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Farm Bills anger farmers, protest spreads

Protests in Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, western UP; farmers' body plans rail roko from September 24 to 26



Farmers raise slogans during an ongoing protest outside the residence of former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal against three agriculture-related bills, at Badal village in Sri Muktar Sahib, on Friday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Lok Sabha passed two contentious agriculture Bills, despite the opposition by BJP's oldest ally Shiromani Akali Dal terming it as an "anti-farmer" move, farmers' protests have spread in several States, including Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and western Uttar Pradesh.

A protesting farmer in Punjab on Friday tried to commit suicide by consuming poisonous substance. Farmers' organisations have decided to hold a "rail roko" agitation from September 24 to 26 in protest against the Bills. Thousands of farmers from western Uttar Pradesh held a sit in protest on the Delhi-Meerut expressway on Friday.

The Congress has announced to launch a nation-

THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020

To remove commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of commodities
To attract foreign direct investment

Big players to have an edge and are likely to dictate prices
Latest decision to ban onion export creates uncertainty over execution

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020

PROVISIONS	CONCERNS
To provide for the creation of an ecosystem where the farmers and traders enjoy the freedom to sell and purchase products outside mandi	State govt will not able to get mandi fee if farmers sell their purchase to private players
To encourage interstate and intra state trade	The Bill is against Minimum Support Price procurement system
Reducing marketing/transportation cost	The role of commission agent is eliminated if farmers trade outside mandi

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020

To provide for a national framework on farming agreements that protects and empowers farmers to engage with agri	Farmers in a contract farming arrangement may find it difficult to negotiate
Access to modern technology	Monopoly of big players and exporters in the market

wide agitation against the farm Bills and is in talks with other Opposition parties to corner the Modi Government. Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal on Friday said Punjab alone would suffer a loss of ₹4,000 crore every year due to these legislations that will lead to mass destruction of rural livelihoods, increase farmer distress.

"We have decided to hold a rail roko nationwide agitation from September 24 to 26 against the three agriculture legislations," Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee general

secretary Sarwan Singh Pandhar said. Already, different farmer organisations in Punjab have given a call for a "bandh" on September 25.

A protesting farmer has tried to commit suicide in Badal village, the hometown of the Badals, in Mukhtar district. He ate poison on Friday morning around 6:30 and his condition is still critical.

Thousands of farmers are sitting on dharna in Mukhtar, Amritsar and other areas in Punjab under the banner of Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh

Committee, Bhartiya Kisan Union, All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee and Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh. The farmers argue that the legislations would lead to the dismantling of the minimum support price (MSP) system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporates. According to Rakesh Tikait, Bhartiya Kisan Union, thousands of farmers have protested at the Delhi-Meerut Expressway against the passage of farm Bills.

A member of Punjab Aarthia Association, said,

"These legislations will ruin the agriculture marketing infrastructure network created in the past few decades. Benod Anand of Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh, an organisation of 62 farmers unions," he said, adding that farmers will hit the road on September 24 across India.

The Centre has brought the Bills without discussion with stakeholders, he alleged.

"Agriculture falls in the State list of subjects," he said, adding that the Union Government's action impinges on the State's rights. Traditionally at odds (farmers and arthiyas) are together in this one-on-one against the BJP-led Centre aided by Opposition parties, farmers' organisations and activists. Perhaps the real issue is too technical and the threat of new ecosystem rendering MSP

Don't be misled by dalals' advocates: PM to farmers

Bills 'rakhsha kavach' to save interests of farmers, says Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the opponents of the agriculture Bills passed by the Lok Sabha of "standing with middlemen", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday assured farmers that the Government's purchase of their produce and Minimum Support price (MSP) would continue. He asked them "not to be misled by the lies" of those "who ruled the country for decades".

Asserting that three Bills passed by the Lok Sabha on Thursday were aimed at "reforming agriculture", the Prime Minister said the legislation would "free" farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country and fetch them more returns. He said new moves by the Government would provide farmers with "rakhsha kavach" and save them from brokers.

"But a few people who ruled the country for decades are trying to mislead farmers and telling lies. They had promised about the reform in their manifesto but forgot after reforms and when the

NDA implementing them, these people are creating misgivings," Modi said on the occasion of inauguration of Kosi rail mega bridge in Bihar while addressing through video conference.

Without naming the Congress, Modi hit out at the Opposition party for "double crossing" farmers and creating "disinformation".

Praising Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Modi said, "Nitish understood what damage Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), set up by States to regulate markets, had done to the farmers and 'removed APMC Act in the State'."

"What path Nitish showed then is being followed by the nation," the Prime Minister said referring to the bills to "free" farmers passed by the Lok Sabha.

On Thursday when the Lok Sabha passed two agriculture bills, Leader of the Congress Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had, however, made a counter point saying condition of Bihar farmers turned "worse" after deregulation in the State and at the same time he said farmers in the regulated States of Punjab and Haryana fared better.

Referring to the Kosi rail bridge, the Prime Minister

again credited it to Nitish who he said as Railway Minister started it and now given extraordinary connectivity to many areas of the State.

Modi inaugurated the 1.9 km 'Kosi Mahasetu' (mega-bridge) along with 12 other railway projects across Bihar. The mega bridge has been a much-awaited project for the people of Kosi and Mithilanchal regions who have waited for 86 years.

Modi said Bihar created history today in railway connectivity with the launch of "Kosi Mahasetu" and "Kiul Bridge" along with dozen other projects which will contribute to Railway electrification, promoting Make in India in Railways and more job creators.

"I would like to quote some facts about the speed with which work is being done on Bihar's Railway network. Before 2014, only 125 crore new railway lines were started in Bihar. Whereas in the following 5 years, nearly 700 km of railway lines have been commissioned," said the Prime Minister, adding the State would witness similar progress in the power sector in coming days.

Bihar is to go to polls in October-November.

irrelevant more impacting. In Haryana, the members of the Bhartiya Kisan Union blocked the national highway-44 on September 10, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the agriculture ordinances.

Protesters were also baton charged in Pipli near Haryana's Kurukshetra, for defying the administration's warnings dur-

ing the coronavirus pandemic. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, an Akali Dal MP who resigned from the Prime Minister's Cabinet on Thursday over the farm Bills, said she has opposed the ordinance and requested it to a select committee.

The Congress said any move to "disturb" the present procurement system may

deepen "social unrest" amongst farmers of the state.

"We urge upon the Government to review and reconsider these measures as these are unlikely to deliver on the promises made to them. Agri-marketing should be left to the states as envisaged in the Constitution," the party said.

₹2,584 cr supplementary Budget tabled in House

Strict compliance to Covid-19 norms in Assembly

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Monsoon Session of Jharkhand Assembly started on Friday amid coronavirus pandemic guidelines. On the first day of three-day session, State Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon tabled the first supplementary Budget of Rs 2,584 crore. The house will have a discussion on the supplementary Budget on Tuesday.

After tabling the supplementary Budget and paying tributes to eminent personalities from politics, films, sports, art & culture and social service the house was adjourned till Monday. The House remembered former President Pranab Mukherjee who passed away last month, Raghuvansh Prasad Singh former Union Minister

and architect of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA). The house also paid rich tributes to late stars passing away in the past few months. The lawmakers in their condolence message also remembered corona warriors.

Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahato, as per Assembly protocol, allotted time to lawmakers for reading condolence messages.

Earlier, as the session commenced in morning, opposition BJP staged a protest against the supplementary Budget. The BJP legislators from Hazaribagh, Manish Jaiswal holding placards protested against Government move to stop several welfare schemes of Raghuraj Das Government.

Jaiswal, shouting slogans against the government said the present government has no vision for development and stopping welfare schemes with



Chief Minister Hemant Soren presents a bouquet to Assembly Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahato during the first day of Monsoon session at Jharkhand Assembly in Ranchi on Friday

superior motives. Several BJP legislators such as Bhanu Pratap Shahi and others supported Manish's demand. The BJP MLAs also protested the Government move to bring Jharkhand Land Mutation Bill 2020. Former land and revenue minister Amar Kumar Bauri

said the Land Mutation Bill is against tribals and Dalits. The land mutation bill is against the basic tenants of CNI/SPT Act, said Bauri. He also threatened that the Opposition will strongly protest the land mutation bill. It may be noted that in the last Cabinet meeting the

Government cleared the land mutation bill. Sources said that the bill once enacted will give more powers to revenue officials.

Sources said the next two days of the session is going to witness heated arguments between ruling and opposition parties, as the Government is going to table some important Bills.

As the Monsoon Session is being held amidst coronavirus pandemic elaborate safety measures were employed.

Sitting arrangements for lawmakers were made keeping social distancing norms. Only those having their corona report negative were allowed to enter the Assembly and the rule was applicable for media persons and staff of Assembly too. Wearing of masks and use of sanitizers and gloves were made mandatory in the Assembly.

Meanwhile, the district administration team and staff from the health department was static at the Assembly to avoid any untoward incidents.

492 Ranchiites among 1478 fresh Covid patients in State

13,924 active cases in Jharkhand, 602 deaths

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand witnessed 1,478 fresh Covid-19 cases in 24 hours on Friday afternoon taking the total active cases to 13,924 in the State. The highest number of new cases 492 surfaced from Ranchi district, while East Singhbhum remained on second place with 324 fresh cases, according to the health department.

As per the Covid bulletin issued by the Government on Friday evening 492 cases were from Ranchi, 4 from Chatra, 29 from Deogarh, 62 from Dhanbad, 10 from Dumka, 324 from East Singhbhum, 16 from Garhwa, 11 from Giridih, 5 from Godda, 17 from Gumla, 38 from Hazaribagh, 51 from Jamtara, 15 from Khunti, 21 from Koderma, 26 from

Latehar, 40 from Lohardaga, 2 from Pakur, 64 from Palamu, 42 from Ramgarh, 44 from Sahibganj, 41 from Seraikeela, 17 from Simdega and 107 cases were from West Singhbhum district.

Friday's statistics brought the Covid tally in the State close to 70,000 mark with 68,578 people being infected in the State with Coronavirus ever since a Malaysian woman was detected as the first Covid-19 patient in the end of March this year in Ranchi. However, 54,052 people have recovered from the disease.

Six people lost their lives owing to Covid-19 in the State on Friday taking the total death toll to 602, said the health bulletin.

Meanwhile, a special testing campaign was conducted on 16 and 18 September for the Covid-19 in Ranchi district. During this time centers were

established for sample collection in different parts of the district. In this special testing campaign lasting two days, samples of 9143 people were taken, of which 9120 samples were examined. After the investigation, the investigation report of 13 people was positive while the report of 8807 people came negative.

Samples of 4039 people were tested on 16 September, while a rapid antigen special test drive was conducted on 18 September and samples of 5102 people were collected, of which 5081 were sampled, with 146 positive and 4935 negative reports.

On September 16, 4039 people were screened during the Covid-19 special investigation operation. On this day, 4041 samples were collected for examination. Of which 167 people reported positive and 3,872 reported negative.

Pvt players free to set passenger fares

It aims to attract \$7.5 bn investment in next five years

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government will allow private companies to set passenger fares once they start operating train services in the country, a move aimed at luring investors.

"Private players have been given the freedom to fix fares in their own way," said VK Yadav, chairman of Railway Board. But, "air-conditioned buses and planes also operate on those routes, and they have to keep that in mind before fixing fares."



attract investors. As per reports, the decision to allow private players in Indian Railways will attract an investment of around USD 7.5 billion in the next five years. Various companies like Alstom SA, Bombardier Inc, GMR Infrastructure Ltd and Adani Enterprises Ltd have reportedly expressed their interest in such projects.

The Indian Railways will also start levying "user fees" as part of train fares for the stations that have been redeveloped and those with high foot-fall in order to generate revenue to provide better facilities for passengers.

Once it comes into effect, it will be for the first time that such charges are levied on rail passengers.

"The charges will be nominal and will be applicable in about 10-15 per cent of the 7,000 railway stations across the country. We are going to keep a very small amount for the user charge. We will issue a notification for the user charge for all stations including both those that are getting redeveloped and those that are not," the chairman had said.

CM asks NTPC to clear air over standing issues

COORDINATION MUST BETWEEN GOVT, NTPC, SAYS SOREN

PNS ■ RANCHI

Chief Minister Hemant Soren discussed issues like compensation, employment, rehabilitation of displaced people among other crucial matters with National Thermal Power Corporation Chairman, Gurdeep Singh here on Friday.

After the talks the CM said that he has received positive assurance from the NTPC chairman on all issues. "He said

that he will soon apprise us about NTPC's decision on compensation and other issues. State Govt and NTPC's coordination is a must for development of the State," said the CM.

"I have asked him to clear NTPC's stand on the standing issues. Until they clear their stand no land acquisition will take place for the purpose here," added the CM.

During the talks, NTPC Chairman, CMD Gurdeep Singh here on Friday, discussed the topics related to Pakri-Barwadih project and assured to take positive initiative in relation to the various demanding demands of the rayats in the region keeping in mind the movement that has been going



CM Hemant Soren with NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh in Ranchi on Friday

Pioneer photo

on since last days. He also urged the State government that the government should provide assistance for the

smooth extraction of the amount of coal that has been excavated in the area in the past.

Singh also informed that due to non-extraction of the said coal, there will be a possibility of fire in the coal, due to which there will be a possibility of major accident in this area and there will be a possibility of damage to public wealth and the forest wealth of the region. Therefore, keeping in view the interests of all, the State Government should provide necessary support for the extraction of the excavated coal. The NTPC CMD assured to take positive initiatives on all points.

Chief Secretary Sukhdev Singh, Principal Secretary to the State Secretary Rajiv Arun Ekka, Secretary KK Son and NTPC officials were present during the meeting.

Mobile healthcare benefits over 10,000 people during lockdown

Jamshedpur: In the tribal hamlets of East Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts, healthcare services still remain inaccessible. However, at Tata Steel Foundation (TSF), the health team has ensured that the deficit of medical treatment among rural communities is capped through the incessant duty by its employees in the Mobile Medical Units (MMUs).

During the lockdown period, when all other activities had almost stopped, the MMU services of TSF continued its health interventions without any permission from the government and abiding by the COVID-19 guidelines of maintaining social distancing, wearing of mask and regular sanitisation of hands and vehicles. During the period from August 30, a total of 10,627 people were treated. During the period, rigorous coronavirus related awareness programmes were held at the community level. MMUs staff were given special duty at 13 different identified quarantine centres in Seraikela-Kharsawan district in the month of June to provide health services to the people staying in these centres.

This service began in the year 2009 and has so far touched the lives of nearly 2.5 lakh people. This service was started with two vans in East Singhbhum district and later another van was started for Seraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand in 2013. This service runs in collaboration with the National Rural Health Mission at the district level. The objective of the service is to provide all the primary health services in villages in selected blocks of the districts through MMUs where healthcare facilities are either absent or limited.

About 72 clinical sites have been identified by the government for rendering the MMU services in Patnada, Potka and Jamshedpur blocks in the East Singhbhum district and in Gamhariga and Rajnagar blocks in the Seraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand.

Each MMU has a doctor in-charge, pharmacist, pathology technician, ANM, helper and driver. There are project coordinators running the project. These MMUs provide clinical services to communities in areas where other clinical services are minimum or nil.

PNS

Jamshedpur's recovery rate improves to 75.9 %

Jamshedpur: Amidst ongoing rising cases of COVID-19, the recovery rate of the city has improved to 75.9 per cent while the State's recovery rate is 73.38 per cent. The recovery of patients is best so far. The coronavirus cases have crossed 10,000 in less than five month time.

District civil surgeon, Rajendra Nath Jha said although the number of coronavirus positive cases crossed 10,000 marks in the district, the recovery rate is also improving. The civil surgeon pointed out that. Meanwhile, despite restrictions imposed, the city markets continued to witness heavy rush posing threat of spreading of the virus. More, several shopkeepers continue to flout norms of masks and social distancing.

The recovery rate of COVID-19 patients at Tata Main Hospital has also improved from 78.28 per cent to 80.57 per cent. According to the senior management of the hospital, the recovery rate is a good signal for the city. While the world's recovery rate is 78.28 per cent and India's recovery rate is 77.77 per cent, the rate at TMH is a good trend.

The Kolhan Division which

was under green zone, came under coronavirus map with two persons testing positive at Chakulia, under East Singhbhum district on May 12. However, with the arrival of migrants the figures started to increase and now it is about to reach 11,000. The Deputy Commissioner Suraj Kumar has also appealed to the people of the district to strictly follow the rules of social distancing. Even a slight negligence can hit many people in corona. He advised people to strictly adhere to physical distance and essentially use masks and sanitizers.

The district health department has intensified drive to conduct rapid corona tests to detect corona cases at the early stage. Rapid tests were conducted at different housing societies at Jugsalai and Sakchi market areas.

A district health department confirmed that fresh cases of COVID deaths have been reported from the COVID-designated hospitals. "The tentacle of Coronavirus is very much in the steel city and in the rural pockets of the East Singhbhum district. But it is for certain that if the people start to pay utmost attention in maintaining social distance, keeping one's hand sanitised again and again and wearing a mask, the Coronavirus has to go soon," said Jha.

PNS

State health team inspects health hubs

Jamshedpur: A four-member team of the State's health department on Friday inspected health hubs in view of rising cases of corona deaths in the city. The city has reported around 250 deaths due to coronavirus. The team convened a meeting at the local Circuit House and then went first to Tata Main Hospital's COVID ward. At the hospital's COVID ward, the team members spoke to the patients and enquired their health condition.

The inspecting team subsequently talked to the doctors, nurses and other paramedical staff before holding a brief meeting with the senior officials of Tata Main Hospital. An official of the health department who accompanied the team said the team members while interacting with the doctors and administrative staff of the hospital provided guidelines as to how to make the line of treatment for COVID more effective.

PNS

Centennial of Paramahansa Yogananda's Arrival in America

BY SWAMI ISHWARANANDA GIRI



did not even have an idea that he would have to go to America soon. He started a residential school for children in Ranchi.

From the dawn of human civilization, India has always been a place of contemplation on God, spiritual philosophy, and the virtuous land of God-realized saints. These saints and great men did not keep these ultimate verities to themselves, rather made a herculean effort to share the knowledge and wisdom with the whole world. History is witness to the fact that whenever the world was in desperate need of spiritual guidance, some great spiritual leaders of the world stage to show the right path to the wandering human beings.

A 100 years ago, a young swami, with a divine resolve in his mind for the welfare of the world, went out with the blessings of his guru, Sri Sri Sri throughout the world the blessing message of Raja Yoga and especially Kriya Yoga. His name is Paramahansa Yogananda, who is famous all over the world as the author of the well-known spiritual classic, "The Way to God." Also known as the Father of Yoga in the West, he is recognized for his contribution to the spread of yoga in America and other European countries.

Kriya Yoga, based on Mahabhi Patanjali's Ashtanga Yoga or Raja Yoga, consists of advanced techniques of meditation whose devoted practice leads to the realization of God and liberation of the soul from all forms of bondage. It is the royal or supreme technique of yoga, divine union.

With the universal message of Kriya Yoga, Yogananda went to America and on September 19, 1920, his feet first touched the American soil. Even a few months before this incident, Paramahansa Yogananda

Would not beg from Speaker for LOP status: Marandi

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

Former Chief Minister and Leader of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) parliamentary party in Assembly has said that he is not going to beg from Jharkhand assembly speaker for the status of Leader of Opposition in Jharkhand Assembly.

Talking to media persons in Dhanbad on Thursday Marandi said, when the election commission has accepted the merger of his old party into BJP and he voted during Raja Sabha Sabha, he has no time to go to legislative party on approval of Election Commission nothing more needs to be done to carry the stand. The refusal of CPShing to attend the meeting of all parties called by the Speaker also, as a member of party line on this particular issue, said Marandi.

Criticising the Hemant Government Marandi said, the government is facing internal contradictions among the ruling Speaker also, as a member of party line on this particular issue, said Marandi.

The government failed to provide jobs to the migrant labourers, who were brought to Jharkhand by special trains and aeroplanes.

PARADIP PORT TRUST

TENDER CALL NOTICE

DT/M-225/Vol-II/20/2519

dt. 14.09.2020

(Name of the work, "Allocation of 10

Ten) nos. of Manual from On/Off one

Peel/Plot."

Lot/Plot Fee: Rs. 2,32,93,808/-

Wharfage Fee: Rs. 6,13,707/-

Last date & time of submission of bid: 05.10.2020 up to 17:00 hrs

Date and time of opening (technical bid): 06.10.2020 up to 16:00 hrs

Refer our website for details https://procurement.paradipporttrust.org

PP/TPR/21/6/25-21 dt. 14.09.2020

Traffic Manager

पारविडि पावरग्रिड
NOTICE
1. Approval under regulation-86 of CEREC (Control of Business) Regulations 1999 and CEREC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2019 for determination of Transmission tariff for TPT (330KV/MV) in Eastern Region.

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (i) Bihar State Power (Generating) Company Ltd. (ii) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (iii) Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (iv) Damodar Valley Corporation, (v) Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, (vi) Jharkhand State Electricity Board.

3. Line Length, No. of Bays, Appointed Approved Capital cost (Rs. in Lacs), Date of Commercial Operation and Capital cost up to date of Commercial Operation (Rs. in Lacs).

Asset	Line Length (Km)	No. of Bays	Appointed approved Capital cost (Rs. in Lacs)	DOCO	Capital cost on DOCO (Rs. in Lacs)
Asset-I	141.39 km (DC)	01 (65KV)	4132.72	21.07.2019	3008.89
Asset-II	-	01 (75KV)	6782.96	01.06.2019	5381.86
Asset-III	-	01 (65KV)	1310.48	30.01.2020	943.14

Asset/Tariff	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Asset-I	4482.10	6507.02	6487.73	6403.29	6279.46
Asset-II	1472.09	1843.59	1920.84	1968.50	1986.96
Asset-III	29.23	192.41	216.17	221.79	221.81

4. The annual transmission tariff for the tariff period 2014-19 is summarized as below: (Rs. in Lacs)

Asset/Tariff	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Asset-I	4482.10	6507.02	6487.73	6403.29	6279.46
Asset-II	1472.09	1843.59	1920.84	1968.50	1986.96
Asset-III	29.23	192.41	216.17	221.79	221.81

5. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.

6. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application to be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd & 4th Floor, Chandrakum Building, Jangpura, New Delhi-110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of the corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place : Gurgaon
Date : 16.09.2020
By: General Manager (Commercial)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Corp. Office: "Sudama" Park-2, Sector-29, Gurgaon-122001 (Haryana) Tel: 0124-257170-719

Regt. Office: B-4, Outer Industrial Area, Kataria Sars, New Delhi-110016 Tel: 011-2656012, 2656012

www.powergridindia.com CIN: 1401075, 198900308121

A Maharashtra PSU

Office of the Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation Division, Garhwa

Corrigendum

Tender Reference No.WRD/MID/IV GARHWA/01-F2/2020-21 Date:-28/08/2020 WRD/MID

GARHWA/Letter No.-300, PR- 232227 (Minor Irrigation)20-21#D

In the e-Procurement Notice in the above tender, Note No-2 is deleted and instead it is stated that in case of tenders quoted below 10% of the estimated cost, additional performance security will be required which will be according to the State Govt. resolution No- 2146(S) dated- 09.09.2020 which can be seen in tender uploaded on the website.

Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation Division,
Garhwa

PR.NO.232972 Minor Irrigation(20-21)-D

Darwin Platform Group of Companies

PUBLIC NOTICE

Darwin Platform Group of Companies (DPGC), a rapidly growing global business conglomerate, appears to be under threat of being taken over by hostile and malicious

allegations being made against the company by some vested interests. Our business rivals are approaching senior political leaders and feed them incorrect information against Darwin Group. The company respects all leaders across political parties and its views & activities are always apolitical.

Herewith, we wish to make people aware of some important facts about Darwin Group:

• DPGC do not operate in Oil-Rund space, with vested interest some people have allegations on our business models to malign the brand image. The allegations are malicious and we vehemently deny.

• After thorough investigations by senior agencies, Darwin Group has got clean chit on its business model.

• Darwin Group is apolitical and respects all senior leaders across political parties.

• Nation-building is our core value and all our business operations are aligned with this.

• Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has closed the complaint which was registered with them in January this year against DPGC and its Chairman cum Managing Director Shri Ajay Harshad Singh.

• Investigators had found that DPGC is not in any kind of Ponzi Scheme. Multilevel marketing scheme, FERA, FEMA, Chit Fund Money or any violation of Prevention of Money Laundering Act or Price Chit Money Circulation Banning Act, govt scheme and has not been found in any kind of dubious activity.

• The company's net worth is USD 1.6 billion and it has 21 associates companies.

• Our intentions are honourable but Darwin Group of Companies would not let those who, who are trying to malign its brand image with false allegations, go unchecked and take necessary legal action against them.

Issued by Legal Cell, DPGC
Address: DPGC, 127H Area, Sakinaka, Anandhi (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra-400072

PR.232983 (Forest, Environment and Climate Changes) 20-21 (D)

PR.232989 (Road)20-21#D

न्यायालय-प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी-सह-वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, गढ़वा दक्षिणी वन प्रमण्डल।

उपस्थिति सूचना
वा अन्तर्गत में संस्थित जवा गढ़वा के विनियम प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी-सह-वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, गढ़वा दक्षिणी वन प्रमण्डल के न्यायालय में निम्नलिखित अधिकार वाद चले रहे हैं। निम्नलिखित वन में जवा गढ़वा से संबंधित वादों की सूची किये जाते हैं कि दक्षिणी अधिकार वाद की सूची दिनांक 21.09.2020 को 11:00 बजे प्रेषित है। निम्नलिखित में।
अतः निम्नलिखित सूची को इस न्यायालय में उपस्थित होकर (सह) वादों के प्रेषित अधिकार के नाम से) अपना पक्ष पेश करना सुनिश्चित करें।

क्र.सं.	क्र.सं. संख्या	अधिकार वन संख्या	वादा का प्रकार	वादा निवेदन संख्या	अनुमति।
1	1/2020	1/2020	जवा	CG-152D-0228	
2	1/2020	1/2020	जवा	CG-152D-0228	
3	2/2020	2/2020	जवा	CG-152D-0228	
4	3/2020	3/2020	जवा	CG-152D-0228	
5	4/2020	4/2020	जवा	CG-152D-0228	

6. CG-152D-0228	7. CG-152D-0228	8. CG-152D-0228	9. CG-152D-0228	10. CG-152D-0228	11. CG-152D-0228	12. CG-152D-0228	13. CG-152D-0228	14. CG-152D-0228	15. CG-152D-0228	16. CG-152D-0228	17. CG-152D-0228	18. CG-152D-0228	19. CG-152D-0228	20. CG-152D-0228	21. CG-152D-0228	22. CG-152D-0228	23. CG-152D-0228	24. CG-152D-0228	25. CG-152D-0228	26. CG-152D-0228	27. CG-152D-0228	28. CG-152D-0228	29. CG-152D-0228	30. CG-152D-0228	31. CG-152D-0228	32. CG-152D-0228	33. CG-152D-0228	34. CG-152D-0228	35. CG-152D-0228	36. CG-152D-0228	37. CG-152D-0228	38. CG-152D-0228	39. CG-152D-0228	40. CG-152D-0228	41. CG-152D-0228	42. CG-152D-0228	43. CG-152D-0228	44. CG-152D-0228	45. CG-152D-0228	46. CG-152D-0228	47. CG-152D-0228	48. CG-152D-0228	49. CG-152D-0228	50. CG-152D-0228	51. CG-152D-0228	52. CG-152D-0228	53. CG-152D-0228	54. CG-152D-0228	55. CG-152D-0228	56. CG-152D-0228	57. CG-152D-0228	58. CG-152D-0228	59. CG-152D-0228	60. CG-152D-0228	61. CG-152D-0228	62. CG-152D-0228	63. CG-152D-0228	64. CG-152D-0228	65. CG-152D-0228	66. CG-152D-0228	67. CG-152D-0228	68. CG-152D-0228	69. CG-152D-0228	70. CG-152D-0228	71. CG-152D-0228	72. CG-152D-0228	73. CG-152D-0228	74. CG-152D-0228	75. CG-152D-0228	76. CG-152D-0228	77. CG-152D-0228	78. CG-152D-0228	79. CG-152D-0228	80. CG-152D-0228	81. CG-152D-0228	82. CG-152D-0228	83. CG-152D-0228	84. CG-152D-0228	85. CG-152D-0228	86. CG-152D-0228	87. CG-152D-0228	88. CG-152D-0228	89. CG-152D-0228	90. CG-152D-0228	91. CG-152D-0228	92. CG-152D-0228	93. CG-152D-0228	94. CG-152D-0228	95. CG-152D-0228	96. CG-152D-0228	97. CG-152D-0228	98. CG-152D-0228	99. CG-152D-0228	100. CG-152D-0228	101. CG-152D-0228	102. CG-152D-0228	103. CG-152D-0228	104. CG-152D-0228	105. CG-152D-0228	106. CG-152D-0228	107. CG-152D-0228	108. CG-152D-0228	109. CG-152D-0228	110. CG-152D-0228	111. CG-152D-0228	112. CG-152D-0228	113. CG-152D-0228	114. CG-152D-0228	115. CG-152D-0228	116. CG-152D-0228	117. CG-152D-0228	118. CG-152D-0228	119. CG-152D-0228	120. CG-152D-0228	121. CG-152D-0228	122. CG-152D-0228	123. CG-152D-0228	124. CG-152D-0228	125. CG-152D-0228	126. CG-152D-0228	127. CG-152D-0228	128. CG-152D-0228	129. CG-152D-0228	130. CG-152D-0228	131. CG-152D-0228	132. CG-152D-0228	133. CG-152D-0228	134. CG-152D-0228	135. CG-152D-0228	136. CG-152D-0228	137. CG-152D-0228	138. CG-152D-0228	139. CG-152D-0228	140. CG-152D-0228	141. CG-152D-0228	142. CG-152D-0228	143. CG-152D-0228	144. CG-152D-0228	145. CG-152D-0228	146. CG-152D-0228	147. CG-152D-0228	148. CG-152D-0228	149. CG-152D-0228	150. CG-152D-0228	151. CG-152D-0228	152. CG-152D-0228	153. CG-152D-0228	154. CG-152D-0228	155. CG-152D-0228	156. CG-152D-0228	157. CG-152D-0228	158. CG-152D-0228	159. CG-152D-0228	160. CG-152D-0228	161. CG-152D-0228	162. CG-152D-0228	163. CG-152D-0228	164. CG-152D-0228	165. CG-152D-0228	166. CG-152D-0228	167. CG-152D-0228	168. CG-152D-0228	169. CG-152D-0228	170. CG-152D-0228	171. CG-152D-0228	172. CG-152D-0228	173. CG-152D-0228	174. CG-152D-0228	175. CG-152D-0228	176. CG-152D-0228	177. CG-152D-0228	178. CG-152D-0228	179. CG-152D-0228	180. CG-152D-0228	181. CG-152D-0228	182. CG-152D-0228	183. CG-152D-0228	184. CG-152D-0228	185. CG-152D-0228	186. CG-152D-0228	187. CG-152D-0228	188. CG-152D-0228	189. CG-152D-0228	190. CG-152D-0228	191. CG-152D-0228	192. CG-152D-0228	193. CG-152D-0228	194. CG-152D-0228	195. CG-152D-0228	196. CG-152D-0228	197. CG-152D-0228	198. CG-152D-0228	199. CG-152D-0228	200. CG-152D-0228	201. CG-152D-0228	202. CG-152D-0228	203. CG-152D-0228	204. CG-152D-0228	205. CG-152D-0228	206. CG-152D-0228	207. CG-152D-0228	208. CG-152D-0228	209. CG-152D-0228	210. CG-152D-0228	211. CG-152D-0228	212. CG-152D-0228	213. CG-152D-0228	214. CG-152D-0228	215. CG-152D-0228	216. CG-152D-0228	217. CG-152D-0228	218. CG-152D-0228	219. CG-152D-0228	220. CG-152D-0228	221. CG-152D-0228	222. CG-152D-0228	223. CG-152D-0228	224
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INBRIEF

CMPDI HOLDS MEDICAL, BLOOD DONATION CAMPS

Under the "Seva Saptah Abhiyan" on the occasion of the Birthday of the Prime Minister, a Medical Checkup Camp was organised at Birsa High School, Kathia Gondia, Dam side, Kanke, Ranchi, on September 17. Dr. Om Prakash & Dr. Shilpi Swaroop, Dy. Chief Medical Officer, CMPDI performed medical checkup of 201 residents of nearby areas and distributed free of cost Iron, Calcium, Cough Syrup, deworming medicines etc. Moreover, under social activities, Smt. Sunita Mehta, GM (PSA) and GM (HRD), Alok Kumar also distributed saplings for plantation and food packets to needy. A Blood Donation Camp was also organised in CMPDI Dispensary, Ranchi. Blood donation camp was inaugurated by Shekhar Saran, CMD, CMPDI. Additionally, social activities like plantation, distribution of food packets among poor and workers were performed by seven Regional Institutes and Drilling Camps in their common areas.

JAISWAL INAUGURATES HOME DÉCOR SHOP

Jharkhand Pradesh Professional Congress President Aditya Vikram Jaiswal on Thursday inaugurated RS Home Decor shop located opposite MS Dhoni's farmhouse on Ring Road, Ranchi. "Home decoration and interior designing took the home in a new way and in today's times everyone gets a decoration done to make their homes beautiful," said Jaiswal. Ashutosh Singh, Yogesh Narayan, Jai Singh and others were present on the occasion.

RRD HOLDS SWACHHTA PAKHWARA

Swachhta Pakhwara is being celebrated in Ranchi Rail Division from September 16 to September 30. Under this, a cleanliness drive was conducted at all the main stations of the division on September 17. In the campaign, station staff, cleaners, and volunteers were engaged. Premises, drains located on all platforms of the station were cleaned and pesticide sprayed. Separate dustbins have been arranged for dumping waste at all the main stations of the division and it has been requested to use dustbin for passengers and railway workers and to keep the station premises clean.

TREE PLANTATION DURING VISHWAKARMA PUJA

On the occasion of Vishwakarma Pujā tree plantation was done on the premises of Vishwakarma Temple Sector4G and Sector12C at Bokaro steel city by the members of Vishwakarma Yuva Sangha where all the young members Anand Kumar, Bacha Babu, Umesh Sharma, Alok Kumar, Sanjay Sharma, Ashutosh Kumar, Rakesh Vishwakarma, Manoj Sharma, Anil Sharma, Nandkishore Vishwakarma, Saral Prakash, Rajan Prakash, Rajan Singh and Others were present with social distancing compliances.

CONG TERMS BADAL'S RESIGNATION AN EYEWASH

Dhanbad district Congress president Brajendra Prasad Singh has termed resignation of the union minister for food processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal from Union Cabinet on issue of the Agricultural related bills as an eye wash as her party still is supporting the NDA government. Singh said the union government by the bills is trying to rob the farmers. The Congress opposed the bills and demands withdrawal of the bills said Singh.

BJP LEADERS PLANT SAMPLING

The Bharatiya Janata Party leaders of the district on Friday planted saplings during the on-going week-long seva saptah (service week). BJP rural committee president, Rajan Singh said, "On Friday, BJP leaders planted saplings in Tundi, Balipuri, Sindri and Nirsa locality of the district to mark the occasion that is being celebrated on the 70th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Seventy plants of different fruits were planted on this occasion, he said.

COUPLE STUNG BY HONEYBEES, DIES

A couple died after being badly stung by a swarm of honey bees at Mahuland forest under Dandali police station of the district, on Thursday. The couple Nandu Paswan, 57 and Mina Devi, 55 residents of Jahri village were badly stung by a swarm of honey bees. The incident occurred on Thursday at around 2 pm when couple were collecting dry wood in the forest. The couple were taken to Garhwa hospital where doctors declared them dead on admission. Along with these two, one Umilal, was picking up wood at same distance, was also attacked by a swarm of bees, but she somehow reached her home after saving her life from there. Seeing her condition, the family was admitted to Sadar Hospital, Garhwa for treatment.

ICFAL CELEBRATE VISHWAKARMA PUJA

ICFAL University Jharkhand celebrated Vishwakarma Pujā in its Dandali Campus under the leadership of Prof. Arvind Kumar offered Pujā to God Vishwakarma. On this occasion, Prof. O R S Rao, Vice-Chancellor of the University sent his good wishes and pray to God Vishwakarma for his students. While sitting on Pujā, Registrar, Prof. Arvind Kumar prayed before God Vishwakarma for bestowing peace, prosperity, and skills to all the students of the University. Pujā was the union government by the bills is trying to rob the farmers. The Congress opposed the bills and demands withdrawal of the bills said Singh.

KIA SONET LAUNCHED

Kia Motors India, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kia Motors Corporation, today launched its first-ever compact SUV, the all-new Kia Sonet in India. The Sonet entry-level HTE smartest G1 2.0T variant debuts at a competitive price of INR 6.71,000 (ex-showroom, pan-India). The made-in-India for the world Kia Sonet is being offered with the widest variety in its category in terms of powertrains and trims. In total, the Sonet is being offered across 17 variants, including two petrol engines, two diesel engines (WGT & VGT configurations), five transmissions and two trim levels - Tech Line and GT-Line.

MANKIND PHARMA REWARDS LAUNGI BHUIYAN

Mankind Pharma has taken the initiative to recognize and salute the change makers of our society. As a part of the on-going initiative, the company has donated 1 Lakh Rupee to Laungi Bhuiyan who has single-handedly carried a 3-km long canal. Bhuiyan has been working on the canal for the past 30 years to ensure that the rainwater flowing down from nearby hills is directed towards the fields for irrigation purposes in his village, Kothiyara in Lalitpur area of Gaya in Bihar. Commenting on the occasion Rajeev Jha, CEO of Mankind Pharma said "I firmly believe that rather than cribbing about a problem, we should look for a solution and this is what Laungi Bhuiyan has done. His 30 year long struggle will benefit a larger number of people in that area, for generations to come. As a token of gratitude, we wanted to applaud and acknowledge his efforts."

WALMART FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR FARMERS

Walmart Foundation has announced two new grants as part of a commitment made in September 2018 to invest US\$25 million

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
E-tender are invited for execution of the following works by Chief Medical Superintendent (E.C. Railway, Dhanbad):
Tender No. & date: No. Med-Hospital Waste-4 dated: 10.09.2020
1. Name of work with its location & completion period: Collection and disposal of Bio-Medical Waste (Hospital waste) of Divisional Railway Hospital, Dhanbad by private agency for 1000 days from the date of execution of work. 1005 days. 2. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 7,50,000/- (Rs. 7.50 Lakhs). 3. Date & time for closing and opening of tender: Date of closing of e-tender: 14.09.2020, 12.00 hrs. Date of opening of e-tender: 16.09.2020, 12.00 hrs. 4. Date & time for submission of e-tender: 16.09.2020, 12.00 hrs. 5. Website particulars: <http://www.irp.gov.in>. No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.
Chief Medical Superintendent, Dhanbad
PR/0635/DHN/Engg./T/20-21/28

Land Mutation Bill-2020 not to be tabled in ongoing Session



Chief Minister Hemant Soren attending the first day of Monsoon session at Jharkhand Assembly in Ranchi on Friday
Ratan Lal | Pioneer

PNS ■ RANCHI

The coalition Government of JMM, Congress and RJD in the State decided that Jharkhand Land Mutation Bill-2020 will not be introduced in the present form in the ongoing monsoon session of the State Assembly.

Following this general opinion of the legislators of JMM, Congress and RJD in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the Government decided to introduce the land mutation bill in a revised form. The Chief Minister also interacted with the media and said that the Government is considering only after assessing the right and wrong, a bill will be brought in the Assembly.

It may be noted that the Government is intending to amend this bill and it is believed that part of the Revenue Officers' Protection Act prepared earlier will be separated from it. In view of the opposition of JMM and Congress MLAs, the Government has taken the whole issue sensitively and the Chief Minister will bring it to the House only after discussions with his core team.

In view of the opposition of the Congress MLAs, late Thursday night, JPC Chief Rameshwar Oraon and Congress Legislative Party Leader, Alamgir

Alam went to meet the Chief Minister and apprised him of the protest on the issue in the Congress Legislature Party. According to sources, RPN Singh, in-charge of JPC, is also not in favour of introducing this bill.

A meeting of the Congress Legislature Party was held on Thursday in Congress Bhawan, Ranchi under the chairmanship of Alamgir Alam. On this occasion, Oraon was also present. Apart from this, the MLAs also requested to review the policy changes during the previous Rajghar Government.

The land mutation bill was discussed in detail in the meeting. In view of the opposition of the public, the party decided that the Government would be requested to take a decision after consulting with the party. The bill was first opposed by MLA Bandhu Tirkey, after which other MLAs as well in support. Alam, who was chairing the meeting, assured the MLAs that he would definitely discuss the issue with the Chief Minister.

The party Ministers in the State Government Banna Gupta, Badal, MLA Pradeep Yadav, Bandhu Tirkey, Umashankar Akela, Manita Devi, Pannina Neeraj Singh, Deepika Pandey Singh, Sonam Sanku, Ramchandra Singh, Bhushan Das were present in the meeting.

BJP forms strategy to corner Govt in House

PNS ■ RANCHI

The BJP led opposition has planned a joint offensive against the government to corner in the Assembly on the issues of land mutation bill, deteriorating law and order situation in the State and other issues.

The BJP legislative party meeting headed by legislative leader, Babul Marandi was held at Marandi's Dibrith residence. The BJP lawmakers discussed strategy for the monsoon session.

The BJP has decided to strongly protest the land mutation Bill. Marandi, chairing the legislative party meet said that BJP will oppose land mutation bill as it is against tribals and

extremist activities. Marandi said, "The bill is an attempt to provide immunity to revenue officials from legal consequences and making the state an easy hunting ground for land mafia." He said that the bill would facilitate land grabbing and encourage corruption.

Marandi claimed that the law will provide protection to corrupt officials and land mafia and be unfair to the common public.

The State Cabinet has okayed land mutation bill which aimed at making janabadi claims online and setting up of competent authorities for settlement of claims at district level.

BJP legislator from Rajmahal Anant Ohja said the party will stage a protest from Sadan to Sadak on this issue.

The MLAs also said that apart from land mutation bill, the party will also raise poor law and order situation in the State. Ohja said that Left Wing extremist activities in the State have gained momentum in the State in the past few months. The LWE menace in Rajghar Das government was controlled, but extremist activities are once again getting pace.

BJP legislative party leader Babul Marandi holds a meeting with party MLAs during the first day of Monsoon session at Jharkhand Assembly in Ranchi on Friday
Ratan Lal | Pioneer

From spreading awareness to dealing with stigma, Community radio does it all

DIVYA MODI ■ RANCHI

With the lack of mainstream media in rural areas, community radio stations have been playing a vital role both in creating awareness about the deadly virus and in connecting people from these neighbourhoods with the rest of the world.

From conducting online classes for school as well as college goes to teaching the correct way of wearing a mask, following social distancing norms to even interacting with psychologists on issues related to the pandemic to providing entertainment, these radio programmes convey all this and much more all in the local dialect of the region.

Ranchi University's Radio Khanchi 90.4 FM. Hum sab radio commenced during the Covid period. Due to the lockdown, the radio has been broadcasting lectures for the students and has aired about 1400 classes in 40 subjects.

"A special show called 'Doctor's Time' is aired thrice a week- Monday, Wednesday

View of a community radio room in Ranchi on Friday
Pioneer photo

and Friday where City based doctors answers questions raised by the listeners related to nutrition, health and immunity during these times. Psychologists and psychiatrists are also invited to help people overcome the Covid-19 stigma and discrimination. Yoga sessions are also conducted to help radio lovers stay fit and healthy from the comfort of their homes," said Director Radio Khanchi Anand Kumar Thakur.

Police use batons to disperse agitating assistant police personnel

BJP says Govt showed barbaric face

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Morabadi ground of the capital city turned into a bat-tled ground on Friday afternoon after assistant police personnel who have been protesting from the past one week, had a clash with the police.

Over a dozen assistant police personnel were injured when the police resorted to lathi charge and fired tear gas upon them in order to control them when they were marching towards the chief minister's residence on Kanke road.

When police tried to stop the agitating assistant police personnel overturned barricade and all of sudden bricks and stones started flying from each side.

The clash continued for an hour after which employment in the area was increased.

But, Ranchi police claimed that agitating assistant police personnel started hitting police force by bricks and stone and they were creating ruckus.

"Some of the police personnel deputed here were injured when the agitation turned into an unruly crowd and started throwing stones upon them. They alleged that while their contract period is going to conclude the government has not taken any step for renewal of their contract and the process for job regularization. They were appointed to support regular police in maintaining law and order."

But protesting police personnel alleged that they were beaten unprovoked. "We did not assault them. We were peacefully demonstrating when we were assaulted. Women were beaten by police constables. We get Rs 10000 as monthly honorarium for the tough job we render. Today we feel insulted and

cheated by this government," said a protester. The BJP criticised the government and termed the incident as barbaric. "Today we have seen the barbaric face of this government which has cheated youths on the name of job. The government claimed to give five lakh jobs per year to youth. Now when these assistant police personnel are demanding a job they are beaten. Even women assistant police carrying their baby were not spared," said state BJP spokesperson Pratul Nath Shahdeo.

"This government falsely promised to give jobs to 5 lakh youth in 1 year. And now demanding their permanent job, the assistant police personnel were brutally beaten up. The government, which has spoken about the tribal indigenous interests, has shown its oppressive thinking by ruthlessly beating the tribal indigenous people at the Morabadi ground. These assistant police personnel had been agitating for 6 days but not a single MP or minister of the government had even tried to meet them at the site," he added.



Policemen try to stop agitating assistant police personnel as they try to break barricade at Morabadi in Ranchi on Friday
Ratan Lal | Pioneer

negotiated with them to withdraw their agitation, but protesters refused to withdraw till the time their demands were fulfilled.

Around 2500 assistant police personnel from 12 rebel hit districts of Jharkhand have been demonstrating for regularization of their job. Three years back they were appointed on contractual basis and they said that they were assured that their job will be regularized if their performance is found satisfactory. They alleged that while their contract period is going to conclude the government has not taken any step for renewal of their contract and the process for job regularization. They were appointed to support regular police in maintaining law and order."

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cheated by this government," said a protester. The BJP criticised the government and termed the incident as barbaric. "Today we have seen the barbaric face of this government which has cheated youths on the name of job. The government claimed to give five lakh jobs per year to youth. Now when these assistant police personnel are demanding a job they are beaten. Even women assistant police carrying their baby were not spared," said state BJP spokesperson Pratul Nath Shahdeo.

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Central Coalfields Limited
A Miniratna Company
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE
All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in), CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
E-tender Notice No. 32 of 2020-21 (Open)
-Engg/DOU
On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by ORME/Engg/DOU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.
Tender No. 12-DOU-SRDEN-II-26-21
(i) Name of work with its location: Supply of 50000 CUM 50mm machine crushed track ballast for G. Track including loading the same into BSNL/Open wagons F.O.R. Kosiara (KVJ) under AEN/PL. (ii) Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 89590000. (iii) Earnest Money: ₹ 5970000. (iv) Date & time for submission of e-tender: 07.10.2020, Up-to 12.00 hrs. (v) Website particulars of e-tendering: www.irp.gov.in. (vi) Divisional Railway Manager, P. Deen Dayal Upadhyay
PR/0632/DOU/Engg./T/20-21/32

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING OPEN TENDER ON LINE (E-TENDERING)
The Divisional Railway Manager, C. Railway, Dhanpur is inviting online (E-Tendering) Open Tender for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.
Tender Notice No. W-7E-Tender/IR/EN/DNR/2020-21
Sl. No. 1. Name of the Work with its location: R/C jacking of Piers No. 1, 2, 3 & Abutment No. 1 of Bridge No. 137 (X11.88m Girders + 13x12.19m Arch) at KM 6751-11 with grade M-20 on main line under Sr. DEN/DNR. Approx. Cost of work: ₹ 21,56,200.70. Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 2,86,000.
Sl. No. 2. Name of the Work with its location: Provision of Gang Huts at Or station, JTN station & NES station (03 nos.) in RGO/ITN station under AEN/DNR. Approx. Cost of work: ₹ 1,35,161.96. Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 1,82,800.
Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender: The tender have to be submitted online on www.irp.gov.in upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 08.10.2020 and will be opened on the same day after 12.00 hrs. 5. Website particulars. Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: <http://www.irp.gov.in> Full details of tender can be seen on notice board. Amendments/Modification if any shall not be published in news papers, but the same shall be updated in the website.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) Dhanpur
PR/0636/DNR/Engg./T/20-21/56

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
E-tender Notice No. 31 of 2020-21 (Open)
-Engg/DOU
On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by ORME/Engg/DOU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.
Tender No. 11-DOU-SRDEN-II-20-21
(i) Name of work with its location: Deep screening work of 60 Td in ISO section under AEN/PL. (ii) Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 16749607.36. (iii) Earnest Money: ₹ 1349000. (iv) Date & time for submission of e-tender: 05.10.2020, Up-to 12.00 hrs. (v) Website particulars of e-tendering: www.irp.gov.in. (vi) Divisional Railway Manager, P. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Division
PR/0631/DOU/Engg./T/20-21/28

RS passes Bill to cut MPs' salaries by 30% for yr



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Friday passed a Bill to reduce for one year the salaries of MPs by 30 per cent "to meet the exigencies arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic". The Bill was passed in Rajya Sabha with a voice vote while Lok Sabha had passed the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 Bill earlier this week. The Rajya Sabha also approved two Bills, replacing ordinances related to the Central Council of Homoeopathy and the Indian Medicine Central Council.

While supporting the cuts in salaries, most Opposition members who participated in the discussion urged the government to review its decision to suspend the Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme for two years saying it

was necessary to carry out development works in their respective constituencies. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, however, said this was a temporary suspension.

Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy moved the Salaries and Allowances of Members (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and both bills were taken up simultaneously and passed by voice vote.

During the debate, Joshi said it did not matter how much money was being saved through salary cuts of members. "Charity should begin from home and that is the concept we have started. It is not ₹4 crore saving as said by DMK member but ₹53.9 crore per year for members' salary," he said. DMK member P Wilson had earlier during the discussion said the measure would entail savings of just ₹4

Indian genes helpful in battling coronavirus, reducing mortality rate: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian genes are helping battling coronavirus and reducing the mortality rate in comparison to the US and Europe, according to scientists including an expert from the Banaras Hindu University (BHU). The study is published in the PLOS ONE journal.

A team comprising distinguished geneticists from six institutions, led by Prof Gyaneshwer Chaubey of the BHU, analysed complete DNA data of the Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) gene of X chromosome from various continental populations and found that it is the Indian genes that have protected the population and helped battle the deadly virus.

This explains why the mor-



tality rate of COVID-19 has been much higher in European countries and in the US, as compared to India and Southeast Asian countries, they said.

The scientists have provided

ed in the current global distribution of reported COVID-19 cases per 1,00,000 inhabitants.

The international team analysed complete DNA data of the ACE2 gene from various continental populations and found that certain mutations in this gene are helping South Asian and East Asian populations in successfully battling the virus and reducing mortality rate in comparison to the US and Europe.

There have been a few initial studies on the ACE2 gene by other research groups, but all of them looked for the presence or absence of various mutations, and while the study used more powerful haplotype-based analysis (the method in which experts break the whole length of DNA into several pieces and make com-

parisons).

The second important finding is about two major mutations which are responsible for strengthening the entry point of the Coronavirus among South Asians. "Thus, this paper adds important potential implications to understanding the transmission patterns of Coronavirus in various populations across the world," said Anshika Srivastava, one of the authors of the paper.

Rudra Pandey and Prajwal Singh from BHU, Avinash Rasalkar, Pankaj Srivastava from Sagar Central University, Rakesh Tamang from Calcutta University and Pranav Kumar from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) were also involved in this research.

Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill passed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Earlier in the day, the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 seeking to further extend the time for the Central Council of Homoeopathy by a year and the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 also seeking a year's time to reconstitute the central council and provide for a board of directors to exercise its powers in the interim period was passed in the Upper House after a debate.

Satav said "no one knows to whom it is caring". He also pointed out expenses by the government during the pandemic on projects such as Central Vista, Bullet train and a special ₹850 crore aircraft for the PM. The Union Minister Dinesh Trivedi said the bill for reduction of members' salaries was decided only by some MPs on whatsapp.

Cong to launch nationwide stir against farms Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday announced to launch a nationwide agitation against the Centre's three agriculture-related Bills. It is in line with other Opposition parties to come on board to corner the Modi Government on the farmer related issue which has also led to the resignation of Union Minister Harshvardn Kaur of Shiromani Akali Dal, BJP's oldest ally in the NDA.

With farmers protesting against the bills, Congress alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has misled the farmers and the country and Modi is a big liar.

"Person sitting on prime minister's post should not mislead farmers and country. The PM is lying at a time when the country is battling coronavirus and China is breathing down our neck," Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said

at AICC Press conference near Parliament.

Congress said any move to "disturb" the present procurement system may deepen "social unrest" amongst farmers of the state. "We urge upon the government to review and reconsider these measures as these are unlikely to deliver on the promises made to them. Agri-marketing should be left to the states as envisaged in the Constitution," the party said.

Congress again ques-

tioned as to why the Modi Government is trying to finish off MSP. "Both the Agriculture minister and the PM are saying that MSP will continue but when mandis will be finished, who will give MSP? Will FCI (Food Corporation of India) go to farmers' fields to give MSP?" Prime Minister Narendra Modi says now farmers can sell produce anywhere, 86.2 per cent farmers own less than six acres of land and 60

per cent own less than two acres of land. How can such poor farmers have access to far-off markets," Surjewala said. He was joined by his party colleagues and Parliamentarians Gaurav Gogoi, Rajeev Satav, Jasbir Singh Gill, Hibi Eden, and Amar Singh.

Surjewala further asked the Centre, "How will be farmers fight for rights against mega corporate?" "When APMC Act will no longer be there, how will small farmers, mandi workers and transporters earn their livelihood? The mandi fees helps development in villages," Surjewala said also announcing for the joint agitation against the decision.

AICC sources said that agitation being planned with other farmers' groups will be both physical and virtual.

Accusing the Congress of doubletalk, the BJP has been pointing out that the opposition party itself had in its manifesto for 2019 Lok Sabha elections promised the abolition of APMC Act and making agricultural produce free from restrictions.

But former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said his party will move a resolution against the legislations when the assembly session is convened. Talking to reporters later, Hooda said Haryana farmers are facing an existential crisis due to the three "black laws", which will "take away" the protection provided to them. It is important that all parties raise their voice in the interest of the State's farmers, he said, adding that they will not allow the implementation of the legislations in Haryana.

small roads and community centres.

"It (MPLAD) should not be suspended for two years. How did you presume that corona will go on for two years? Even if you had to do it you should have reduced it by half to ₹2.5 crore. My suggestion to the Government will be to reduce it to one year and in that one year ₹2.5 crore fund be

kept," he said.

Similarly, Vishambhar Prasad Nishad (SP), Vijayaji Reddy (YSRCP), K Somnath (CPI-M), Fauzia Khan (NCP), Veer Singh (BSP), Nazir Ahmed Laway (PDP) while supporting the reduction in salaries, sought restoration of the MPLAD scheme.

Pointing at the PM CARES fund, Congress MP Rajeev

Corps Commander-level talks between India, China likely in next 3 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following the agreement between External affairs minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on September 10 to defuse tensions at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at the earliest, the next round of military level talks will see India urging simultaneous disengagement and de-escalation. The Corps Commander-level talks between the two armies are likely to take place in the next two to three days.

The Indian stance during

the forthcoming military level talks was discussed at great length for more than 90 minutes in the China Study Group (CSG) meeting chaired by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval here on Friday, according to the top officials of the defence brass including Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat took part in the crucial meeting, they added.

The two commanders Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin have held five rounds of parleys so far since June 6 but no significant improvement took place

on the ground. The last round was held on August 2 when it was agreed to disengage and de-escalate.

However, China did not honour the commitment and in fact tried to unilaterally alter the LAC in south bank of the Pangong Tso (lake) on August 29 and 30. The aggressive action was thwarted by the Indian army.

Moreover, both the sides in the last fortnight fired more than 200 rounds in the air on at least four occasions thereby increasing tension at the already volatile border.

Sudarshan TV requests SC for live telecast of hearing on 'Bindas Bol'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sudarshan TV, which is facing legal action for defaming the Supreme Court, has moved an application seeking a live telecast of the hearing of the plea, which has raised a grievance over its "Bindas Bol" programme, the promo of which would have the channel "hold air" a "big episode" of the conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service.

On September 15, the top court had restrained the channel from telecasting the episode of "Bindas Bol" and further orders, saying that the "intent" of the episodes "prima facie" appeared to "vilify" the Muslim community.

The application filed by Sudarshan News through its director and editor Suresh Chavhanke said, "It is respect-

fully submitted that the present case is one of the most important cases concerning the public at large as the question of freedom of press protected by Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India is involved."

It said crores of viewers of the channel want to know about the legal proceedings and hear the points of arguments being raised by the parties.

"Direct for a live telecast of the proceedings of this case through audio-visual broadcast/telecasting universally by an official agency as the court may deem fit and proper," the application said.

A bench comprising justices D Y Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and K M Joseph will take up the matter for hearing at 12 noon.


Apex court hikes damages for victims of road accidents

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has enhanced the compensation to a victim of road accident saying that courts should be mindful that a serious injury not only imposes disabilities but also inflicts deep mental and emotional scars.

The apex court said it has emphasised time and again that "just compensation" should include all elements that would go to place the victim in as near a position as he or she was in, before the occurrence of the accident.

The top court said that no amount of money or other material compensation can erase the trauma, pain and suffering of the victims.



Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
5th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is implementing the umbrella scheme "Scholarships for Students with Disabilities" for their empowerment through education w.e.f. 1st April, 2018. There are six components of this scheme i.e. Pre-matric, Post-matric, Top Class Education, National Overseas Scholarship, National Fellowship and Free Coaching. The brief details of the umbrella scheme are given below:

S. No.	Components	Courses covered	No. of Scholarships per year	Parental income ceiling per annum (Rs.)	Rate of scholarship	How to apply								
1.	Pre-matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities	Class IX and X	25,000	2.50 lakh	Scholarship of Rs.500 per month for day scholars and Rs.800 per month for hostelers plus book grant and disability allowance ranging from Rs.2000/- to Rs.4000/- per annum.	These three scholarships scheme are being implemented through National Scholarship Portal (NSP). Apply on-line on National Scholarship Portal (www.scholarships.gov.in). The portal has been opened for registration from 16th August 2020.								
2.	Post-matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities	Class XI to Master's Degree or Diploma level	17000	2.50 lakh	There are different rates maintenance allowance for Post-Graduate, Graduate, Diploma, professional courses leading to degree, diploma etc. in different disciplines. It ranges from Rs.900-1600 p.m. for hosteller and Rs.550-750 p.m. for day scholars plus tuition fee (maximum ceiling Rs.1.50 lakh per annum), book allowance and disability allowance ranging from Rs.2000/- to Rs.4000/- per annum.	Last date for submission and verification of applications on NSP is as under- <table border="1"><tr><th>Levels</th><th>Last Dates</th></tr><tr><td>Students registration</td><td>31.10.2020</td></tr><tr><td>Institute Verification</td><td>15.11.2020</td></tr><tr><td>State Verification</td><td>30.11.2020</td></tr></table>	Levels	Last Dates	Students registration	31.10.2020	Institute Verification	15.11.2020	State Verification	30.11.2020
Levels	Last Dates													
Students registration	31.10.2020													
Institute Verification	15.11.2020													
State Verification	30.11.2020													
3.	Scholarship for Top Class Education for Students with Disabilities	Graduate/ Post Graduate Degree or Diploma in 241 notified institutions of excellence	300	6.00 lakh	Monthly maintenance allowance of Rs.3000/- for hostellers, Rs.1500/- for day scholars, Rs.2000/- per month disability allowance, book grant Rs.5000/- per annum and tuition fee upto Rs.2.00 lakh per annum.	(*) For latest updates, please visit website: www.scholarships.gov.in								
4.	National Overseas Scholarships for Students with Disabilities	Master's degree and Doctorate degree in foreign universities abroad	20	6.00 lakh	Maintenance allowance of 9,900 Pound (Great Britain) per annum for UK and for other countries US \$15,400, plus tuition fees, Annual Contingency Allowance, cost of air passage, etc.	Receipt of application is open throughout the year. The proforma for submission of application is given on the website of the Department i.e. www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in . Application may be submitted in the prescribed proforma to Under Secretary (Scholarships), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Room No.519, 5th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003								
5.	National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities	M.Phil/Ph.D in Indian Universities	200	No income Ceiling	Monthly Rs.31,000/- for JRF (first two years) and Rs.38,000/- for SRF (3rd year onwards up to complete duration of the course) and Contingency Grant, Escort Allowance/Reader Allowance and House Rent Allowance (at applicable rates).	Selection is done by the University Grants Commission. The candidates may apply online as and when applications are invited by UGC. No application is required to be sent to Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities								
6.	Free Coaching	For appearing in competitive examinations for jobs in Government/ Public Sector and admission to technical and professional courses	2000	6.00 lakh	Coaching fee shall be payable to empanelled Institute by this Department. Stipend and Special allowance for Disability @ Rs.7,000/- per month for outstanding candidates and Rs.4,500/- per month for local candidates shall be payable.	The Coaching Institute may send their proposals in the prescribed application form with the recommendations of concerned State Govts./UTs and having registration certificate under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 for empowerment of the Coaching Institute.								

All the above scholarships are applicable to students with 40% & above disability and having a valid disability certificate to this effect issued by the competent medical authority. Disability is as defined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

For further details, please visit: www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in

dasp 38117/1/0014/2021

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Covid-19 battered world continue to search for vaccine to combat the deadly virus, States in India are banking on herbal immunity boosters among other safety norms like masks and social distancing to keep the pathogen at bay which has so far infected 54 lakhs people and claimed 83,000 lives across the country.

While Tamil Nadu is distributing Siddha-based herbal immunity boosters like 'Aithimathuram' and 'Kabasura Kudineer', Karnataka is supplying ayurveda-based immunity enhancing tablets and decoction to the locals as part

of the fight against coronavirus. So is the case with Delhi and Punjab where cops are being armed with the formulation based on medicinal plants and essential oils to fight the virus from the front.

Punjab has recently announced doling out its health personnel to Covid-19 kits having medical gadgets like mask, oximeter besides medicines and an herbal immunity booster Amynity Plus to combat the virus. Nearly 3,800 police personnel have tested Covid positive in the State.

The herbal formulation is extract of around 51 herbs like harad, Neem, Amla, Sunthi, Ashwagandha, Gudduchi

besides eight essential oils to empower immunity of the body system.

R Sanchit Sharma, Executive Director of AAILM Pharmaceuticals which has developed the herbal brew, noted that not only a strong immune system but multi-system immune defence comes to the perfect solution to tackle the infection which has brought the world standstill.

Like in Punjab, police personnel in Delhi are being distributed Ayuraskha Kit comprising of 'Kudhi' concoction (herbal tea), 'Samsanam' tablet (made from Giloy), oil to be used as nasal drops and pack of Chyawanprash while Tamil Nadu is offering the concoction like 'Aithimathuram' and 'Kabasura Kudineer'.

"These are not a cure for Covid-19 but for boosting the immunity of an individual," said Chief Minister Edappadi K

Palaniswami launched the scheme by distributing the kit to police personnel.


Similarly, Karnataka Government is offering ayurveda-based immunity boosting tablets and decoction to lakhs of families in Shivamogga under an initiative to go to the rural areas in as near a position as he or she was in, before the occurrence of the accident.

The top court said that no amount of money or other material compensation can erase the trauma, pain and suffering of the victims.

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

S. No.	NAME OF BIDDING COMPANY	NAME OF WORK NOTIFICATION	OPENING DATE	APPROX. VALUE	REGISTER TO THE BOARD	MOBILE OFFICE/CONTACT
1.	INDIAN SHIPYARD	REPAIRATION, PAINTING & OVERHAULING OF SHIPS	20.09.2020	₹ 10.00 Lakh	www.haryana.gov.in	9810000000
2.	PTI SHIPYARD	REPAIRATION, PAINTING & OVERHAULING OF SHIPS	20.09.2020	₹ 10.00 Lakh	www.haryana.gov.in	9810000000

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaprojectprocurement.gov.in or www.tenders.hry.nic.in

RO NO. 82888

Farmers' woes

The farm Bills may claim to open up the agricultural sector but the implied corporatisation may engulf farming communities



Corporatisation of agriculture in the US, where factory farming birthed an uninterrupted chain of "farm to fork," has wiped out rural communities, their organic methods, their unique produce, their relevance and independent existence. It all began in the 1970s to realise a dream of becoming big enough to command the world's food market with industrialised processes, merging of lands and shifting priorities to commodity crops. But in no time there was a glut due to over-production, farmers could never get the commensurate prices and were driven to debts. They had no option but to foreclose and sell out. Now farmers do not even make

up a quarter of the total US agricultural production. Buying into the promise of "making it big," they stretched their resources and were subsumed by food giants. This is exactly the scenario that our farmers fear following the passage of farm Bills, which began as ordinances during the lockdown, in the Lok Sabha. Yes, structurally, they may seem to streamline the agricultural processes but the farmer is not willing to give up his right to exist on his terms. Worse, he fears that these could ultimately reduce the current system of open-ended FCI procurement by the State. Little wonder then that farmers have taken to the streets across North India despite the Prime Minister's assurance that the new Bills would "empower" them by giving them direct linkages to the market and that their minimum support price (MSP) would still be guaranteed. Such has been the cascading effect of their anxieties that regional parties that sustain on the rural votebank, namely the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), are under pressure to withdraw support to the ruling BJP as allies. The farmers have made it very clear that there would be no political future for parties and MPs that voted with the Government. So the lone SAD Minister, Harsimrat Singh Badal, resigned as Union Minister of Food Processing Industries while in Parliament Sukhbir Singh Badal warned that the proposed laws would "destroy" the 50 years of hard work done by successive Punjab governments to build the farm sector. While the Government insists that the new laws will help create "one nation, one market" and remove trader barriers so that farmers can sell their produce outside notified grain markets, the latter fear that in an open, competitive market, they would not get the minimum support price that the Government has promised to continue. Besides, they feel that entering into contracts with corporations would willy-nilly give the latter negotiating rights and greater control that would impinge on their autonomy and decision-making. And that although the older system would continue, as a weakened parallel mechanism, it would ultimately crumble before emerging monopolies. It is the implication behind the grandiloquence of a prosperous countryside and the devil in the detail that have our farming community up in arms. For example, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020, allows buys and sales outside the notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis, thereby limiting their cartelisation tendencies. It also prohibits State Governments from collecting the fee, cess or levy for trade outside the APMC markets. A licence won't be required to trade in farm produce and anyone with a PAN card can now buy directly from growers. Hence they want clarity on what "outside" means and contrary to perception that they want middlemen out, they actually have a trusted bond with their existing commission agents, as their licence is proof of their credibility and delivery abilities, and would not want to experiment with an untested model. With most of them not literate enough about exercising their rights, dispute resolution could also end up being loaded against them. Besides, they would want direct payment as banks could deduct amounts as loan recovery. State Governments like Punjab are obviously upset that access to another market would dry up their own revenue from APMC mandis and are seeing this as an affront to federal controls. The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, seeks to bring uniformity in contractual farming rules and State APMC acts. So the farmer can now enter into a contract with a corporate entity at a mutually agreed price. The problem here is that the mechanism for price fixation is not codified and farmers fear that corporations could use their institutional heft to manipulate or browbeat them into accepting their terms. Finally, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, aims to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from a regulated list, which is being seen as a major threat to the food security of the poor. The Government argues that as a food-surplus nation, we don't need it anymore but the pandemic-induced crisis has shown us how supply chain disruptions and local level hoarding can lead to a price spiral.

Farmers are not entirely without reason, battling as they are bad loans and non-payment of sugarcane dues in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. They do not want to be swamped. Many experts would argue that it is easy enough to push reforms in a sector that anyway makes a very small portion of our GDP. But farmers make up 60 per cent of the country's population, a voter base that no political party can ignore. Both the SAD and JJP owe their political legitimacy to farmers and have no option but to advocate their rights. Besides, both represent States that are heavily dependent on procurement at MSP. The Bills may well turn out to be the BJP's Achilles' heel provided the Opposition is quick enough to mount a united campaign.

Flight of fancy

Aerial sightseeing has become very popular as several nations still have travel restrictions on incoming arrivals



It began with some intrepid folks chartering planes to fly around. Then airlines such as Singapore Airlines and Australia's Qantas caught wind of the idea and ran with it. What are we talking about? The concept of "flights to nowhere in particular" seems to have taken off, literally. Qantas' recent trip, involving low-flying, aerial survey of the Great Barrier Reef, was sold out. Airlines are happy as this allows them to fly their aircraft relatively full, thus keeping some jobs safe and their expensive assets, the planes themselves, flying. Of course, scenic flights that operate in and out of the same airport are not a new concept. Qantas itself has run seasonal flights to Antarctica for several years every southern summer. But 2020, as we all know, is not like any other year, with several nations still putting travel restrictions on incoming arrivals, some not even allowing non-citizens to return and others instituting strict quarantine regulations, even for travel within a country.

As a result the global aviation business is hurting, thousands of pilots, cabin crew, ground crew and aircraft maintenance engineers have already lost jobs and unless things change dramatically, several thousand more will lose their jobs in the coming months. Many airlines have already shut for good and many more are in deep financial distress. It is not a good time to be an airline or be employed by one. So yes, while these flights of fancy might seem extravagant and a waste of money and resources, even adding pollution, their popularity means that airlines will probably survive as well as regain some overall confidence in flying. Let us not forget, these flights are being bought by people, who after six months of being grounded, want to get back in the air. They want to experience airport security and airline food for better or for worse. The very frequent flyer might have celebrated the first couple of months of no flying but almost every single person in that category misses that experience now and these flights, pointless as they might seem, allow these people to get a fix. There are many willing to take off in India as well and maybe a scenic flight to two around the Himalayas or the wonderful coastal areas may not be a bad idea here.

Presumption of innocence

The media overlooked the principles of ethical juridical coverage while tracking Sushant Singh Rajput's death and its sordid aftermath



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Media, particularly television, coverage of Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide — I will call the manner of his death so until established otherwise — and its aftermath has raised questions. Avoiding the mutually accusatory statements that have been doing the rounds, I would rather focus on some deeper issues involved. The first is whether the extent of coverage extended to it is justified.

The event, doubtless, was most tragic. A young man, who has given much to Indian cinema, and could have given more, has been snatched in his prime. The unnatural nature of his passing, the allegations and counter-allegations ranging over it, the controversy about who should investigate it, the Centre's decision to cut the CBI in charge, the Supreme Court's verdict endorsing the transfer and the subsequent developments, certainly merited media coverage. But did it have to take up huge chunks of prime-time coverage on most channels since June 14 when the alleged suicide occurred?

The question is relevant when the country is facing a serious threat of Chinese aggression, a raging and escalating COVID-19 pandemic and an economy in crisis — to mention three of the most important challenges. The argument that there is a need for attention raises the question: Is the attention of the deserved quality and extent? The question can be countered by two arguments. First, any answer, in the negative or affirmative, will involve a large measure of subjective judgement and, hence, cannot be regarded as definitive. The second can be that viewers want the kind of coverage provided.

As to the first, all judgments on all issues are subjective in the nature of things. The quality of the evidence, a person or a group must assess it and come to a conclusion. The assessment is by individuals who have their own predilections and orientations, which they may or may not be able to overcome. But then, a society, would not have been able to function if it did not proceed by accepting as valid judgements that, under the normative criteria embedded in its underlying social contract, passed the tests of rationality and morality.



Here, rationality dictates the question: Whether Rajput's death and its sordid aftermath has greater relevance to the lives of the country and its people than the Chinese aggression, the COVID-19 pandemic and/or the economic crisis? One can argue that the aftermath's importance can hardly be understated because it is leading to the unravelling of the Bollywood drug network, which in turn may lead to the eradication of the drug trade's tentacles throughout the country. Against this, one has the Union Minister of State G. Kishan Reddy's written reply to a question by a Congress MP, K. Sudhakaran, in the Lok Sabha on September 15 stating, "Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) carries out search, seizure, arrest and investigation continuously throughout the year on the actionable inputs developed on its own and/or on receipt from other sources. During the period of COVID-19 lockdown, no such actionable inputs were received by the NCB revealing the nexus between people in the film industry and drug traffickers." He, however, added, "However, a case in this regard has been registered by NCB Mumbai zonal unit on August 28, 2020. Till date, in this case 10 persons have been arrested. Drugs such as Ganja, Hashish, Tetra Hydro Cannabinol and Lysergic acid Diethylamide have been seized in the operation."

Clearly, one has to see what the NCB produces. Until then it would be a bit too much to cite the possibility of its unearthing a pan-India drug racket to justify the massive coverage given to the train of events following Rajput's death. This leads to the second justification cited above: Viewers want it. This may be true given that the titillation and voyeuristic pleasure that a very large number of people get from watching the lives of celebrities unscramble or the aftermath of a shocking tragedy unfold.

The mere fact that people want to see something does not make it acceptable. Time was when nothing was considered wrong with masses assembled in Rome's Colosseum roaring in applause as a gladiator killed another or a lion. Even now, many in Spain are happy to witness bullfights in which matadors kill bulls in unequal combat, and thousands participate in jallikattu in South India in which bulls suffer horribly.

Clearly, popular participation or viewing does not by itself justify an event or its extensive and approbatory coverage — especially when it diverts attention from critical issues facing a country and trivialises discourse in what the German social philosopher, Jürgen Habermas, calls the "public sphere". The latter, he states in *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* (1962), is a virtual or imaginary community which does not necessarily exist in any identifiable space. In its ideal form, the public sphere is "made

up of private people gathered together as a public and articulating the needs of society with the state." It is a space where private individuals discuss public matters, which mediates between society and the state, leading to a critical consensus translating itself into a coherent public opinion, which makes the state accountable to citizens. The media has a critical role in providing information for discussion in the public sphere. It, however, also has a responsibility to ensure that investigations proceed along right lines.

Investigating and prosecuting agencies charged with delivering criminal justice are known to make mistakes and even frame innocent persons, often when under pressure to solve a crime. This writer's decision to become a journalist has been significantly influenced by his witnessing, as a school student in the early 1950s, the film *Call Northside 777*. Directed by Henry Hathaway, it was based on the real-life efforts by a *Chicago Daily Times* reporter, James McGuire, undertaken at the behest of the city editor, Karin Walsh, that led to the release of Joseph Majczek, wrongly convicted of murdering a police officer and serving a 99-year prison term.

One, however, must proceed with extreme caution. Pressures on investigative agencies to produce results can make probes go horribly wrong, leading to prolonged, rough interrogation, arrest and prosecution of innocent people whose lives are de-

asted in the process even if the judiciary exonerates them in the end. The matter reminds one of the title of Malcolm Feeley's much-discussed book, *The Process is the Punishment: Handling Cases in a Lower Criminal Court*, first published in 1979. Doubtless, the book deals with lower criminal courts in the US and not India. Also, we are talking here not just about lower criminal courts but the entire process. It can be a long haul, involving expenses in the form of lawyers' fees and transport, time spent in preparations, media pressure led to him/her being pronounced guilty? This does not mean that investigative journalism should not extend to cases under investigation. But it does mean scrupulous observation and fair play and integrity and two cardinal principles of democratic, libertarian jurisprudence, wedded to respect for human rights.

The first is enshrined in Article 11(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948. It reads, "Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence." It is also incorporated in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights, originally Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which came into force on 3 September 1953. It states in Article 6(2), "Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law."

The famous English jurist, William Blackstone, articulated the second principle when he wrote in *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, "all presumptive evidence of felony should be admitted cautiously, for the law holds that it is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer." Benjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of the United States, went further and said, in a letter in March 1785, "That it is better 100 guilty Persons should escape than that one innocent Person should suffer, is a Maxim that has been long and generally approved."

Journalists should remember both, always. (The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and author)

SOUNDBITE

I have always enjoyed watching Dhoni play because of the style he has. The aggression...I really like that. It has influenced me in my game, too, as football is a game where you need to be tough.

Footballer
—Anirudh Thapa



Farming is the soul of Punjab. Wounds on the body can heal but wounds of the soul will not be tolerated and condoned.

Congress leader
—Najot Singh Sidhu



Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, Asian-Americans have been forced to endure demeaning and disgusting acts of bigotry and hate.

US Congresswoman
—Grace Meng



No matter how hard you work and what you do, the President is going to do something that is detrimental to keeping the Americans safe.

Ex-White House Aide
—Olivia Troye



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Question Hour matters

Sir — Question Hour is the liveliest hour in Parliament and lends a certain depth to proceedings. MPs ask questions to hold the Government and its Ministers accountable. It is a sacred parliamentary device meant for exercising legislative control over executive actions. Unfortunately, the ruling party has watered down the Question Hour for this monsoon session. This decision erodes the constitutional mandate of parliamentary oversight over executive actions as envisaged under Article 75 (3) of the Indian Constitution.

Noor Ahmad
Hyderabad

Tension continues to simmer at LAC

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's statement on "developments on the border in Ladakh" in Parliament hasn't made us any wiser. As was to be expected, the Minister was effusive in eulogising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, coincidentally on his birthday. Still, the fact remains that the PM denied Chinese incursions earlier on and still refuses to name China as an errant.

What Rajnath Singh left unsaid conveyed more than what he said on the floor of the Parliament. Former Defence Minister AK Antony succinctly remarked that protecting the territorial integrity of the nation entails the restoration of the status quo ante as in April which is not the same as maintaining the present status quo. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) should retreat from "inner areas" they occupied and allow patrolling by Indian troops up to the point they used to. Diplomatic efforts should continue to persuade China to see reason and agree for the restoration of the status quo. The situation along the LAC is now so volatile that



recurring frictions could escalate anytime. The Defence Minister underlined the state of preparedness of Indian troops for any eventuality. At the same time, he sounded statesman-like when he observed that there are many ways to start a war, not many to end it. Hence, it is axiomatic that cooperation is better than confrontation.

G Madhavan
Maruthanode

matter of national security. An English newspaper report said that a company associated with the Chinese Government and the military is monitoring the Internet and social media activities of about 10,000 distinguished Indians and their close ones. It is clear from this that along with strategic and economic aggression, the digital breach is also a part of China's hybrid war against India. Along with the expansion of information technology and the Internet, the issue of data security is a matter of grave concern.

Bhupendra Singh
Haryana

Classes resume

Sir — The Telangana Government has announced that senior students of classes IX to XII should start attending school with 50 per cent teachers. However, with many parents unwilling to pay the fees for the month of June, the State Government must arrange the necessary amount from its Treasury to get the system rolling.

SM Arif Hussain
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

migrants, who have not been able to articulate their plight.

AMS Nadwi
Lucknow

Biased investigation

Sir — The ongoing investigation into the Delhi riots of February 2020 has begun to assume a farcical character. The focus of the

investigation has shifted from the perpetrators of the riot and its instigators and turned towards only civil society dissenters and protesters of Government policies. In effect, the conspiratorial net has been cast so wide as to capture anyone who opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), be it a student activist, political leader or voluntary worker. The investigation must

be thorough, fair and transparent, and deemed as such.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

China's digital theft

Sir — The collection of digital data on our President, Prime Minister, politicians, judges, military officers, industrialists and other dignitaries by China is a

FIRST COLUMN

The expanding judicial remits

Over the years, the courts have changed the face of justice in India and focussed on issues where the executive has failed in its duty



VK BAHUGUNA

In any system of governance, the judiciary is always an essential part of civilised life. In Indian history, too, kings played a very important part in dispensing justice. In the days of yore, population pressure was less, crimes were few as people were more law-abiding, resources were available in abundance and the system of justice was not stretched like it is today. By and large the judicial system followed the dictates of the rulers and it sufficed. However, with the advent of democracy, modern jurisprudence developed. Independent jurisprudence got a big boost after the Magna Carta was signed by the King of England in 1215. Now, people in most parts of the world recognise the judiciary as an independent pillar of Government. It is complementary to the executive and the legislature but independent from the other branches of Government, as judicial accountability enshrines the principle of neutrality.

The beginning of codified common law in India can be traced back to 1726 when a Mayor's Court in then Madras, Bombay and Calcutta was established by the East India Company. Needless to say, the courts changed the face of justice in India and focussed on issues where the executive failed in its duty. This judicial assertion started from the Kesavananda Bharati case when it ruled that basic features of the Constitution cannot be changed. The enunciation of the doctrine of Public Interest Litigation (a relaxation on the traditional rule of *locus standi*) by Justice PN Bhagwati opened the courts to socially-disadvantaged sections of society and course correction in the functioning of the executive.

In the recent past, many landmark judgments in the field of environment have endeared judges to the people of the country. Notable among them were Justice Kuldip Singh and Justice AN Verma. The 1996 Godavari case turned the trajectory of forest and wildlife management in India. Despite the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the lackadaisical attitude of the Central and State Governments put forests and biodiversity at great risk. Interventions by courts in the last 24 years forced executive agencies to act for the smooth implementation of constitutional provisions for the conservation of forests and wildlife resources.

India was one of the earliest nations in the tropical world to implement working plan provisions for managing forests sustainably. However, the working plans were almost forgotten by it. The Supreme Court, through its interventions, streamlined forest management in the country and forced respective governments to prepare and regulate management of forests through working plans. Now the results are visible on the ground.

Similarly, rampant mining in forest areas is being closely monitored by the apex court. This positive action of the Supreme Court struck a balance in restoring the constitutional obligation of the executive. Yet another instance of excellent intervention relates to declaring Ganga River a life entity by the Uttarakhand High Court. Such decisions have touched the lives of millions of our citizens. What is most significant in this regard is the recognition of the rights of those who cannot speak for themselves like trees, animals and rivers which are crucial for sustaining life on Earth. The establishment of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in the country, which now has an impressive collection of nearly ₹50,000 crore in its kitty, was possible on the direction of the Supreme Court.

In yet another epoch-making intervention, the apex court came down heavily on the real estate-politician-bureaucrat nexus in Noida. A Supreme Court Bench, headed by Justice Arun Mishra, sent a stern message to those involved in the Annapali housing projects. The builder Anil Sharma, who was allegedly in league with politicians and officers of the Noida Authority, swindled more than ₹8,000 crore of homebuyers' hard-earned money. This crime was perpetrated under the noses of those who were supposed to protect the interest of the people. The problem with our governance system is such that it gleefully ignores the sufferings of the people at the hands of criminals and the corrupt. The Supreme Court has been relentlessly trying to restore faith in the rule of law among the 40,000 hapless homebuyers while the executive with all its power has failed miserably on all counts. The court had appointed a receiver for the case, tied up funds from banks and asked the National Building Corporation to complete the projects. The promoters of Annapali are cooling their heels in jail for the last six months and their properties are under auction.

The vital question is why does the executive fail in its duty and why does the judiciary have to step in? The answer lies in the lopsided democracy we follow, wherein only vote-fetching and Government formation are a priority of our political masters and public interest takes a back seat. Because of this the remits of the judiciary are being redefined. The judiciary, however, also needs to reinvent itself on certain issues concerning quick delivery of affordable justice so that it does not fall into the same rut like the executive. (The writer is a retired civil servant)

YOU LOOK AT COUNTRIES. IN AUSTRIA THEY LIVE IN THE FOREST. AND THEY DON'T HAVE FIRES LIKE THIS. AND THEY HAVE MORE EXPLOSIVE TREES.

—US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

POINT COUNTERPOINT



AUSTRIA IS A COUNTRY WHERE PEOPLE DO NOT LIVE IN THE FOREST, BUT RATHER WITH THE FOREST AND IN A CLOSE, SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE.

—AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER ELISABETH KOESTINGER

A matter of interest

If borrowers get interest relief during the moratorium period, bank investors and depositors would stand to lose unless compensated by the Govt, like it happens in farm loan waivers



SUBHASH CHANDRA PANDEY

Responding to the pandemic, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had 'permitted' banks to grant moratorium on payment of instalments of term loans due after March 1 up to August 31. A similar dispensation was "allowed" on recovery of interest on working capital. The moratorium was initially permitted up to the end of April and 55.1 per cent of customers of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), accounting for 50 per cent of outstanding credit, had availed this facility. In Public Sector Banks (PSBs), 80.3 per cent of all individual customers, accounting for 80 per cent of total outstanding individual loans, opted for the moratorium. A whopping 74 per cent of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers and 28.8 per cent of corporate borrowers, covering 81.5 per cent and 58 per cent (by outstanding amount in category loans), availed the facility.

For private banks, 41.8 per cent of individual customers, accounting for 80 per cent of outstanding individual loans, and 20.9 per cent of all MSME customers opted for moratoriums, comprising 42.5 per cent of outstanding loans to MSMEs. About 21.6 per cent of corporate borrowers, covering 19.6 per cent of total outstanding corporate loans, had availed the facility.

The Supreme Court has extended the moratorium and the Central Government has appointed an expert panel to look into the issue. Exactly how many loans accounts and what loan amount is under moratorium are not known. Some borrowers may have decided against seeking the moratorium facility due to uncertainty about relief on interest. Had the interest relief been announced upfront, almost all borrowers would have instantly opted for the moratorium, except possibly for borrowers too proud of their financial standing to seek any relief.

Since the moratorium was extended till August 31, it was the borrowers' call to take a wager on the verdict and decide whether to opt for a moratorium or not. It is unclear if the relief, if and when granted, would be available only to those availing of the moratorium. Overall, the system lacks incentives for those remaining fully compliant while the non-compliant people may have to get some relief. Had the interest relief been a matter of legal right under the Banking Regulation or Disaster Management Acts, it would have been through by now. The Disaster Management Act (DMA), empowering the Government to take immediate relief and rescue measures, cannot be overruled by the RBI. The RBI has already binding orders regarding timely payment of salaries, non-recovery of rent and school fees and so on could not be issued for this reason. Appeals to good conscience is a different matter.

Likewise, the Banking Regulation Act (BRA) would by itself not confer any rights on the RBI to mandate any alteration in the 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' entered into by the banks unless supplemented with legal remedies under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act (SARFAESI Act) or the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Appropriately, the RBI has 'permitted' grants of moratorium while extending regulatory forbearance on recognition of the non-performing assets (NPA). The BRA Act does not empower the RBI to mandate

“IN THE ABSENCE OF FULLY DISAGGREGATED DATA ON DIFFERENT TYPES OF LOANS UNDER MORATORIUM, A BACK-OF-THE-ENVELOPE QUANTIFICATION OF THE IMPACT OF INTEREST RELIEF CAN BE ₹1 LAKH CRORE PER MONTH ASSUMING INTEREST RELIEF TO BE ABOUT ONE PER CENT PER MONTH ON TOTAL PRE-PANDEMIC OUTSTANDING CREDIT OF ABOUT ₹100 LAKH CRORE. EVEN DIRECT FISCAL RELIEF TO THE GENERAL POPULATION IS NOT OF THIS MAGNITUDE



changing loan terms already contracted. Loan contracts can be changed only on the orders of insolvency courts. Mandatory moratorium requires more than the BRA Act.

There are no free lunches in economics except those paid for by others. If borrowers get interest relief during the moratorium period, bank investors and depositors would stand to lose unless compensated by the Government. Like it happens in farm loan waivers, charity at others' expense is systemic. Relief to borrowers at the expense of depositors is akin to relief to consumers ending up suppressing remunerative market prices for farmers. The bank depositors are also adversely impacted by the pandemic-induced fall in interest rates that stand to benefit non-borrowers as well as the borrowers who are able to refinance high-cost old loans. The post-outbreak rate cuts and liquidity infusion by the RBI, aided by rising foreign exchange reserves, has caused a precipitous fall in interest rates. Some are offering record-low home loan interest rates under seven per cent per annum with new products of repo-linked home loans on offer. Low interest rates bring cheer to borrowers but gloom to depositors.

There are no fiscal guarantees to depositors on minimum interest rates and the IBC haircuts have been too costly in some cases. When corporate borrowers get a tax reduction bonanza, they don't share the booty with lenders as they are not obliged to. When farm loans are waived, Governments provide fiscal support to banks but at present the Centre does not seem able and willing to compensate the banks for interest relief.

In the absence of fully disaggregated data on different types of loans under moratorium, a back-of-the-envelope quantification of the impact of interest relief can be ₹1 lakh crore per month,

assuming interest relief to be about one per cent per month on total pre-pandemic outstanding credit of about ₹100 lakh crore. Even direct fiscal relief to the general population is not of this magnitude.

Financial stakes on the Supreme Court's verdict are very high. The interest relief has been sought from the highest court of justice precisely because it is not a legal right. The golden balance of justice is being watched by distressed borrowers and anxious depositors. All borrowers are not equally distressed by the pandemic. Some differentiating criterion based on quantum of liability outstanding on March 1 and purpose of loan (whether educational, for first home/car or second one, for the Economically Weaker Section or affordable housing, past credit history) and proven impact of the contagion on income can be evolved to give relief to a truly needy class of borrowers. The relief even to this subset should not be entirely a burden on bank depositors. Ideally such relief is best provided by governments under fiscal stimulus paid by taxpayers, current or future.

The need to maintain the health of banks can hardly be overemphasised. Deep-rooted socio-cultural beliefs stigmatising indebtedness (debted person embarrased and lenders reviled) continue to change worldwide.

Post World War, the wheels of growth are lubricated by the continuous supply of credit. India joined the borrow/spend bandwagon in the 80s. Lending by Scheduled Commercial Banks rose from ₹8,64,300 crore (30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)) at the end of March 2004 to ₹67,35,200 crore at the end of March 2014 (60 per cent of the GDP). At present, bank lending is only about 50 per cent of the GDP.

As on July 31, the total deposits of SCBs stood at ₹14,61,680 crore (₹12,44,583 crore a year ago); outstanding credit was

₹102,65,888 crore (₹97,29,002 crore a year ago) and investments were ₹42,78,294 crore (₹35,57,063 crore a year ago). The combined effect of risk aversion of banks to lend and predominantly domestic financing of fiscal deficit is that only about two-third of deposits get lent to non-Government entities.

We have made great strides in terms of expanding the reach of banking services and financialisation of savings but high-profile delinquencies by those who can afford to pay continue to eclipse these achievements.

The gross NPA of SCBs that had peaked to 11.2 per cent in 2017-18 has been brought down to 8.5 per cent by March. This achievement is a great cost to bank investors/depositors on account of hefty haircuts following not-so-competitive slump sales of distressed companies under the conventional, single round bidding system being followed under the IBC. The RBI has assessed that the gross NPA of all SCBs may increase from 8.5 per cent in March to 12.5 per cent by March 2021 and even to 14.7 per cent if the adverse economic impact of the pandemic is very severe. Seeing the plight of forecasting tools, the economic fallout of the contagion is hard to predict and measure.

Since bank lending is only about 50 per cent of the GDP and post-pandemic recovery would require a heavy dose of credit, it is imperative to maintain incentives for financial savings.

Erosion of bank profitability runs the risk of dire consequences of de-financialisation or informalisation of savings, derailing the hard-won recovery. The banking system needs calibrated support to prevent relapse into transmitted sickness.

(The writer is a retired IAS officer and former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.)

Fight hunger with an inter-sectoral strategy

The 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' seems to have made some headway with an ambitious target of achieving a malnutrition-free India by 2022



SUNIL RAJPAL

It is disconcerting that every second child in India suffers some form of nutritional failure in India. Over the years, Government data have borne witness to how many people, especially women and children, do not get three square meals in a day. Worryingly, the potential disruptions caused by the lockdown may make the varied forms of malnutrition a lasting reality. However, the launch of the Government's flagship programme 'POSHAN Abhiyaan', seems to have made some headway, with an ambitious target of achieving a malnutrition-free India by 2022.

years from 38.4 per cent to 25 per cent during the same period, along with reducing the level of anaemia and low birth weight in children.

With inter-sectoral convergence being the key strategy, the programme makes a shift from the existing approach of making planning and implementation the responsibility of one Ministry. Instead, it rightly notes the various critical components of success and makes 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' a multi-ministerial initiative. While the Ministry of Women and Child Development acts as the nodal office, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is responsible for the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) that ensures cleanliness and hygiene and the Ministry of Education is responsible for the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS).

Two other Ministries, that of Health and Family Welfare, and the one responsible for Rural Development, are looking after health programmes such as Mission

Indradhanush for immunisation coverage and rural income schemes such as MGNREGA, respectively. The LPG distribution scheme by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas enabled safe and hygienic cooking in underprivileged households.

But will India accept malnutrition as everyone's problem? The copious fund allocation for the 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' and its increase in the past three years have shown the Government's sincerity in taking the mission to its intended conclusion. From ₹950 crore in 2017-18, the current allocation for the 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' reached a sum of ₹3,400 crore for the financial year 2019-20. However, the potential challenge can be bringing social and behavioural change towards malnutrition at the community level. Ensuring equitable nutrition to build a healthier nation will require the following.

Eating local and seasonal food: This comprises a part of the trend known as 'sustainable eating' and has

been proven to be an economical solution to the food crisis globally. This saves time and the cost of transportation while promoting the use of fewer preservatives. Such food items are also suitable to fulfil the nutritional needs of the people in a way that is commensurate with the local environment.

The concept of introducing kitchen gardens in schools to fulfil some part of the requirements under the MDMS is an innovative step. In the coming days, introducing more steps, such as promotion of local, nutritious millet and crop diversification to promote traditional millet will be the right steps to complement this ongoing effort. Recent studies have observed that investing \$1 in nutrition-related interventions will have economic gains of about \$19 to \$22.

Addressing intrinsic social and cultural biases: In his paper 'POSHAN Abhiyaan: Making Nutrition a Jan Andolan', NITI Aayog member Vinod K Paul and co-

authors observe that despite the Pro-natalism in the Marriage Act, 2006 mandating the legal age of marriage at 18 for girls, 30 per cent of them are married before that age and eight per cent are already pregnant by the time they are 15-19 years of age. Facing intra-household deprivation due to their sex and age, poverty, these young girls often forego necessary nutrition, care, and rest even during their pregnancy, thus delivering low birth weight babies. For these babies, the cycle of malnutrition has already begun, they note.

This long-standing social bias deepens with socio-economic nuances. For example, in tribal households, the overall amount of food is anyway low and the men, by tradition, get the larger share of it, considering the physical labour they must undertake. A male child may get less to eat than his father, but is likely to get more than his mother, grandmother or sister. There is a need to free nutrition from the perceived requirement of the

receiver. Disseminating a scientifically-validated diet chart according to age and sex to the Panchayat level can help in spreading awareness and help households modify their practices.

Clear and visible measures for better accountability: Owing to the possible institutional leakages, Government initiatives should be monitored by some metric for accountability. For this, an enhanced information and process system is crucial. Monitoring, surveillance, and evaluation remain critical to all Government initiatives not only to firm up the people's trust but for better outcomes as well. Understanding ground-level realities will not only enrich policymakers' understanding, it may help in building a positive perspective among beneficiaries about public interventions. Public consultations, surveys among beneficiaries and social audits are some of the most effective ways to do this.

Building a case against hidden hunger: Few realise that malnutrition

is not exclusively a rural phenomenon. Many people, especially children, in the cities, too, suffer from malnutrition, albeit of a different kind. Since a good part of their diet is filled with refined and finished items, not to mention the large amounts of salt, sugar and trans-fat they consume, the children lack micronutrients such as iron and zinc. Traditional crops and millet, marked as anti-cereals that should have been part of our diet, are fast becoming a favourite of the educated and wealthier part of the society. However, as companies produce fast-moving, consumer goods look to the rural market to revive from the economic effect of the pandemic, it is important to ensure that rural consumers do not acquire the habits of cities. The onus is on the Government to ensure that the learnings from the cities reach the villages before it is too late.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Health Economics, IIHMR University, Jaipur)

Retail inflation for farm workers, rural labourers eases

New Delhi: Retail inflation for farm workers and rural labourers cooled down to 6.32 per cent and 6.28 per cent, respectively, in August compared to the year ago period mainly due to the softening of prices of some food items. Point-to-point rate of inflation based on the CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers) and CPI-RL (Consumer Price Index-Rural Labourers) was 6.39 per cent and 6.23 per cent respectively in August 2019 and the labour ministry said in a statement.

Inflation based on food index of CPI-AL is at 7.76 per cent and CPI-RL at 7.83 per cent in August 2020 compared to 7.27 per cent and 6.88 per cent, respectively, in the same

Inflation based on food index of CPI-AL is at 7.76 per cent and CPI-RL at 7.83 per cent in August 2020

month last year. Amongst states, the maximum increase in the CPI-AL and CPI-RL was experienced by West Bengal State (27 points and 28 points respectively) mainly due to rise in the prices of pulses, onion, fish, fresh egg, milk, chillies, ginger, green, country liquor, firewood, bidi, meat goat, fish dry, bidi, bus fare, vegetables and fruits etc. The maximum decrease in CPI-AL and CPI-RL was experienced by Kerala (6 points and 8 points respectively)

mainly due to fall in the prices of pulses, coconut oil, chillies, dry, onion, fish fresh etc. Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said, "The continued softening of inflation in succession for seven months may be mainly attributed to the relief measures announced by the government to help poor people including labourers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in the index will have a positive impact on the wages of millions of workers working in the unorganised sector in rural areas. Director General Labour Bureau D S Negi said, "Labour Bureau has been able to bring out the monthly indices as per the pre-defined schedule though the time of COVID-19."

India Ratings gives 'negative' outlook for banking sector in 2HFY21

Mumbai: India Ratings and Research has revised its outlook on the banking sector to 'negative' from 'stable' for 2HFY21. The ratings agency Ind-Ra said this revision was done in view of an expected spike in stressed assets, higher credit costs, weaker earnings on account of interest reversals and lower fee income, and muted growth prospects. Even the capital buffers for most public sector banks (PSBs) remain under stress, it said. As per Ind-Ra's bear case, the spike in stressed assets due to the pandemic is expected to double the credit costs for banking system than estimated pre-Covid-19 levels for FY21. Consequently, Ind-Ra

revised the rating outlook on PSBs to 'negative' for 2HFY21. "PSBs' modest capital buffers are expected to deplete further in FY21, due to provisioning requirements. Also, pre-Covid profitability expectations for FY21 would be belied and most banks are likely to report net losses," the agency said in a statement. "They may also need to continue to build-up their provision cover in FY22 for restructured assets as some of the restructured assets could turn NPA in FY23. PSBs could require INR350 billion-550 billion in 2HFY 21 for Tier-1 ratio of 10 per cent. Covid-19 or contingent provisions are much more than that for public sector banks."

US-China investment at 9-year low amid bilateral tensions

Hong Kong: Investment between the United States and China tumbled to a nine-year low in the first half of 2020, hit by bilateral tensions that could see more Chinese companies come under pressure to divest US operations, a research report said. Investment, both direct investment by companies and venture capital flows, between the two countries fell 16.2% to \$10.9 billion in January-June from the same period a year earlier - also hurt by the coronavirus pandemic, according to figures from consultancy Rhodium Group. The report, released by the National Committee on US-China Relations, an NGO. That's a far cry from half-yearly totals of nearly \$40 billion seen in 2016 and 2017. Flows are unlikely to recover this year, regardless of the outcome of the US presidential election, the report said.

Strict customs scrutiny of FTA imports from Sept 21; importers must satisfy value addition norm

New Delhi: Beginning Monday, Indian customs authorities will strictly scrutinise documents provided by importers claiming duty benefits under free-trade agreements, a move aimed at curbing serious misuse of the concessions under these pacts, finance ministry sources say. Importers will now have to provide sufficient proof to the domestic customs authorities that the goods being imported have a minimum 35 per cent value addition in the country from the raw materials exported to India, they said. "It will be the responsibility of importers to ensure that the goods being imported by them should have been only manufactured or produced on the foreign country and Indian importers would not suffice."

For example, if a mobile is exported from, say, Indonesia to India, then it would qualify to be of Indonesian origin only if such mobile is made significantly in Indonesia and 35 per cent of the value is contributed by the country. The move assumes significance in the backdrop of concerns being raised by certain quarters of the domestic industry about misuse of free trade agreement (FTA) benefits from 10 countries including the United States. The importer has to possess all documentary proof to prove that the 35 per cent value addition requirement has been met and showing a mere 'certificate of origin' provided by the exporting country to Indian importers would not suffice.

Sensex erases gains in late selloff; bank, financial stocks weigh

Mumbai: Equity benchmarks nursed losses for the second consecutive day on Friday as investors offloaded banking, finance and consumption stocks amid mixed global cues. The BSE Sensex, which opened on a firm footing, came under lag-end selling pressure and closed at 38,844.19, down 134.03 points or 0.34 per cent. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 11.15 points or 0.10 per cent to finish at 11,504.95. HDFC Bank was the top loser among the Sensex constituents, skidding 2.39 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Titan, SBI, HUL, HDFC and Tata Steel.

Bharti Airtel led the gainers' list with a jump of 3.73 per cent. M&M, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma, PowerGrid and ONGC were among the other winners, climbing as much as 2.72 per cent. During the week, the Sensex dropped 873 points or 0.02 per cent, while the Nifty advanced 40.50 points or 0.03 per cent. "Indian benchmark indices, after trading in the

green for most of the day, succumbed to a late selloff in the last hour of trading, to close out the day flat, with a slight negative bias."

Rupee rises by 21 paise to over 1-week high as dollar weakens

Mumbai: The rupee strengthened by 21 paise to close at more than one-week high of 73.45 against the US dollar on Friday as the greenback weakened in the global markets. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened higher at 73.47 against the dollar and touched a daily high of 73.15 as the dollar fell against its major rivals.

The local unit later lost some ground to close up by 21 paise at 73.45, a level not seen since September 7. On Thursday, the rupee depreciated by 14 paise to end at 73.66 against the US dollar. The rupee advanced largely due to broad dollar decline globally.

Google says will remove apps that facilitate sports betting from Play Store

New Delhi: Google on Friday said it does not allow apps facilitating sports betting and will remove such apps from the Google Play Store. The company said it will remove apps that facilitate sports betting from its Play Store. The company said it will remove apps that facilitate sports betting from its Play Store. The company said it will remove apps that facilitate sports betting from its Play Store.

Sebi extends deadline for public comments till Oct 18 on biz responsibility reporting format

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi on Friday extended the deadline till October 18 to solicit public comments on the proposed format for business responsibility and sustainability reporting in view of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed format for business responsibility and sustainability reporting covering environmental, social and Governance perspectives will be applicable to top 1,000 listed firms by market capitalisation. The comments on the proposed format were invited till September 18.

'Festive season to push auto sales but disproportionate billings may lead to stress for dealers'

New Delhi: Although festive season demand may provide some temporary relief to the auto sector in the next two-three months, the continued disproportionate billings by original equipment manufacturers could lead to increased stress for dealers if uptake is lower than expected, according to a report. In its latest report on the auto sector, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) on Friday said retail sales are likely to continue to lag behind wholesale sales in September 2020 although the sector has reported a month-on-month rise in sales over May-August 2020 after the washout in April. "After an above-average acreage backed by adequate monsoon, the prospects of a robust harvest have original equipment manufacturers

(OEMs) hoping for a retail demand revival from the retail side during the upcoming festive season. The OEMs, however, are already grappling with the economic slowdown since last fiscal, Crisil Ratings said on Friday. According to Crisil, the trend in monthly collection efficiency till August 31, 2020 (unadjusted for moratorium) shows that it is still some way go before reaching pre-pandemic levels. While the retail restructuring scheme afforded by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would be a boost on reported non-performing assets (NPAs), underlying challenges continue. Loan delinquencies of NBFCs could start up 50-250 basis points (bps) this fiscal, depending on the segment of operation, because of vulnerability in borrower cash flows.

NBFC delinquencies could see up to 250 bps spike this fiscal

New Delhi: The rapid increase in Covid-19 afflictions and intermittent lockdowns will increase asset quality challenges of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), already grappling with the economic slowdown since last fiscal, Crisil Ratings said on Friday. According to Crisil, the trend in monthly collection efficiency till August 31, 2020 (unadjusted for moratorium) shows that it is still some way go before reaching pre-pandemic levels. While the retail restructuring scheme afforded by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would be a boost on reported non-performing assets (NPAs), underlying challenges continue. Loan delinquencies of NBFCs could start up 50-250 basis points (bps) this fiscal, depending on the segment of operation, because of vulnerability in borrower cash flows.

Fan manufacturers want GST for sector be lowered to 5% from 18%

New Delhi: Indian fan manufacturers on Thursday sought lower GST rates at 5 per cent from 18 per cent, saying the existing 18 per cent tax is 'adversely' impacting the industry. The lower GST (goods and services tax) slab would make the fans a promptly accessible commodity for everyone by increasing grass-root level penetration, exceptionally in rural India, the Indian Fan Manufacturers Association (IFMA) said in a statement after its virtual Annual General Meeting. "The fan industry lost around 35 per cent of its annual sales due to the outbreak of COVID-19 this year during the peak sale period, causing huge financial losses for fan companies, said the association."

TRAI issues rules for clear communication of tariff plans, terms by telcos

New Delhi: Telecom regulator TRAI on Friday issued a fresh set of rules for publication and advertisement of tariff plans by telcos, in a bid to boost transparency in mobile offers and to help subscribers make informed decisions. The consumer-oriented move assumes significance as telecom subscribers often deal with issues such as lack of transparency, unclear or hard to find plan details - a situation that affects subscribers' ability to make proper choices. Tightening the rules for telcos, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Friday issued directions on tariff publication and tariff advertisements. "It has been observed that existing measures adopted by telecom service providers are not transparent as they seldom disclose that some of the telecom service providers are not prominently highlighting additional terms and conditions," TRAI directive said.

Over 4.87 cr e-way bills worth ₹13.85 lakh cr generated in Aug

New Delhi: Over 4.87 crore e-way bills, valued at over Rs 13.85 lakh crore, were generated by businesses and transporters in August, it is a view in economic activity, GSTN data showed. Electronic way or e-way bills are required for interstate movement of goods worth over Rs 50,000. For intra-state movement, limits vary from state to state. As per the data shared by the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), 4.76 crore e-way bills, valued at over Rs 13.66 lakh crore, were generated in July. The number stood at 4.27 crore in June (worth Rs 12.40 lakh crore), 2.51 crore in May (Rs 8.98 lakh crore), 84.53 lakh in April (Rs 3.90 lakh crore) and 4 crore in March (Rs 11.43 lakh crore). In February, before the

coronavirus lockdown came into force, 5.63 crore e-way bills were generated, valued at Rs 15.39 lakh crore. In January, GSTN, which manages the technology backbone of GST, said businesses can now download their e-way bill data for past one-month period from the e-way bill portal run by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). So far, taxpayers or transporters could download e-way bills generated by them for a limited period of 5 days. GSTN said it had received suggestions from taxpayers to increase the number of days for which e-way bills could be downloaded. "Taxpayers can now make use of this facility to download the e-way bills in excel format and use in their systems. This facility is presently available daily between 8 AM to noon," it said.

JK Jain joins as Director (HR) of Delhi Transco Ltd

New Delhi: Shri J K Jain has taken over as Director (HR) of Delhi Transco Limited. He has been appointed as Director (HR) of Delhi Transco Limited. He has been appointed as Director (HR) of Delhi Transco Limited. He has been appointed as Director (HR) of Delhi Transco Limited.

RITES announces share buyback of ₹265 per share

Gurgaon: RITES Ltd. (NSE: RITES, BSE:541556), the leading Transport Infrastructure Consultancy and Engineering firm, reported that its Board of Directors has approved buyback of 96,98,113 equity shares of face value of '10 each' at '265 per share, translating into the total buyback amount not exceeding ₹257 crore. The company was listed in July 2018 and at present 72.0% shares are held by Govt and balance is with the public. Commenting on the share repurchase program, Mr. Rajeev Mehrotra, Chairman and Managing Director, RITES Limited, said, "The company has strong financial fundamentals with debt free balance sheet. This repurchase reflects management's confidence in the company and growth in sectors."

'DELHI witnesses the launch of first of its kind networking platform for women'

New Delhi: 29th August 2020 was a day which will be marked as a special occasion in the diaries of many women. On this day, a networking platform for women, known as 'GIRWA - Global Indian Women's Association', was launched at the Taj Ambassador, New Delhi. Though keeping in mind, the restrictions of COVID 19, the gathering was of only 25 women (maintaining to covid distancing norms), the excitement they demonstrated was massive and mind boggling. Based on the idea of giving women 'Wings to Fly', GIRWA Women Association aims at helping women from diverse backgrounds to covid forward and fulfil their dreams. Giving them the requisite platform to showcase their talents and getting for them the much-awaited accolades.

Tuticorin Airport undergoing major expansion to offer better services

New Delhi: In order to cater the rising passenger traffic and the demand for better services, Tuticorin Airport is undergoing major up-gradation in phases with cost of Rs 381 crores. The master project includes widening extension and strengthening work of existing Runway and associated infrastructure. In order to cater the rising passenger traffic, construction of the new Domestic Terminal Building is also planned, spreading over an area of 1350 sqm. The new Terminal Building will be able to handle 600 passengers during peak hours. The Terminal Building will be equipped with all the modern facilities and passenger amenities.

AXIS BANK

201/301, Corporate Office (Block-B) 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, India. 201/301, Corporate Office (Block-B) 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, India. 201/301, Corporate Office (Block-B) 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, India.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrower(s) and/or mortgagee(s) mentioned hereunder have repaid the loan(s) advanced by Axis Bank Ltd. We hereby demand that the borrower(s) and/or mortgagee(s) mentioned hereunder have repaid the loan(s) advanced by Axis Bank Ltd. We hereby demand that the borrower(s) and/or mortgagee(s) mentioned hereunder have repaid the loan(s) advanced by Axis Bank Ltd.

Name of the Borrower / Address / Loan Details	NPA Date	2nd Date of Demand	Outstanding Amount (Rs.)	Interest on Demand (Rs.)	Legal Amount (Rs.)
1. M/S. Unnati Engineers & Fabricators, Plot No. 18, Sector-18, Noida, India. 201/301, Corporate Office (Block-B) 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, India. 201/301, Corporate Office (Block-B) 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, India.	1.25.2020	1.25.2020	1.25.2020	1.25.2020	1.25.2020
2. Sh. Girish Sekharia, Proprietor of M/S. Unnati Engineers & Fabricators, Plot No. 18, Sector-18, Noida, India. 201/301, Corporate Office (Block-B) 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, India. 201/301, Corporate Office (Block-B) 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, India.	1.25.2020	1.25.2020	1.25.2020	1.25.2020	1.25.2020
3. M. Suman Devi, Proprietor of M/S. Unnati Engineers & Fabricators, Plot No. 18, Sector-18, Noida, India. 201/301, Corporate Office (Block-B) 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, India. 201/301, Corporate Office (Block-B) 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, India.	1.25.2020	1.25.2020	1.25.2020	1.25.2020	1.25.2020

In the circumstances aforesaid, this notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (wherever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with interest and applicable charges within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failure to do so will result in the lender taking necessary legal action to recover the loan amount.

Axis Bank Ltd.
Sd/-,
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), **Name: Sonam, DOB: 01/08/2004, R/o: Kharsa No. 749-50, Gali No. 01, F-Block, Swami Sharanand Park, Delhi.** Aged 17 years 6 months, has been missing/kidnapped from her house since 14.08.2020. In this regard a FIR No. 486/20, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 15.08.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Bhalsawa, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:

Height: 5' 5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Physique/Built: Normal, ID Mark: Bruise under eye, Clothing: White Colour T-Shirt, Blue Colour Pajama and Slipper in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/kidnaped girl, may inform SHO, Bhalsawa, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in or in website: <http://cbl.nic.in> Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O. P.S. Bhalsawa, Delhi
Ph: 011-27819333, 2781934

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 60 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Fair, Build: Medium, Wearing: Pant and Bare Feet, has been found at WZ-57, Basal Darapur, Delhi at 10:44 Hrs Dt. 06.09.2020 During Transport at Safdarjung Hospital Patient dead on 08.09.2020. In this regard, a DD No. 26-A, dated 06.09.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

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

SHO P.S., Moti Nagar, Delhi
DP/210/WZ/2020 Ph: 011-25101150, 8750871125

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of UDAY BHARATAM PARTY. The office of the party is located at C-310, Sigma-II, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201308. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Name/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:

President: Dr. Rajendra Prasad, R/O: 6-1, Adusmiti Var Veedhi, Sirpuram, Medkonduru Mandal, Guntur DT, A.P.-522401

General Secretary: Mr. Alak Kumar, R/O: P-166, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201002

Treasurer: Mr. P. Suresh, R/O: B-1107, Oxy Homez, Near Koyal Enclave, Ghaziabad, 201012

If any one has any objection to the registration of UDAY BHARATAM PARTY they may send their objection with reasons thereon, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl Name: Shabnam, D/o Md. Hakim, R/o: M-208, Shastri Nagar, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped since 26.05.2020 at 11:00 am from the area of P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi in this regard a case vide DD No. 95A dated 27.05.2020 has been registered at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi.

The description of the missing/kidnaped girl is as under: Age: 19 years, Sex: Female, Height: 5', Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Build: Medium, Red colour top, grey colour salwar and slipper in her feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following:

Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
S.H.O. P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi
DP/245/N/2020 Ph: 011-23693611, 8750870133

MISSION DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, J&K

Jammu Office: Regional Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Jammu, Jammu - 182241
Fax: 0191-2674714, Tele: 2674244, e-mail: mdnhm@jammu.com

Kashmir Office: Block 'X', Ground Floor, Old Secretariat, Srinagar Pin: 190001
Fax: 0194-2470485, 2477309, Tele: 2477337, e-mail: mdnhm@jammu.com

NHM Help Line for Jammu Division: 1800180014, Kashmir Division: 18001800102

Notice Inviting On-Line Proposals(s) from ICMR approved Labs for undertaking RT-PCR Testing, alongwith reporting as per ICMR Testing Protocols of Samples from J&K for COVID-19 on 'As & When Required Basis'

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, online proposals are invited for on-line proposal(s) are invited from ICMR approved labs for undertaking RT-PCR testing, and reporting, of samples from J&K for COVID-19, in time-bound manner, on 'As & When Required Basis', as per the terms & conditions mentioned in the Notice Inviting Proposals available on the website: www.jktenders.gov.in and www.jknhm.com.

S.No. 1 Date of Publishing SBD - 19.09.2020 at 1400 Hrs
2 Start Date of Downloading SBD from Website - 19.09.2020 at 1400 Hrs
3 Websites for Downloading SBD - www.jktenders.gov.in
4 Last Date of Downloading SBD from Website - 29.09.2020 upto 1400 Hrs
5 Seek Clarification Start Date - 19.09.2020 upto 1400 Hrs
6 Seek Clarification End Date - 28.09.2020 upto 1600 Hrs
7 Pre-Bid Meeting - No
8 Website for Submission of Bids (Technical as well as Financial) - www.jktenders.gov.in
9 Start Date for Submission of Online Bids - 19.09.2020 from 1400 Hrs
10 Last Date for Submission of Online Bids - 29.09.2020 upto 1600 Hrs
11 Date of Opening of Technical Bids - 30.09.2020 at 1100 Hrs
12 Place of Opening of Technical Bids - State Health Society, NHM, Regional Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Near Sainik School, Kandoli Nagrota, Jammu - 182211 (J&K)
13 Date of Opening of Financial Bids - 30.09.2020 at 1400 Hrs
14 Place of Opening of Financial Bids - State Health Society, NHM, Regional Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Near Sainik School, Kandoli Nagrota, Jammu - 182211 (J&K)
Sd/- Mission Director
National Health Mission Jammu

SHORT CIRCUITS

NORA FATEHI

I feel lucky that I have been chosen to perform on Neha's (Kakkar) songs. Whenever I get a song, I get very excited knowing that it's hers as we know it will be a big hit. I will be performing on a beautiful voice, not all artists get a chance to do that. There are other singers with amazing voice but she has something which cannot be explained.



ANKUR BHATIA

Crackdown is a gallant project. I am playing the Pakistani Army Chief. It's a difficult character, totally contrary to what I am as a person. It is based on the secret services across borders. I think the level that web series are setting on OTT is commendable. It's important especially during the lockdown.



AKSHAY OBEROI

I've launched myself into the preparation and I'm going to be stationed in Dubai for 25 days. I'm super excited to be facing the camera after being quarantined for so long. I am glad to go back to the usual shooting drill in this beautiful city (Dubai)! We are all taking the required precautions and doing our best.



SONA MOHAPATRA

Calling others gold digger, mafia bimbo, sasti copy? Playing the messiah of the masses by using a tragic death is the worst act of opportunism. This doesn't make you the pillar of virtue, justice or the flag-bearer of Hindu Cultural values. It highlights the worst side.

PARIS HILTON

I see little girls nine and 10 years trying to get the perfect selfie, they're putting the filters on, they can't even look at themselves in the phone without putting a filter. I can't even imagine being a 13-year-old girl today.



VOGUE 45 MINUTES



The pandemic and then a series of lockdowns, that followed shortly after, gave us a moment to hit pause on our fast-paced lifestyles. There was enough time to reflect on our actions, relationships, beliefs, the power of art, fashion and creativity. We could discover a narrative that stirs the existing dialogue of love, where the boundaries are patched, corridors of division are narrow, cults and definitions are pushed far and wide to make space for love — the only thing that matters. This is what fashion designer Gaurav Gupta's muse turned out to be while he worked on his collection for the FDCI India Couture Week 2020, the digital version. He said, "Through our theme — *Name is Love* — we aim to put all the light on love; for self, all genders, all body shapes, all ethnicities, all sexualities, and most importantly, for inclusivity."

During the process of casting models for the show, which kickstarted online yesterday, he discovered "beautiful stories" where differences and sexualities were not just accepted but celebrated. Said Gaurav, "We were enamoured by every individual's optimism. Their experiences felt familiar and bold. And I realised that their stories needed to be told."

A young, proud lesbian couple Anjali and Manauti living with their parents; Vee, an 18-year-old trans-male student; Anjali Lama, the first Indian trans-female supermodel, and many other models who earned a name in unconventional setups, became the designer's many ways to represent the varied forms of love. "I hope that this message resonates and connects with millions who are facing prejudice or feel inhibited to express themselves due to the pre-conceived societal norms," said Gaurav and emphasised, "We're celebrating uniqueness."

In these desperate times when humans have become more agile and vulnerable, the designer was glad that technology could make the Couture week happen. Said he, "It was the need of the hour to keep the show going, lighten up the mood and make things more celebrative. It has given me hope. It's so nice to see that millions of people around the world can view the show and our collections."

Well, the show is definitely different under the shadow of the novel Coronavirus but what's new this time? "We have presented 50 new women's wear, 20 men's wear and 50 jewellery pieces. I wanted my collection



THE SHOW MUST GO ON

As the India Couture Week kicks off digitally, designer GAURAV GUPTA's collection revolved around the themes of love and inclusivity and presented wedding fashion in sophisticated shades. By SAKSHI SHARMA

to reflect me and my choices. It had to be very 'Gaurav Gupta'. I also discovered new colours like Cerise, Bright Emerald, Berry Pink, Snow Pink, Shadow Pink and more. I wanted to give a new life to these sophisticated colours. I also wanted to do a whole Black-and-White line. It was very new and cool for me. I also played with a lot of organza giving rise to new forms," he said.

Another notable thing about his collection, he pointed out, was the indigenous technique of sculpting, which was reinvented in the form of structured wings, graphic spiralling ruffles and architected waves. "We have also incorporated dramatic shimmers, sheer fabrics, 3D floral applique, intricate hand embroideries along with pearls and metallic sequins," said Gaurav.

The designer's men's wear was refined with embroideries and mystical motifs. Said he, "We have introduced full Bordeaux velvet

suits with the house's signature sculpting techniques, punctuating the looks and creating perfect statement pieces for a cocktail reception."

The garments, sharply tailored and accented with ornate hand embroideries, gave a meticulous and detailed look — coming all the way from the crisp 'Downtown Abbey' shirt in Egyptian cotton. The collection was further elevated with timeless accessories across all categories like pocket squares, bow-ties and loafers.

Gaurav's collection also found their way to the couture jewellery. The line was expressed through five distinct elements of infinity, classic, pearl, feather and forest and

featured pieces created with rare diamonds, rubies, emeralds, opals and tanzanite — sourced from Burma, Botswana, Colombia and Hyderabad.

The handmade collection was created with precious stones, crafted in shades of white and rose gold. It was rendered with details of a custom wedding gown. The jewellery was inspired by the Indian heritage integrated with the influences of the Victorian era. Said Gaurav, "We have taken this ideology to construct and reinvent these jewels."

What makes our jewellery couture unique is a distinct approach, where each diamond is individually cut according to the design." His latest collection included necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings and ear-cuffs.

Talking about whether the festive market is trending more than the wedding one, the designer chose the latter. He said, "The wedding market is more in trend and will always be. Brides are looking for authentic sculptures and that 'wow' factor, something timeless that they can wear even after four to five



years. They can also mix and match a lot of things from my collection. They wear our lehenga blouses with saris because there's so much detail in each element that one is able to play it up as and when they want to."

When we talk of the Couture Week, it is imperative to know the consumer behaviour as the buying pattern internationally has undergone a drastic change. The gulf countries are purchasing more as they are comparatively less affected from COVID-19. Added Gaurav, "But slowly and gradually, the international markets are coming back into line. We have a big market in the gulf all across UAE and Middle East. Earlier, they used to fly down and have couture appointments but this time they're all purchasing our products online, even couture. They do video consultation with our stylists and get garments fitted virtually."

TRIBUTE

A woman who knew men

As fashion designer SHARBARI DUTTA breathed her last, netizens remember her immense contribution to ceremonial menswear

Fashion designer Sharbari Dutta was found dead inside the bathroom of her South Kolkata's Broad Street residence on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday.

As per police sources, Dutta was found dead inside her bathroom at around 12.15 am on Friday. Officials of local police station and the Kolkata Police headquarters' Lalbazar's homicide branch reached the spot at night.

Her family members said Dutta (63) was last seen during the dinner on Tuesday. After that she also went uncommunicated. Primary investigation suggests that she died of a sudden cardiac attack in the toilet. But Dutta's family members claim that she was otherwise keeping fine and had no such chronic ailment.

Kolkata Police's homicide branch will carry out the investigation to find out the actual reason of the designer's sudden demise.



Dutta's body was sent for the post-mortem examination.

Daughter of celebrated Bengali poet Ajit Dutta, Sharbari Dutta was a popular name in the costume designing industry for over past few decades, and was the only women designer to work on men's ethnic fashion wear. It was Dutta who had introduced coloured Bengali dhitis and designer Punjabi kurtas to the mainstream fashion world with her exclusive touch on bright colours along with embroidery works.

The fashion mogul has also styled present Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan and cricketer Sachin Tendulkar.

Dutta has shattered stereotypes defining men's ethnic fashion over the years. Well, through a flood of condolences from models, actors and people from the film industry for her family on social media, we can certainly see how significantly she contributed to the Indian fashion at large.

—With inputs from agencies

STUDIO CHAT 15 MINUTES

Farhan kickstarts IPL

Actor Farhan Akhtar will open Star Sports' Live Broadcast on 'Cricket Live', ahead of the opening match of Dream 11 IPL 2020. The nation has been going through tough times due to COVID-19, making this season even more special since it gives a reason for people to come together to watch our very own tournament.

Farhan will set the tone of the tournament by introducing 'Cricket Live', before the much-anticipated clash between Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings. He will be addressing today's testing times, and how we need to ride over this crisis.

Speaking on this, Farhan said, "These are trying times and our nation continues to persevere and move forward. With the world picking up pace in the new normal, the announcement of the IPL was a breath of fresh air. I have been looking forward to some sporting action, and Live Indian cricket is back after a long hiatus. There's much to learn from the journey of a team or an individual in it. To rise after you fall, to learn from one's mistakes and most importantly, to stay grounded and humble in victory. I resonate with this feeling even more after working on my forthcoming film *Toofaan* in which sport is the backdrop, made on sim-



ilar ethos. It is important to stay resilient, optimistic and ready to battle all odds for a better tomorrow. Personally, it also is an absolute pleasure to open the maiden show. Looking forward to a grand opening game."

(Watch the actor on Star Sports' pre-show Cricket Live from 6 pm onwards on September 19.)

CONVERSATION 60 MINUTES

Change the pace of change

Architect-author GOONMEET SINGH CHAUHAN tells AYUSHI SHARMA that his book, *Invertonomics: Eight Ideas to Transform India*, presents innovative yet pragmatic ideas for solving some of India's most fundamental and chronic problems. He has ways to deal with social inequity, cleanliness, safety of women, education and a sharply declining economy



India has made a remarkable progress in several areas over the seven decades since Independence. But at the same time, it has been beset by some fundamental and chronic problems. There is poverty and inequity, the air in many cities is unbreathable, the streets are littered with garbage, women feel unsafe, levels of basic education are low and the economy is sharply declining. The problems have lasted so long that they seem unsolvable in a lifetime.

Architect-author Goonmeet Singh Chauhan argues that they can actually be solved decisively. To achieve this, he presents a new methodology that he calls *Invertonomics* in his eponymous book, which inverts problems into economic opportunities. The book identifies eight persistent problem areas and proposes well-resolved and, in some cases, successfully-implemented models for tackling them. It presents innovative yet pragmatic ideas that will have a direct impact on our lives and help us realise the dream of an advanced India. We speak to him to find out how. Excerpts:

□How did you conceptualise it?

I have always enjoyed solving problems, especially the stubborn ones. A three-pronged strategy typically works for me. It begins with analysing the problem and its key drivers in a manner where we can measure the critical root causes and their impact. Then, the process of solutioneering begins on how the 'whole relates to the parts' and simultaneously, how the 'parts relate to the whole.' It may seem abstract but the key to problem-identification typically lies in the parts, while the solution lies in the whole. Once the key stone and the king pin have been identified, the final step begins. The third leg of the exercise is imagining a new ecosystem approach, wherein all parts work synergistically to achieve a newer, brighter and beautiful possibility.

As architects, we have a free hand in creating newness within the limits of a land. Sometimes, we look at urban design and try to impact the quality of lives of people. But our interventions tend to be more physical in nature. This book is a response to my inner calling to go beyond the physicality so that true transformation can happen. It has ideas that use money, technology and common sense to solve some real, hard problems of our country.

□What research went into it? And how long did it take you to complete it?

I started thinking about it 10 years ago. I wanted to write 21 ideas but when I got to the research part and assessing the practicality of each solution, it turned out to be an exhaustive process and every idea took more than a year each to be accomplished. The book project relied on a team effort for research, which was based on



three methods — physical measurement and secondary data collection on ground, internet-based research to inform us of interventions that spread across geographies and time, interviews with informed persons in civil society and the bureaucracy to gauge the practicality of our solutions proposed. Every chapter starts with a general narrative of the problem — for this, we used internet-based research to find out about the history of the problem across geographies and time. For instance, we studied how honking was a public issue in post-World War I London and in Hitler's Germany. We studied the solutions that various governments and NGOs had attempted earlier; successful case studies that could be scaled up to be applied across a national scale, a lot more. It took seven years to complete the book including a year-long process of edits and updates.

□Your book lists some successfully-implemented models that you've designed. Can you elaborate on them?

A few of the book's ideas have been or are being implemented with some initial success and a lot of promise. ♦**The Wise foundation (World Initiative for Service and Education):** This idea looks at establishing free residential schools for underprivileged children, who seek out a living foraging through garbage. These kids would now be housed in free residential hostels-cum-schools and receive love and care. They would grow up in campuses called Sanctuaries, which would be set in suburban fringes of the cities and would impart value based education based on *Sewa* and *Samridhi*.

These sanctuaries would be set up and run by educational trusts and the entire capital and operational expenditure would be paid by the trust. However, the government would step in as a regulator and funding agency. They would pay a fee for each child like a parent would pay for a residential school. This fee would enable the educational trust to receive a return on investment for the educational trust, thereby allowing this project to scale up. We are imagining a project of one million children across 500 centres in 30 states. The Delhi Government has also expressed its eagerness to adopt this model and are looking to establish the first such school in Delhi soon.

♦**Clean and dry toilets:** Six months before the Commonwealth games, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi took on the challenge of building public toilets of international quality in the city. They were in need of ₹100 crore for the project and struggled to get provision for the funds.

At this point, we suggested a model wherein new toilet complexes would be created on a PPP model and sited adjacent to existing MCD governed marketplaces within their parking lots. A concessionaire would build on a 2,000-square foot plinth, modern toilets with a frontal entrance into a reception area that would be manned to collect charges and lead to separate, clean and dry toilets with dedicated attendants. These would be flanked by two kiosks for ice-cream/flower/ATMs and on top of this structure would be a coffee shop of 2,000 square feet. The janitors and operations of the entire complex would be managed by the concessionaire. The revenues from pay and use toilets would far exceed the operational expenses and we recommended the

concessionaire would pay an annuity to the market association in addition to paying a upfront bid money to acquire the rights to build to the municipality.

The proposal was implemented and 28 new international-quality toilet complexes were constructed and the Municipality earned significant sums in revenues. The project has been hugely successful and can be easily replicated across India.

□How can invertonomics be used widely in India, including the remote and underprivileged areas?

Invertonomics imagines a rejuvenated Bharat and proposes three mega interventions in India's rural hinterland.

♦**Office of Bharat:** The office of Bharat would be like a central business-cum-administrative district centre, one each for India's 650 districts. This 100-acre development would have within it a new administrative set up including civil administration, police, district courts, disaster management centre. Social infrastructure such as educational facilities, health facilities, cultural complex, sports centre, vocational training centre and business centres including an international logistics oriented agricultural *mandi*, ware housing, cold storage, food processing plants, commercial office centre, rural hotels, hostels, rural shopping centre etc. A new centralised powerhouse like this will spur the dormant administrative, commercial and socio-economic energies of our hinterland into action. This nucleus would infuse capital into the district economy and act like a catalyst of commerce and social change.

♦**Cocoons:** The Cocoon Corporation of India shall provide post-paid containers (called cocoons) to the farmers to store their produce and support with facilities for digital trade of their agri-commodities. This facility would help the farmers and allow them to fetch a better price for their produce and significantly empower them financially both in terms of revenue as well as the ability to raise capital at lower interest rates. The corporation shall also run a proper logistics centre to ship these cocoons (containers), which are rodent, dust and weather-proof, and even refrigerated in case needed for their trade destinations. The platform would radically empower farmers, making agriculture the engine of rural economy once again, not remittances from rural folk living in cities.

♦**Residential development around the office of Bharat:** A true socio-economic revival shall happen around these offices of Bharat as new residential developments, schools, hospitals, cultural complexes, etc, will enable jobs, livelihood and quality life for the rural folk. It will decongest our cities too as villages would become preferable places to live, learn and work.

♦**Long-term solutions such as sensitising the public through education and awareness campaigns have always been there. Do you think this approach would lead to faster and more effective means of modifying citizen behaviour?**

The book promises to change the pace of change. So far, we have been cutting butter with a chainsaw, while all we need is a butter knife called *invertonomics*! I feel citizen behaviour can be altered using a three-pronged approach, including creating an inspired citizenship wherein individuals act in the interest of collective good.

♦**Money and technology:** *Invertonomics* uses a carrot and stick approach by offering each individual monetary incentives or disincentives for expected citizen behaviour. For assessing individual behaviour, it uses non-invasive technology to gauge behaviour in the public domain. For example, to manage the incidence of honking on our roads, the book proposes an auditory charge of ₹1 for every instance of honking beyond a threshold of say 30 free honks a month. It further levies a charge of ₹10,

say for honking near a hospital or a night within a colony. It also incentivises the least honkers by measuring their relative performance to peers in the same city. Such positive citizens may receive recognition or rewards or corporate discounts, while non-compliant citizens would pay hefty fee. They would also receive surrogate tutorship on how to improve their citizenship by adjusting to acceptable behaviour.

♦**Measurement, transparency and connectivity:** More complex issues like safety in cities and equity would require an ecosystem level shift, which shall be achieved using measurement of some key parameters, tabling them in a transparent, technology-driven manner and then publishing the data real-time on public platforms so that all the stakeholders are connected with that data. Such awareness and collective intelligence of the ecosystem shall raise the median performance of all systems and accelerate the transformation to higher ground.

□In a country as diverse as ours, how difficult do you think it is to catalyse change?

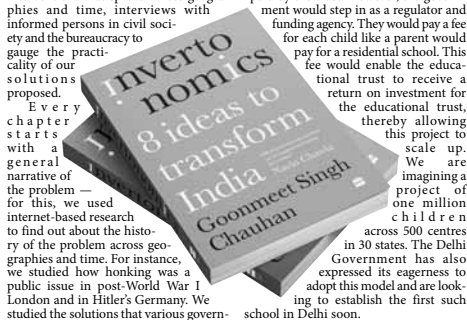
When demographics are diverse, one has to work out simple and binary solutions where expected behaviour by citizens is understood by all. Like the Odd-Even scheme of the Delhi Government was easily understood by an auto driver as well as a financial analyst because the expectation was binary. The compliance was high.

In India, we tend to obfuscate the law and the poor citizen often finds himself on the wrong side of it, forcing him to use unfair means to extricate himself out of the situation. This phenomenon has led to the incremental lowering of the median of citizenship, with citizens adopting a sort of flexible morality that suits their convenience. Invertonomics proposes the use of very simple laws and the new ecosystem would lay down binary expectations. Also incentives in terms of money are easily understood by all. Money is like a universal language that possibly rivals music in its universal appeal! Money-based systems shall ensure that any policy or demography-agnostic manner, successfully.

□You've mentioned in the book, "In India, we are in a negative cycle as far as citizen participation for common good is concerned. This shift can only come from the citizenry and the legislature aligned towards the creation of definitive goals." How do you think this can be acted upon in India, where it might take years to change policies and laws or create a new one?

Change is always bottom up. While it's difficult to change laws and instruments like new legislations, new institutions and a new ecosystem, the demand for it is always propelled by the need for it. It takes civil society and thought leaders to articulate a vision that gradually alters the popular narrative. Thereafter, the course of transformation can either take a long and arduous route or a calculated route, depending upon the willingness of the political dispensation and the strength of the advocacy to take a hard look at issues and seek convenient and strong resolutions.

We need conversations around inspired citizenship, and local-level leadership to demonstrate action in areas, which can be handled locally like segregation of garbage, pedestrian safety and much more. For this, we have also set up the *Invertonomics Foundation for India*, which promises to take up issues from the book and pursue them to make sure that they get implemented and how.



GALLERIA 15 MINUTES

PAPER TOWN

Jharkhand artist VIVEK DAS uses the traditional papier-mâché process to create sculptures that leave more than a floating memory. By UMA NAIR

Last month, I discovered the power of paper in the hands of an artist sculptor. I was looking at a lantern. One that was sliced vertically and had a surreal flavour. Suddenly, the object had become subject through an interplay of colours and contours. Master sculptor Vivek Das from Jharkhand is expanding the paper's potential through the time worn art of papier mache.

POWER OF PAPER

Paper oscillates through time and tide. Paper has been the greatest invention for an artist, it has been a symbol of possibility and an abacus for writers, researchers architects, designers, artists and sculptors ever since its invention in China around 105 A.D. We think of Leonardo da Vinci's drawings, we think of Rembrandt, Raphael, Rembrandt, Van Gogh and the ultimate Picasso. Paper is more than a medium, more than a material, it is the most humble of tools in an artist's hands.

Vivek Das's lantern tells us that paper has a vast potential as a material for sculpture. Not only is it versatile: it can be featherweight and translucent while being heavy and rigid like papier-mâché. But most importantly, it's non-toxic, it's not so expensive and is accessible to everyone. Vivek says, "I try to create sculptures all the time in the hope that I can convert these into bronze."

Curves, curls, convex and concave surfaces all come into play as he creates sculptural wonders that celebrate the malleable magic of papier mache. Vivek brings back the words of the great French writer and poet Rainer Maria Rilke who in his book *Hours* said: "Go to the limits of your longing... Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror."

In that universal cadence, Rilke assures us to "just keep going" for "nearby is the country they call life." Das exemplifies this and more in his brilliant works. Says he, "Whenever I try to pick out a subject to create, I find there is a



co-existence of life with things that connect — for instance, the lantern connects with life and light. I didn't want to create a portrait of the lantern as it is. That would be too common, I wanted a unique portrayal."

The lantern born of Vivek's many moorings and thoughts is a metaphor for the existence of man through thick and thin, for his spirit of being that lives through the times rendered both within and without. "Beauty has no other origin than the singular world, different in every case, hidden or visible, which each man bears within himself," said the French writer Jean Genet. Vivek's sculptures are about solidity and an inner life-force, their undulating forms conveying "tension, force and vitality."

UNTOLD HISTORIES

Vivek says, "I'm touching upon untold histories, as well as highlighting its parallel to my own identity." He appreciates the paper's malleability and explores the medium in various ways. "It's a practice that's very practical to follow," he says. "No kiln, foundry, or harsh

chemicals are necessary." He approaches the medium with empathy. "It's about assessing the composition I want to make, responding to it, and giving it what it needs," he explains. "My approach is to treat papier mache like a complex yet beautiful contextual composition with a dynamic, hidden life."

PAPER'S TACTILE FERVOUR

Using the traditional papier-mâché process to shape his sculptures, he models and occasionally carves the paper to achieve the desired shape, creating a sort of hybrid of sculpture and drawing. His admiration for paper's tactile qualities, the subtlety of its colour and the softness of its shadows evokes a sense of physical space.

The lantern seems to speak of a psychological space and time through the layering of paper. Looking at Vivek's works we realise that papier mache is innovative and inventive, there are endless ways that paper can be drawn on, cut, embossed and manipulated, both two-dimensionally and sculpturally to create masterpieces.

LET THE SHOW BEGIN

Glitz IPL marks start of Indian sporting events in Covid times



MI vs CSK
Live from 7:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 & 3

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's poker face, Virat Kohli's raw emotions and Rohit Sharma's effortless handling of his *Gadgets* will be back to charm cricket fans across the globe with the Indian Premier League starting on Saturday, promising to be a happy distraction in a world scarred by Covid-19.

Rohit's defending champions Mumbai Indians will be locking horns with Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings in what is likely to be a fittingly exciting opening showdown here.

The tournament, which has been shifted to the UAE due to five million plus Covid cases in India, is a "TV-only event," expected to be lapped up by all and sundry who crave for cricket and Bollywood in equal measure during prime time.

Bollywood had its share of prime time in the past few months but rest assured, the next 53 days would belong to Dhoni's CSK, Kohli's RCB and Rohit's Mumbai Indians challenged by young pretenders comprising KL Rahul's KXIP and Shreyas Iyer's Delhi Capitals among others.

IPL happening in foreign shores is not a new phenomenon, not even the shift to the Emirates but as Indian sports hits the restart button with the billion dollar cricketing extravaganza, the hugely popular event to be



held closed doors in a bio-secure environment will be a new experience.

David Warner or Chris Gayle's towering sixes welcomed by artificial crowd cheer will be the new normal and the deafening roars during Super Overs will be missing but no one can complain as at least the show will go on in amid a devastating health crisis.

A look at the teams would indicate that Mumbai Indians by a distance is the most formidable with Rohit, Pandya brothers — Hardik and Krunal, the indomitable Kieron Pollard and the 'King of Death' bowling Jasprit Bumrah giving it a menacing look.

The perennial Dad's Army Chennai Super Kings can never be counted out till that man with 'Hawk Eyes' uses his peripheral vision behind the stumps.

Experience can't be bought and the likes of Shane Watson, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis and Ravindra

Jadeja have given their blood and sweat for the 'Yellows' and it would be no different this time.

For Kohli, winning a tournament as a captain would reaffirm his status even as naysayers question his style of leadership. The team is a shade better with presence of Aaron Finch, Chris Morris and the wonderfully gifted Devdutt Padikkal, who if all goes well, is destined to become a big name in years to come.

Delhi Capitals, with their new found vigour and more pragmatic new owners, found their mojo last year and would like to go one better under an enormously talented skipper in Shreyas Iyer, who can be matched in skills by a Prithvi Shaw or a Rishabh Pant.

Seasoned brains like Ravichandran Ashwin would be ideal foil for the team's youthful exuberance.

KXIP's KL Rahul is a class act and how he shapes as a leader could also create a narrative for the future

MSD is fresh, engaged & determined after break: Fleming

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

He is sabbatical from the game has done Mahendra Singh Dhoni a world of good, Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming said on Friday, asserting that the enigmatic skipper is "mentally engaged and determined" to encounter the challenges of a "tactically different" IPL.

Dhoni's CSK will take on Rohit Sharma's Mumbai Indians in the tournament opener on Saturday, Fleming, a former New Zealand captain, stressed that his team's experience of winning big matches will come in handy during the next 53 days.

Dhoni retired from international cricket last month after being on a break for over one year and when asked about the 39-year-old's preparedness for the IPL, Fleming said, "It has been no different. He's very fit and mentally, he's been very engaged and determined."

"In some ways the break can work for the experienced and older



players that we have. MS is fresh and ready to go," Fleming said in a pre-tournament interview to CSK's official website.

The three-time champions are banking heavily on their 35-plus players, including Dhoni himself, Shane Watson, Dwayne Bravo, Kedar

Jadhav, and Imran Tahir to name a few.

"...Experienced players identify key times and that's why they've done so well in their careers. They can turn games, absorb pressure or just sum out the situation. That's what experience is about and that's why we value it so highly," said Fleming.

"And that's why we've been able to get over the line in so many close games because the key players have been one with a lot of experience. And you also mix that with skill. You are conscious of having a skilful side and adding youth when we can and with that get the balance pretty right."

Starting against a quality side like MI is certainly exciting for Fleming, who wants his men to have a crack at the defending champions after their agonising last-ball loss in the previous edition.

"The first game is always full of anxiety, nerves and excitement, and that's what makes it extra exciting for players, including Dhoni himself. We've earned the right to play the

eventual champions.

If Ben Stokes is the world's best all-rounder across formats, Andre Russell probably is a bit more destructive in this format as he hit 52 sixes during their horrendous last edition.

The 2018 U-19 World Cup stars — Shubman Gill, Shivam Mavi and Kamlesh Nagarkoti — add a dash of youth and vigour. Looking for leadership skills that might prove to be handy in case of a normally inconsistent Dinesh Karthik misfires.

Rajasthan Royals is the weakest team lacking quality in the Indian line-up but expect Jos Buttler, Steve Smith and Jofra Archer to do the heavy lifting in Stokes' absence. Stokes is currently in New Zealand to be with his ailing father.

quota of foreigners.

For CSK, the core has remained the same save for Suresh Raina, who was the top performer last year and has pulled out citing personal reasons this year. His replacement Ruturaj Gaikwad remains in quarantine having tested Covid-19 positive at least five times.

But there is Watson, Ambati Rayar, and the recently-concluded Jadeja, and Bravo, who have all won matches from hopeless situations.

Lynn banking on T10 form in UAE to fire in for MI

Abu Dhabi: Going through a poor run of form, Australia top-order batsman Chris Lynn is banking on his exploits at last year's T10 tournament in UAE to turn things around and contribute to his IPL team Mumbai Indians.

Lynn, a hard-hitting opener, had a poor run at the recently-concluded Caribbean Premier League having scored less than 150 runs in nine games for St Kitts and Nevis Patriots.

However, the 30-year-old was the highest run-getter at last year's T10 league in UAE. He amassed 371 runs for the Maratha Arrians and also smashed the highest individual score of 91 off 30 balls.

"I have got some really good memories from the T10 tournament last year here in Abu Dhabi, so hopefully just reconnect with that work ethic for me there and hopefully put some performances on the board," he said.

However, Lynn will find it difficult to break into the MI's playing XI with coach Jayawardene already making it clear that he will not tinker with the opening combination of Rohit Sharma and Quinton de Kock.

The Australian said he is ready to bat at any position that Mumbai Indians coach Mahela Jayawardene deems fit. "Rohit" what a

decent class player, but he's been out on the board, on and off the field what he's contributed to Mumbai is something really really special. And Quincy (De Kock) has been outstanding with the gloves and bat in hand," Lynn said in a video posted on Mumbai Indians' official Twitter handle.

Injured Osaka withdraws from French Open



AP ■ PARIS

Newly crowned US Open champion Naomi Osaka pulled out of the French Open with a sore hamstring on Friday, in a fresh blow to the coronavirus-hit Grand Slam which is already missing world number one Ashleigh Barty.

Japan's Osaka made the announcement just days after lifting her third major title behind closed doors in New York.

"Unfortunately I won't be able to play the French Open this year," Osaka said in posts on Instagram and Twitter. "My

hamstring is still sore so I won't have enough time to prepare for the clay — these two tournaments came and close to each other for me this year."

The French Open is due to start on September 27 at Roland Garros, rescheduled from earlier in the year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Osaka, who has never made it out of the third round of the French Open, did not say when she will play next. She did assure her fans they would see her "sooner than later."

The withdrawal of third-ranked Osaka means Roland Garros will be missing two of the

Sindhu pulls out of Denmark Open

New Delhi: Olympic Silver medalist PV Sindhu on Thursday pulled out of the Denmark Open tournament scheduled to be held in Odense from October 13 to 18. "Sindhu is not playing in Denmark, she has pulled out," a source in the Gopichand Academy told PTI.

The BAI had on Tuesday written to the players who have sent their entries for the Denmark Open, stating that they would be "travelling or participating at their own responsibility due to the current pandemic" and "have to send their consent within September 17".

Though Sindhu decided against travelling to Denmark, she plans to participate in the Asia Open-I and Asia Open-II scheduled to be held in November.

Kidambi Srikanth, Lakshya Sen and Subhankar Dey were among those players who have sent their consent letters and will be participating in the super 750 event.

Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap have also sent their consent letters but will take a final call nearer to the date of the tournament.

Variety in spin, will give CSK edge in UAE conditions: Lee



New Delhi: Former Australian speedster Brett Lee has tipped three-time champions Chennai Super Kings to win the 13th IPL, saying the variety in their spin department gives them an advantage in the UAE conditions.

"They (CSK) are up there. I have picked them to win and I think CSK have a good chance because of their spin attack," Lee said

on Star Sports show *Game Plan*.

"With Santner, Jadeja needs to step up and be the No 1 spinner and CSK have got great variety and depth of the spinners. It's the same, so they are at an advantage for the conditions in the UAE as the tournament progresses."

Four-time winners Mumbai Indians will miss the services of their bowling spearhead Lasith Malinga who opted out of the tournament citing personal reasons.

However, the 43-year-old Lee said he has no doubts that Jasprit Bumrah will be able to fill in the shoes of the experienced seamer.

"I am always Bumrah's fan since he burst onto the scene some years ago. He has got a decent bowling action, he pushes the ball in, and he swings the ball both ways. He is good with the new ball but I like him with the old ball and that's why he can fill the shoes of Malinga and can bowl at death overs," he said.

"He can bowl at 140kmph and zoom down the ball in at the batsman's feet. He is bowling the yorkers consistently and there are very less bowlers like that, so he can fill those shoes."

Lee, who has 310 wickets in 76 Tests and 380 scalps in 221 ODIs, said he considers Mumbai Indians in his top four.

Halep extends her perfect record

AP ■ ROME

Top-seeded Simona Halep improved to 7-0 in tennis on Saturday as she defeated Dayana Yastremska in four sets to reach the Italian Open quarters.

Halep, who is actually on an 11-0 run overall stretching back to February, recovered an early break in the opening set and then overpowered her 29th-ranked opponent the rest of the way.

Having won a title in Dubai before the coronavirus pandemic, Halep marked her return with another trophy in Prague last month. She then skipped the US Open due to health concerns amid the pandemic.

Halep, who lost two straight finals in Rome to Elena Svitolina in 2017 and 2018, will next face either 10th-seeded Elena Rybakina or Yulia Putintseva. Also on the red

clay courts of the Foro Italico, defending champion Karolina Pliskova defeated Russian qualifier Anna Blinkova 6-4, 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals.

Elise Mertens, who eliminated Montenegro qualifier Danka Kovinic 6-4, 6-4.

In men's action, 15th-seeded Grigor Dimitrov ended the run of 19-year-old Jannik Sinner with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win.

Sinner, the Italian who had beaten third-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas in the previous round, missed an easy overhead smash into the net on Dimitrov's fifth match point.

Spurs avoid embarrassing exit

AFP ■ LONDON

Tottenham scored twice in the final 10 minutes to avoid a humiliating Europa League exit to Lokomotiv Plovdiv as Jose Mourinho's men came from behind to beat the nine-man Bulgarians 2-1 on Thursday.

Harry Kane's penalty and Tangou Ndombele's winner five minutes from time ensured the 2019 Champions League finalists did not fall at the first hurdle of their Europa League campaign to a side that have never progressed beyond the qualifying stages of European competition.

"I think it was a helluva experience for the players. Sometimes in football miracles happen and when you play a knockout, one-leg it is the perfect scenario for a miracle to happen," said Mourinho.

"Everyone on their side had the moment where they dream and we had the moment where we believed a nightmare could arrive."

Mourinho named a strong side featuring Kane, Hugo Lorris and Son Heung-min with just four changes from Sunday's 1-0 defeat to Everton to start their Premier League campaign.



why Spurs are desperate to secure Gareth Bale's return on loan from Real Madrid as they struggled to break Plovdiv down and went behind to Georgi Minchev's header 19 minutes from time.

The tie swung back in Spurs favour nine minutes later when Momchil Tsvetanov punched clear off his own line and the referee had no option but to point to the spot and send Tsvetanov off.

Birsent Karagaren was then also



shown a second yellow card before Kane dispatched the spot-kick into the top corner.

Ndombele has struggled for game time under Mourinho despite being the club's record signing.

But the Frenchman, who was introduced on the hour mark, proved the match winner by bundling home from close range.

A trip to Macedonia next week to face KF Shkëndija faces Mourinho's men in the third qualifying round.

Liverpool finally signs Thiago

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool completed the signing of Thiago Alcantara from Bayern Munich on Friday, bringing in one of the world's most technically gifted players to add another dimension to the English champions' midfield.

The 29-year-old Thiago ended his seven-year spell at Bayern by moving for an initial fee of 20 million pounds (\$26 million), with a potential additional 5 million pounds (\$6.5 million) later.

"My decision is purely of a sporting nature," the Spain international said in a video announcing his departure from Bayern.

"As a football player, I seek new challenges to develop myself further. Bavaria will always be my home."

Thiago, whose father is former Brazil midfielder Marinho, leaves Bayern as a European Cup winner, his last match being the 1-0 victory over Paris Saint-

Germain in the Champions League final in August. He also won seven straight Bundesliga titles with Bayern.

"When the years are passing, you are trying to win as much as you can — and when you win, you want to win more," Thiago said.

"I think this club describes what I am as well. I want to achieve all of the goals, win as many trophies as possible."

At Liverpool, he will add a more creative edge — nurtured at Barcelona under Luis Enrique — to a midfield that currently is more notable for its energy and intensity through hard-running players like Jordan Henderson, Georginio Wijnaldum and James Milner.

Thiago — with his technique, touch and vision — will provide Liverpool with more control in midfield, too, allowing manager Jurgen Klopp to adopt a different approach in certain games.