

**OPINION 6**  
WHEN BABU  
BECOMES NETA**WORLD 8**  
IF TRUMP LOSES, HE MAY  
REFUSE PEACEFUL SHIFT**SPORT 12**  
HAVERTZ NETS HAT-TRICK  
IN CHELSEA WIN

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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YOUR WORK  
HAS TO MAKE A  
POINT: PANKAJ  
10 VIVACITYPublished From  
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# From Rail Roko to Bharat Bandh

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Farmers under the banners of Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee and the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) squatted on rail tracks in Barnala, Sangrur, Ferozepur and Amritsar on Thursday morning. They have set up tents on railway tracks in the State. Farmers in Fazilka and Abohar districts took out tractor rallies in their districts. They vowed to gherao BJP leaders and socially boycott those who voted in favour of

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the farm Bills. According to farmers leaders, over 100 farmers and arhatiya (commission agents) will participate in the nationwide shutdown.

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

*Continued on Page 2*

## Deepika arrives in Mumbai for NCB quizzing tomorrow

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Continuing its investigations in the Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case and the expanded Bollywood-drug nexus case, the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) grilled Sushant's ex-manager Shruti Modi and fashion designer Simone Khambatta and scheduled the questioning of actress Rakul Preet Singh and Deepika Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash for Friday and actress Deepika on Saturday.

Deepika arrived in Mumbai from Goa on Thursday night.

As a section of the electronic media carried on with their trial of the Bollywood personalities on issues relating to the Bollywood-drug nexus, the NCB grilled Shruti Modi for eight hours, while it questioned Simone for five hours.

"Today Simone Khambatta and Shruti Modi joined the investigation and statements in this regard have been recorded at NCB. Tomorrow Rakul and Karishma will be joining the investigation," NCBs Deputy Director (Operations) KPS Malhotra said.

Sources said that the NCB had also called director and executive producer Kshitij Ravi Prasad of Karan Johar's Dharma Production for questioning on Friday. However, there was no formal confirmation from the NCB that it had indeed issued summons issued to Kshitij.

During Thursday's questioning, Shruti Modi and Simone were grilled on the issues that had come to the fore during the grilling of Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Shwink.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Nuclear scientist Sekhar Basu dies of Covid-19

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

## Covid-19 IN INDIA TOTAL

CASES: 58,12,646

DEATHS: 92,275

RECOVERED: 47,49,493

ACTIVE: 9,70,055



## Harley Davidson to exit India, seeks partner to serve existing customers

New Delhi: American cult bike manufacturer Harley Davidson on Thursday said it is discontinuing sales and manufacturing operations in India, a decade after it started selling its premium bikes in the country.

Industry sources said the company is looking to tie up with a partner to run its business in the country. The India action will include an associated workforce reduction of approximately 70 employees, Harley-Davidson Inc said in an SEC filing.

In a separate statement, Harley-Davidson said it plans to close its manufacturing facility in Bawal (Haryana) and significantly reduce the size of its sales office in Gurgaon.

*Detailed report on P9*

## Saudi Arabia allows outbound passenger flights to India

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Saudi Arabia has partially lifted its suspension order for travel to India. Now flights would be allowed from Saudi Arabia to India but not from India to Saudi Arabia.

Late on Wednesday night, Air India Express informed passengers of a partial relaxation in the Saudi Arabian order.

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

In a circular issued on Tuesday, Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation said it was "suspending travel to and from the following countries: (India, Brazil and Argentina) including any person who has been in any of the mentioned countries above in the last 14 days prior to their arrival to the Kingdom."

*Detailed report on P4*

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

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

When India declared the first of a series of lockdowns on March 25, the country had less than 500 Covid-19 cases and was placed at the bottom of the world tally. In six months, the cases have shot up to nearly 6 million, and India now occupies the second spot in the world.

During the same period, barring India all other Asian countries have staged remarkable fightbacks against coronavirus. On Thursday, while India recorded nearly 87,000 cases, 48 Asian countries put together reported just 40,000 cases. India's close neighbours like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal recorded just 1,666, 533, 11 and 1,172 cases respectively.

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

The latest trend shows that while Asian countries have



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

PTI

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

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

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

*Detailed report on P9**Continued on Page 2*

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

in the coming days.

"We noticed that cases increased and it reached 4,500 new Covid-19 cases on September 17 and now coming down. So experts believe that the second wave of coronavirus which had hit the Delhi is now on peak and its intensity will be less in the coming days," Kejriwal said while speaking to the media.

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

*Continued on Page 2*

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

New Delhi: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, admitted to hospital due to the coronavirus infection, was also diagnosed with dengue on Thursday and his condition took a turn for the worse, sources said.

## Fitness icons share with Modi secrets of staying healthy

## First anniv of Fit India Movement, Modi's attempt to make India fit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday interacted with fitness influencers, sports persons and citizens during a nationwide online Fit India Dialogue organised to celebrate the first anniversary of the Fit India Movement.

The online interaction saw participants, including cricketer Virat Kohli, actor-model and fitness-freak Milind Soman and nutrition expert Rujuta



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually interacts with Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli during Fit India Dialogue on the first anniversary of Fit India Movement, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

Diwekar, sharing anecdotes and tips of their own fitness journey while drawing out guidance from the Prime Minister on his thoughts about fitness and good health.

Brainchild of the Prime Minister as a people's movement, the Fit India Dialogue is

an attempt to involve citizens of the country to draw out a plan to make India a fit nation. The Prime Minister said fitness is not something which is very difficult to achieve but requires about thirty minutes "dose" of exercise daily.

*Continued on Page 2*

## CAPSULE

### GOOGLE PAY APP SHARES TRANSACTION INFO DATA

New Delhi: Google India Digital Services Pvt Ltd, which operates the GPay app, has told the Delhi High Court that it is allowed to share customers transaction data with third parties with the prior permission of NPCI and payment service providing banks. The submission has been made by Google in its affidavit in response to a PIL seeking action against 'Google Pay' (GPay) for allegedly violating the RBI's guidelines related to data localisation, storage and sharing.

P9

### ALLAHABAD HC REJECTS PLEA TO RENAME ITSELF

Lucknow: The Allahabad High Court has dismissed a plea to rename itself either as the Prayagraj High Court or the Uttar Pradesh High Court.

## Oz ex-batsman Dean Jones dies of cardiac arrest in Mumbai

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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



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

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

"It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing away of Dean Mervyn Jones AM. He died of a sudden cardiac arrest," Star Sports said a press release. According to an IPL source, it happened in matter of seconds.

*Detailed report on P12*



# Naidu holds meet to review work done during 252nd RS Session

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday held a meeting with the Parliamentary

Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi to review the work done during 252nd Session of Rajya Sabha which concluded prematurely on Wednesday. Besides Joshi Union

Ministers V. Muraleedharan and Arjun Ram Meghwal and the Rajya Sabha Secretary General Desh Deepak Verma were among those present in the meeting.

M Venkaiah Naidu, who is also the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, appreciated the work done by both the Secretariats (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) to ensure smooth conduct of the

Monsoon Session keeping in view the difficult prevailing circumstances due to the pandemic.Sources said that while Naidu appreciated the many legislations were materialised

but at the same time rued the fact that the session which was conducted under very precarious circumstances ended on a sad note with the Opposition boycotting the session and that

the Deputy Chairman Harivansh was hounded by members who had to be suspended.

On being informed that 83 officials of the Secretariat have

tested positive for Corona virus, the Chairman directed the officers to render necessary medical assistance and other welfare measures to all of them.

## Bombay HC quashes FIR against 8 foreign Tablighis who visited Markaz

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Holding that there was no material on record that they were either engaged in Tablighi work nor did they contribute to the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the Bombay High court has quashed the FIRs registered by the Nagpur police against eight Myanmarese nationals who had attended the Tablighi Jamaat Markaz in Delhi in March this year.

While quashing the FIR registered and charge-sheet filed against eight Myanmarese nationals before a Nagpur court for contributing to the spread of Covid-19 and preaching religious ideology or making speeches in religious places, a Nagpur division bench comprising Justice V. M. Deshpande and Justice A. B. Borkar virtually pulled up the Nagpur police for registering an offence against the accused as “an abuse of process of law”

“In the backdrop of the exposition of the aforesaid position, we are of the considered view that the implication of the applicants herein for the offences punishable under Sections 188, 269, 270 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 14 of the Foreigners Act, Section 3 of the Epidemic Disease Act, 1987 and Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 would be an abuse of process of law. Compelling the applicants to undergo the trial would cause grave injustice,” the two judges noted.

“We, therefore, deem it appropriate to quash the F.I.R. bearing No. 178/2020 and

charge-sheet bearing registration No. 6076/2020 before the Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Nagpur against the accused in the case under various provisions of law,” the Nagpur HC bench ruled.

In a virtual slap on the face of the police, the HC bench observed: “There is no material on record to prove that applicants had indulged in any act which was likely to spread infection of COVID -19. Therefore, from the material produced in the charge-sheet, there is no evidence to substantiate the fulfillment of ingredients of Sections 269 and 270 of the Indian Penal Code”.

“The above statements make it clear that there is no material produced by the prosecution to prove that the applicants were engaged in tabligh work and they were involved in preaching religious ideology or making speeches in religious places,” the two judges observed.

The HC bench also pulled up for acting against the eight Myanmarese nationals “without jurisdiction in registering the F.I.R. under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code based on a complaint of police”. “The investigation conducted by the police was also without jurisdiction,” the two Judges observed.

In their petition, the Myanmarese nationals had stated that they landed in Kolkata on March 2, left for Delhi, and after attending the Markaz there, reached Nagpur on March 6 for their further activities and lived in the Gittikhadan area of the second capital of Maharashtra till

March 21.

In view of the Janata Curfew of March 22, they were shifted to a Markaz in Mominpura, 10 days later sent to institutional quarantine where their Covid-19 tests were negative.

During the quarantine period, on April 5, they were placed under arrest under provisions of the Foreigners Act, and the Epidemic Diseases Act, and the Epidemic Diseases Act.

The Nagpur police charged with violating Visa rules by “propagating and preaching” their religion, spreading Covid-19 and not complying with the orders of a public servant, among other things.

Advocate J. H. Aloni, appearing for the Myanmar nationals, contended that the police were monitoring all their activities and they did not violate any laws as alleged by the prosecution, led by Additional Public Prosecutor V. A. Thakare.

The HC bench held that compelling the Myanmarese nationals to undergo trial for the offences listed by the police would cause “grave injustice”, and hence quashed the FIR lodged against them.

The quashing of FIR registered and chargesheet filed against eight Myanmarese nationals is the second similar verdict delivered by the Bombay High Court. Earlier, the Aurangabad Bench delivered by Justice T. V. Nalawade and Justice M. G. Sewlikar had on August 21 quashed FIRs against 29 foreigners and 6 Indians who attended the Tablighi Jamaat congregation in New Delhi in March.

## 459 die, 1,330 Covid deaths added in 72 hrs in Maha

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Maharashtra’s Covid-19 toll crossed 34,000 mark on Thursday, as 459 more people succumbed to the pandemic thus adding 1300-odd deaths to the Coronavirus tally during the last 72 hours, while 19,164 people tested positive for the virus in various parts of the state.

That there is no let up in the Covid-19 can be evidenced from the fact Maharashtra has had a total of 1330 deaths during the last 72 hours –392 deaths on Tuesday, 479 deaths on Wednesday and

459 deaths on Thursday.

With the fresh 459 deaths on Thursday, the total number of deaths in the state mounted from 33,886 to 34,345.

Similarly, with 18,164 fresh infections, the total infected cases jumped from 12,63,799 to 12,82,963.

Of the total 459 deaths, Mumbai – after a gap of more than six weeks – accounted for a maximum of 54 deaths, while there were 49deaths in Pune, 47 in Nagpur, 35 in Satara, 29 in Jalgaon, 23 each in Thane and Kolhapur, 21 in Sangli, 17 in Yavatmal, 16 in Akola, 14 each in Raigad and Nashik, 12 in

Sindhudurg, 11 each in Ahmednagar, Osmanabad and Washim and 10 deaths each in Solapur and Latur.

In the lower range, there were nine deaths in Bhandara, 7 in Wardha, 6 each in Palghar, Beed and Amravati, 3 each in Aurangabad and Jalna, 2 each in Dhule, Nanded and Chandrapur and one death each in Ratnagiri, Parbhani, Gondia and Gadchiroli, besides 2 outsiders/foreigners.

With 54 deaths, Mumbai’s Covid-19 toll increased from 8,604 to 8,658 while the infected cases shot up by 2,163 to trigger a jump in the infections

from 190,264 to 192,427.

Meanwhile, for the six consecutive day, the state recovery rate rose from 75.65 per cent to 75.86 per cent.

A day after Maharashtra posted 21,029 recoveries, 17,184 more people were discharged from the various hospitals, thus taking the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year to 9,73,214. The mortality rate in the state stood at 2.68 per cent. The number of “active cases” in the state went up from Tuesday’s figure of 2,73,477 to 2,74,993.

Pune district with 2,74,421 infected cases continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra. The number of deaths in Pune increased from 5429 to 5478.

Thane district remained on the third spot --after Pune and Mumbai – with 1,77,529 total cases, while the pandemic toll rose from 4624 to 4647.

Out of 61,90,389 samples sent to laboratories, 12,82,963 have tested positive (20.72 per cent) for COVID-19 until Thursday. Currently, 18,83,912 people are in home quarantine while 33,412 people are in institutional quarantine.

## From Rail Roko...

**From Page 1**

“As per information from across the State, the call for bandh has received a positive response from various unions of truckers, buses, tempos, employees, youngsters, students, labourers and others,” said Benod Pandey, a representative of all farm unions. He added that as per their initial estimates, rail tracks and roads would be blocked at around 125 locations across various districts of Punjab.

In Haryana, INLD and Congress held protests at several districts. Farmer leaders said that several farmer organisations like Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), All India Farmers Union (AIFU), All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), All India Kisan Mahasangh (AIKM) have come on a common platform for the nationwide shutdown. Farmer leaders in Haryana are considering blocking the rail and road traffic in various districts of the State on the day, said leaders familiar with the developments.

Farmer union leaders, including the BKU (Charuni) and BKU (Tikait)

were holding meetings with leaders of different organisations like Ahritia’s (commission agents) Association, transporters and shopkeepers to support the Bharat Bandh by keeping their shops shut from 10 am to 4 pm. They claimed that all the mandis in the State had decided to remain shut and there will be no business on Friday.

Farmers in West Bengal will block roads and highways while farmers in Uttar Pradesh will jam their respective villages, towns and highways.

The Railways on Thursday said the ‘rail roko’ agitation in Punjab over farm Bills will severely impact the loading of foodgrains and other essential goods as well as the movement of passengers travelling on special trains, mostly on an urgent basis. Officials here said that Punjab loaded 990 rakes of FCI foodgrains in August this year and 816 rakes till September 23. Thus, FCI is loading more than 35 rakes of foodgrains daily from Punjab. They said Punjab also loads 9-10 rakes daily of fertiliser, cement, auto, mixed goods in containers. The State also receives around 20 rakes daily of coal, food grain, farm products, machinery petroleum products, imported fertiliser etc.

## India’s fresh Covid count twice...

**From Page 1**

In many States, ever since the antigen testing has been introduced, the positivity rate has drastically come down. It clearly shows that the real picture of coronavirus spread is far worse than reflected by the outcome of the tests. The situation in Africa is far better than Asia. As many as 57 nations of the continent registered just 8,000 new cases on Thursday with an average of fewer than 150 cases. Of them, around 16 countries didn’t register a single case while nearly two dozens logged cases in double-digit numbers.

The European situation is becoming alarming again with the United Kingdom, France and Spain registering around 10,000 new cases every day, but the USA has stabilised and numbers are also declining in some of the worst-affected nations of South America. However, India is showing no sign of plateauing out. While some States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are reversing the trend and registering a reduced number of cases during the last one week, new States are replacing them with far bigger numbers.

For example, Kerala reported 6,324 new cases and 21 persons died in the State during the last 24 hours due to Covid-19. This is the biggest single-day spike for the State which boasted of taking the best possible measures to contain the pandemic. The State has so far not ever crossed 50,000 new cases in a day.

With winter now knocking at the door, India will have to hope and pray that the situation is salvaged through some divine intervention. The human factor has paid little results so far.

## Fitness...

**From Page 1**

The first anniversary of Fit India Movement saw Modi addressing Soman as ‘Made in India Milind’ after the 90’s song that shot the actor to fame. Modi acknowledged how the 54-year-old star had contributed to the fitness movement in his own vocal way by even penning a book titled after the famous track.

On a lighter note, the Prime Minister pointed out about how netizens keep discussing his age and asked, “Whatever you say your age is - are you really that old or is it something else?”

A laughing Milind answered, “A lot of people ask me the same question about my age. They also ask me how am I able to run such long distances (like from Delhi to Mumbai in 2012) in this age. I tell them - my mother at 81 - is capable of doing all this. She is a huge source of inspiration for me and for many others.”

He further said, “If you go the villages, women travel kilometres to fill water and for other activities. The problem in cities with the widespread of technology is that we sit a lot at a place for work and other things. This makes them lazy.”

He detailed on his women-only fitness programme, Pinkathon, where women aged

even 60 above, begin with a regular run of 3 kms before moving on to regular exercises and ending up running 100 kms.

Interacting with Indian captain Kohli, the Prime Minister quipped “your name is Virat and kam bhi aisa hi hai” and then asked him as how he keeps himself fit.

Kohli while interacting with the Prime Minister talked about the importance of fitness in daily lives. The cricketer, who is currently in the United Arab Emirates with the Royal Challengers Bangalore, gave insights on his own experience with the transition to importance of fitness over the years in cricket.

In the digital interaction Kohli said he experienced the need for fitness levels to be better in his initial playing days.

“I experienced a transition. In the era when I started playing cricket, the demands of the game were changing very quickly. Our fitness routines weren’t fit for the demands of the game and we needed to change. We were short from fitness point of view, the skills were not an issue,” Kohli told the Prime Minister.

“I experienced a self-realisation on fitness, that it should be a priority. I realised that I needed to improve on my fitness. Now, the priority on fitness is such that I won’t mind losing training sessions but I feel bad when I lose fitness session,” he said.

Modi pointed out that Virat, who hails from Delhi, must be missing the delicious foods of the city, naming “chhole bhatoore” in particular, to which Virat chuckled and said that he had to sacrifice the food to maintain his fitness levels.

“I miss the chhole bhatoore in Delhi so much! But I never experienced health issues with our native diet. My grandmother is so healthy and she always used to eat homemade food. I, on the other hand, had city food because we travel everywhere. We used to eat out and some food items were unhealthy. So that made me realise that fitness is important,” said Kohli.

“If we don’t improve our fitness, we would be far behind

in terms of our game too. Our brain and body fitness works together,” he said.

The Indian cricket captain further pointed out that in daily lives, it is important to keep fitness priority, instead of weight loss.

“Important to give time in between food intake. We eat heavy food in our daily lives, and in between, we continue to have other food intakes. We don’t allow our system to process the food. There is no activity in between food intake. These small things are important, you need to give time for body to process food,” said Kohli.

“It is important to keep priority - if you’re doing it for weight loss or fitness,” he said. Kohli said despite the significant improvement in fitness levels among the Indian team members, the side still lags behind the other international sides on the same.

He pointed it out in reply to Modi’s question on the need of Yo Yo Tests in Indian cricket setup.

“It (Yo Yo Test) was very important. Our level in fitness in comparison to other teams is still low. Yo Yo Tests were a basic requirement,” said Kohli.

“The T20ls and ODls last only one day but the Test match is of five days, so the fitness standard from that point of view is important. Even I won’t be available for selection if I fail the test. It is important to set the fitness culture. It improves overall culture of the side,” he said.



**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल**  
केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला ( मैके. शाखा )  
निविदा सूचना

क्र.64/के.कर्म/2020

भोपाल, दिनांक 23.09.2020


नगर निगम भोपाल केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला के द्वारा विभिन्न प्रकार के वाहनों के स्पेयर पार्ट्स क्रय किये जाने हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र	निविदा क्र	सामान का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	घरोहर राशि	निविदा फार्म का मूल्य	प्रदाय अवधि
1.	2020_UAD_108420_1	Supply/SERVICE of Original and Genuine Auto Spare Parts of DIFFERENT TYPE OF VEHICLES	19000000/-	190000/-	125000/-	मॉग अनुसार

निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाईट [mptenders.gov.in](http://mptenders.gov.in) पर देखी एवं केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैकेनिकल) से कार्यालयीन समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

**उपायुक्त परिवहन शाखा**  
**नगर निगम भोपाल**

नि.क्र.774/020/021



**GOVT. OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS, CIRCLC, BHAWANIPATNA**  
\*\*\*\*\*

O-372

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

- Name of the Work : Improvement to Road & CD works Jhanjurmura to Khairani in the district of Nuapada under RIDF.
- No of Works : 1 No.
- Location details : Nuapada District
- Estimated Cost : As per NIT.
- Period of Completion : As per NIT.
- Cost of tender paper : Rs.10,000/- per set.
- Other details :

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

Further details can be seen from the web site “[www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)”

Sd/-Superintending Engineer  
Rural Works, Circle, Bhawanipatna

OIPR-25102/11/0003/2021



**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

Tender Notice No.: AGC-ELG- T-11-2020-21

Sr. Div. Elec. Eng. (General) North Central Railway, Agra

Date: 22.09.2020

**Tender Notice**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) North Central Railway, Agra for and behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through Online only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work with its location	Completion Period	Approx. Cost of the work
1.	AGC-ELG-T-11-2020-21	Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of 02 nos. Escalator installed at Agra Cantt Railway Station PF-2/3 for 36 months.	36 Months	Rs. 3549612.72

**Note:-** For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Tenders can only be submitted through web portal <http://www.ireps.gov.in> upto 16:00 hrs. on 16.10.2020. 997/20 (P)

North central railway [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @ CPNOCR

## Deepika...

**From Page 1**

The NCB will continue the same line of questioning when its investigators grill actress Rakul and Deepika’s Manager Karishma.

“Deepika has acknowledged the summons and had submitted for joining investigation on Saturday,” Malhotra said. At Saturday’s questioning, the NCB will record Deepika’s statement under Section 67 in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The section 67 of the NDPS Act vests powers with the investigating agency “to call for information from any person for the purpose of satisfying himself whether there has been any contravention of the provisions of this Act, to require any person to produce or deliver any document or thing useful or relevant to the enquiry and to examine any person acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case”.

Deepika will be questioned in the context of the information that surfaced during the ques-

tioning of actress-accused Rhea Chakraborty in the drug case.

Karishma works with Jaya Saha, with whom Rhea Chakraborty had chatted about CBD oil, as a manager in Kwan talent management agency. During the questioning, the NCB had reportedly quizzed Jaya if she had any knowledge about Karishma procuring drugs for Deepika Padukone.

The NCB had retrieved Deepika’s WhatsApp chats with Karishma in which the two were seen discussing drugs. Earlier, Jaya’s chats with Rhea Chakraborty about CBD oil were also retrieved by NCB.

The NCB investigations have thrown up a whatsapp chat of 2017 between D (Deepika Padukone) and K (Karishma). In the chat, Deepika reportedly asks Karishma: "you have Maal? Karishma responds saying: "Yes, but at home. I am at Bandra. Later Krishma tells Deepika that one Amit is bringing it to a high-end restaurant "koko" at Lower Parel. Deepika seeks to confirm if it is hash not weed.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The public at large is hereby informed that late Mr. G.G.Arora s/o late Mr.Sita Ram r/o C-90,kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 was having commercial property in our project Vatika One on One,flat no 241,block no 4,sector16 and measuring 500 sq ft which his legal heirs Mrs. Kuldeep Arora (w/o late Mr. G.G.Arora) Mrs. Sonali Arora(w/o late Mr. Gagan Arora: son), Miss Simran and Mr Raghav Arora (children of late Mr.Gagan Arora) and Mr.Pawan Arora (s/o late Mr.G.G.Arora requested the company to be transferred to Mr Pawan Arora. Any person having an objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which NO CLAIM will be accepted. Vatika limited Vatika triangle, 4th floor, Sushant Lok-1, Block AMG road, Gurgaon, Haryana

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the following documents related to property i .e Flat no.562, PKT-E, Mayur Vihar, Phase -2, Delhi-91 has been lost.a) Allotment letter dated 10.6.1986 issued by DDAB) Final Demand letter issued by DDA for the said flat. Anyone who found these two documents are requested to return to the owner of the said flat at Shri Anil Sanan, Flat no.562, PKT-E, Mayur Vihar, Delhi-91.

M. No. :9810048614



# CM to meet Javadekar over steps to stop stubble fire

Kejriwal visits Pusa Agricultural institute to see the bio-decomposer technique

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after his interaction with scientists on Pusa Technology to manage stubble causing air pollution, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday visited Pusa Agricultural institute to see the bio-decomposer technique developed by scientists of IARI, terms the technique practical and doable for preventing stubble burning pollution.

Kejriwal said that this technique involves the spraying of Pusa decomposer capsules along with a liquid formulation using readily available elements, that will help decompose the stubble into compost, decrease the use of fertilizers and increase the productivity of the farm soil.

“I will meet the Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar in a day or two to discuss the efficient and effective implementation

of this simple, doable, and practical technique to stop stubble burning.”

“I will request him to speak to the neighboring states to take all measures to effectively implement it despite the crunch of time. We will surely implement this technique in a very efficient and effective manner in Delhi,” Kejriwal said.

Briefing the media after his visit, he said, “Delhi and many other North Indian states are covered with smoke due to stubble burning in the neighboring states by the farmers. Pusa Agriculture Institute scientists have developed a new and innovative technique, under which they give four capsules, with the help of which the farmers can prepare a 25-liter of a liquid mixture with jaggery and chickpea flour, which is sufficient to cover 1 hectare of land.

When the farmer sprays the 25 liters of the liquid mix on the stubble, the stubble



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal witnesses turning of crop stubble (Paraali) into manure via bio-decomposer techniques, developed by IARI Pusa, in New Delhi on Thursday

softens and melts down in 20 days. The farmer can then begin

his sowing again and he does not need to burn the crop stubble.

The soil loses its richness due to stubble burning, and it also destroys the useful bac-

teria and fungi in the soil, apart from causing harm to the environment.

This improves the fertility and productivity of the soil as the stubble works as manure and compost for the crops and lesser fertilizer consumption will be required in the future. The cost of the capsule is very less, we will be getting a proposal mentioning all the important details such as cost per acre soon.

This is the result of many years of hard work and efforts of the scientists, and they have got the validation after a year after all their pilot testing and projection. They have also given their technique a license for commercial exploitation.

On a question of why there is no action on stubble burning throughout the year, CM Kejriwal said, “I agree that no major efforts have been made the whole year on stubble burning. I do not want to blame anyone but the central government is also trying its best. The union has held meetings, initiated new schemes and implemented custom hiring sectors, and given subsidies on new machinery. “The scientists gave a presentation to me

yesterday, and this is a very simple, doable, and practical approach. If we look at the net cost-benefit analysis, a farmer will get twice the profit of what he will spend. This is a new invention and Pusa Institute is one of the most reputed institutes in the country. We must implement this as soon as possible.”

Taking to social media, he tweeted, “Farmers are also worried about the pollution that is caused due to stubble burning every year. A technique has been developed by the scientists of IARI - Bio Decomposer. I visited to observe the technique today. Scientists believe that because of this, farmers will not have to burn stubble, the stubble will turn into manure and the farmers' yield will also increase.”

The technology, called Pusa Decomposer, involves making a liquid formulation using Pusa decomposer capsules and readily available inputs, fermenting it over 8-10 days, and then spraying the mixture on fields with crop stubble to ensure speedy biodecomposition of the stubble.

## 52-year-old man shot at for resisting robbery bid

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 52-year-old man was shot at allegedly by two unidentified motorcycle-borne men for resisting a robbery bid on the Shahdara flyover in National Capital.

The victim has been identified as Manish. According to a senior police official, Manish sustained a bullet injury in his stomach and is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Patparganj.

“Manish is out of danger now. The identities of the

accused are yet to be established and teams have been formed to trace them,” said the senior police official.

“The incident took place around 7.30 pm on Wednesday when Manish and his brother, Arun, were returning home. They live in Ramprastha in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh,” said police official privy to investigation.

“As the brothers reached the Shahdara flyover, two men intercepted them on a motorcycle and tried to snatch their bag. Facing resistance, one of

the accused allegedly took out a pistol and shot at Manish before fleeing,” he said.

“A case has been registered under section 399 (making preparations to commit dacoity), 397 (robbery or dacoity with attempt the cause death or grievous hurt) and 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC),” he said.

“Police are looking for CCTV footage from areas along the route, The investigation is underway,” he further added.

## SDMC Mayor suspends LoP for creating ‘ruckus’ in House

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

South Corporation mayor Sanamika on Thursday suspended Leader of Opposition (LoP) Prem Chauhan for allegedly disrupting the functioning of the House and creating ‘ruckus’ during a meeting. However, the LoP termed the decision dictatorial, saying that he was not allowed to speak on crucial matters and even called ‘Maoist’ by a BJP councillor.

The LoP said that the ruling party is trying to suppress the opposition’s voice by not allowing councillors of the opposition party to speak. The BJP leaders said that the deci-

sion to suspend him was taken after he started disrupting the proceedings frequently.

The AAP, however, hit back saying that the corporation is riddled with corruption and the mayor does not allow them to raise their voice. “The AAP leaders were not allowed to speak and even BJP councillors misbehaved with me in the House by calling me ‘Maoist’,” said Chauhan.

Describing the decision as unprecedented, the LoP said the ‘autocratic’ action was taken to prevent the opposition’s voice. “The mayor abruptly and intentionally did not allow me to speak on some of the matters related to public impor-

tance and the releasing of Rs 2100 as rent due towards North Corporation,” he said.

Chauhan said “I tried to raise two different issues. One was regarding the non-payment of the salary of the DTC drivers and the second one was regarding the non-releasing of funds for the North Corporation. Mayor did stop me from raising such points but our fight will continue for the rights of employees till the time BJP does not pay the salary of the employees.”

He also accused the mayor of threatening him during the House proceedings. “I removed the sticker pasted on the mayor’s chair to protest against

her behavior. She suspended me instead of allowing some time to speak,” he added.

Commenting on the issue, Vikas Goel, AAP councillor and LoP in North Corporation said “It is very unfortunate that the SDMC has not paid such huge money till now knowing that the salaries of employees of north civic body are pending for months. He demanded the SDMC to release the money immediately.

Senior AAP leader and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak on Thursday said that Bharatiya Janata Party-led SDMC has not paid Rs 2137 crore to the North Delhi Municipal Corporation.

“We are witnessing that the employees of the municipal corporations are not getting their salaries for the past few months. At the time of COVID-19 pandemic, the doctors, nurses, sanitation workers, teachers and others had not received their salaries. These employees are protesting every day at the Civic Centre and other places but they have not stopped their work. The BJP ruled MCDs have treated their own employees very inhumanly,” he said.

Pathak also requested the Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta to immediately intervene and ask the South Corporation to release this money.

### DELHI RIOTS

## Court sends Umar to judicial custody till Oct 22 in UAPA case

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court Thursday sent former JNU student leader Umar Khalid, arrested under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, in a case related to the communal violence in north east Delhi in February, to judicial custody till October 22.

Khalid, who was arrested on September 13 in the case, was produced before the court through video conferencing at the end of his 10 days police custody.

His custodial interrogation had started on September 14. Since police did not seek his further custody, Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat ordered his judicial custody with direction to the Tihar Jail Superintendent to take all necessary steps, within the rules, to ensure the safety and security of the accused.

Khalid claimed before the court that he has not signed any document whatsoever during his police custody.

“During the last 10 days’ in police custody I have not signed any paper or statements,” he told the court.

In the FIR, police has claimed that the communal violence was a “premeditated conspiracy” which was allegedly hatched by Khalid and two others. He has also been booked for the offences of sedition, murder, attempt to murder, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and rioting.

Khalid had allegedly given provocative speeches at two different places and appealed to the citizens to come out on

streets and block the roads during the visit of US President Donald Trump to spread propaganda at international level about how minorities in India are being tortured , the FIR alleged.

In this conspiracy, firearms, petrol bombs, acid bottles and stones were collected at numerous homes, the FIR alleged.

Co-accused Danish was allegedly given the responsibility to gather people from two different places to take part in the riots, police alleged. Women and children were made to block the roads under the Jafrabad metro station on February 23 to create tension amidst the neighborhood people, FIR said.

During the proceedings in the court today, Khalid said he be allowed to meet his family members before sending him to judicial custody.

Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad said police will allow Khalid’s family members to meet him provided they reach within time as he has to be taken for medical examination and thereafter they will send the accused to judicial custody.

Khalid’s counsel made submission that priority should be given for his safety and security and he be allowed to take his spectacles inside the jail which was permitted by the court.

Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on February 24 after violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

PTI

## Delhi Police EOW arrests man, busts fraud racket



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police has arrested a man involved in several of cheating across the city. Police said with his arrest they have solved seven cases of cheating and fraud registered across the city.

The accused has been identified as Pankaj Dayal, a resident of Sainik Farm in South Delhi.

According to Dr OP Mishra, the Joint Commissioner of Police, EOW, a complaint was received in which the complainant stated that Pankaj Dayal misrepresented his company Blue Cloud Infra private limited that accused company Amenity Promoters private limited was in process of purchasing of 5.06 acre agriculture land in village Jhatikara in Delhi for which the company had already paid Rs three crores to the land owner.

“The complainant further told police that Dayal assured them that he will conclude the purchase of the land and find a suitable third-party buyer. The complainant was induced on hefty profit sharing by further sale of property and obtained Rs three Crore and siphoned off the funds for his personal use,” said the Joint CP.

“A First Information Report (FIR) under section 420/406/120-B of Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered and investigation taken up. During investigation, the accounts statements were scrutinized where it was revealed that Pankaj is the shareholder and one of the authorized signatory of the bank account of alleged company,” said the Joint CP.

“A sum of Rs 95 Lacs paid by the complainant in the account of alleged company was siphoned off by accused Pankaj Dayal on the same day and diverted in his personal account for his own use. The money as agreed with the land owner was not paid by the accused. The directors of the accused company were his employees and accused was looking after the affairs of the alleged company,” the Joint CP said.

“The accused was arrested from his newly established office in Greater Kailash and during interrogation it was revealed that he got several companies incorporated and appointed the people who were in search of the employment as directors and operated the companies from behind the screen. He lured innocent buyers to invest in the property and duped them,” the Joint CP said.



A health worker collects a swab sample for Covid-19 rapid antigen testing at civic centre in new Delhi on Thursday

## 800 emergency medical technicians to be trained in Gurugram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Electronics Sector Skills Council of India (ESSCI), working under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, in collaboration with VVDN Technologies will train around 800 Emergency medical technicians (EMS).

For this, a new training centre has been launched at IMT Sector-8, Manesar in Gurugram on Thursday. In which these 800

EMS will be trained at this training centre under the scheme of Electronics System Design & Manufacturing, Skill Development (ESDM) Capacity Building, a Scheme of Union Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology.

This training session will provide more opportunity and employment to these technicians.

The company has set a target of increasing the workforce of its product engineering and manufacturing facilities from 4,000 to

one lakh. The company is making a move towards self-reliant India.

“This training centre will provide employable training to the youth with modern technology. ESSCI has so far trained one million youth as per the requirement of electronic industry. Keeping this in mind, ESSCI has started this new training centre at Manesar, in Gurugram. This centre will play a major role in making Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s self-reliant India campaign a success,” said NK Mohapatra, CEO (ESSCI).

## Two held for supplying weapons in G’gram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram Police have arrested two men for allegedly supplying illegal weapons in the city on Wednesday, the police said.

The arrested accused were identified as 32-year-old Kuldeep Singh alias Kullu of Bhiwani district in Haryana and 22-year-old Sachin alias Kalu, a resident of Uttar Pradesh. Kuldeep Singh is stated to be the mastermind.

“Based on specific inputs, the duo were arrested from Sehrawan ki Dhani near Manesar on Wednesday evening, after a brief exchange of fire with the police party. The police have recovered 11 automatic pistols with 7 live cartridges and a Toyota Corolla car from the accused,” said



Preet Pal Sangwan, ACP (crime).

The weapons were reportedly brought to Gurugram in order to be supplied to criminals operating in the city.

The police have also identified the criminals to whom the accused duo have handed the consignment, but didn’t disclose the names for investigation reasons.

“This is not the first time while the police have nabbed Kuldeep Singh, in 2018 Singh was arrested in a dacoity and arms act case, the case was filed against him at the Rajendra Park police station,” Sangwan said.

The police also suspect that while in jail he came in contact with illegal arms suppliers and once he was released, he began procuring illegal weapons from them with the

intention of supplying to criminals in Gurugram.

The accused used to procure the illegal automatic pistols from Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh for Rs 22,000 each. However, the police are ascertaining how much amount he charged from the criminals in lieu of the pistols. The market value of the pistols are Rs 50,000 each, according to police.

“Earlier, Kuldeep was arrested in five cases under the arms act and other various sections of the IPC which were lodged against him in Gurugram, Bhiwani and Narnaul in Mahendergarh district in Haryana. We are also gathering information about Sachin the co-accused if he has any criminal history. Further probe in the matter is underway” Sangwan added.





# SAARC must defeat terrorism: Jaishankar

‘Blocking connectivity, obstructing trade other hurdles’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Farm Bills: Cong launches nationwide stir against Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

## Ministry allows airlines to set ‘baggage limit’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MES Jr engineer, GST officials arrested for graft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

**2. Important dates :-**

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

**3. Sale of Bid Documents**

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

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

**4. Earnest Money** The Earnest money as indicated in the table above shall be accompanied with bid in the shape of 8th issue of 6 years NSC/KVP/TD issued within the state or as per Bihar Financial Rules & Rule 161 of revised PWD code and duly pledged in favour of “**Senior Project Engineer, Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd., Works Division, Gaya**”.

The Earnest Money shall also be acceptable in the form of Demand Draft/Fixed Deposit Receipt or unconditional Bank Guarantee (valid upto 45 days after bid validity period) of any Scheduled Bank which has Branch in Bihar and duly issued in favour of “**Senior Project Engineer, Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd., Works Division, Gaya**”.

Earnest money and the cost of Bid Documents shall be submitted in original in the office of the Senior Project Engineer, Works Division, Gaya, Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd. / Dy. Chief Engineer, Work circle-01, Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd. Patna, 7- Sardar Patel Marg, Patna up to 27-11-2020 (**3:00pm**), otherwise bid will not be considered as responsive.

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

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

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

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

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

**10. Date of Opening of Financial Bid:**  
Date of opening of financial bid will be intimated later through website [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in).

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

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

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

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए [state.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar) पर देखा जा सकता है।

नोबल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

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

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

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

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

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**बिहार सरकार**

**पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग, बिहार सरकार**  
कार्यालय-वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, शोध प्रशिक्षण एवं जन सम्पर्क प्रमण्डल, पटना

**शुद्धि पत्र**

**P.R No – 006560/20-21**

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

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

नोबल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

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

is visited by over 3 lakh tourists every year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Such safaris are allowed for only those reserves that have achieved full carrying capacity of the tourists in core and critical areas.

The guidelines also clearly states that for such safaris, “no tiger shall be obtained from a zoo” and only animals such as injured and orphaned tiger cubs (which are unfit for re-wilding) would be selected and that too from the same landscapes as that of the area where the tiger safari is being established.

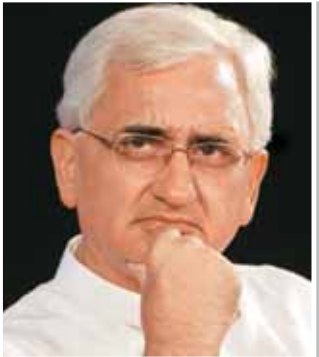






# Stifling more voices

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



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

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

# Rafale under fire again

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



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

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

# When *babu* becomes *neta*

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



AJOY KUMAR

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## S O U N D B I T E

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

Canadian PM  
—Justin Trudeau



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

Australian Treasurer  
—Josh Frydenberg



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

Ukrainian President  
—Volodymyr Zelensky



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

Footballer  
—Sahal Abdul Samad



## L E T T E R S T O T H E E D I T O R

### Labour-friendly laws

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

SK Nag  
Mumbai

### Monsoon Session ends

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

### The actual beneficiaries of farm Bills

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

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

N Nagarajan  
Secunderabad



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

Haridasan Rajan  
Kozhikode

### Fair and responsible

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

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

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

further the communal agenda of the Government.

M N Musaeed  
Mumbai

### Rising COVID cases

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

Urvi Jain  
Ujjain

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



FIRST COLUMN

The threat posed by hospital waste

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



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

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

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

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

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

*(The writer is an environmental journalist)*

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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



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

Corona paints a bleak picture

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# A double whammy to the girl child's survival

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



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

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

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

Supported by the Indian Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*(The writer is a senior journalist)*



PAKISTAN MUST LEARN FROM INDIA

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

*(Dawn editorial)*



# If Trump loses, he may refuse peaceful shift

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

“Well, we’re going to have to see what happens,” Trump

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

“I have been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster...,” Trump told reporters at a White House news conference on Wednesday when asked about a peaceful transition of power after the presidential polls in November irrespective of the outcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

which she characterised as an attack on democracy.

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

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

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

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

AP ■ TAIPEI, TAIWAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Agencies**

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

AP ■ NASHVILLE

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

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

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

# Trump, Biden clash on handling of coronavirus

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

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

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

“Our plan will crush the

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

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

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

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

**PTI**

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

AP ■ SEOUL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## UN rejection of sanctions marks ‘victory’ over Trump: Iran

AFP ■ TEHRAN

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

“The Iranian nation has

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

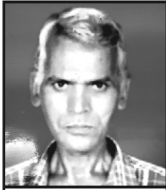
“The reason for this victory lies solely in the support and resistance of the people,” he said.

“America’s greatness has

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

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

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



**Deen Dayal**

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


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

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

**SHO**

**P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi**

**Tel.No. 011-28721115, 8750870430**

	<b>OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL &amp; CONTROLLER, RUHS COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,</b> Sector-11, Kumbha Marg, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur-302033 Ph.: 0141-2795624, 634, E-mail : <a href="mailto:principal@ruhscms.org">principal@ruhscms.org</a>
	<b>No. RUHS CMS/Store/2020-21/21022</b> Date : 22-09-2020
	<b>Short Term E-bid Notice</b>
	Single stage, two envelope short term e-bids are invited upto 02.00 pm of 12-10-2020 for Supply and Installation Automated Extraction System on Reagent Rental basis at Covid-19 Test Lab, Dept. of Microbiology, RUHS College of Medical Sciences, Jaipur. (Total Approx. Cost in Rs. 144.00 lakh) (Pre Bid Meeting on 25-09-2020 at 11.00 am) Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at the Website <a href="http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in">http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a> , <a href="http://www.ruhscms.org">www.ruhscms.org</a> or <a href="http://sppp.raj.nic.in">sppp.raj.nic.in</a> . (UBN - CMS2021GLRC00044)
Principal & Controller	
Raj. Samwad/C/4841/2020-2021	RUHS College of Medical Sciences, Jaipur

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

### SEARCH FOR SUSPECTED PERSON



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

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

**SHO**

**P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi**

**DP/362/CD/2020**

**Ph.: 011- 23613252, 8750870429**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely Hema **D/o Khushbu R/o Vardhman Plaza, A-Block, Industrial Area, GTK Road, Delhi** & permanent address: Vill. Subhashpuri, Post Office Khadi Gram, PS Laxmipur, District Jamui (Bihar) **Aged-8** Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 22.07.2007 at 11 AM vide **FIR No.506/07 Dated 24.07.2007 u/s 363 IPC** registered at Police Station Model Town, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 4', **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **ID:** Who has paralysis in his left hand, Mentally Weak, **Clothing:** half Shorts.

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

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641      Sd/-  
FAX No. : 011-24368639      SHO, Model Town, Delhi  
**DP/402/NW/2020**      Tel.: 011-27459202, 27120032, 27456072

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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

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

**E-mail :** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Ph.:** 011-24368638, 24368641  
**Fax :** 011-24368639

**SHO**

**P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.**

**DP/392/OD/2020**

**Ph. No. 011-25268394, 25280980**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL



**NEELAM**

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

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

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

**SHO : P.S. Naraina, New Delhi**

**DP/215/WD/20**

**Ph. : 011-25891181, 25892010, 8750871122**

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 50 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 57", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Grey Colour Pant & Multicolour Check shirt has been found dead from the area of Police

Station Vijay Vihar, Delhi on 19.09.2020.

In this regard a FIR No. 359/20 U/s 279/304A IPC, dated 19.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

**SHO**

**P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi**

**DP/416/RD/2020**

**Ph.: 011-27511294, 8750870329**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



**Tara**

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

**E-mail :** [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in)  
**Ph.:** 011-24368638, 24368641  
**Fax :** 011-24368639

**SHO**

**P.S. Naraina, New Delhi.**

**DP/212/WD/2020**

**Ph.: 011-25891181, 25892020, 8750871122**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



**GANGA**

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

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

**Web-site :** <http://cbi.nic.in>      **SHO**

**E-Mail Id:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)      **P.S. Nangloi, Delhi**

**Fax: 011-24368639**

**Ph.: 011-25947225, 25949470**



#### RISHI SUNAK UNVEILS NEW WAGE TOP-UP SCHEME

**London:** UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Thursday unveiled a new Covid-19 emergency Jobs Support Scheme, which will see the Government top-up wages of workers covering up to two-thirds of their hours for the next six months.

#### ISRAEL TIGHTENS SECOND LOCKDOWN

**Jerusalem:** Israel on Thursday moved to further tighten its second countrywide lockdown as coronavirus cases continued to soar, ordering all nonessential businesses to close and requiring people to stay within 1,000 metres (yards) of their homes.

#### AMENDMENTS: PROTESTS AS THAI LAWMAKERS VOTE

**Bangkok:** Thai lawmakers met to vote on six proposed amendments to the country's military-backed constitution, as protesters pushing for charter reform gathered outside the Parliament building. Changes to the constitution are one of three core demands that a coalition of protest groups has been seeking in recent months.

#### OVER 360 MORE DETAINED IN BELARUS IN PROTESTS

**Kyiv, Ukraine:** Over 360 more people have been detained in Belarus during protests against the country's authoritarian president, who was unexpectedly sworn in to his sixth term in office after an election the opposition says was rigged.

#### INDIAN STUDENTS APPEAL TO UK PM ON VISA ROW

**London:** Several Indian students are among over 200 overseas student signatories of a letter delivered to UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson at Downing Street in London on Thursday, seeking justice in the wake of being accused of cheating in a compulsory English language test six years ago. The scandal, believed to have impacted around 34,000 international students, relates to the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC), a compulsory requirement in some student visa cases.



# Harley-Davidson plans to close India manufacturing facility

**IANAS** ■ NEW DELHI

Cruiser bikes giant Harley-Davidson on Thursday said that it plans to close its manufacturing facility in Haryana's Bawal and significantly reduce the size of its sales office in Gurugram.

The development comes as part of 'The Rewire' initiative which intends to overhaul the company's operating model and market structure.

The company said that it is changing the business model in India and evaluating options to continue to serve its customers. "Harley-Davidson plans to close its manufacturing facility in Bawal and significantly reduce the size of its sales office in Gurgaon (Gurugram)," the company said in a statement.

updated on future support. The Harley-Davidson dealer network will continue to serve customers through the contract term."

According to the company, these actions are aligned with 'The Rewire' which is planned to continue through the end of 2020, leading to 'The Hardwire,' a new strategic plan for 2021-2025 aimed at building desirability for the Harley-Davidson brand and products.

## Govt extends suspension of fresh insolvency proceedings for 3 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has extended the suspension of fresh insolvency proceedings under the insolvency law for another three months, a senior official said on Thursday.

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the corporate affairs ministry decided to suspend initiation of fresh proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for six months starting from March 25. The nationwide lockdown came into force on March 25. The six-month period was to end on Thursday. The official told PTI that the period has been extended by three months.

er transaction	Banks sanction loans worth ₹1.77 L cr to 44 L MSMEs under credit guarantee plan
l permission	

**New Delhi:** The Finance Ministry on Thursday said banks have sanctioned loans of about ₹1.77 lakh crore to 44.2 lakh business units under the ₹3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for the MSME sector reeling under the slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic. However, disbursement against the sanctioned amount stood at ₹1,25,425 crore to 25.74 lakh MSME units till September 21. The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May to mitigate the distress

MSME units till September 21. The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May to mitigate the distress

caused by the lockdown due to COVID-19 by providing credit to different sectors, especially micro, small and medium enterprises. The latest numbers on ECLGS, as released by the Finance Ministry, comprise disbursements by all 12 public sector banks (PSBs), 24 private sector banks and 31 non-banking financial companies. "As of 21 Sept 2020, the total amount sanctioned under the 100% Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme by #PSBs and private banks to #MSMEs and individuals stands at ₹1,77,353 crore, of which ₹1,25,425 crore has already been disbursed," the finance minister said in a tweet.

## Centre allows addl borrowing of ₹ 9,913 crore by five States

**New Delhi:** The citizen feedback on the Non-Personal Data draft policy is not positive as people say there is very little to gain and the risk is of increased targeting, surveillance and data misuse.

mittee set up by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, released a draft non-personal data policy in mid-July giving the public two months to provide feedback. Per the policy, any data which does not contain any personally identifiable information of an individual is termed as non-personal data.

For example, while order details collected by an e-commerce platform will have the name, age, address and other contact information of an individual, it will be considered non-personal data if specific identifiers like name, address and contact information are removed.

NPD also classified non-personal data into three main categories - public non-personal data, community non-personal data and private non-personal data. Although many experts say that this policy is a forward looking step and will create a culture of data sharing of non-personal data which will bring overall benefits to the country, MSME and startups as well as citizens do not seem to be in favour of the policy in its current form.

## Single platform for social startups from Delhi-NCR

states for the year 2020-21 with certain conditions. This made an amount up to ₹4,27,302 crore available to the states. Of the extra 2 per cent, only 0.5 per cent is unconditional. After that, states will be allowed four increments of 0.25 per cent subject to implementation of four specific state-level reforms, where weightage of each reform is 0.25 per cent of GSDP.

The four reforms are -- implementation of 'One Nation One Ration Card' system; ease of doing business reforms; urban local body/utility reforms; and power sector reforms by privatising power distribution. "The remaining additional borrowing limit of 1 per cent was to be released in two instalments of 0.50 per cent each - first immediately to all the States as untied, and the second on undertaking at least 3 out of the above mentioned reforms," it said. The Government of India has already granted permission to states to raise the first 0.50 per cent as OMB in June 2020.

 <b>GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE</b> 						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	MTC. OF LANDSCAPING AND ARBORICULTURE ARRANGEMENT ON ARC BASIS AT DCRTPP, COLONY, YAMUNA NAGAR	CLOSING DATE 29.09.2020	75000/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in	Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgcl.org.in
2	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AMBALA	MAINTENANCE OF STREET LIGHTS POINTS AT MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AMBALA CITY WARD NO. 1 TO 11.	24.09.2020 16.10.2020	EMD 2 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in.	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
3	H.S.A.M. BOARD FARIDABAD	SPECIAL REPAIR OF VARIOUS LINK ROADS I.E. ROAD ID H-733, 780, 759& 819 , GROUP-I CONSTITUENCY – PAWAL, DISTT.- PALWAL, WORK PLAN 2020-21 PHASE – I. TIME LIMIT 9 MONTHS. + 3 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 14.10.2020	EMD 9.28 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in.	9971730975/ xenfaridabad.hsamb2019@gmail.com
4	HPGCL, PANIPAT	(NIT NO.PTP/POM-222189) SUB:- SUPPLY OF HI-CHROME LINERS FOR COAL MILL FOR 250 MW UNIT-7&8, PTPS, PANIPAT	Last date 21.10.2020	EMD 3 LACS	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
5	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	SUPPLY OF FILTER BEGS FOR BUFFER HOPPERS FOR AHP	CLOSING DATE 01.10.2020	7500/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in	Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgcl.org.in
6	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	HIRING & OPERATION OF SEVEN NO. MARUTI CIAZ CAR VXI (PETROL) (COMMERCIAL/TAXI PERMIT) AT DCRTPP HPGCL, YAMUNA NAGAR (MODEL NOT OLDER THAN 2018) (THE DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK CAN BE SEEN IN TENDER DOCUMENTS)	CLOSING DATE 01.10.2020	1.23 CRORE	Etenders.hry.nic.in	Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgcl.org.in
7	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	SUPPLY OF LIQUID CHLORINE FOR DCRTPP & RGTPP FOR THE YEAR 2020-21	CLOSING DATE 01.10.2020	30000/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in	Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgcl.org.in
8	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	SUPPLY OF VALVE AND ACTUATOR	CLOSING DATE 15.10.2020	98700/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in	Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgcl.org.in
9	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	SUPPLY OF AIR CRAFT WARNING LIGHT	CLOSING DATE 08.10.2020	NIL	Etenders.hry.nic.in	Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgcl.org.in
10	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	SUPPLY OF SUSPENSION ARM FOR CHP AT DCRTPP, YAMUNA NAGAR	CLOSING DATE 15.10.2020	10000/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in	Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgcl.org.in
11	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	SUPPLY OF SAFETY DEVICE MODULE	CLOSING DATE 01.10.2020	7200/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in	Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgcl.org.in
12	THE KURUKSHETRA-KARNAL COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD. AT KURUKSHETRA	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF -80°C DEEP FREEZER WITH VOLTAGE STABILIZER + 3 OTHER WORK	22.09.2020 12.10.2020	70000/-	www.vitaindia.org.in	9812347721 milkunionkkr1@yahoo.co.in
13	HARYANA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., SIRSA	PURCHASE OF MATERIAL AND LABOUR WORKS FOR MANUFACTURING OF RCC FENCING POST (PILLAR) COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECTS.	22.09.2020 05.10.2020	1 LAKH	www.hfcd.gov.in	01666-243020 gm.sirsa.@hfcd.gov.in
14	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHIWANI	MAINTENANCE OF PARK IN BHIWANI CITY.	CLOSING DATE 30.09.2020	50000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9810880504 me.mcbhiwani@gmail.com
15	HVPNL	MTC. OF APPROACH ROAD AND MAIN GATE AT 220 KV S/STN. JORIAN, REP. OF BOUNDARY WALL OF YARD AT 220 KV RAMPUR KAMBOYAN & REP OF DAMAGED CHAINLINK FENCING AT 66 KV CHHACHRAULI	CLOSING DATE 05.10.2020	7.78 LACS	www.hvpng.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpng.org.in
16	HVPNL, ROHTAK	AUGMENTATION OF 132 KV S/STN. JASSIA FROM 1X 20/25 MVA, 132/33 KV + 1 X 16/20 MVA, 132/11 KV T/F/S TO 2 X 20/25 MVA, 132/33 KV + 1 X 16/20 MVA, 132/11 KV T/F/S, SUBJECT TO DISMANTLEMENT OF ABANDONED COLONY (CIVIL WORKS)	CLOSING DATE 08.10.2020	4361350.00/892 00.00 for General and Rs. 44600.00 for registered L&C Society	https://www.hvpng.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpng.org.in
17	HVPNL	REPLACEMENT/RAISING THE HEIGHT OF TOWERS CROSSING ARRANGEMENT OF 132KV S/C GIRI-MAJRI-ABDULLAPUR LINE TL NO. 169 & 170 NEAR VILLAGE BHATLI- DEPOSIT WORK OF PWD B&R.	CLOSING DATE 30.09.2020	17.02 LACS	www.hvpng.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpng.org.in
18	HARYANA AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED.	APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTORS FOR HANDLING OF FOODGRAINS LEASED OUT TO FCI AT JIND, HISAR, TOHANA (M/S HARYANA STORAGE & M/S VASU JAIN).	24.09.2020 06.10.2020	Rs.5/- per MT of the capacity of each godown	haic.co.in/https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2561305 haicpkl@gmail.com
19	THE SHAHAAB COOP. SUGAR MILLS LTD., SHAHAAB (M), DISTT. KURUKSHETRA, (HR.)	SUPPLY OF CHEMICALS & DOSING FOR WATER TREATMENT OF COOLING TOWER AND BOILER FOR THE SEASON, 2020-21(MAKE :- THERMAX/NALCO/SUZALKEM/GE) + 31 OTHER WORKS	22.09.2020 03.10.2020	AS PER TENDER	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	9991702828 scsmpur@gmail.com
20	HSAM BOARD, PANCHKULA	INSTALLATION OF PADDY DRYER WITH 6MT/BATCH PER HOUR CAPACITY( STATIC UNIT WITH ELEVATOR, DRYER, BAGGING BIN, ELECTRIC CONTROL PANEL, DIESEL OR BRIQUETTES AS FUEL FOR OPERATION, INDIRECT FIRE HEATING AND HAVING EFFICIENCY OF REDUCING MINIMUM %S MOISTURE IN ONE CYCLE) AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN HARYANA. ALONG WITH OPERATION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ABOVE STATED PADDY DRYER WITH 6MT/BATCH PER HOUR CAPACITY MACHINE FOR 1 YEAR.	CLOSING DATE 07.10.2020	EMD 1.5 LAKH	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/	officecmeo@gmail.com
21	HFDC, AMBALA	IN-HOUSE MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF RCC FENCING POSTS IN KURUSHETRA AND KAITHAL DISTRICTS	21.09.2020 28.09.2020	35 LACS	www.hfcd.gov.in	0171-2551567 gm.ambala@ hfcd.gov.in
22	HFDC, AMBALA	IN-HOUSE MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF RCC FENCING POSTS IN AMBALA DISTRICT	21.09.2020 28.09.2020	32 LACS	www.hfcd.gov.in	0171-2551567 gm.ambala@ hfcd.gov.in
23	H.S.A.M. BOARD, ROHTAK	CONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGE NIGANA PHIRNI WHICH CONNECTS THE FOUR OTHER VILLAGES NAMEDY GUDHAN, KATESRA, SANGAHERA & PILANA DISTRICT, ROHTAK AND 3 NO. MANDI VIKASH KOSH YOJNA WORKS.	CLOSING DATE 06.10.2020	As per approved DNIT	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-270274 xenroh.hsamb@gmail.com
24	HFDC, AMBALA	CARRYING OUT OF VARIOUS LOGGING OPERATIONS AND ALL RELATED WORKS AS PER SCHEDULE OF RATES (S.O.R.) IN PANCHKULA DISTRICT AND NEIGHBOURING STATES OF HARYANA.	21.09.2020 28.09.2020	25 LACS	www.hfcd.gov.in	0171-2551567 gm.ambala@ hfcd.gov.in
25	HFDC, AMBALA	FIXING OF RCC FENCING POSTS WITH BARBED WIRE IN KURUSHETRA AND KAITHAL DISTRICTS	21.09.2020 28.09.2020	34 LACS	www.hfcd.gov.in	0171-2551567 gm.ambala@ hfcd.gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT :



Trend Blazer

'Glad to do some memorable comedies'

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



'I think it's unfair. Right now, they are talking about the consumption of drugs. It is

the choice of an individual, not of an industry. So do not blame the industry. Whether it is in politics, fashion or in the corporate world, there are people who are doing drugs. We should not generalise the situation.'

—Karan Kundra

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



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

Mariah felt not worthy of existing

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Another kind of hunter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



KUSHAN MITRA



Young at heart

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

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

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



NISSAN KICKS 1.3 Turbo XV

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

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

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

that on the bare plastic steering wheel in particular and with the blanked out area for steering controls. You can get better interiors for the price, even though the mid-spec Korean twins that the Kicks goes up against (in price) are not as fancy as their top-spec versions. On the XV CVT that I was driving, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto came as standard through the touchscreen but I did find the factory-fitted speakers a bit off the mark. Rear-seat comfort while cruising is no better nor worse than the competition but the sharply raked rear means that storage space might feel a bit compromised. That said, if you like driving and most importantly, you understand some nuances of cornering and dealing with power, the Kicks is amazing albeit it might prove to be unforgiving and can easily catch you out. But 150+ horsepower at 13 lakh on-road, if you buy the manual, is stunning value for power!

Fast and steady

The BMW X4 is great but not the most practical car



BMW X4 30d M Sport

**ENGINE:** 2993cc six-cylinder Turbocharged Diesel  
**POWER:** 265HP  
**TRANSMISSION:** 8-speed Dual-Clutch  
**EX-SHOWROOM PRICE (AS TESTED) ₹67.9 LAKH**  
**MILAGE (RATED/TESTED):** 16.8 kmpl/11 kmpl  
**RATING:** 8/10  
**COMPETITION:** Mercedes-Benz GLC Coupe, Jaguar F-Pace, Porsche Macan  
"Brings the 'Sports' back in to Sports Utility Vehicle but the X3 makes more sense"

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

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





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

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

#### RICH IN ANTIOXIDANTS

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

# CHOOSE THE DARK SHADE

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



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

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

#### LOADED WITH FIBER

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

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

#### ANTI-INFLAMMATORY PROPERTIES

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

#### A NATURAL DETOXIFYING AGENT

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

#### A GLUTEN-FREE GRAIN

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

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

#### FIGHTS DIABETES

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

#### YOUR WEIGHT LOSS PARTNER

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

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

#### PROMOTES HEALTHY HEART

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

#### SUPPORTS EYE HEALTH

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

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

## R E C I P E S



#### OLD BOMBAY NANKHATAI

##### WHAT YOU NEED

- Ghee: 1/2 cup
- Powdered sugar: 1/2 cup
- Refined flour: 3/4 cup
- California Walnuts powder: 1/4 cup
- Salt

- Semolina: 2 tbsp

- Baking soda: 1/4 tsp
- Cardamom powder: 1/2 tsp

##### For glazing:

- Milk: 2 tbsp
- Powdered sugar: 1 tbsp

##### METHOD

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

Courtesy: Chef Varun Inamdar.

#### STUFFED RAVIOLI

##### WHAT YOU NEED

##### For ravioli filling

- Pumpkin: 600 gm
- Shallots: 5-6
- Garlic cloves: 3-4
- Olive oil: 1 tbsp
- Salt: To taste
- Pepper: To taste
- Walnut: 60 gm
- Parmesan cheese: 100 gm
- Oregano

##### For ravioli dough

- All-purpose flour: 250 gm
- Egg yolk: 8
- Whole egg: 1
- Olive oil: 20 gm
- Salt: 25 gm



#### ALMOND PUMPKIN KEBAB

##### WHAT YOU NEED

- Pumpkin: 500 gm
- Green chillies (chopped): 1 1/2 tsp
- Garlic and ginger (chopped): 2 tbsp
- Cumin seeds: 1 tsp
- Cracked coriander: 1 tsp
- Red chilli powder: 1 tsp
- Nutmeg powder: 1/8 tsp
- Chat masala: 1 tsp
- Dry mango powder: 1 tbsp
- Desi ghee: 40 gm
- Almonds (slivered): 20 gm
- Almonds (chopped): 40 gm

##### METHOD

- Peel, deseed and grate the pumpkin.
- Heat *desi ghee* in a thick bottom casserole pan and sauté ginger and garlic, green chillies, cumin seeds and all the spices.
- Add the pumpkin. Cook for 15 to 20 minutes till the water has dried out.



- Add the chopped almonds and cook for another five minutes. Let the mixture cool down. Cut them into rough, thin patties of 30 gm each. Coat them with slivered almonds.

- Heat *desi ghee* in a pan and place the patties in medium hot oil. Cook till the bottom caramelises and then carefully turn the patties. Cook them till they are crisp from outside.

Courtesy: Chef Manish Mehrotra.

#### SMOKED SALMON FISH CAKES

##### WHAT YOU NEED

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



##### METHOD

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

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

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

Courtesy: Le Creuset.





KL Rahul | 153 runs

Mohd Shami | 4 wickets

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

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

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

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

# KLassic show

## Rahul's 132 leads KXIP to 97-run win over RCB



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

PTI ■ DUBAI

Skipper K L Rahul's sublime hundred was the highlight of an all-round performance as Kings XI Punjab defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by a whopping 97-run margin here on Thursday.

Opening the innings, Rahul punished the RCB bowlers into submission to help KXIP to a daunting 206 for three before the bowling attack put up a disciplined effort to bundle Virat Kohli's side for 109 with three overs to spare.

The KXIP skipper, who was dropped by Kohli late in the innings, scored an unbeaten 132 off 69 balls that was laced with

■ KXIP captain KL Rahul unbeaten 132 off 69 deliveries against RCB is the highest-ever score by an Indian in the history of IPL.

■ It is also the highest-ever score by a captain in IPL.

■ Rahul also became the fastest Indian batsman to reach 2,000 IPL runs, taking 60 innings

14 boundaries and seven sixes.

With his spectacular knock, Rahul surpassed Rishabh Pant (128 in 2018) to post the highest individual score by an Indian and a captain in IPL history.

It was a rather ordinary performance from RCB after the win against Sunrisers Hyderabad

in their tournament opener. For KXIP, the win came after a super over loss against Delhi Capitals.

RCB were in all sorts for trouble from the beginning of the run chase with Devdutt Padikkal (1) and Josh Philippe (0) returning back to the dug out in the first two overs.

After dropping two catches, Kohli, undoubtedly one of the best when it comes to run-chasing, failed with the bat managing just a run off five balls before he was caught off a Sheldon Cottrell delivery.

Opener Aaron Finch (20) was then joined in the middle by AB de Villiers (28). The duo looked dangerous, milking deliv-

eries wherever possible. The two added 49-runs before the young Ravi Bishnoi broke the stand by getting rid of the Australian limited overs captain.

Bishnoi (3/32) and Murugan Ashwin (3/21) dismissed Finch and de Villiers in quick succession with RCB reeling at 57 for five. Washington Sundar was the top scorer for RCB, hitting 30 off 27 deliveries.

Ashwin was the pick of the bowlers for KXIP, he picked three wickets giving away 21 runs. Bishnoi too claimed three wickets and was impressive once again. Cottrell (2/17), Mohammad Shami (1/14) and Glenn Maxwell (1/10) too bowled economical spells.

Earlier, Rahul also became the fastest Indian to reach 2000 IPL runs, reaching the milestone in his 60th innings. The stylish batsman clipped away a full length delivery to fine leg for four to break Sachin Tendulkar's record, who reached the milestone in 63 matches.

Opening the batting with Rahul, Mayank Agarwal (26) looked dangerous and shared a 57-run stand with his captain. However, with the introduction of spin into the attack in the seventh over, Yuzvendra Chahal (1/25) struck with the last ball, cleaning up Agarwal (26) with a delightful gooley.

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

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

## Youth vs Experience

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

make it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

For Indian fans, he will for-

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

# 'Professor Deano' dies of cardiac arrest

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

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

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

In his post retirement life he

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

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

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

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



## Modi asks Kohli about Yo-Yo test

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Skipper Virat Kohli explained Show the Yo-Yo test helped Indian cricketers aim for high-level fitness when Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked him about the mandatory running aerobic fitness routine.

Prime Minister Modi was interacting with fitness experts and influencers from across the country to mark the one-year anniversary of the *Fit India Movement*.

Modi was keen to know what is Yo-Yo test and asked if the captain also has to pass it or he gets spared?

"I heard these days there is a Yo-Yo test for the team, what is this test," asked Modi during the virtual interaction.

Kohli, smiling, replied, "This Test was very important from fitness point of view. If we talk about global fitness level,

our fitness level is still low compared to other teams and we want to take it up, which is a basic requirement."

The gruelling routine has two sets of cones that are 20 metres apart. Once the beep is sounded, the athlete has to reach the marker on the other side by the time the next beep sounds, turn and get back to where he started before the third beep.

The frequency of the beeps gradually increases for the subsequent runs.

Kohli, who is currently in the UAE for the IPL, said even he has to clear the test to get selected for the India team.

"I'm the one who goes to run first and this is the condition that if I fail that I am also not available for selection. It is important to set that culture and it will lead to improvement in overall fitness levels."

## Hat-trick hero Havertz

AFF ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

many for him."

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

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

account.

A brilliant unselfish flick from Abraham teed Havertz up perfectly to convert his second after Barkley drove home on his weaker left foot.

Havertz was due to be replaced by Chilwell 25 minutes from time but just completed his hat-trick in time by rounding Brad Collins before tapping into an empty net before Olivier Giroud completed the scoring.

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

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

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

Everton continued their fine start to the season with a 5-2 win at League One Fleetwood despite two howlers from England number one goal-



## Mendy joins Chelsea

London: Chelsea on Thursday announced the signing of goalkeeper Edouard Mendy from Rennes on a five-year deal for a reported fee of 22 million pounds.

The Senegalese international will compete with Kepa Arrizabalaga and Willy Caballero for a starting spot at Stamford Bridge.

"I am so excited to be joining Chelsea," said Mendy. "It's a dream for me to be a part of this exciting squad and to work with Frank Lampard and all of his coaching staff."

"I look forward to meeting my team-mates and can't wait to get started."

AFF



Luis Suarez poses with all the trophies that he won during his 6-year Barcelona's career on Thursday

## It was tough to accept Barca departure: Suarez

Barcelona: Luis Suárez was emotional when he was introduced by Barcelona six years ago, and again on Thursday when he had to say goodbye after being told he wasn't wanted by the club anymore.

The Uruguayan striker, who has joined Atlético Madrid, couldn't hold back tears as he bid farewell and said he will always be grateful despite being told to leave.

"When the club says it doesn't need you anymore, you have to accept it," he said in a news conference organised by Barca.

"But it takes a while, it's difficult. Your family is involved, you've gone through a lot with the club. So it's difficult to accept

that you are leaving, but you have to. It's the reality, it's how things are in football."

The 33-year-old Suárez, broke down a few times while talking about his former teammates and his time with his former club.

Suárez said he was "leaving with pride for having made history with this club."

He departs as Barcelona's third highest scorer with 198 goals, behind César Rodríguez (232) and Lionel Messi (634).

The Uruguayan helped Barcelona win 13 titles since arriving in 2014 from Liverpool, including four La Liga trophies and the Champions League in 2015.

## DUGOUT

### MOTION PICTURE



13 years ago on September 24, 2007, India under MS Dhoni beat Pakistan by 5 runs in the final of the inaugural edition of World T20 at Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg

### KL RAHUL BREAKS SACHIN'S RECORD

Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul on Thursday became the fastest Indian batsman to reach 2000 IPL runs. Rahul overtook Sachin Tendulkar, who till Thursday held the record for being the fastest to 2000 IPL runs. Tendulkar, who played all six seasons of IPL for Mumbai Indians, had reached the milestone in 63 innings. Rahul did it in 60 innings. Gautam Gambhir is the 3rd on the list, who had scored 2000 runs in 68 innings followed by Suresh Raina (69) and Virender Sehwag (70)

### DHONI WILL GET BETTER AND BETTER

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming on Thursday defended under-fire skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, saying it takes "a bit of work" to find best form after a long break and he will "get better and better" as the IPL progresses. "MS is one of the players that hasn't played much cricket in the last year-and-a-half. Everyone expects MS to come out and do what he has done in the past. It doesn't just happen, it takes a bit of work," Fleming said. "As the tournament goes on, he'll just get better and better. To come in and expect him to get a 30-ball 70 would be a tough ask and we've other players also who are in good form and can do a job. "So, it's valuing what each player can do and also respecting Dhoni is one of a kind when he's in form and has been playing."

### DECISION ON ASH, ISHANT AFTER TRAINING

Delhi Capitals will decide on spinner R Ashwin and pacer Ishant Sharma for their next match against CSK after their practice session on Thursday. While Ishant picked up an injury before their first match of the season against KXIP, Ashwin dislocated his shoulder during the game. "Ashwin is going for practice today (Thursday) and we haven't taken a call yet if he is going to be available or not for tomorrow's (Friday) game. We will see how the practice goes," assistant coach Mohammad Kaif said in pre-match conference. "We are monitoring him closely. But yes, if he is not fit to play tomorrow, we have Amit Mishra who is a very experienced player, and has been doing well in the IPL." Kaif said that Ishant "was sprinting well and is currently under observation". "Our team physio has been keeping a close eye on him and we will also take a call today after our practice session in the evening," said the 39-year-old.

### DIFFICULT TO BAT FOR LONG DURATION

Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma admitted that sapping condition in the UAE makes it difficult to bat for long duration and that's the reason he felt a bit tired by the end of his match-winning knock against KKR. "It is not easy to play long innings here. It takes a lot out of you to play in these conditions. Maybe I was a bit tired in the end and it was a lesson for us that one set batsmen needs to bat deep till the end," Rohit said. "We've seen it in the past and that's what I tried to do." While the heat and humidity made it difficult but it was imperative to bat as long as possible after a six-month break, Rohit said. "I haven't played a lot of cricket in the last six months time and was looking to spend some time in the middle; it didn't come out well in the first innings but glad to have done it tonight."

## POINTS TABLE

		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	KXIP	2	1	1	+2.425	2
2	MI	2	1	1	+0.993	2
3	RR	1	1	0	+0.800	2
4	DC	1	1	0	+0.000	2
5	CSK	2	1	1	-0.145	2
6	RCB	2	1	1	-2.175	2
7	SRH	1	0	1	-0.500	0
8	KKR	1	0	1	-2.450	0