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TABU'S WORK:
TAMANNAH
10 VIVACITY

Protest against farm laws rages on

Normal life affected in Punjab, Haryana, UP, Bengaluru, TN, Bihar, Karnataka, Telangana

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Thousands of protesting farmers spilled on the streets in several parts of the country hitting normal life and rail and road traffic in a big way as part of their "Bharat bandh" protest against the farm bills.

Massive protests were seen in parts of Punjab, Haryana, Bengaluru, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, etc.

After holding separate protests, farmers under the banners Bharti Kisan Union, Krantikari, Kirti Kisan Union, Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan), Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee and BKU (Lakhowal) with support of political parties, including the Congress, the RJD and the Trinamool Congress, as well as 10 central trade unions blocked highways, railway tracks, disrupted traffic and brought life to a standstill in several parts of the country.

According to reports, farmers blocked highways which include Chandigarh-Delhi, Amritsar Delhi, Delhi-Dehradun, Ayodhya Lucknow, B a g h p a t - B a d a y u n, Bommanahalli on Karnataka-Tamil Nadu highway. Meanwhile, farmers from Punjab have extended the rail roko agitation till September 29.

In Punjab, agitating farmers blocked roads, including highways. Road blockades caused hardships to commuters in both States and life to a standstill in Bathinda, Jalandhar, Patiala, Moga, Ferozepur, Fazilka, Barnala, Faridkot, Muktsar, Mansa, Bathinda and other districts of Malwa belt.

Farmers accompanied by their family members, including mothers, wives and daughters converged in large numbers at various places in Amritsar, Ferozepur, Barnala and staged sit-in and held demonstrations at all the entry points. Shops, commercial establishments and vegetable markets at many places remained shut. Shopkeepers have been appealed to keep their shops shut in support of farmers. Buses of the State-owned Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) remained off-road. The supply of essential commodities was hit badly across Punjab. The supply of milk was also partially affected in many areas.

In Muktsar, SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal led a tractor march from his Badal village residence. While he drove the tractor, wife and former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal sat beside him. Sukhbir led a tractor march from his residence in Badal village to Lambi. Prominent



Members of various farmers' organisations gather in protest at Shambhu Punjab-Haryana border near Ambala on Friday

PTI

Punjabi singers, including Harbhajan Mann and Ranjit Bawa, took part in a farmers' protest in Nabha. Farmers at several places in the State started gathering on roads to stop the movement of traffic. Women protesters under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee took out a protest march in Amritsar.

A 33-second video shot on the Amritsar-Pathankot highway shows some protesters making way for an ambulance. A group of protesters, holding placards, clear up the road as the ambulance followed by a car move ahead. Some of the farmers are seen sitting on a tractor, while some trucks are blocking the road. In Barnala, a tractor was set on fire by pro-

testers against the farm Bills. Punjab farmers blocked the Sangrur-Patiala, Chandigarh-Bathinda and Ambala-Rajpura-Ludhiana and Moga-Ferozepur roads. In Patiala, essential supplies, including milk and poultry supply, were hit as farmers held blockades on roads leading to the city.

Hundreds of farmers held a protest and blocked the Sangrur-Patiala highway. In Moga, farmers blocked the rail and road traffic on the national highway at Dagru village on the border of Moga and Ferozepur districts.

Meanwhile, Haryana farmers blocked the Rohtak-Jhajjar road. Farmers held protests at several places, including Rewari and Yamunanagar.

Modi urges BJP cadre to create awareness on new laws for kisan, labourers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On day the farmers called for a Bharat bandh to protest the Modi Government's farm sector legislations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday exhorted the BJP workers to create awareness about the Government's enactments of the new laws and "authentic efforts" made by it for the betterment of the lives of farmers and labourers.

The Prime Minister said the BJP has fulfilled its "major promises" including that on Article 370 and construction of "Ram temple" at Ayodhya.

Addressing BJP workers and leaders through video conference on the day of the birth anniversary of the party ideologue Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, the Prime Minister listed progressive laws

passed by the Government to improve the lives of farmers, labourers and those in the footpath market "Rehri-patri wale". They have been aligned with the banking system, "receiving loan, salary or pension", he said.

He drew the attention of the BJP workers and leaders to the New Education Policy (NEP) which has been brought out after 30 years and asked them to organise meets of five to seven days to analyse NEP and the benefits which could be drawn from it with educated people.

Remembering Upadhyaya, Modi said post-Independence when the country was trying to adopt foreign model of development, the late leader stressed on the indigenous way of economic, social, and cultural development.

Bihar polls in 3 phases from October 28

Counting on Nov 10

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Friday announced that elections for 243 Assembly seats in Bihar will take place in three phases — first on October 28, second on November 3 and the third on November 7 — while counting of all votes will take place on November 10.

The EC announced the poll schedule rejecting the demand for postponement of the polls by political parties due to coronavirus pandemic and flood in the State.

The Assembly polls in Bihar will be the biggest voting exercise in the world to be held in the time of coronavirus. There will be an extra voting hour, separate voting for Covid patients, suspects and those in quarantine, and no physical

contact during the campaign. With this announcement, the Model Code of Conduct comes into force in the State. Bihar's 243-member Assembly is set to expire on November 29, 2020.

However, the dates for by-polls to 64 Assembly constituencies and one parliamentary seat will be announced next week on Tuesday (September 29), after the EC reviews the objections of some States to the timing of the polls.

The Bihar Assembly elections are crucial for the BJP as it has suffered electoral setbacks after retaining power at the Centre with a bigger majority in 2019. It was unable to form the Government in Maharashtra despite emerging as the single largest party following disagreements with its oldest ally, Shiv Sena, over power-sharing.

Assembly Elections 2020 SCHEDULE				
BIHAR				
Constituencies	71	94	78	
Issue of notification	1/10 Thurs	9/10 Fri	13/10 Tues	
Last date for making nominations	8/10 Thurs	16/10 Fri	20/10 Tues	
Date for scrutiny of nominations	9/10 Fri	17/10 Sat	21/10 Wed	
Last date for withdrawal of candidature	12/10 Mon	19/10 Mon	23/10 Fri	
Date of poll	28/10 Wed	3/11 Tues	7/11 Sat	
Counting of Votes	10/11 Tues	10/11 Tues	10/11 Tues	
Date of completion	12/11 Thurs	12/11 Thurs	12/11 Thurs	

Source: Election Commission

PTI GRAPHICS

Antibodies that lead to passive Covid-19 vaccine identified

PTI ■ BERLIN

Scientists have identified highly effective antibodies against the novel coronavirus, which they say can lead to the development of a passive vaccination for Covid-19.

Unlike in active vaccination, passive vaccination involves the administration of ready-made antibodies, which are degraded after some time.

However, the effect of a passive vaccination is almost immediate, whereas with an active vaccination it has to build up first, the researchers said. The research, published in the journal Cell, also shows that some SARS-CoV-2 antibodies bind to tissue samples from various organs, which could potentially trigger undesired side effects.

The scientists at the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE) and Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin isolated almost 600 different antibodies from the blood of individuals who had overcome Covid-19, the disease triggered by SARS-CoV-2. By



means of laboratory tests, they were able to narrow this number down to a few antibodies that were particularly effective at binding to the virus.

The researchers then produced these antibodies artificially using cell cultures.

The so-called neutralising antibodies bind to the virus, as crystallographic analysis reveals, and thus prevent the pathogen from entering cells and reproducing, they said.

In addition, virus recognition by antibodies helps immune cells to eliminate the pathogen. Studies in hamsters — which, like humans, are susceptible to infection by SARS-CoV-2 — confirmed the high efficacy of the selected antibodies.

Celebrated playback singer Balasubramaniam passes away after fighting Covid

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

SP Balasubramaniam, a legendary playback singer, music director, actor, dubbing artist, and film producer, is no more. The 74-year-old maestro breathed his last at a corporate hospital in Chennai at 1.04 pm on Friday.

SPB, as he was known among friends and fans, was admitted to the city's MGM Hospital on August 5 when he was diagnosed with Covid-19. He was later put on ventilator and ECMO. After days, SPB's condition became stable and

he was looking forward to getting discharged from the hospital to watch the IPL matches.

But by Thursday evening his condition deteriorated and after a 12-hour fight with the pandemic, the singer, who rendered more than 40,000 songs in 16 languages, succumbed to the condition.

Balasubramaniam is survived by his wife, son, and daughter. "Humility personified" that was how the film world and music lovers described SPB who was a recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards.



SP BALASUBRAHMANYAM

June 4, 1946 — September 25, 2020

Cong has problems with everything Modi does: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Congress has objected to every reformatory step taken by the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi because it is closing channels of commissions and corruption, Chhattisgarh BJP President Vishnu Deo Sai said on Friday.

He said in a statement that the Swaminathan Committee report has laid emphasis that those farmers not selling their produce in the 'mandi' should not be charged 'Mandi tax'. The Congress in its elec-



tion manifesto had also promised to abolish the Mandi tax. Now when the BJP has taken the decision in favour of farmers, the

Congress terms it a 'black law'. He said the Central Government through the three farm Bills have empowered the farmers to take a free decision on their produce. They cannot be forced to sell in the mandi.

The payment from the mandi is uncertain. The farmer also has to pay the mandi tax and for transportation. Thus, he is forced to sell the produce at a lower price.

The Centre has already made it clear that APMC (mandi) will not be abolished, he added.

NCB grills Rakul, Deepika's manager

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day ahead of its much-discussed questioning of actress Deepika Padkone, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) grilled actress Rakul Preet Singh and Deepika's manager Karishma Prakash in connection with the Sushant death-related drug case and expanded Bollywood-drug nexus case.

A day after she had sought time to appear before the NCB for questioning, Rakul recorded her statement under the Section 67 in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

ED attaches Rana Kapoor's ₹127-cr London house

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth ₹127 crore in the ₹3,700 crore Yes Bank fraud case.

The attached property is a residential flat of Rana Kapoor at Apartment 1, 77 South Audley Street, London, UK. The market value of the flat is 13.5 million pound (₹127 crore). The property was purchased by Kapoor in 2017 for 9.9 million pound (₹93 Crore) in the name of DOIT Creations Jersey Limited and Kapoor is its beneficial owner.

"Information from a reliable source revealed that Rana Kapoor is trying to alienate this property in London and that he has hired a reputed property consultant. Enquiries from open sources confirmed that this property has been listed for sale on several websites," the ED said in a statement.

The initiated investigation under PMLA against Rana Kapoor and others on the basis of FIR registered by CBI under various IPC Sections like cheating and criminal conspiracy and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Vodafone wins retro tax fight against India at arbitration tribunal

Legal remedies, other options open, says Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

British telecom giant Vodafone Group plc on Friday won an arbitration against the Indian Government over a demand for ₹22,100 crore in taxes using retrospective legislation.

An international arbitration tribunal ruled that India's demand in past taxes was in breach of fair treatment under a bilateral investment protection pact.

"Vodafone confirms that the investment treaty tribunal found in Vodafone's favour," the British firm said in a statement. "This was a unanimous decision, including India's appointed arbitrator Rodrigo Oremano. The tribunal held that any attempt by India to enforce the tax demand would be a violation of India's international law obligations."

Reacting to it, the



Government on Friday said it will consider all options, including legal remedies, with regard to Vodafone arbitration case.

The Government of India's liability will be restricted to about ₹75 crore — ₹30 crore in cost and another ₹45 crore in tax refund, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

As per the award, the government has to reimburse Vodafone 60 per cent of its legal costs and half of the 6,000 Euros cost borne by Vodafone for appointing an arbitrator on the panel.

The arbitration tribunal said India's "conduct in respect of the imposition" of tax demand on Vodafone "notwithstanding the Supreme Court judgment is in breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment" in the bilateral investment protection treaty.

3 mowed down by speeding cluster bus in Nand Nagri

New Delhi: Three persons, including a minor boy, were mowed down allegedly by a speeding cluster bus on Thursday night in Northeast Delhi's Nand Nagri area.

"It was found that the driver of the cluster bus, while going down the Mandoli fly-over towards Bhaupura Border at main Wazirabad Road, lost control over the vehicle," Deputy Commissioner of Police Ved Prakash Surya said.

The bus crossed the footpath towards left side and hit a truck and later hit an eggs cart, he said.

The bus driver managed to escape from the spot. After the incident, the locals gathered at the spot and vandalised the bus.

Staff Reporter

CAPSULE

COURT ORDERS FIR ON MORPHED VIDEO OF CM
New Delhi: A court has directed Delhi Police to register an FIR on a complaint over a morphed video of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal allegedly singing an obscene song, saying its tone and manner lowers his reputation and addresses the public in an abusive manner.

KULBHUSHAN: PAK'S NO FOR FOREIGN LAWYER
Islamabad: Pakistan has once again made it clear that it will not accept India's demand of having a foreign lawyer to represent Kulbhushan Jadhav in the review and reconsideration case being heard at the Islamabad High Court (IHC), leaving his fate in the hands of the Pakistani courts.

CONDITION OF SISODIA BETTER NOW: OFFICIAL
New Delhi: The condition of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who is battling a double infection of Covid-19 and dengue, is better now.

FARMERS’ PROTEST AGAINST FARM BILLS

As farmers take to streets, political slugfest in Punjab continues

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Even as the agitating farmers on Friday took to the streets to register their protest against the Centre’s recently-enacted agriculture laws, the political parties in Punjab were busy in fighting their own little battles among themselves on the issue. Right from ruling Congress, led by the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, to the State’s main Opposition party — Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) indulged in blame game against each other for the current situation the agriculturists are facing.

DISTRESSING VISUALS OF FARMERS MAY FINALLY TOUCH CENTRAL GOV: CAPT AMARINDER

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Friday expressed hope that pain of agitating farmers, who braved the pandemic and heat to protest against the Agriculture Bills, will reach the Central Government, and “it will gracefully back off from destroying the farm sector with such ruthless disregard for the farming community”.

“The BJP-led Union Government, with its ill-conceived and unconstitutional farm laws, has pushed the farmers to the brink, forcing

them to come out on the roads and endanger their lives amid the COVID pandemic,” said the Chief Minister, expressing grave concern over the plight of the farmers and others associated with the Agriculture sector — “the lifeline of the Punjab’s economy”.

The Chief Minister hoped that the distressing visuals of tens of hundreds of farmers out on the roads at hundreds of locations in Punjab, and in several other states, will touch the hearts of the central leadership, while adding, “Perhaps, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will now realize its folly”.

Reiterating his commitment to fight the draconian laws till his last breath, Capt Amarinder also urged the President Ram Nath Kovind not to give his assent to the Bills, which were crafted to destroy not just the economy of Punjab and the food security of the nation but also the lives of lakhs of farmers and their families, as well as those dependent on the agricultural food chain for their livelihood.

“The Bills, if implemented, will have devastating effects for the border state of Punjab, as well as for the entire nation,” he warned, charging the Centre with ignoring the farmers’ concerns to promote the interests of their capitalist cronies.

The Chief Minister said



SAD President Sukhbir Singh Badal led a tractor rally from Badal village as part of the Chakka Jam protest against the Agricultural Bills on Friday. Former Union Minister and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal was also on the tractor

Pioneer Photo

that the Punjab Government, along with the Punjab Congress, will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the farmers to oppose the Bills, and will take whatever steps needed, including moving the courts, to scuttle the Centre’s dangerous attempt to demolish the state’s well-established farming network.

Captain Amarinder also lashed out at the Akalis for their public posturing on the Bills, which even the farmers had dismissed as crocodile tears. “Akali double standards have

been totally exposed by the fact that they continued to be a part of the anti-farmer ruling coalition at the Centre and had, till date, refused to even come out with any public criticism of the Union Government. This drama of Harsimrat resigning from the Union Cabinet is not enough to convince the farmers of SAD’s sincerity,” he added.

AAP ASKS CAPT, SUKHBIR TO DESIST FROM PEDDLING LIES ABOUT ANTI-FARM LAWS

Aam Aadmi Party’s (AAP) Punjab unit president and Sangrur MP Bhagwant Mann on Friday appealed to the people of Punjab, especially the farmers’ associations, to be vigilant over the misleading statements being made by Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and SAD (Badal) president Sukhbir Badal on the “draconian” farm laws being pushed by the Union Government. “Chief Minister is trying to befoul people of the state, especially the farmers, offering to lead the ongoing big

fight against the Modi government’s black laws. While the people of Punjab have voted, supported and elected him to lead the agrarian state in 2017 with an overwhelming majority, he has failed to live up to the expectations of any section of the society during his four and a half years tenure in power,” he said.

Mann reminded that during the all-party meeting on June 24 this year, and during Vidhan Sabha session, the Chief Minister had agreed to lead all political parties, barring the Badals, to Delhi to register their protest against anti-farmer legislation, but Capt Amarinder backtracked on the issue.

SAD HELD ‘CHAKKA JAAM’ PROTESTS ACROSS PUNJAB IN SOLIDARITY WITH FARMERS

Holding protests across the State as part of its ‘chakka jam’ programme to express solidarity with farmers, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Friday asked Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to call an immediate cabinet meeting and pass an ordinance to declare the entire State as one mandi (Principal Market Yard) to ensure the Centre’s agricultural Bills are not enforceable in Punjab.

The Badal couple — SAD

SIDELIGHTS	
Yogendra Yadav from All India Kisan Sangathan came in Mansa to support the farmers’ protest	blocked near Bhankharpur village in Derabassi by BKU (Lakhawal) activists
Lok Insaf Party MLA Simarjeet Bains sits on protest with black flags at Dhandra GT Road, Ludhiana	Dal Khalsa also joined protest against new farm bills
Many farmers staged protest by holding pictures of martyr Bhagat Singh in villages Chhapa and Mehal Kalan in Barnala district	SAD chief Sukhbir Badal drove tractor, with his wife Harsimrat sitting beside her, in protest march
Delhi- Chandigarh highway	A tractor was set on fire on Barnala-Chandigarh highway
	Urban areas also extended support to farmers

president Sukhbir Badal and former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal — led the party’s protest ‘tractor march’ from his residence in Badal village by driving a tractor while his wife Harsimrat sits beside him. The Akali workers held protests in all constituencies of the State along with farmers, khet mazdoor and arhtiyas.

Sukhbir, speaking at the protest meeting at Lambi, said that the Chief Minister should call a cabinet meeting immediately and come out with an ordinance to declare the entire State as a principal market yard.

“Subsequent to this, the Government should also hold a special session of the State Assembly to ratify the Ordinance,” he said adding that

he had moved this proposal two days back and the Government should move quickly on this to save the future of our coming generations.

Harsimrat maintained that it was Capt Amarinder who had backstabbed the farmers as he knew since August last year that the ordinances were in the offing. “There is a concrete proof the same in the form of a letter received by his government but he chose to remain silent instead of protesting against the move to protect the interest of farmers. I, on the other hand, resigned from the Ministry when I realized the misgivings of farmers were not being addressed. If Capt Amarinder is so concerned about farmers, he should also resign his post,” she said.

Farmers in Haryana block highways, railway line

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Farmers in Haryana on Friday took to the streets in protest against the contentious farm Bills passed by Parliament recently. Agitating farmers blocked roads, including highways, railway tracks to press the Centre for the withdrawal of the legislations, which are yet to get the assent of the President. Road blockades caused hardships to commuters in the State. Haryana farmers held the agitation as part of a nationwide shutdown call given by a group of farmers’ organisations against the three farm reform bills passed in the Parliament during the recently concluded Monsoon session.

The protest has remained

peaceful so far with no major incidents of violence reported. The impact of protests was seen in small towns and big cities of Karnal, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, Kaithal and Panipat districts in varying degrees.

Haryana Bhartiya Kisan Union president Gurnam Singh Chaduni said that all farmers participated in the nationwide protest in all districts of the State which went off peacefully. All the sections of society including traders, shopkeepers have come out in support of farmers against these bills. Farmers would continue to raise demands seeking a law which ensures assured Minimum Support Price (MSP) of the crops, he added.

Senior Haryana Police offi-

cer said that as of now, no incident of violence has been reported as the protests remained peaceful. Heavy police deployment has been made at the protest spots.

Meanwhile, the protesting farmers burnt the copies of the farm reform bills passed by the Parliament in Kurukshetra and Kaithal. The movement of traffic on the busy NH44, popularly known as Delhi-Chandigarh national highway, remained normal in the morning but was later diverted to the Ladwa-Babain-Shahab highway from Kurukshetra’s Pipli to avoid traffic snarls, following reports of protests in neighbouring Punjab.

The protesting farmers sat on dharnas, blocking traffic movement on highways by

parking their tractor-trailers and cars on roads in Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, Karnal, and Kaithal districts.

Karnal-Ladwa-Yamunanagar highway near Ladwa town, Karnal-Assandh-jind road near Jalmaba Village of Karnal, Shahbad-Saha road near Shahbad, Yamunanagar-Kurukshetra road near Radaur of Yamunanagar district had been blocked.

The farmers associated with Bharatiya Kisan Union or BKU, (Charuni), have also blocked the Ambala-Yamunanagar-Saharanpur railway track near Sudhal village of Yamunanagar district.

In the morning, there was no major impact in the cities as the shops and the markets remained opened.

Punjab singers, actors back farmers, protest farm Bills

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Several Punjabi singers and Sactors, including Harbhajan Mann, Sidhu Moosewala and Ranjit Bawa, on Friday came out in support of farmers protesting against the agriculture-related Bills passed in Parliament recently.

While Moosewala held a protest in Mansa, Harbhajan Mann and Ranjit Bawa joined the agitation in Nabha.

Punjab farmers on Friday took to the streets on a call of “bandh” given by several outfits in protest against the contentious farm Bills.

Harbhajan Mann said they will go to any extent to save farming. He was accompanied by singers and artistes Ranjit

Bawa, Tarsem Jassar and Kulwinder Billa. Addressing the gathering, Bawa exhorted farmers to intensify their protest against the farm Bills. He said they are also as upset as farmers. Bawa said the government should have first taken the approval of farmers before drafting the Bills.

Sidhu Moosewala, along with other artistes, held a protest in Mansa district and exhorted the youth to oppose the three bills. Moosewala said only six per cent farmers in the entire country are getting the minimum support price. He demanded that the “anti-farmer” Bills be withdrawn

and said that farmers in Punjab will not allow any “injustice”. Some artists backed farmers on social media. Punjabi actor Guggu Gill on his Facebook page said, “Before an actor, I am a farmer and I also stand with farmers in this campaign. I appeal to the government to reconsider these Bills.

Farmers have expressed apprehension that the Centre’s farm reforms would pave a way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the “mercy” of big corporates.

RAIL ROKO AGITATION EXTENDED TO SEPT 29

The Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee on Friday announced extending its ‘rail roko’ agitation in Punjab against three farm Bills till September 29. The three-day

agitation was scheduled to end on September 26. “We have decided to extend our agitation till September 29. We want the government to resolve the issue of farm Bills,” committee president Satnam Singh Pannu said over the phone, the ‘rail roko’ agitation had started on Thursday, forcing the railway authorities to suspend the operation of special passenger trains in the state. Railway authorities had earlier said that 14 pairs of special trains would remain suspended between September 24 and September 26. The decision to suspend rail operations had been taken keeping in mind the safety of passengers and protection of railway property from any damage, officials said.

1 death, 244 fresh cases reported as Chandigarh crosses 11000-mark

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With 244 fresh COVID-19 infections, the case tally crossed the 11000-mark in Chandigarh on Friday. The positive cases stood at 11212 in the city. With one more COVID-19 related fatalities, the death toll reached 145.

The city has reported a total of 6866 positive cases and 89 deaths due to COVID-19 in the month of September till now. “There were 2390 active cases in the city. A total of 335 patients were discharged including persons from home isolation in the last 24 hours taking the total recoveries to 8677,” stated Chandigarh Health Department’s evening bulletin. The recovery rate of COVID patients jumped to 77 percent in the city while the

fatality rate stood at 1.2 percent.

In the last 24 hours, a maximum of 24 positive cases were reported in Manimajra. Eight cases each were reported in Sector 20 and Mauli Jagran, seven cases each were reported in Sectors 19, 23, 39 and 40, as per the health bulletin.

According to the bulletin, the fresh cases were reported in Sectors 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 61, Sector 38 west, Burail, Dadumajra, Daria, Dhanas, Hallomajra, Khuda Alisher, Khuda Jassue, Khuda Lohar, Kishangarh, Maloya, Manimajra, Mauli Jagran, PGIMER campus, Raipur Khurd, Sarangpur and Ram Darbar.

Haryana logs 18 fatalities, 2,024 Covid-19 infections

State’s tally surges to 1,20, 578

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The contagion of the Covid-19 is becoming fatal with each passing day. On Friday, 18 patients of the disease were reported dead in different hospitals of the State. The death toll due to Covid-19 in Haryana has now climbed to 1273.

State also reported 2024 fresh Covid-19 infections and 2863 recoveries on the day. The fresh infections pushed the cumulative number of cases to 120,578 while 101,273 people have recovered from the virus.

Now, there are 18,032 active cases in the State. As per



a medical bulletin, the state’s recovery rate, which is 83.99 per cent continued to show improvement. The case fatality rate is 1.06 per cent.

Seven districts - Gurugram (279), Faridabad (221), Sonapat (186), Hisar (155), Kurukshetra (131), Panchkula (121) and Rewari (117)- reported 100 or more new infections while Ambala (90), Sirsa (82), Jind (82), Panipat (80), Rohtak (79),

were just short of the 100 mark.

Among the 18 who succumbed to the viral illness on Friday, two each from Ambala, Karnal, Hisar, Jind, Kaithal and Yamunanagar; one each from Sirsa, Bhiwani, Panchkula, Rohtak, Gurugram and Faridabad. bulletin said 375 patients were critically ill, and 53 of them were on ventilator support.

Procurement season will expose Opp lies on farm Bills: JP Dalal

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Accusing the Opposition Congress of trying to “mislead” farmers at a time when reforms have been initiated in their “favour”. Haryana Agriculture Minister JP Dalal said that the Congress party’s “lies” on the Centre’s farm reforms will be nailed during the crop procurement season beginning in the State from October 1.

The Agriculture Minister claimed that all the farmers of the State are busy in crop cultivation in their fields and farmers did not participate in the protest backed by opposition parties. “When procurement will go on smoothly, farmers will come to know the lies the Congress is spreading and realise that the reforms are

Congress leaders are spreading white lies that the MSP mechanism will be dismantled and the mandi system will break, both of which are untrue- Haryana Agriculture Minister

for their benefit,” he added. Dalal said BJP workers are meeting farmers across the State to make them aware about the benefits of these reforms.

The Minister said that Congress leaders are spreading white lies that the MSP mechanism will be dismantled and the mandi system will break, both of which are untrue,” he said.

The farm Bills are not an alternative to the entire system

but an option for some farmers to go for direct marketing. But they (opposition parties) are projecting as if these will become an alternate system in itself and by spreading falsehood, they are trying to build up an agitation. He said currently a majority of farmers sell their crops in mandis at the MSP. Dalal assured farmers that the legislations are in their interest and said there will be no change in the existing MSP or “mandi system”.

Punjab registers 1,930 fresh Covid cases, 68 deaths

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

As many as 1,930 fresh cases of COVID-19 and 68 deaths were reported in Punjab on Friday, taking the infection tally to 1,07,096 and the death toll to 3,134 in the state.

Of the fresh deaths, 11 were reported from Amritsar district, eight in Hoshiarpur, seven in Ludhiana, six each in Bathinda and Jalandhar, five in Patiala, three each in Fazilka, SAS Nagar, SBS Nagar and Sangrur, two each in Ferozepur, Moga, Muktsar, Ropar and Tarn Taran and one death each in Fatehgarh Sahib, Pathankot and Gurdaspur districts.

Highest 256 fresh cases were reported from Jalandhar district, 176 from Amritsar, 171 from Ludhiana, 163 from Bathinda, 160 from SAS Nagar, 118 from Patiala, 117 from

Pathankot.

95 from Kapurthala, 90 from Muktsar, 86 from Hoshiarpur, 79 from Ferozepur, 73 from Gurdaspur, 67 from Fazilka, 52 from Moga, 41 from Tarn Taran, 38 from Faridkot, 35 from Sangrur, 30 from Mansa, 28 from SBS Nagar, 27 from Ropar, 16 from Fatehgarh Sahib and 12 new cases from Barnala district.

Of the 3,066 fatalities in the state so far, 702 deaths have been registered in Ludhiana district, 357 in Jalandhar, 336 in Amritsar, 307 in Patiala, 161 in SAS Nagar, 137 each in Sangrur and Hoshiarpur, 133 in Kapurthala, 125 in Gurdaspur, 106 in Bathinda, 93 in Ferozepur, 77 in Fatehgarh Sahib, 66 in Ropar, 64 in Moga, 61 in Pathankot, 59 in Tarn Taran, 41 in Faridkot, 40 in SBS Nagar, 37 in Barnala, 35 in

Muktsar, 33 in Fazilka and 27 deaths in Mansa district.

As per the latest COVID figures, Ludhiana leads with 17,156 cases, followed by Jalandhar 12,338, Patiala 11,021, SAS Nagar 9,670, Amritsar 9,245.

Bathinda 5,519, Gurdaspur 5,510, Hoshiarpur 4,196, Ferozepur 3,552, Sangrur 3,388, Pathankot 3,308, Kapurthala 2,959, Faridkot 2,585, Muktsar 2,355, Fazilka 2,161, Moga 2,143, Ropar 1,907, Fatehgarh Sahib 1,799, Barnala 1,759, Tarn Taran 1,546, SBS Nagar 1,492 and Mansa 1,487.

The state has 19,937 active patients, of which 435 patients are on oxygen support and 73 are critical and on ventilators. Till date, as many as 84,025 patients have been cured of the virus in the state.

Ex-Punjab DGP Saini appears before Mohali court

SEEKS WITHDRAWAL OF ARREST WARRANT

Chandigarh: Former Punjab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini on Friday appeared before a Mohali court, seeking withdrawal of an arrest warrant against him and said he is ready to join investigation in the 1991 Balwant Singh Multani disappearance case.

The court issued a notice to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Punjab Police, seeking its reply, and fixed September 30 as the next date of hearing.

The former DGP, along with his counsel, appeared in the court of Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Ravinder Kaur, said Special Public Prosecutor Sartej Singh Narula.

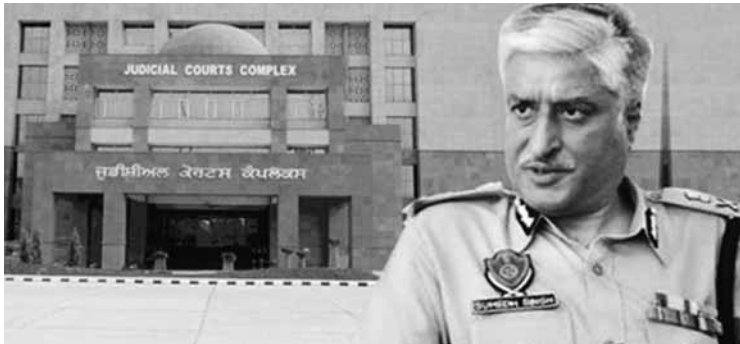
Saini said in his application that the Supreme Court has granted him an interim pro-

tection from arrest in the case and the non-bailable warrant issued against him be withdrawn.

Saini also said he was “ready and willing” to appear before the investigating agency and cooperate as and when required.

The former state chief filed the application two days after he failed to appear before the SIT for investigation at the Mataur police station in Mohali. The arrest warrant against him was issued by the court of Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Ravtresh Inderjit Singh on September 12. The court had then directed police to produce Saini by September 25.

The former DGP was booked in May in connection with the disappearance of Multani, a junior engineer with Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Corporation. Police



had last month added the murder charge under Section 302 of the IPC in the case after former Chandigarh Police Inspector Jagir Singh and ex-ASI Kuldeep Singh, who are also co-accused, turned approvers.

He was removed from the post in 2015 after protests

erupted following desecration of religious texts. Saini retired in 2018.

Multani, a resident of Mohali, was picked by police after a terrorist attack on Saini, who was the then senior superintendent of police in Chandigarh.

Later, it was claimed that

Multani, son of a former IAS officer, had escaped from the custody of the Qadian police in Gurdaspur.

Saini and six others were booked on the complaint of Balwant Multani’s brother Palwinder Singh Multani, a resident of Jalandhar.

Agencies

C'garh govt committed to farmers and poor: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government is committed to protect the rights of farmers, the poor and workers, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said on Friday, adding all promises made to them will be fulfilled.

He made the remarks while addressing through virtual mode cattle owners and cow-dung sellers after releasing the fourth instalment of cow dung procurement.

An official statement said the fourth instalment of total ₹8.02 crore was paid online to 83,809 cattle owners and cow-dung sellers.

Baghel said from loan waiver to paddy procurement, irrigation tax waiver to cutting the electricity bill by half, all promises have been fulfilled. Innovative schemes have begun for the betterment



of farmers and poorer sections of the society.

The Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana and Godhan Nyay Yojana are for the economic betterment of farmers and rural masses, he added.

Mentioning the three new farm bills passed by the Central government, the Chief Minister said these will not benefit the farmers and

common man.

They will affect the livelihood of farmers, farm labourers and common man. They will also lead to hoarding, contract farming and private produce market.

Baghel said under the Godhan Nyay Scheme, beneficiaries are being paid every 15 days. Till date around ₹20.72 crores have been paid, covering four fortnights.

A total of 30,000 quintal of vermi-compost has been produced from the cow dung procured by the government. In the coming months, the production will rise.

Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey said Chhattisgarh is a model state for farmers. With the production of vermi-compost, the state is moving towards organic farming.

Gaurela, Pendra get Municipal Council status

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Friday announced Municipal Council status to Nagar Panchayats Gaurela and Pendra in the newly constituted district of Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi.

Revenue Minister and Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district in-charge Minister Jai Singh Agrawal had briefed the Chief Minister on the sentiments of the people of both the areas, an official statement said after the announcement.

Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee Vice President and Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi in-charge Atal Shrivastava welcomed the announcement.

He said in a statement that those who had been raising about shortcomings in Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi should say why it was not made a district for the last 20 years.

Corona causing mental trouble, official seeks Helplines

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The coronavirus pandemic is causing serious mental troubles in Covid positive patients, and the Chhattisgarh Health Department on Friday directed district health officers to issue Helpline numbers where patients can seek help.

Director (Health) Neeraj Bansod made the observation while reviewing the counselling system at Covid hospitals and Covid care centres and among patients quarantined at home, an official press release said.

He asked the district health officers to appoint at least one technical staff at Covid centres so that patients with serious mental issues can be easily identified.

Bansod called for audio visual entertainment at Covid centres.

He told officials to stock anxiety and depression medi-



cines in their districts, the press release said.

The Director called for mental counselling of people who had attempted suicide at the block level. He also asked officials to get all staff posted in Covid isolation wards to undergo psychological first aid.

During the meeting, officials told the Director that due to Covid-19 mental

issues like stress, anxiety and depression have increased. Under the National Mental Health Programme, counselling is being offered to the patients, the press release said.

Experts from NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences) at Bengaluru and RMA are providing counselling to the Covid patients.

State level 'Medical Oxygen Control Room' set up

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A state level 'Medical Oxygen Control Room' was established in Raipur to ensure timely supply of oxygen to Covid hospitals in Chhattisgarh, a press statement said on Friday.

Special Secretary (Health) R. Prasanna on Friday issued an order in this connection and asked officials to create similar district level Control Room.

The control room will monitor the medical oxygen consumption at hospitals and will ensure their availability, the statement added.

If there is any problem in case of inter-state medical oxygen transport, then the

state level control room will coordinate with the Union Health Ministry's central control room and sort out the problem, the press release said.

K.D. Kunjam and Hiren Patel from the Food and Drug administration, Joint Commissioner of Transport Dewvrat Sirmar, Praveen Shukla from Commerce and Industry, and Dr V.K. Sharma from Health department will be the members.

At district level, Collectors will constitute a committee consisting of General Manager Industry, Regional Transport Officer, Chief Medical and Health Officer, Assistant Drug Controller or Drug Inspector as its members.

Ensure Marwahi by-poll is held fairly: Collector

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

With the announcement of the Marwahi Assembly by-election, it is responsibility of all the officials to ensure implementation of the election model code of conduct, said Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi District Electoral Officer and District Collector Doman Singh on Wednesday.

He made the comment while imparting training to the Executive Magistrates and police officers of the district. He said all the preparation for by-poll should be completed ahead of time.



An official release said the Collector told the officials to keep a tab on election related publications like posters, booklets and other materials. It should carry the printer and publishers name

and the total number of copies.

Addressing the meeting, Superintendent of Police Suraj Parihar said with the election schedule declaration, all licensed arms and

ammunition should be deposited. No outsider should be allowed to hold a campaign meeting 48 hours of before polling. Suspected persons and history-sheets should be sent outside the district.

No political leaders should be allowed to use government facilities like vehicles and guest houses.

All the polling teams and security personnel should be given masks, sanitizer, face shield and other preventive materials for Covid-19. All the polling booths have to be sanitized a day before polling. Voter will be allowed entry only after thermal-screening.

Six arrested for running IPL betting rackets in C'garh

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR/BILASPUR

Chhattisgarh Police on Friday busted IPL betting rackets operating in three residential houses of Raipur and Bilaspur and arrested six persons.

Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar Yadav told the Pioneer that Sagar Sharma (28), a resident of Purani Basti locality in the state capital, was arrested.

Police seized a LED TV, 10 mobile phones and betting records detailing transactions of around ₹2 lakh from him. He had bet on the IPL match played between Kings-11 Punjab and Royal Challengers Bangalore at a house in Purani



Basti, the officer said.

In a 'satta' betting racket in Bilaspur, the police arrested three persons, identified as Gurumukh Thadani (45), Hareesh Bajaj (43) and Raju

Karda (29), all residents of Civil Lines Gudhiyari locality, Bilaspur Superintendent of Police Prashant Agrawal told The Pioneer.

Police seized four mobile

phones, a LED TV, ₹11,000 in cash and betting records of ₹15 lakh.

Police arrested them on Thursday night after getting a tip about the betting racket on the terrace of a house in Civil Lines in Bilaspur. They too had bet on the match between Kings-11 Punjab and Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Two others, Sumeet Pannani (25) and Gautam Simnani (21), who hail from Sarkanda area in Bilaspur, were arrested for operating a betting racket on the IPL match between Kings-11 Punjab and Royal Challengers Bangalore, Agrawal said.

Police seized two mobiles, a TV set and betting records of ₹5.62 lakh from them.

Naxalites killing more people in Bastar than Covid-19: Kaushik

RAIPUR: Maoists are continuously killing innocent people in Bastar and the Chhattisgarh government is doing nothing to end the murders, Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik charged on Wednesday.

"So far Covid has killed 50 people in Bastar while in the past four months more than 60 people have been killed in Maoist violence. Every third day a person is dying due to Naxal violence," Kaushik said in a press release.

"On the question of action against Naxals, the state government is mum," he said.

He alleged that the government was hiding the true number of deaths in Maoist violence.

"The state government is claiming that Naxals have weakened in Bastar. Then how are Maoists placing their posters and banners in different district headquarters?" he asked.

Two trampled to death by elephants in Jashpur

STAFF REPORTER ■ JASHPUR

Two elderly persons -- a woman and a man -- were killed in separate incidents of elephant attack in Chhattisgarh's Jashpur district on Friday, a Forest Department official said.

A tribal woman, Igneshiya Tigga, 62, was trampled to death by a herd of wild elephants in the Tapkara Forest Range while Bitnath Ram, 60, was killed in the Kunkuri Forest Range, said Shrikrishna Jadhav, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Jashpur.

Tigga had gone to collect mushrooms in a forest near Daijbahar village when she was attacked by elephants, the official said.

The severely injured victim was rushed to a hospital by locals where she died during treatment, he said.

In a similar attack, Bitnath



had gone to the forest with his son when they came face to face

with a herd of elephants.

While his son managed to

escape, the animals caught hold of the victim and slammed him

on the ground, killing him on the spot, he said.

The kin of the two deceased have been given an instant relief of ₹25,000 each, the official added.

Villagers have been alerted about four herds of elephants that have entered Jashpur district from the forests of neighbouring Odisha and Jharkhand and destroyed crops in several villages on the inter-state borders, he said.

The official said people have been asked not to go to the forest but they still do to collect wood where they encounter elephants.

Locals illegally lay electric wires around their farms to keep the wild elephants at bay. In the last four months, nine elephants have died in the state due to various reasons, including electrocution. (Inputs from Santosh Choudhary, Jashpur).



Innovative modes for education: In Naxalite-infested tribal areas of Rajnandgaon district, in village Patankhas Circle of Mohla block, digital class was inaugurated in 13 schools by Parliamentary Secretary Indrashah Mandavi on Friday. Teachers use mobile phones to connect with TV to hold digital classes. Pioneer Photo

Centre will take steps to stem Covid in C'garh: Harsh Vardhan

RAIPUR: The Central government will take all steps to control Covid-19 in Chhattisgarh, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan told a group of MPs from the state on Sunday. A communication to the media after the meeting said that the MPs raised concern over 'half-hearted decisions' taken by the government in Chhattisgarh despite the rapid spread of the pandemic in the state. They pointed out that capital Raipur has become the Covid hotspot of the state. The MPs, including BJP State Vice President and Raipur MP Sunil Soni, Vijay Baghel (Durg), Arun Sao (Bilaspur), Gomati Sai (Raigarh) and Mohan Mandavi (Kanker), told the Minister that the state has failed to make all necessary arrangements for treatment.

South East Central Railway

TENDER NOTICE FOR MAKING PATHWAY

E- Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-74 - 20-21. Date: 23.09.2020

Work: Provision of moorum pathway along the existing tiled pathway in the Eco park at Bilaspur Settlement under jurisdiction of DEN/Settlement/Bilaspur.

Tender Value (In Rs.): ₹6,23,182.39/-

EMD (In Rs.): ₹12,500/-, Completion Period: 03 Months, Start date of Submission of Tender: From 11.00 hrs.

on 12.10.2020. Last date of Submission of Tender: Upto 11.00 hrs. on 26.10.2020.

The complete information of above e-Tender Notices is available over website

https://www.ireps.gov.in Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above

Tenders & tender document uploaded in web site on dated 23.09.2020

Div. Railway Manager (Engg) S.E.C.Rly/Bilaspur

CPR/10/256

South East Central Railway @SecRail

BIHAR ELECTIONS

EC OK's poll rallies with social distancing norms



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Political parties and candidates can hold rallies as part of their campaigning for the Bihar Assembly polls and the grounds where such meetings will be held will have white circles to ensure distancing norms. These are among the slew of measures the Election Commission is taking in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Addressing a Press conference to announce the schedule for Bihar assembly elections, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said he wants to dispel doubts that there will only be virtual campaigning in the State. The "propaganda" that only virtual meets will take place during campaigning is way off the mark, he said.

Arora said the district election officers have already identified places where gatherings can take place. The exercise of putting markers to ensure distancing norms is on. District election officers and district superintendents of police should ensure that the number of attendees does not exceed the limit prescribed by the

State Disaster Management Authority for public gatherings, an EC statement later said. Political parties and candidates concerned should ensure that all COVID-related requirements such as face masks, sanitizers and thermal scanning are fulfilled during each of these election activities, the commission said.

Anyone violating the norms will face action under relevant sections of the Disaster Management Act and the Indian Penal Code, the EC warned. As part of restrictions put in place to check the spread of the virus, the EC has reduced the number of people who can undertake door-to-door campaigning. A group of five people, including candidates, but excluding security personnel, is allowed to campaign from door to door.

For road shows, the convoy of vehicles should be broken after every five vehicles instead of 10 vehicles. The interval between two sets of convoy of vehicles should be half an hour instead of a gap of 100 metres. The EC has revised the norms of the number of people

accompanying the candidate and number of vehicles at the time of nomination.

It has also created an optional facility to fill the nomination form and the affidavit online and submission of the same, after taking a print, before the returning officer concerned.

For the first time, the candidates will have the option to deposit the security amount for contesting the elections online. For the first time, the EC has made special arrangements to protect its employees from contracting coronavirus during their election duty in Bihar.

It will provide a small kit containing N95 mask, sanitizer and gloves to protect the employees on poll duty in the state. The packet will also contain one safety keychain to avoid use of hands while pressing buttons.

According to Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, EC has arranged about 46 lakh masks, 6 lakh PPE kits, 6.7 lakh units of faces-shields, 23 lakh (pairs of) hand gloves arranged. For voters specifically, 7.2 crore single-use hand gloves for Bihar polls. Besides, postal ballot facility will be provided wherever required and requested.

Social distancing norms will need to be followed at public gatherings during the poll campaign. He said the world has changed significantly since the last elections which were held for Delhi assembly and the COVID-19 pandemic has forced a new normal in every aspect of our life.

75% of new Covid-19 cases from 10 States/UTs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At least, 75 per cent of new cases of coronavirus in the country are concentrated in 10 States and Union Territories (UTs). But then, there is 74 per cent of new recoveries as well.

A senior health official said if there were 86,052 new cases in the past 24 hours in Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and a few others, then the number of recoveries stood at 81,177.

Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Kerala, Delhi are some of the states that continue to be worst-hit from the pandemic.

On Friday, the country registered 86,052 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, as India moves towards the 60-lakh mark. The active cases have climbed to 9,70,116 whereas over 4.75 million have recovered so far, said a statement from the Union Health Ministry.

For the past six days, the numbers of recoveries logged per day in the country have been exceeding the number of fresh cases. But in the last 24 hours, the number of recoveries stood at 81,177, said the Ministry.

It also pointed out that a minimum of 14 States demonstrated better Covid-19 response on the basis of higher tests per million population and corresponding lower positivity rate than the national average.

A total of 68,928,440 samples have been tested for Covid-19 so far out of which nearly 1.5 million samples were tested on Thursday, as per data released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Severe cases among healthy due to faulty genes, misguided antibodies, say scientists

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than 10 per cent of young and healthy people who develop severe Covid-19 have misguided antibodies that attack not the virus, but the immune system itself, according to a study published in journal 'Science'. Another 3.5 per cent, at least, carry a specific kind of genetic mutation, causing early death of the Covid afflicted patients, as per the study.

In both groups, the upshot is basically the same: The patients lack type I interferon, a set of 17 proteins crucial for protecting cells and the body from viruses. "Whether the proteins have been neutralized by so-called auto-antibodies, or were not produced in sufficient amounts in the first place due to a faulty gene, their missing in-action appears to be a common theme among a subgroup of Covid-19 sufferers whose disease has thus far been a mystery," said the researchers.

The findings help explain why some people develop a disease much more severe than others in their age group—including, for example, individuals who required admission to the ICU despite being in their 20s and free of underlying conditions. They may also provide the first molecular explanation for why more men than women die from the disease.

"These findings provide compelling evidence that the

disruption of type I interferon is often the cause of life-threatening Covid-19," said Jean-Laurent Casanova, head of the St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases at The Rockefeller University and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

The study participants included various nationalities from Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. "Covid-19 may now be the best understood acute infectious disease in terms of having a molecular and genetic explanation for nearly 15% of critical cases across diverse ancestries," Casanova said.

In one study, the researchers genetically analyzed blood samples from more than 650 patients who had been hospitalized for life-threatening pneumonia due to SARS-CoV-2, 14 percent of whom had died. They also included samples from another group of over 530 people with asymptomatic or benign infection. They initially searched for differences between the two groups across 13 genes known to be critical for the body's defense against the influenza virus. These genes govern type I interferons.

It soon became obvious that a significant number of people with severe disease carried rare variants in these 13 genes, and more than 3 percent of them were in fact missing a functioning gene.

Ultras cashing in on Covid crisis: India at UNHRC meet



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Highlighting the scourge of terrorism, India on Friday said terrorists are trying to exploit financial and emotional distress caused by the ongoing corona pandemic and Covid-19 lockdowns. Moreover, the terrorists are trying to collect funds under the garb of charitable activities but it is feared this money will be used to finance terror activities, India said.

Making these assertions at the ongoing 45th UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva, First Secretary Pawan Badhe, Permanent Mission of India to UN in Geneva, said due to widespread COVID-19, terrorists are making malevolent attempts to exploit the financial and emotional distress caused by lockdowns to disturb the cohesiveness of societies.

In his statement, he said "Terror groups have also exhorted supporters to target security forces and health workers. Another disturbing trend has been the collection of funds by proscribed terrorist outfits ostensibly for undertaking charitable activities, but which, in reality, would be used to finance terror."

Speaking on the topic

"Human rights situations that require the Council's attention," the Indian envoy said "The increased presence of people online and on social media has been targeted by terrorists to disseminate misinformation through hate speeches, fake news and doctored videos. The intent has been to entice and establish links with vulnerable individuals and recruit them in their cadres."

He also said "We underscore the need to foster a society in which individuals and communities are able to counter the spread of terrorist ideologies and challenge those who espouse them." Underlining the challenge posed by terrorism, India also urged the Council to play a major role in preventing radicalization of impressionable minds.

India stressed that the Council cannot remain immune to the devastating human rights impacts caused by terrorism. The Council has to spread awareness about the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable groups, particularly children and young persons, in order to prevent their indoctrination by terrorist ideologies.

MPs duty bound to respect democratic values: Speaker

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the unruly behaviour of MPs with the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday emphasised that the dignity of the House and its Chair is an important aspect of the parliamentary system and it is the duty of all members to respect the highest values

that our democracy represents.

Birla was talking to media on the aspects of conclusion of the Monsoon Session of the Parliament where he referred to various historic achievements of the Session at the Parliament conducted amidst the Corona pandemic.

Birla added that with the help of all political parties and Members, the productivity of

Lok Sabha was at a historic 167 percent. He also informed that despite the threat of COVID-19, the average attendance of MPs during this Session was very high, which sends a very positive message and strengthens peoples' faith in the democratic institutions.

Referring to recent reports on Question Hour, Birla said that members were given regular opportunities to raise matters concerning peoples' welfare. He highlighted the enhanced participation of members in Zero Hour and other legislative business.

On a query on the demands of members for the restoration of the MPLAD Scheme, Birla said that the matter was raised by Members across the political spectrum and hoped that the Government and other stakeholders would examine the issue as per merit.

ED attaches ₹255.17 cr properties of Kanva Group under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a provisional attachment order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) attaching assets worth ₹255.17 crores in a case related to cheating of investors by Sree Kanva Souhardha Co-Operative Credit Limited (SKSCCL), Bengaluru and others through a Ponzi scheme.

The attached assets are in the form of immovable properties in Karnataka (agriculture and non-agriculture land, buildings and resorts) and movable properties in the form of balances in bank accounts in the name of N Nanjundaiah and his family members, Kanva Group of companies and other entities, the agency said.

The accused advanced loans out of deposits, working capitals and shared reserves

without getting any security and not following existing Rules and Regulations, it said.

Searches under PMLA were conducted in the premises of the accused N Nanjundaiah and other Directors of SKSCCL and Kanva group of companies which resulted in seizure of incriminating documents.

N Nanjundaiah was arrested on August 25 and is now undergoing judicial custody.

"Investigation conducted under PMLA so far has revealed that N Nanjundaiah, founder/common Director of Sree Kanva Souhardha Co-operative Credit Limited and Kanva Group of companies collected ₹650 crores through unauthorised collection centres and collection agents from about 13,000 gullible investors by luring them to pay higher rate of interest (from 12 to 15 per cent)," it further said.

CBI books engineer under POCSO ACT for sharing child porn material

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against a private person on the allegations of sharing child sexual abuse material.

The agency has registered the case under Section 14 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000. "It was alleged that the accused was advertising over Instagram Account for sale of objectionable material including child pornographic material," the agency said in a statement.

The accused Neeraj Yadav is a B. Tech. degree holder. He was working as a professional in a private firm in Delhi before the lockdown.

It was further alleged that the accused opened different accounts over cloud storage and file hosting service by using different email IDs and

storing such objectionable material including child pornographic material, the agency said.

It was also alleged that on receipt of payments from the customer (s), the accused shared the said objectionable material with them through Whatsapp, Telegram, Instagram and other social media platforms.

The agency conducted searches at the premises of the accused in Anpara, District Sonbhadra, (Uttar Pradesh) which led to the recovery of a mobile phone. The mobile phone is being analysed and further investigation is continuing, the agency added.

A Special Unit "Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention/Investigation (OCSAE)" has been created in CBI, New Delhi for matters pertaining to online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building,
Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

O.A. No. 883/2018
State Bank of India

Versus **Applicant**

Manoj Kumar Meena and Anr. **Defendants**

To,
1. Mr. Manoj Kumar Meena (Borrower)
S/o. Mr. Bhagwan Singh Meena, House
No. 46, Bannerjee Paia Road, Behla,
Kolkata-700060.

Second Address Village Rakashpuria,
The/Post-Sangod, Distt-Kota, Rajasthan-
325601.

Third Address Captain Superintendent, T.S.
Chankya, Karave Nerul, Pal Beach
Highway, Mumbai-400706.

Fourth Address Gali No. 6, Rangpur
Road, Kota, Rajasthan-325601.

Fifth Address Village-Bapawar, Kalan,
P.O. Bapawar, The-Sangod, Kota
Rajasthan-325601.

2. M/s. IDEA Builders Pvt. Ltd. Registered
Office C-294, 1ST Floor, Vivek Vihar,
Delhi-110095.

Second Address C-10, Ramprastha,
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011.

Third Address Kharsa No. 998, Red Apple
Residency, National Highway-58, Raj
Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, Uttar
Pradesh-201003.

Fourth Address 2-C, DDA Flats, Nirman
Vihar, New Delhi-110092

Whereas the above named applicant has
instituted a case for recovery of Rs.
39,28,153.45 (Rs. Thirty Nine Lacs
Twenty Eight Thousand One Hundred
Fifty Three and Paise Forty Five Only)

against you and whereas it has been shown
to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is
not possible to serve you in ordinary way.

Therefore, this notice is given by
advertisement directing you to make
appearance before DRT Registrar on 28-01-
2021 at 10.30 A.M. (for further details
kindly visit DRT website
www.drtbun.gov.in) Phone No. 011-
23748473)

Take notice that in case of your failure to
appear on the above mentioned day before
this Tribunal, the case will be heard and
decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the
matters will be taken up through Video
Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall
download the "Cisco Webex" application /
Software;

(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the
next date of hearing qua cases to be taken
by 'Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/ and
Recovery Officer-II shall be available one
day prior to the next date at DRT Official
Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public
Notice Head.

(iii) In any exigency qua that, the
Advocates/Litigants can contact the
concerned official at Ph. No. 011-
23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the
Tribunal on this 08th day of September,
2020

by order of this Tribunal
for Registrar

Respondent may contact under mention
phone number for further enquiry.

Amit K. Dar, Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi
Phone.: 011-23748473

E-mail: regdrt1delhi-dfs@nic.in,
drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sample Notice for sale of Immovable Properties

E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 29.10.2020 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 245,61,14,114/- (Rupees Two Hundred Forty Five Crore Sixty One Lakh Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Fourteen only), i.e. Rs. 100,01,43,038/- (Rupees One Hundred Crore One Lakh Forty Three Thousand Thirty Eight only), Rs. 72,85,81,429/- (Rupees Seventy Two Crore Eighty Five Lakh Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Nine only) and Rs. 72,73,89,647/- (Rupees Seventy Two Crore Seventy Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Forty Seven only) towards Loan Account Nos. LAP0240519, LAP0240520 and LAP0240522 respectively, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 04.09.2020 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 05.09.2020 legal expenses and other charges along with pending Tax Deducted at Source of Rs. 2,09,66,038/- (Rupees Two Crore Nine Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Thirty Eight only), i.e. Rs. 81,86,870/- (Rupees Eighty One Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy only), Rs. 63,89,584/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four only) and Rs. 63,89,584/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four only), due to the Secured Creditor from BLISS HOUSE PVT. LTD., BLISS AGRI AND ECO TOURISM PVT. LTD., IMAGINE HABITAT PVT. LTD., IMAGINE RESIDENCE PVT. LTD., B. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR) and R. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR).

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be Rs. 184,07,00,000/- (Rupees One Hundred Eighty Four Crore Seven Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 18,40,70,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Crore Forty Lakh Seventy Thousand only). I.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DDT/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 114505001412 with ICICI Bank Ltd. (IFSC: ICIC0001145), having its branch at B1 and B2, Vaniya Nikun, Enkay Tower, Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon - 122015 (Haryana) before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES)

ALL THAT PIECES OR PARCELS OF LAND/ PROPERTIES AS UNDER TOGETHER WITH ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE STRUCTURES, BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, FITTINGS, STANDING AND/ OR PLANT AND MACHINERY INSTALLED/ TO BE INSTALLED AND/ OR CONSTRUCTED/ TO BE CONSTRUCTED THEREON AND ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE RIGHTS, TITLE AND/ OR INTEREST OF BLISS HOUSE PVT. LTD. THEREIN:

50% UNDIVIDED SHARE OF PLOT NO. 20 (ADMEASURING ABOUT 2,043 SQ. MTR. EQUIVALENT TO 2.443 SQ. YD.) (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS PLOT NO. 9, BLOCK NO. 48), SITUATED AT DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE, SARDAR PATEL MARG, NEW DELHI - 110003, OWNED BY BLISS HOUSE PVT. LTD. AND BUTTED AND BOUNDED BY IN THE:

NORTH BY : PLOT NO. 19 SOUTH BY : PLOT NO. 21
EAST BY : SERVICE ROAD WEST BY : SARDAR PATEL MARG

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com and www.eauction.npasource.com.

Date : 24-09-2020 Authorized Officer
Place : NEW DELHI INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Ministry of Power's Advertisement NO.7/23/2020-T&R
NATIONAL POWER TRAINING INSTITUTE (NPTI)
(An Autonomous Registered Society under Ministry of Power)

Applications are invited in the prescribed format, for filling up the post of **Director General, NPTI on deputation basis**. The post carries a scale of pay of Rs. 67000-79000/- with annual increment @ 3% (pre-revised) [Rs.182200-Rs.224100/-, Level - 15 in the Pay Matrix as per CCS (RP) Rules, 2016] with usual allowances as per Central Government rules. NPTI (ISO 9001 & ISO 14001 organisation) is an Apex body at the National Level for development of human resources for the power & energy sectors. With its HQ. at Faridabad, NPTI operates on an all India basis through its Regional Institutes located at Neyveli (Tamil Nadu), Durgapur (West Bengal), Badarpur (New Delhi), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Guwahati (Assam), Nangal (Punjab), Alappuzha (Kerala) and Shivpuri (Madhya Pradesh) & specialized Centres viz. Power Systems Training Institute (PSTI) & Hot line Training Centre (HLTC) at Bangalore, a Centre for Advanced Management and Power Studies (CAMPS) at Faridabad, Haryana.

Conditions of Eligibility:

Persons who:

i) have at least 17 (seventeen) years experience and have shown capacity in :
a) design, construction, operation and maintenance of generating stations;
b) transmission and supply of electricity;
c) applied research in the field of electricity;
d) applied economics; or
e) industrial, commercial and financial matters and;

ii) have held

a) the post of Chief Engineer or equivalent or a higher grade on a regular basis for a period of at least three years under the Central Govt, or a State Govt. OR
b) any post equivalent to that of a post mentioned in clause (a) above for a period of at least three years under a State Electricity Board or a Semi Govt. Organization or a Public Sector Undertaking or a University or an Indian Institute of Technology.

Period of deputation :
The period of deputation shall normally be for a period not exceeding five years from the date of appointment as Director General.

Age Limit:
The maximum age limit for appointment by deputation shall not be exceeding 56 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications.

Applications complete in all respects in the prescribed format should reach **The Under Secretary, T&R Section, Ministry of Power, 'F' Wing, 2nd Floor, Gate No.2, Nirman Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi-110011** within 8 weeks from date of publication of advertisements in **Employment News**. Candidates working in Central/State Governments / Electricity Boards/ Universities/Public Sector Enterprises/Statutory /Semi-Govt, or Autonomous Organisations etc. should forward their applications **through proper channel with Part (B) of the format duly completed**. Advance copies shall not be entertained. Incomplete applications or the ones received after the prescribed date shall not be considered.

For more comprehensive details and the format of application, please visit the website of Ministry of Power (<http://powermin.nic.in>) or NPTI (<http://www.npti.gov.in>) or DOP&T (<http://www.dopt.gov.in>)

davp 34107/1/0006/2021

SC rubbishes plea seeking postponement of upcoming Bihar Assembly elections

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking to postpone the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A three-judge bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R. Subhash Reddy and M R Shah also refused to grant liberty to the petitioner to give representation to the Election Commission in this regard.

"We can't permit everybody to go to the Election Commission. We can only permit you to withdraw the petition," the bench said.

The matter was then dismissed as withdrawn.

The EC announced the schedule for Bihar assembly elections later on Friday.

The top court was hearing the plea filed by one Ajay Kumar who contended that the general assembly elections cannot be held smoothly due to the pandemic.

The plea sought to hold the Bihar Assembly elections till the situation becomes normal.

SC to consider about Govt's suggestion of making refund vouchers transferable



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it will consider the Centre's suggestion of making refund vouchers to be given to the passengers in lieu of the tickets booked for the flights which were cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

The top court reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions including by NGOs and passengers associations seeking refund of ticket fare for the

flights which were cancelled due to the Pandemic. A

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Centre and Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), that transferable refund vouchers can be issued to the passengers, which can be used by the travel agents who had booked their tickets for the flights which were cancelled later.

FARMBILLS PROTEST



LF-CONG, TMC HOLD PROTESTS AT 100 PLACES IN BENGAL

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Left and Congress on Friday launched a joint campaign against Farm Bills organising road-blockades in at least a hundred places in the State.

Roads were blocked at Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Raiganj, Murshidabad, Nadia, Birbhum, Burdwan, Bankura, Hooghly, Kolkata and elsewhere with the leaders vowing to continue the movement indefinitely.

Earlier, the Left and Congress asked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to call a special Assembly session to pass a unanimous resolution against the farm Bills and other legislations including the amendment in essential commodity laws. The TMC had yet to respond to the proposal.

At the end of a jointly organised "central rally" from Shyambazar crossing in North Kolkata to Esplanade in central Kolkata CPI(M) politburo member Biman Bose said "the BJP Government has been introducing anti-people laws one by one with no regard for the opposition views. They have decided to ruin the farmers as they have done in Gujarat where the farmers are brutally suppressed. Now a time has come when a prolonged movement will have to start through-



out the country to assert the rights of the farmers.

The Trinamool Congress had failed to provide a direction to the farmers' cause he said adding "the onus now fell on the Left, secular and democratic parties to launch a pan-Indian movement in the country to secure the poor man's rights."

State Opposition Leader and senior Congress man Abdul Mannan walked alongside the CPI(M), Forward Bloc,

RSP, CPI, RCPI and other Left parties in a long procession to register their solidarity.

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Chowdhury said "the BJP Government's anti-farmer laws would save it Rs 1 lakh crore which is why it is bringing the anti-farmer laws which will finally destroy the public distribution system and make life more impossible for the Indian farmers."

The ruling TMC's Kisan

Khet Mazdoor Cell too organised processions in North and South 24 Parganas and elsewhere in the State.

Reacting to the Left-Congress' proposal for a joint Assembly session State Minister Partho Chatterjee said "they are trying to steal the show without fighting on the streets. I ask them as to why they are not going all out against the farm bill and why they are trying play politics in Assembly."

Farmers on road in Aligarh

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Farmer leaders here on Friday led a farmer curfew in protest against the Central Government's Farm Bills. The demonstration was proposed in Tappal, Akarabad, Iglas, Atrauli, Pisawa. Farmers did chakka jam sitting on the streets. The district administration and police were completely on alert.

The anger against the Agriculture Bill is not ending. On one side, the farmers are raising objections, on the

other hand the Opposition is protesting.

On Friday, farmers came on the road from all over the district.

In Iglas, the peasants marched on foot, which was stopped by the police. During this time, farmers also got angry with the police.

In Gabbhana, activists of the Indian Farmers Organisation blocked the highway for about 15 minutes. Later the SDM opened the jam by handing the memorandum to the President.



SP protests, sends memorandum to UP Gov

Lucknow: The Samajwadi Party on Friday held a statewide protest against the farm sector and labour reform Bills and sent a memorandum to Governor Anandiben Patel, requesting her to ensure that these are not implemented in the State.

Various farmer outfits have been protesting against the contentious bills passed by the Parliament recently.

"On the directives of Samajwadi Party's national president Akhilesh Yadav, party

workers sent a memorandum to the Governor thorough the respective district magistrates demanding that the 'anti-farmers' and 'anti-workers' bills should not be implemented in the State," SP chief spokesman Rajendra Chowdhury said.

Akhilesh Yadav, in a statement issued here, said the SP has always been in the forefront of raising issues of public interest and had stood against the ruling party for their "anti-people" stand.

He said under the present regime, the youth is unemployed and big capitalists have set their eyes on farmers' land. "Laws are being made only for multinational companies and a few industrialists. The BJP government has first introduced a bill of exploitation of farmers to benefit capitalists and now a bill of labour exploitation to benefit industrialists. They brought these bills without taking any suggestions," the statement said. **PTI**

Farm Bills passed without consulting mandi traders, Opp: Rajasthan CM

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday targeted the Centre over three farm bills, saying they were introduced in Parliament without consulting mandi traders and Opposition parties, and were passed in a shameful manner.

He claimed that all the provisions made in the bills are anti-farmer and the mandis will be destroyed.

"Why was the law made? Why was the minimum support price (MSP) not proposed? You can understand from it that the situation is very serious and the way these three bills were passed, it was also done in a shameful manner," Gehlot told reporters.

Attacking the government, he claimed, "These are people of fascist thinking and they do not believe in democracy. All the work is being done so that public attention can be diverted." He said the bills were introduced without consulting mandi traders and opposition parties. **PTI**

Will try not to implement farm sector laws in Maha: Cong, NCP

Pune: The Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which are part of the ruling coalition in Maharashtra, on Friday said they would try to ensure that the farm sector reform bills are not implemented in the state.

Speaking in Pune, deputy Chief Minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar said farmers as well as the NCP and other parties are opposed to the new bills. "Farmers think that the laws are

not beneficial for them. There was no hurry (to pass them)," he said. Asked whether they would be implemented in Maharashtra, he said, "We will try to ensure that they are not implemented, but at the same time we will have to see what new issues crop up."

"We are studying what can happen if the matter goes to the court," Pawar said, adding that the government has sought opinion of the legal department too. He had held a meet-

ing on the issue where Water Resources Minister Jayant Patil, Cooperation Minister Balasaheb Patil, leaders of Mathadi workers (head-loaders who work in APMCs) and other stake-holders were present, he added.

Earlier in the day, state Congress chief and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat said they will "work together and take a decision on non-implementation of the new farm bills." **PTI**



Huge arms haul in erstwhile Maoist region

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a sensational breakthrough the Bengal Police on Friday unearthed arms from an erstwhile Maoist-hit region of Golkata in West Midnapore, district administration sources said.

About 30 muskets, electric wire and tin containers were found after the police acting on definite sources dug out a 40 feet area inside dense forests of Okhla in the Golkata region. The guns rapped in rags and plastic could have been buried about ten years ago and had rusted and become dysfunctional, senior officials said adding the finds would be sent for forensic testing. The police had to use JCB machines to excavate the area after some "specific information," sources said.

Political gunfight resumed soon after the arms were unearthed even as senior Trinamool Congress MP Saugato Roy alleged "gong by the age of the arms it seems that they could have been buried by the CPI(M) haramdars or maybe the Maoists ... but the most likelihood is that the CPI(M)

cadres might have buried them after their government went out of power," reminding how "skeletons were dug out from the village of then CPI(M) minister Sushanto Ghosh."

Reacting vehemently to his suggestions CPI(M) Legislature Party Leader Sujana Chakrabarty said, it was high time the Trinamool Congress stopped spreading lies. "Talking about skeletons which had been planted by one of their leaders who is now in a BJP general secretary... and why could not they prove a single charge against the Left Government... so Sougato Roy being such a senior politician should stop peddling lies..." The Left has suffered the maximum at the hands of the TMC-Maoist clique ... they murdered hundreds of our cadres in cold blood."

The BJP on the other hand said the guns might belong to the Maoists given the history of ultra-Left movement in Bengal however he would not rule out Trinamool Congress hand in the incident. "All angles must be probed to get to the truth," he said.

2 LeT terrorists killed in Anantnag

PNS ■ JAMMU

A foreign terrorist from Pakistan along with his local associate, belonging to the proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) were neutralised by the joint teams of security forces in Sirhama area of Anantnag on Friday.

The operation in the area was launched late on Thursday evening after receiving inputs about the presence of these terrorists in the area.

According to a police spokesman, "Due to darkness the operation was suspended in the area while a tight cordon was maintained to plug the escape routes." He said, "In the wee hours, the operation was resumed and in the ensuing encounter two terrorists were

Operation in the area was launched late on Thursday evening after receiving inputs about the presence of these terrorists in the area

killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter."

The police spokesman said the killed terrorists have been identified as Adil Ahmad Bhat resident of Pulwama and Abu Rehan @ Towheed a Pakistani national. Both the killed terrorists were commanders and affiliated with proscribed terror outfit LeT.

According to police records, Adil was involved in case FIR No. 117/2020 of PS

Nowgam pertaining to the killing of two JKP personnel and weapon snatching at Nowgam Srinagar on 14-08-2020. An Insas rifle snatched in Nowgam attack was also recovered from the encounter site.

According to a police spokesman, Pakistani terrorist Abu Rehan was an important motivator and influenced young minds for joining terror ranks in the areas of South Kashmir. He was involved in motivating local youth to carry out 'fidayeen' attacks on Police/SFs. He was also involved in providing logistic support to the newly infiltrated terrorists and strengthening the LeT outfit throughout the valley by distributing newly joined/infiltrated terrorists to various areas.

Kerala edges past TN in number of Covid-19 new cases, total tally

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI/CHENNAI

Kerala overtook Tamil Nadu by Friday evening in the number of new patients diagnosed with Covid-19. While Kerala diagnosed 6,477 new patients on Friday, Tamil Nadu's tally for the day was 5,679.

According to the department of health, Government of Kerala, the State had 48,892 Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment in hospitals. But in Tamil Nadu, the number of active patients undergoing treatment for the pandemic stood at 46,386.

This is the first time Kerala has overtaken its neighbor in

the number of patients diagnosed with the pandemic as well as the total number of Covid-19 patients.

Out of the 14 districts in Kerala, seven has more than 500 patients each. The State saw 22 persons succumbing to the pandemic while Tamil Nadu was ahead in the number of deaths. The State registered 72 deaths during the last 24 hours.

The Kerala Government release said 2.16 lakh persons were under observation in the State as on Friday evening. "Kerala's population is less than half of Tamil Nadu which is almost four times the size of Kerala," said Dr C V Krishnaswamy, eminent physician who is monitoring the sit-

uation in South Indian States. He said there was something seriously amiss in the way Kerala has been handling the issue.

"Tamil Nadu situation has stabilised as the mortality rate has come down and there are only few areas which are showing upward trend. But, as on today situation in Kerala warrants concern," said Dr Krishnaswamy who also expressed his reservation on the race for vaccine. "You wait till the vaccines are out. Meanwhile there are physicians in Tamil Nadu and Kerala who are curing hundreds of Covid-19 patients with native medicines," said the octogenarian diabetologist.

Sena slams move to hold Bihar polls amid Covid-19 crisis

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Questioning the very decision to hold the Assembly elections in Bihar in the midst of Coronavirus crisis, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Friday charged that the ruling JD(U) and BJP would make Sushant Singh Rajput as the main issue in the elections.

Talking to media persons here, Raut took serious exception to holding the Bihar Assembly elections at a time

when the country was still to tide over the Coronavirus crisis.

"Such has been the gravity of the situation that the Assembly and Parliament sessions have had to be curtailed. So far a minister and three MPs have died so far. That being the case, why is the state Assembly poll being held in Bihar?" Raut asked.

"I have no objection whatsoever for the conduct of elections. But, is this right to hold elections?" Raut said.

Raut charged that the rul-

ing JD(U)-BJP alliance would go whole hog to cash in on the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who hails from Bihar. "I am told that JD(U) has printed posters of Sushant Singh Rajput in a big way for the elections. The JD(U) has made Sushant death probe an issue with a clear eye on the elections," Raut said.

"It was a long-planned drama. The Bihar government does not have any developmental or governance issues to

talk about in the elections. No wonder, the JF(U) has started campaigning with posters of Sushant. Hence, Sushant and the drugs matters relating to the incident are blown out of proportion," Raut said.

Wondering as to what had happened to the CBI probe into Sushant's death, Raut said: "The NCB is handling the drugs case. I would like to know as to what has happened to the CBI probe in the Sushant case, now that the former Bihar

DPG Gupteshwar Pandey quit IPS to contest the state polls."

When his attention was drawn to the proposed film city in Uttar Pradesh, Raut said: "It's a welcome development and the entertainment industry can create huge employment opportunities". He, however, dismissed speculation that a film city in UP would reduce the importance of the Bollywood capital of Mumbai.

Replying to a question, Raut said: "Nobody is going

to leave Maharashtra and go to UP... People will all remain here. Mumbai's film industry has been set up with blood, sweat and tears and it can never lose its importance... Merely by shifting the film city or a few government departments cannot impact the significance of Mumbai."

Raut had a dig at the Centre for its failure to set up a film city in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370.

Pandemic powerplay

Nitish Kumar's stock is low without the BJP's heft. Can Lalu's RJD still make a difference as leader of the Opp bloc?



The Bihar Assembly elections, right in the middle of the pandemic, will be the greatest logistical and public health challenge and if successful, could become a template of how a mass participatory process could be initiated without risking the virus. So yes, the new election code has new rules, including virtual campaigning, spread out schedule, longer voting hours, more polling booths, quarantined centres so that even the COVID-positive can vote and an unprecedented stock of preventive gear. The biggest challenge will be to ensure that the electoral process doesn't become a super-spreader event. For the Election Commission, it is a big test, considering more State elections are to follow in rapid succession under the shadow of the pandemic. For Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar, it is time to convince his people that he is still good enough to deliver, his personal stock having taken a beating. For the Opposition and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, it is a chance to prove that his sons have it in them to continue his political movement robustly and more importantly, that he is still a leader who matters in reshaping discourse. Let's take Nitish, who is under attack for his patchy response to the pandemic, poor flood management and mishandling of returnee migrants, a new constituency that is being courted by all parties. He may coast to victory in alliance with the BJP but the latter, while acknowledging him as the chief ministerial candidate, is still as ambitious about becoming the voters' first choice and having its own man in the future. It hasn't helped that Nitish has lost out in ratings to his Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath in crisis management, the appreciation damagingly coming from his own people. The labourers, students and teachers are most peeved with him. Besides, unlike his initial years, he has stagnated and has nothing to show as a deliverer. The row over farm Bills may not have that much of an economic resonance in Bihar as the Government procurement here is low. Besides, it was the first State in India to have scrapped the Agriculture Produce Market Committee Act in 2006 and pave the way for the private sector to get involved in procurement of agricultural produce. But he cannot ignore the political consequences simply because Bihar's farmers haven't benefited after the APMC was dismantled. The markets suffered a loss of fee revenue, there was no major private investment in the State's agricultural sector and the smaller farmers continue to depend on trader cartels for buys as there is no guaranteed price mechanism. If anything, Bihar shows how taking down a regulatory framework hastily without necessary checks and balances can hurt the small and marginal farmers even more. The Opposition could use this for its campaign pitch. Politically though, Nitish has already neutralised the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), whose leader Chirag Paswan was attacking him almost every day, by inducting Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) founder and his protégé Jitan Ram Manjhi, into his fold. The Dalit vote is now consolidated under the NDA umbrella. According to the 2011 census, the Scheduled Castes are 15 per cent of Bihar's population. The Mahadalits constitute nearly 16 per cent and though cultivated by Nitish, were beginning to swerve towards the RJD, which has the core traditional votes of the Muslims and Yadavs. Manjhi could return the Dalit swing in his favour. This would bring Nitish the numbers he needs to stay relevant.

Where does it leave Lalu then? The Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party (SP) announced that it will not contest and support all RJD candidates instead. Lalu still has the drawing power but he is not on the ground to smoothen wrinkles in the grand alliance of like-minded parties. And that could work to the RJD's detriment. The problem with the Opposition bloc members is that they would only end up dividing the non-NDA vote if they do not form a strategic partnership. At the same time, they become aggressive about bargaining for seats in return for staying together and that reduces the seat quota for the RJD. A reduced number of seats for the RJD only helps the BJP to manipulate numbers in its favour and keep the former in check. The Lok Sabha election results are proof of this undercutting. The RJD could go it alone but that would be self-defeatist considering some of its allies are already questioning the leadership of Tejashwi Yadav in public. The youth are particularly not taken in by the dynastic entitlement of Lalu's sons, who wage their own ego battles in the public sphere than inspire confidence. Tejashwi and Tej Pratap need to be on the same page. Or at least use their father's wisdom. Tejashwi, so far, has appeared more interested in pursuing his individual ambition, grooming his yes men and running down senior leaders of the caste movement as deadwood. The arrogance cost the RJD its dependable associations with the Left and the Congress. Besides, with the BJP waiting to splinter unhappy parties, the Opposition bloc is caught in a cleft stick at the moment. The Left parties may look down and out but they are holding on to their traditional pockets. Perhaps if they had effectively used former Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) president Kanhaiya Kumar as the change-making candidate, they could have become a key fringe player. The Congress is gasping for breath and though it won't harm the RJD, another poor performance could see it losing more members to the BJP. The tide of discontent is there against Nitish but without Lalu at the helm, can the Opposition ride it?

Environmental damage

Without plastics and polymers, we might not have been able to face COVID. But it is time to start worrying about the environment



As Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora announced the dates for the Bihar Assembly elections, he also detailed the precautions being taken to conduct them. The fact is that the entire electoral process is a crowded one, and in a densely populated State like Bihar, almost guaranteed to be so, no matter what rules and regulations are put in place. So the Election Commission is deploying millions of masks and gloves and thousands of litres of hand sanitiser across booths to protect voters, booth officials and security personnel. Given that thousands of voters will touch every voting machine, each will be provided with a single disposable glove. But while the health and safety of our voters is paramount, there is another concern. That is the mountains of trash that will be generated as a result of these precautions. Given that several State Governments had declared a war on single-use plastics over the past few years, it is especially ironic that single-use plastic gloves will be needed to keep democracy alive. In fact, it is one of the side effects of the pandemic that huge volumes of non-recyclable, non-biodegradable trash have been generated.

There is little doubt that COVID warriors in intensive care wards need plastic personal protective equipment. Even surgical masks worn by millions are for the large part non-biodegradable. As more cities get back to work across the world and humanity learns to live with the virus and new protocols, both the Government and citizens must ponder over medical waste management and disposal. One immediate change that millions can adopt is to move to using washable cloth masks instead of polymer-based masks. While such polymer masks will be essential in hospital wards, in regular daily use cloth masks are quite effective at protecting others and more comfortable as well. Protocols for the reuse of protective kits and other plastic equipment should also be put in place, whether that involves washing or ultraviolet sanitisation. We must look at newer incineration technologies. We might be coming to terms with the pandemic, even if we have paid a terrible price in deaths and with the economy. However, we should not make the environmental costs so dramatic as well. We will be undoing all that we have attempted to reset so far.

opinion

Rescue package

We need a supportive policy regime so that banks can lend more and there is a rigorous monitoring of end-use of credit



SC PANDEY

It sounds pretty heartless to worry about the economy and livelihoods and appear less concerned with peoples' lives. It is difficult to weigh in golden balance whether lives or livelihoods are more important. On December 31, 2019, China first told the World Health Organisation (WHO) that 41 patients in Wuhan had contracted a mysterious pneumonia not amenable to conventional treatment. Beginning January 23, first the city of Wuhan, then the entire Hubei province and then some other cities were locked down. The unprecedented quarantine was imposed on 50 million people across 15 cities.

After a 6.8 per cent contraction in January-March 2020 quarter, China's economy recorded 3.2 per cent growth in April-June 2020. China is the first major economy to return to growth after the pandemic.

For us, the pandemic is an imported calamity. The main gateways to India have been worst affected. Major democracies, including India, have failed to emulate the ruthless measures taken by China (and could be taken by China alone) to contain the damage. Maybe there is more than what meets the eye here.

With confirmed infections of over 50 lakh, albeit with a somewhat modest case fatality ratio of 1.64 per cent and a significantly high 78 per cent recovery rate, the first peak is not in sight at the national level although there is significant disruption of economic activity. Individual estimates vary widely with observers' biases as expected because the pandemic has fooled all forecasting tools. A general sense is that we face stagnation if not outright contraction in economic growth in the current year.

The GDP at current market prices was ₹45.51 lakh crore, ₹49.18 lakh crore and ₹38.08 lakh crore during April-June 2018, April-June 2019 and April-June 2020, respectively. The GDP at 2011-12 prices was ₹26.89 lakh crore during April-June 2020, compared to ₹35.35 lakh crore during April-June 2019. This is the direct effect of the lockdown that was in force for almost two out of three months in the first quarter. Experts are divided as to how the GDP is going to behave in the ensuing quarters due to the impact



of the pandemic on jobs and incomes.

Another way to analyse the economic impact of the pandemic is to look at GST collections which indicate the quantum of documented sales of goods and services. Monthly GST collections during April-August have been ₹32,172 crore, ₹62,151 crore, ₹90,917 crore, ₹87,422 crore and ₹86,449 crore. In August 2019, GST collection was ₹98,202 crore, so, obviously we are far away from reaching pre-lockdown levels of spending and registering a decent growth on that level. The shortfall from August 2019 GST collection is 12 per cent in August 2020. Obviously, GST collections would not measure the impact of the pandemic on the informal economy where undocumented sales take place on *kutchha* bills.

The first quarter GDP contraction affected almost all sectors. The only sector that posted positive growth (3.4 per cent) was agriculture, with bumper Rabi crops. High-contact sectors like tourism and hospitality are very badly affected.

Past years' trends show that the GDP is almost equally divided in the four quarters with some increase in the last quarter. In 2017-18, the contribution of the four quarters was 23.4, 24.4, 25.3 and 26.9 per cent for quarters one, two, three and four. In 2018-19, it was 24, 24.5, 25.4 and 26.1 per cent. In 2019-20, it was 24.2, 24.2, 25.4 and 26.2 per cent. This year's quarterly GDP trends are going to be abnormal.

“MAJOR ECONOMIES ARE SURVIVING ON PEOPLE BUYING THINGS THAT THEY DON'T REALLY NEED AND LIVING ON BORROWED FUNDS. IT IS A PARADOX THAT THE RICHEST COUNTRIES ARE ALSO THE MOST INDEBTED COUNTRIES. NEW ASPIRATIONAL NEEDS ARE FELT OR CREATED AND FINANCE IS ARRANGED BY BORROWING”

SOUNDBITE

We will review progress on the economic recovery in each Budget update, but I expect phase one to remain in place until the unemployment rate is comfortably back under six per cent.

Australian Treasurer
—Josh Frydenberg



While the economy has been doing better than expected, I think there's a downside risk to that if there is no further fiscal support.

Federal Reserve Chairman
—Jerome Powell



The malafide intent that drives the Pakistani deep state is in total contradiction to the objectives and principles that we all have gathered to promote in this temple of human rights.

First Secretary, MEA
—Vimars Aryan



Russia will in no way build its policy on the basis of taking into account these aggressive demands that have no legal force.

Foreign Minister
—Sergei Lavrov



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

China plays Nepal

Sir — The local authorities of Lapcha-Limi region in Humla have alleged that China has constructed nine buildings one kilometre inside the territory of Nepal. Lapcha-Limi is of great strategic importance to Nepal as Kailash Mansarovar can be clearly seen from this point. This sort of expansionist move isn't the first by China. Earlier in June this year, the Nepal Government had complained that China was using road construction in Tibet to occupy its land. While Nepal is protesting against the encroachment, maybe it should also ponder on its move of releasing a new political map that claimed Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh of Uttarakhand as part of its sovereign territory, ostensibly at China's behest.

Rahul Chouhan
Ujjain

Lost game

Sir — The Minister of State for External Affairs, V Muraleedharan, provided details of the Prime Minister's visits abroad since 2015, including their outcome. According to the details furnished, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited 58

Diverting public attention

The rising numbers of COVID-19 cases, a dented economy and tension around the borders do not seem to concern us as much as the alleged seamer side of life in Bollywood. The Narcotics Control Board's (NCB) probe into the drug use in Bollywood has captured the imagination of the nation so much so that it appears to have become the be-all-and-end-all of our lives. The information gathered during its "grilling" of celebrities, leaked to select media, has now become the staple diet of television drama.

The idiot box is now a voyeur's delight; it wallows on prying into the private lives of screen idols. Breathless reporters heighten the drama by their delivery of the story in a frenzy of excitement. The "arrivals" of actresses at the NCB office in the morning and their "departures" in the evening are marked by hustle and bustle as if they are earth-shattering events.

What started as a probe into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's demise and the circumstances surrounding it has meandered its way into a fishing expedition in



Bollywood to "name and shame" selective actresses who might have consumed drugs in little quantities. The way NCB is handling the case casts serious doubts on its independence and integrity. And never before has a death been so repugnantly used as a weapon to fight political battles.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

should have been put to better use elsewhere.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Honour offset clause

Sir — The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) has slammed French firms Dassault Aviation and MBDA — the main companies in the

and finance is arranged by printing money or borrowings. Governments in particular borrow and spend, leaving the burden of debt servicing on future Governments/generations.

The total worldwide debt was close to a record high of \$253 trillion (September 2019), a whopping 322 per cent of the world GDP. It was about 100 per cent of the world GDP in 1961. There is also unreported debt.

The US Government has the highest debt of over \$24 trillion. Among foreign lenders of the US Government, Japan and China top the list. Of course, a fuller picture emerges not just by looking at the size of debt but also on the ability to repay, roll over/re-finance, to print money without backing of gold and to control good quality productive assets. That is how the game has been going on.

In 1961, the nominal GDP of the whole world was 1.4 trillion dollars and the population was 3.09 billion. By 2017, it had grown to 80.9 trillion dollars and the population had increased to 7.55 billion. Per capita income had grown from \$3,827 to \$10,632. The total debt in emerging and developing economies climbed to a record \$55 trillion in 2018, marking an eight-year surge that has been the largest, fastest and most broad-based in nearly five decades.

To offset the pandemic's human and economic costs, Governments need to spend more. If consumers and Governments stop spending, livelihoods will be lost and there are too many of them at risk. This is no time to fret about Government debt. We are cursed to keep borrowing and spending, particularly during a crisis. It is a fate akin to that of the mythical Sisyphus moving the boulder up the mountain. Stop rolling it up and it will come down crushing. Riding the tiger is another apt analogy.

The present generation is forced to borrow prosperity from future generations. It will be morally right only if we spend borrowed money wisely and leave scope for future generations to be prosperous. To mitigate the economic distress, we need to facilitate banks to lend more. Unlike the situation in 2008-09 during the global financial crisis, we have better macro-economic fundamentals. Bank credit is just 50 per cent of the GDP. We need a supportive policy regime and monitoring of end-use of credit.

(The author is an IAS officer, superannuated as Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry)

₹59,000 crore contract for 36 Rafale fighter jets — for their failure to transfer advanced technology to India. As per the deal, the French firms are required to plough back 50 per cent of the contract value to India as offsets or re-investments.

India, being the world's second-largest arms importer, suffers from shortages of critical weapon platforms. The Government should ensure that foreign vendors aren't allowed to view Indian contracts as easy cash cows.

N Sadhasiva Reddy
Bengaluru

Disturbing numbers

Sir — According to the 2018 annual report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 33,356 rape cases were reported across the country, or an average of 91 rapes a day. The numbers are disturbing and the legislative reforms haven't been of much help. Our society needs to re-awaken and more serious reforms should be undertaken.

Urvi Jain
Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Save Bollywood from 'gutterisation'

The entire process of turning actors into marketing agents for selling certain political ideologies must stop after Kangana Ranaut



ANURAG TIWARY

ABHINAV JHA

The Government's recent decision to set up the country's "most beautiful" and "biggest" film city in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, has to be read in its wider socio-political context. An attempt to decentralise Bollywood, negate Mumbai as the entertainment capital of this country and control the dissemination of art and creativity is under way. The timing couldn't be any better. The debate over nepotism, drug use and the proliferation of the so-called "mafia" of film-makers in Mumbai, amid the controversy surrounding Sushant Singh Rajput's (SSR's) untimely death, has changed the way we, as an audience, look at Bollywood today. The Hindi film industry is allegedly ruled by a bunch of oligarchs and dynasts who are extremely arrogant, egotistical and self-absorbed in their attitude towards "outsiders."

Globally, the entertainment industry runs on a nonpareil image that it builds for itself. The insider-outsider debate in Bollywood has tainted the larger than life image of actors and film-makers and has brought the good, bad, and ugly side of the industry out in the open. How much of it is true remains to be seen. However, interestingly, Kangana Ranaut has emerged as the unflinching face of the rebellion against power, albeit in a highly uncouth manner.

Resultantly, it has so happened that much of this controversy has led to a debate between the far-Right and the Left-of-Centre political ideologies. In their attempts at winning the hearts of the urban middle-class, political parties have paved the way for a radical overhauling of cinema, art, and artists. This will be done by creating parallel power structures within the entertainment industry that will be backed by the State. We see that happening almost ostentatiously in the SSR-Rhea-Kangana drama. We have also seen that as a gradual development since the NDA Government came to power.

The likes of Anupam Kher, Paresh Rawal and Madhur Bhandarkar, among many others, have been used to lend their voice to debates on nationalism and religion. However, the nexus between Bollywood and politicians isn't a new phenomenon. Great politicians understand that politics alone will not get their messages to the masses. So, both the groups have, historically, looked after each other. Film personalities help politicians in their campaigns and similarly, politicians help failed actors become administrators in the name of "cultural diplomacy." It is almost like a rule. However, what the Kangana saga has revealed is that there is an attempt to forge a parallel entertainment industry which will act as the mouthpiece of Right-wing political parties and the Government. This group will help in disseminating what is known as "fringe cultural nationalism." The mechanism is simple, involving shifting of power structures and bringing the industry within the control of the State. For the services of such actors, the Government will either provide them with security sponsored from public money or citizenship in case you are Akshay Kumar.

What is ignored during this entire debate is that the democratisation of cinema originally meant the production and promotion of diverse ideas previously not permitted within the industry. It also meant that for an "outsider", there would be "lower barriers to entry" without any particular pedigree. It meant experimentation with alternative modes of artistic expression and creativity. It meant due recognition for films and works of expression that display counter-culture. Diversified cinema and artistic creativity were the major goals behind the demands for democratising the industry.

The present developments pose a threat to all stakeholders, including the audience, who are the primary and the majority stakeholders in artistic expression. The emergence of newbie politicians, who are regarded as pariah actors, will serve the purposes of disseminating Right-wing nationalism and will do no good to creativity and art. Actors, on the other hand, will lose creative autonomy and will be burdened with social responsibility. Films that challenge majoritarianism or films that are against an idea imposed by the State will not be permitted to go on the floors. Existing norms on censorship will change and become worse than what they already are. Discretion will be exercised almost freely. Turning artists into marketing agents for selling a certain political ideology must stop after motormouth Kangana Ranaut. Jaya Bachchan's "save the industry" from "gutterisation" remark in Rajya Sabha last week should act as a clarion call and must force prospective cine-goers and film-makers to do some introspection.

(Anurag is from the National Law University and Abhinav is a student of law, Amity University)

INHONE LOCKDOWN MEIN BAS ANUSHKA KI BOWLING KI PRACTICE KI HAIN (VIRAT HAS ONLY TRAINED AGAINST ANUSHKA'S BOWLING DURING THE LOCKDOWN).

—FORMER CRICKETER
SUNIL GAVASKAR

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



OVER THE YEARS YOU HAVE RESPECTED THE PRIVATE LIVES OF EVERY CRICKETER. SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF RESPECT FOR ME AND US?

—ACTOR
ANUSHKA SHARMA

Pacifier in the Indo-Pacific

Germany's return to realpolitik augurs well for India as it emerges as a pivot of the aggressive counter-balancing act in the region together with the US, Japan and Australia



SANDEEP KUMAR DUBEY

Even as the world is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitics is undergoing a seismic shift. The Indo-Pacific region, which accounts for almost 40 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), has emerged as the epicentre of the "New Great Game," especially between the US and China, for influence. The rule-based international order is being contested in the Indo-Pacific reportedly by none other than a UN Security Council (UNSC) member, the People's Republic of China (PRC). Speaking at the Munich Security Conference on February 14, the German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said, "... (China) is selective in accepting international law only where it does not run counter to its own interests. Its actions in the South China Sea are unsettling the neighbours in the region."

Beijing's constant hammering on the existing global order has caused alarm in the US and among its allies. Compared to China, India has been endorsing the prevalence of a rule-based world order in the Indo-Pacific region. Delineating New Delhi's vision for the region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue on June 1, 2018, said, "India stands for an open and stable international trade regime. We will also support a rule-based, open, balanced and stable trade environment in the Indo-Pacific Region..."

Re-ordering the world: After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, what emerged was a bipolar world order dominated by the US. It was believed that post-1991, the emergence of the US as the sole world power would expedite the restoration of global peace, security and stability and strengthen Pax Americana.

That is, the post-World War-II international order shaped and maintained by the US employing its overwhelming might. However, instead of growing in strength, Pax Americana has been fraying since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The strategic space ceded in the Indo-Pacific by the US, thanks to its "America First" policy, has been occupied by regional powers, thus turning it into a multi-polar region and the centre of a major geopolitical tussle for dominance. The fear among the world powers is that if the rules of the international order are disobeyed and disowned, the already fragile global form might collapse. What would happen next? A chaos resulting out of world disorder? Or a global re-order leading to resuscitation of peace and security?

Wary of the consequences that might ensue, India has been championing for a world based on a new global security architecture supported by multi-lateralism and mutual cooperation. During his recent visit to Russia, in a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation on September 4, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh declared New Delhi is committed to this as it will "be open, transparent, inclusive, rules-based and anchored in international laws." Earlier in May, in his address to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) countries, Modi had appealed, "In the post-Corona world, we need a new template of globalisation, based on fairness, equality, and humanity. We need international institutions that are more representative of today's world."

GIVEN THE EXPANSIONIST AGENDA OF CHINA IN THE INDO-PACIFIC AND BEYOND, COUNTRIES IN THE REGION ARE FORMING A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO CONTAIN IT. THE SUCCESS OF THE ALLIANCE, HOWEVER, DEPENDS ON HOW INDIA RESPONDS TO THE EMERGING GEOPOLITICS IN THE REGION. CAN NEW DELHI PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ARRESTING BEIJING'S GROWING INFLUENCE IN THE REGION? DOES ITS GEOGRAPHIC POSITION ALLOW FOR THAT?



Indo-US partnership: In recent years, India has come strategically closer to the US and its allies to contain China through diplomatic and military means. The Indian Navy's participation in the Malabar naval exercise led by the US Navy is one such example of the growing partnership between the two nations.

But it has not come to terms with the "America First" policy. Unlike Washington DC, New Delhi has been a proponent of multi-lateralism to promote peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. And that is why it is treading a fine line in the region by not squarely aligning with the US in its balancing act, making no explicit reference to China and opposing Australia's entry into the Malabar naval exercise.

However, amid the growing border tension with China, India may "aggressively" pursue the Indo-Pacific balancing act together with the US, Japan and Australia. Though so far New Delhi has opposed Australia's entry into the Malabar exercise, it might consider inviting it to the next one. This would strengthen the Quad (the US, India, Australia and Japan strategic partnership) further and probably make it anti-China. In 2015, Japan had already been elevated as a permanent member of the Malabar exercise group.

China as a sea power: In his book *Prisoners of Geography*, Tim Marshall notes, "Until now China has never been a naval power... and it was rarely ideologically expansive... It was always a land power with a lot of land and a lot of people." However, Beijing now harbours ambitions of becoming a global power and setting the international rules on its own terms. To fulfil its ambitions, it simply follows in the US' footsteps to gain control over the seas.

It has already taken measures to dominate the South China Sea (SCS)

and the Indian Ocean. Beijing is already making efforts to set up an Air Defence Identification Zone in the SCS and develop a Blue Water navy to defend its sea controls. Tim Marshall further adds, "China... intends to become a two ocean power (Pacific and Indian). To achieve this, China is investing in deep-water ports in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka..."

The great American naval strategist of the 19th century, Alfred Mahan, once said, "Whoever rules the waves, rules the world." His naval strategy finds supreme place in China pursuing its strategic ends. Just like other global powers, Beijing, too is Mahanian, probably with Maoist tactics. China is expanding its sea controls in a piecemeal manner, mouthful by mouthful, a typical Maoist strategy to wipe out enemy forces one by one. Mao asserted, "In war, battles can only be fought one by one and the enemy forces can only be destroyed one by one." Tacticalisation of strategy is doomed to fail against China's well-designed strategy of piecemeal expansion in the Indo-Pacific region. Only a coherent grand containment strategy can counter Beijing's expansionism in the region.

India as the pivot State: Given the expansionist agenda of China in the Indo-Pacific and beyond, countries in the region are forming a strategic partnership to contain it. The success of the alliance, however, depends on how India responds to the emerging geopolitics in the region. Can New Delhi play a pivotal role in arresting Beijing's growing influence? Does its geographic position allow for that?

Quoting naval strategist Alfred Mahan, Robert Kaplan writes in his book *The Revenge of Geography*, "Mahan thought that instead of the Heartland of Eurasia being the geographical pivot of empires, it was conversely the Indian and Pacific oceans

that constituted the hinges of geopolitical destiny." Mahan sees India's location in the centre of the Indian Ocean littoral, with the Himalayas protecting its rear flanks, as critical for the seaward penetration of China, adds Kaplan. This explains precisely the strategic significance of India's geography in regional geopolitics, making it a pivot of the Indo-Pacific. Kaplan has rightly predicted, "As the US and China become great power rivals, the direction in which India tilts could determine the course of geopolitics in Eurasia in the 21st century. India, in other words, looms as the ultimate pivot State."

Germany's return to realpolitik: On July 1, Germany took charge of the presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU). In September it articulated its strategy on the region through a document titled "Policy guidelines for the Indo-Pacific region." In his statement, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas declared: "We are sending a clear message today, the Indo-Pacific region is a priority of German foreign policy... We want to help shape that order, so that it is based on rules and international cooperation, not on the law of the strong. That is why we have intensified cooperation with those countries that share our democratic and liberal values." In fact, this is indicative of Germany's return to a realpolitik approach towards its foreign and security policies from its so-called "moral politics" and "political escapism."

This augurs well for India, as both nations believe in a multi-lateralist approach to foreign policy and international politics. Just like Germany, multi-lateralism is key to transforming India into a global power. Their beliefs in democratic and liberal values make them natural allies and together they can play a vital role in ensuring peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region. (The writer is a policy commentator)

India needs another Vidyasagar now

Just two years ago, a tribal boy was killed in Karmatar because he wished to marry a widow. Has anything really changed in modern India?



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

On September 26, 200 years ago, an extraordinary personality was born in a village in south West Bengal. By the standards of his time, why, even by today's standards, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was unique in every respect. As Rabindranath Tagore once said, "One wonders how God, in the process of producing 40 million Bengalis, produced a man."

The 19th century Bengali society was in an advanced state of decay brought about by a lethal cocktail of superstition, depravity and exploitation, being trapped inside a complex hierarchy of castes and sub-castes embedded within each other. One half of the society — women — was excluded from education and economic activities, being confined to homes where they had no voice. They were treated as intellectually and morally inferior, and hence unworthy of education. Superstition proclaimed that a girl's education would inevitably beget her widowhood. Her best contribution to society was to become one of the countless wives of Kulin Brahmins, whose

main aim was collecting handsome dowries from multiple marriages — one had as many as 156 wives as per records. She would be lucky to enjoy her absentee husband's company a few nights a year. She would attain salvation by burning on the same funeral pyre with her husband, who was 50-60 years older than her. Through the efforts of Raja Rammohan Roy (1772-1838), the horrendous practice of Sati was abolished in 1829, nine years after Vidyasagar's birth.

Child marriage was the order of the day. Girls were married before attaining puberty in a custom called *gouridan*. Born into a Kulin Brahmin family, Vidyasagar himself was married at the age of 14 to a girl eight years old. Bankimchandra, who was born 18 years after Vidyasagar, was married at 11 to a girl only five years old. Female infanticide was also the order of the day. Female foetuses would be destroyed brutally through what was called "ghat murder." These monstrosities still exist in many pockets in rural India despite all the laws we have in our books.

Women had no right to property or inheritance. Once they became widows, a lifetime of misery awaited them. They were forced to a single stringent vegetarian meal a day to rob them of their sexuality, youth and beauty. Sexual exploitation by relatives and termination of unwanted pregnancies leading to death were not only common but met with society's tacit approval. Legal abolition of sati did not end women's miseries. The daily privations,

insults and misery of existence forced many to join the brothels that were there to sustain the perverted *Babu* culture of Bengal. In 1853, the population of sex workers in Kolkata was 12,419 and by 1867 it touched over 30,000. And 90 per cent of them, according to the *Amritabazar Patrika*, were widows. By a crude estimate, the sex worker population increased from about five to nearly 10 per cent of Kolkata's population over this period.

This, then, was the society Vidyasagar was born into, and this was the society he had sought to reform. He did so with a gusto and a fearlessness we have not seen in any other personality ever since. To fight the orthodox society steeped in deep superstition and ruled by the semi-literate Brahmins, Vidyasagar knew he would have to beat his adversaries at their own game. So, in January and October 1855, he wrote his two famous treatises on the *Marriage of Hindu Widows*, drawing upon the *Sutras* (literary compositions) and the *Sastras* (scriptures) to establish his logical argument that there was no prohibition on remarriage of widows in the *Sastras*.

Rather the *Parashara Samhita* sanctioned widow remarriage: "Women are at liberty to marry again if their husbands are insane, dead, have renounced the family or are impotent or outcasts." About 2,000 copies of the first book were sold in the first week itself, followed by 3,000 and then a third reprint of 10,000 copies got sold out too. But the sales figures did not indicate society's response. He

was heaped with criticism, insults, motives, ridicule and even threatened with death.

The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act was finally passed on July 26, 1856 and the reform did not remain limited to Bengal alone. In 1864, Jyotiba Phule succeeded in persuading a Saraswat Brahmin widow to remarry. In 1866, Vishnu Shastri Pandit translated Vidyasagar's book on widow remarriage into Marathi. But passing of the statute was only the first of the many obstacles. Vidyasagar personally presided over the first remarriage of a widow, Kalimati, with Srishchandra Vidyaratna, and then many others at his own expense, in the process gathering significant personal debt.

He even got his only son, Narayanchandra, married to a widow, Bhavasundari. Not many have the courage to practise what they preach. As he wrote to his brother: "Remarriage of widows is the noblest deed of my life. I don't think I shall be able to accomplish a greater one, ever. I have sacrificed everything for this cause and won't mind even laying down my life for it."

He was also propagating women's education. In 1849, he set up the Calcutta Female School along with Drinkwater Bethune for educating the girl child. In 1856, appointed Special Inspector of Schools, he established 30 schools exclusively for girls. Between 1857 and 1858, when the Mutiny was ravaging the country, he was fighting a different kind of battle, opening 35 girls' schools all over Bengal.

After widow remarriage, it was the turn of polygamy. In 1857, he orchestrated a petition to the Government with 25,000 signatures for the prohibition of polygamy among Kulin Brahmins. The Mutiny postponed any action on this petition but in 1866, he inspired another petition, this time with 21,000 signatures. The Government, reluctant to interfere in Indian customs, refused to take any legislative measure, instead allowing time and education to bring an end to the practice.

In 1871 and 1873, he wrote two brilliant critiques on polygamy, arguing that it was not sanctioned by the sacred texts, but was opposed by five eminent scholars, led by his friend Taranath Tarkavachaspati of Calcutta Sanskrit College. Outlawing polygamy among Hindus, however, had to wait till 1955, eight years after Independence, through the Hindu Marriage Act. As regards child marriage, the Indian Penal Code, 1860, had fixed the age of consent to 10 years for girls, which was raised successively to 12 (1891), 14 (1925), 16 (1940) and 18 (2013). The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, also known as the Sarda Act, fixed the age of marriage at 14 for girls and 18 for boys, that was later raised to 18 and 21 respectively in 1978. This has since been repealed and replaced by the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

In 1873, disgusted with the so-called *bhadralok* society, Vidyasagar went to live with the Santhals at Karmatar, a sleepy hamlet about 20 km from the district headquarters

of Jamtara now in Jharkhand, where he would spend the last 18 years of his life till his death in 1891. There he set up a girls' school and a night school for adults on the premises of his house, which he called Nandan Kanan. The house today lies in shambles.

The irony is that though in this village 24 tribal child widows were remarried by Vidyasagar, just two years ago, a tribal boy was killed in Karmatar because he wished to marry a widow. Has anything really changed in modern India?

Sati was abolished only in name. Countless satiss continue to get burnt in 21st century India, though not on pyres. Countless brides get burnt to death in their nuptial homes for dowries, the faces and minds of countless more are scarred forever by acid attacks inflicted by spurned lovers and others. Scores of girls are murdered in "honour-killings" in rural India for marrying into another caste or community, by defying their families' dictats.

Sati has actually metamorphosed into another form that is equally brutal and vicious. It is not about burning a woman. It is about denying her the choice to decide the course of her life. She is continued to be treated as morally and intellectually inferior to men, as she was 200 years ago. We need another Ram Mohan Roy and a Vidyasagar now, more than ever.

(The author is a retired Director-General from the Office of the CAG)

Trump will accept poll results: White House

Washington: President Donald Trump will accept the results of a "free and fair" election, his press secretary has said, allaying fears triggered after he yet again sowed doubts about the legitimacy of mail-in ballots and refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he lost the November 3 presidential polls.

Asked whether he will leave the White House peacefully if he loses the election, Trump responded: "Well, we're going to have to see what happens."

"We are going to have to see what happens, you know that. 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.

Trump's remarks caused an uproar, with lawmakers from the Democratic Party as well as from the president's own Republican Party rejecting his comments, insisting the winner of November's election will be sworn in next January.



Responding to a question from a reporter on Trump's refusal to commit to a peaceful transfer of power, White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said on Thursday: "The president will accept the results of a free and fair election. But I think that your question is more fitting to be asked of Democrats, who have already been on the record saying they will not accept the results of an election."

"I am referring to the president being asked if there would be a peaceful transfer of power and he did not say yes. So I am asking, will there be a peaceful transfer of power if he loses this election?" the reporter asked.

"I believe that question asked by the Playboy reporter - in fact, I think, have it right here - he (Trump) was asked win, lose or draw, whether he would accept the transfer of power. I am not entirely sure if he won, why would he accept a transfer of power. That is maybe the deranged wish of that reporter, but that is not how governing works," McEnany said.

Trump has questioned the legitimacy of voting by mail-in ballot in the past, claimed that it is susceptible to massive fraud.

During an interview with Fox News earlier this year, Trump didn't commit to accepting the election results either, saying "I have to see."

Trump's attacks on the balloting have led to concerns that he is undermining the trust in the election process and will contest the results if he loses.

McEnany referred to several comments made by the Democrats in the past, apparently questioning the validity of an election. **PTI**

Aus think tank finds 380 detention camps in Xinjiang

AP ■ CANBERRA

China appears to be expanding its network of secret detention centres in Xinjiang, where predominantly Muslim minorities are targeted in a forced assimilation campaign, and more of the facilities resemble prisons, an Australian think tank has found.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute used satellite images and official construction tender documents to map more than 380 suspected detention facilities in the far northwestern region, highlighting internment camps, detention centers and prisons that have been newly built or expanded since 2017.

The report builds on evidence that China has made a policy shift from detaining Uighurs and other largely Muslim minorities in makeshift public buildings to constructing permanent mass detention facilities.

This is despite Chinese

state news agency Xinhua reporting late last year that "trainees" attending "vocational education and training centers" meant to deradicalize them had "fully graduated."

Regional government chairman Shohrat Zakir was quoted as saying that foreign media reports of 1 million or 2 million people attending these centers were fabricated, though he would not provide any figures.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Friday dismissed the report as "pure disinformation and slander," saying the Australian institute had "no academic credibility."

China does not operate "so-called detention camps" in Xinjiang, Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

Citing media reports and investigations by internet users, Wang said one of the sites in the report had been identified as an electronics manufacturing park and another as a five-star residential complex.

Kim apologises over shooting death of South Korean official

Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un apologized Friday over the killing of a South Korea official near the rivals' disputed sea boundary, saying he's "very sorry" about the incident he called unexpected and unfortunate, South Korean officials said.

It's extremely unusual for a North Korean leader to apologize to South Korea on any issue. Kim's move will likely de-escalate tensions between the Koreas as it's expected to ease anti-North sentiments in South Korea over the man's death as well as mounting criticism of its liberal President Moon Jae-in.

"Comrade Kim Jong Un, the State Affairs Commission chairman, feels very sorry to give big disappointment to President Moon Jae-in and South Korean citizens because an unexpected, unfortunate incident happened" at a time when South Korea grapples with the coronavirus pandemic, Moon adviser Suh Hoon cited the North Korean message as saying.

On Thursday, South Korea accused North Korea of fatally shooting one of its public servants who was likely trying to defect and burning his body after finding him on a floating object in North Korean waters on Tuesday. South Korean officials condemned North Korea for what they called an "atrocious act" and pressed it punish those responsible.

According to the North Korean message, North Korean troops first fired blanks after the man found in the North's waters refused to answer other than saying he's from South Korea a couple of times. Then, as he made moves to flee, the North Korean troops fired 10 rounds. When they came near the floating object, they only found lots of blood but no sign of him.

The troops determined he was dead and burned the floating object in line with anti-coronavirus rules, according to the North Korean message read by Suh. **AP**

Justice Dept seeks immediate ban on WeChat in US

New York: The Justice Department is seeking an immediate ban on downloads of WeChat in Apple and Google app stores, saying the Chinese-owned messaging service is a threat to the security of the United States.

Last week the U.S. Commerce Department moved to ban WeChat from U.S. App stores but on Saturday, Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler in California agreed to delay U.S. Restrictions, saying they would affect users' First Amendment rights.

In a filing Friday, the Justice Department asked Beeler to allow for an immediate ban while the case works its way through court.

WeChat is a messaging-focused app popular with many Chinese-speaking Americans that serves as a lifeline to friends, family, customers and

business contacts in China. It's owned by Chinese tech giant Tencent.

The Justice Department says WeChat allows the Chinese government to collect and use personal data on Americans to advance its own interests. The filing states WeChat has approximately 19 million active daily users in the U.S. In a range of formats, including text, images, video, and audio.

The Justice Department argues that the U.S. will suffer irreparable harm, both substantive and procedural, if the court does not stay its decision.

The Trump administration has targeted WeChat and another Chinese-owned app, TikTok, for national security and data privacy concerns, in the latest flashpoint amid rising tensions between Washington and Beijing. **AP**

'Hotel Rwanda' hero admits backing rebels, denies violence

AP ■ KIGALI (RWANDA)

The man portrayed as a hero in the movie 'Hotel Rwanda' has admitted in court that he backed a rebel group, but denied that he supported any violence or killings.

Paul Rusesabagina, in a pink prison uniform for his bail hearing on Friday, told the court in Kigali, the capital, that he helped to form the National Liberation Front in order to help Rwandan refugees, but he never supported violence.

The judge has postponed ruling on his application for bail until October 2.

Rusesabagina, a Belgian citizen and U.S. Permanent resident who has been a critic of President Paul Kagame, is charged with 13 offenses that also include financing terrorism, complicity in murder, recruiting child soldiers, and forming a rebel group.

Migrants accuse Greece of pushing them back to sea

AP ■ DIKILI (TURKEY)

Shortly after reaching the Greek island of Lesbos, a group of Afghan migrants say, their hopes for a new life in Europe were cut short when Greek authorities rounded them up, mistreated them, shoved them into life rafts and abandoned them at sea.

Associated Press journalists on a Turkish government-organized coast guard ride-along were aboard the patrol boat that picked up the 37 migrants, including 18 children, from two orange life rafts in the Aegean Sea on September 12.

Two other media organizations on similar government-organized trips in the same week witnessed similar scenes.

"They took our phones and said a bus will come and take you to the camp," Omid Hussain Nabizada said in Turkish. "But they took us

and put us on a ship.

They left us on the water in a very bad way on these boats," Turkey, which hosts about 4 million refugees, accuses Greece of large-scale push-backs — summary deportations without access to asylum procedures, in violation of international law.

It also accuses the European Union of turning a blind eye to what it says is a blatant abuse of human rights.

The Turkish coast guard says it rescued over 300 migrants "pushed back by Greek elements to Turkish waters" this month alone.

Citing what they say are credible reports, international rights groups have called repeatedly for investigations.

Greece, which lies on the EU's southeastern border and has borne the brunt of migration flows from Turkey, denies the allegations and in turn accuses Ankara of weaponising migrants.

2 wounded in Paris knife attack outside Charlie Hebdo ex-offices

Paris: French terrorism authorities are investigating a knife attack that wounded at least two people on Friday near the former offices of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo in Paris, authorities said. A suspect has been arrested.

The area in eastern Paris remained cordoned off by police two hours after the attack. Children were being sequestered in nine schools while police worked to determine no other suspects were on the run, according to education

and police officials.

It is unclear what motivated the attack or whether it was linked to Charlie Hebdo, which moved after its offices were targeted in a 2015 Islamic extremist attack that left 12 people dead.

Police cordoned off the area, including the former Charlie Hebdo offices, after a suspect package was noticed nearby, but the package was found to be harmless and no explosives were found, according to a police official.

An investigation was

opened into "attempted murder in relation with a terrorist enterprise," according to an official at the prosecutor's office. Authorities did not release the identity of the suspect arrested in the area of the Bastille Plaza.

"I saw a guy that was in his 30s or 40s with an axe in his hand who was walking behind a victim covered in blood...I cant tell you how many victims there was, I just saw one," witness Kader Alfa told The Associated Press at the scene. **AP**

Trump victory in Nov will be worse for Assange: Lawyer

London: A lawyer for Julian Assange said on Friday that the WikiLeaks founder's situation will be worse if President Donald Trump is re-elected in November than if Democrat rival Joe Biden wins.

Edward Fitzgerald said at Assange's extradition hearing in London that Assange will suffer if he is sent to the US to face spying charges regardless of who wins the November 3 election. "Much of what we say about the fate which awaits Mr Assange remains good because it's about systemic faults in the prisons and his underlying

conditions," he said. But, he added, "it will be all the worse" if Trump is re-elected. US prosecutors have indicted Assange on 17 espionage charges and one charge of computer misuse over WikiLeaks' publication of secret American military documents a decade ago. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.

Assange's defense team argues that he is a journalist and entitled to First Amendment protections for publishing leaked documents that exposed US military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan. **AP**

China aims to make 1 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses a yr

Beijing: A Chinese health official said on Friday that the country's annual production capacity for coronavirus vaccines will top 1 billion doses next year, following an aggressive government support programme for construction of new factories.

Capacity is expected to reach 610 million doses by the end of this year, Zheng Zhongwei from the National Health Commission said. "Next

year, our annual capacity will reach more than 1 billion doses," he said at a news conference.

American pharmaceutical giants Pfizer and Moderna aim to produce a billion doses each in 2021 as well.

Zheng said distribution of the vaccines would prioritize groups such as medical workers, border personnel and the elderly before they are made available to the general public. **AP**

Belarus detains Opp leader's lawyer amid protests

Kyiv: Authorities in Belarus detained a lawyer representing a top opposition activist who was jailed this month amid mass protests against the country's authoritarian president, who won a sixth term in a disputed election.

The lawyer, Lyudmila Kazak, went missing on Thursday, with police confirming later in the day that she had been detained.

According to Kazak's

lawyers, she faces administrative charges of participating in an unauthorized rally and resisting a police officer.

Kazak was defending Maria Kolesnikova, a key member of a council Belarus' political opposition set up to push for a new presidential election.

Kolesnikova is facing charges of undermining state security that could bring a five-year prison term, if she is convicted. **AP**

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties

E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 29.10.2020 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 224,26,12,650/- (Rupees Two Hundred Twenty Four Crore Twenty Six Lakh Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty only), i.e. Rs. 77,48,05,821/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Crore Forty Eight Lakh Five Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty One only), Rs. 64,94,38,379/- (Rupees Sixty Four Crore Ninety Four Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Nine only) and Rs. 81,83,68,450/- (Rupees Eighty One Crore Eighty Three Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Fifty only) towards Loan Account Nos. S000240450, S000240451 and S000240667 respectively, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 04.09.2020 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 05.09.2020 legal expenses and other charges along with pending Tax Deducted at Source of Rs. 1,41,24,244/- (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty Four only), i.e. Rs. 76,13,167/- (Rupees Seventy Six Lakh Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty Seven only), Rs. 63,81,625/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five only) and Rs. 1,29,452/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty only) and Rs. 1,29,452/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty only), due to the Secured Creditor from BLISS VILLA (DELHI) PVT. LTD., B. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR) and R. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR).

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be 219,00,00,000/- (Rupees Two Hundred Nineteen Crore only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be 21,90,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Crore Ninety Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 114505001412 with ICICI Bank Ltd. (IFSC: ICIC0001145), having its branch at B1 and B2, Vaniya Nikunj, Enkay Tower, Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon - 122015 (Haryana) before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES)

ALL THAT PIECES OR PARCELS OF LAND/ PROPERTIES AS UNDER TOGETHER WITH ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE STRUCTURES, BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, FITTINGS, STANDING AND/ OR PLANT AND MACHINERY INSTALLED/ TO BE INSTALLED AND/ OR CONSTRUCTED/ TO BE CONSTRUCTED THEREON AND ALL PRESENT AND/ OR FUTURE RIGHTS, TITLE AND/ OR INTEREST OF BLISS VILLA (DELHI) PVT. LTD. THEREIN:

PLOT NO. 49 (MEASURING ABOUT 1,031.29 SQ. MTR. I.E. 1,233.30 SQ. YD.), BLOCK NO. 48, DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE, NOW KNOWN AS PROPERTY NO. 18, SITUATED AT KAUTILYA MARG, NEW DELHI - 110021, OWNED BY BLISS VILLA (DELHI) PVT. LTD. AND BUTTED AND BOUNDED BY IN THE:

NORTH BY : PLOT NO. 6
SOUTH BY : PLOT NO. 20 (VIETNAM EMBASSY)
EAST BY : KAUTILYA MARG
WEST BY : OTHER'S PROPERTY

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com and www.eauction.npasource.com.

Date : 24-09-2020
Place : NEW DELHI

Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age: 60/65 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'4", ID Mark: Old Injury on right feet below knee, was wearing White T-Shirt and White Lungi.** was found at Ajmeri Gate side, New Delhi Railway Station at 01:40 PM. In this regard a **DD NO. 12A, dated 23.09.2020, has been lodged at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi.** Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi
DPI/4473/Rly/2020 Ph.: 011-23744073, 8750871305

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Shakurbasti, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

1. Name of work and location	Plantation of 2310 no of plants, transplantation of 70 no's trees and maintenance of plants/trees on land of Railway in Delhi area Delhi-Rohatak Section.
2. Completion period of the work	04 Months
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 72.31 Lakh
4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 1,44,600/-
5. Sale/availability of tender document on Railway Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 05.10.2020 to 19.10.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
6. Last date/Time of upload of tenders	19.10.2020 upto 11.30 hrs. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 05.10.2020 to 19.10.2020.
7. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	19.10.2020 at 11.30 hours (Immediately after closed of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bid of the eligible tenderer would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on.
8. Opening of tender	19.10.2020 at 11.30 hours (Immediately after closed of uploading of tender).

No.: 370-ACS-C-SSB Date: 18.09.2020 2077/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

INCREASE IN FREQUENCY OF POORVA EXPRESS SPECIAL

This is notified for the information of all concerned that railways have decided to increase the frequency of train no. 02303/02304 Howrah Jn.- New Delhi Poorva special (via-Patna) & 02381/02382 Howrah Jn.- New Delhi Poorva Special (via-Dhanbad) as per following details:-

Train No. & Train Name	Days of Run	Date(s) from originating station
02303 Howrah Jn. - New Delhi Spl. Poorva Express (via-Patna)	From Howrah Mon, Tue, Fri & Sat	From 02.10.2020
02304 New Delhi Jn. - Howrah Spl. Poorva Express (via-Patna)	From New Delhi Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun	From 03.10.2020
02381 Howrah Jn. - New Delhi Spl. Poorva Express (via-Dhanbad)	From Howrah Wed, Thu & Sun	From 07.10.2020
02382 New Delhi Jn. - Howrah Spl. Poorva Express (via-Dhanbad)	From New Delhi Mon, Tue & Fri	From 08.10.2020

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Integrated Helpline No. 139 and Security Helpline No. 182

Please join us on 2082/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY
visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx Cost of work ₹	EMD ₹
1	BCT/20-21/209 dtd 25.09.2020	Joravasan - Surat Sec CTR (S/P) = 8,290 km in connection of sanctioned work CTR (S/P)=15,524 km	1,45,53,490.24	2,22,800.00
2	BCT/20-21/210 dtd 25.09.2020	Virar - Surat Section:- (i) TFR = 28.02km & TBR = 1.684 km (ii) Thick Web Switch Renewal & Deep Screening of P&C (iii) Rectification of bad layouts and TBR of P&C by use of T-28, JCB, Crane etc. (iv) Painting of AT weld collars & rails under ADEN / Surat in connection of sanctioned track work under CPWI/NAV/SARI.	1,36,62,443.61	2,18,300.00
3	BCT/20-21/211 dtd 25.09.2020	Virar - Surat Section:- (i) TFR = 28.02km & TBR = 1.684 km (ii) Thick Web Switch Renewal & Deep Screening of P&C (iii) Rectification of bad layouts and TBR of P&C by use of T-28, JCB, Crane etc. (iv) Painting of AT weld collars & rails under ADEN/Surat in connection of sanctioned track work under CPWI/SURAT	1,26,83,084.93	2,13,400.00

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, details tender condition please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offer will not be considered

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Around the Globe

Stockholm: Teenage environmental activist Greta Thunberg is back. She joined fellow demonstrators outside the Swedish Parliament on Friday to kick off a day of socially distanced global climate protests.

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Friday ordered the government to make public the judicial commission's report on the 2014 Peshawar school attack. Taliban militants stormed the Army Public School (APS) in the northwestern city of Peshawar on December 16, 2014, killing at least 150 people, including 131 students.

Cairo: At least 16 migrants trying to reach Europe drowned in the Mediterranean Sea when their small dinghy capsized off the coast of Libya, the UN migration agency reported Friday, the latest shipwreck to underscore the deadly risks facing those who flee the war-afflicted North African country.

Washington: Timothy Ray Brown, the first person known to have been cured of HIV infection, says he is now terminally ill from a recurrence of the cancer that prompted his historic treatment 12 years ago.

Lahore: Two Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists, who were planning an attack on vital installations in Pakistan's Punjab province, have been arrested, police said on Friday.

Tokyo: A woman has filed a suit against the Roman Catholic Church in Japan alleging that a priest raped her four decades ago, as the church's unfolding worldwide sexual abuse crisis gradually reaches Japan.

Centre used GST compensation cess elsewhere, violated law: CAG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CAG has found that the Union Government in the very first two years of the GST implementation wrongly retained ₹47,272 crore of GST compensation cess that was meant to be used specifically to compensate states for loss of revenue.

In its audit report of Government accounts, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagged that the amount was to be credited to the non-lapsable GST Compensation Cess collection fund for payment to states for loss of revenue due to implementation of GST since 2017,

but the Government did not do so, and thus violated the GST law.

"The GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017 provides for levy of cess for the purpose of providing compensation to the states for loss of revenue arising due to implementation of GST for a period specified in the Act," CAG said. As per the Act and the accounting procedure, the entire cess collected during the year is required to be credited to a non-lapsable Fund (the GST Compensation Cess Fund) which shall form part of the Public Account and shall be used for the purpose mentioned i.e., for providing com-

pensation to states for loss of revenue.

CAG said out of the Rs 62,612 crore GST Compensation Cess collected in 2017-18, ₹56,146 crore was transferred to the non-lapsable fund. In the following year (2018-19), ₹54,275 crore out of ₹95,081 crore collected was transferred to the fund.

The short transfer in 2017-18 was ₹6,466 crore and in 2018-19 it was ₹40,806 crore, CAG said adding the Centre used this money for "other purposes" which "led to an overstatement of revenue receipts and understatement of fiscal deficit for the year".

The short-crediting was a



violation of the GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017. The issue of compensation cess is driving a wedge between the Centre and states at the GST Council - the highest decision making body of the

GST regime that had subsumed 17 different central and state taxes such as excise duty and VAT.

States have not been paid their promised compensation for letting go their powers to

levy taxes on goods and services since last fiscal.

The Centre says a slowdown in the economy has meant that not enough money is being collected by way of cess that is levied on luxury and sin goods. The Centre has asked states to borrow for meeting the revenue shortfall. States ruled by Congress, Left, TMC and AAP have opposed the move completely arguing that the Centre should borrow and provide to states, since states have given majority of their taxation powers to the Centre under GST regime introduced in July 2017. The CAG findings run contrary to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's submis-

sions in Parliament last week that states could not be compensated for revenue shortfall from the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) relying on an opinion from the Attorney General of India which stated that there was no such provision in the law. "Audit examination of information in Statements 8, 9 and 13 with regard to the collection of the cess and its transfer to the GST Compensation Cess Fund, shows that there was short crediting to the Fund of the GST Compensation Cess collections totalling to ₹47,272 crore during 2017-18 and 2018-19," CAG said in the audit report.

The short-crediting, CAG

said, was a violation of the GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017.

"The amount by which the cess was short credited was also retained in the CFI and became available for use for purposes other than what was provided in the Act," it said. According to CAG, the Finance Ministry accepted the audit observation and stated in February 2020 that the proceeds of cess collected and not transferred to Public Account would be transferred in the subsequent year.

"Short crediting of cess collected during the year led to an overstatement of revenue receipts and understatement of fiscal deficit for the year," CAG said.

Chinese goods worth ₹20K Cr lying at ports

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Inflow of Chinese goods could see a rise in the October-December quarter as items worth about ₹20,000 crore - primarily comprising electronics and electrical items, gifts, toys, footwear, home and kitchen appliances - still lie at the Indian ports waiting for clearance.

The traders and importers who had placed their orders in November and December last year are yet to receive a chunk of their consignments. The unprecedented delay in delivery is due to the shutting down of Chinese borders in January and February, followed by the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lockdown in India which lasted for about two months beginning March 25.

Official data reveal India's imports from China during the April-August period of the current financial year stood at \$21.58 billion-a drop of 27.63 per cent, compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

"Chunks of orders placed by our traders in December last year are still to arrive. The goods have not yet reached as China was initially closed due to coronavirus and subsequently from March 25, India went into a stringent lockdown for about two months. So, a great deal of Chinese goods - essentially electronics and electrical items, gifts, toys, footwear, home and kitchen appliances -- still lying at the ports. Thus there could be a slight increase in the inflow of Chinese goods in the coming quarter," Praveen Khandelwal, secretary general, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said. However, Khandelwal said that traders have not placed fresh orders with China for these items since March. India's moves to shun Chinese goods India's growing clamor to reduce imports from China - especially cheap electronic and electrical items including mobile phones, home appliances, gifts and toys -- will deal a big blow to the dragon.

Markets snap 6-day falling streak; IT, banks lead charge

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex rallied 835 points on Friday after six days of declines as investors returned to buying mode amid a modest recovery in global markets.

A strengthening rupee - which spurred 28 paise against the US dollar - added to the momentum, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex opened higher following Thursday's selloff and stayed in the positive territory throughout the session.

It finally closed at 37,388.66, up 835.06 points or 2.28 per cent. Similarly, the NSE Nifty vaulted 244.70 points or 2.26 per cent to finish at 11,050.25.

All Sensex components ended in the green, with Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, L&T, TCS, ICICI Bank, ONGC, Infosys and Bajaj Finance gaining up to 6.64 per cent.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex lost 1,457.16 points or 3.83 per cent, while the Nifty tumbled 454.70 points or 4.04 per cent.

Global markets stabilised following an overnight pullback on Wall Street after reports said US lawmakers were working on a stimulus deal that could be voted on as early as next week.

Gold rises by ₹324, silver jumps ₹2,124

New Delhi: Gold prices rose by ₹324 to ₹50,824 per 10 gram in the national capital on Friday, halting its four-day decline on recovery in international price of the precious metal, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal closed at ₹50,500 per 10 gram in the previous trade. Silver prices also bounced back and gained ₹2,124 to ₹60,536 per kilogram from previous close of ₹58,412 per kilogram. Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi halted decline by rising Rs 324, in line with recovery in international prices, HDFC Securities Senior Analyst Tapan Patel said.

Govt operationalises 'Faceless Income Tax Appeals' system

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday issued a notification operationalising 'Faceless Income Tax Appeals' system which seeks to honour honest taxpayers of the country and promote transparency in tax collection.

Under faceless appeals, all Income Tax appeals will be finalised in a faceless manner under the faceless ecosystem with the exception of appeals relating to serious frauds, major tax evasion, sensitive and search matters, international tax and Black Money Act, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Necessary Gazette notification has also been issued in this regard, it added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 13, while launching the faceless assessment and taxpayers' charter as part of 'Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest' platform, had announced launching of faceless appeals on September 25 on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen

NECESSARY GAZETTE NOTIFICATION HAS ALSO BEEN ISSUED IN THIS REGARD

Dayal Upadhyay.

In recent years, the Income Tax Department has carried out several reforms in direct taxes for simplification of tax process and ease of compliance for taxpayers.

"Under the Faceless Appeals, from now on, in income tax appeals, everything from e-allocation of appeal, e-communication of notice/questionnaire, e-verification of enquiry to e-hearing and finally e-communication of the appellate order, the entire process of appeals will be online, dispensing with the need for any physical interface between the appellant and the Department," the ministry said.

India's first RRTS train design unveiled

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) unveiled the first look of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut regional rapid transit system (RRTS) on Friday. The 82 km-long RRTS corridor will be the first of its kind in India with a design speed of 180 kmph.

According to the ministry, with a stainless steel outer body, these aerodynamic RRTS trains will be lightweight and fully air-conditioned. Each car will have six automatic plug-in type wide doors, three on each side (Business Class will have four such doors, two on each side) for ease of access and exit. The RRTS trains will have transverse 2x2 seating with adequate legroom, optimized aisle width with grab handles, and grab poles for a comfortable journey for standing passengers, overhead luggage rack, mobile/laptop charging sockets and onboard Wi-Fi among other computer-centric features. "New Delhi's iconic Lotus Temple is an epitome of sustainability as its design allows flow of natural sources of light and air circulation.

On similar lines, RRTS

rolling stock will have lighting and temperature control systems to enhance the passenger experience with less energy consumption.

Equipped with modern amenities, the RRTS rolling stock will be a unique amalgamation of new-age technology and India's rich heritage," the ministry said. The prototype is scheduled to roll off the production line in 2022 and will be put into public use after extensive trials.

Unveiling the first look of India's first RRTS train today, MoHUA Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra said that the environment friendly, energy-efficient rapid transit trains will improve the quality of life in and around NCR by accelerating economic growth. The project will also create economic opportunities by reducing air pollution, carbon footprint, congestion, and accidents. Bombardier was awarded the contract by NRTC earlier this year to design, build and deliver the regional commuter and intra-city transit trains with comprehensive maintenance services for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut semi-high-speed rail corridor under RRTS Phase 1.

Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building,
Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

O.A. No. 882/2018
State Bank of India

Sh. Gaurav Singh and Anr.

Applicant

Defendants

1. Mr. Gaurav Singh (Borrower) S/o Late Mr. Ajit Singh House No. 7/169, 2nd Floor, Block-7, Pindi Tent House, Geeta Colony, New Delhi-110031.

SECOND ADDRESS House No. 657/2D, Shivkoti, Tehsil-Allahabad Sadar, Distt. Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211002.

THIRD ADDRESS J-3/65B, Krishna Kunj, J. Extn., Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi-110092.

FOURTH ADDRESS Ambedkar Institute of Advanced Communication Technology And Research, Geeta Colony, New Delhi-110031.

2. M/s. IDEA Builders Pvt. Ltd. (Builder) Registered Office : C-294, 1ST Floor, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-110095.

SECOND ADDRESS C-10, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011.

THIRD ADDRESS Kharsa No. 998, Red Apple Residency, National Highway-58, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201003.

Fourth Address 2-C, DDA Flats, Nirman Vihar, New Delhi-110092

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 29,31,600.02 (Rs. Twenty Nine Lacs Thirty One Thousand Six Hundred and Paise Two Five Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 28-01-2021 at 10.30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.drttribunal.gov.in) Phone No. 011-23748473)

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application / Software;

(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by 'Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/ and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head.

(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 08th day of September, 2020

by order of this Tribunal for Registrar

Respondent may contact under mention phone number for further enquiry.

Amrit K. Dar, Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi Phone:- 011-23748473

E-mail: regdrt1delhi-dfs@nic.in, drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in

PNB commences Phase-3 of nationwide CSR campaign 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'



New Delhi: India's second-largest public sector bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB) commenced the Phase-3 of its nationwide CSR campaign to create awareness against the menace of COVID-19 pandemic and provide its prevention materials. The third phase campaign titled "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" is to honour the ex-servicemen and farmers through its rural and semi-urban branches in 662 districts, across India.

In the third phase, PNB senior officials across the country distributed facemasks and sanitizer kits through its rural

and semi-urban branches. As a part of its CSR initiative, PNB also believes that such actions can motivate other establishments to come forward to contribute for the betterment of our society in many ways.

After its successful Phase 1 and 2 countrywide CSR campaign, to fight against COVID-19, which was initiated with a lot of fervour, PNB in Phase - 3 of CSR campaign honoured retired soldiers and farmers across India for their unflinching commitment & services offered to the country with utmost generosity and gallantry throughout their entire life.

Surender Babbar takes over as Director (Finance) PITCUL



Surender babbar, General Manager (Finance) of Delhi Transco Ltd has joined Power Transmission Corporation of Utrahand, Govt of Utrahand as Director (Finance). Babbar is a Chartered Accountant by Profession having enrolled as the member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Of India in 1990. Having deep passion and flair in law, Babbar graduated in Law (LLB) from University of Delhi in 1994 and Masters in Law (LLM) in 2006 from University of Kurukshetra. He has a multi-farious experience of 30 years in the fields of Contract law, Tax laws, electricity laws.

Google Pay doesn't share customer transaction data with any 3rd party outside payments flow: Google

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Google on Friday said Google Pay does not share customer transaction data with any third party outside the payments flow.

The clarification from Google came after reports cited the company's submission to the Delhi High Court saying it is allowed to share customers transaction data with third parties with the prior permission of NPCI and payment service providing (PSP) banks.

This is to clarify that press reports on the basis of the affidavit filed by Google before the Delhi High Court, do not represent the complete facts," a Google spokesperson said on Friday. The spokesperson added that Google Pay is in full compliance with Unified Payment Interface (UPI) procedural guidelines, issued by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the applicable laws.

"...And does not share customer transaction data with any third party outside the



payments flow," the spokesperson further said. The submission by Google was filed before a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan in response to a PIL seeking action against Google Pay for allegedly violating the RBI's guidelines related to data localisation, storage and sharing.

NHAI agrees to NHBF suggestions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In order to resolve issues and increase the pace of construction of highway projects, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has agreed to most of the suggestions made by the National Highways Builders Federation (NHBF) related to project delivery. The suggestions were made pertaining to nine areas that included Covid relief, bidding process, contract management, old & new model EPC agreements, Improvement of Concession Agreement of Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), Improvement of Concession Agreement Based

on BOT (Toll) and Project Preparation.

As per the Road Transport Ministry, the NHAI has reported that the suggestions made by NHBF were deliberated upon by them for proper redressal and the Authority has agreed to 25 suggestions which were related to it.

"The Central road making agency has also assured that all good suggestions will be positively considered in future too. NHAI has further reported that other suggestions pertaining to policy related matters have been sent to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for consideration," said a NHAI statement.

Review meeting, CEO Narendra Bhushan gave guidelines to give speed to important projects of Greater Noida



PNS ■ GREATER NOIDA

In order to give impetus to various important projects of Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority, a review meeting of various departments of the Authority was convened today, which was given by the Chief Executive Officer of Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority, Narendra Bhushan

to all the Heads and Project Heads through video conferencing. While addressing, issued necessary guidelines. Officers associated with Project Department, Health Department, Urban Services Department participated in this meeting. Additional Chief Executive Officer Deepchandra, Additional Chief Executive Officer Krishna Kumar Gupta.

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
TENDER NOTICE NO SK/RC/03 of 2020-21
Annual Rate Contract

Sr No.	Item	Tender ID
1	Supply of Three Phase Horizontal Mono Submersible Pump Sets. (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	427499
2	ISI Marked different size of U.P.V.C casing Pipes. (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only).	427320
3	ISI Marked different size heavy duty G.I.Column Pipes. (only Indian Manufacturer)	427491
4	ISI Marked different size H.D.P.E. Pipes (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	427498
5	ISI Marked 32mm dia Medium Duty G.I.Pipes (only Indian Manufacturer)	427322
6	Cage Type Trapezoidal Shape "V" Wine Wound Low Carbon Galvanized / Stainless Steel - 304 Screen Pipes. (only Indian Manufacturer)	427512
7	Spares for Deepwell Hand pumps-Standard and Extra Deep and Tool Kits. (only Indian Manufacturer)	427321

Pre-bid meeting on Dtd. 05.10.2020 at 12.00 Hrs. at GWSSB
Last Date of Online Submission of Tender: 21/10/2020
Bid Opening Date: 22/10/2020 at 15.00 Hrs.
Contact Office : Executive Engineer, Public Health Mechanical Store Division, "A" Block, Patnagar Yojana Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Near GH-4, Sector-16, Gandhinagar 382 016, Gujarat State. Tel/fax. No. (079) 23222844, 9978406605.
The detailed tender notice and tender documents are available on web site: www.gwssb.org and www.nprocure.com
For Village Level Drinking water Complaint Please Contact our toll Free No : 1916

Executive Engineer
P.H. Mech. Store Division
Guj.W.S.& S. Board.
Gandhinagar

No/INF/VPN/2020/G/920

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 6th Floor, S.D. Tower, Plot No- 7 Community Centre, Sector- 8, Rohini, New Delhi- 110085.

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	M/s. Abhiyan Cargo Private Limited. (Borrower) M/s. Abhiyan Logistics Pvt.Ltd. (Guarantor) Mr. Narayan Prasad Lohia. (Guarantor) Mr. Pulak Vardhan Lohia. (Guarantor) Mr. Nikesh Drolia. (Guarantor) Account No.000751000404.	Commercial Property Being Premises No. 61 A, Ambassador Apartment, Park Street, Suite No. 12, On First Floor, P.S. Park Street, Kolkata- 700016. Carpet Area 1700 Sq. Ft. (As Per The Sale Deed) And Super Built up Area- 2444 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 16,71,05,361.54/- (As on August 31, 2020).	Rs. 3,08,00,000/- Rs. 30,80,000/-	November 02, 2020 From 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM	November 12, 2020 From 11:30AM onwards.

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ Noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till November 11, 2020 before 05:00 P.M. else this secured asset will be sold as per schedule.
The Prospective Bidder (s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 6th Floor, S.D. Tower, Plot No- 7 Community Centre, Sector- 8, Rohini, New Delhi- 110085 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before November 11, 2020 before 03:00 P.M. along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder (s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 6th Floor, S.D. Tower, Plot No- 7 Community Centre, Sector- 8, Rohini, New Delhi- 110085 on or before November 11, 2020 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 09163343439 / 09560905989 or M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 0869708233 / 09810029926.
Please note that Marketing Agencies 1. M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited, 2. Augoe Asset Management Pvt. Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.
The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s.
Date: September 25, 2020
Place: New Delhi
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

SHORT CIRCUITS

ANUSHKA SHARMA

Mr Gavaskar, your message is distasteful and I would love if you could explain why you thought of making such a sweeping statement on a wife accusing her for her husband's game? I'm sure over the years you have respected the private lives of every cricketer while commenting on the game. Don't you think you should have equal amount of respect for me and us?



JAVED AKHTAR

If Karan Johar (producer-director) had invited some farmers too for his party, life would have been easier for our TV channels. They would not have had to choose between farmers protest and Karan's party! It seems that Karan's is the second most favourite 'party' of our channels.



RAVEENA TANDON

Half-baked truths about the film industry catch TRP ratings. The crisis in the world is being forgotten by abusive judgements/vilification, people guilty before probe is plain right a public lynching. If proved wrong, will media ever able to restore their reputations, credibility?

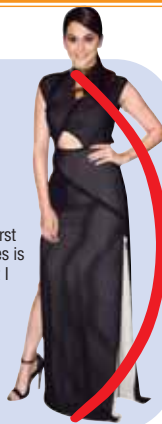


TAMANNA BHATIA

I've always been an ardent fan of Tabu's work and it is such an honour to reprise a role played by her. The original film, *Andhadhun*, has this psychological influence on people and succeeded in inducing a sense of curiosity. What I loved about the film was the brilliance of the script and the screenplay. It had no hero or no villain.

TAAPSEE PANNU

Moments before I went on stage to do try my hand at stand-up comedy for the first time ever, bundles of nerves is an understatement of what I looked like. I'm glad the frequency of my humour matched the audience's expectations so we could create a moment of resonance that still gives me giggles to cherish.



FLASHBACK 60 MINUTES



Delhi's permanent rulers, Rhesus monkeys, recaptured North Avenue mocking the virus and the residents who covered inside their government flats



I still wake up on most dawns in sweat, shattered with the horror and sadness, and sheer loneliness of bodies that came, day in, day out, to the Nigambodh Electric Crematorium, the Muslim Burial Ground and the Christian Cemetery



A solitary vintage Fiat in Connaught Place's Outer Circle, facing the shut stores on the side of Minto Bridge



A doctor ready to enter the critical zone ward at AIIMS

A PICTURE SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORDS

Author and photographer PARUL SHARMA's book of black-and-white photographs, *Dialects of Silence: Delhi Under Lockdown*, presents a visual narrative of a locked-down capital, chronicling how lives were paused, lost and regained. By CHAHAK MITTAL



'Surely we belong to Allah, and to Him shall we return'

At an empty Rajpath, there was stillness, one that the city had never breathed. At the Anand Vihar Bus Station, there were crowds of migrant labourers, unprotected and unsanitised, betrayed by people's apathy and denial of their plight. At the Nigambodh Crematorium, Kashmir Gate, there were COVID dead bodies arriving in crowded ambulances. At the Muslim Burial Ground, Dilli Gate, a young widow read the *fatiah* for her dead husband. At the Christian Cemetery, an infant waited for an unknown gravedigger to perform his last rites as he was abandoned by his parents when they learned he was COVID-positive. Outside the Trauma Centre of AIIMS, there were doctors full of courage preparing to enter the Covid Care Unit, wearing PPE, just to witness another day of victory and loss at the same time.

Amid all these unusual sights, there was author-photographer Parul Sharma capturing this horror show by a deadly pathogen and the frozen reality of life that the world had left behind while hiding from the Coronavirus during the lockdown. The photographs, now published into a book, *Dialects of Silence: Delhi Under Lockdown*, present a visual narrative of a locked-down capital and a chronicle of lives paused, lives lost and lives regained.

When asked, "Were you afraid?" Parul said, "Of course, I was... Of missing that one shot that I would never find again!" For her, the rush was to cover the city before its stillness shattered and the struggles for being alive turned graver.

Excerpts:

What made you go for it? Was it pre-decided that you would publish these photographs into a book?

No, when I took to the streets, there was no thought of getting a book published in my mind. It was just my obsession with photography and my passion. It was very frightening because there was nobody on the streets. Everything was shut, and not a single soul was seen in miles. I began with capturing the architecture and the deserted roads but



Dialects of Silence (Cover)



Not all have home in a village to go back to — life goes on in makeshift homes under the Dwarka flyover

then the narrative changed when the COVID death rate started rising. There was one thing — either I stopped there or I continue shooting. And so it happened. I continued capturing the migrants, doctors in the COVID wards and the burial grounds and crematoriums.

In June, we decided to turn this all into a book.

Why did you call it *Dialects of Silence*?

There is a conversation right from the beginning of the book, which is more architectural. I went out in pursuit of having a conversation with my city. I have been born and brought up here. My parents have grown up in this city. And I just went out there to cap-



ture the undisturbed view of the architecture of my city, the stillness which had crept in due to the lockdown, and above all, the beauty of Delhi. The city actually looked very beautiful during that time.

I just did not know that I'll be turning it into a book. I became a news photographer over night when the migrant story broke and when I started capturing the deaths.

It kind of highlights how even silence has its own language and speaks volumes...

Yes, that's how it actually came — the idea of having a conversation with silence. There was absence everywhere and when I interpret dialects of silence,

it also means its different kinds — some conversations were joyous and some were completely opposite, some had sorrows, some had hope, some had anxiety, some were full of fear while some had courage.

When I was shooting the doctors, it was not that I was having some long-drawn conversations with them. I was documenting them doing their job. Even though there was silence in the wards, but there was courage in the air which was speaking to me. They did not have to tell me that now they are heading towards the COVID wing to check on the patients. They didn't tell me that they had courage, it was written on their faces, in their demeanour and in their body language. I'd say, even their PPE

couldn't conceal it. And therefore, the 'dialects'.

What were the on-ground challenges?

There were many challenges, of course. But I didn't allow them to come my way. I kept trying to absorb them as they came. I don't like anything to come in between my determination. So I didn't focus much on that part.

Do you think witnessing such a phenomenon would have been possible without a lockdown ever?

I don't think so. It's Delhi we are talking about. Walking down those empty lanes, I saw police guards on duty; monkeys taking over the empty streets, having the whole road to themselves; crows and birds, in flight, unperturbed. Once some guards also asked me if I could feed the stray dogs as people have stopped stepping out and feeding them. Such gestures proved how nobody was there for each other and at the same time, everyone was. They were concerned for each other. It's both the ways and it began a dialogue between me and those dogs I fed, and the guards who were the only humans I came across. I have never seen or captured Delhi in such a frame.

You've captured the COVID burial grounds, and bodies being cremated in electric crematoriums. Witnessing such a saddening sight so closely, did it impact you personally?

Oh my god, yes! It had psychological implications. I think that's the first thing that gets hit in such scenarios — psychological health. There are people who may capture a great tragedy but at the same time, they won't be personally moved by it as that varies from person to person. But for someone like me, it affects psychologically. I could not sleep for those nights.

There are also other factors hitting you — how did the people contract the virus? What if you also contract it? And end up the same way? How active is the virus even now? Should you be near these bodies? What if it's more potent right now? How long before it dies completely? There's a constant conflict. And with this virus, you can never know. People are contracting the virus even while sitting inside their homes. You do feel scared.

Then come the sensory aspects — sight, sound, smell. Especially, when you visit a place like a crematorium, smell plays a huge role because the air is so putrid, nobody wants to be inside. Capturing such a place is not like shooting architecture or a beautiful landscape. You can leave it there and come back with a relaxed mind. You have enjoyed that moment and it lingers on with you. But after returning home from a place like this, it's difficult to switch off. You don't forget it as easily. Your coping mechanism has to be strong.

Reconciling something tragic is difficult...

Indeed. I don't know whether I would ever be able to forget those images in my head. Especially, those episodes where I saw a young widow reading the *fatiah* of her husband being buried and how the last rites of a COVID-dead child were being performed by a stranger. I remember I was inside an electric cremation centre and after a point of time, I was all alone and there were two COVID dead bodies lying three feet away from me. They were wrapped in plastic sheet. When I

turned back, I saw another ambulance arriving, which had five more dead bodies. Similar to a war-like scenario, after one round of disposal, quickly, there were more of them coming and more...

It was tough to navigate things. At times you're also fearful that something might happen to you or your family. A lot of composure was required to also capture the dead bodies with an aesthetic and giving them the due respect. You can't make it look bizarre or dramatic.

In the book, there's a caption — "June was the cruelest month..."

There were many deaths in June. The migrant crisis had broke out, the Shramik Special started, a lot of migrants died in road accidents and on tracks, and the COVID death rate in India started rising and people were dying. And it's still continuing.

You have captured how the pandemic gave birth to a migrant labour crisis in India. How do you think photographs create a history of their own?

Photographs create history. I got one of the biggest compliments recently when I was told that my photographs remind them, especially the migrant mother-and-child series, of the famous American photographer Dorothea Lange, who had shot a lot of migrants in America during the Great Depression. Lange said that 'if you're taking a picture, take it as if you were to become blind tomorrow. Don't shoot for the sake of it.'

Not that I was governed by her aesthetics but I looked for hope and beauty. The migrants that I have shot were not in motion. I didn't shoot them during movement. I saw some sitting waiting at bus stands, railways junctions or under a flyover. It was very heartbreaking to see a family of six who had a disabled, malnourished child. They could not travel with her back to their village because it was difficult to carry the child. That image has now been picked by Getty images.

What's your take on the migrant crisis?

As a Delhiite, I feel, we should have done something for those people. Buses and food supplies were organised later but as a society, there is a collective apathy we have for situations like these. We love to play the blame game — the government doesn't do its job — and just present a drawing room view of the crisis. I think the migrants were not betrayed by the government, they were betrayed by their employers. The people just washed their hands off them when the lockdown began. And no government could be prepared for a crisis like this!

Was there a specific reason of keeping the photographs black and white?

It's raw. First section of the book — architecture — reminds me of Delhi of the '40s, devoid of people, cars, and pollution, which is why I tried to give them a retro touch. I didn't want to give colour to the deaths I've captured. The doctors, whose courage gave hope to millions, and the scenario they are in, it's devoid of colours.

There is also a special photograph, the last one, the only one which has been composed. It shows how the virus took a toll on even romance and love. I had to make a couple pose to make that frame I imagined come alive. It makes the book end on a hopeful and a positive note.

Photos: Parul Sharma (in *Dialects of Silence*, published by Roli Books)

CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES

FEEL THE PULSE

Director MAQBOOL KHAN talks to SAKSHI SHARMA about the newness of the characters in his forthcoming film *Khaali Peeli*, commercial entertainers and the importance of youth-centric films in today's time

Be it Dev Anand in *Taxi Driver* (1954), Amitabh Bachchan in *Khuddaar* (1982) or Amir Khan in *Raja Hindustani* (1996), there have been various films impressing their generations with the portrayals of a taxi driver. Maqbool Khan-directorial *Khaali Peeli* seems to be the next in line. The entire film has been designed keeping this Gen Z in mind as the director feels that the generation after 90s haven't watched many masala films like he did in the 80s and 90s.

It is a romantic comedy flick revolving around the lives of two childhood friends, who separate due to inevitable circumstances. Actor Ishaan Khatter plays the role of Blackie, a taxi driver and actor Ananya Panday (as Pooja Gujar) is a girl who comes from a conservative family and wants to be on her own. Excerpts of our conversation with the filmmaker.

◆How did you conceptualise the film with the 90s vibe in a contemporary setup?

I shifted to Mumbai in early 90s and have been living here for 25 to 30 years. Based out of Rajasthan, earlier, I used to go to Mumbai during summer vacations. It has always been a fascinating city and has attracted me since it was known as Bombay. The *Kali Peeli* taxi is the city's most iconic thing. So when we were toying up the idea of creating this entire story, we intentionally decided to create something around Mumbai and the taxi. That's how it was incorporated in the story. The guy (Ishaan) who drives the taxi is the hero of the film. He's a very street-smart kind of person. The story gradually becomes interesting when you see the colourful life of Mumbai as well as its dark sides through his point of view.

◆There have been many Bollywood characters based on drivers of a *Kaali Peeli* taxi in Mumbai in the past. How do you think Ishaan's character is different? Has it been inspired from any real-life instances?

Yes. There have been instances and films where heroes have portrayed taxi *wallas* earlier but I haven't seen a young actor in his mid-20s attempting something like this as far as recent films are concerned. This is the newness of this character. Also, Ishaan has a huge fan following among the youngsters which will help us establish a good connect with them.

The look, style and various dialogues are inspired from real instances. In Mumbai, out of 10 taxi



drivers you will find at least two to three the way Ishaan's character is portrayed in the film. You will find too many heroes in real life when you travel in a taxi or an auto rickshaw there. If you observe them closely, you realise that their personality, body language and the way they interact with passengers is not less than a hero because they see and worship Bollywood heroes every day. They are so quirky, colourful and the kind of one liner they use is outstanding. That's how the whole idea of creating a character like this came about.

◆How does the film attempt to take us back to the retro times? What are some of the nuances?

From the trailer itself you can make out various nuances — the sounds, background score and dialect — is very retro yet contemporary, keeping today's generation in mind. It will remind you of one of the finest music directors, RD Burman, who was way ahead of his time. The dialogues in the film are used in everyday language of Mumbai. When you go on the streets or in an auto Rickshaw, you will find them. The entire first teaser that we released has the cricket reference in it as it is worshiped like a religion here. It's not a sport merely, it's an emotion. We live for cricket. That was exciting for the young generation, probably the reason they connected with the trailer and song. This film has been made keeping the youngsters in mind. They are the pulse of it. I wondered if I had to cater a typical Bollywood masala film how do I do that? So, the entire film has been designed keeping this generation in mind as I feel they haven't watched many masala films which I have in my 80s and 90s.

◆How easy or challenging was it to work with Ishaan and Ananya? How did you manage to get them into the skin of the character,

especially in terms of the dialect?

Honestly, it was a very difficult task for me. They both are such a bundle of energy that I had to match the pace of my energy with them. As a filmmaker, I had to take control and channel their energy in the right direction. If we talk about the dialect, it was important for their characters to speak the colloquial language of Mumbai in order to be relatable. Hence, they were trained for two months to get it on point. They are young but still very sorted in their heads. They exactly know what they want from life. When I was their age, I didn't know what I had to do in life. They both are very well read, sensible enough, aware and informed about what's going around the world in terms of cinema. I have learned a lot from these kids.

◆Ananya's character seems to be of a girl from a conservative background, who just wants to break free and be on her own. Women have been portrayed in that scenario before in many films. How is this one different?

It was intentional. We wanted to create a character of a girl, who is from a conservative and underprivileged background yet who's progressive in her thoughts and aspires of living a life of her dreams. Today's girls are very smart and independent. Ananya's character is exactly similar to that. If she's put in a situation where it's difficult to sustain and survive, she will make sure she gets out of that smartly. She is basically *Nehle Pe Dehla*. It's a pure commercial entertainer, full of action, romance, drama, humour and thriller. The film will take one back in the 90s when Mumbai was known as Bombay.

◆If we look at content these days, it has changed drastically, especially with OTT taking over...

How do you think such commercial entertainers will survive amid the flood of unconventional and innovative content? How do you see its future?

I believe there has always been a future to all kinds of cinema. There are some people who still crave for commercial masala films. For instance, *Simmba* is a commercial out and out film and it did quite well. I feel everything co-exist in our society. As humans, we adapt to the situation like we are adapting to the current chaotic and unprecedented times. I can recall the time when commercial cinema was dominating but at the same time, you also had films like *Saaransh*, *Daddy*, *Sadak* and *Dharavi*. Different kinds of films survived it all together that too very beautifully. So I feel there will always be a room and space for every kind of cinema and every kind of genre.

◆The song, initially titled *Beyonce Sharma Jayegi*, has now been changed to *Duniya Sharma Jayegi*. It has been perceived in a very racist manner and disapproved by the audience around the world, including Beyonce herself. Do you think such item numbers in Bollywood have long lost their popularity among the Indian audience given that how the lyrics sometimes turn out to be hurtful of people's sentiments?

It was picked out of context. A certain section of audience brought this to our notice which none had thought including the music director and the lyrics writer. If at all we knew that it can taken into this direction, we would have never used such words. The word *Goriya* has been used so often in Indian songs to address a girl that it didn't occur to any of us to interpret it in the literal manner. I can recall a few songs that has the word *Goriya* — *Chura Ke Dil Mera Goriya Chali* from the film *Main Khiladi Tu Anari*, *Gori Tera Gaon Bada Pyara* from *Chitchor* and *Goriya Re Goriya* from *Aaina*. The word has always been used to refer a girl. You don't dance on lyrics, you dance on the beats of the song as music connects you to the soul.

(The film releases on October 2.)



TRIBUTE 15 MINUTES

A lost battle

Music connoisseurs along with singer Asha Bhosle mourn the loss of playback legend SP BALASUBRAHMANYAM. She recalls how he sang songs for RD Burman and helped her with Tamil pronunciation for her song with Ilayaraja

Famed playback singer and Padma awardee SP Balasubrahmanyam, popular as SPB or Balu in the film world, passed away on Friday afternoon.

In a statement issued on Friday the hospital said, "In a further setback this morning, despite maximal life support measures and the best efforts of the clinical team, his condition deteriorated further and he suffered a cardio-respiratory arrest. With profound grief, we regret to inform that he has passed away on September 25 at 13.04 hours."

Balasubrahmanyam was a great achiever. He recorded over 40,000 songs in 16 languages and bagged six National Awards over a period of five decades. He is a recipient of civilian awards such as Padma Shri (2001) and Padma Bhushan (2011) from the Government of India. He intended to be an engineer but had a fall-out due to a bout of typhoid. SPB made his playback debut in 1966 Telugu film *Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna*.

Famed director Bharathiraja, after visiting the iconic singer at the



hospital, told the media at this time of grief he was not able to speak anything. "Even now there is some ray of hope. There is one power above us all," Bharathiraja said.

SPB and veteran actor Kamal Haasan have been a popular combination of the audience for long. Stating that Balasubrahmanyam is a national voice, Kamal Haasan noted how the departed icon was an artist who celebrated talent. Kamal said, "When the bond gets really close, you actually forget the first meeting. He had been part of my romance, first love, melancholy." "He was a national voice. You can't restrict him to just Tamil language. He was a huge fan of Mohammed Rafi and Kishore Kumar. I think it's the duty of the younger generation to learn from the older generation and excel. SPB was able to do that," added he.

Tamil superstar Rajinikanth also expressed his grief. He shared a video speaking in Tamil, where he

said, "Today is a very sad day for everybody. SPB struggled till the last minute. I am in deep pain. Today, all music lovers, people who knew him and everyone, are in deep sorrow. His voice and songs are loved by people across the country. He always tried to help people seeking new opportunities. That's why he was loved by all. Indian cinema has created many great singers but SPB is special. His songs will continue to win hearts for more than 100 years. He was a great soul and a great singer. May his soul rest in peace. I offer my condolences to his family."

Lata Mangeshkar tweeted, "Pratibhashaali gayak, madhurbhasha, bahut nek insaan SP Balasubrahmanyam ji ke swargwas ki khabar sunke main bahut vyathit hun. Humne kai gaane saath gaye, kai shows kiye. Sab baatein yaad aarahi hain. Ishwar unki aatma ko shanti de. Meri samvedanaayein unke pariwar ke saath hain (I am

heartbroken to learn about the demise of gifted singer, soft-spoken person and a very good human being SP Balasubrahmanyam. We have recorded so many songs and performed several shows together. I am reminded of those beautiful memories of the olden days. May god rest his soul in peace. My condolences with his family.)"

Asha Bhosle said, "This year has seen a lot of unfortunate events. And the news of SPB's demise makes me even sadder. He was a versatile artist. His duet with Lata *didi* was very memorable. Balu sang a lot of songs for RD Burman and was his great friend. He had helped me a lot with my Tamil pronunciation in my song for Ilayaraja. The loss of such a great artist has left a huge void in the music world. I wish his soul to rest in peace in this musical journey to be one with the almighty. RIP Balu."

—With inputs from agencies

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Vijay Kumar S/o Chhavi Lal R/o H.No. 12, Gali No.-1, Kotta Vihar Phase-4, Ranhola, Delhi Aged- 44 Years has been reported missing/ kidnapped since 04.08.2020 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi vide DD No. 06-A Dated 05.08.2020 has been registered at Police Station Ranhola, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Wheatish, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Long, **ID Mark:** Mentally weak, **Wearing:** White coloured vest, black coloured shorts and hawai slippers in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Ranhola, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>



Vijay Kumar

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641
FAX No. : 011-24368639
DP/368/OD/2020

Sd/-
SHO, Ranhola, Delhi
Tel. : 011-28363001,
28363001, 28363003

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo), Namely: Vijay Parkash, S/o: Eshwar Narayan, R/o: 98-A, Sainik Enclave, Mohan Garden, Delhi, Aged: 21 years, has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi since 22.07.2020 at vide DD No. 38-A, Dated 27.07.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. His physical description is as under:
Height: 5' Feet, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Black Colour T-Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans and Chappale in feet.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/ kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Ranhola, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641



Vijay Parkash

DP/323/OD/2020. Ph. : 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003

S.H.O
P.S. Ranhola, Delhi

DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATS DEPTT. HARYANA

Notice Inviting Tender
Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the hiring of 1 nos. vehicle Maruti Suzuki Ciaz (Petrol/Diesel) only from the owners of the above category of vehicles for the official use of Superintending Engineer (PR) Rohtak as per Govt. policy . The tender should be submitted in the office of the undersigned along with a security of Rs. 12000/- per vehicle on dated 09-10-2020 up to 11:30AM and will be opened on the same date at 12:00 Noon in the presence of bidders or their representatives who may want to remain present in office of the undersigned. The Security should be deposited in the shape of DAC/Bank Draft in favour of Superintending Engineer (PR) Rohtak. The terms and conditions and the tender format can be had from O/o the Superintending Engineer (PRPW) Circle Rohtak, Zila Vikas Bhawan, Rohtak on any working day during office hours. The tender without security will be rejected straight way. Conditional tenders will not be accepted. If the above date is declared as holidays the tender will be received & opened on the next working day at the same venue. The Superintending Engineer (PRPW) Circle Rohtak reserves the rights to reject all or any of the tenders without assigning any reason.

Superintending Engineer (PR) Rohtak

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Alesh Loresh

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Alesh Loresh, D/o: Shri Sanjeev Loresh Kumar, R/o: H. No. RZF-903/14, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Raj Nagar-II, Palam, New Delhi has been reported missing since 07.07.2020 from the area of PS Palam Village, New Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 474/20 dated 07.07.2020 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Palam Village, New Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Alesh Loresh, **Age:** Approx 14 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Normal Black/White, **Wearing:** Dark Red T-Shirt, Black colour Lower and green colour chappal in foot.

If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S Palam Village, New Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, **Fax:** 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station, Palam Village, New Delhi
DP/187/SW/2020 **Ph.:** 011-25365981, 7065036227

It is just the second match and in the first match, we won because of the death bowling. So, it is too early. We bowled well but KL batted so well

Anil sir has always asked me to back strength in my bowling and skill. He asked me not to try too many things and try to be cool and calm in the middle

We have had a good game (against Sunrisers Hyderabad). We have had a bad game and now it is time to move on and learn from the mistakes we made

Once I am in the middle and during the toss is the only time I feel like a captain and otherwise I try to balance being a player and the captain

PTI ■ DUBAI

Young Prithvi Shaw struck a fluent half-century and shared a 94-run opening stand with Shikhar Dhawan to guide Delhi Capitals to 175 for three against Chennai Super Kings in an Indian Premier League match here on Friday.

Shaw made 64 off 43 balls in the company of Dhawan (35 off 27 balls, 3 fours, 1 six) to provide a superb start to DC's innings after being put into bat.

The duo started slowly, scoring just 36 runs of the first six overs of powerplay before opening up to stitch 94 runs for the opening wicket in 10.4 overs.

Shaw got into his stride, hitting two consecutive boundaries off Deepak Chahar.

The Mumbai youngster didn't appear to rush things and played some attractive shots.

Once CSK skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni introduced the spin duo of Piyush Chawla and Ravindra Jadeja in the seventh over, both Shaw and Dhawan went on the offensive.

Chawla, who was taken apart by Sanju Samson in their previous game against Rajasthan Royals, came in for some rough treatment as did Jadeja who went wicketless in his four overs (0/44).

Dhawan after playing second fiddle for a while, joined the party and hit a couple of attractive boundaries and slogged Jadeja's first ball for a six over mid-wicket.

The DC openers hammered 58 in the next 4.4 overs after the slow start.

Chawla broke the dangerous-looking partnership by remov-

Shaw stopper

Prithvi shines as Delhi Capitals make 175/3 against CSK



MS Dhoni stumped out Prithvi Shaw during Delhi Capitals innings

ing both Dhawan and Shaw in consecutive overs.

Rishabh Pant (37 not out, 25 balls) and captain Shreyas Iyer (26, 22 balls) pushed the scoreboard along before the latter was caught by a diving Dhoni off Sam Curran as CSK managed to pull things back.

CSK players also paid tribute to veteran singer S P Balasubrahmanyam and former Australian cricketer Dean Jones by wearing black armbands.

Iyer achieves unique record

team, replacing Gautam Gambhir. The franchise has had 11 captains so far.

Iyer, who is the youngest captain in this year's IPL, so far has been successful skipper for the Delhi Capitals. In 2019, Iyer also led Delhi Capitals to the playoffs of the season where they lost against MS Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings.

Gavaskar's 'misinterpreted' comment on Kohli-Anushka creates controversy

Dubai: Sunil Gavaskar on Friday found himself in the midst of a controversy for a comment on India skipper Virat Kohli and his wife Anushka Sharma but the legendary batsman asserted that his remarks, construed as sexist, were misinterpreted.

Kohli had a bad day in office on Thursday when he led Royal Challengers Bangalore against Kings XI Punjab. He dropped two catches of rival skipper KL Rahul and managed only a run off five balls in chase.

While Kohli was still at crease, Gavaskar said 'India captain is keen to improve and he knows that he can do so only by practicing more and more'. He then added that 'during the lockdown Kohli faced only Anushka's bowling and it is shocking that it did not help much'.

Gavaskar was speaking in Hindi when he made the comment.

However, the comment did not go down well with Kohli and Anushka's fans and some even demanded his sacking from *Star Sports* commentary panel, lashing out at him on social media.

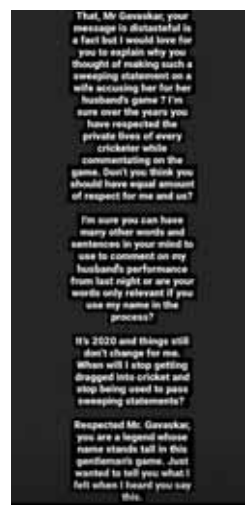
Reacting to it, Anushka also issued a statement on her *Instagram* page and said that Gavaskar's message was 'distasteful'. She was livid that her name was unnecessarily mentioned by a respected personality like him.

She wrote, "That, Mr Gavaskar, your message is distasteful to a fact but I would love for you to realize why you thought of making such a sweeping statement on a wife accusing her for her husband's game? I'm sure over the years you have respected the private lives of every cricketer while commenting on the game. Don't you think you should have shown amount of respect for me and us?"

"I'm sure you can have many other words and sentences in your mind to use to comment on my husband's performance from last night or are your words only relevant if you use my name in the process?"

"It's 2020 and things will not change for me. When will I stop getting dropped in cricket and stop being used to pass sweeping statements?"

Respected Mr. Gavaskar, you are a legend whose name stands tall in this gentleman's game. Just wanted to tell you what I felt when I heard you say this.



played that much bowling in this lockdown period," Gavaskar told *India Today*.

"It is tennis ball fun game that people have to pass time during the lockdown, so that's all, so where am I blaming her for Virat's failures?"

Gavaskar also rubbished allegations on social media that he made a "sexist comment".

"I'm the one who has always batted for wives going with husbands on tours. I am the one who has always said that like a normal guy going to office for a 9-5 job, when he comes back home, he comes back to his wife, similarly why can't cricketers have their wives with them," Gavaskar said.

He also tried to explain his comment.

"As you can hear from the commentary, Aakash was talking about the fact there has been very little chance for any proper practice in the lockdown, for everybody..."

.....That has actually shown in rustiness of some of the players in their first matches. Rohit (Sharma) didn't strike the ball well, now in the second match he has got runs, MSD (Mahendra Singh Dhoni) didn't strike the ball well in the first match."

".....Anushka was bowling to him, so that's what I said, that's the only bowling. I have not used any other word. She was bowling to him, that's all, where am I blaming her, where I am being sexist in this."

"I'm just only stating what was seen on the video which was maybe recorded by somebody in the neighbouring buildings and put up and that's the only thing I'm doing, but the point I'm making trying to make is that there was no practice for anybody including Virat in the lockdown.I have not been sexist, if somebody has interpreted it, what can I do," Gavaskar said.

DUGOUT



KXIP captain KL Rahul and pacer Mohammed Shami pose for photo after Punjab's 97-run win over RCB

KOHLI FINED ₹12 LAKH

RCB captain Virat Kohli has been fined ₹12 lakh after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their IPL match against Kings XI Punjab in Dubai on Thursday. "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Mr Kohli was fined ₹12 lakh," the IPL said in a release.

VIRAT TAKES BLAME FOR DROPPING KL

RCB captain Virat Kohli took the blame for his team's 97-run thrashing by KXIP. Without hesitation, Kohli took the blame for dropping Punjab's skipper KL Rahul twice, which contributed significantly to their defeat. Kohli felt that he had not dropped two catches off the blade of Rahul, who remained unbeaten on 132, KXIP would not have been able to go past the 200-run mark. "I have to stand in front and take the brunt of it, not the best day in the office, couple of important chances of KL when he was set and that cost us 35-40 runs at a later stage. "Maybe if we restricted them to 180 we wouldn't have been under pressure from ball one of the chase," said Kohli.

ALWAYS BACK YOUR STRENGTHS









KXIP's young spinner Ravi Bishnoi says head coach Anil Kumble has advised him to always stay calm and back his skills as a bowler. The 20-year-old Bishnoi snared three wickets in an emphatic 97-run win over RCB. "Anil sir has always asked me to back strength in my bowling and skill. He asked me not to try too many things and try to be cool and calm in the middle," Bishnoi said.

KL WASN'T 'FEELING IN CONTROL'

KXIP captain KL Rahul, who made a scintillating century (unbeaten 132 off 69 balls) against RCB, said he was lacking in confidence heading into the team's second IPL fixture. "I have actually been not so confident (hitting it this well). I had a chat with Maxi (Glenn Maxwell) yesterday (Wednesday), he said how are you feeling, I said that I am not feeling completely in control of my batting, he said you must be joking, you are hitting really well," Rahul said. After Rahul starred with the bat, KXIP bowlers put a disciplined performance to bundle out RCB for 109 in 17 overs. "It's as complete a team performance as it can get. We had few different plans going into this game. "We knew RCB have a power packed batting line up and we had to get 2-3 wickets up front and that also meant putting runs on the board, we know what these guys can do if they get set. The analyst, coaches and the management will be happy."

GAUTI CRITICIZES KOHLI'S CAPTAINCY

Former Indian batsman Gautam Gambhir criticized Virat Kohli's captaincy in the loss against the KXIP, particularly for bowling part-timer Shivam Dube in the final 20th over. Speaking on *ESPNcricinfo's* analysis show *T20 Time Out*, Gambhir said that he would have bowled any of the specialist death bowlers in the last over. "I know Shivam bowled really well in his first two overs. Yes, you would be tempted to give him a third over, but not the last over. When KL Rahul is already set and batting on 100+, you are walking on the edge, because that can happen. I would have Navdeep Saini or Dale Steyn bowling the last over, even though Steyn is not the best death bowler. But I would have given the last over to the best bowler of the team," Gambhir said.

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

KKR, SRH hunt first win

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Skipper Dinesh Karthik's tactical snous will once again be put to test when Kolkata Knight Riders take on a depleted Sunrisers Hyderabad in their second IPL fixture on Saturday.

Much was expected from a revamped Kolkata Knight Riders set-up but it seemed Karthik did not learn from his past mistakes and made some inexplicable decisions that led to their complete capitulation against Mumbai Indians.

Once again, the batting position of their biggest hitter Andre Russell became the talking point in their 49-run loss to Mumbai Indians.

The Jamaican, who was their highest run-getter last season with 510 runs from 249 deliveries and

the tournament's highest rate of 204.81, was seen at No 6 but by then the task had become extremely difficult.

World Cup winning captain Eoin Morgan, who was roped in to bolster the wobbly middle order, also could not do much as the asking rate had shot past 13 by the time he came to bat at No 5.

In bowling too, there was a tactical blunder by holding back their ace spinner Sunil Narine till the last over of power play.

On a day, their biggest buy Pat Cummins failed miserably, Narine was given a go only when his IPL 'bunny' Rohit Sharma was well set.

It really defied logic to see such a defensive strategy by a team now coached by Kiwi great Brendon McCullum who is known for his aggressive mindset.

Known to put up a balanced side on the park, Hyderabad lacked strength and experience in their middle-order, failing miserably against Royal



Challengers Bangalore.

Needing just 43 runs from last five overs, SRH lost their last seven wickets for 32 runs to lose the game by 10 runs.

If that was not enough, injury to their all-rounder Mitchell Marsh has compounded their misery.

Skipper David Warner, after being run out in an unfortunate manner at the non-striker's end, will be keen to get into the act, while it remains to be seen whether Kane Williamson has recovered from his injury to bolster the batting department.

SRH bowling has always been impressive and it seems the think tank may bring in Mohammed Nabi to bowl alongside his fellow mate Rashid Khan while Bhuvneshwar Kumar will spearhead the pace attack.

MATCHES	17
KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	10
SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	07
Stats: Faisal Features	

All Bayern do is win trophies

Martínez delivers emotional extra-time Super Cup for Bavarians



Bayern Munich players celebrate with the UEFA Super Cup trophy

AP ■ BUDAPEST

Javi Martínez is Bayern Munich's Mr Super Cup.

Seven years after scoring an extra-time goal to help Bayern win its last UEFA Super Cup, Martínez netted the winner in the 104th minute on Thursday as the German club beat Sevilla 2-1 in the European curtain raiser in a stadium partially filled with fans.

Martínez rose above a crowd of players to head in the rebound when Sevilla goalkeeper

er Yassine Bounou parried David Alaba's speculative shot.

Bayern midfielder Thomas Müller hailed Martínez as "Mr Super Cup," recalling the 2013 goal which sent a game against Chelsea to a penalty shootout which Bayern won.

It could be one of Martínez's last games for Bayern after eight years and eight Bundesliga titles. Chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge told German media last month that the versatile defensive player was seeking to leave.



leomessi I was getting the idea but today I entered the locker room and I dropped the real chip. How hard it will be to not keep sharing the day to day with you, both on the courts and on the outside. We're going to miss them so much. It was many years, many matts, meals, dinners... Many things you will never forget, every day together. It's gonna be weird seeing you wearing another shirt and much more facing you. You deserved to be fired like what you are: one of the most important players in club history, getting important things both in group and individually. And not to get kicked out like they did. But the truth is that at this point I'm no longer surprised. Wish you all the best in this new challenge. I love you so much, I love you so much. See you soon, mate.

Lionel Messi posted a photo of himself with Luis Suárez on Instagram with a message expressing his sadness for his friend's departure and his anger at how the club transferred him to Atlético Madrid

Liverpool to play Arsenal twice next week

AP ■ LONDON

Liverpool teenager Curtis Jones scored twice in a 7-2 victory over Lincoln in the League Cup, and defending champion Manchester City edged past Bournemouth 2-1.

Liverpool advanced to a fourth-round meeting next Thursday with Arsenal, which also plays at Anfield in the Premier League on Monday.

Phil Foden's late goal secured City's progress to a match next week with Burnley.

The 19-year-old Jones scored Liverpool's third and fourth goals before halftime, cutting in from the left on both occasions to curl in right-footed shots, and was the visitors' main creative force in midfield.

Jones also won the free kick from which Xherdan Shaqiri whipped in the opener for his first goal in over nine months.

Takumi Minamino continued his promising start to the season with a first-time shot in the 18th minute.

All of Liverpool's four first-half goals were scored from at least 20 yards.

Eighteen seconds after the break Minamino added another, stabbing in Harvey Elliott's



Takumi Minamino celebrates with his Liverpool teammates after scoring

smothered effort.

Marko Grujic scored his first for the club almost five years after joining, and Divock Origi wrapped up the rout in the 89th with his ninth goal in 12 League Cup matches. Tayo Edun and Lewis Montsma had made it 5-1 and 6-2 by scoring for third-tier side Lincoln.

SPURS AWARDED EYE

Tottenham have been awarded a bye into the fourth round of the League Cup after their tie with Leyton Orient was called off on Tuesday following a spate of coronavirus cases at the League Two club.

Fourth-tier Orient tried to rearrange the game but League Cup rules mean that they must forfeit the tie, allowing Spurs to go through to play Chelsea.

Spurs will now prepare for four games in eight days, starting with the visit of Newcastle on Sunday.

Jose Mourinho's men then host Chelsea on Tuesday, host Maccabi Haifa in Europa League qualifying on Thursday and travel to Manchester United a week on Sunday.