providing basic facilities to a weary traveller who wants to break the journey to rest and refresh, roadside motels have come a long way and become centres for culinary delights, venues for events and destinations for leisure seekers.

PM Narendra Modi has advocated that the ongoing pandemic should be looked at as an opportunity and given a clarion call to the nation to build an *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (Self-reliant India). As per the Hotel Association of India (HAI), the hotel industry is proud to say that it is an embodiment of his cherished dream. Today, Indian hotels are among the best globally and have won accolades and awards for excellence in service by business and leisure tourists alike. And what is commendable is the fact that global recognition has come by practising the age-old Indian tradition of "Atithi Devo

Bhava" and by using local sources, be it money, material, machines or manpower. The Indian hospitality industry uses more than 90 per cent local resources.

Puneet Chhatwal, President of Hotel Association of India, explains that tourism is integral to a nation's prosperity as it creates jobs, drives exports, enhances foreign exchange earnings and creates sustainable livelihoods. He says, "We all know that tourism is much more than what meets the eye. It is one of the fastest growing sectors of Indian economy over the past decade at a CAGR of 8.5 per cent. The sector employs close to 10-12 per cent of all workforce in the country, thereby contributing to building livelihood with a multiplier effect. In addition, the sector contributes to over ₹10,000 crores to the exchequer every year. Hotels are significant employers of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers. The industry also promotes gender diversity and equal opportunity. From import subsidisation to vendor development, creation of green supply chains, minimising carbon footprints, the industry contributes richly to the economy."

BEING SELF RELIANT

The industry's endeavour has been to increase its focus on local sourcing of ingredients/components in its key pillars of food and beverage, infrastructure and engineering equipment. From about 65 per cent in the year 2000, there has been consistent efforts to increase the extent of local sourcing which rose to about 87



per cent in 2020.

Priya Paul, Chairperson of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Limited and Executive Committee Member of Hotel Association of India, says, "THE Park Hotels as well as our social catalyst brand, Zone by THE Park, are a true reflection of contemporary India. Our DNA of creativity and innovation is expressed in distinctive ways. We work with numerous Indian designers, products as well as local artisans and even promote new Indian performing arts. For instance, at our Hyderabad branch, we worked with more than 25 designers for our various spaces. We commissioned local artisans and craftsmen to work on the dying art of *Kalamkari* and to recreate it in a con-

temporary way."

She adds, "We have been promoting farm-to-fork concept for the last many years. We work closely with the local organic farmers and have been promoting sustainable food practices. Before the lockdown, our hotels in New Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata used to have weekly organic farmer markets. Our menus are also designed in a way where information on the source of food is also shared. For us, this has been a practice for a very long time."

The industry aspires to increase this further to an overall 95 per cent and more by 2025. In certain value components such as DG sets, AC units, mechanical equipment and elevators, it would be closer to 100 per cent. However, the question is — despite seeing no guests at all for the past five months and currently not attracting many tourists due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, how does the self-reliant claim stand true? Puneet tells us, "The impact of the pandemic has definitely been severe. As per The Horwath HTL India Report, this is best reflected by the loss of demand and revenue. The aggregate loss for March to June 2020, compared to 2019, is ₹4,810 crore for the hospitality sector."

Even in the given bleak scenario, the sector has been able to hold its ground and is working hard to weather this storm. It is adapting to the new normal with enhanced safety and hygiene practices, moving swiftly towards

increased digitisation and rolling out new products and alternative revenue streams like online food delivery. However, due to a lack of uniform regulations across states, hotels are continuing to bear the brunt. While the Indian hospitality sector is very much self-reliant, it requires a few extraordinary measures, including the support from its stakeholders and the government," adds he.

EXEMPLIFYING NATIONAL PRESTIGE

Indian hospitality has brought India on the world tourism map. From playing host to heads of states, celebrities, senior officials, industrialists and entrepreneurs, facilitating large and prestigious national as well as international conventions and events to providing a secure comfortable abode for people during disasters, Indian hotels have displayed their commitment to the nation.

"Hotels have always showcased India's rich culture and diversity. They support local artists and artisans by giving them a platform to exhibit their craft. They are the centres for the promotion of Indian heritage, textiles, cuisines, handicrafts, culture, art and artists. They have also introduced the world to our ancient practices of yoga and Ayurveda. And they will continue to carry forward this tradition," shares Puneet.

The fact that some of the best hotels in the world are managed by Indians adds to the national pride.

PROVIDING LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Indian hospitality sector employs close to 4.5 crore people and livelihood to many more. It provides an opportunity for women and to the differently-abled. From the humble basic tourist accommodation tents and lodges, the industry has offerings also for the first-class traveller to those seeking ultra-luxury, thus, giving all Indians an opportunity to experience the country's rich touristic treasures, undertake pilgrimages and much more.

Christie's to sell Parton's jewels

Christie's announced an online-only charity auction — *NASHVILLE: An Auction to benefit ACM Lifting Lives COVID-19 Response Fund* — led by a Swarovski-crystal bedazzled four-string dulcimer, owned by Dolly Parton for 30 years. It's accompanied by its original stand and used by the artist as she celebrated her 50th anniversary performing at the Grand Ole Opry in 2019. The dulcimer is estimated at \$50,000-1,00,000 and leads a sale featuring items generously donated by country music's biggest names, including Reba McEntire, Tim McGraw, Marty Stuart, Bernie Taupin, and Trisha Yearwood.

The auction received a special mention during the live broadcast of the 55th Academy of Country Music Awards hosted by Keith Urban on Wednesday. ACM Lifting Lives is the philanthropic arm of the Academy of Country Music dedicated to improving lives through the power of music. The auction dates and additional lots will be announced at a later date.

Dolly Parton said, "Seeing my country music community suffer due to the pandemic has broken my heart. It was important to donate the dulcimer that was designed for my 50th Opry Anniversary so we can raise awareness and much needed funds to keep these folks on their feet before we can open the doors to our stages once again."

Lyndsay Cruz, Executive Director, ACM Lifting Lives, said, "We are immensely grateful to the artists in the Nashville community and beyond who have generously donated items for this auction in collaboration with Christie's. Every winning bid will go towards our COVID-19 Response Fund to support the workers of our country music community — the tour bus drivers, aspiring musicians, techs and venue workers — so many of whom have lost their livelihoods overnight during the course of this pan-



demic. So far, the fund has distributed \$1.5 million and we are hoping the sale of these iconic items will enable us to support more affected by this crisis."

"Christie's is honored to work with the music community in Nashville and partner with ACM Lifting Lives COVID-19 Response Fund to support the country music frontline workers who are in need at this time. We are particularly excited to be offering the first musical instrument ever to appear at a global auction from Dolly Parton," said Nancy Valentino, Strategic Business and Client Development, Christie's.

While the dulcimer is an ancient instrument, the Appalachian dulcimer is a cornerstone to the sound of country music, and one that Country Music Hall of Famer Dolly Parton has used throughout her career.



DISCOVERING INDIA

As a part of a new series — *Lost Essence of India* — singer, actor and avid photographer **MEIYANG CHANG** helps the audience uncover hidden gems that have been forgotten over time

As a part of the Discovery Channel's latest series — *Lost Essence of India* — singer, actor and an avid photographer, Meiyang Chang, who is also the host of the show, takes viewers on an enchanting journey and helps them uncover hidden gems that have been forgotten over time.

In the first episode of this four-part series, Chang explores the Rivona Caves in Goa known to be creation of Buddhist monks around the 6th century, entering some of the remotest parts of the country, with roads that are not well-trodden.

The second episode witness-

es Chang relishing the Saraswat Brahmin cuisine that not many have been fortunate to enjoy. Moving on to the third episode, he explores the lost heart of Kashmir, Choharnag, which is surrounded by meadows all around. In the finale episode, Chang goes on to unveil another gem, Naranag Temple in Kashmir, one of the important archaeological sites of the country.

"India boasts of an immensely rich culture and architecture, and we only know about the popular and promoted aspects of it. There are a million more places, stories and experiences that are

yet to be discovered. And that's what we set out to do with *Lost Essence of India*," said Chang.

"I have been to Goa and Kashmir before and yet I was unaware of the existence of these experiences. It was a breath-taking, mind-bending journey through lesser known paths to discover the lost essence of some magnificent places in the country. I pray you love this and get to experience it someday while being a responsible tourist. Respect nature and nature will love you back. Also, I can't wait to see where we head to next," he added.



JUST A CLICK AWAY

Chhattisgarh CM BHUPESH BAGHEL launches CG-COP mobile app through which citizens will have access to at least 14 services online

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel recently launched CG-COP mobile app, at his residence office. On the occasion, Baghel said that the app developed by Chhattisgarh Police will help in developing mutual trust between common

people and the police, bringing them closer. It will be now more comfortable for people to seek help from the police. The app will act as a bridge between the citizens and the police in the direction of crime control. Through the app, citizens will be able to give information about crime

or the information related with police cases with a single click. Citizens will be able to avail 14 types of services without having to go to the police stations. It has features that helps file civil FIR, online complaint about theft, missing, seized vehicle, unknown body, seized mobile, miss-

ing person, to share clue with police, search case status, police telephone directory, help centre, share details of the arrested person, locate nearest police station and access helpline services. On this occasion, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Chief

Secretary RP Mandal, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahu, Director General of Police DM Awasthi, Director General of Police, Jail, Sanjay Pillay, Special Director General of Police RK Vij and Ashok Juneja along with other senior officers of the police department were present.



WRWWO supports Corona warriors' widows

As a token of support, Tania Kansal, President of Western Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (WRWWO), recently distributed the 'Samvedna Rashi' to the widows of the Western Railway's 15 Corona warriors of frontline staff.

According to Sumit Thakur, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Kansal handed over an amount of ₹5,000 each to the 15 widows of the employees of frontline staff.

She said, "It is very disheartening and unfortunate that these employees lost their lives while performing their duty during the COVID-19 pandemic. These employees came from various fields like Ticket Checking, Ticket Booking, Loco Pilot, Guard, Fitter, Technician, Trackman etc."

The WRWWO salutes its sincere and dedicated employees. Kansal and the executive committee members encouraged railway employees to empower themselves and be confident to face adversities. In her address on this occasion, Kansal said that it is during the COVID-19 pandemic, natural calamities or serious illness, WRWWO has always empathised with the employees and their families and is ready to reach out to them in difficult times. She said that our corona warriors without caring for their life have sincerely carried out their duty. "It is very unfortunate that while performing their duties, some of them got infected with the Coronavirus and lost their lives. There is no compensation to the lives lost. WRWWO and its members salute such brave employees and stand by their bereaved families," she added. Kansal said that the wives of these employees have always backed their husbands and stood by them with grit and determination.

The recipients of the amount were Sujata w/o Arun Tenbalkar — MCF, Lower Parel; Janki w/o Ramavadh Shastri — chief booking supervisor, Vassar Road; Jashuben w/o Jitendra Gamit, Chief Ticket Inspector, Ahmedabad; Mira Devi w/o Durga Lal Meena, Mail Guard, Surat; Devanti w/o Kapil Dev Bhagat, Fitter, Borivali; Namita w/o Nitin Gharat, Technician, Lower Parel; Shushma w/o Rajesh Mishra, ELF, Kandivali; Ruma w/o Ganeshdhara Mukherjee, Loco Pilot/Mail, Bandra Terminus; Nirmala w/o Vijay Bote, TCM, Mumbai Central; Sunita w/o Sunil Khandre, Chief Booking Supervisor, Santacruz; Leena w/o Vincent Fernandes, Head Constable, Kankariya; Chandrika w/o Tulsihai Vaghela, HKA, Chirai; Gayatri Devi w/o Narendra Gosai, Tech, Diesel Shed, Sabarmati; Devendramma w/o Nagappa Agasur, Trackman, Borivali and Prabha w/o R S Sharma, Dy Chief Ticket Inspector, Rajdhani Express.

BHEL signs MoU with SwissRapid AG

To expand its footprint in the Urban Transportation Sector as a part of its diversification initiatives, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SwissRapid AG for Maglev Train projects in India.

To this effect, an MoU was signed

by SV Srinivasan, GM and Head (Transportation Business Group), BHEL and Niklaus H Koenig, President and CEO, SwissRapid AG.

Significantly, the agreement has been signed in the backdrop of the Prime Minister's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, and will enable BHEL to bring the latest,

world-class technology to India and manufacture state-of-the-art Maglev Trains indigenously.

The MoU sets out the foundation to cooperate and explore mutually beneficial business opportunities, and utilise both the companies' inherent capabilities, skills, knowledge and assets.

Notably, the Maglev Rail system hovers in the air instead of rolling, due to magnetic levitation, thus the vehicles have no physical contact with the guideway. This enables the system to be highly energy efficient, allow operating speeds of 500 km/h easily and significantly reduce the total cost of system ownership.

Port Blair airport to have a new terminal building

Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair is soon going to have a new terminal building. The airport currently handles 16 lakh passengers annually. Considering the surge in the passenger traffic, Airports Authority of India has undertaken the construction of integrated terminal building there at ₹700 crore.

With total built up area of 40,837 sqm, the building will be capable to handle 1,200 passengers during peak hours and about 50 lakh passengers annually. The new passenger terminal building will have three levels comprising lower ground, upper ground and first floor. The lower ground floor will be used as



remote arrival, departure and service area, the upper ground floor will have entry and exit gates and the first floor as awaiting lounge for interna-

tional passengers. The building will be equipped with modern passenger's facilities with 28 check-in counters, three pas-

senger boarding bridges, five air-conditioned walkways, an oxygen system and state-of-the-art firefighting and fire alarm system. City side area of the

Airport will also be developed with adequate parking facilities for car, taxi and buses along with the landscaping. Inspired from nature, the design of the terminal is a shell shaped structure depicting sea and islands. It is a structural steel framed building provided with aluminum sheet roofing and cable net glazing all around. The entire terminal also has about 100 per cent natural lighting through skylights provided at roof level.

Curved shaped Cable Net Glazing will be provided all around the building. More than 60 per cent of the project is completed and the building is scheduled to be ready by mid-2021.

ALERT FOR PENSIONERS

In view of the ongoing pandemic and the vulnerability of elderly population to Coronavirus, the Government has relaxed the existing timeline for submission of Life Certificate. This year, all Central Government pensioners can submit Life Certificate from November 1 to December 31. The pensioners in the age group of 80 years and above, can submit their certificate from October 1. Earlier, this used to be only for the month of November.

During this extended period, the pension will be continued to be paid by the Pension Disbursing Authorities (PDAs) uninterrupted. In addition to above, in the line of RBI notification no. RBI/2019-20/138, dated January 9 which permits Video based Customer Identification Process

(V-CIP) as a consent based alternate method of establishing the customer's identity, Pension Disbursing Banks have been asked to explore the said methodology for obtaining a Life Certificate from the pensioner, to the extent permitted by RBI guidelines, in order to avoid rush at the branch-

es and maintain social distancing, while obtaining Life Certificates. Pensioners can submit life certificate by visiting the bank branches. However, the department has been promoting the Digital Life Certificate which can be given from the comfort of one's home also.

ASHA schools go solar

Government-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC), India's leading NBFC, has installed a stand-alone solar rooftop system at ASHA School, run by Indian Army Wives Welfare Association in the Delhi Cantonment area. The installation has been carried out as part of PFC's CSR initiative.

Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Chairman and Managing Director, PFC along with Lt. General R A Anand inaugurated the stand alone solar



rooftop system of 5kWp capacity. PK Singh, Director Commercial, R Murahari, Executive Director-CSR and M Prabhakar Das, Chief General Manager

(CSR & SD), PFC also graced the occasion along with other Indian Army officials and staff. Under the CSR initiative, PFC is providing 5kWp standalone solar rooftop systems with battery backup in 37 ASHA schools across the country. PFC is also providing solar lanterns to Indian Army under its CSR initiative. Around 5,000 solar lanterns have already been supplied to Indian Army and Don'ts is also being which is helping them in tough terrains and forward posts.

Kolkata metro resumes



Metro services in Kolkata have resumed. A total of 110 services are being run on North-South Metro corridor and 72 services are being run on East-West Metro corridor from 8 am to 8 pm. It's being made sure that the commuters maintain social distancing and all other COVID-19 safety protocols inside Metro premises have been ensured. Metro staff at different stations are helping commuters to follow safety guidelines like sanitisation,

maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, etc. RPF staff checks e-pass of each commuter as well as screen his/her body temperature with thermal gun. Frequent announcements are made inside the Metro premises requesting all to maintain distancing norms. Short-form on DoS and Don'ts is also being shown on Platform TVs to educate commuters how to stay secure and help others too.

DJB celebrates Engineer's Day

In remembrance of M Visvesvaraya, recipient of Bharat Ratna, Delhi Jal Board celebrated Engineer's Day on Tuesday. Every year the day is celebrated at large scale, commemorating the contribution made by the eminent personalities in engineering parlance.

Keeping social distancing and the current crisis in mind, DJB cherished the essence of this day by naming the Andrews Ganj building as DJB Engineers Bhawan by Chairman (DJB), Satyendra Jain in presence of Vice Chairman (DJB), Raghuvar Chaudhary, Kasturba Nagar MLA Madan Lal, CEO(DJB) Nikhil Kumar, Member (Water), Member (Drainage), Member (Administration), Member (Finance) and other officers.

India celebrates this day every year to mark the birth anniversary of Visvesvaraya, the engineering pioneer of India. Fondly known as Sir MV or the Builder of India, Visvesvaraya was born in 1860 in Chikaballapur district of Karnataka. DJB Engineers

Bhawan is a four storied building situated at Andrews Ganj and shall be used as public grievance redressal office regarding water, wastewater, etc. for the residents of South Delhi. The knowledge dissemination regarding RW and various other DJB schemes for the benefit of the residents can also be availed from there.

On the occasion, Jain said, "We are equipped with every facility to work round the clock to make Delhi a better place by bringing it into the ambit of water and wastewater services and providing state-of-the-art technology. In future, DJB will provide consultancy services to other states and countries. Creativity and innovation are two important aspects that should be kept in mind with every project." On closing the event, Shalabh Kumar, President of The Engineers Association, (DJB) Delhi and Member (Water) DJB assured Jain that their resolution to work in the interest of the people will always be intact along with striving for betterment.

Diverting routes

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonapat



faster commuter travel, long distance travel in different directions from Gurugram and the industrial regions of Manesar, Sohna, Farukh Nagar, Kharkhauda and Sonapat.

Approximately 20,000 passengers each day will be travelling through this line and 50 Million Tonnes goods traffic would also be carried out every year.

BACKGROUND

The Orbital Rail Corridor from Palwal to Sonapat by passing Delhi is a crucial infrastructure project for sustainable development of the NCR and to de-congest existing Indian Railway network in Delhi area.

The alignment of this project is adjacent to the western peripheral (Kundli-Manesar-Palwal) Expressway and has been under consideration for some time. The project will have connectivity with all the existing railway routes originating from Delhi and passing through Haryana State as well as with the Dedicated Freight Corridor network.

The project will connect unserved areas of the state of Haryana, thereby boosting economic and social activities in Haryana. This multi-purpose transport project will also facilitate affordable and

IN SHORT



Metro Railway has upgraded several passenger amenities at different Metro stations maintaining social distancing and other COVID-19 protocols. A new escalator was commissioned at Chandni Chowk station on Monday by replacing the old one. With smooth co-operation of civil and electrical departments, the escalator has been commissioned in record time. Metro commuters will get the benefits.



From left to Right: Upender Pandey, Poet and Manjari Mishra, Poetess playing the role of Judges in MSME Hindi Poetry Competition held in Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi on Monday. Assistant Director (OL), Pankaj, is at extreme right.



As per the instructions from the Railway Board, the Swachhata Pakhwada is being organised at various locations at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), which will continue till September 30. All the necessary precautions have been ensured, keeping in mind the Coronavirus pandemic. Each day, Pakhwara will be associated with a particular theme related to cleanliness and sanitisation. There will be workshops, online drawing competitions on the theme of Swachhata, Swachh Ahar to develop awareness and communication around better hygiene conditions. CLW staff, officers and volunteers of Bharat Scout & Guide are participating.



DDA is set to e-auction 25 functional sites for hosting nurseries and other ceremonies. The 10th phase of Mega e-auction is scheduled to be launched soon by Delhi Development Authority which will also include 25 functional sites across Delhi. The allotment will be on License fee basis subject to compliances with all the clean, green protocols and Swachh Bharat Mission norms.

DDA is also planning to e-auction Kiosks at various locations in addition to various other types of plots including industrial, institutional, commercial, residential, Expandable Housing Scheme plots, shops, etc., are also part of the forthcoming Mega e-auction.

General Manager, Northern & North Central Railways, Rajiv Chaudhary has released a booklet 'Initiatives Taken by Northern Railway to Enhance Safety Standards During Lockdown'. It is a compilation of work done by the various departments and divisions of the zone focussing on safety during the lockdown period of COVID-19. It highlights the efforts put in by the Railway men to check, maintain and repair the track system and the rolling stock assets to meet all laid safety standards. The Northern Railway has been ceaselessly working throughout the lockdown period to support the nation fight the pandemic. The time was effectively utilised by the zone for inspecting, maintaining and repairing its assets. The efforts have resulted in no consequential train accident during the period April to August 2020. Releasing the book, Chaudhary called upon the employees to keep up their good work. He added that as the nation's prime transporter, the Railways has a greater responsibility post-lockdown and it will leave no effort in contributing towards India's growth and development.

