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# No offset clause in future defence deals

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

earnest about fulfilling these commitments.

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

However, the offset clause is not applicable to the Government to Government deals and single-vendor contracts. The Rafale deal is one of the most prominent such contracts in the recent past. In such deals, the Government, from which the weapon platform is procured, stands guarantee for all issues, including delivery schedule and availability of critical spares besides maintenance.

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



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

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

## Brahmos, Nirbhay, Akash to ward off Chinese threat



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

## Anti-farm laws protest spreads

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Punjab Government is also consulting lawyers to move the Supreme Court on the issue. The CM was accompanied by his wife and ex-Minister Preneet Kaur, new Congress in-charge of Punjab affairs Harish Rawat, PPC Chief Sunil Jakhar, Vidhan Sabha Speaker Rana KP, Cabinet Ministers, around 45 MLAs and six MPs. They all sat in the memorial complex right in front of the statue and sat on dharna for over an hour.

## No conclusion yet in Sushant death case as probe on: CBI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has not drawn any conclusion in the death case of filmstar Sushant Singh Rajput and all angles of the incident are being probed, the agency said here on Monday.

"The Central Bureau of Investigation is conducting (a) professional investigation related to death of Sri Sushant Singh Rajput in which all aspects are being looked at and no aspect has been ruled out as of date," a CBI spokesperson said in statement.

Rajput, 34, who debuted with the much-acclaimed 'Kai Po Che' movie seven years ago, was found dead in his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai on June 14 this year. His family members suspected this to be a case of abatement to suicide or plain murder.

## Delhi SI guns down father-in-law day after shooting his girlfriend

Cop takes medical leave to commit murder in Rohtak, still on the run

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after shooting his girlfriend — who is battling for her life in a hospital in the national Capital — the 35-year-old Delhi Police Sub-Inspector (SI) on Monday shot dead his father-in-law Ranveer Singh (60) in Bhainsi village near Lakhan Majra in Rohtak, Haryana.

Police said the accused, Sandeep Dahiya, a permanent resident of Sonapat in Haryana and at present residing at Government allotted accommodation at Shalimar Bagh Police Colony, is also embroiled in a matrimonial dispute with his wife and a case has been



registered against him at Rohtak Police Station.

Police said Dahiya was posted at Lahori Gate Police Station in North Delhi.

Dahiya had shot his girlfriend of 1 year around 7:30 am on Monday, near Delhi's SI Mandir on GT Karnal road. "Ranveer (Dahiya's father-in-law) was standing outside his house when Dahiya came and shot him from a very close range and fled from the spot," said the Rajinder Singh, the Station House Officer (SHO),

Lakhan Majra Police Station.

"Ranveer died the spot. On the basis of the statement given by Ranveer's son Manjeet, a case under section 302 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered and manhunt is on for the accused," the SHO said. Police said on September 27 Dahiya was deputed for duty in general "gash" from 9 pm to 1 am, but he didn't turn up for duty and hence he was marked absent.

Dahiya joined the Delhi Police in 2006 as constable and after passing the exam, he became Sub Inspector in 2010. Meanwhile, the Delhi Police departmental enquiry also found him guilty.

"He was on medical rest for 2 days on pretext of stomach pain and joined duty on September 25. Since he has been the Division officer, a 9MM pistol with 10 rounds was allotted to him," said a police officer.

## Sonia asks Cong CMs to pass Act to override farm legislations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to make the recently enacted farm sector legislation ineffective, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday directed Chief Ministers of four Congress-ruled States to look into the possibility of passing laws to override these measures.

A statement issued by party general secretary KC Venugopal said CMs of Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Pudducherry have been told to pass laws under Article 254 (2) of the Constitution that allows State legislatures to pass laws that could negate the "anti-agriculture" Central laws encroaching upon the States' jurisdiction under the Constitution.

"This would enable the States to bypass the unacceptable anti-farmers provisions,"



Punjab Youth Congress members set on fire a tractor near India Gate during a protest against the new farm laws in New Delhi on Monday  
Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

## Kerala Cong MP moves SC against farm laws

New Delhi: A Congress MP from Kerala moved the Supreme Court on Monday challenging the constitutional validity of various provisions of the contentious new farm Act.

TN Prathapan, who represents Thrissur Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala, has alleged that the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price

Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 is violative of right to equality (Article 14), prohibition of discrimination (15) and right to life and liberty (21) of the Constitution.

## Trump paid just \$750 income taxes in 2017; It's fake news: Prez

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump paid just USD 750 in federal income taxes in the year he was elected US president and also in his first year in the White House, according to a media report, which also said that he or his companies paid USD 145,400 taxes in India in 2017.

Trump entered the 2016 presidential race as a Republican and was elected in a surprise victory over Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

"Donald J Trump paid USD 750 in federal income taxes the year he won the presidency. In his first year in the White House, he paid another USD 750," the New York Times reported on Sunday, citing tax return data extending over 20 years.



weeks before the November 3 presidential election.

Trump paid no income taxes at all in 10 of the previous 15 years — largely because he reported losing much more money than he made, the report said.

The US President immediately dismissed the report as "totally fake news". US Presidents are not required by law to release details of their personal finances, but every one since Richard Nixon has done so.

## Rlys may charge ₹10 to ₹35 fees on redeveloped stations: Sources

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Railway passengers may have to shell out additional ₹10-₹35 for their ticket fares as user charges for availing redeveloped stations with state of the art amenities and to help the national transporter in raising funds for redeveloping more stations, sources indicated.

This is part of a proposal being finalised by the Railways which will soon be sent for Cabinet nod, the sources said. The user fee, the sources said, will vary according to the class — it would range between ₹10 and ₹35 with the higher price for AC first class passengers.

The Railways had earlier clarified that user fee would be levied only across stations which will be redeveloped and those that have high footfalls.

Of the 7,000 total railway stations in the country, around 700-1,000 fall in this category, it had said.

## Unlock 5.0 to put life, business back on track

MHA to issue guidelines; more domestic flights likely, cinema halls, malls to open

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is expected to issue a set of new Unlock-5.0 guidelines on Tuesday for restoring normal life and business activities to deal with the restrictions imposed due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The MHA had already consulted all States regarding the new guidelines which are expected to allow opening up of the education sector, tourism, food and domestic civil aviation sector. Many States have already taken decision on the opening up of undergraduate classes only from November 1.

The new guidelines are expected to allow selective opening up of malls and cinema halls subject to the State Government's decisions.

In education sector already 50 per cent of the teachers and staffers are allowed to attend campuses for higher classes in schools. Lower level classes are expected to be open only

after December or January.

On domestic civil aviation, the Union Home Ministry has consulted the Civil Aviation Ministry and other stakeholders and is expected to allow operation of more flights. However, in international sector, talks are going on with several countries.

The number of people allowed to assemble in public spaces may be increased in the new guidelines.

The States like Bihar where Assembly elections are going to take place from October 28 and simultaneous by-elections are

happening are expected to get the relaxation in the number of people.

At present maximum 100 people are allowed in processions or meeting up in public places. Increased frequency of Metro trains is also expected to be introduced.

**Covid-19 IN INDIA**  
TOTAL  
CASES: 61,31,450  
DEATHS: 96,212  
RECOVERED: 50,84,178  
ACTIVE: 9,50,201

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	13,51,153	35,751	10,49,947
Andhra Pradesh	6,81,161	5,745	6,12,300
Tamil Nadu	5,86,397	9,383	5,30,708
Karnataka	5,82,458	8,641	4,69,750
Uttar Pradesh	3,90,875	5,652	3,31,270
Delhi	2,73,098	5,272	2,40,703
West Bengal	2,50,580	4,837	2,19,844
Odisha	2,12,609	866	1,73,571
Telangana	1,87,211	1,107	1,56,431
Bihar	1,80,032	892	1,66,188
Kerala	1,79,923	698	1,21,264
Assam	1,69,985	655	1,39,977
Gujarat	1,34,623	3,431	1,14,576
Rajasthan	1,30,971	1,456	1,09,472
Haryana	1,25,412	1,331	1,08,411
Madhya Pradesh	1,22,209	2,207	97,571

## CAPSULE

**LOAN MORATORIUM: CALL ON INTEREST IN 2-3 DAYS**  
New Delhi: The Centre informed the Supreme Court on Monday that a decision is likely in 2-3 days over charging of interest by banks on instalments which were deferred during the moratorium period in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**FORM GOVT WITH BJP, ATHAWALE TELLS SEN**  
Mumbai: Union Minister Ramdas Athawale on Monday asked the Shiv Sena to reunite with the BJP to form Government in Maharashtra.

**MARKETS**

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## DELHI RIOT

# 26 retd IPS officers slam Ribeiro for questioning probe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

About 26 retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officers have condemned the conduct of a few fellow ex-police officers led by Julio Francisco Ribeiro IPS (Retd) of Maharashtra cadre. Ribeiro had written to the Delhi Police Commissioner, questioning the Northeast Delhi riots probe.

In its letter the former IPS including B. L. Vohra, former

DGP, Tristram, P. C. Dogra, former DGP, Punjab, M. G. Raman, former DGP, Kerala, Sudhir Kumar, former Member, CVC, R. S. Gupta, former Delhi Police Commissioner, R. N. Singh, former DGP, UP, Bhannu Pratap Singh, former DGP, UP and Umesh Kumar, former DGP, Andhra Pradesh stated that Ribeiro, who coined the famous phrase 'Bullet for Bullet' while working on depiction in the militancy ridden



—Ranjana Dimri / Pioneer

Punjab, should not have supported such kind of anti-India expression and communal narrative.

"He and his associates who have come out to support people like Umar Khalid who is known to have given the slogan 'Bharat ki barbad ki jung rahai', very well know that there is a due process of law, and there is no one above the law," said the retired IPS officers in their letter.

"The Delhi Police has

every right and duty to investigate the role of any such person, and custodial investigation is a part of due process of law. The accused has his rights under the law to seek anticipatory bail or regular bail, as the case may be, and the right to a fair trial where he can prove himself innocent," they further stated.

"A section of former police officers cannot usurp for themselves the office of Presiding Officers of the Courts to

declare anyone innocent and try to put the police force in bad light. These officers have no right to suspect or question the integrity and professionalism of their successors in the Indian Police Service, and in turn demoralize them," the letter further read.

"Such posturing and adverse commentary by such officers may demotivate the police officers and dilute their firm resolve to act against the criminals, including those who

incite communal divide in India by instigating riots," stated the letter.

"We, the Former Police Officers disapprove any statements or gestures by any motivated group of former police officers, which is aimed at defaming the Police Force and its serving officers, who are performing their duty day and night at great personal risk for the safety of general public," the retired IPS further stated in their letter.

## Tractor set ablaze at India Gate to protest against farm laws

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Punjab youth Congress activists set ablaze a tractor at India Gate on Monday morning. The Delhi Congress workers, meanwhile, to undertake a Kisan-Mazdoor Nyay March from Rajghat to Raj Niwas to protest against the anti-farmer Bills passed by the Modi Government at the Centre, and submit a memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor.

The Delhi Police said five people claiming to be members of the Punjab Youth Congress have been arrested. The arrested persons have been identified as Manoj Singh (36), Ramandeep Singh (28), Rahul (23), Sahib (28) and Sumit (28), all residents of Punjab, police said.

According to a senior police official, the incident took place in high security area just a few metres away from the President's House and the Parliament.

"Around 15-20 people carried a tractor on a truck to Rajpath, Man Singh Crossing. They unloaded the tractor from the truck and set it on fire," he

said. "Fire department received information regarding the incident at 7.42 am and two fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The blaze has been doused off and tractor was removed," said a senior Delhi Fire Service Official.

Meanwhile, sources in the Delhi Police claimed that they entered the Lutyens' Delhi along with a Punjab Police gipsy.

Dr Eish Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), New Delhi said that an Inquest car and a truck used for transportation of tractor have also been taken into police custody.

"A case under 3 Epidemic Act, 51(B) Disaster Management Act 4 year by the Public Property Act and other IPC sections has been registered at Tilak Marg police station and the five persons have been arrested," the DCP said.

IYC media incharge Rao said activists of the Punjab unit demonstrated at India Gate on the occasion of the birth anniversary of revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. "Our country thrives on the



—Ranjana Dimri / Pioneer

blood and sweat of our farmers. From fighting the British to feeding the entire nation, our farmers are the nation's backbone," the IYC tweeted.

"On Bhagat Singh's birth anniversary Youth Congress set ablaze a tractor in protest

against the govt's anti farmer bills," it added.

Referring to the incident, Delhi BJP media relations head Neelkant Bakshi tweeted that he would file a case against the "dangerous conspiracy to foment violence by spreading

rumours".

The incident comes amid protests by farmers and the Opposition across the country over the three contentious farm legislations, which were passed by the Parliament last week and got presidential assent on

Sunday.

Farmers have expressed apprehension that the laws would pave a way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big companies.

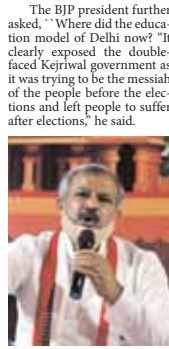
## BJP accuses Delhi Govt of backing out from paying Class 10th & 12th students' exam fees

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Adesh Gupta accused the Kejriwal Government of backing out from paying the examination fees of students studying in class 10th and 12th in

Government schools of Delhi. Gupta said the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) charges examination fees every year for board exams in its recognised schools. Fees are charged up to Rs 2500 per student. But the Kejriwal government had announced that the Delhi government will deposit the examination fees of 3.5 lakh students of class 10 and 12 for the 2019-20 sessions on 17 September 2019.

"Around 57 crore rupees were deposited last year by the Delhi government to CBSE but this year at the time people are facing financial crisis during the Corona pandemic, the Kejriwal government has refused to pay the examination fees due to which the burden will now be on the families of the students.



—Ranjana Dimri / Pioneer

The BJP president further asked, "Where did the attention model of Delhi now?"

"It clearly exposed the double-faced Kejriwal government as it was trying to be the messiah of the people before the elections and left people to suffer after elections," he said.

Bhardwaj said that a 19-year-old girl, who belonged to the dalit community, was allegedly gang-raped by four upper-caste men in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh. "The criminals also cut her tongue and attempted to murder by strangulating her. Her spinal injury is such that her hands and legs are paralyzed. Now she is admitted in AIIMS and Delhi Cabinet Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam is in continuous touch with her

family," he said.

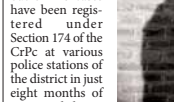
Explaining it further, he said "Today we have compiled a list of officials of 39 districts and we will show that all the important posts are with the people from Thakur community. From these districts, 46 topmost officials are from the Thakur community. In Uttar Pradesh, there are various other communities like Maurya community, Nishad, Bind, Kashyap, Jat, Gujjar, Valmiki, Kurmi, Yadav and other communities. But after Adityanath came to power he has only promoted the Thakur community".

Rajendra Pal Gautam said, "At first the Yogi government only registered a case under 307 of IPC but after the survivor came back to sense and due to the pressure from the Dalit community the government finally

filed a case of gang rape.

He also demanded that the family of the survivor should be given Rs 1 crore financial compensation. "We also demand that the Uttar Pradesh government should take this matter in a track court and punish the criminals," he said.

"We have looked into the crimes that are happening in Uttar Pradesh, we have found that people of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, OBCs and Brahmin community are constantly being tortured. The morale of the people of a particular community is increasing because whenever the people associated with that community commit any crime, then no action is taken against them by the Yogi government and the police administration," he said.



—Ranjana Dimri / Pioneer

10 patients since the lockdown have said that they felt suicidal during the lockdown. There is a clear and sharp rise from the pre-lockdown time when we saw such thoughts in 5 to 7 people out of every 10 patients." This is almost a 70 percent rise from March. Society as a whole needs to accept that suicide is a major public health problem and needs to be tackled like cancer or chronic illness. Do not discourage or stigmatise people with mental health issues so that they can take timely help," Kapoor said.

## THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

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I have changed my daughter's name from DEEPANKEE NEGI to DEEPAKNEE NEGI for all future purposes.

Anil Negi, S/o Raita Singh, Negi, R/o Kirinahi, Kulhan, Shastrihar Road, Dehradun.

I have changed my name from ANCHAL to ANCHAL YADAV for all future purposes.

Anchal Yadav, D/o Anil Yadav, R/o S-10, Awas Vikas Colony, Roorkee, Haridwar.

I, Kulbeer Sawan, R/o 158 Lane No. 2, Ashok Vihar, Ajabpur, Dehradun declare that few withdrawal transactions have been made from my Allahabad Bank A/C No. 20678087604 & SBI Bank A/C No. 30559254861 and between 08.10.2019 to 27.07.2020 without any information and proper authentication. It should be noted for future reference.

I, No-JC-18367BY NibSub(GD) PRAKASH CHANDER declare that the following changes occurred in my family member names, DOB Name & Home Address for future references.

1) Prakash Chander to Prakash Chandra Joshi (Individual), 2) Shri Hira Bala Joshi to Shri Hira Balbhai Joshi (Father), 3) Miss Devi Kumar DOB-05.03.1971 to Smt Devki devi DOB-10.06.1972 (Wife), 4) Kumari Ganga Joshi to Minaxi Joshi (Daughter), 5) Pankaj Joshi DOB-10.02.1994 to Pankaj Joshi DOB-10.07.1996 (Son), And Home Address Lalpurwa to Naithura.

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## Gautam, Bhardwaj condemn 'sexual assault' of Dalit girl at Hathras

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Cabinet Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam and AAP chief spokesperson and MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj strongly condemned the recent 'sexual assault' of a 19-year-old dalit girl at Hathras District of Uttar Pradesh.

Bhardwaj said that a 19-year-old girl, who belonged to the dalit community, was allegedly gang-raped by four upper-caste men in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh. "The criminals also cut her tongue and attempted to murder by strangulating her. Her spinal injury is such that her hands and legs are paralyzed. Now she is admitted in AIIMS and Delhi Cabinet Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam is in continuous touch with her

family," he said.

Explaining it further, he said "Today we have compiled a list of officials of 39 districts and we will show that all the important posts are with the people from Thakur community. From these districts, 46 topmost officials are from the Thakur community. In Uttar Pradesh, there are various other communities like Maurya community, Nishad, Bind, Kashyap, Jat, Gujjar, Valmiki, Kurmi, Yadav and other communities. But after Adityanath came to power he has only promoted the Thakur community".

Rajendra Pal Gautam said, "At first the Yogi government only registered a case under 307 of IPC but after the survivor came back to sense and due to the pressure from the Dalit community the government finally

filed a case of gang rape.

He also demanded that the family of the survivor should be given Rs 1 crore financial compensation. "We also demand that the Uttar Pradesh government should take this matter in a track court and punish the criminals," he said.

"We have looked into the crimes that are happening in Uttar Pradesh, we have found that people of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, OBCs and Brahmin community are constantly being tortured. The morale of the people of a particular community is increasing because whenever the people associated with that community commit any crime, then no action is taken against them by the Yogi government and the police administration," he said.

## Airport's T2 to resume operations from October 1

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

After six months of closure in the wake of covid-19 outbreak, air operations at Terminal-2 will begin from October 1. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on Monday announced that the terminal is all set to provide a safe and healthy environment to passengers flying out of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA).

The resumption of operations at T-2 will be with 96 air traffic movements (48 departures and 48 arrivals) per day and increase progressively up to 180 by end of October, a DIAL official said.

The terminal will resume operations with IndiGo's 2000 series flights and entire operations of GoAir in the



—Ranjana Dimri / Pioneer

initial phase. About 27 counters – 11 for GoAir and 16 for IndiGo – have been created to cater to the passengers of respective flights. The first flight scheduled from T2 after reopening of this terminal would be Srinagar bound Indigo flight, which will depart at 6:25 AM, the official added.

Explaining more on air operations, a DIAL official said, "To start with, IndiGo will cater to 20 destinations from T2. These will cater to 20 destinations from T2, including Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Bengaluru, Cochin, Guwahati, Indore, Jammu, Lucknow, Chennai, Patna, Srinagar, Tiruvardur, and Visakhapatnam among others. In the next phase, from October 8, 2020, 12 more destinations, including Mumbai, Kolkata, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Goa, Hyderabad, Madurai, Jaipur, and Nagpur, will start operating from T2."

"Delhi Airport is all set to reopen for domestic flight operations at T2 after six-months shutdown. We would like to assure passengers that

at Delhi airport, they would be in a safe and healthy environment. We have implemented several measures at the airport to ensure passenger safety without compromising their comfort and experience," said Videl Kumar Jaipuria, CEO-DIAL.

For the entry into airport at T2 10 Scan and Fly and 3 CUSS kiosks will be available for passengers for web check-in before entering the terminal. To avoid close contact and crowding at the counters, passengers are encouraged to use the e-check-in facility. Check-in point, the official added.

"About 10 e-boarding kiosks have been set up at the entry gates, 8 at the main security hold area (SHA) and 4 at the Express Check-in lane, which would be operational after a few weeks. The SHA has been expanded to make adequate seating arrangements and retail options," he said.

Alongside, UV Tunnels have been deployed at every dispatch baggage belt in the departure area to sanitize of check-in bags.

It may be noted that commercial operations of domestic

and international flights were suspended from March 24, in a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus pandemic in the country.

The development has come after a successful resumption of Terminal 3 that began operations in a calibrated manner from May 25.

## Order of The Director General of Police Uttarakhand 12,Subhash Road, Dehradun

RE-Tender  
Tender Identification no.: DG-III-324/2020  
1. Traffic Interceptor Fabrication's work on Innova Crysta- 25-09-2020  
2. Date of Issue of Tender - 03-10-2020, 10:00 AM  
3. Last Date of Receipt of Tender - 03-10-2020, 10:00 AM  
4. Date of Opening of Tender - 03-10-2020, 11:00 AM  
Further Details can be seen from the e-procurement portal  
<http://uktenders.gov.in>  
IG(P&M)  
Purchase Committee,  
Police H.Q. Uttarakhand, Dehradun  
Ro. 13280

## Order of The Director General of Police Uttarakhand 12,Subhash Road, Dehradun

RE-Tender  
Tender Identification no.: DG-III-328/2020  
1. Item/equipment - Alcohol Breath Analyzer  
2. Date of Issue of Tender - 25-09-2020  
3. Last Date of Receipt of Tender - 03-10-2020, 10:00 AM  
4. Date of Opening of Tender - 03-10-2020, 11:00 AM  
Further Details can be seen from the e-procurement portal  
<http://uktenders.gov.in>  
IG(P&M)  
Purchase Committee,  
Police H.Q. Uttarakhand, Dehradun  
Ro. 13281



# Defence Minister unveils foundation stone of IMA underpasses

**Underpasses would fuse the North, Central and South campuses of IMA into one integrated unit and ensure uninterrupted traffic on NH-72**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Ending a wait of about 40 years, the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the foundation stone for construction of two underpasses at Indian Military Academy (IMA) Dehradun on Monday. Once completed the two underpasses would fuse the North, Central and South campuses of IMA into one integrated unit. The project would also permit uninterrupted flow of traffic on National Highway (NH)-72. At present the Gentlemen Cadets (GC) and

staff of IMA have to cross the highway when they move between various training facilities of the prestigious academy. This creates traffic snarls on the NH-72 which become more profound during the events like Passing out Parade (PoP) and its preparation when the traffic on highway is diverted. The underpasses would be constructed by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) within a span of two years at an approximate cost of Rs 44.21 crore.

The foundation laying ceremony was done digitally by the Defence Minister and witnessed by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General MM Naravane and General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOC) in North, Lt General Training Command, Lieutenant General Raj Shukla. The Chief Minister, Uttarakhand Sub Area, chief secretary Om Prakash, IMA commandant, lieutenant general Jaiveer Singh Negi and



deputy commandant and chief instructor, major general Jagjit Singh Mangat and GOC, Uttarakhand Sub Area, major general R S Thakur laid the foundation stone on behalf of the Defence Minister.

Speaking on the occasion, the CM said that the need for this development was being felt since 1978. He recalled that he had talked about the importance of these underpasses to the Union minister during last

year's passing out parade. Following that, the minister had announced this during the parade and today, the foundation stones for the same were unveiled. The sum of Rs 44.21 crore needed for these



constructions has also been approved. Rawat said that the construction of these underpasses will enable IMA and the public to go about their respective activities more conveniently. These will also reduce

concerns from the security point of view. "For about 40 years, the demand for connecting the two campuses of the academy via an underpass was being raised. While the busy national highway passing

between the two campuses was affecting some activities of the academy on the one hand, on the other hand the people passing through this road also had to face inconvenience," said the CM.

## Covid count mounts to 47,502 in U'khand

**Relief as only 457 fresh cases, six deaths reported on Monday**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Monday brought some relief to the people of the Uttarakhand reeling under the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic as the state health department reported only 457 fresh cases of the disease. In fact the figure is the lowest of the state since August 25. The state now has 47,502 total cases of the disease. Deaths of six patients were reported by the health department on Monday which increased the death toll to 580. To add to the positive front, 1184 patients of the disease were declared cured by the authorities on the day. A total of 36,646 patients have so far recovered from the disease and the percentage recovery for Covid-19 patients on the trays is 77.15 percent. The infection rate (IR) which indicates the

prevalence of contagion however continues to remain high. It now stands at 12 percent. The doubling rate for the state in the last seven days was 38.61 percent.

At All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh death of four Covid-19 patients was reported. One patient succumbed to the disease at Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital Dehradun while one died at Sushila Tiwari government hospital, Haldwani.

The authorities reported 129 fresh cases of the disease in Haridwar district. Similarly 113 patients were reported in Dehradun, 76 in Udham Singh Nagar, 27 in Tehri, 25 in Uttarkashi, 21 in Champawat, 19 in Almora, 16 in Nainital, 15 in Pauri, seven in Chamoli, five in Rudrapur and two each in Bageshwar and Pithoragarh on the day. The Dwarahat MLA, Mahesh Negi was found positive for Covid-19. The ML, Haridwar informed himself in a hospital in Gurugram.

Out of the 1184 patients

recovered on Monday, 439 are from Dehradun, 317 from Haridwar, 109 from Nainital, 78 from Pithoragarh, 77 from Pauri, 37 from Champawat, 23 Uttarkashi, 22 Almora and 19 from Tehri.

The authorities discharged 259 patients in Haridwar, 244 in Dehradun, 104 in Almora and 35 in Pauri district on Sunday. Uttarakhand now has 10066 active patients of the disease with Dehradun maintaining its lead at top of table with 3214 active cases of the disease. Haridwar is on second spot with 1627 active patients and Nainital on third position with 1210 active cases. Udham Singh Nagar has 1070, Pauri 724, Uttarkashi 429, Almora 370, Chamoli 357, Tehri 300, Champawat 251, Pithoragarh 249, Rudrapur 157 and Bageshwar 108 active patients of the disease.

The administration has created 481 containment zones to prevent spread of the infection. Haridwar has maximum 335 containment zones while Dehradun has 66 such zones.

## Congress holds massive protest against farm laws

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In protest against the passage of three farm bills from parliament, the Uttarakhand Congress held a massive demonstration and organised a march to the Raj Bhawan on Monday. Large number of Congress leaders and workers assembled at the party office on Rajpur road on the day and proceeded on a march towards the governor's house. The slogan shouting Congressmen were stopped by the police near Hathibadkala barrier. It resulted in heated verbal exchanges and minor scuffle between agitated workers of the party and police. The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Pritam Singh and other leaders squatted on the road and started a Dharna. Later the Congress leaders handed over a memorandum directed to the governor Baby Rani Maurya to the ADM Administration.

Addressing the workers, PCC president Pritam Singh said that three bills passed by the parliament in the monsoon session are a conspiracy to make 65 Crore farmers of the country slaves. Termining the Narendra Modi led BJP government as anti farmer, the



PCC president said that PM Modi himself is the chief conspirator. He said that the new farm laws would result in demolition of the MSP system after which the farmers would not be able to get proper price for their produce. He added

that the plan to abolish Mandis is a conspiracy to make farmers handicapped. The PCC president alleged that PM Modi has legitimized hoarding and black marketing by amending the essential commodities act, 1955. He said that farmers of

the country are agitated at new farm laws and are on the roads to express their anger. Former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Kishore Upadhyaya, Rajya Sabha MP, Pradeep Tania, MLAs Mamta Rakesh, Manoj

Rawat, Vice Presidents Ranjit Rawat, Surya Kant Dhasmana, former ministers Surveer Singh Sajwan, Matbar Singh Kandar, former MLAs Vijaypal Sajwan, Rajkumar, Sarita Arya, Jeet Ram, Sarita Arya and others attended the March.

## Manufacturing & best before dates to be displayed for sweets from October 1

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Regarding the instructions of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to mention the manufacturing and best before date of loose sweets displayed in shops from October 1, the confectioners and sweet sellers in Dehradun stated that they welcome the decision and have no issues in displaying the said dates. According to the president of Dehradun Halwai Association and owner of Anandam Group, Anand Gupta, "There is some confusion among people regarding the instructions that the manufacturing and best before date must be printed in the box which is not true." He said that as per the guidelines, the confectioners are supposed to display the dates on the trays or containers containing the non-packaged sweets in the shops only. "It is always mentioned in the box to consume certain sweets within 24 hours or 48 hours, so there is no need to mention best before date to consume the sweets on every

box. These instructions were initially supposed to be implemented from April but due to Covid-19, the authorities delayed it," stated Gupta. According to him, this step will help the customers to know manufacturing details of their shops while keeping their purchase transparent with the shopkeeper.

Another local confectioner from Sahastardhara Road, Rajat Sharma said, "Sweets are perishable products so even if one wants to sell old sweets, the customers eventually find out. If anybody sells substandard sweets, it damages one's reputation and you cannot exist for long in the business. Writing the dates on the tray of every sweet would be chaotic initially but it is not a big issue if it satisfies authorities and customers during the pandemic when people are trying to be



extra aware about sanitation and health."

However, some locals stated that issuing guidelines is not enough, the authorities concerned should also make sure that every shopkeeper of sweets is following the rules. "Instructing shopkeepers to display the manufacturing and expiry dates of sweets alongside the sweet containers is not enough. The authorities should also check such places regularly to maintain the implementation of the instructions. Adulteration in sweets during festive seasons is not uncommon so the administration should start the inspection of

such places from October so that it can be restricted to some extent in Dehradun," said Ashutosh Singh, a Karnpur resident.

Meanwhile, on the question of what steps would be taken by the authorities if any shopkeeper does not follow the instructions, Dehradun district food safety officer, Ganesh Kandwal said that there are organised and unorganised sections in sweets business like big reputed sweet shops and small shops and it is important for both of them to display manufacturing and best before date but it will take time. People are not used to label sweets or check out the labels displaying the dates therefore, as per Kandwal, the said guidelines had been issued to make the sweet sellers and public aware about such things, especially before Diwali. He added that initially the authorities will just observe the sweet shops and if it is found out that the instructions are not being followed, action will be taken as per the situation.

## Inter-State public transport allowed with immediate effect

**Government issues SOP for inter-state & inter-district public transport**



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State government has allowed public transport on inter-state routes with immediate effect. The standard operating procedure (SOP) for operation of public transport on inter-state routes was issued by the state administration on Monday.

100 round trips per day will be allowed. The first stage of this relaxation being provided by the government.

Further, passengers in buses, taxis and three-wheelers on inter-state and inter-district routes will be allowed as per the

guidelines. The entrance, handle, railing, starting, gear lever and seats in the vehicles will be sanitised properly. Further, the driver, conductor and all passengers in the vehicles will be required to wear face masks mandatorily. Similarly, the social distancing

health centre about the same. WFOs spilling from other states will be a punishable offence, the consumption of Pan, gutkha, tobacco and liquor will be prohibited while travelling.

During the journey, the vehicle will be stopped only at

## Party to take action if any Congress councillor is found guilty of fraud

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After some people levelled allegations against the councillors of Congress party regarding their involvement in the garbage collection tractor-trolley tender fraud in the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD), the leader of the Congress councillors in the corporation, Vijendra Pal denied such allegations. He stressed that if anything is proved in the investigation, the party will take action against such guilty members.

In the last executive committee meeting of MCD, a councillor had stated that

some councillors got the tender of tractors and trolleys of the corporation for collecting garbage through a dummy contractor, informed Pal. He said that the contractor has not been doing proper job of collecting garbage from several wards and only about half of the vehicles operate in wards to collect garbage. "The municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey has already given the directions to investigate the issue and according to him, the investigation report will be out in next few days," informed Pal.

According to the official sources, the councillors involved in the alleged fraud

belong to BJP, though some have also expressed their doubts over the involvement of the councillors of the Congress too.

Talking about this, Pal stated that some people have alleged the involvement of Congress councillors but none of the councillors from their side is involved in any fraud in the corporation. "Only the investigation will reveal more about the culprits but we are confident about our councillors in this matter. However, if any member of the party is found guilty in this fraud, the party will take strict action against them," added Pal.

The fixed stoppage points. In case of the inter-state travel, the driver, conductor and passengers coming from other states to Uttarakhand are expected to register themselves online on the Dehradun smart city portal. In case any traveler is unable to register before entering the state, it will be mandatory to register such passengers online at the point of their arrival. The district magistrate of the district concerned will arrange for personnel required to facilitate such registration. In addition to this SOP, the guidelines issued by the Central and State governments from time to time will also have to be observed strictly for protection from Covid-19.





## Another Nirbhaya case in Hathras, 4 persons held

PRADEEP SAXENA ■  
ALIGARH/HATHRAS

Like Nirbhaya, a 19-year-old Dalit victim of gangrape was taken to a private hospital where she was kept in a room with her family. Her tongue is silent as monsters cut her tongue, fractured three bones of her neck, and injured her spine brutally. For 15 days, she is on a ventilator and on life support. All four accused are arrested.

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

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

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

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

Former district president of Samajwadi Party Rubina Khanum said that the administration must shoot such monstrous cases and the way of law will burn these accused alive. Because of this Nirbhaya case, women of Chandiya are boiling. She further added that the women are not safe in this

Government and criminals get the protection of the government.

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

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

## Bangladeshis with plot to kill TMC leader held

PNS ■  
KOLKATA

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

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

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

The six were arrested on the basis of information received. Details cannot be divulged for the sake of the investigation, district Superintendent of police Shyam Singh said.

## NIA court sentences ISIS ultra to life imprisonment in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

This is the first case of its

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

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

The judge said that the sentence was based on the interest

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

## Security forces neutralises LeT key operator

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

## Kerala reports 4,538 new Covid cases

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

But Panneerselvam claimed he agreed to bury all the differences and accepted the post of deputy chief minister only for this term (2020-2021). "I was the natural choice of a Minister (Jayalitha) for the post of chief minister on both the occasions when she had to step down. Palaniswami is the

choice of Chinnaamma (V K Sasikala, late Jayalitha's close aide) and he was appointed in the disproportionate asset case) and was appointed by unseating me for no mistakes of mine," said Panneerselvam.

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

## Jawan injured in Pak's ceasefire violation

PNS ■ JAMMU

An Indian soldier received injuries during 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation along the line of control in Machhal sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday. Ceasefire violation was also reported from Nowshera in Rajouri district of Jammu region where Pak army targeted several forward villages using mortar shells.

According to Defence spokespersons based in

Srinagar and Jammu, Indian army gave a befitting reply and retaliated effectively.

In Srinagar, Col Rajesh Kalia, Defence spokesman said, "Pakistan initiated an 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation along the line of control in Machhal sector of Kupwara by firing mortars and other weapons on Monday". He said, one soldier received injuries and was evacuated to a nearby hospital where his condition was stated to be stable. He said, Indian army gave a befitting response.

In Jammu, Lt Col Devender Anand said, "Pakistan army initiated ceasefire violation around 3.50 pm along the line of control in Nowshera sector of Rajouri". He said Pak army used small arms and mortars to target the forward locations. Indian army too retaliated effectively, he added.

Meanwhile, Indian army javans remained in a state of high alert to prevent any major infiltration bid or surprise attack by the Border Action Team of Pakistan army in the region.

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

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

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

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

The state's recovery rate also shot up -- from 76.31 per cent to 77.71 per cent -- while the mortality rate stood at 2.65 per cent on Monday.

On a positive note, 19,932 fully recovered people returned home on Monday, taking the total number of discharges to 10,49,947 till date, much higher than the 265,033 active cases currently present in the state. As per the figures released on Monday, there was one death roughly every 8 minutes and 497 new cases added every hour to the state's tally.

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

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



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

Of the total 8 circles, the situation in Mumbai circle (MMR, comprising Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and Raigad) remains on the brink as deaths spiral and cases pile up. MMR's fatalities shot up by 67 to 15,533, and with another spike of 4,098 new infections, the total cases shot up to 471,712.

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

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

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

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

## HIV prevalent in street children, many thrown in flesh trade

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

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

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

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

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

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

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-8, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)  
Website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

### E-TENDER NOTICE

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

1. 38/GM/SM/C-8/ET/2020-21-Name of Work : M/o Village (Mo Community Center & Boundary wall in Village Gheja Tilpatbad Sector-93) Noida Cost - Rs. 32.57 Lacs
2. 41/GM/SM/W.C-8/ET/2020-21-Name of Work : C/o Boundary wall (C/o Boundary wall of Green Belt and Park in 5% Abadi Plots in Sector-141) Noida Cost - Rs. 67.12 Lacs
3. 42/GM/SM/W.C-8/ET/2020-21-Name of Work : M/o Village (P/L C.C. and RMC work on Damaged Road/Gali of Nagar and Pandit Mohalla in Village Shadnagar) Noida Cost - Rs. 94.05 Lacs
4. 43/GM/SM/W.C-8/ET/2020-21-Name of Work : Strengthening of Road (Resurfacing of Gheja Bhangal Road from Badshahi Road to 3C Project) Noida Cost - Rs. 92.44 Lacs

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

- (A) 5. 55/Noida/GM/SM/W.C-9/ET/2020-21-Name of Work : Strengthening of Roads (Resurfacing work with using plastic waste on 45.00m wide road along expressway in front ESS Sector-129 to Panchsheel underpass, Sector-91) Noida Cost - Rs. 60.97 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 06.10.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 07.10.2020 at 11.00 AM.

General Manager  
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

No. RMSA/C/Wr/e-tender/19/201314/2020/10

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

Date - 21<sup>st</sup> September/2020

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

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

Janasanyog /CF/1971/20

## New look BJP

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



This took some time coming, the recasting of the BJP after JP Nadra became its new president, ostensibly halted by the Government's preoccupation with the pandemic. But nine months down the line, the party has made some key changes. Almost 60 per cent of the office bearers are new, which means that the Modi-Shah duo is now reshaping the party's legacy by putting in place a generation next. The second rung would be ready by the time the next general elections are due, when some of the existing stalwarts would superannuate. The new and younger faces serve two purposes. First, they would feel they have a stakeholder-

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

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

## Implement the rules

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



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

farmers are hoping to sway opinion against the Bills, then they would have to act upon their brethren burning stubble in their fields and not use it as a pressure tactic to get the Centre's attention.

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

## Last post for an officer

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

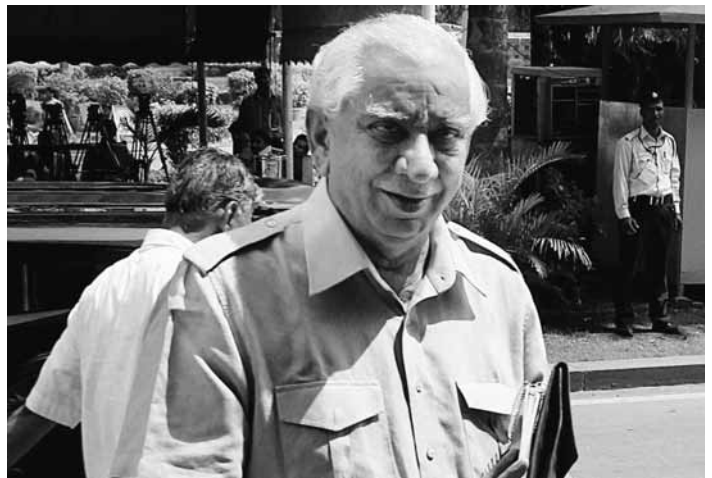


BHOPINDER SINGH

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

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

He was an intellectual rebel, not



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

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

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

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

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

His wood-panelled office was

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

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

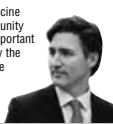
Today Vajpayee's "Hanuman," who seldom rested, will be laid to rest, as it were, in a better world — as they say of old soldier's, "they never die, they only fade away." The nation lost a patriot, a statesman, a soldier and above all, a decent man.

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

## SOUNDBITE

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

Canadian PM — Justin Trudeau



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

Punjab Chief Minister — Amarinder Singh



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

Cricketer — Steve Smith



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

Singer — Shaan



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Democracy in danger

Sir — Amid farmers' protests, particularly in Punjab and Haryana, President Ram Nath Kovind approved the three controversial farm Bills. Leaders of 18 parties had also approached the President last week, urging him not to give his assent to the Bills, calling the way in which they were passed "unconstitutional" and "unknown to our Constitution". The Government's dictatorial approach in passing the farm Bills, when it didn't have the majority in the Upper House, and now the President's decision to not heed the Opposition on the matter and act against the nation's conscience, only suggests that neither Harivansh Narayan Singh, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, nor the President are working as independent entities but rather as puppets of the Central Government. Shriomani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal rightly called it a "dark day for democracy". The Opposition parties need to come together once again to challenge this cavalier attitude and arrogance as the work out a nationwide campaign to make themselves count.

Bagwan Thadani  
Mumbai

### The world needs a 'people's vaccine'

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

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



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

G David Milton  
Maruthanode

### Biomedical waste

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

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

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

that medical waste isn't dumped in public places.

Rahul Chouhan  
Ujjain

### Farmers' uproar

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

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

BO Changa  
West Bengal

### Women's safety

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

Khushbu Ved  
Ujjain

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

FIRST COLUMN

## File ITR even for zero income

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



LIONEL CHARLES

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

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

Plus, under the seventh proviso to Section 139(1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, even if the income is below the exempted limit, an assessee will have to file an ITR if they paid an electricity bill of ₹1 lakh or above during the year; deposited ₹1 crore or more in one or more current accounts and incurred an expenditure of ₹2 lakh or more for travel to a foreign country. An individual travelling or planning to travel abroad requires a legal proof of earning. For salaried people, the employer certificate serves as proof. However, for individuals who are self-employed, the ITR can serve the purpose. In cases where the assessee incurs capital losses during the financial year, the Income Tax Act allows him/her to carry it forward for eight consecutive years to set it off against any future gains. However, to keep track of the losses, it is mandatory to file the return before the due date even if the ITR is a loss return. Without this the losses of the year cannot be carried forward. So, even if there is no income to show, the Income-Tax Department lays it down that you declare the capital losses in your return before the due date.

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

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

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

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

(The writer is CEO, IndiaFilings)

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

—KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER  
 BS YEDYURAPPA

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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

—KARNATAKA LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION  
 SIDDARAMAIAH

# A mixed bag

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



UTTAM GUPTA

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

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

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

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

WORRIINGLY, THE CODE DOES NOT STRESS ON SOCIAL SECURITY AS A RIGHT AND DOES NOT MAKE ANY REFERENCE TO ITS PROVISION AS STIPULATED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNTRY. PLUS, IT DOES NOT LAY DOWN A CLEAR DATE FOR ENFORCEMENT. THIS WILL LEAVE WORKERS VULNERABLE WITHOUT SOCIAL PROTECTION. IT IS VITAL THAT SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION BE MADE UNIVERSAL FOR THE ENTIRE NATION'S WORKFORCE. HOWEVER, THE CODE MAKES WHIMSICAL CATEGORISATIONS THAT WILL DEPRIVE MILLIONS OF WORKING POOR OF THEIR RIGHTS



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

This preponderance of the so-called unorganised informal economy (it accounts for roughly 50 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product and 80-90 per cent of the workforce) is the inevitable outcome of imposing such restrictions. The increase in threshold under The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 should come as a big relief, as firms having up to 300 workers will get the much-needed flexibility to adjust to the changing business environment. But what is the sanctity of fixing the threshold at 300? Why should enterprises employing workers in excess of this be subjected to approval?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a policy analyst)

# Ginsburg's long fight for gender parity will be remembered

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

"Notorious RBG," she was a pioneer of the women's liberation movement in the US and a significant portion of her life's work was towards ushering in gender just laws. Ginsburg was inspired by the civil rights movement and saw this feminist activism as its extension and logical successor.

Growing up in the inherently unequal America of the 1940s-1960s with its institutionalised and mainstream sexism, Ginsburg was quickly confronted with the discriminatory system. Despite having served on the *Harvard Law Review* (considered a symbol of intellectual brilliance) and graduating top of her class at Columbia law firm in New York City wished to hire a woman at the time. Similarly, she lost a chance of serving as a Law Clerk to Justice Felix Frankfurter of the US Supreme Court, who unabashedly told her that he wasn't ready to hire a woman.

Confronted by this harsh reality, Ginsburg turned to activism. From 1972, she began a close relationship with the American Civil Liberties



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

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

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

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

Justice Ginsburg proved them

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

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

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

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

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



ADITYA MANUBHARWAL  
 HANNAH GHULAM



# Trump's tax revelation could tarnish his image

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

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

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

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

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

“Donald Trump needs this election to be about Joe Biden as a choice,” said longtime GOP consultant Alex Conant.

“This keeps the focus squarely on Trump's character and the chaos going into the most important night of the campaign, the debate.” Of course, Trump has repeatedly faced — and survived — devastating turns that would have sunk any other politician.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# China fires back at US over SCS, green damage

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

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

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

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

# FIRST 2020 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE Trump, Biden face off today



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

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

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

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

# New US citizen refugees excited for first Prez vote

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

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

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

# Around the Globe

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

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

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

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

# US judge suspends Trump's ban on TikTok downloads

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

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

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

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

# Top Afghan negotiator in Taliban talks arrives in Pak

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

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

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

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

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

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

planned the September 11 attacks.

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

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

# Armenia, Azerbaijan keep up deadly fight for disputed region

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

The Azerbaijani Defence

Ministry claimed that Armenian forces started shelling the town of Tartar on Monday morning, while Armenian officials denied the claim.

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

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

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

Armenia's Defence Ministry said Monday over 200 people have been wounded. AP

# Pompeo pledges US support to ease Greece-Turkey dispute

AP ■ THESSALONIKI (GREECE)

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

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

# Appeal for Identification

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

has been lodged at PS New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Dead Body preserved LHMC Hospital Mortuary for identification for 72 hrs. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following: SHO P.S., New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Ph. : 011-23744073, 8750871305

DP/4476/RLY/2020

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

E-mail : cici@cbl.gov.in Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax : 011-24368639 SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Ph. No. 011-23967589, 23967579 DP/594/N/2020

# SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl (deceased in the photo), Name: Pinki D/o Duxh Horan Arya R/o Jagmull, N-59/492, Moti Lal Nehru Camp, Shamsan Ghat, Munirka, New Delhi has been missing since 16.09.2020 from her house. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 400/2020 at 363 IPC dated 17.09.2020 has been registered at Police Station Kishan Garh, New Delhi.

His physical description is as under- Age: 18 Years 6 Months, Height: 4'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Hair: Black & short, Wearing: Pink color top & white colour jeans and black colour shoes in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Kishan Garh, New Delhi at E-mail id: cici@cbl.gov.in or Website: http://cbl.nic.in

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO P.S. Kishan Garh, New Delhi Fax No. 011-24368639 South-West Dist., Delhi DP/309/SW/2020 Ph. No. 011-26510075, 26510085

**E TENDER NOTICE**  
**YEAR 2020/21**  
**Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd.**  
**GANDHINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**Multi Store Building, B-Block, First Floor, Sector-11, Gandhinagar**  
Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd., is inviting tenders for the work given below. Bids are invited for the tendering rates from the reputable agencies.

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

The tender form can be filled online by downloading from website [www.nprcra.com](http://www.nprcra.com) from 22/09/2020 to 02/10/2020 upto 17:00 hours. Bid Meeting will be held on 02/10/2020 at 11:00 AM. Any documents for the necessary support of tender bid must be scanned in the electronic format and submitted online on [www.nprcra.com](http://www.nprcra.com). The technical bids and the amount of tender fees and the Demand Draft of EMD shall be submitted in hard copy in name of CEO, Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd. upto 02/10/2020 by registered post or speed post by 17:00 hours. Only those offers will be opened.

Online Technical Bid Opening 02/10/2020 at 15:00 hrs.

Sd/-  
Place: Gandhinagar Municipal Commissioner, Gandhinagar and  
Dt. 28/09/2020 Chairman Gandhinagar Smart City  
NON/FVP/N/2020/G/980 Development Ltd.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Auction NOTICE**  
Auction of Lot No. 1, N.R. ZRT/ICR, 647 numbers Dangerous trees and Lot No. 2, Railway Colony, 483 numbers dangerous trees under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway Chandausi in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway Chandausi. All the interested bidders are invited to participate in this auction.

**Auction place:** Office of the Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway Chandausi on date 15.10.2020 at 10:00 AM.

**1.** All the bidders will deposit cash Rs.100/- in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway Chandausi which will not be refunded and shall also deposit Rs.8000/- in favor of Sd. Divisional Finance Manager/Northern Railway Chandausi as a Demand Draft of SBI or other Nationalized Bank.

**2.** All the bidders who will take part in the auction will also have proper knowledge of Auction rules and other allowances.

**3.** Successful bidders will deposit the Demand Draft of SBI or other Nationalized Bank in favour of Sd. DFM/NB or station earning in cash on same day with following rate:

- a) 10% amount of selling price or minimum amount Rs. 25,000/- whichever is maximum on purchase of more than Rs. 1,00,000/-
- b) Balance amount will be deposited within 10 days including the date of auction.
- c) GST will be deposited as per the standard rate.

**4.** The work should be completed within 60 days including the date of auction.

**5.** Railway has right to close the work any time. In this situation the balance amount will be returned without interest.

**6.** Complete details of work and locations will be available in the Divisional Office Chandausi.

**7.** Bidders are requested to quote their rates according to the tree locations.

**8.** Trees will be delivered and handed over in the presence of Sd. Works, ISA and RPE.

**9.** If the balance amount is not deposited within 10 days including the date of auction, then initial deposited amount will be forfeited.

**10.** Bidders will not make any Kutch/Pukka construction in the land of Railway.

**11.** Bid will not be quoted below the base price.

**12.** Demand draft will be deposited in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway Chandausi from 09:00 AM to 10:30 AM. After that no demand draft will be accepted.

Note: Each lot will be auctioned separately.  
No. LMC/TREE/BE/2020/LC/1-23.09.2020 2085/2020

Serving Customers With A Smile

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**VARIOUS WORKS**  
Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. Invites E-tendering as per details given as follows.

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	WORK AND LOCATION	Approx. cost of work in ₹	EMD in ₹
1	BC/1728-21212 dated 28.09.2020	Zone 4 A-2 : New works and all ordinary repair works in the jurisdiction of SSE(W-II) Lower panel (Only for MX EMU Workshop).	75,00,000.00	1,50,000/-
2	BC/1728-21213 dated 28.09.2020	Dadar: Providing Dy.CS(Bridge) office, yard master office and signal cabin, social welfare centre, underground tank, Over head tank and pump room at Dadar colony in connection with Rehabilitation of western railway colony in connection with relocation of infringing structure and proposed new STR in connection with 5th and 6th line at Dadar station.	2,48,49,199.12	2,74,700/-
3	BC/1728-21214 dated 28.09.2020	Dadar: Rehabilitation of Dadar Rly colony-Type II (44-units), Type IV(2-units), Type III (1 units) along with Road, Drainage line, Toilets, Garages, Boundary wall in connection with rehabilitation of western railway colony in connection with relocation of infringing structure and proposed new STR in connection with 5th and 6th line at Dadar station. (Two Packed)	14,25,08,597.28	8,62,600/-

Sr. No. : 1 to 2 : Date & Time of Submission : On 27.10.2020 till 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening : On 27.10.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Sr. No. : 3 : Date & Time of Submission : On 03.11.2020 till 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening : On 03.11.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Regarding detailed tender conditions please visit [www.treps.gov.in](http://www.treps.gov.in) Manual offers will not be considered.

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

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manoj Kumar Sharma & Kalpana Sharma LBDEL00001133502	C-22 F, Plot No. 9, C-22 F, First Floor, Delhi Police, Arif Cgms, Mayapuri, Phase-1, Delhi-110091/ Sep 22, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs. 30,73,473/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Shubhankar Das Gupta/ Binata Das Gupta/ Binayak Das Gupta LBDEL0000389905	Building No. 866, Unit Number F-2 First Floor, Sector Swasthali, Ghazabad/ Mip-A-1332, First Floor, Sector-29, Housing Board Col. Faridabad/ Sep 23, 2020	February 26, 2020 Rs. 1,89,694/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Lakshminarasimhan N R L Vajrathi LBDEL0000370533	Mip-A-1332, First Floor, Sector-29, Housing Board Col. Faridabad/ Haryana/ Sep 24, 2020	January 31, 2020 Rs. 1,90,535/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Sarman Kumar/ Nisha Sarman LBDEL0000389253	H. No. 1599, Housing Board Colony, Sector-29, Faridabad/ Sep 24, 2020	February 26, 2020 Rs. 2,56,747/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

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

Authorized Officer  
Secured Creditor



# Paddy worth ₹10.53 cr procured in last 48 hrs

MSP buying begins in all States: Government

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the forex market, the rupee settled 18 paise lower at 75.79 against the US dollar.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Radiowaves used for trans-

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

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

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

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

ANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

tion of PLI," said the source quoted above.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

A total of 14,415 units were sold during the quarter ended September, as against 10,753 units sold during the previous quarter. The report showed that Mumbai accounted for 29 per cent of the total sales during the period under review, while 22 per cent of sales was contributed by JLL Research.

Growth in sales activity was also driven by stronger demand in Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune. Ramesh Nair, CEO and Country Head, India, JLL, said:

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

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

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

# Govt-owned NABARD gives clean chit to Reliance Commercial Finance

ANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

NABARD had classified the account of RCF as Red Flag on February 25, 2020. Thereafter lenders conducted a detailed forensic audit by Grant Thornton (GT).

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

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

Similar action of Punjab National Bank was also taken on February 25, 2020.

by Delhi High Court on 11th August, 2020.

As per information reported on Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CIRIL), Indian Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) their exposure to Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL) as a fraud account.

Indian Bank having an exposure of only Rs. 120 crore, made such classification on 29th Aug, 2020. The exposure of Federal Bank to RHFL is 100 crore - out of the total RHFL debt of over Rs 10,000 crore. Action of Indian Bank and Federal Bank is despite the Delhi High Court staying such action till the next hearing. Similar action of Punjab National Bank was also taken on February 25, 2020.

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

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

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

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

## SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

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

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

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

E-Mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph: 011-24368639, 24368641, 24368642, 24368643, 24368644 DP/229/SW/2020

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

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

1. Name: Virender Kumar, Age: 35 Years, Height: About 5'6", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Green or Black colour T-Shirt, Blue colour pant and Black shoes in feet.

2. Name: Divisha Tanwar, Age: 07 Years, Wearing: Jeans Pant-Top and Golden sandal in feet.

3. Name: Himani Tanwar, Age: 04 Years, Wearing: Jeans Pant-Top and Pink Colour sandal in feet. If anyone having any information about this missing male and her two children please inform P.S. Narela, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

Police Station, Narela, Delhi Ph: 011-27280435, 7065036323

## SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

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

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

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

E-Mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph: 011-24368639, 24368641, 24368642, 24368643, 24368644 DP/112/ND/2020

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Manishya D/o Vijay R/o Sd/ No. 4/25, 25 Feet Road, Mukundpur, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 09.09.2020 from the area of P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. In this regard, a case DD No. 11A dated 09.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. The description of the missing girl is as under:

Age: 15 Years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5', Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Dark blue colour Shirt, blue colour Pajama and grey colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped person then please inform P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi at following Tel./e-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641, 24368642, 24368643, 24368644

Fax No: 011-24368639 Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi DP/484/ON/2020 Phone: 011-27811933, 27811934

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely Ravi, S/o: Suresh Kumar, R/o: G-5, Gali No. 5, Wajirabad village, Delhi and gali no. 9 CM 770 Wajirabad village, Delhi was found on 15.09.2020 at in front of Bata Cinema, Delhi. Admitted in Bata Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi. Vide MLC No. 2339/2020. During the treatment the doctors declared him dead on 19.09.2020. Dead body has been preserved in Bata Hindu Rao Hospital mortuary for identification. In this regard DD No. 42A, dated 19.09.2020 U/s 174 Cr.P.C., has been lodged at Police Station, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

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

If anyone having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned. SHO Police Station, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi DP/414/NW/2020 Ph: 011-27654666, 27654675, 8750870231

## SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

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

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

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Model Town, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Tel. No: 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/- Fax No: 011-24368639 SHO, Model Town, Delhi DP/410/NW/2020 Tel: 011-27459202, 27120032, 27456072

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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

Name: Monika, Gender: Female, Age: 13 years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Identification Mark: Cut mark below left eye, Wearing: White colour top and black colour jeans.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/North Rohini, Delhi. E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641, 24368642, 24368643, 24368644 DP/412/RD/2020

## SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

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

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

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Sd/- Tel. No: 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi Fax No: 011-24368639 Tel: 011-27674452, 27672452 DP/406/NW/2020 Mob: 8750870229

## MindMatters

Researchers, including one of Indian-origin, have found that COVID-19 pandemic will cause a global tsunami of mental health problems. The study, scheduled to be presented at the ESCMO Conference on Coronavirus Disease in the US, revealed that the pressures on mental health, that already existed in abundance before this global pandemic, are increasing at an alarming rate



## DOCYARD

DR (PROF) ALKA KRIPLANI

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



## Don't ignore your mind's talks

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

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

### Link between PCOS and bipolar

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

All these can also lead to severe mood swings, which can cause a general feeling of instability. It's not that they aren't feeling guilty of their mood swings and not being able to deal with life. All these mixed feelings actually worsen their mental state and can fuelled the symptoms of depression and anxiety. For not being able to open up about all these issues also causes severe mental illness.

Even women, who are trying to get pregnant, also experience several mental turbulences because of with depression and anxiety caused by infertility. PCOS can host a series of mental conditions including:

- Anxiety
- Bipolar disorder
- Major depressive disorders
- Bulimia
- Other eating disorders
- Somatizations (physical manifestations of negative mental states)
- Interpersonal sensitivity

It can be treated in two ways: treating the PCOS from its roots and treating the mental conditions arising from it. Many medicines are used to balance the blood sugar and insulin levels, normalize body weight and getting hormones balanced. One also needs to bring some lifestyle modifications including regular exercise, diet management by avoiding junk food and low-sugar diet and opting for healthy nutritious diet.

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

## SUMMERCoolERS

**QUINOA:** Quinoa contains almost twice as much fiber as most other grains which helps to relieve constipation and prevent heart disease by reducing high blood pressure and Diabetes. It makes a fine substitute for white rice or pasta when you're trying to add more fiber and nutrients to your diet. Moreover, it's flavoured, easy to digest, gluten-free, and high in protein.

Quinoa contains iron that helps keep our red blood cells healthy and is the basis of hemoglobin formation. It also increases brain function because the brain takes in about 20 per cent of our blood oxygen. Quinoa is rich in magnesium that helps to relax blood vessels and thereby to alleviate migraines. Magnesium also may reduce Type 2 Diabetes by promoting healthy blood sugar control.

It is also rich in B Vitamins, nutrients that help treat age spots and other conditions related to skin pigmentation by reducing the deposits of dark melanin in the skin. Quinoa is rich in lysine, which is important for tissue repair and growth.



## Fight the killer

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

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

**Common symptoms:**

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

### Blood stem cell transplant to lead a longer life

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

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

### On registering as a potential blood stem cell donor

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

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

Blood stem cell registries like

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

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

### Blood stem cell transplant during the pandemic

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

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

## GO BITE BY BITE

Most of the



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is a Health Coach

## DadiKa Kehna

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



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

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

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

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

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

## TIPTOP

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

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

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

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

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

## SLIMLINE

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

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

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

## INBRIEF

In the recent campaign to counter Covid-19, Narayana Garib Parivar Yojana has targeted to distribute monthly ration kits at least to 5000 families in various cities. Recently, Narayana Garib Parivar Yojana (NRP) also distributed food, sanitizers and masks to 1000 families in Assam flood-affected area.

In the midst of the campaign, NGO has distributed food to over 12000 families from Udaipur, Delhi, Bhillwara, Alwar, Pali, Noida, Bikaner and Jaipur in various cities. The NGO is also conducting health screening and clothing distribution camps. Amidst the lockdown NSS regularly undertook food distribution operations in Haryana, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra, where over 13,800 families got ration kits, 1,37,000 food packs, 68,000 masks, 800 PP kits.

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

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

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



## Trend Slazer

### Farhan talks about vitriolic news reporting

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

Combined with Lata-Ji's birthday and Shaheed Bhagat Singh's birth anniversary, here's some more good news today. Sincerely hope that the top brands in question follow through on their valid concern about vitriolic news reporting," tweeted Farhan.

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



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

—Sona Mohapatra

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



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

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

### Paloma opens up on postpartum depression

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

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



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

By TEAM VIVA

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

## When you are bubble-wrapped



dine out with safety at its priority as he unveils the new look of his restaurant — Dragonfly. Says Priyank, "Our industry has been unlucky since the beginning of the pandemic. Gradually, when unlock happened people returned to restaurants despite the restriction of liquor sales. When the

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



fit in with social distancing norms yet look spectacular. Hence, pods were the answer." So that's how they were introduced, for each party group who wants to dine out without being concerned about their safety. "We created pods which are open from the top, have a capacity to host up to 12

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

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

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

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

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

## Expect the unexpected

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

By TEAM VIVA

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

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

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

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



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

□What's going to surprise people most about it?

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

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

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

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

**Tim:** Terrible. I did this show to get away from my wife but ended up being forced to spend the whole time with him (laughs). It's all good. It's great to have the experts with all the experience, all you need to hear is — 'it will be alright mate' — from your best friend.

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

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

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

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

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

□What all did you discover?

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

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

□Which animal fact outcome surprised you the most?

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

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

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

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

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

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



Indian-Australian choreographer **Ashley Lobo** is an advocate of movement related wellness. He believes dance is a doorway to physical, mental and emotional health. His message is particularly pertinent on September 29 which is observed as World Heart Day. This initiative by the World Heart Federation, aims to spread awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVD), including heart disease and stroke. Research has connected CVDs to sedentary, unhealthy lifestyle, unbalanced diet, excessive use of tobacco and alcohol. Ashley reminds us that in India alone, the prevalence of CVDs is estimated to be around 54.5 million. As individuals, we may not always be able to control ambient air pollution or other environmental risk factors, but we can mitigate lifestyle risk factors. We could eat healthier, cultivate better habits and yes, dance!

## Dance your heart out

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

Says Ashley, "Dance, I always say, is

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



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

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

# UTTARAKHAND TAKES A BIG LEAP TOWARDS CLEAN GANGA

NOW 15.2 CRORE LITRE OF SEWAGE PER DAY  
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## Inauguration of Projects in Uttarakhand worth ₹521 Cr. under Namami Gange Programme

68 MLD Jagjeetpur STP in Haridwar worth ₹ 230 Cr.

27 MLD upgraded Jagjeetpur STP in Haridwar worth ₹ 20 Cr.

18 MLD upgraded Sarai STP in Haridwar worth ₹ 13 Cr.

Ganga Museum, to showcase River Rejuvenation activities & Biodiversity of Ganga at Chandi Ghat in Haridwar

26 MLD Lakkad Ghat STP in Rishikesh worth ₹ 158 Cr.

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5 MLD Chorpani STP in Muni Ki Reti worth ₹ 39 Cr.

1.01 MLD Badrinath STP worth ₹ 19 Cr.

by

## Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

(Through Video Conferencing)

Date: 29 September, 2020 | Time: 11:00 AM

♦ In the august presence of ♦

Baby Rani Maurya  
Governor  
Uttarakhand

Trivendra Singh Rawat  
Chief Minister  
Uttarakhand

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat  
Minister of Jal Shakti  
Government of India

Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'  
Education Minister  
Government of India

Rattan Lal Kataria  
Minister of State for Jal Shakti,  
Social Justice and Empowerment  
Government of India

Tirath Ram Rawat  
MP

32 Sewerage Projects in  
17 Ganga Towns of Uttarakhand



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