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SHOW NO TOLERANCE
TO EDUCATION MAFIA

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MYANMAR BLOCKS FB
AS RESISTANCE GROWS

SPORT 12
BRIGHTON BEAT
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Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

*Late City Vol. 31 Issue 35
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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www.dailypioneer.com

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Farmers' woes occupy LS, RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The farmers' agitation seems poised to occupy centre stage in the Budget Session of Parliament. On Thursday, the Opposition once again tried to corner the Government on the issue of farm laws, forcing adjournment of the Lok Sabha and raising the heat of discussion in the Upper House.

The Lok Sabha proceedings again remained paralysed with the Opposition members continuing their protest against three new farm laws. The House started amid the din with Opposition MPs on their feet and carrying placards against farm laws.

As Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari answered questions on "Bharatmala Pariyojna" on roads and highways, the Opposition parties shouted slogans "India wants justice", "we want justice" and "Modi-Government shame-shame".

Gadkari continued to speak amid the din giving details of "Char Dham" road project in Uttarakhand.

The Speaker appealed to members to take their seats but the Opposition remained defiant to his advice. After 15 minutes, the House was adjourned till 5 pm.

When the House resumed BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi was in the chair. Amid slogan-shouting, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad introduced Rehabilitation and Reconciliation (amendment) Bill, 2021.

Bedlam continued and the



A view of the Lok Sabha during ongoing Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

House was adjourned till 6 pm. When it resumed proceedings, BJP MP Rajendra Agarwal was in the Chair who again appealed to the Opposition members to take their seats and start a discussion but loud protests continued in the House, derailing the proceedings. The din continued and the House was adjourned again by the Chair till 7 pm.

In the Rajya Sabha, on the second day of discussion on motion of thanks to the President's address, several Opposition members observed a minute's silence in memory of death of more than 150 farmers. They reportedly died in the ongoing agitation for the last more than two months at the borders of the national Capital.

The Treasury Benches,

however, denied the charge that the laws are anti-farmer and BJP member Jyotiraditya Scindia said the Congress in its election manifesto in 2019 had promised to bring these laws. He also referred to a letter written by then Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar in 2010 to various Agriculture Ministers in the States about the advantages of such laws to give more freedom to the farmers by involving the private sector and increasing their income.

Participating in the discussion, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan held the previous UPA regime responsible for not paying an adequate Minimum Support Price (MSP) and claimed the NDA Government has increased

MSP manifold in the last few years.

Resuming the discussion on Thursday, the first speaker Manoj Jha (RJD) blamed the Government of adopting an aggressive posture while talking to the agitating farmers. He also said the 11 rounds held so far were more of a monologue by the Government.

Calling for the immediate repeal of the three laws, Jha said the Government had lost patience to listen and bear criticism. Instead, any contrary view was painted as anti-national, he said.

Stressing the point that protests and agitations are the lifeblood of democracy, he contested the Government statement of 11 rounds of dialogue have concluded with agi-

tating farmers, saying its Ministers "believe in monologue and not dialogue."

"They talk of having given this and that to farmers, but there is no place for language of charity in a democracy. The monologues should be ended," he said.

Lamenting that the protesters were labeled as terrorists and Naxalites, Jha said setting up barricades and barbed wires at the borders looked as if the Government was treating the farmers as enemies.

Digvijaya Singh (Congress) lashed out at the BJP Government, saying right from demonetisation to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the management of corona fight were blunders that hit the people hard. He also alleged corruption in procuring ventilators and PPE kits.

Former Prime Minister and JD(S) leader HD Deve Gowda called farmers the backbone of the country and said miscreants and anti-social elements were behind the events of Republic Day and all political parties have condemned their actions and agree that they need to be punished. But the farmers' issue should not be mixed with it, he said and added that the issue should be dealt with amicably.

Sanjay Singh (AAP) charged the BJP with engineering the incidents at the Red Fort on January 26. Claiming that seven other routes on which the tractor rally was brought out no incidents were reported.

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Drones to assess crop yield for Fasal Bima settlements

100 dists in 10 States growing rice, wheat to be covered: Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid farmers' protest over the farm laws, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Thursday said that unarmed aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones will be used over 100 districts growing rice and wheat to assess crop yields at gram panchayat level to ensure timely settlements of claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

The drone-based images are one of the important inputs in the models for crop yield estimation and validation. This is the first remote sensing technology-based largest pilot study being conducted in 100 districts spread in 10 States in the country so far for crop yield estimation.

Tomar said that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has allowed the Department of Agriculture using drones over 100 districts growing rice and wheat to ensure timely settlements of claims under the PMFBY. The drone-based images will be captured in 10 States — Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh,



Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

According to Tomar, several remote sensing data-driven pilot studies have been conducted under the PMFBY across the country to determine optimum number of Crop Cutting Experiments for accurate crop yield loss at insurance unit, Smart Sampling Technique & Rationalisation of CCE & direct yield estimation.

Tomar said that the Ministry of Agriculture had engaged 13 international/national/private agencies for conducting pilot studies to develop technology driven approaches for direct yield estimation at gram panchayat level for kharif 2019 and rabi 2019-20 season.

Based on advanced technology used by the agencies and modelling accuracies, seven agencies (AMNEX, AGROTECH, CROPIN, ICRISAT, NIRUTHI, RMSI, WRMS) have been selected for large-scale pilot studies for kharif 2019 and rabi 2019-20 season," Tomar said in a series of tweets on Thursday. Apart

from drone-based images, high spatial resolution satellite data, biophysical models, smart sampling, CropSnap, IoT, etc, are also being used in this large-scale pilot study.

"The agencies had conducted studies in 64 districts of 15 States for 9 crops for kharif 2019 season with the help of satellite, UAV, biophysical models, smart sampling and other advanced statistics technologies for crop yield estimation. The pilot studies were continued in rabi 2019-20 season in rabi rice and wheat growing districts for validation of crop yield results obtained in kharif 2019 season," he tweeted.

"Use of UAV data in the scheme will add new dimension to ensure timely settlement of claims in the scheme as well as for crop area estimation, losses due to localised calamities and to resolve yield dispute between different stakeholders under the scheme. The use of high spatial resolution UAV data may also be explored in other agriculture-related schemes in India," stated the Minister.

US recognises steps taken towards farm reforms, says MEA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the USA backed the new farm laws of India and favoured resolving the ongoing agitation through dialogue, New Delhi on Thursday said the US has acknowledged steps taken towards agricultural reforms in the country.

Making this assertion here, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "We have taken note of comments of the US State Department. It is important to see such comments in the context in which they were made and in their entirety. As you can see, the US state department has acknowledged steps being taken by India towards agricultural reforms. Any protests must be seen in the context of India's democratic ethos and polity, and the ongoing efforts of the Government and the concerned farmer groups to resolve the impasse."

He also said India and the

United States are both vibrant democracies with shared values. The incidents of violence and vandalism at the historic Red Fort on January 26 have evoked similar sentiments and reactions in India as did the incidents on the Capitol Hill on 6 January and are being addressed as per our respective local laws.

The temporary measures with regard to internet access in certain parts of the NCR were therefore understandably undertaken to prevent further violence, Srivastava said.

The Spokesperson's observations were in response to the US State Department terming the farm laws as welcome steps that will "improve the efficiency" of Indian markets and attract greater private sector investment. As regards the ongoing farmers' agitation, a State Department spokesperson said Washington recognises that "peaceful protests are a hallmark of any thriving democracy."

Nails not taken off Ghazipur road but repositioned, claim police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday repositioned the iron nails studded on roads at Ghazipur border to restrict the movement of farmers agitating against the agri laws.

A statement was also issued by police after videos and photos of workers removing the nails near Ghazipur border surfaced on social media.

According to Deepak Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East district, the security arrangements at the border will remain the same.

"Videos and photos are getting circulated in which it is shown that nails are being taken off at Ghazipur. These are just being repositioned. Security arrangement at the border remains the same," said the DCP.

Security arrangements continue to be strengthened at Ghazipur border, days after Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait's emotional appeal had galvanised farmers from Uttar Pradesh.

FIR over Greta 'toolkit' tweet on how to back farmers' stir

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Swedish teen climate change activist Greta Thunberg tweeted about toolkit, while supporting the farmers' protest, the Delhi Police has lodged a First Information Report (FIR) in connection with the matter which contained information on how to back the farmers' protests. The toolkit has been doing the rounds on social media and police have also booked toolkit creators. The climate activist deleted that tweet and later reposted an updated version of the toolkit.

Praveer Ranjan, the Special Commissioner of Police, Crime, along with Chinmoy Biswal, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Crime, and Anyesh Roy, the DCP, Cyber Crime, addressed a Press conference on Thursday where he said the police are monitoring social media in connection with the kisan agitation and police have also identified more than 300 accounts which have been used for pushing hateful and malicious contents.

Continued on Page 2

Still stand by farmers, says unfazed Thunberg

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Unfazed by a Delhi Police FIR in an alleged overseas "conspiracy" and an attempt to "promote enmity between groups, climate activists Greta Thunberg has tweeted that she "still" stands with farmers and "no amount of threats" would change that.

The Delhi Police cited Greta's first tweet backing of the farmer protest in an FIR that includes charges of sedition, an overseas "conspiracy" and an attempt to "promote enmity between groups".

Thunberg and a host of international celebrities, including US Vice President Kamala Harris niece and pop star Rihanna, have come out in support of the farmers' protest.

The subject of the FIR refers to Thunberg's tweet this morning on a "toolkit" guiding

people on how to support the farmers' protests. The Delhi Police said "some elements" were trying to take advantage of the farmer protests and "one account" had posted a toolkit that was authored by a group called the "Poetic Justice Foundation" that was a "Khalistani organisation".

Meanwhile, BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi took a swipe at Thunberg saying she would propose her name for "child bravery award" as the 18-year-old activist has done a "huge" service to the country by uploading the toolkit which, according to Lekhi, proved the conspiracy being designed to destabilise India. Another BJP spokesman Gaurav Bhatia described Thunberg's toolkit as "anarchy-school-kit" that gave away evidence of international conspiracy against India.

Continued on Page 2

Govt cautions against Covid laxity as large population vulnerable

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Thursday cautioned the people against letting their guard down noting that a large proportion of population is still vulnerable to the Covid-19 infection as it cited the latest national sero-survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Presenting the findings of the survey conducted by the country's premier health research body between December 7 last year and January 8, ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said that 21.4 per cent of the 28,589 people, aged 18 years and above, surveyed during the period showed evidence of past exposure to the coronavirus infection.

"While 25.3 per cent of children aged 10 to 17 years from the same number of surveyed population have had the disease," he said. The 3rd sero-survey was done from December 17, 2020 to January 8, 2021, says Balram Bhargava,

DG ICMR.

Urban slums (31.7 per cent) and urban non-slums (26.2 per cent) had a higher SARS-CoV-2 prevalence than that in rural areas (19.1 per cent), Bhargava said, adding that 23.4 per cent of individuals above 60 years of age had suffered from Covid-19.

Blood samples of 7,171 healthcare workers were also collected during the same period and the seroprevalence was found to be 20.7 per cent, the ICMR director general said.

Continued on Page 2

2nd Covid shot to healthcare workers from February 13

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nineteen days after launching the nationwide mega vaccination drive on January 16, the Government on Thursday said the second dose of vaccine against the coronavirus will be administered to healthcare workers from February 13.

"Only the first dose has been given to them so far," NITI Aayog member VK Paul said at a Press conference here.

Details are being worked out, said an official from the Union Health Ministry.

Meanwhile, the Ministry said that nearly 4.5 million beneficiaries have received Covid-19 vaccine shots in 19 days.

"Many other countries have had a head start of almost 65 days. India launched the countrywide Covid-19 vaccination drive on January 16. The number of beneficiaries being vaccinated every day has also shown a progressive increase," the Ministry said.

In a span of 24 hours, 3,10,604 people were vaccinated across 8,041 sessions, it said, adding 84,617 sessions have been conducted so far.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

FAKE PRO-CHINA HANDLES GET GLOBAL AUDIENCE

Washington: A pro-China network of fake and imposter accounts found a global audience on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter to mock the US response to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the deadly riot in Washington that left five dead, new research published on Thursday found. P8

2 SISTERS STAKE CLAIM FOR MOSQUE LAND

Lucknow: Two Delhi-based sisters moved the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday claiming the ownership of the five-acre land allotted to the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board for the construction of a mosque in Ayodhya in accordance with the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case.

2021 begins on deadly note for tigers, 16 die in Jan

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The year 2021 has not begun on a good note for the royal big cats with at least 16 of them, including three cubs, dying in the first month of January itself. On an average a striped cat succumbed to various reasons such as injuries, territorial fights, speeding vehicles, human-animal conflicts and poisoning every second day.

Maharashtra topped the list with the death of six big cats closely followed by Madhya Pradesh where five tigers died in the said period, as per data available from the Tigernet, an official database of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, a statutory body under the Union Environment Ministry.

At least ten big cats were found dead outside their protected habitat, suggesting that either they were poisoned or succumbed in man-animal conflict with the locals as they



moved out in search of food probably after they were displaced from their terrains following a territorial fight with their counterparts.

But what was shocking was the four deaths in Maharashtra where in two separate incidents a tiger and a tigress with her three cubs were poisoned by the locals in Umred-Karhandla-Paoni Wildlife Sanctuary (UKPWS). According to an official

found dead under Bhadravati Forest Range of Chandrapur district in Maharashtra. A forest department staffer on patrolling duty detected the carcass of the feline at compartment no-210 under the range.

In the last two years, 40 tigers have died in the financial capital, Maharashtra, of the country.

Apart from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, the States which lost tigers were Uttarakhanda (2) while Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Kerala lost one each tiger in January itself.

In Uttarakhanda, on January 16, the forest authorities of Haridwar forest division found the carcass of a tigress, around five-year-old, in the Shyampur forest range. The DFO of Haridwar, Neeraj Verma, ruled out any poaching attempt or any accident behind the death of the big cat and attributed it to anaemia. On January 6, yet

another 12-year-old tigress was found dead at Fatehpur range of Haldwani forest division in Uttarakhanda by a speeding SUV while in Bihar, a tiger's carcass was found in the forest of Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in the State's West Champaran district mid January.

Similarly, on January 28, a tiger who was around 18 was found dead in the core area of Madhya Pradesh's Pench Tiger Reserve. "The carcass was recovered by the patrolling party, in the Gumtara Range of the tiger reserve," its field director Vikram Singh Parihar said.

A senior official from the Ministry said that death of 16 tigers in a month is a matter of concern and calls for further strengthening the conservation measures, including community participation to protect the tigers.

Intriguingly, just when the tiger number has been showing

increase in the country — home to nearly 3,000 predators and there is an urgent need to protect them, the fiscal's allocation of ₹350 crore for Project Tiger, an initiative for conserving the wildcat has been reduced to ₹300 crore in the Budget 2021-22.

Also, the Budget for NTCA, responsible for tiger census and conservation of wild cats, saw a minor raise of ₹50 lakh from ₹10 crore last year to ₹10.5 crore for 2021-22.

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, last year, after releasing the detailed Status of Tigers Co-predators and Prey in India 2018 had said, "Despite India's constraint of 2.5 per cent of global land, four per cent of rainfall and 16 per cent of world's human population, India is home to eight per cent of world's biodiversity which includes 70 per cent of world's tiger population."

UK Parliament to consider debate on farmers' stir

As e-petition attracts thousands of signatures

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK Parliament's Petitions Committee will consider a Westminster Hall debate in the House of Commons complex on the issue of farmers protests and press freedom in India after an online petition attracted over 110,000 signatures.

While the name of Boris Johnson appears in his capacity as a west London Conservative Party member of Parliament, Downing Street had categorically denied that the UK Prime Minister had signed the petition.

The House of Commons further clarified on Thursday that while it is possible to view signatures on its petitions website by individual parliamentary constituencies, and the data also gives the name of the constituency MP, the data does not show whether individual MPs have signed it.

India has called the remarks by foreign leaders and organisations on protests by farmers as 'ill-informed' and 'unwarranted', asserting that the matter pertains to the internal affairs of a democratic country.



The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in New Delhi issued a statement on Wednesday to highlight that the Parliament of India had passed "reformist legislation" for the agricultural sector, which "a very small section of farmers" have some reservations about and therefore the laws have been kept on hold while talks are held.

Emphasising that the protests must be seen in the context of India's democratic ethos and polity, the MEA in its statement said some vested interest groups have tried to mobilise international support against the country.

"Before rushing to comment on such matters, we would urge that the facts be ascertained, and a proper understanding of the issues at hand be undertaken."

"The temptation of sensationalist social media hashtags and comments, especially when resorted to by celebrities

and others, is neither accurate nor responsible," the MEA statement said following some high-profile celebrities tweeting over the agitation by farmers.

In London, a UK government spokesperson said, "Media freedom is vital for the protection of human rights and journalists all around the world must be free to do their job and to hold authorities to account without fear of arrest or violence."

"Free press plays a crucial role in our democracies and the government are putting their full weight behind this, including through our membership of the Media Freedom Coalition," the spokesperson said.

The petition on the official Parliament petitions website, entitled 'Urge the Indian Government to ensure safety of protesters & press freedom', calls on the British government to make a public statement on the "#kissanprotests & press freedoms".

India-US fully committed to further strengthening ties, says India's envoy

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India and the US both are fully committed to further strengthening their strategic bilateral ties to the next level and the recent conversations between the top officials of the two countries have been very warm and forward looking, India's top diplomat here has said.

The India-US partnership has been on a steady upward trajectory in recent years, India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu told PTI in an exclusive interview. "Going forward, both sides are fully committed to further strengthening of bilateral ties, based on our shared values and increasing convergences on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual importance," he said.

The bilateral partnership is exploring new horizons in diverse areas such as trade and economy, defence and security, energy and climate change, healthcare, science and technology, Information Technology and innovation, and people-to-people connections, he said.

"Our partnership enjoys strong bipartisan support both in the US and India. So here we are in 2021, the beginning of a new year, a new decade and we are committed to taking our ties of cooperation and friendship with the US to the next level. We look forward to strengthening our existing partnerships across diverse sectors. Yes, we have indeed done a lot together; but there is still a lot more to be done together," Sandhu said.

The India-US partnership has been on a steady upward trajectory in recent years, India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu told PTI in an exclusive interview

In the first 10 days, the Biden administration's top officials have spoken with their Indian counterparts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was one of the few world leaders to have spoken with President Joe Biden soon after his electoral victory in November.

"Prime Minister Modi spoke to President-elect Biden on 17 November in which the two leaders reiterated their firm commitment to bilateral strategic partnership and discussed shared priorities such as Covid-19 pandemic, energy and climate change, and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region," Sandhu said.

In recent days, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval have spoken to their respective US counterparts — Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and NSA Jake Sullivan.

Govt insensitive, if farmers leave peaceful path it would lead to major crisis in country: Pawar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Calling the Centre "insensitive" over the handling of farmers' protests, NCP president Sharad Pawar on Thursday said if farmers leave peaceful means of agitation it would lead to a major crisis in the country and the BJP Government will be responsible for it.

Slamming the Government for erecting multi-layered barricades, concertina wires with iron nails studded on roads, Pawar said this did not happen even during the British rule.

Pawar, who was Union Agriculture Minister from 2004-2014, accused the government of not willing to solve the farmers' protest issue.

"They don't want to solve the problem. I am worried that today, if the farmers, who are peacefully agitating, take some other path, then this would lead to a major crisis. And the BJP government has to take responsibility for this. There are many issues but today those who are in power are not sensitive," he said.

He warned that the end of the government which is not sensitive is near sooner or later.

Pawar also attacked the government for not allowing Opposition MPs to visit the protesting farmers at Ghazipur. Pawar's daughter and Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule was among the Opposition lawmakers.

"They (the opposition



Slamming the Government for erecting multi-layered barricades, concertina wires with iron nails studded on roads, Pawar said this did not happen even during the British rule

MPs) had gone there peacefully just to check the well-being of farmers but even they were not allowed to go. If this is the case in democracy then they (the government) have to pay a heavy price today or tomorrow," he said.

Sule also took to twitter and slammed the government. In her tweet in Marathi, she said the Government should shed arrogance and engage in talks with the farmers and address the issue.

Pawar was among the Opposition leaders to visit President Ram Nath Kovind in December to seek repeal of the three contentious farm laws.

PM's brother vows to fight for justice to his supporter

PTI ■ SULTANPUR (UP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlaad Modi on Thursday met the family members of one of his supporters, arrested for "unauthorised" use of the political dignitaries' posters for the publicity of the PM's brother's visit here.

The Prime Minister's brother met his supporter Jitendra Tiwari's family members and vowed to fight for justice to him, saying the law is one and same for one and all, be it the Prime Minister or a common man.

Prahlaad Modi met Tiwari's family members at the venue of his scheduled programme at Guptarganj Madhavpur village under Kudebhaar police station area in the district.

Tiwari was arrested from near Vikas Bhavan on the complaint of the district social welfare officer, accusing him of putting up the posters of PM Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on his car in an unauthorised manner. Tiwari is presently in judicial custody.

After hearing of Tiwari's arrest on landing at Lucknow airport, Prahlaad Modi had sat on a brief dharna at the airport, resenting that the police had stopped his supporters to reach there to receive him. Police, however, had denied the allegation.

Farmers' woes occupy LS, RS

From Page 1
He also said the Arvind Kejriwal-led Government in Delhi will keep backing the farmers.

Derek O'Brien (TMC) said the present regime was a failed Government, be it handling the corona challenge or implementing the farm laws. Terming the death of a farmer in a tractor overturning incident on January 26 under "mysterious circumstances", he said the Prime Minister and Home Minister were responsible for law and order in the national Capital.

In a scathing attack on the Government over its handling of the ongoing farmers' agitation, MV Shreyams Kumar (Loktantrik Janata Dal) said the Government remained a mute spectator while democracy was "butchered" just a few kilometers away from the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

कुमाऊँ विश्वविद्यालय, नैनीताल
सो-स्टोर/साथी/सो-स्टोर/388/3000/2020 दिनांक-04/02/2021
निविदा सूचना (उत्तर-पूरिस्ता क मुद्रण) 2021-22
विश्वविद्यालय की परीक्षाओं हेतु उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं के मुद्रण कार्य हेतु दिनांक 05-02-2021 से 22-02-2021 के दोपहर 2:00 बजे तक निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बंधित विवरण एवं शर्तें/निविदा प्रपत्र विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट www.kunainital.ac.in से डाउनलोड किये/देखे जा सकते हैं।
कुलसचिव

FIR over Greta 'toolkit' tweet on how to back..

From Page 1
"These handles are being used by some organisations and individuals having vested interest and they are spreading disaffection against the government," said the Special CP.

"One document titled toolkit was uploaded through one of the handles on a particular social media platform. Preliminary enquiry has revealed that the toolkit in question appears to have been created by a pro-Khalistani organisation Poetic Justice Foundation. A section of the documents titled prior action delineates the action plan," he said.

"The action plan was a digital strike through hashtags on or before January 26. Plan also included physical action on January 26. Watch-out or join farmers march into Delhi and back to borders," said the Special CP.

"The unfolding of events past a few days including the violence of January 26 has revealed copycat execution of the action plan detailed in the toolkit. Design of the author of the toolkits is to create disharmony among various social religious and cultural groups and



encourage disaffection against government," said the Special CP.

"It also aims at waging social, cultural and economic war against India, the Delhi Police has registered a case under section 124-A, 153-A, 153 and 120-B IPC which will be investigated by the Cyber Cell of Delhi Police," he said.

The Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg earlier tweeted, "We stand in solidarity with the #FarmersProtest in India. Thunberg shared the same CNN story about the protests and the Government restricting internet near protest sites. On Wednesday evening she in another tweet posted a toolkit that sought support for the farmers' Republic Day protests. She deleted the tweet soon after. She later in

another tweet said she was sharing an updated toolkit, which included seven ways to back the agitation. She also suggested organising protests near the closest Indian Embassy on February 13 and 14.

Reacting to comments made by foreign individuals and entities like Thunberg, the Indian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Wednesday saying their tweets as "not accurate". The statement said, "The temptation of sensationalist social media hashtags and comments, especially when resorted to by celebrities and others, is neither accurate nor responsible. Before rushing to comment on such matters, we would urge that the facts be ascertained and a proper understanding of the issues at hand be undertaken."

2nd Covid shot to healthcare workers from February 13

From Page 1
"While we are doing the immunisation of health care and frontline workers across the country, we are using 1,239 private places as vaccination session sites. At the same time, we are using 5,912 public hospitals as vaccination sites," said Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan.

The Ministry officials also claimed that India has become the fastest country in the world to achieve the 4 million milestone in just 18 days.

Citing a survey, he said that over 97 per cent of 5.12 lakh people surveyed after being inoculated against Covid-19 have expressed satisfaction with the vaccination process.

The Government is taking feedback from vaccinated people since January 17 through its mobile app CoWIN and has got responses from 5,12,128 people out of the 37 lakh it had approached for feedback on the immunisation process, Bhushan said.

The nationwide inoculation drive was launched on January 16 with over three

crore healthcare and frontline workers prioritised to get the jabs initially.

Bhushan said, "On January 17, we started taking feedback on CoWIN application through the Rapid Assessment System (RAS) from those users who have been vaccinated."

"Ninety-seven per cent people are satisfied with overall vaccination experience. This data is based on feedback from 5.12,128 people.

Out of 37 lakh people to whom we sent the SMSes and followed up with outbound calls, a size of 5,12,128 people actually replied. They have been analysed," he said.

Through the system, beneficiaries were asked four questions in a personalised message, a day after Covid-19 vaccine was administered to them, Bhushan said.

"Once the user confirms receiving the vaccination, questions are asked. If no reply is received, an outbound call is made to them through the system asking for feedback," he said. Out of the total feedback received, 97.38 per cent

expressed satisfaction with the overall process of vaccination and 97.41 confirmed that proper social distancing was maintained at immunisation sites, Bhushan said.

He said that 98.43 per cent confirmed that they were informed about the process of vaccination and that it was given properly, 88.95 per cent people said they were informed about adverse event following immunisation and 97.13 per cent confirmed that they were asked to wait for 30 minutes for monitoring after they were vaccinated.

The Ministry also informed that only seven States have contributed to 55 per cent of the total vaccination drive. Uttar Pradesh topped the chart with 4,63,793 vaccinations, followed by Rajasthan with 3,63,521, Maharashtra with 3,54,633, Madhya Pradesh with 3,30,722, Karnataka with 3,16,638, Gujarat with 3,11,251 and West Bengal with 3,01,091. In total vaccinations, these States share a percentage of 10.4, 8.2, 8, 7.4, 7.1, 7, and 6.8 respectively.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION No. 1 AMBIKAPUR, DISTT. - SURGUJA (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice
eProcurement Portal:- <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(FIRST-CALL)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 08 /SAC/ 2020-21 DATED: 13.01.2021
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 11.02.2021 (17.30 hours IST).

Group No.	System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1.	70664	CONSTRUCTION OF DIVERSION WEIR & EARTH WORK OF L.B.C. CANAL FROM R.D. 0 TO 2100M I/C 09 NOS. STRUCTURES, R.B.C. MAIN CANAL FROM RD 0 TO 2070M INCLUDING 12 NOS. STRUCTURES & R.B.C. MINOR CANAL FROM RD 0 TO 300M INCLUDING 03 NOS. STRUCTURES OF KARMAHA MACHALI NADI DIVERSION SCHEME, INCLUDING 10 YEARS MAINTENANCE.	Rs. 527.63 Lakhs
2.	70665	CONSTRUCTION OF DIVERSION WEIR & EARTH WORK OF R.B.C. CANAL FROM R.D. 0 TO 3300M I/C 15 NOS. STRUCTURES OF JHINJHARI DIVERSION SCHEME, INCLUDING 10 YEARS MAINTENANCE.	Rs. 227.18 Lakhs
3.	70666	CONSTRUCTION OF PAKKI CHANNEL BETWEEN RD 0 TO 2160M, 2 NO. STRUCTURE, 2 NO STRUCTURE REPAIR, EARTH WORK, RESECTION OF MAIN CANAL BETWEEN 0M TO 2600M. MINOR 1-630M, MINOR 2- 390M, MINOR 3- 670M OF BELJORA TANK SCHEME, INCLUDING 10 YEARS MAINTENANCE.	Rs. 139.17 Lakhs

The details can be viewed & downloaded online directly from the Govt of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from dated 20-01-2021 at 17.31 hours (IST) onwards.

Note:- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approved on specific vendor class from PWD under centralized contractor/supplier registration in order to download the Tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION No. 1,
AMBIKAPUR (C.G.)
For, Chief Engineer
Hasdeo Gange Basin, W.R. Deptt.
Ambikapur, Surguja (C.G.)

R.O. No.- 86583/13
R.O. Date:- 03/02/2021

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-18, कन्दूखान एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज उओ प्रो जल निगम (उओ प्रो सरकार का उधक्रम) कार्यालय- शा सं-जेड 1/17, आशियाना फेज-2, (कृष्णा आर्थोपेडिक सेन्टर के सामने वाली गली में), कॉट रोड, मुद्रादाबा-244001

निविदा सूचना सं-158/ए-ए-18/09 दिनांक-29.01.2021
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

उओ प्रो जल निगम की ओर से जनयद-में Remaining works of Semi-conducted houses at Arsa yojna moh.-Dhakkha, district-Moradabad (U.P.) की अनुओ लागत रू 46.07 लाख हेतु दिनांक 15.02.2021 के अपराह्न 17:00 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 04.02.2021 से दिनांक 15.02.2021 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 16.02.2021 को अपराह्न 12:30 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-18, सीओ जेड डी एसओ, उओ प्रो जल निगम, मकान सं-जेड 1/17, आशियाना फेज-2, (कृष्णा आर्थोपेडिक सेन्टर के सामने वाली गली में), कॉट रोड, मुद्रादाबा में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रू 5000.00+ (18% GST) अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा से सम्बंधित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.cdspujn.org एवं प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

2 dreaded Naxals among 5 surrender

PTI ■ RAIPUR

Five Naxals, two of them allegedly involved in multiple attacks on security forces and carrying huge rewards on their heads, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Thursday, police said.

The rebels, including a woman, turned themselves in

before police and CRPF officials, said district Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava.

They told officials that they were disappointed with the "hollow Naxal ideology" and the police's rehabilitation drive "Lon Varratu" prompted them to lay down arms, he said.

So far, 293 persons have quit naxalism in the district since Lon Varratu ('return to your home' in Gondi) campaign was launched in June 2020, Pallava said.

Those who surrendered on Thursday included Gangu alias Lakhman Kuddam (38), 'commander' of Bhairamgarh area committee of Maoists,

who was wanted in at least 21 cases in Dantewada and neighbouring Bijapur district, he said.

Kuddam was allegedly involved in the killing of three civilians in separate incidents in Bijapur last year and in the Tadkel encounter in 2008 where six policemen and as many ultras were killed, he said.

Still stand by...

From Page 1
"We staged p-1nd in solidarity with the #FarmersProtest in India," Thunberg had tweeted on Tuesday, tagging a CNN news report headlined: "India cuts internet around New Delhi as protesting farmers clash with police."

Meena Harris, an American lawyer who is the niece of Kamala Harris, had said, "It's no coincidence that the world's oldest democracy was attacked not even a month ago, and as we speak." "This is related. We ALL should be outraged by India's internet shutdowns and paramilitary violence against farmer protesters," Meena Harris tweeted.

Govt cautions against Covid laxity as large...

From Page 1

"Also, amongst healthcare workers, sero prevalence was highest overall with 25.7 per cent. Statistically it was not different between doctors, nurses, field staff and paramedics, but it was highest among doctors and nurses with 26.6 per cent as against the administrative staff which was 24.9 per cent," he said.

The survey was conducted in the same 700 villages or wards in 70 districts in 21 States selected during the first and second rounds of the national serosurvey.

On the coronavirus situation in the country, the Union Health Ministry said India's Covid-19 cumulative positivity rate is 5.42 per cent and declining. The weekly positivity rate (last week) was recorded at 1.82 per cent, it said.

"There are two States that have 70 per cent of the active cases - Kerala and Maharashtra. 47 districts haven't reported any new cases in the last 3 weeks and 251 districts have not reported any Covid-related deaths in the last three weeks," said Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, FIZA AHMAD D/o IRFAN AHMAD Residing at H.No. R-290, Ramesh Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as FIZA AHMED and IRFAN AHMED in my all educational documents.
PD(8903)A

THREE-HOUR-LONG 'CHAKKA JAAM' ON FEBRUARY 6 Farmers to serve food, water to commuters stuck on roads: Tikait

STAFF REPORTER ■
GHAZIABAD

The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait, who is leading farmers' ongoing agitation at Ghazipur border, on Thursday said that protesting farmers will serve water and food to the commuters stuck on roads during 'Chakka Jam'.

long 'chakka jaam' on February 6 and it will not be in Delhi but everywhere outside the city. They will be given food and water. We will tell them what is the Central Government doing with us," he said.

Stringent security continued on Wednesday at Ghazipur on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border, one of the key protest sites where thousands of farmers are camping with a demand

that the Centre repeal the new agri-marketing laws enacted last September.

Meanwhile, several political leaders visited the border on Thursday and extended their support to the agitating farmers.

Former MLA from Moradabad and senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Samarpal Singh, along with his supporters also met Rakesh Tikait at the panchayat ghar on

the spot and reiterated his support for the movement.

He was accompanied by hundreds of workers including Moradabad Superintendent of Police District President Jayveer Yadav and Babar Khan.

On Thursday, the iron nails studded on roads at Ghazipur border to restrict the movement of farmers agitating against the new agrilaws were being "repositioned" by the Delhi Police.

Thousands of farmers have been protesting at the Delhi borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, demanding a rollback of the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

The protesting farmers have expressed the apprehension that these laws would pave the way for the dismantling of the minimum support price (MSP) system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporations.

However, the Government has maintained that the new Agriculture laws will bring better opportunities to farmers and introduce new technologies in agriculture.



'Switch Delhi' campaign to promote electric vehicles

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday launched the Switch Delhi campaign, a mass awareness campaign to sensitise each and every Delhiite about the benefits of switching to 'Electric Vehicles' (EVs) to make them aware of the incentives and infrastructure being developed under Delhi's EV policy.

While launching the campaign, Kejriwal said that Delhi has to turn its EV adoption movement into a mass movement, a 'Jan Andolan', to form a collective commitment to decrease pollution by purchasing EVs.

"I appeal to each and every vehicle owner in Delhi to switch from polluting vehicles to zero-emission electric vehicles, and to make a commitment to purchase a vehicle that causes no pollution. I appeal to the RWAs and market associations to play a leading role in this mass awareness campaign by joining hands with the Delhi government in spreading awareness on EVs. I also urge delivery fleets and large corporates to set targets to transition their entire fleet to EVs and to set up charging points in your premises," he said.

"The campaign aims at informing, encouraging, and motivating each and every person in Delhi to switch from



polluting vehicles to zero-emission electric vehicles," he said.

The chief minister also said that the Delhi government has decided that all hired cars being engaged by various departments of the Delhi government will transition to EVs within the next six months.

On the occasion of the launch, Kejriwal said, "Over the last year, the people of Delhi have fought a courageous fight against Corona.

They overcame all odds to defeat three waves of Corona. While all the people of Delhi deserve credit for this, it should not take away our focus from the long-term challenges facing Delhi. One such challenge is air pollution."

To address the vehicular pollution in Delhi, in August 2020, the Delhi government notified the landmark Delhi Electric Vehicle policy. It has been called the most progressive EV policy in India and among the best globally. The policy was well-received because it sets an ambitious vision for Delhi to drastically reduce air pollution from vehicles and become one of the top cities of the world in terms of the adoption of EVs.

"Our vision is that by 2024,

25 per cent of all vehicles in Delhi should be electric vehicles. If we can achieve this, imagine how much pollution it will reduce," he said.

The Delhi Government has rolled out the highest incentives on the purchase of EVs among all Indian states.

"Incentives on EVs range from a maximum of Rs 30,000 for 2 and 3-wheelers and up to Rs 1,50,000 on the purchase of four-wheelers. This subsidy is received directly in your bank account within three days of the purchase. We have made road tax and registration fees also completely free on EVs. The policy has been created to promote the adoption of EV on a large scale. Since EVs cannot run on petrol, we are issuing tenders to develop 100 public charging stations spread across the length and breadth of Delhi," he added.

On the positive impact of the policy, Kejriwal said, "Since the launch of our EV policy in August, nearly 6000 new EVs have been registered in Delhi. The efforts of the government alone are not enough, everybody has to come together. Vehicular pollution is the biggest source of pollution in the city."

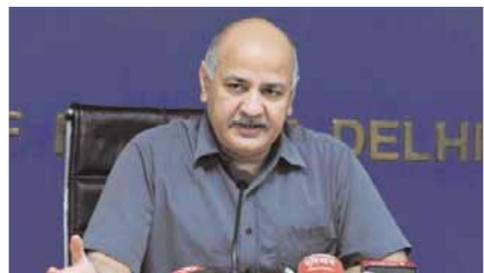
Centre trying to govern Delhi through 'backdoor': Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday accused the Centre of trying to govern the national Capital through the "backdoor", claiming the Union Cabinet has cleared a proposal to give more powers to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

Sisodia said that the BJP government at the Centre has secretly worked to get the GNCTD (Amendment) Bill cleared, subverting the mandate of a democratically elected government.

Terming the bill as the murder of constitutional democracy, Sisodia said that the Central government wants to impede Delhi's development and progress by enhancing



LG's power. "The Bill goes against the grain of the Constitution, gives more powers to LG in addition to the existing powers on police, land and public order. It gives unlimited powers to the LG, subverting the mandate of a democratically elected government," he said.

Addressing the media, he said, "It is clearly mentioned in our Constitution that barring police, land and public order, everything else falls under the ambit of an elected government in Delhi. The Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court has also clearly distinguished the powers of the elected gov-

ernment and LG. But, the BJP, which has faced defeat thrice in the past, wants to govern Delhi through a proxy."

The deputy chief minister further said, "The LG will use this Act to unnecessarily intervene in the matters of public interest and impede the progress of Delhi. In the last five years, LG has invariably hindered the decisions made by Delhi government. Due to this, many progressive schemes such as Mohalla Clinic, CCTV, Free electricity and water, school infrastructure improvement and others have been delayed, the cost of which is borne by the people of Delhi."

"The BJP does not want world class education, health facilities, free electricity and water being provided to the

people by the Delhi Government. Hence, it is using secretive and unconstitutional ways to impede the progress of Delhi. BJP has not been able to provide basic facilities to the public in BJP-ruled states. Rather than working on development in other states, it is trying to deprive the people of Delhi by giving unlimited powers to the LG in such an undemocratic manner," he said.

As per the NCT amended bill, under the Constitution, LG can refer a particular matter to the President for a decision where his views are different from those of the council of ministers.

In cases where President's decision is pending, LG can take immediate decision if the matter is urgent.

Start distributing e-health cards at earliest, CM directs officials

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday directed officials to start the distribution of e-health cards at the earliest and ensure the completion of health information management system (HIMS) within the stipulated deadline.

In a meeting to review the ambitious HIMS project, Kejriwal directed the concerned authorities to ensure that the project is finalized by the middle of this year. Health Minister Satyendar Jain who was also present in the meeting also expressed satisfaction over the speed of the work by the health department on HIMS, e-health card, and health helpline and instructed the department to complete the same within the stipulated time frame.

The health officials gave a presentation for the implementation of HIMS and issuing of the e-health cards. Under HIMS, various features such as a web portal, mobile app, etc will be launched to store a database of the health information of the residents of Delhi. The HIMS will be implemented by August 2021 in all the Delhi government hospitals. The system seeks to target the healthcare delivery process. All the patient care services, hospital administration, budgeting and planning, supply chain management, and backend services and processes will be brought under the system.

The system will be on the cloud and digitized. This will enable the citizens to avail information on one platform, which will help them in emergency cases. With this, Delhi will become the only state to have a cloud-based health management system. This facility will also be extended to pvt hospitals in the future.

'Budget historic for Rly, focuses on infra projects'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Railways Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that the 'General Budget 2021' has been historic for Indian Railways as it focussed on infrastructure projects in Indian Railways.

"The highest capex for Indian Railways will act as a huge catalyst to revitalise the

economy and lead Indian Railways towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that Indian Railways is marching ahead on its bigger plan like achieving 100 per cent electrification by 2023, net zero carbon emission network by 2030, modernisation of railways, ease of ticket booking, online freight services. Thus, Indian Railways is



on the verge of becoming a "Future Ready" network.

Replying to a question, Goyal informed that normal train services will be decided upon in consultation with other stake holders as COVID situation is being monitored. Vaccination drive has gathered momentum but still we need to adhere to precautions and preventions.

While talking about dedicated freight corridors, Goyal said monetization of assets can

be taken up in stages by public listing and gradual disinvestment after DFC become fully operational, and DFCCIL starts registering healthy profit.

Speaking on the management mantra for Indian Railways, Goyal said that the Management Mantra of Indian Railways is to assign priority, allocate resources and expedite completion.

BJP slams Govt over withdrawal of DTC buses hired for cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Criticising the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government for "withdrawing" buses of 'Delhi Transport Corporation' (DTC) hired for police and paramilitary personnel amid farmer protests at the city's border points, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders on Thursday alleged that the ruling party was spreading "anarchy" for "political gains" in Punjab.

The AAP government had decided on Wednesday to withdraw the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses on special hire to various departments, including those being used by security personnel, with immediate effect, officials had said.

Criticising the move, BJP national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh tweeted, "Delhi Govt under @ArvindKejriwal withdraws DTC buses given to police & paramilitary forces for bandobust duty. Delhiites will suffer for the Punjab aspirations of @AamAadmiParty. Anarchists indeed."

This shows how the Kejriwal government is trying to spread "anarchy" by taking back buses from police at a time when they are busy dealing with security issues amid protests at the city's border points, alleged Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta.

"Delhi Police has always been a victim of cheap politics

of Anarchist CM @arvindkejriwal. For their political interests, @aamaadmi party has blamed Delhi Police for every act of violence in the city by Jamia, JNU, Delhi Riots or Farmers protest violence," Gupta charged in a tweet.

BJP MPs Ramesh Bidhuri, Parvesh Verma, Manoj Tiwari and Gautam Gambhir also reacted to the decision taken by the Delhi government. Bidhuri in a tweet said Delhi Police should also withdraw security provided to the Delhi CM.

"It's unfortunate that Kejriwal has taken back buses to deploy police and paramilitary forces for law and order (duty). Delhi Police should immediately withdraw his security because the buses were

meant for law and order and security of people in Delhi," Bidhuri said.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri demanded the chief minister withdraw the decision.

"Kejriwal ji you may do Punjab politics we do not have any objection but do not throw Delhi into anarchy for your politics. Withdraw the decision to stop the bus service to Delhi Police and paramilitary personnel," the MLA tweeted.

Farmers from Punjab, Haryana and UP, have been protesting at Delhi's border points that have been fortified with barricades, cement blocks, concertina wires, spikes and deployment of heavy police and paramilitary personnel.

DCPCR launches 'Ab Pata Chal Jaane Do'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) launched a week-long Digital Campaign 'Ab Pata Chal Jaane Do' to shed the 'guilt and shame associated with menstruation, causing trauma, ignored health issues and misdiagnosis for girls.

The campaign was launched in collaboration with Sachhi Saheli, an NGO working towards empowering children and women to become agents of change, the campaign aims to raise awareness on menstruation, break stereotypes and promote menstrual hygiene.

As part of the campaign, a series of events have been organised including Red

SpotChallenge, where they can inspire fellow friends by posting a single/group picture with a red spot; sanitary napkin exchange in which girls can also gift/exchange sanitary napkins with a motivational message etc in which students can upload pictures of their greeting cards or posters. The best cards will be selected and awarded attractive prizes along with a special feature on the creative library on the Menstrual Health Awareness Day website, Sachi Saheli's social media and newsletter.

The Commission has received an overwhelming response from all the stakeholders. A large number of teachers and students have actively participated in the

campaign. Many young girls have applauded the campaign and expressed their enthusiasm by posting photos and videos with the red dot, symbolic to the process of menstruation.

Highlighting the significance of the campaign and celebration of Menstrual Health and Awareness Day 2021 on 5th, February as 'Happy Period Day', Ranjana Prasad, Member, DCPCR said "Happy Periods Day" is not only an important occasion to educate girls about menstrual hygiene but to tell each one that periods are an act of positivity and not something that delimits the potential of girls. This campaign is a crucial step to gain social solidarity as a community and celebrate the essence of womanhood."

Govt establishes six new Mobile Forensic Crime Scene Units

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Government's Home department has established six new Mobile Forensic Crime Scene Units to facilitate the process of collection and examination of the evidence.

Home Minister Satyendar Jain said the government want to ensure these units run 24/7

to ease the timely collection of evidence. Earlier the reports of DNA samples used to come in 4-5 days. Now they are being reported in 1-2 months by FSL (Forensic Science Laboratory), Jain said.

Addressing the event, Jain said, "Six new Mobile Forensic Crime Scene Units are made to facilitate the easy and timely

collection, handling and examination of evidence. These units have been deployed in various parts of Delhi. These units would work at 24x7."

"The Delhi Government is also aware of the fact that in cases of atrocities against the woman the DNA samples used to take more than 4-5 years to get detected but now with the

improved infrastructure the results are coming in 1-2 months only, he added.

These six new units have been constructed in the Eastern Range to cover North East, Shahdara, East districts; Western Range to cover Dwarka and West districts; Central Range to cover Central and North districts; New Delhi

Range at Delhi Cant to cover New Delhi and South-West districts; Southern Range to cover South West, South and South East districts; and Northern Range at FSL, Rohini -14 itself to cover Rohini, Outer North, North West districts, Railways, Metro, Crime Branch, Anti Corruption, Spl. Branch, Vigilance and Others.

Deepa Verma, Director of Forensic Science Laboratory informed that laboratory staff has recruited scientific staff for the Crime Scene Management Division to constitute Mobile Forensic Crime Scene Units for further deployment at range locations. Senior officers of the laboratory are assigned to review the reports, supervise their

working and to lead these units.

Delhi Government is committed to delivering the highest quality forensic reports to assist the criminal justice system to enhance public satisfaction and meet their expectations through the world-defined quality system, world-class professionals and state-of-the-art technology.

N-E likely to be cancer hotspot, warn experts



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The North-East could become the country's cancer hotspot with health experts cautioning that the number of new cases in the region is likely to increase to 57,131 by 2025 in comparison to the estimated 50,317 in 2020.

Citing the report by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR), Bengaluru, which was released on Thursday on the occasion of World Cancer Day, the experts said that there is a need to focus on early diagnosis and prevention of cancer.

As per the report 'Profile of cancer and related health indicators in the Northeast Region of India', in all the States, the incidence of cancer was higher in males than in females except in Manipur and Sikkim. The commonly occurring cancers among males were cancer of the oesophagus (13.6 per cent) and lung (10.9 per cent), while in females, cancer of the breast was the leading site (14.5 per cent), followed by that of cervix uteri (12.2 per cent).

The highest incidence rate in males (269.4 per 100,000 population) was recorded in Mizoram and among females (219.8 per

100,000) in Papumpare district in Arunachal Pradesh.

The proportion of tobacco-related cancers was 49.3 per cent in males and 22.8 per cent in females, said the report.

At the time of diagnosis of breast, cervix, head and neck, stomach and lung cancers, less than one-third were localised, while the remaining were spread either nearby or distantly in the body. The proportion of cancer patients seeking treatment outside the north east was highest for Sikkim (95.3 per cent) and Nagaland (58. Per cent).

"The report has given us valuable insights into the prevailing risk factors of cancer - all the stakeholders must now come together to fight its increasing incidence," said Dr GK Rath, Head of AIIMS, BRAIRCH and NCI, Jhajjar.

The Report also includes data from seven hospital-based cancer registries (HBCRs) in Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura from 2012 to 2016.

"The scientific evidence generated from the registries has led to strengthening of health infrastructure in the region and will provide the guidance for future policy decisions," Dr Balram Bhargava, Director General, ICMR, said in a statement.

Terming it as a wakeup call

amid Corona pandemic, Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director-Bone Marrow Transplant Programme, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram strongly felt that cancer patients need to be given priority for vaccination.

"We know that the most vulnerable group is people who have suffered cancer or are undergoing chemotherapy. They should get vaccination on a priority basis so that they continue with the chemotherapy treatment. However, they must consult their doctors for the type of vaccine and timing of the vaccine inoculation so that they can develop the adequate amount of antibodies before they take chemotherapy."

Besides providing cancer data, the ICMR report also gives insight into the prevailing cancer risk factor profile capacity for treating cancer and death statistics for each state from various sources. Among the eight northeast states, current tobacco use was highest in Tripura at 64.5 per cent and lowest in Sikkim at 17.9 per cent.

Men (59 per cent) and women (26.3 per cent) from Arunachal Pradesh, who were over 15 years of age, consumed higher proportions of alcohol than in other NE states while the prevalence of obesity among women aged 15-49 years was highest in Sikkim (34.7 per cent) followed by Manipur (34.1 per cent). In contrast, in men, it was highest in Sikkim (36.3 per cent) and lowest in Meghalaya (13.9 per cent).

The report said Sikkim had the highest prevalence of hypertension in men (41.6 per cent) and women (34.5 per cent), followed by Manipur (men 33.2 per cent and women 23.0 per cent).

NIA seizes ₹20 lakh in cash, 130 live rounds in Hizbul narco terror case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday said it has recovered ₹20 lakh in cash and 130 live rounds in connection with the probe into Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) narco terror case.

The NIA conducted searches in Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts of Punjab at the premises of suspect Manpreet Singh of Kala Afghana, Teja Khurd, Batala, Amritsar, a close associate of charge-sheeted accused Ranjit Singh alias Cheeta and Iqbal Singh alias Shera in connection with investigation of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) Narco Terror Case, the agency said in a statement.

The case relates to arrest of Hiral Ahmad Shergoiji, an over ground worker of HM and a close associate of Riyaz Ahmed Naikoo, the then commander of HM who had come to Amritsar to collect the funds to further the terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

₹ 29 lakh along with a Tata truck was seized from the accused on April 25 last year by Punjab Police.

This case was originally registered as case FIR number 135/20 dated April 25, 2020 at Police Station Sadar, Amritsar City, Punjab, under various sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 in con-

nection with seizure of ₹29 lakhs which were drug proceeds. Subsequently sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act were added during investigation.

The case was re-registered by NIA on May 8, 2020 and took up the investigation.

The NIA has filed chargesheets against 11 accused persons in Special NIA Court, Mohali in the case.

"During investigation, it was revealed that Manpreet Singh a hawala operator, had collected heroin, drug proceeds and weapons and transported them in his i20 and Verna car as per directions of accused Ranjit Singh alias Cheeta and Iqbal Singh alias Shera. Further, Manpreet Singh delivered the drugs proceeds to the tune of ₹35 lakh and weapons to the charge-sheeted accused Bikram Singh alias Vicky, relative of Manjeet Singh during the month of March, 2020," the NIA said in a statement.

During the searches conducted on Thursday, ₹20 lakh (drug proceeds) 130 live rounds of 9 mm, mobile phones, pen drive, one bunch of polythene bags used for packing heroin, one Hyundai Verna car, a two wheeler, documents related to properties, and other incriminating documents have been seized from the house of the suspect, it added.

ED attaches assets worth over ₹14 cr of Choksi in PNB loan fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has attached assets worth over ₹14 crore belonging to the Gitanjali Group and its promoter and jeweller Mehul Choksi, one of the prime accused in the alleged over ₹13,000 crore PNB loan fraud case.

The properties attached, under the anti-money laundering law, include a flat measuring 1,460 sq feet located at O2 Tower in Goregaon area of Mumbai, gold and platinum jewellery, diamond stones, necklaces made of silver and pearls, watches and a Mercedes Benz car, the ED said in a statement.

A provisional order for attachment has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for the assets worth a total ₹14.45 crore that are in the name of Gitanjali Group of companies and its director Mehul Choksi, it said.

Choksi, 61, is the maternal uncle of Nirav Modi who is the other prime accused in the alleged over ₹13,000 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case.

Choksi has fled India and is stated by probe agencies to be based in Antigua and Barbuda.

Modi, 49, is in a London jail after he was held by authorities there in 2019 on the basis of a legal request made by the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in this case. He is contesting extradition to India.

The two, their family members and employees, bank officials and others were booked by the ED and the CBI in 2018 for perpetrating the alleged fraud in the Brady House branch of the PNB in Mumbai.

In revised norms, EC allows postal voting for three categories



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the revised guidelines for voting through postal ballot by absentee voters, the Election Commission has allowed postal voting for 'Senior citizens' (above 80 years of age), PwDs (persons with Disabilities), and COVID-19 suspect or affected persons. In a letter to all States and Union Territories, the EC forwarded the revised guidelines for voting through postal ballot by absentee voters in the category of senior citizens (above 80 years of age), persons with disability flagged in the electoral roll and Covid-19 suspect or affected persons, for compliance in all future elections.

The EC further directed the State Chief Electoral Officer to bring these new provisions to the notice of District Election Officers (DEOs), Returning Officers (ROs) and other election authorities concerned besides the State units of recognised political parties and all registered unrecognised political parties based in the State.

Referring to the procedure, the EC guidelines stated, "An 'Absentee Voter' wishing to vote by postal ballot has to make application to the RO of the Constituency concerned, in

Form-12D, giving all requisite particulars. Such application should reach the RO during the period from the date of announcement of election to five days following the date of notification of the election.

"The BLO (Booth Level Officers) will visit the houses of absentee voters, as per details provided by the RO, in the Polling Station area and deliver 'Form 12D' to the concerned electors and obtain acknowledgements from them. The BLOs will have to deposit all the acknowledgements obtained from the electors with the RO." Mentionably, each polling station is assigned a BLO. The EC guidelines added, "If an elector is not available, the BLO will share his/her contact details and revisit to collect it within five days of the notification.

"If the elector opts for the 'Postal Ballot', then the BLO will collect the filled-in-Form 12D from the house of the elector within five days of the notification and deposit it with the RO forthwith.

The Sector Officer shall supervise the process of distribution and collection of Form 12) by BLOs under the overall supervision of RO." The polling officials will brief the electors and also collect the marked ballot papers (after the vote is cast on postal ballot).

Praveen Sinha takes over as interim Director of CBI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Additional Director of CBI Praveen Sinha on Thursday took charge of the interim director of the agency following vesting of the charge through an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on Wednesday.

The move came after the then incumbent CBI Chief RK Shukla retired from service on Wednesday.

Sinha, a Gujarat cadre officer of 1988 batch had earlier served in the CBI as Superintendent of Police, DIG, Joint Director and Additional Director over two stints between 2000 and 2021, the CBI said in a statement.

He also served as

Additional Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) during 2015-2018. He has served at various places in the State in various capacities from ASP to Additional Director General of Police.

"He had also served as Deputy Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Ahmedabad in 1996. In the past, Sinha has been associated with the investigation of various Supreme Court/High Court entrusted/monitored scams; major bank frauds and financial crimes and serial bomb blasts. He was instrumental in unearthing major examination paper leakages including those of CAT and AIPMT, it added.

"Sinha has the unique distinction of having drafted the

Manual of both the apex integrity institutions - Vigilance Manual 2017 of Central Vigilance Commission and CBI (Crime) Manual, 2020. He has been involved in several innovative and reform initiatives. Sinha is a Member of several Reform Committees constituted by the CVC. He is also a Member of the Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws constituted by MHA," it added.

Meanwhile, the agency on Thursday conducted searches in Bhubaneswar/Cuttack at the premises of senior Travelling Inspector (Accounts), East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar, Rabi Narayan Rath in a case related to possession of disproportionate assets.

BJP MP Lekhi slams Greta, says it exposes lobby trying to harm India's development

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Attempting to counter a Nobel Peace Prize nominee and Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg's criticism of the Indian Government's handling of farmers' movement, BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi on Thursday took a swipe at her saying she would propose her name for "child bravery award" as the 18-year-old activist has done a "huge" service to the country by uploading the toolkit which according to her proved the conspiracy being designed to destabilise India.

Another BJP spokesman Gaurav Bhatia described Greta's toolkit as an "anarchy

school-kit" that gave away evidence of international conspiracy against the country.

Greta has extended support to the ongoing farmers' protests and hit out at the Indian government. Her tweet came soon after American pop singer Rihanna tweeted a CNN article on farmers' protest and partial internet suspension.

Greta who had deleted her first tool-kit, however, came out with the second one backing agitating Indian farmers. The Delhi Police on Thursday filed an FIR against the tool-kit creators.

Lekhi said the earlier deleted document of hers made it clear that there have been elaborate plans to "destabilise" India since January 1.

Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry joins hands with Zomato to give online access to street vendors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Swiggy, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs tied up with online food ordering platform Zomato on Thursday under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme to onboard street food vendors on its food-tech platform. This will give street food vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help these vendors grow their businesses.

As per the MoU signed, initially MoHUA and Zomato will run a pilot program by onboarding 300 vendors across six cities namely - Bhopal, Ludhiana, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Vadodara. The MoU with Zomato was exchanged between Shri Sanjay Kumar,

Joint Secretary, MoHUA and Shri Mohit Sardana, Chief Operating Officer, Zomato, in the presence of Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA, and officials of Zomato and Ministry.

Zomato will provide PAN and FSSAI registrations, digitised menu, fix prices, train and certify vendors in food safety and hygiene, packaging, presentation and use of Zomato App, as part of the training process. It has been learnt that Zomato will upscale to 125 cities. As on February 4th, 2021, data collection of over 95,000 PMSVANidhi beneficiaries along with their 50,000 family members is done.

In December last year, Swiggy announced the expansion of its street food vendors program to 125 cities under the

PM SVANidhi scheme. In the first phase, the company will onboard 36,000 street food vendors to whom the loan has been disbursed in 125 cities on its platform. The PMSVANidhi Scheme was launched under the ambit of 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. It aims at facilitating collateral free working capital loans upto ₹10,000 of 1 year tenure, to about 50 lakh street vendors in the urban areas, including those from the surrounding peri-urban/ rural areas, to resume their businesses post COVID-19 lockdown. Incentives in the form of interest subsidy of 7% per annum on regular repayment of loan, cash-back upto ₹1,200 per annum on undertaking prescribed digital transactions and eligibility for enhanced next tranche of loan have also been provided.

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED, JAIPUR REGION-I, JAIPUR
 Jyoti Nagar, Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005
 Phone: 0141-2740170(o) ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in.com

No. F (JACE/PHED/Ar. Dausa/NIT-31/2020-21/2079-99 Date:- 25/01/2021
 (e-NIT NO. 31/2020-21)

Online tenders are, hereby, invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the following works from the bidder meeting eligibility as per criteria mentioned in the detailed tender document which can be seen and downloaded from website <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> as per schedule given below:-

NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Last date for submission of tender	Due date for opening
31/2020-21	RWSS Hudia Div Mahwa Dist. Dausa	242.13	08.02.2021 (up to 6.00 PM)	09.02.2021 (1.00 PM)

NIT No. NIB No. UBN No.
 31/2020-21 PHE 2021 A 4853 PHE 2021 WLOB09299

SAVE WATER - SAVE LIFE

Sd/- (R.C. Mishra) Addl. Chief Engineer PHED, Jaipur Region-I, Jaipur

DIPIR/2021/1156

AXIS BANK Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens, Wazirpur, Noida (U.P.)-201301. Controlling office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025.

AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF MOVABLE ARTICLES
 Authorized officer of the Bank hereby gives public notice for auction sale of movables articles lying at Ground Floor, without roof rights, Build on the Plot No. Nili Khand 1163, Situated At Residential Colony Indrapuram Tehsil Dist - Ghaziabad U.P 201014 as per inventory list prepared, the said articles shall be sold in an open public auction on 17/02/2021 and tenders will be opened at 11 a.m. accordingly. The inspection of articles can be made in consent with prior permission Authorized Officer between 11 AM to 06 PM as per the requested received and date scheduled. The sale of movable items will be done in entirety (and not in lots) on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IT IS BASIS" "WHATSOEVER THERE IS" & "NO RECOURSE BASIS". The terms and conditions of the sale and list of articles can be obtained from authorized representative of the Bank on the day of inspection. We have taken costing of these movable Article from the market and fixed the reserve price as Rs.39,950/-

Each tender offer shall be accompanied by an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs.3,995/-, in the form of Demand Draft (DD) / Pay Order (PO)/Cheque drawn on a Scheduled Bank in favour of 'Axis Bank Limited'

The offers in the prescribed tender format duly completed shall be put in an envelope which should be sealed and super scribed with "Offer from Mr/Ms/Ms. for purchase of the Movable Asset/Articles(s) of Mr./Rahul Tiwari and the said envelope be dropped during normal working hours in the TENDER BOX kept at Axis House, 2nd Floor, Tower-2, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Landmark J.P. Greens with town, Noida (U.P.)-201301 on or before 22/12/2020. Tenders received after the due date & time shall not be considered under any circumstances.

For inspection of the movable articles, the intending bidders may contact Authorized Officers namely, Mr. Santosh Singh (Mob: 9999682667) and Mr. Anuj Trivedi (Mob: 9911324506)

Auction will be conducted at Axis House, 2nd Floor, Tower-2, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Landmark J.P. Greens with town, Noida (U.P.)-201301.

Date: 05-2-2021 Place: New Delhi

Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

Notice Inviting e-Tenders
Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot Distt. Satna (M.P.) 485334

Ref No Pur/21/655(D-5) Date-03.02.2021

Online bids are invited for the following items from manufacturers / authorized dealers / suppliers / Construction companies / reputed firms registered with appropriate registration authorities.

NIT No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	Compl. Period Days	Cost of tender form
58/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of Software and equipment for Zoology lab (6th call)	18.50	30	2000.00
60/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of equipments for Fine art lab (6th call)	05.00	30	500.00
81/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of equipments for Environmental lab	12.00	30	1000.00
82/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of equipments for Sports Item	7.00	30	500.00
83/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of Furniture	7.50	30	500.00
Estate/RUSA/2021/07/etend	Up gradation of Library (Civil work) (2nd call)	20.96	180	5000.00
Estate/RUSA/2021/08/etend	Water Harvesting Work (2nd call)	21.71	180	5000.00
Estate/RUSA/2021/09/etend	Upgradation of Computer Centre. (Civil Work) (2nd call)	9.72	180	2000.00

- Interested bidders can view the NIT and tender detail on website <http://mptenders.gov.in>
- The Bid Documents are available only online from 08.02.2021, 16.00 hrs, bid submission end date will be 02.03.2021 time 17.00 hrs. For other important dates please refer NIT document on site.
- Amendments to NIT and tender document if any, would be published in <http://mptenders.gov.in> only, and not in newspaper. Ph.: 07670-265614, mail: purchase.gramodaya@gmail.com
- For construction works MPPWD SOR 01/12/2020 will be applicable. Email: estate.gramodaya@gmail.com

Registrar

Puri performs 'bhoomi puja' for Central Vista project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The work on redevelopment of central vista Avenue with an estimated cost of ₹608 crore started on Thursday with a 'bhoomi puja', ceremony. The government plans to hold the 2022 Republic Day parade on the newly-developed Rajpath, a project that is being executed under the government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment plan.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri performed the 'bhoomi puja' for the redevelopment of Central Vista Avenue between the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate on Thursday. According to the Central Public Works Department, the ground-breaking ceremony was held at India Gate Lawn where senior officials, including ministry secretary Durga Shanker Mishra, were present.

According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, this would be one of the best Central Vista Avenue of the world. "Refurbished Avenue will come out as one of the best Central Vistas in the world. It will be ready for hosting next year's Republic Day Parade & events in the 75th year of



Indian Independence. With highest footfalls of Delhiites & domestic/foreign visitors, it will bring pride to Indians," HUA secretary Durga Shanker Mishra tweeted after bhoomi puja.

The objective of the project is to make the Avenue an icon that truly befits New India.

The Central Vista Avenue starting from North and South Block to India Gate that includes the Rajpath, its adjoining lawns and canals, rows of trees, Vijay Chowk and the India Gate plaza is a 3 km long stretch.

The work for the phase I has been awarded to one of the major construction companies M/S Shapoorji Pallonji Company (Pvt) Limited with the cost of Rs.477.

In the phase I, the Central Vista Avenue development plan include the artificial canal along Rajpath will be refurbished using sandstone; ade-

quate walkways being provided along Rajpath, canals; Walkways across lawns with low level bridges over canals are being provided to ensure better connectivity with parking, public amenities at 12 suitable locations between India Gate and Vijay Chowk for visitors and tourist. Keeping pedestrian safety in mind, four underpasses under Janpath and C-hexagon will be built. Foldable seating arrangement to reduce time taken for installation and removal of temporary seating arrangement during Republic Day Celebrations will also be ensured.

The phase I plan also include proper parking for buses, two wheelers and four wheelers, signage, lighting, CCTV cameras, drainage, rain water harvesting, water supply system and sewerage treatment plant for recycling of waste water.

"Requisite permissions from Delhi Urban Arts Commission, Heritage Conservation Committee, Central Vista Committee, Local Body etc. have been obtained. The design also provides space

and facilities for vendors, ensures that arrangements for national events cause minimal disruption, and ensures integrity and continuity of the Vista's original layout, its geometries and its architectural character," the ministry said in a statement. At a press conference last month, HUA Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said the HCC had discussed the proposal and cleared it.

Along with the redevelopment of Central Vista and construction of a new Parliament, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has proposed a garden along the banks of the Yamuna near Purana Qila to mark 75 years of Independence. The CPWD had launched a design competition in November 2020 for the structure, which can be a tower or a sculpture. A total of 98 entries had been received, according to the CPWD's website.

The redevelopment of central vista and Parliament project includes the construction of a new Parliament building, redevelopment of Rajpath, development of a Central Secretariat for all Ministries, new Prime Minister's residence and office and Vice-President's residence.

NEW TWIST FOR AYODHYA MOSQUE

Two sisters claim ownership of land

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Two Delhi-based sisters moved the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday claiming the ownership of the five-acre land allotted to the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board for the construction of a mosque in Ayodhya in accordance with the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case.



The petition before the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad HC was filed in the court's registry and is likely to come up for hearing on February 8

The petition before the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad HC was filed in the court's registry and is likely to come up for hearing on February 8.

Rani Kapoor alias Rani Baluja and Rama Rani Punjabi have said in the writ petition that their father Gyan Chandra Punjabi had come to India during partition in 1947 from Punjab and settled in Faizabad (now Ayodhya) district.

They have claimed that their father was allotted 28-acre land in Dhannipur village by the Nazul Department for five years which he continued to possess beyond that period. Later, his name was included in the revenue records, the petitioners have said.

However, his name was struck down from the records against which their father filed

an appeal before the Additional Commissioner, Ayodhya, which was allowed, they have claimed.

The petitioners further claimed that the consolidation officer again removed their father's name from the records during consolidation proceedings.

Against the order of the consolidation officer, an appeal was preferred before the Settlement Officer of

Consolidation, Sadar, Ayodhya, but without considering the said petition, the authorities have allotted five-acre of their 28-acre land to the Waqf Board for the constructing of mosque, they said.

The petitioners have demanded the authorities be restrained from transferring the land to the Sunni Waqf Board till the pendency of dispute before the settlement officer.

The State Government has allotted five-acre land to the Sunni Waqf Board in Dhannipur village for construction of mosque in compliance with Supreme Court direction on November 7, 2019 in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri mosque title suit.

Sasikala to pull out all stops to reclaim ADMK leadership

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The tussle between the AIADMK and the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK, the political outfit launched by TTV Dhinakaran,) for the legacy of late Jayalalithaa has taken a new turn with the release of VK Sasikala, the jailed aide to the former party supremo last week.

Sasikala, who has been serving a four-year rigorous imprisonment in the Parappana Agrahara prison since 2017 as an accused in the disproportionate asset case was released after the completion of the term on January 27 and is returning to Chennai on February 7.

The political landscape in Tamil Nadu is in for action packed season as Sasikala has made to clear that she would fight for the retrieval of her position as general secretary of the party. She made it clear by travelling in a car that spotted the AIADMK flag from prison to a resort in a suburb in Bangalore.

When she surrendered before the jail authorities on February 15, 2017, it was as the general secretary of the AIADMK. She had been unanimously elected as the General Secretary of the party in the general body meeting of the party held on December 29, 2016.

The then Chief Minister O Panneerselvam and his Cabinet



colleagues (including Edappadi Palaniswamy) had called on Sasikala to Veda Nilayam, the personal bungalow of late Jayalalithaa and placed the resolution electing Chinnamma (as Sasikala is addressed by the cadre) as general secretary at her feet.

Within a week, the then Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, D Thambidurai issued a statement in his official letter pad demanding Sasikala be made the Chief Minister as "the precedence in AIADMK has been that the general secretary would hold the post of Chief Minister for smooth functioning of the party as well as the Government". This was followed by all senior leaders "pleading" with Chinnamma to get sworn in as Chief Minister.

Tamil Nadu witnessed many dramatic events in the fortnight following the election of Sasikala as party general secretary.

Previous Govts drafted Budget with eye to vote bank: Modi

PM inaugurates Chauri Chaura centenary celebrations

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR (UP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the previous Governments drafted the Union Budgets with an eye on their vote banks and made them just a medium for making promises they could not fulfil.

"For decades in our country, the meaning of the Budget was restricted to what announcements were made in whose name. The Budget was turned into an account of the vote bank," Modi said.

The Prime Minister was launching a year-long commemoration of the centenary of Chauri Chaura incident, an outbreak of violence that forced Mahatma Gandhi to call off his non-cooperation movement against the British.

Paying tributes to the 19 people who were sent to the gallows for burning down a police station and killing 23 policemen, Modi said the Chauri Chaura martyrs had not got the place in history that they deserved.

He released a postage stamp to mark the beginning of the centenary year of the incident.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the centenary celebrations of the historic Chauri Chaura incident, via video conferencing in New Delhi on Thursday

In an address delivered through video conference, Modi hailed India's "power of unity" and said this will help the country become a world power.

The prime minister listed features in his government's recent Budget that he said will help farmers. But he stopped short of mentioning the continuing protest over the agrimarketing laws enacted in September.

"A lot of initiatives have also been taken to empower farmers. Over 1,000 markets were connected with farmers so that they can sell their crops anywhere. Over Rs 40,000 crore for rural infrastructure will help farmers," he said.

also focusing on creating healthcare facilities in rural areas so that people do not have to go to cities for better treatment.

Modi said even household make their budgets on the basis on their current needs and future responsibilities. "But our earlier governments made budgets a medium for promises that they could not fulfil. The country has now changed that approach."

On the 1922 episode, Modi said, "Whatever happened in Chauri Chaura 100 years ago was seen as a simple incident of arson at a police station."

"The fire was not only at the police station but in the hearts of Indians as well," he said.

Kerala ex-DGP Jacob Thomas joins BJP

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The cynosure of all eyes at the historic Thekkinkadu Maidan on Thursday evening was Jacob Thomas, former director general of police, Kerala, who formally joined the BJP.

Dr Jacob Thomas, the agriculture scientist-turned-supercop of Kerala, was welcomed to the Hindutva party by BJP national president J P Nadda as thousands of party cadre who had gathered for the public meeting gave the former a standing ovation.

A crusader against corruption in high places, Dr Thomas had been victimised by both the Fronts that ruled the State alternatively by denying him promotion and posting which were due to him as a senior IPS officer in the State.

His uncompromising stance against corruption as the chief of the vigilance department saw both the CPI(M) and the Congress coming together against this officer. Though the BJP has not made any announcement till now about the role to be played by Dr Thomas, it is widely believed that he is likely to be fielded as a candidate from an assembly constituency in Thrissur district.

Dr Thomas is the star recruit from the Christian community to join the BJP after

Alphonse Kannanthanam, the IAS officer who quit the government service to fight corruption. Of late many opinion makers from the Christian community are casting their lots with the BJP. K T Thomas, the former judge of the Supreme Court, enjoys good relations with the BJP's national leadership while the State leaders are known to consult him on sensitive issues.

It may also be noted that the Cardinals of the Catholic Church and the top priests of the Orthodox and Malankara Churches had called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the recent past. Cardinal Alencherry had told after the meeting that the Church has no untouchability against the BJP. "Though the Church had some apprehension in the past against the BJP, it is all history. We do not have any special ties with any of the political parties," Alencherry had told the media.

But how far the BJP would be able to make any inroads in Kerala is a million dollar question. The BJP in the State is a house divided with senior leaders who do not see eye to eye and the youth who have started demanding their due place in the party. There is a demand from the youth that party leaders who have failed successively in all the elections should give way to youngsters.

Maha Assembly Speaker resigns, may be new State Cong president

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Speaker Nana Patole resigned from his post on Thursday, amid an intense speculation that he would be appointed as the State Congress chief.

After calling on Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Patole met Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal and handed over his resignation from his post as the Speaker. Pending the election of a new Speaker, Zirwal will function as the Speaker of the State Assembly.

Informed sources in the Congress said that Patole had put in his papers after he met party's senior leader and former president Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Thursday's development came in the backdrop of the fact that Congress high command was seriously considering appointing a full-fledged Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president in place of State Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat, who is holding MPCC chief's post as an additional responsibility.

Within hours after the resignation of Patole's resignation from Speaker's post, NCP chief Sharad Pawar sparked a new debate in the state political circles through a statement that there would be fresh nego-

tiations among the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) — Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress — to choose a new nominee for the vacant Speaker's post in the State Assembly.

Talking to media persons in the national capital, Pawar said: "All the three MVA constituents had a role in appointing the outgoing Speaker. Now that this post has become vacant, there will now be discussion among the leaders of the three MVA constituents to decide on the choice of a new Speaker's post."

Queried if the Speaker's post would continue to remain with the Congress, Pawar said: "This will be decided after discussions. Now that the vacancy has arisen it is likely that all the three parties will deliberate on the issue."

During the impending discussions among the three MVA constituents on the choice of the Speaker, the NCP is likely to stake a claim for the post. The Congress will in all likelihood retain the post.

However, it is quite unlikely that the Congress will give up

the post, a post that it had got after grandstanding and considerable haggling that took place in the talks over the sharing of power in the government after the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress came together and formed the MVA dispensation in the state in the last week of November 2019.

The Congress high command may have now decided to appoint Patole as the new MPCC chief, but his name was seriously considered for the party post in the run-up to the formation of the MVA government in Maharashtra in November 2019. However, the party agreed to let him become the State Assembly Speaker.

Patole is an MLA from Sakoli Assembly segment in Vidarbha region. He had earlier been elected to the State Assembly for three terms between 1999 and 2014. He was elected to Lok Sabha in the 2014 polls from Bhandara-Gondiya constituency on a BJP ticket.

It may be recalled that Patole had created a major stir in the political circles in the last week of August 2017 by saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not like party men asking him questions. He had in the process made no bones about his unhappiness about the state of affairs in the ruling BJP.

Farmers' protest India's internal matter: Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Social Justice and Empowerment Rattan Lal Kataria, expressed his displeasure at the malicious designs of some motivated organisations to run a false propaganda against India by misinforming few international personalities.

He termed the farm laws and the agitation associated against it as an internal matter of the country. He suggested everybody especially noted international personalities to understand the sensitivity of this issue and refrain from making flawed judgments based on half baked facts and knowledge. He stressed the need to be fully informed about the farm bills and its provisions to have a meaningful and constructive debate on the matter. Irresponsible statements should bring only shame and embarrassment for the country, he added.

He said — the Ministry of External Affairs has also objected to irresponsible statements made by few personalities/foreign entities with vested interests on the farmer's protest. He mentioned that noted Indian personalities from sports, art and culture have come out and issued statements against the unsolicited and unwarranted intervention in the domestic affairs of our country.



IAS Wives Association president Rashmi Kumar, along with other members of the association, Harjot Kaur, Principal Secretary Mines and Geology, Jasmine Choudhury, Sonam Kumar, Rashmi Verma and Manjari Singh, distributed 300 blankets among leprosy patients and old people in Phulwari Sharif block in Patna on Tuesday

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004
No. : JDA/Estt/2020-21/0-58 Dated : 03.02.2021

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No.: DC (Admn)-07/2020-21

Online Bids are invited upto 6.00 PM of 23.02.2021 for Providing Computer (alongwith trained personnel) Services on job basis, estimated yearly cost of Rs. 4,20,00,000.00 UBN No. JDA2021SLOB00340

The last date for Applying Bid and making online payment on JDA portal is upto 6.00 PM of 23.02.2021. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the State Public Procurement Portal www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in. To participate in the bid, bidder has to be: 1. Registered on JDA website www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in. For Participating in the bid, the bidder has to apply for the bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee, RLSL Processing Fee online only. 2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission.

Raj. Samwad/C/9464/2020-21 **DC (Admn)**

SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run following fully reserved Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

02005/02006 New Delhi-Kalka-New Delhi Shatabdi Special Express Train (Daily)					
Train No. 02005	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	Train No. 02006
---	---	17:15	NEW DELHI	10:15	---
21:15	---	---	KALKA	---	06:15

DAYS OF RUN: 02005 Ex New Delhi Daily from 08.02.2021 and 02006 Ex Kalka Daily from 09.02.2021.

STOPPAGE: Panipat, Kurukshetra Jn., Ambala Cantt. Jn. & Chandigarh Jn. station.

ACCOMMODATION: Executive AC Chair Car & AC Chair Car.

04212/04211 New Delhi-Agra Cantt.-New Delhi Special Express Train (Daily)					
Train No. 04212	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	Train No. 04211
---	---	17:40	NEW DELHI	10:00	---
21:30	---	---	AGRA CANTT.	---	06:00

DAYS OF RUN: 04212 Ex New Delhi Daily from 10.02.2021 and 04211 Ex Agra Cantt. Daily from 11.02.2021.

STOPPAGE: Shivaji Bridge, Tilak Bridge, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Okhla, Tughlakabad, Faridabad, Faridabad New Town, Ballabh Garh, Asaoli, Palwal, Hodal, Kosi Kalan, Chhata, Mathura Jn., Deen Dayal Dham & Raja Ki Mandi Station.

ACCOMMODATION: 1st AC/2nd Tier AC, AC Chair Car, Chair Car & 2nd Class seating (Reserved)

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., must be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Raj housing board posts ₹135 crore revenue by selling 500 properties



Jaipur: Housing Commissioner Pawan Arora informed that Rajasthan Housing Board has earned a revenue of ₹135 crore by selling 500 properties, making five century records in a fortnight as soon as Malmas is over. Of these, under the auction festival on Wednesday, ₹430 crore was sold by selling 430 properties and ₹92 crore 73 lakh from the sale of 70 premium properties. In such a short time, no private and Government institution in the State has sold or acquired so much revenue through e-auction.

He told that after the end of Malmas, there is a lot of enthusiasm among the people for purchasing the properties of the board. With the Wednesday auction celebration, there is competition among buyers to buy the premium properties of the board.

Maha to provide land to local bodies for waste management

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Taking cognisance of the fact that local bodies do not have their own space in the areas coming under jurisdiction for treating and managing solid waste generated in their towns, the Maharashtra Government has decided to provide land to the Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats for solid waste management.

Announcing the policy initiative, Maharashtra Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat said here on Thursday: "Increasing urbanization has made the problem of solid waste management more complex. The

development plans of many cities in Maharashtra are stalled as the Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats do not have their own space for treating and managing solid waste. The Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi Government has decided to provide land for solid waste management in such cities."

Thorat said that many cities in the state were facing a problem of managing their solid waste. "In many places, the lack of an effective method of solid waste management has often led to serious disputes between the local administration and the villagers. Some municipalities do not have

space available," he said. "All of this is having an impact on solid waste management. These problems are being faced by many municipal councils in the state. As a result, there are difficulties in getting government funds for the development of these municipalities," Thorat said.

Thorat said that more than 150 Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats in the state had cleared a resolution in their general body meetings and sent it to the District Collector, requesting the Government to provide space for collection and treatment of waste.

Notice Inviting Re- e-Tender

No.SSA/MDMS/Steel Container/19/2020/4204 Date: 03.02.2021

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission cum State Nodal Officer-MDM, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites re-tender through e-Tendering process from manufacturer of Steel Utensil for supply of Stainless Steel Container for Mid Day Meal.

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Executive Director, SSA, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog /C/4498/20

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	UHBVN	NIT No. 302/P&D/2020-21(BID No. B-643)	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBVN, ROHTAK ON TURKEY BASIS. CLOSING DATE: 09.02.2021 OPENING DATE: 10.02.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	01723019143 xendd2@uhbvn.org.in
2.	UHBVN	NIT No. 301/P&D/2020-21(BID No. B-642)	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBVN, SONEPAT ON TURKEY BASIS. CLOSING DATE: 09.02.2021 OPENING DATE: 10.02.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	01723019143 xendd2@uhbvn.org.in
3.	UHBVN	NIT No. 300/P&D/2020-21(BID No. B-641)	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBVN, AMBALA ON TURKEY BASIS. CLOSING DATE: 09.02.2021 OPENING DATE: 10.02.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	01723019143 xendd2@uhbvn.org.in
4.	UHBVN	NIT No. 299/P&D/2020-21(BID No. B-631)	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBVN, KARNAL ON TURKEY BASIS. CLOSING DATE: 09.02.2021 OPENING DATE: 10.02.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	01723019143 xendd2@uhbvn.org.in

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Cricket is home again

India might start the series against England as clear favourites but the visitors have some deadly players

The buzz after India's stunning series win against Australia — achieved in the last hour of the last session of the last Test match at Brisbane, where the 'Gabba' stadium was considered an Australian fortress — still surrounds the Indian team and fans. And as India prepares to host its first series since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, it faces a formidable foe, the English Test team which has just won convincingly in Sri Lanka. While this series will be played in a sort of 'bio-bubble' and the matches will take place only in Chennai, Ahmedabad and Pune, the importance of this series has gone up several notches following the cancellation of the Australian team's tour to South Africa. With a place in the inaugural World Test Championship on the line, India and England will be vying to join New Zealand in England this summer for the championship. India start as clear favourites, needing to win the series 2-0 or 2-1 to secure a place in the final, thanks in a large part to Australia mucking up their over-rate in the recent Melbourne Test and having points docked for a slow rate. With England featuring only Moeen Ali as a frontline spinner on India's spin-friendly wickets, the ability to take all 20 Indian wickets might be a challenge. India, on the other hand, will be fielding a full-strength team, all of whose members have recovered from the blows and bruises they suffered in Australia.

India will be getting back captain Virat Kohli, who will be playing for his daughter for the first time, and Ravichandran Ashwin, who is keen to show his spurs on his home ground. That said, in Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer, England have two players who can swing any match in a single spell with the ball and the New Zealand-born Stokes can do so with the bat as well. However, England has lost players like Graeme Swann and Adil Rashid who could genuinely spin the ball and make Indian players uncomfortable with their performance. With their newest Test star Zac Crawley hurting his wrist in a freak accident, even the English batting line-up will face some challenges. Of course, one of the biggest factors when it comes to playing in India is the toss, and who ends up batting last. However, a good batting and bowling line-up can increasingly make the toss irrelevant. The series will be watched with bated breath in Australia where they must be rooting for a drawn series and both teams playing each other to a standstill. However, with a result needed by India, it is almost certain that the curators of the pitches will prepare wickets that will make results possible and a confident Indian line-up must be waiting to unleash themselves with the bat and the ball. However, they must temper their confidence if the aim is to meet New Zealand in England later this year.



British PM Boris Johnson and his partner Carrie Symonds clap outside 10 Downing Street in London AP

Indomitable spirit

A viral picture represents the true spirit of India, and of its people, that keeps the nation ticking

Social media is flooded with poignant reactions after a picture of a commuter bowing down in front of a Mumbai local train went viral. As the train services resumed after more than 10 months, Netizens went emotional and poured their heart out. Billionaire businessman Anand Mahindra exalted the moment on Twitter when he wrote: "The soul of India... I pray we never lose it...". Rightly so; the click represents the true spirit of India, and of its people, that kept it going through thick and thin. No doubt that the suburban local is Mumbai's lifeline and that Mumbaiers rely heavily on it for their daily commute. From office goers, college and school-going students and small vendors to the world-famous *dabbawalas*, the locomotive is something of a religion to everyone if not absolute god. These overwhelming reactions on Twitter and other social media platforms show that the COVID-19 pandemic, which inflicted untold miseries on mankind and also brought Mumbai's lifeline to a grinding halt in March last year, stands nowhere in front of India's indomitable soul which has been driving it since ages.

For millions of Indians, who have their minds and hearts embedded with the values and principles of a primaevial culture, the Almighty is all-pervasive and there is hardly any difference between god and godliness. In villages, towns and cities

across the nation, one of the most common sights is of shopkeepers bowing in reverence before opening the shutters of their stores. India's primordial culture is reflected in its day-to-day life. Reactions like "Only Mumbaiers will understand the beauty of this action", "Not without a reason, it is called the lifeline of the city" and "That's how significant the famous Mumbai local train is to a regular commuter" deluged the Twitter, showing that the train service is no less than a deity for its residents. The sorely-missed Mumbai local is finally back on the tracks after a long suspension of its operations, which was a first in many decades as the suburban locomotive has run uninterrupted for years, apart from a few brief interruptions. However, Mumbaiers must take all necessary precautions to keep the possibility of contracting the accursed virus at bay while commuting in the local trains. If emotion and ardour are our strengths in the face of adversity as menacing as COVID-19, we must also have a keen sense of responsibility in our fight against the deadly virus.

Show no tolerance to education mafia

The authorities, as well as competent and committed teachers, must gear up to ensure cleansing of the system and the recruitment process



JS RAJPUT

As per latest reports on the education mafia emerging from Himachal Pradesh, a recognised private university did brisk business for over a decade and is reported to have sold 36,000 degrees across 17 States. It is not front-page news as similar reports keep appearing at regular intervals. One has read and analysed such reports for over 40 years. The mafia can get papers leaked, arrange the sale/purchase of university degrees, paper solvers can be procured for big-ticket exams, "sympathetic" support systems are ever ready to help aspirants with admissions to professional courses and bag academic appointments. One could speak from personal and institutional experience gained during 1994-99 as the head of a regulatory body; advertisements regularly appear in the national and State newspapers exhorting the youth to get a BEd degree. These were collected and submitted to the Chancellor of two universities — not private ones — by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).

It resulted in what may be recalled as the Bihar BEd scandal of 1999. What emerged was more shocking than what was previously known: They were not selling only BEd degrees but even post-graduate degrees that were in demand for promotions! The remedial action was short-lived; the practice perpetuated and expanded. Teacher education was the worst sufferer. There was an upsurge of private BEd colleges. In 2012, a report submitted by a commission — constituted by the Supreme Court of India and headed by former Chief Justice JS Verma — asserted that "a majority of standalone Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs), over 10,000 in number, are not attempting serious teacher education but essentially selling degrees for a price". Coming from a respected former CJ, this recommendation should have jolted the entire education system. The recent report from Shimla reiterates that the "business" is not confined only to teacher education degrees, it has wider dimen-



sions and service contours. The agonising conditions in TEIs are accentuated by the archaic and opaque recruitment procedures. An example: In July 2020, 1,427 schoolteachers with fake degrees were identified in UP, 927 removed and ₹900 crore fraudulently drawn as salaries. The authorities must gear up to ensure cleansing of the system as well as of the recruitment process. Surely punish the teachers who committed fraud, but do not also spare those who got them appointed.

Sincere efforts made to set things right after the Justice Verma Commission report resulted in the mafia coming together and filing innumerable court cases against the NCTE. The mafia brotherhood resisted the change vigorously and led to the head of the organisation demitting office, probably in sheer frustration. The observations of the Justice Verma Commission also find a mention in the National Education Policy (NEP-2020): "Regulatory efforts so far have neither been able to curb the malpractices in the system nor enforce basic standards for quality and, in fact, had the negative effect of curbing the growth of excellence and innovation." In light



IMAGINE THE MEASURE OF DAMAGE THAT COULD BE INFLICTED ON STUDENTS BY A POORLY TRAINED TEACHER, OR BY SOMEONE APPOINTED ON THE BASIS OF A FAKE DEGREE. THIS VICIOUS CIRCLE MUST BE EXPOSED AND BROKEN

of the Shimla reports, would it be incorrect to infer that hundreds of thousands of youth have been lured, cheated and left to fend for themselves with fake degrees? Apparently, the regulatory systems have failed, or were lethargic and professionally inadequate. But this is only partially true. It is the inadequacy within the system that has not shown enough alertness and commitment to professional ethics.

This topic is normally avoided lest it hurt certain sensitivities. It must, however, be stated plainly in professional interest. Each of the 10,000 institutes mentioned in the Justice Verma Commission report was visited by a professional experts' committee for a couple of days to inspect, examine and ensure that all the prescribed norms and standards are in place; that the institute is fully equipped to prepare quality teachers. If these are subsequently found deficient, why must responsibility not be fixed on the 30,000 experts who had accepted the hospitality and put their signatures on the institutes' worthiness? Imagine the measure of damage that could be inflicted on students by a poorly trained teacher, or by someone appointed on the basis of a fake

degree. This vicious circle must be exposed and broken. The initiative for it must come from within, from every academic, every professional and every committed teacher. This is how it finds reflection in the NEP-2020 where it stipulates: "In order to improve the integrity and credibility required to restore the prestige of the teaching profession, the regulatory system shall be empowered to take stringent action against the substandard and dysfunctional TEIs that do not meet the basic educational criteria, after giving one year for remedy of breaches. By 2030, only the educationally sound, multidisciplinary and integrated teacher education programmes shall be in force." This is an encouraging recommendation; it applies in equal measure to professional courses like medical, engineering, pharmacy, and others.

As the NEP-2020 is being analysed at every level and its implementation has begun in earnest, it would be in order that the most critical role is played by competent and committed teachers — right from the primary level to the academics of the institutes of excellence.

(The author works in education and social cohesion. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SOCIAL MEDIA SHAPES PERCEPTION

Sir— The farm protests have captured global attention, with a set of political, cultural and environmental figures — including pop singer Rihanna, the fourth most followed person on Twitter — tweeting their solidarity with the protesters. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) statement terming them "vested interest groups" looks unusual because the Government normally ignores comments from non-State actors and individuals.

The international solidarity that the movement has been able to gain is either due to the Sikh diaspora or due to activities of human rights groups or the nature of coverage in the international media. But irrespective of the causes and merits of the criticism, the fact is that it erodes India's soft power and is a blot on its image as a healthy democracy. The Government will have to recognise the intricate ways in which domestic developments intersect with global politics, especially at a time when social media has disproportionate power in shaping perception.

But what is clear is that India, because of the ideological and economic shifts underway in the country and the subsequent polarisation, will face questions. There is a need to ensure that these transformations are democratically managed internally, as well as smarter strategic communication made about the nature of these changes externally.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

UNETHICAL POLITICS IS ORDER OF DAY

Sir — This refers to the editorial 'Floodgates shut' (February 4). The BJP has witnessed a steep ideological fall under the current leadership. Leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani were ready to give up power rather than take the support of defectors. Atalji had said: "If power comes by breaking the party and making new alliances, I wouldn't like to touch this power even with a pair of tongs." But the incumbent regime is freely using the tongs to catch power-hungry leaders from other parties.

No Ranji Trophy this year, no fun



The most prestigious domestic cricket championship, the Ranji Trophy, will not be held this year. Plenty of Team India cricketers metamorphosed from its stables. The championship drew huge crowds on its day. Especially when international cricketers graced the tournament, the excitement was not to be missed. No doubt, it will return next year, but the emptiness for now is both visible and palpable, and is irre-

placeable too. There is a handy excuse for not holding the Ranji Trophy: Corona. One-day matches would continue but real cricket will have to wait until next year. The 'window' period for Ranji Trophy preparations was not enough, the Board of Control for Cricket in India said.

Of course, the Board is fully prepared for the Indian Premier League (IPL) that will kick-start in April. Having a biosecure environment is not easy; it demands hard work and utmost discipline. Obtaining a bio bubble and maintaining it for four days at a venue, and for four months at different venues, is a Herculean challenge for the Board. Many State associations had recommended a five-team league instead of the usual three but the Board was not impressed. Its lack of consistency in approach has hit the domestic players. All along, the Board gave no inkling that the Ranji championship may be shelved. But now the fans will have to wait a year to witness their favourite championship.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Many TMC leaders in West Bengal switched sides fearing anti-incumbency. It's good for the party's health that such unfaithful leaders have shown their true colours and left the party before elections. For the BJP, accepting them into its fold will prove counterproductive to its interests as these power-greedy leaders will not remain faithful to the new party also. The Prime Minister often talks of 'Aatmanirbharta', a word which has now found place in the Oxford Hindi Dictionary. The question that comes to one's mind is that why the BJP has no 'Aatmanirbharta', or self-reliance, when it comes to elections as the saffron party largely depends on defectors from other parties.

N Nagaraja | Secunderabad

PROTESTING FARMERS ARE CLEVER

Sir — The protesting farmers are definitely clever in building up the required momentum by involving their friends and even their families, making the issue a "do or die battle". When this actually

happens, it will completely slip out of the hands of the Centre. The situation is still not under control. The longevity of the protest will give time to the agitating farmers to escalate the emotions of the entire farming community and create unrest in areas of western Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. It will have adverse implications for the BJP and will have a bearing on its vote bank. It is high time that Prime Minister Narendra Modi involved himself in the issue by making a direct and emotional appeal to the farmers' unions to withdraw their protests and resume talks directly under his chairmanship to decide the issue in a time-bound manner. After all, by doing so, the PM will not lose anything but, in fact, his popularity and magnanimity will get elevated in the minds of crores of Indians.

Durga Prasad Rao | Hyderabad

SOUND BITE

The power of unity, which broke the chains of slavery, will make India a great power in the world. This power of unity is the basic foundation of self-reliant India.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



The Coronavirus infection rate in the UK is still alarmingly high to consider relaxing social distancing guidelines. The National Health Service is still under huge pressure.

UK Prime Minister — Boris Johnson



At first, I was reluctant to do *Black* when Sanjay offered me the role. Not because I had any doubts about the film or the character as such, because working with Bhansali is a dream for any actor.

Actor — Rani Mukerji



India's recent Test series win in Australia has given touring sides confidence to win away from home, including England who have a great opportunity to do well in India.

England captain — Joe Root



As we all are aware, vehicles are the main source of air pollution in Delhi. Hence, I appeal to the people to buy only electric vehicles.

Delhi Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal

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FIRST COLUMN

BUDGET FOR REFORM AND GROWTH

It shows the Govt's willingness to be out of business and put on the bootstraps on delivering services



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

There are many firsts to this Union Budget. It was the first paperless Budget in the history of India and the *Bahj Khata* was replaced by a tablet. It was the first Budget to be presented by a full-time woman Finance Minister (FM) three years in a row and it was the most challenging policy document to be attempted in the history of India coming out, after a once-in-a-century pandemic. All this aside, the Budget shows the willingness of the Government to be out of business and put on the bootstraps on delivering services to citizens.

The increased allocation for healthcare fills an important gap left by years of neglect. The FM has got her bearings right in releasing the potential of modern and emerging technology in keeping the sovereign safe, future war-ready and taking giant strides in value creation for human lives, not to mention the life-saving potential, as reflected in the development of vaccines for a novel virus. It would have been a great moral booster if technology-aided healthcare would have found mention in the Budget. While it does mention support for 28,812 urban and rural health and wellness centres, it is unclear about the contours. These touchpoints of primary health services are vital links in the wellness chain as they are the first to feel the pulse of any emerging pandemic or life-threatening conditions. They are also important data nodes on the condition of sanitation and purity, including the presence of toxic metals in drinking water and nutrition levels of people. The enhanced health expenditure recognises the multidisciplinary approach to people's health needs but fails to join them together on a digital platform.

It is strange that even though former TRAI Chairman RS Sharma has taken charge at the National Health Authority to head the flagship 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme and will be leading the rollout of the national digital health mission with data privacy, these words, which will define new-era healthcare did not find a mention in the Budget speech.



It may be that the FM wanted to keep the focus on the increased healthcare spends rather than diverting attention to issues which may have resulted in precious time being lost on endless debates on privacy vs the right to good health. It would have been good if she had at least referred to connecting thousands of primary and tertiary healthcare centres in urban and rural India on a digital platform with a robust answerable guided policy framework. There was also an expectation of providing the much-needed policy fillip to healthcare for non-life-threatening ailments, using technology. Taken with the emerging spurt of electronic pharmacies, these are not just efficient and effective solutions to healthcare for a geographically vast country like ours but also a great source of jobs for semi-skilled professionals. If India needs to be the "e-pharmacy" of the world the change would have to start now.

Finally, the much-discussed disinvestment process which has been met with the expected euphoria in the stock markets, though, it is spoken about with extremely cautious optimism in closed circles. The reason is best illustrated by the example of Air India which has been on the block for as long as the current Government has been in power. It is a bold initiative to announce the sale of two banks and one general insurance company together with a bunch of large PSUs. But it is tough to actually see the sale go through. The reason being that these PSUs employ thousands, who over the years have organised themselves into powerful unions/pressure blocks with certain entitlements. Any threat to *status quo* of entitlements would mean these powerful groups are easy picks for opposing political blocs to take advantage of and make a grand show of protest to be played out for social media audience. No amount of talks with senior influencers would convince a group lured by a reward of assured income along with digital media publicity. That is where the sharp negotiators and politicians have to come in to persuade sale to strategic investors for survival. It is not an easy job and heavy lifting by various arms of the Government along with private sector support are what will make Budget 21-22 the best one of the decade.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Separating grain from the chaff

The two farm Acts and the ECA seem more like a package of freedom for corporate buyers in the name of freedom for farmers



SUKHPAL SINGH

The agitation over the three farm reforms has become protracted and vexed. The Government which initially claimed that the Acts will benefit the farmers has now recognised that there are problems in the Agricultural Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act (popularly known as APMC *mandi* Bypass Act) and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act (in short, Contract Farming Act). Therefore, it is now open to amending them, while the farmer unions are demanding a repeal of all three, including the Essential Commodities Act (ECA, 2020) though the ECA is not a new Act, arguing that they are so poorly designed that amendments won't do. Let's see some of the provisions and implications here.

ECA, 2020: The ECA, as per its original mandate, can be amended in terms of inclusion or exclusion of any commodity from the list of essential commodities. The amended ECA provides for relaxation for stocking of cereals, edible oil, pulses, onion and potato crops, though that would still not be absolute freedom from the ECA. Such freedom can never be possible in a country like India where agriculture is governed by both producer and consumer interest. Even the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is determined keeping in mind both producer and consumer interest. This ECA relaxation allows larger stocks without limits for various users of farm produce like exporters, processors and value chain participants. Still, the option of imposing stock limits for reasons of war, famine, natural calamity and extraordinary price rise is retained. The amended Act places stock limits if horticultural produce prices rise 100 per cent and prices of non-perishables by 50 per cent above the previous year/five-year average price respectively. It is debatable whether this kind of price rise should be allowed before imposing stock limits given the levels of food insecurity and poverty in India.

These ECA relaxations sound good from the perspective of value chain participants but may not really help growers directly. In fact, the "de-fanging" of the ECA would be a windfall for trading companies who speculate on prices. Only some Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) may be able to use it for storing their produce for better prices and processing/value addition, if they have warehouses and are into processing, storage, packing, transport and distribution. The consumer benefit of this relaxation is not a given as it may actually lead to larger hoarding and therefore, higher consumer prices.

The APMC *mandi* bypass Act, 2020: This creates a new trade area outside the APMC market yards/sub-yards where any buyer with a Permanent Account Number (PAN) can buy directly from farmer sellers and the State Government can't impose taxes on such a transaction. It is expected to lower costs for buyers and bring higher prices for farmers. But, buying at a lower price does not necessarily mean that buyers would pass on the saving to farmers as a higher purchase price. The claim is also made of growers having many channels for selling now and not just the APMC one. This is misplaced as majority of the farm produce (with the exception of some States like Punjab and Haryana) did not go through APMCs. Further, most agricultural States have already provided for a channel choice by amending their APMC Acts and direct purchase and contract farming are common now. Problematically, in the new trade area, there is no authority to provide counterparty risk coverage for farmer sellers unlike the APMC where licenced buyers and commission agents had to give bank guarantees. The argument that APMC *mandis* are



ONE OF THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW ACTS IS TO ATTRACT PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN AGRI-BUSINESS AND MARKETS. BUT INVESTMENTS COME NOT DUE TO A CHANGE IN LAW, BUT INCENTIVES. BIHAR COMPLETELY DEREGULATED THE MARKET INSTEAD OF REFORMING IT IN 2006 BY REPEALING THE APMC ACT BUT ONE HAS NOT SEEN ANY NEW INVESTMENTS THERE. THE APMC STRUCTURE HAS COLLAPSED THERE WITH PROCUREMENT AND PURCHASE CENTRES FALLING

The writer is Professor, Centre for Management in Agriculture, IIM, Ahmedabad. The views expressed are personal.



monopolistic and exploitative is not entirely true. In States like Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra, there are elections for APMC office-bearers. There are representatives of traders, commission agents, farmers, cooperatives and the Government on APMCs and they are multi-stakeholder elected bodies. Only Punjab has not had an election to the APMCs in nearly 40 years. It only nominates chairpersons and members. It is important to recognise that, for small and marginal growers, the APMC *mandi* is the last resort channel of sale. If APMCs are reduced in importance, small farmers would not gain unless more of them are organised into FPOs and become attractive to private agencies for contract farming or direct purchase from which they are, by and large, excluded till now.

Contract Farming Act, 2020: The use of the term farming agreement in the Act itself is unusual as it is being confused with other arrangements like sharecropping or leasing pacts. The biggest problem is that it is being confused with corporate farming (firms doing their own farming on leased or owned land) and it is definitely not that, as land leasing and land ceilings Acts at the State level are still intact though they may not remain so for long, going by what Karnataka, Rajasthan and Punjab are planning in terms of opening up of land markets. But, the way the "production agreement" is defined raises doubts whether it is more about land leasing and corporate farming rather than contract farming. The confusion has led to the Rajasthan Amendment Bill, 2020 assuming that the sponsor can lease farmers' land. The "trade and commerce agreement" under the Act also includes direct purchase which is not the appropriate transaction under this Act. The other indication that

direct purchase is a part of this Act is in the fact that large retailers are mentioned as contracting parties.

The global and the Indian truth about large retailers or supermarkets is that they don't have contract pacts with farmers and buy directly without any advance commitment of price or quantity and a farmer does not grow for them to begin with.

The Act links bonus and premium over and above the guaranteed price, with the *mandi* price or electronic market price which is anti-contract farming in nature. The contract price, like many other basic aspects of contract, should be left to the parties to negotiate and can't be tied to any other channel especially APMC price, as these markets were seen as not deciding the prices efficiently. Now, going back to the same *mandi* does not speak very well of the Act. Since contract farming takes *mandi* to the farm, it is a channel with serious implications for farmers in terms of production. But it leaves out many sophisticated aspects of modern contract farming practices like contract cancellation clauses and damages therein. The very basic aspects of contract farming like acreage, quantity and time of delivery are not specified, which is a must for any law regulating it as these are mandatory aspects of such an arrangement whether with supply of inputs or otherwise. In fact, the 2003 model of the APMC Act had such provisions and even a model contract farming pact. Therefore, it required well-thought-out regulation but the Act fares poorly on that count.

The Act specifically mentions that quality, grade and standards for pesticide residue, food safety, good farming practices, labour and social development standards may also be adopted in the farming agreement. It is sad that the social and labour aspects

are only suggested and not made mandatory given the fact that child labour and labour exploitation in wages and work conditions are widely prevalent in contract farming. It is also affecting India's exports and reputation in global markets for fair trade and ethical products.

The Act is more about facilitation and promotion of the contract farming mechanism rather than its regulation. That the Act goes all the way to facilitate contract farming is clear from the fact that it mentions that ECA, 2020 would not apply to contract farmed produce. Why should this provision of another Act be specifically mentioned in another law which has nothing to do with this law directly or indirectly?

In both the new farm Acts, FPOs are treated only as a farmer and not a buyer which also needs correction as these entities themselves also undertake contract farming in many States and are never involved in production and, therefore, can't be called farmer. The APMC *mandi* bypass Act also provides for separate payment rules for FPOs which is unnecessary as these are member-owned bodies and don't need to be told when and how to pay their members. It is like telling Amul how to pay its members!

One of the major objectives of the new Acts is to attract private investments in agri-business and markets. But investments come not due to a change in law, but incentives. Bihar completely deregulated the market instead of reforming it in 2006 by repealing the APMC Act. But one has not seen any new investments there. The APMC structure has collapsed there with procurement and purchase centres falling. The two farm Acts and the ECA seem more like a package of freedom for corporate buyers in the name of freedom for farmers.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE CENTRE DID NOT HAVE FUNDS FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES OF MIGRANT WORKERS BUT CORRUPT LEADERS WERE FLOWN IN A CHARTERED PLANE.

—WB CHIEF MINISTER

MAMATA BANERJEE



IF I WAS CORRUPT THEN WHY DID THE TMC HOLD TALKS WITH ME TO RETAIN ME IN THE PARTY AFTER I RESIGNED FROM THE STATE CABINET?

—BJP LEADER

RAJIB BANERJEE

Environment put on the back foot by the Budget

A reduction in funds for the Environment Ministry means that many green initiatives and critical projects will come to a grinding halt

The Union Budget has always been a hit and a miss and this year is no different as the annual financial statement for the year 2021-22 brought cheer to a section of the 1.38 billion-strong population while it disappointed some others. The 350 million-strong middle class that bore the major brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic was expecting some relief from the Budget this year. However, it was left disappointed as the Income-Tax slabs remained unchanged.

On the other hand the business community seems to be satisfied with the provisions in the financial spreadsheet that aim to rejuvenate the ailing economy. The environment, however, has landed in a mixed bag.



KOTA SRIRAJ

The writer is an environmental journalist. The views expressed are personal.

In a surprise move, it slashed the funds meant for the National Climate Change Action Plan from ₹40 crore to ₹30 crore. The Budget reduced the allocation to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) by a whopping ₹230 crore — from ₹ 3,100 crore last year to ₹2,869 crore this year.

A reduction in funds means that many green initiatives and critical projects will come to a grinding halt. This also implies that the total budgetary allocation to the five autonomous institutes, under the MoEF&CC has been effectively reduced by 20 per cent.

These figures in fact caught many environmentalists off-guard as a rise in budgetary allocation was expected instead

of a reduction, given India's commitment to the cause on the global arena. However, this slashing of allocations shows the lack of seriousness on the part of the Government when it comes to dealing with pressing environmental issues.

At this critical juncture, "recovery in all spheres" including the environment should have been the key theme of the Budget. Instead of making a big reduction in the allocations to the MoEF&CC the Government would have done well to adopt a phased approach for fund disbursement while at the same time ensuring that the funds to fight pollution and other environmental degradation issues are diverted more to the areas that are highly compromised urban hotspots of



pollution. The Centre should have reduced the fund allocation for other parts of the country where the conditions are relatively better.

Similarly, it was also a great opportunity for the Centre to convey its vision of recovery in "all spheres" in the present sit-

uation. Ironically, the lion's share of recovery measures seems to be earmarked for the economy and healthcare only.

On a positive note, the Government's financial statement gave a shot in the arm to clean air by earmarking ₹2,217 crore for controlling air pollution in 42 cities across India. However, there is no clarity on how this fund will be utilised. This clarity is very essential given the fact that no concrete information is available on public domain regarding how last year's allocation of ₹4,400 crore for clean air was spent. It is an issue of grave concern given the fact that 231 cities out of 287 have Particulate Matter 10 (PM10) levels exceeding the limits prescribed by the Central Pollution Control

Board (CPCB).

A baffling aspect of the Budget is the voluntary vehicle scrapping policy under which 20-year-old personal vehicles, instead of being scrapped, will be sent to automated fitness checking centres for health certificates and will be re-registered. Can the Government ensure the much-needed transparency in the process? It is also unfortunate that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) rule pertaining to mandatory scrapping of 10-year-old diesel vehicles and 15-year-old petrol vehicles seems to have been scrapped automatically. This may prove costly for the environment in the long run, as old vehicles during the process of re-registration can slip through system loopholes and keep pol-

luting the environment.

Instead of allowing 20-year-old vehicles to ply, the Government through the Budget could have put the urban electric energy driven mass transit system and passenger electric vehicle policy on fast track. This would have helped achieve multiple objectives of fostering entrepreneurship, increasing employment, conserving the environment and so on. The Budget cuts for the MoEF&CC reflect the Government's tepid response towards fulfilling its environmental commitments. However, steps such as setting up of the Hydrogen Energy Mission in 2021-22 to harness hydrogen from green sources will go a long way in reducing India's carbon footprint.

MILITARY COUP

Myanmar blocks FB as resistance grows

Yangon: Myanmar's new military Government blocked access to Facebook as resistance to Monday's coup surged amid calls for civil disobedience to protest the ousting of the elected Government and its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.

Facebook is especially popular in Myanmar and is how most people access the internet.

The military seized power shortly before a new session of Parliament was to convene on Monday and detained Suu Kyi and other top politicians.

It said it acted because the government had refused to address its complaints that last November's general election, in which Suu Kyi's party won a landslide victory, was marred by widespread voting irregularities. The state Election Commission has refuted the allegations.

About 70 recently elected lawmakers defied the new military government on Thursday by convening a symbolic meeting of the Parliament that was prevented from opening.

They signed their oaths of office at a government guest-



Men flash a three-finger salute of protest against the military coup in Yangon on Tuesday

house in the capital, Naypyitaw, where about 400 of them were detained in the aftermath of the takeover. They have since been told they can return to their home districts.

The unofficial convening was a symbolic gesture to assert that they, not the military, are the country's legitimate lawmakers. Some expressed their anger and their determination to resist the coup as they left the guesthouse.

"This violates the human rights of the whole citizenry."

This is not a coup. This is a treason against the government. I will have to say that this is state treason," said Khin Soe Kyi, a member of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party.

The military declared a one-year state of emergency and put all state powers into the hands of the junta, including legislative functions. It said that at the end of that period it will call an election and turn over power to the winner.

Fake accounts gain traction as they praise China, mock US

Washington: A pro-China network of fake and imposter accounts found a global audience on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter to mock the US response to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the deadly riot in Washington that left five dead, new research published on Thursday found.

Messages posted by the network, which also praised China, reached the social media feeds of government officials, including some in China and Venezuela who retweeted posts from the fake accounts to millions of their followers.

The international reach marked new territory for a pro-China social media network that has been operating for years, said Ben Nimmo, head of investigations for Graphika, the social media analysis firm that monitored the activity.

"For the very first time, it started to get a little bit of audience interaction," Nimmo said.

The network's messaging aligns closely with posts and comments made by Chinese

state officials. But it is unclear who is behind the fake accounts, which posted more than 1,400 videos in English, Mandarin or Cantonese, Nimmo said.

One of the Twitter accounts, which had a following of roughly 2,000 users mostly from Latin America, also tweeted the messaging in Spanish.

The posts appear to target social media users outside of America, gaining traction in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Venezuela — places where Chinese and US diplomatic or financial interests have increasingly come into conflict.

"The overall message is: America is doing very badly, China is doing very well," Nimmo said. "Who do you want to be like?"

The network used photos of Chinese celebrities on the accounts and, in one case, hijacked the verified Twitter account of a Latin American soap opera show to post messages, according to Graphika's report.

Normal life paralysed in Nepal during general strike, 157 held

Kathmandu: The normal life was paralysed across Nepal on Thursday during a nationwide general strike called by the Nepal Communist Party's splinter faction led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to oppose the appointment of office bearers and members of various constitutional bodies by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli-led caretaker Government.

Major markets, educational institutions, offices and factories were shut down while transport services were disrupted during the strike.

The Government had mobilised at least 5,000 security personnel in Kathmandu Valley to prevent any untoward incident. Only few motorbikes were seen moving around the capital city since morning.

Meanwhile, police have arrested at least 157 cadres of the Prachanda-led faction for enforcing the general strike in different parts of the country, Nepal Communist Party's Central Committee members Ashta Laxmi Shakya, Himal



Nepalese policemen clear a road blocked by demonstrators during a general strike in Kathmandu on Thursday

Sharma and Amrita Thapa were among those arrested. The protesters vandalised at least three vehicles in Kathmandu for defying the strike.

"Eighty people have been arrested from the Kathmandu Valley, while the remaining 77 were arrested from outside the Valley," Senior Superintendent of Police Basanta Kunwar, spokesperson for Nepal Police,

told reporters. Her said that those involved in vandalism and arson have been arrested. According to the Metropolitan Traffic Police Kathmandu, a taxi was set on fire by demonstrators near Gongabu Bus Park early in the morning. Another taxi and a microbus were vandalised at Swoyambhu and Chabahil areas on the outskirts of Kathmandu.

Around the Globe

Adoussieh (Lebanon): A prominent Lebanese publisher and vocal critic of the Shiite militant Hezbollah group was found dead in his car on Thursday morning, shot multiple times at close range, security and forensic officials said. Lokman Slim, a 58-year-old longtime Shiite political activist and researcher, was found in his car on a rural road near the southern village of Adoussieh.

Nairobi: The head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the Covid-19 case fatality rate on the continent "is becoming very troubling" as it creeps ever higher than the global one.

Geneva: A top international Red Cross organisation has announced a 100-million Swiss franc (\$110 million) plan to help support the immunisation of 500 million people worldwide against Covid-19 amid concerns about vast inequalities in the rollout of coronavirus vaccines between rich and poor countries.

London: China's state-owned broadcaster CGTN lost its broadcast licence in the UK on Thursday after the media regulator concluded that the news channel was ultimately controlled by the ruling Communist Party of China.

Proclamation Requiring Attendance Of Defendant (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

In the Court of
Sh. AASHISH GUPTA
ACJ/CCJ/ARC-South-East
Room No.203, Saket Court
Complex, New Delhi.
Case Reg. No. CS-1660/19

JEETI SINGH Plaintiff
Versus
KHUSHBOO SINGHDefendant

To,
Khushboo D/o Dinesh Pal Singh,
Resident: 1618/13, Govind Puri,
Kalkaji, South Delhi, Delhi-110019

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 20.03. 2021 fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. Give under my hand and seal of the Court, this 02.02.2021.

Sd/-
Judge
ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(SE)
SAKET COURT, NEW DELHI

Barak Valley Cements Limited
CIN: L01403AS1999PLC00574
Regd. Office: Debendra Nagar, Jhoombasti,
P.O. Badarpurhat, Badarpurhat Karinganji
Assam- 788803
Corp. Office: 281, Deepali, Pitampura,
New Delhi-110034
Tel.: 03843-269258/851; Fax: 91-3843-268995
Email: cs@barakcement.com,
Website: www.barakcement.com

NOTICE
Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirement) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Friday, the 12th Day of February, 2021** inter-alia to consider and approve the Un-audited Standalone & Consolidated Financial Results of the Company for the Third Quarter ended December 31, 2020 along with other items of Agenda. The said notice may be accessed on the Company's website at www.barakcement.com.
Further, in accordance with the BVCL Code of Conduct to Regulate, Monitor and Report trading by Designated Persons the "Trading Window" for dealing in the securities of the Company has been already closed for all Directors, Officers, Designated persons and their immediate relatives of the Company w.e.f. January 01, 2021 till the end of 48 hours after the Un-audited Financial Results for the third quarter ended December 31, 2020 are approved and filed with the Stock Exchanges.
For and on Behalf of the Board
BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED
Sd/-
(Kamakhya Chamarla)
Vice Chairman &
Managing Director
Place: New Delhi
Date: 04.02.2021

Will do everything to mobilise global community to ensure coup fails: UN chief

New York: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has vowed to mobilise the international community to put enough pressure on Myanmar to ensure that the military coup in the country "fails", saying it is unfortunate that the Security Council is not yet united in dealing with the crisis.

The Security Council met on Tuesday to discuss the situation in Myanmar after the military seized power and detained State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President U Win Myint and other top political leaders in the bloodless coup.

Suu Kyi has been charged with illegally importing walkie-

talkies, a move by which she can be detained until February 15.

In an interview to The Washington Post, Guterres said: "Unfortunately, the Security Council was not yet able to have unity in this regard and we will do everything we can to mobilise all the key actors of the international com-

munity to put enough pressure on Myanmar to make sure that this coup fails".

Guterres said that after the November elections in Myanmar, which "took place normally" and after the large period of transition, it is "absolutely unacceptable" to reverse the results of the election and the will of the people.

The Council is yet to issue any statement on the situation in Myanmar.

An initial draft by Britain put forth for discussion among the 15-member Council condemns the coup, calls for the military to respect the rule of law and for the immediate release of the detained leaders.

ICC convicts Ugandan rebel commander of war crimes

The Hague: The International Criminal Court on Thursday convicted a former commander in the notorious Ugandan rebel group the Lord's Resistance Army of dozens of war crimes and crimes against humanity ranging from multiple murders to forced marriages.

Dominic Ongwen, who was abducted by the shadowy militia as a 9-year-old boy and transformed into a child soldier

and later promoted to a senior leadership rank, will be sentenced at a later date. He faces a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

The judgment outlined the horrors of the LRA's attacks on camps for displaced civilians in northern Uganda in the early 2000s, and of Ongwen's abuse of women forced to be his "wives". Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt said that Ongwen's history as an abduct-

ed child turned fighter could be considered at the sentencing stage of the trial.

But he made clear: "This case is about crimes committed by Dominic Ongwen as a fully responsible adult as a commander of the LRA in his mid- to late 20s."

Defence lawyers had argued that Ongwen was a "victim and not a victim and perpetrator at the same time."

Chinese vaccine not effective for people over 60 years: Pak

Islamabad: Pakistan on Thursday said that China's Sinopharm vaccine is not effective for people over 60 years of age, a day after it began its countrywide covi vaccination programme with the Chinese jabs.

China donated half a million doses of Sinopharm vaccines to Pakistan which sent a special plane to airlift the jabs on Monday.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health, Dr

Peskov, said that they have to bear responsibility for joining the unauthorised protests. "The situation wasn't provoked by law enforcement, it was provoked by participants in unsanctioned actions," Peskov said in a call with reporters.

Massive protests erupted after Navalny was arrested Jan. 17 upon returning from his five-month convalescence in Germany from a nerve agent poisoning, which he has blamed on the Kremlin.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Saurabh S/O Bhawani Deen R/o H. No. 75, Sahipur Village, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi** has been missing since 25.01.2021 from his house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 26A dated 26.01.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

SAURABH
Age: 24 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Build: Normal, Hair: Black, Wearing: Dark green colour jacket & dark blue colour lower.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing boy, may inform SHO, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi at E-mail icbicbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
SHO
011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
North-West Distt., Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/643/NW/2021
Ph. No. 011-27495198, 27495527

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 35-40 Yrs., Height: 5'5", Sex: Male, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Build: Normal, Wearing: Khakhi Shirt & Lower nude, Place of Recovery: Found on 21.01.2021 at Kudesia Park under fly over Civil Lines, Delhi.**

In this regard DD No. 27, U/s 174 Cr.P.C., Dated 21.01.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Civil Lines, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.
SHO
P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23810633, 23815444
DP/922/N/2021

UJVN LTD.
H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101HR2001HSC022866,
Website-www.ujvn.com

पत्रांक: 107 दिनांक: 04.02.2021

Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chibro Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders interested parties. Tender No: CH(Maint.-) 28/2020-21 Replacement of seal & overhauling of Main Inlet Valve Flange of Unit No. 3 of Chibro Power Station

Estimated cost : ₹ 7,92,070/- GST extra
Date of availability of bid on website: 05.02.2021 up to 11:00 hrs.
Last date for submission of tender : 27.02.2021 up to 13:00 hrs
For further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

(Executive Engineer, Maint., Chibro)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

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

O.A. No. 808/19 Dt. 16-01-2021
STATE BANK OF INDIA
Versus Applicant
Sh. Rahul Agarwal & Anr.
Respondent

Public Notice
This is to inform to all concern that Mrs. Mamta Behl W/o Sh. Bharat Behl R/o Flat No. 13B, Arjun Aptt. Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110080 who is the original allottee of property Plot No. 127, Block -C, Sector 122, Noida (U.P.) had sold the said property on the basis of a Registered General Power of Attorney in favour of Cr. Sonam Pandey D/o Ram Krishna Pandey R/o 166, Chhapatti Kahl Road Mainpuri (U.P.) and the Agreement to Sell was neither registered nor executed. Since the Agreement to Sell was neither registered nor executed, therefore it is informed to all concern that the said Property Plot No.127, Block C, Sector 122, Noida (U.P.) is going to be transferred in favour of Mr. Manu Awasthi S/o Mr. M K Awasthi R/o 207, Vinayak Enclave Apartment Ashok Nagar Durga Park A 11 a h a b a d 2 1 1 0 0 1 (U . P .) If anyone has / have any objection he/she may file his / her objection with sufficient proof in the Housing Department of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Mr. Manu Awasthi
S/o Mr. M K Awasthi R/o 207,
Vinayak Enclave Apartment,
Ashok Nagar Durga Park, J.P.
Allahabad 211001 (U.P.)

AXIS BANK Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.C. Marg, Delhi-110001. Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-12B, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301. Corporate Office: 'Axis House', Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025. Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006.

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ here under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice	2. Date of Possession	3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1. Mr. Krishan Mohan Rai S/O Mr. Shiv Murat Rai R/O H. No. 3449, 2nd Floor, Sector-23, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana	Immovable Asset: Property Being Second Floor With Roof Rights Having Built 18 Sq. Mtrs. Approx. (191 Sq. Ft.) In Building Constructed On Plot Bearing No. 3449 Measuring 172.80 Sq. Mtrs. In The Residential Colony Known As Sector 23-23a, Urban Estate Gurgaon, Teh. & Distt. Gurgaon (Haryana)	1. 28-05-19 2. 01-2-2021 3. Rs.46,68,800/-		
2. Mrs. Reena Rai W/O Mr. Krishan Mohan Rai R/O H. No. 3449, 2nd Floor, Sector-23, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana				
3. Mrs. Reena Rai W/O Mr. Shiv Murat Rai R/O H. No. 1752, Sector-23, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana				

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

DATE : 05-2-2021, PLACE : GURUGRAM Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.,

JASCH INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Regd. Off. : 43/5, Bahalgarh Road, Sonapat - 131021
CIN : L24302HR1985PLC022758 Website : www.jaschindustries.com, Email : accounts@jasch.biz

Extract of Reviewed Ind AS Financial Results for the Quarter ended 31st December, 2020. (Standalone Financial Results under Regulation 47(1)(B) Of Listing Regulations) (₹ in Lakh)

Sl No	Particulars	Standalone					
		Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended		Year Ended	
		31.12.20	30.09.20	31.12.19	31.12.20	31.12.19	31.03.20
1	Total Income from Operations.	4449.16	2645.23	3262.12	8583.05	9859.36	13077.64
2	Profit before Interest, Depreciation & Taxes (EBITDA)	642.62	331.08	371.13	1155.10	817.18	1154.72
3	Net Profit for the Period (before Tax and Exceptional Items)	561.14	245.53	234.94	892.04	407.07	620.02
4	Net Profit for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	559.61	245.53	234.94	890.51	407.07	620.02
5	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items)	394.22	183.73	180.27	641.83	304.07	453.72
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [(Comprising Profit) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	394.22	183.73	180.27	641.83	304.07	453.72
7	Equity Share Capital	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00
8	Reserves	5298.40	4904.18	4506.92	5298.40	4506.92	4656.57
9	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/- each) Basic & Diluted:	3.48	1.62	1.59	5.66	2.68	4.00

Notes :
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available at the website of Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com and also at Company's website at www.jaschindustries.com.
2. The Company has prepared these results in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013.
3. Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

Sd/- (J. K. GARG)
MANAGING DIRECTOR
Sonapat, 30th January 2021

LOST AND FOUND

I Devraj Mehta s/o Late Teluram R/o 427, Bansan Near IBMM College, Nabha Patiala declare that my shares of Motherhood Sumi System Ltd. 3rd Floor, 43 Community Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi -110065, Folio No. MSSO05280-27047 Quantity Crt No. 402518, 403503, 630843 and Distinctive No. 1420614129-1420619822, 2202428893-2202437433, 3254210421-3254223232 are lost. If anybody found please contact 8360004726

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.
CIN No. L01403AS1999PLC00574
ICICI BANK LTD. - Applicant
Versus M/S. SHREE MARUTI TEXTILE - Respondents

To,
1. M/s. Shree Maruti Textiles through its proprietor Sh. Anil Gupta S/o. Sukhbir Gupta 1/7079, Vishnu Marg Shivaji Extn., Shahdara, Delhi-32
Also at: 423 Mezzanine Floor, Kucha Brinath Chandri Chowk Delhi-110006
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 17,37,186/- (Seventeen Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty Six Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 12.02.2021 at 10.30A.M.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the above mentioned date the case will be heard and determined in your absence.
By Order of the Tribunal For Registrar DRT-II, Delhi

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.
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By Order of the Tribunal For Registrar DRT-II, Delhi

PSUs' disinvestment list in few weeks: Niti Aayog

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog will prepare the next list of central public sector companies for disinvestment in the next few weeks, its Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Thursday and expressed hope that the proposed asset reconstruction and management companies to address banks' bad loan woes will do a good job like the UTI.

Days after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Union Budget for 2021-22 laying out various measures (including disinvestment proposals) to bolster the pandemic-hit economy, Kumar also emphasised that the Modi government has shown consistent commitment for the welfare of farmers and for the improvement of the agriculture sector.

"Now the process has

begun... We will complete preparation of the next list in the next few weeks, we have got the marching order," Kumar said about the list of public sector companies for the next round of stake sales.

To fast track the disinvestment process, Sitharaman, in her Budget speech on Monday, said Niti Aayog would work out on the next list of central public sector companies that would be taken up for strategic disinvestment.

The government think tank has already given five different sets of recommendations on disinvestment.

On the government's proposal to set up an asset reconstruction company and an asset management company to clean up non-performing assets in the banking sector, Kumar said that was necessary to get the banks to start lending again as

they were mired in so-called twin balance sheet problem. "Otherwise, it would have taken very long to clean up the bank balance sheet, or taken a huge amount of capital for getting it done," he told PTI, adding that the alternative was to try and take these non-performing loans out of banks' balance sheets.

"Hopefully, (proposed) asset reconstruction company and asset management company will do the same good job that the UTI (Unit Trust of India) did at one point of time.

"And help us to restart the process of greater credit flows from the banking sector to the real sector of the economy," he told PTI in an interview.

UTI was established in 1963 by an Act of Parliament and was regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

Sensex, Nifty maintain record run

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices defied gravity for the fourth straight session to close at fresh lifetime highs on Thursday as FMCG and banking counters saw robust demand amid encouraging quarterly earnings.

Participants shrugged off weak Asian cues and kept accumulating stocks ahead of RBI's policy decision on Friday, traders said.

After touching an all-time high of 50,687.51 during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 358.54 points or 0.71 per cent at its new closing record of 50,614.29. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty finished 105.70 points or 0.71 per cent higher at its closing peak of 14,895.65. It touched an all-time high of 14,913.70 during the session.

ITC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, soaring 6.11%, followed by SBI, Bajaj Finance, ONGC, M&M, Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC and UltraTech Cement.

SBI climbed 5.73% after the country's largest lender posted

BSE m-cap crosses historic ₹200 L cr mark

New Delhi: The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies on Thursday crossed the historic Rs 200 lakh crore mark for the first time, driven by a continuous rally in the broader market.

Riding high on the bullish investor sentiment, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies reached a record Rs 2,00,47,191.31 crore at close of trade.

A standalone net profit of Rs 5,196.22 crore for the December quarter, down 7% year-on-year but above street estimates. The bank's asset quality improved substantially as the gross NPA ratio fell to 4.77 per cent from 6.94% earlier. The laggards included Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra,

Gold declines for fourth consecutive trade; tumbles ₹322

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Thursday declined Rs 322 to Rs 47,135 per 10 gram, recording fall for the fourth consecutive day, with drop in global precious metal prices and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, it had closed at Rs 47,457 per 10 gram. Silver also declined Rs 972 to Rs 67,170 per kg, from Rs 68,142 per kg in the previous trade.

Titan and Infosys, shedding up to 2.08%. "Domestic equities defied weak cues of Asian markets and extended gains for the fourth consecutive day as growing optimism about prospects of Indian economy post the announcement of bold Budget continued to attract investors," said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities.

INBRIEF

BHEL COMMISSIONS 800 MW SUPERCRITICAL PLANT
New Delhi: Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned the second unit (800 MW) of the 2x800 MW Gadawara Super Thermal Power Project Stage-I. Located at Gadawara in Narsinghpur district of Madhya Pradesh, the greenfield project is being developed by NTPC Ltd. The first unit of this project was commissioned by BHEL in 2019 and is presently under commercial operation.

COMMISSIONER INAUGURATES COMPOST YARD
Chitranjan: Chitranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) and Commissioner Sh. Gyanesh Bhatti on Thursday inaugurated a Compost Yard at Central Zone's Kalkaji. She informed that a big size Compost Yard has been set up where compost will be produced through kitchen-generated waste. A total of 36 Compost Boxes have been set up in which organic compost will be produced by using waste materials, soil, wood dust and unused compost. Each Compost Box have capacity to dispose of 2.5 MT wet garbage/waste. In addition to this, people will be provided compost and plants at this yard in lieu of plastic materials.

NTPC - Q3 FY21 UNAUDITED RESULTS
The Country's largest power generator- NTPC Ltd., with a group installed capacity of 63925 MW, declared the unaudited financial results for the third quarter and nine-month ended 31 December, 2020 on 4 February, 2021. The gross generation of NTPC in Q3 FY21 was 65.42 Billion units as against 61.21 Billion units during the corresponding period of previous year registering an increase of 6.87%. For 9M FY21 gross generation was 193.28 Billion units as against 191.35 Billion units during the corresponding period of previous year.

CLW TURN OUT 300 TH ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE
Chitranjan: Chitranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) produced 300th electric locomotives (WAG-9 HC, 33089) in 215 working days up to 4th February 2021 of the current financial year 2020-21. Last 50 locos manufactured in just 27 working days. In the first quarter of FY 2020-21 productions was slow due to COVID related restrictions. The supply chain of material was inconsistent due to national and state wise lockdown and restrictions.

TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF KISAN SANGHARSH SAMITI
Jaipur: A meeting was held with the members of the committee constituted by Japira on Thursday in the Manthan Auditorium to discuss the farmers struggle committee in relation to their various demands / proposals in relation to the stalled housing scheme proposed by the Jaipur Development Authority headed by Jaipur Development Commissioner Gaurav Goel.

ENCROACHMENT OF 4 BIGHA LAND IN ECOLOGICAL ZONE FREE
Jaipur: Action was taken by the Jaipur Development Authority's enforcement squad on Thursday to demolish illegal colony settling on nearly four bighas of land owned by JDA in Jamwaramgarh Road Village Champura (Non-Possible River). Attempts to establish an illegal colony on Pach Bigha land in the dhani of the flats in village Bindayaka were thwarted.

RSDC WELCOMES AMENDMENT TO APPRENTICESHIP ACT
New Delhi: Several provisions in the Budget aimed at enhancing skills of the youth underline Government's commitment to the skilling ecosystem and will go a long way in helping the youth to stay relevant in the job sphere amid challenging times, stated Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC). "The Govt's proposal to amend the Apprenticeship Act and a budget allocation of Rs 3000 crore towards National Apprenticeship Training Scheme is a remarkable step to promote skilling and will provide ample opportunities for the country's youth," said Vinod Simon, Chairman RSDC.

INDIA MATHS DAY QUIZ FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS
New Delhi: Fear of mathematics among school students is an area of concern and CBSE is taking a number of initiatives to make maths learning more interesting and enjoyable, CBSE Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj said during a felicitation ceremony for the winners of India Maths Day, a quiz tournament organised by maths learning app Countingwell.

LIC felicitates motormen of central railway Mumbai

Vipin Anand, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India at a function held on 2nd February, 2021 at the Heritage Building of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, presented Certificates of Honour to Motormen, Technical Staff and Security Officers of Central Railway, Mumbai in the presence of Shri Vikas Rao, Zonal Manager, LIC, Western Zone and Shri Rajiv Nair, Executive Director.

Corporate Communications and Shri Shalabh Goel, DRM, Central Railway, LIC, on its own has been doing an exceptional job with the active involvement of its Agents, Development Officers, staff and Officers.

State Bank shares jump over 6 pc; mcap zooms ₹17,179 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of State Bank of India (SBI) on Thursday jumped over 6 per cent after the company's asset quality improved substantially in December quarter.

The stock rose 5.73 per cent to close at Rs 355.10 on BSE. During the day, it zoomed 6.59 per cent to its 52-week high of Rs 358.

On NSE, it gained 6.55 per cent to settle at Rs 357.95. Its market valuation gained Rs 17,179.96 crore to Rs 3,16,912.96 crore on BSE. On the traded volume front, 65.26 lakh shares were traded on BSE and over 14.52 crore on NSE.

Do not foresee material change in Capex profile with 5G: Airtel CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel - which recently declared that its network is 5G-ready - does not anticipate any material change in its capital expenditure profile with the advent of fifth-generation services, its CEO Gopal Vittal said on Thursday.

Addressing an investor call after announcing a strong Q3 performance, Vittal also said that the company will shut down its copper infrastructure in a year or so, and only have fibre to the home.

"We are... In the process of rapidly upgrading our legacy copper assets completely to Fibre," he said, terming it a "game-changing move".

Outlining the company's spectrum strategy, Vittal said Bharti Airtel is keen on a full footprint of sub-GHz spectrum across the country, even as it looks to balance a combination of capacity and renewals.

"There are many circles... Where we don't have a sub GHz spectrum, so we would love to have that. There are

Global shares mixed on caution after modest US gains

AP ■ TOKYO

Asian shares fell but European benchmarks edged higher Thursday as caution set in over company earnings reports, recent choppy trading in technology stocks and prospects for more economic stimulus for a world battling a pandemic.

France's CAC 40 rose 0.5per cent to 5,591.22 and Germany's DAX added 0.5per cent to 14,004.17. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.6% to 6,548.01. U.S. Shares were set to drift higher with Dow futures inching up less than 0.1% to 30,638.5. S&P 500 futures were also up by nearly 0.1%, at 3,826.62. Also on market players' minds is the global vaccine rollout, which is becoming more organised in the U.S., but has yet to play out in much of Asia, except for China, where the pandemic started. Japan's Nikkei 225 slipped 1.1per cent to finish at 28,341.95, while South Korea's Kospi dropped 1.4per cent to 3,087.55.

Petrol, diesel price at fresh high

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices on Thursday climbed to fresh highs in the country as rates were hiked by the most in recent times, even as fuel retailers said the government can cut taxes to ease consumer burden.

Petrol and diesel price were hiked by 35 paise per litre each after a gap of a week, according to price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The increase took petrol prices to a fresh high of Rs 86.65 a litre in Delhi and to Rs 93.20 in Mumbai. Diesel rates touched Rs 76.83 in Mumbai and an all-time high of Rs 83.67. Mukesh Kumar Surana, head of India's third-largest fuel retailer Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), said there has been a sudden spike in international oil prices to USD 59 per barrel in the last 2-3 days because of a perception of mismatch in demand and supply as well as cut in production by Saudi.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Sonia** with her son 10 years of age, **W/o Shanker Lal R/o H.No. B-11, Taraun Dharmkanta, Vikas Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 23.12.2020 from the area of PS Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard, **DD No. 23A dated 25.12.2020 has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady and her son but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped lady is as under: **Name: Sonia, Gender: Female, Age: 36 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Wearing: Green colour suit, red colour salwar and slippers on her feet.** If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped lady and her son, kindly inform SHO/Ranhola, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
 Fax : 011-24368639
 P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.
 Ph. No. 011-28363001, 28363002



Sonia

AXIS BANK Retail Assets Centre, Noida: Axis Bank Ltd. K-10, 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida
 Office-Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida
 Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wshtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301. Corporate Office: Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhakar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400 025, India

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Axis Bank Ltd. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on the respective dates mentioned hereunder in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Name of The Borrower / Address/ Co-Borrower And Guarantor Name	1. NPA Date	Property Address of Secured Assets
1. To - M/S Tara Chand Satish Chand A Proprietorship Firm At -Main Bazar, Farrukh Nagar Dist - Gurgaon Haryana - 110035 Also At - : M/S Tara Chand Satish Chand 36, New Anaj Mandi, Farrukh Nagar, Dist-Gurgaon - Haryana - 122506	1. 01-Aug-20 2. 29-Jan-21 3. Rs.2,74,31,113/- 4. Rs.2,50,00,000/-	IMMOVEABLE ASSETS 1. All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring 189 Sq.Yrds alongwith Building & Structures erected thereon, affixed thereto situated at Plot No-37, New Grain/Vegetable/ Fodder Market, Farrukh Nagar, Gurgaon together with all the buildings and structures thereon fixtures, fittings and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, both present and future. 2. All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring 189 Sq.Yrds alongwith Building & Structures erected thereon, affixed thereto situated at Plot No-38, New Grain/Vegetable/ Fodder Market, Farrukh Nagar, Gurgaon together with all the buildings and structures thereon fixtures, fittings and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, both present and future. 3. Free Hold Commercial Property situated at Shop No -13 New Grain Market, Farrukh Nagar Dist - Gurgaon owned by M/s Tara Chand Satish Chand through its proprietor Mr. Tara Chand. Please note that as mention in sub-sec. 13 of sec-13 of the aforesaid Act, you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the assets stated under security referred to in this notice without prior written consent of our bank.
1. To - M/S Vishal Enterprises A Proprietorship Firm Shop No. 13, 2nd Floor C/48/3A, Lawrence Road Delhi-110035 2. Mr. Anil Kumar alias Anil Kumar Garg S/O Mr. Tara Chand Proprietor of M/S Vishal Enterprises A Proprietorship Firm Shop No. 13, 2nd Floor C/48/3A, Lawrence Road Delhi-110035 Also At- Shop No. 9 C/48/3A, Lawrence Road Delhi-110035 Also At- Shop No. 37, New Grain Market Farrukh Nagar, District Gurgaon Pin-122506 Also At-169, Sector 15, Part 1 Gurgaon Haryana -122001 3. Mr. Pawan Garg alias Pawan Kumar Garg, S/O Mr. Tara Chand Shop No. 13, 2nd Floor C/48/3A, Lawrence Road Delhi-110035 Also At-Shop No. 9 C/48/3A, Lawrence Road Delhi-110035 Also At-Shop No. 37, New Grain Market Farrukh Nagar, District Gurgaon Pin-122506 Also At-169, Sector 15, Part 1 Gurgaon Haryana -122001	1. 26-Jun-19 2. 25-Jan-21 3. Rs.18,03,062/- 4. Rs.4,00,00,000/-	IMMOVEABLE ASSETS 1. All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring 189 Sq.Yrds alongwith Building & Structures erected thereon, affixed thereto situated at Plot No-37, New Grain/Vegetable/ Fodder Market, Farrukh Nagar, Gurgaon together with all the buildings and structures thereon fixtures, fittings and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, both present and future. 2. All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring 0 Kanal 18 -1/2 Marla (1/2 Share of sub property) part of Land measuring (1 Kanal 17 Marla), comprised in Khewat / Khata no 77/80 Mustail No 130,Khila No 9/2-29/1-10,10/11/11 (0-7) Kila 2,situated at Min western waka Swana Mauza Farrukh Nagar, Dist Gurgaon together with all the buildings and structures thereon, fixtures, fittings and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, both present and future. 3. All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring 0 Kanal 18 -1/2 Marla (1/2 Share of sub property) part of Land measuring (1 Kanal 17 Marla), comprised in Khewat / Khata no 77/80 Mustail No 130,Khila No 9/2-29/1-10,10/11/11 (0-7) Kila 2,situated at Min western waka Swana Mauza Farrukh Nagar, Dist Gurgaon together with all the buildings and structures thereon, fixtures, fittings and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, both present and future. Please note that as mention in sub-sec. 13 of sec-13 of the aforesaid Act, you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the assets stated under security referred to in this notice without prior written consent of our bank.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules thereunder.

Kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFESI Act where under you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s).

Please note that under Section 13(13) of the said Act, No Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 05-2-2021, Place: Delhi

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Axis Bank Ltd.

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-II
JAL SADAN : LAJPAT NAGAR : NEW DELHI - 110024

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
NIT No. 44/S-11/2020-21
Press Tender

S. No.	Name of Work	Reserve price	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date and time for download & RTGS through e-procurement solution
1.	PIL 100mm dia water line from augmentation of water supply and to stop water tanker supply in Navjewan/Nehru Camp Govind Puri under EE(S) II (AC-51 Kalkaji)	2872457/-	2020_DJB_199561_1 03.02.2021	17.02.2021 upto 2.00 PM

It is for publishing in the leading newspaper please. Further details in this regard can be seen at govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/- (S. Ghulam Sajjad)
 Advt. No. J.S.V. 371 (2020-21) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) II

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 35 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead on 02.02.2021 at SJ Hospital. The deceased was admitted on 22.01.2021. In this regard, a vide has been registered with **DD No: 10A, dated 02.02.2021 at PS Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under: **Sex: Male, Age: about 35 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Normal, Wearing: White colour shirt and grey colour pant.** If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
 Fax : 011-24368639
 P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.
 Ph. No. 011-24106346, 24106345



THE MEHAM CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR MILLS LTD. MEHAM (ROHTAK)

E-Tender Notice

Original manufacturer/ Distributors/ Authorized Dealers/ Reputed & Experienced suppliers/ Contractors are required to submit their rates by e-tendering for the following items. The detailed tender form can be downloaded from e-tendering portal <http://etenders.hry.nic.in> as mentioned below related items:-

01. Purchase of Oxygen Gas.
02. Purchase of DC Drive Spares ABB make.
03. Re-shelling/ De-shelling of Mill Roller.
04. Purchase of foundation bolt.
05. Purchase of mill roller shaft Bharat forged make.
06. Sale of molasses 60000 qtls. for season 2020-21 steel tank.
07. Sale of 67760 qtls. sugar of export quota.

These tender should reach online on or before 12.02.2021 at 18:00 Hrs. through e-tendering portal <http://etenders.hry.nic.in>. The technical bids will be opened on 13.02.2021 at 10:00 AM and commercial bids will be open on 15.02.2021 at 10:00 AM. Negotiation will be held on 17.02.2021 at 11:00 AM as per purchase/ Sale policy. The mill management reserves the right to accept/ reject any/all tenders/ items without assigning any reason.

Managing Director

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 50-55 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Gender: Male, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing : Blue Jacket & Cream Colour Pant** was found dead at Hanuman Mandir Kashmere Gate Delhi. In this regard, **DD No.19A U/s-174 CrPC, Dt. 26.01.2021** has been lodged at PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Kashmere Gate, Delhi
 Ph. : 011-23967889,
 8750870123

DP/919/N/2021

ZEL JEWELLERS LTD

REGD. OFFICE: E-5, South Extension, Part-II, New Delhi-110 049

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, is hereby informed that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Sunday, 14th February, 2021 at 5.00 P.M. at the registered office of the Company situated at E-5, South Extension, Part-II, New Delhi-110 049, to consider and approve, inter alia, the Un-audited Standalone Financial Results of the Company for the Third Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December, 2020. The said notice may be accessed on the Company's website at www.rkjewelers.in and of the Stock Exchange website www.bse.in/

by Order of the Board
FOR ZEL JEWELLERS LTD
 Dated: 3rd February, 2021 Sd/-
 Place : New Delhi Priyanka Pathak
 Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Sarojini (along with her daughter namely Ayushi, Age 01 Year) W/o: Inderdev, R/o: H. No. 174, Singhal Pur Village, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi** has been reported missing since 19.01.2021 from the area of P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 54A dated 21.01.2021** has been registered at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under: **Name: Sarojini, Age: 27 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: Yellow Saree.** If anyone has any information about these missing female and her daughter please inform P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. : 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
DP/640/NW/2021 Ph: 011-27495198, 27497179



Sarojini & Ayushi



TREND TOOL

Bring on the glitz

Here are some of the sustainable jewellery trends that will rule in the year 2021

When it comes to jewels, our choices have remained restricted to metals, diamonds or pearls as they have ruled the jewellery trends for centuries. But not many people are aware that the mining of precious metals is responsible for a great deal of environmental damage, from soil erosion to lead emissions and the creation of sinkholes. Even the modern trend of 'fast-fashion' that has fuelled the demand for cheap jewellery also comes with a carbon footprint. Responding to heightened interest in sustainable and ethical practices, a new wave of jewellery designers are starting to incorporate sustainable materials for creating exotic pieces, which complements the contemporary fashion landscape. Here are some of the sustainable jewellery trends that will rule in 2021.



CONCRETE JEWELLERY PIECES

Concrete is a wonderful and ubiquitous material with a real presence, adapted in its most refined form to form jewellery pieces. Concrete jewels are something new and revolutionary, which is driven by sustainability. With statement designs and minimal embellishments, the handcrafted concrete jewellery pieces are ideal for people who are not afraid to experiment with their looks. From hoops to shoulder-grazing earrings, stackable rings to layered necklaces, chokers to festive pieces, the industrial-grade material never seems to disappoint with its unique look.

RECYCLED ONES

To minimise waste and reduce carbon footprint, recycled jewellery can definitely be a game-changer. Recycling is not a new concept in the jewellery industry as many jewelers have been recycling metal or other precious stones in one form or another for decades to create new pieces. Choose to recycle or upcycle jewellery that needs a new lease of life instead of buying a new one that could leave a larger carbon footprint.

ECO-FRIENDLY SUBSTITUTES

The jewellery designers are proactively replacing gemstones with sustainable materials in their pieces to create mind-blowing eco-friendly jewellery. Some of these materials include clay, wood, sea glass and cork. Clay can be molded in any form or shape, and it can also create the illusion of a stone. Pressing stencil onto the wet clay, the designers can add various textures and

colours can be added to mimic the look of gemstones or even metals. Wood is another material that can be incorporated into jewellery to add an ethnic touch to it. The lightweight material can be strained, polished, painted and carved to make intricate designs. Although sea glass exists from a non-eco-friendly activity, the byproduct can be used to create beautiful pieces.

STAINLESS STEEL

Stainless steel is one of the most durable and hard-wearing materials, starting to get a new reputation as an eco-friendly alternative in jewellery. Stainless steel is 100 per cent recyclable and non-degradable. Artisans can create classy, elegant, quirky or junk jewellery using it. Unlike metals that have limitations due to their intrinsic characteristics, stainless steel can be easily molded in dramatic geometric shapes for vintage and modern styles. The hard material resists scratches and corrosion, allowing the jewellery piece such as rings, bracelets or anklets to resist wear and tear from everyday activities, which makes it a wonder of choice for jewellery. (The writer is Gurpreet Kaur Tuteja.)

SPEAK THE CHANGE

Audio will soon become the interface between humans and electronic devices, turning functions like typing, touching or pressing buttons into obsolete actions. By DUSHYANT KOHLI

If there is one aspect of the ongoing digital revolution that we can be certain about, it is the growth in consumption of audio-based content, and the promise it holds for the future. Within a span of a few years, we have witnessed an increase in the average time invested by users in listening to audio across platforms. Be it music, news, podcasts, religious hymns & chants, commentary on politics or even learning material for professional development, the affinity towards audio is backed by improved accessibility and the hands-free nature of its consumption. Moreover, the pandemic has accentuated the listenership on these platforms, as people have more time at their disposal.

The move to audio is also attributed to the health effects of excessive screen time of users, considering that people of all age groups had to adopt home-based work and learning, including long duration viewing of television and computer screens for entertainment. With schools, colleges and offices being shut due to the lockdown, and the subsequent adherence to social distancing

norms, the average screen time shot up significantly. There are several other aspects that go beyond the toll of excessive screen time on people's health, and they concern connectivity challenges, retainability through hearing, among others.

CHALLENGES FOR VIDEO CONSUMPTION

Since the pandemic, even video streaming and OTT platforms have risen in terms of subscriptions and entertainment choices, as several regional OTT services have mushroomed to capitalise on the surge in viewership. While consumers are accessing the discounted offerings of such video streaming platforms, it remains largely an urban and semi-urban phenomenon. Not all parts of the country are able to access latency-free services round the clock. As of today, companies are investing heavily in improving the bandwidth and the requisite infrastructure to deliver top quality viewing experiences. However, it is an exercise that is bound to take time, as implementation and affordability are arduous and time-consuming pursuits. In a country that is breaking

onto the global stage through the mobile phone revolution, high bandwidth and connectivity requirements continue to stall accessibility for the least common denominator. Audio-based content fills this gap aptly, since it neither consumes large quantities of data, nor does it need the installation of high-cost infrastructure for basic internet consumption. Moreover, a constant challenge arises for travellers, as low network areas often impact the usage of apps and internet.

AUDIO'S IMPACT ON LEARNING

In the past, areas that lacked connectivity created a vacuum for the proliferation of radio services, and people used them to remain connected with the rest of the country. With the advent of the mobile phone, radio is now replaced by the mobile connectivity even in low-bandwidth environments. There is a scope for wider accessibility to information about the world through mobile apps, as it is disrupting distance & e-learning methodologies, beyond regular calling services. In fact, users in urban areas have shown keen-

ness to adopt passive learning methods as a result of the pandemic, and they are tuning into podcasts, music, news etc., allowing them to listen and perform other tasks simultaneously.

There are numerous reports about how fatigue has set in due to the overuse of screens and video viewing. Listening to long conversations has a positive impact on learning, and audio scores better over video in this regard. It requires cognitive abilities and the power of imagination, which are the standard requisites for maximum retention.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DIVERSIFIED CONTENT AND AUDIO'S UTILITARIAN ASPECTS

The West had begun to make the most of audio content-based services on the internet in early 2000s. Several players have emerged since, offering audio books as an alternate to physical books, keeping those who are pressed for time in mind. While India has learnt to embrace the phenomenon only in the past decade, the stacking up of vernacular and local content in the form of audio libraries, is truly

transforming user experiences.

One of the biggest draws towards audio lies in the flexibility it offers, as people can take it wherever they go without worrying about network issues. Second to this, people are able to enjoy diverse content in their languages, thanks to lesser production costs and affordability of the services. Furthermore, users are cognisant about saving battery power on their devices, and audio allows them to avail more with very minimal investment on hardware.

In 2021, people are constantly on the move, and voice-searches and voice-based audio devices are offering new-age solutions. Consequently, audio will become the interface between humans and electronic devices in the near future, turning functions like typing, touching, or pressing buttons into obsolete actions. This prediction is not far-fetched even for the non-urban part of India, Bharat, owing to the sheer growth observed over these years, which shall soon make it the most preferred medium for the masses.

(The writer is the COO of an audio platform, Khabri.)



A closer look

The new Tata Safari offers a good drive but you wonder if the car deserves a 'Safari' tag

Let me be honest for a second, the new Tata Safari is the best 'new' Tata car I have driven in a while. But therein lies the rub because one has to ask the question whether it is a new car or just a longer version of the Tata Harrier. Don't get me wrong, that is not a bad thing because despite major initial teething troubles, my friend Bharat having major steering issues with his very early build Harrier, Tata Motors has progressively made the Harrier a competent car. And the overall build of the OmegaARC platform and the Kryotec engine are actually quite good. But you keep on looping around to the same question over and over, does this car deserve the 'Safari' name?

Seriously, had Tata called this the 'Gravitas' as they had showcased it at the Auto Expo a year ago, I would be here waxing eloquent about this car. I drove the six-seat version with a six-speed manual transmission. Frankly, the only issues I had on the drive were around the fact that I stalled a few times,

but I'd blame myself and my automatic addiction of late for that. While Gravitas is an awfully serious term and well, not exactly a name suited for a car, Tata Motors went with Safari. If you believe the rumours, one reason was that the Old Man himself wanted the name.

Truth be told, sticking an older brand name with some serious connotations to this car makes evaluating it quite difficult indeed. See, as a Gravitas or any other name it is a perfectly good car. Indeed, I'd believe this to be a better bet than some other three-row cars out there like the Hector+. With the last row down, this can be a great long distance luxury ride, the Pearl white interiors are nice, although there are open questions about how well white interiors age in a dirty and dusty country. But the second row captain seats are fantastic and with those seats accessing the third row isn't too difficult, indeed the captain seats mean that third-row passengers can stretch one foot out. But there is no luggage space when the



third-row is in operation, so it is good enough for a school run or an evening out but not for long distances. Sure, on the base models without the sunroof, the roof rails are load bearing so one could technically load up the roof with luggage. But I'd rather have the panoramic sunroof, even though I'd be the first to tell you that sunroofs are useless in North Indian summers and panoramics are especially bad, but my infant son really likes staring out the top when he is strapped into his car seat. On the safety front, the Safari comes with ISOFIX anchorages, lots of airbags and I'm pretty sure with the work Tata Motors has put in of late, it will get a great safety rating. It is a good vehicle and once the prices are revealed it is

going to be great value as well, although going head-to-head with the Toyota Innova requires cojones. One can safely assume that the Safari will have a price advantage along with far superior features. The Innova remains the best retainer of value in the Indian market and we will have to wait and see how the Safari ages. Tata vehicles are much improved from a decade ago, but reputations are not easy to remove.

This allows me a segue into the Safari aspect. The Safari of yore, all the way to the Storme were well-known as cars that could go off the beaten track. As often happens when I go on test-drives, rather 'first drives' where the car is still very new or yet to be launched, where I get pulled

over by potential buyers, car enthusiasts and even police — there was this one time when I was driving the M5 in Portugal with Hormazd Sorabjee and we got pulled over the cops. I wasn't speeding since I was behind a white Renault van when the police pulled us over. Well, they were just curious about the car — so with the Safari I was pulled over three times in and around Lodhi Colony and Khan Market. The top-end Safari has a nine-speaker JBL system as well as appreciation for third-row space, not to forget that the third row gets USB charging ports. But this is Delhi, while the Safari has a 'Terrain Management System' (TMS) that adjusts the traction control

and stability programs to deal with very wet and very rough roads, the Safari available today does not have a four-wheel drive system.

There are many viewpoints on this. But the truth is that front-wheel drive monocoque Sports Utility Vehicles are much more capable today than they were a decade ago. While some reviewers did take the Safari off-road and I must admit that I did not. Honestly, I do not believe that other than a handful of Safari's that will be sold over its lifetime will go serious offroading. The TMS should be able to deal with most conditions. But, there is a large class of buyer who wants a 4x4 system, especially since the car wears the Safari badge. While I understand the logic of Tata Motors not equipping the Safari with a 4x4 system, maybe a top-end variant with a 4x4 would have done a great service in terms of image. Of course, there might have been major cost considerations involved, given the engineering costs of fitting a 4x4 system in the OmegaARC platform.

Sure, design has not been a Tata Motors' problem and Prata Bose, the company's design guru is the best car designer to emerge from India. The rear third of the car definitely has a Safari feel to it. I wish a bit more differentiation had been done on the front of the vehicle and maybe even given the owner a hint of what s/he is driving inside. So yes, good to look at, good to sit inside and even drive. But a Safari? Hmm, I'm not sure.

Richa stands for equality

Actor Richa Chadha has joined a movement to celebrate the strong, resilient women of India. She has extended her support to a special edition of Oxfam India's fundraising walkathon — the Oxfam Trailwalker-virtual challenge — set to take place around International Women's Day 2021. The idea behind this edition is to aware people and empower them to fight and end all kinds of discrimination against women.

Just like the previous one in 2020, this one will take place virtually keeping in mind the pandemic restrictions and social distancing guidelines. Starting from February 25 to March 6 and March 8 to 17 2021, the edition is themed around #WalkForHer, with the tagline, 'Walk to end all discrimination against women.'

The pandemic has been tough on everyone but women and the marginalised communities bore the real brunt of it. Statistics paint a grim picture of women suffering due to domestic, professional and health issues. The theme is a response to the countless examples of gender-based violence, extreme injustice and deep rooted discrimination against women that shocked the nation in 2020.

Richa says, "The way we treat our women in emergencies is a testament to how much we as a society respect the gender at large. Our fight for equal opportunities for women is consistent. A movement for equality, this call to is a step in the direction of zero discrimination."



TAHIRA'S CANCER AWARENESS MESSAGE

On World Cancer Day, **TAHIRA KASHYAP KHURRANA** penned a heartwarming note creating awareness about breast cancer.

The fierce fighter is a cancer survivor who has time and again embraced her flaws as well as encouraged everyone to do so. Marking the occasion of World Cancer Day, Tahira took to social media to pen a heartfelt poem reciting her journey fighting through the battle of scars and emerging as a precedent for many others, whilst creating awareness for breast cancer.

fairtalk
 ADAH SHARMA



'My film *Chuha billi* is a dark subject. I play a girl who is bipolar. She is depressed and she isn't coping with it well. She's very excited about something and very sad in just seconds. I would like to believe I'm exactly the opposite of this character, and that's what attracted me the most to play her. I can't wait for people to watch the film.'

dailytalk
 SHIKHA TALSANIA



'Everybody likes to look good and it is a part of your job where you have to be ready for whatever comes your way, and you need to change your physical appearance for the part and character. Build up muscles or lose a lot of weight or change your hair or make-up or have prosthetics. It is a collaborative effort to bring the character to life.'

RON ON EXPLORING DOCUMENTARIES

Director **RON HOWARD** says his experience of working in documentaries has started to reflect in his work as a feature filmmaker.

"I have only in the last five years begun working on documentaries while I am still doing narratives, scripted films and TV. And yet I had not done a verite," Howard said.



CHEF TALK

FROM SINGAPORE TO DELHI

Celebrity chef JEREMY NGUEE tells AYUSHI SHARMA that Singaporean cuisine is constantly evolving as it borrows, adapts and internalises from many different cultures

What led to the formation of Mai Bao, a modern Singapore street food restaurant?

One day Avantika (Sinha Bahl, the founder of the restaurant) called me about opening a Singaporean restaurant in New Delhi. I thought it's quite daring of her. Her brief was exactly the dream restaurant I wished we had in some major city: A smart, upscale space with thoughtful modern décor and a contemporary presentation of Singapore's best dishes. I was very touched by Avantika's vision. I know that this concept is going to be a huge success.

What's the theme behind the curated menu?

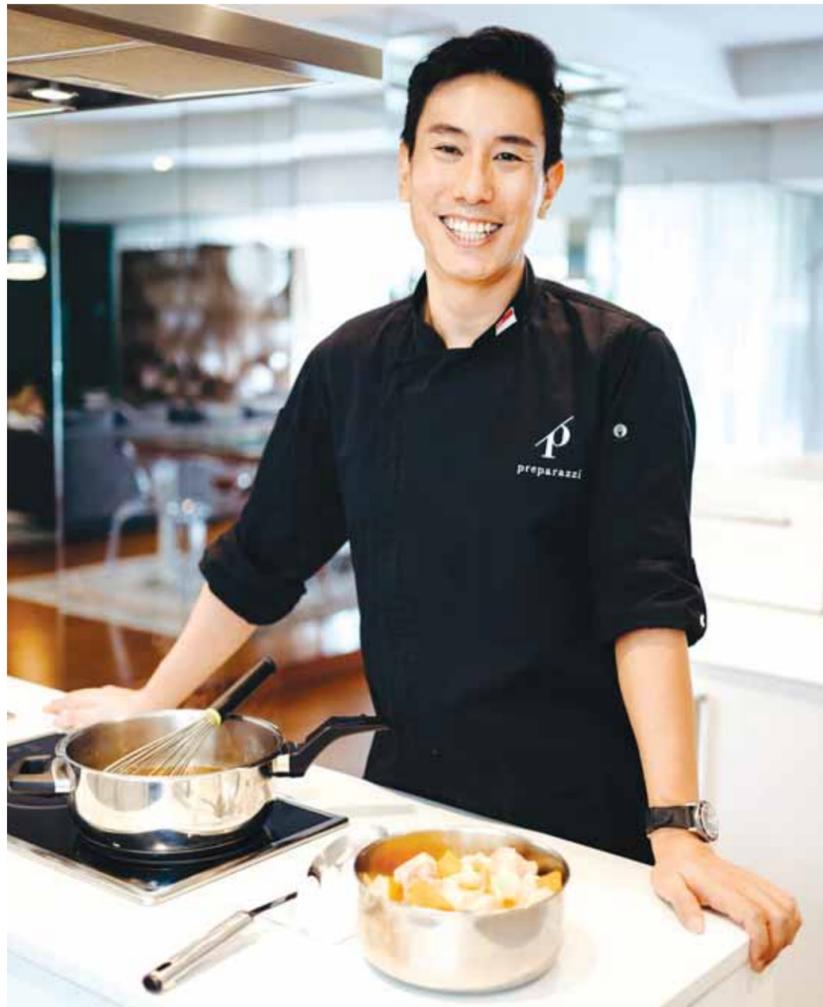
Singapore is a melting pot of Indian, Chinese, Malay and other migrant cultures. To take just the snapshots of the most famous Singaporean dishes would have not done justice. So here, we have taken a contemporary approach and have presented all the Singaporean flavours in a fun and exciting format.

What is your signature dish and how did you come up with such an experiment?

One of my first early dishes that became popular was *Rakusaba* (also known as *Laksa Bar*). I served the Singaporean *Laksa* in a Tsukemen-style (dipping noodle style), fashioning it like ramen. In Singapore, not everyone thinks our culinary heritage is a treasure. Although that tide is turning, many still think that other cuisines are exotic and of higher quality.

Rakusaba explores the idea of counter culture. What if *Laksa* was a Japanese dish? Would Singaporeans still pay a premium for it? So the question is, is the dish a Japanese one or Singaporean? Why do we pay so much for ramen but not *Laksa*?

It was quite a controversial delicacy and I had a lot of fun with it. The dish ran for three months as part of a contemporary arts pop-up and it is no longer served anywhere. But I reprised it in Paris two years ago.



How have you explored various food cultures across the globe?

I love to travel but I am especially enamoured with exploring specific neighbourhoods. My most favourite thing is to check out where the locals shop, be it at the

supermarket or at any bazaar. I have memories of buying freshly shucked oysters and sharing them with strangers who shared their wine in Bordeaux or even cooking fresh produce with house mates at an Airbnb in Loire. In Azabu-Juban in Tokyo,

I can recall buying fruits and wagyu from the small little shops and cooking it myself in the kitchenette. I've made the craziest connections and always end up with so many more memories than just eating at a restaurant.



How do you think the Indian audience is accepting the global food trends?

Well, Indian cuisine itself is so diverse and amazing. And millennials these days love exploring new cuisines. Even in the malls, the energy in the restaurants and the snacks streets are just buzzing. I believe that as more Indians, especially millennials become curious about the world and other cultures, the demand for global food trends is going to explode.

What I'm really looking forward to seeing is how a new generation of Indian, chefs, artisans and growers will once again shape food trends and cultures across the world.

What shaped your food logic while growing up? What are your inspirations? Any anecdotes to share?

For me, I try to respect the food and remember the farmers and growers who produce the food. I am grateful for my customers who support my work and allow me to continue what I love to do. In the end, a dish well cooked is its own reward and a smile a bonus.

I just want to highlight that our local food also demands skill and high quality of ingredients, so our hawkers and chefs also deserve their dues. I am happy to say that while there is still some work to do, there is much greater awareness now for

their craft and a higher willingness to pay for our heritage cuisine.

How do you adapt your dishes to local ingredients while travelling? Any Indian spices or dishes that may have caught your fancy?

In Singapore, all children learn how to eat spicy food first, like eating prata and then maybe a small dip of the curry sauce. I eat *dosa* often for breakfast and prata for supper. I think it's the best thing to eat after clubbing and drinks with friends. I love a hearty *biryani* for lunch (food coma for sure), and celebrate many special family occasions with *rotis* and curries at high-end Indian restaurants or with catering at home.

One of the recent Indian cooking techniques I've learned is *Dhungar*. It's a way of introducing a buttery, smoky flavour as a finishing touch to the food. You set a small metal tin and heat coal in it until it is glowing red and pour butter or ghee over it. This typically goes over dal and rice, covered together so the smoke permeates the dish. The main purpose here is to perfume the food with the specific aroma that's derived from using heat to alter the molecules of the ghee. I've started doing this with small pieces of pork for Char Siu before I roast it or even a Chinese-style claypot rice with dried sausages.

Yes definitely! Indian cooking techniques bring such a depth and richness to the dishes. I'd be keen to translate some of these techniques over to provide an exciting and interesting experience for our guests.

Any unique Singaporean technique that you use in cooking any of the Mai Bao dishes?

Singaporean food is not like Indian one, which is widely considered to be the mother of the cuisines. It borrows, adapts and internalises from many different cultures. That is why Singaporean food is the one that is constantly evolving and it's our DNA. We do not object to why a certain combination exists but rather, embrace and celebrate how it has come to be.

RECIPES



YAM FISH CURRY IN GOA ORGANIC MASALA

WHAT YOU NEED

- Yam: 3 cup
- Red pepper
- Coconut milk: 5 cup
- Onion (medium): 1
- Salt to taste
- ORCO hand-ground organic fish masala
- Organic ginger powder
- Organic cinnamon powder: 1/4 tsp
- Garlic: 4
- Organic Kashmiri chilli powder: 3 tsp
- Organic paprika powder:
- Balsamic or apple cider vinegar: 1/4 cup

METHOD

- In a steamer or pressure cooker, cook the yam pieces for 10 to 15 minutes until tender. Pierce the yams with a fork on all sides to allow the organic masala to be absorbed. Keep aside.
- While the yams are steaming, grind together all the organic masala ingredients into a fine paste.
- This paste can stay for three months so if you like, you can make a large batch and store in the fridge.
- In a pan on medium flame, add one cup of water, the organic masala and the onion and stir. Cook until the water is almost gone and you are left with a thick paste.
- Add the cooked yam pieces, coconut milk and salt. Stir thoroughly to mix and boil it.
- Once boiling, lower the heat, add the red pepper slices and turn off the heat.
- Serve hot with rice or millets.

Courtesy: ORCO

CHOCOLATE ÉCLAIR

WHAT YOU NEED

- Water: 150 gm
- Butter: 150 gm
- Caster sugar: 45 gm
- Salt: 5 gm
- Maida: 200 gm
- Eggs: 8
- Milk: 420 gm
- Custard powder: 25 gm
- White fondant: 100 gm
- Cocoa powder: 20 gm

METHOD

- Preheat oven. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- In a saucepan, combine water, 150 gm of butter, 5 gm of sugar and salt. Slowly heat the mixture over medium heat, stir frequently to dissolve sugar

and melt the butter. Then bring the mixture to a boil.

- Remove the saucepan from heat and add flour. Then mix the mixture.
- Cook the dough on a medium heat.
- Transfer the dough into a mixing bowl and use hand mixer to mix it for a few minutes on low speed until the mixture is at room temperature.
- Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. The dough should be smooth and shiny, thin enough to slowly fall into a ribbon, but not too runny.
- At this point choux pastry is done and ready to be piped into whatever size you want.
- To bake pastry shells,



- transfer the batter into a large pastry bag and pipe into 4 inch strips 3 inches apart.
- Bake the choux for 20

- minutes until it turns to golden brown.
- Transfer the shells onto a wire rack and cool completely

- before filling.
- Prepare pastry cream by heating 250g of milk in a saucepan. Meanwhile mix the

20g milk with the custard powder. Stir till smooth.

- When the milk has heated up, add 40g of sugar and dissolve. Keeping the flame on low, add the custard paste.
- Whisk till smooth. Allow to cool to room temperature
- To prepare chocolate fondant, heat the white fondant and whisk in the cocoa powder. Use milk to dilute if necessary.
- Now assemble the Éclair by using a sharp paring knife, make two holes on the bottom of each Éclair shell and fill the pastry cream through the holes until the Éclairs are filled.
- Dip each filled Éclair in the warm chocolate fondant.

Courtesy: Culinary head Amit Kumar at L'Opéra

GULAB JAMUN CHEESECAKE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Plain digestive biscuits: 350 gm
- Ghee or unsalted butter: 120 gm
- Cream cheese: 600 gm
- Jaggery: 350 gm
- Gulab Jamun: 8
- Sour cream: 1 cup
- Thickened cream: 200 ml
- Eggs (lightly beaten): 4
- Cornflour: 1/3 cup
- Lemon juice: 2 tsp
- Blueberry compote: 50 gm

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 180 C. Grease a round 20 cm springform cake pan and line the base. Side with baking paper.
- Place biscuits in a food processor and whiz to crumbs. Add ghee and whiz to combine. Press into the base of prepared



pan and chill until needed.

- Place cream cheese and 250 gm jaggery in a stand mixer fitted with the paddle

- attachment and beat until smooth. Beat in sour cream. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in

cornflour and lemon juice. Cut the *gulab jamuns* into halves and place them on the biscuit base. Then pour the cream cheese mix over it. Wrap the outside of the pan in three layers of foil and place in a large roasting pan. Add enough boiling water to come halfway up the sides of the cake.

- Reduce oven to 150 C and bake cake for one hour 40 minutes or until just set with a gentle wobble in the centre.
- Turn off oven and cool for three hours approximately or until cold. Remove from pan and place on a serving plate.
- When ready to serve, melt remaining 100 gm jaggery in a small saucepan over medium heat with two tablespoons of water, stirring to dissolve the jaggery. Cool completely, then pour over the cake.
- Garnish with blueberry compote and fresh mint leaves.

Courtesy: Chef Anas Qureshi at Molecule.

DIRTY CHAI EGGNOG

WHAT YOU NEED

- Bourbon: 30 ml
- Baileys: 30 ml
- Whole spices: Cinnamon, clove, cardamom and few black peppers
- Earl grey tea: 60 ml
- Sweet cream foam to top up

For garnishing:

- Cinnamon powder and star anise.
- Double strain (maple syrup or honey to be used) in martini coupe glass.
- Dry shake — egg white (choice)

METHOD

- Take cocktail shaker, put whiskey, Baileys and all the spices.
- Add Earl grey tea.
- Shake it well and double strain in martini coupe glass. Add maple syrup or honey for sweetness.
- Top up with sweet cream and garnish.

Courtesy: The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi.



POMS CHALLENGE INDIA'S HOME INVINCIBILITY

Fresh after historic triumph Down Under & with return of Captain Kohli, India eye WTC final spot against Root & Co

PTI ■ CHENNAI

A dream took flight during an unforgettable Australian summer and a confident India will aim to soar higher with the return of Virat Kohli against Joe Root's England during a four-Test series starting from Friday with both sides bidding to qualify for the World Test Championship final.

International cricket returns to India after a year-long Covid-19 break and it couldn't have been bigger than a series against a world-class side which is led by a modern day great in Joe Root.

Root would be playing his 100th Test match and the team also features the most respected new ball attack in contemporary cricket besides having the game's best all-format all-rounder.

And in the middle of all this will be the awe-inspiring presence of Kohli, fresh from a paternity break, leading a side which would be expected to present another enthralling show after a miracle comeback behind series win in Australia.

But in England, they face a team that in the last 15 years, is the only one to have won a Test series (2012) in the sub-continent.

In Root they have a player, who knows a thing or two about how to tackle spinners on sub-continental turners as he showed during the just-concluded Sri Lanka series.

James Anderson, the world's highest wicket-taking seam bowler, will again test Rohit Sharma's patience and Shubman Gill's technique using the pronounced seam of the red SG Test while preparing a tough set of questions in the corridor of uncertainty for the Indian captain.

Jofra Archer would like to use the bouncer sparingly and Ben Stokes wouldn't mind if



the old ball reverses a bit.

"Australia series is past now. We have to respect the England side and take one match at a time," said India's vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane, back in his familiar role but perhaps with a lot more responsibility after emerging as a leader during the Australia series.

India will be wanting to guard themselves against the complacency that can always creep in after a triumph like Australia.

So, after batting on firm, even bouncy Australian tracks, it's time for them to adjust to the red soil traditional Chennai pitch which will have bounce on the first day and start helping the spinners from the third day.

One might find Cheteshwar Pujara shedding his combative "take body blows" style to a slightly more

1st Test, Day 1
Live from 9:30am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

attacking one on a track where the ball won't be consistently flying above the waist level. The Indian batsmen are likely to enjoy an upper-hand against the England slow bowlers as save Moeen Ali, the other two — off-spinner Dom Bess and left-arm spinner Jack Leach — haven't had the experience of bowling against a formidable Indian batting line-up.

"As a whole bowling group, it is important that we all work together. It is important that collectively we all play our parts," England skipper Joe Root said on the eve of the match.

Against the old ball, one might see India unleashing Rishabh Pant, who on his day can murder any bowling line-

INDIA-ENGLAND TEST ENCOUNTERS				
Venue	Played	Ind	Eng	Draw
In England	62	7	34	21
In India	60	19	13	28
Total	122	26	47	49
At Chennai	9	5	3	1

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS		
England	710-7 dec at Birmingham	2011
India	759-7 dec at Chennai	2016-17

TOP INDIVIDUAL SCORES		
England	333 Graham Gooch at Lord's	1990
India	303* Karun Nair at Chennai	2016-17

BEST BOWLING (innings)		
England	8-31 Fred Trueman at Manchester	1952
India	8-55 Vinoo Mankad at Chennai	1951-52

FAISEL FEATURES

up. Speaking of his bowlers, Root said that all three spin-

ners are fit and available for selection. We look at partnerships and how bowling group performs in these conditions and not put pressure on individuals to try and win games on their own.

"That's going to be the main mentality for this series," the England skipper said.

However, it is the bowling combination that will be key for India as they aim to win at least two Test matches or more during the series in order to clinch a face-off against New Zealand in the WTC final at the Lord's.

Jasprit Bumrah will also be making a different kind of debut — his first Test at home since his debut against South Africa in 2018.

Ishant Sharma, in his last Test appearance nearly a year back claimed a five wicket haul at the Basin Reserve but hasn't played a red ball game ever since due to injury and Covid-19 induced break.

But Mohammed Siraj's gutsy performance Down Under can't be forgotten in a hurry and it will be one of the toughest calls for Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri in recent times when they decide between Siraj and Ishant.

The logic in favour of Ishant is that he was out due to injury and now gets his rightful place back as the man who is just three short of 100 Test matches.

But then a form player always has an advantage and Siraj, over the years in first-class cricket, has toiled hard on unresponsive wickets.

India are likely to play three spinners and Axar Patel, who has always been dubbed as a "poor man's Ravindra Jadeja", is in contention to get his maiden Test cap.

Ravichandran Ashwin picks himself while Kuldeep Yadav, being a wrist spinner, is an attacking option that skipper Kohli would fancy.

Rishabh will get long rope: Virat

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Rishabh Pant has earned his stripes with excellent batting performances in Australia and will get a long rope in the five-day format, said India captain Virat Kohli, who also loosely hinted that Axar Patel might be in line for a Test debut against England.

The Indian captain also made it clear that while bowlers, who can bat well, will be in the "forefront of their plans" during the four Tests, the opening combination of Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill is expected to be persisted with during the entire duration of the series.

"Yes, Rishabh will start and take the gloves tomorrow. He had impact performances recently and he is in a good space, and we want him to build on this along with improvement in all aspects of his game," Kohli said while elaborately discussing various aspects of team combination.

"This will happen with game time and confidence he gains with playing those games, that's how we look at Rishabh," he added.

"We have backed him quite a lot and for good reason what we saw in Australia, what he can do with the bat and that brings in a lot of value to this team. He will be continued to be backed because he is an impact player and opposition will be wary of him," Kohli said.

The skipper said that they will continue to back bowling all-rounders, which has been the pattern for the team's success in home conditions.

And therein, Axar, according to the captain, fits the bill perfectly if one factors in Ravindra Jadeja's absence.

"The reason was basically to have someone similar to Jadeja's skills as to what they provide to the team which Axar brings in all three departments of the game. That falls in our plans... Since Jaddu was not available, Axar was preferred, because he brings in the same kind of discipline on the field."

Kohli was very clear about his plans on Rohit-Gill combination.

"We are looking forward to giving them all four Tests and give us good starts. The key to winning the Tests was how they batted in Australia. We are looking forward to more of that in this series," he said.

On a different note, he indicated that with four Tests at home, Kuldeep Yadav is expected to get his share of chances, having last played a five-day game in January, 2019.

"Someone like Kuldeep hasn't had much of a game time in the longest format for a while now. But now that he's back in the home season starts, he will be in the scheme of things. To keep guys motivated, you need to give them goals," Kohli said.



SINGLES

CHANNEL 4 SECURE TV RIGHTS IN ENG
LONDON: Channel 4 has secured the telecast rights of England's high-profile Test series against India, beginning with the first match on Friday, after striking a deal with Star Sports. This will be the first time Test cricket returns to terrestrial television in the UK since the 2005 Ashes. "Channel 4 will show exclusive free to air live television coverage of England's Test series against India," the channel said in a statement.

B'DESH N2 TOUR DELAYED BY A WEEK
AUCLAND: The start of Bangladesh's upcoming tour of New Zealand was on Thursday postponed by a week due to the coronavirus-related "challenges" and to allow adequate preparation time, the host country's cricket board has said. Under the revised schedule, Bangladesh will play three ODIs and an equal number of T20 Internationals between March 20 and April 1.

NAPOLI, ATALANTA PLAY GOALLESS DRAW
NAPLES: Holders Napoli and Atalanta battled out a goalless draw on Wednesday in their Italian Cup semi-final first leg clash with all to play for on the return trip to Bergamo next week. Napoli goalkeeper David Ospina proved decisive on the night pulling off key saves as Atalanta came closest to breaking the deadlock in the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium. Gian Piero Gasperini's side are bidding to win only the second major trophy in their history.

GLADBACH PROGRESS IN DFB POKAL
BERLIN: Allassane Plea sent Borussia Mönchengladbach into the quarterfinals of the German Cup by securing a 2-1 win over Stuttgart on Wednesday, while Cologne went out on penalties to second-division Jahn Regensburg. Gladbach got off to a bad start in Stuttgart with Silas Wamangituka scoring after a fine solo run on a counterattack within two minutes. Marcus Thuram equalized in first-half injury time with a shot in off the far post, and Plea went past the Stuttgart goalkeeper before slotting the winner inside an empty net in the 50th.

PSG BREEZE PAST NIMES IN LIGUE 1
PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain shrugged off the absence of a suspended Neymar to beat basement side Nimes 3-0 in Ligue 1 on Wednesday, while crisis-hit rivals Marseille let slip a two-goal lead against Lens. Angel di Maria pounced on a misplaced pass to steer PSG ahead on 17 minutes at the Parc des Princes, with Pablo Sarabia heading in a cross from the Argentine to double the advantage. Kylian Mbappe bagged a third for the hosts midway through the second half with a superb curling strike from 20 yards.

NBA STARS EXTEND SUPPORT TO IND FARMERS
NEW YORK: American football league NFL star Jujuu Smith Schuster has donated \$10,000 towards medical assistance for the farmers protesting in India against new agriculture laws, while NBA forward Kyle Kuzma has also extended his support to their cause. The duo's support comes after American pop star Rihanna, shared a news article highlighting the Indian Government's crackdown on the protest.

PSL ALLOW 20% CAPACITY CROWDS
RAWALPINDI: Spectators will be allowed inside cricket stadiums in Pakistan this month for the first time in the coronavirus pandemic. PCB on Thursday received permission from the Government to allow 20% capacity crowds at PSL games. "The decision means around 7,500 ticketed spectators will be allowed access inside the National Stadium (in Karachi) per match day, while around 5,500 will be able to attend each match day at the Gaddafi Stadium (in Lahore)," PCB said in a statement. Agencies



Babar, Alam revive Pak

AFP ■ RAWALPINDI

2nd Test, Day 2
Live from 10:00am IST
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

Skipper Babar Azam hit an attractive half-century and in-form Fawad Alam batted solidly to help Pakistan fight back as the opening day of the second Test was cut short by rain in Rawalpindi on Thursday.

Azam was batting on 77 and Alam on a solid 42 as Pakistan recovered from a precarious 22/3 to 145/3 in 58 overs, but play could not be started after the tea break.

Heavy rain lashed the stadium and covers were placed on the pitch before play was called off due to rain and a wet outfield at 4:38 pm local time (11:38 GMT). The home team had won the toss and batted on a flat, brownish Rawalpindi Stadium pitch, which helped spinners from the outset, but Pakistan recovered from the early loss of three wickets. Spinner Keshav

Maharaj (2/51) and pacer Anrich Nortje (1/30) had left Pakistan struggling on 63/3 at lunch but Azam and Alam added 123 for the unbroken fourth wicket stand to steady the innings.

Earlier, Pakistan reached 21 without loss before throwing away three wickets for one run in the space of 23 balls. Maharaj, brought into the attack in just the ninth over, had opener Imran Butt caught behind for 15 and then trapped senior batsman Azhar Ali leg-before for nought in his next over.

Nortje then produced a sharp rising delivery to Abid Ali, whose fended push was caught smartly at short-leg by Aiden Markram.

'Ajinkya fulfilled his responsibility with flying colours'

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India captain Virat Kohli on Thursday said his relationship with Ajinkya Rahane is based on trust and hailed his deputy for fulfilling his responsibility with "flying colours" in Australia.

Only days after Kohli had gone on a paternity leave following the disastrous first Test in Adelaide, Rahane led an injury-ravaged Indian team to a 2-1 series victory. On Wednesday, Rahane had said he was "happy to take the back seat".

A day later, it was Kohli's turn to speak on their equation.

"Not just *Jinks* and me, the camaraderie of the whole team is based on trust and all of us are working towards only one goal and that is to see India win.

"I would like to mention, he fulfilled his responsibility in Australia with flying colours, it was amazing to see him lead the team towards victory, which has always been our goal," Kohli said.

Kohli believes that his bonding with Rahane off the field also helps in their on-field relationship.

"Me and *Jinks*, we have always enjoyed batting with each other. It's quite evident on the field that we share mutual respect. There is bonding off the field also. We do chat a lot, stay in touch and it's a relation based on trust."

Liverpool lose again at home

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool's Premier League title defence suffered a damaging blow as Brighton earned a shock 1-0 win at Anfield, while Manchester City moved three points clear at the top with a 2-0 victory against Burnley on Wednesday.

Jürgen Klopp's side paid the price for a sloppy display as Steven Alzate's second half strike gave struggling Brighton a memorable success at the expense of the injury-hit champions.

Brighton's first away league win against Liverpool since 1982 was secured in the 56th minute when Dan Burn headed a cross towards Alzate and the Colombia midfielder flicked his shot inside the far post.

Liverpool are languishing in fourth place and trail Manchester City by seven points, with the leaders holding a game in hand.



CITY ON TOP

Pep Guardiola's side had watched Manchester United draw level on points with them on Tuesday after their bitter rivals

crushed Southampton 9-0. But City underlined their determination to hold onto top spot with a composed, mature display at Turf Moor.

Gabriel Jesus opened the scoring after a mistake from Burnley keeper Nick Pope and Raheem Sterling grabbed the second before half-time.

Elsewhere, Leicester beat struggling Fulham 2-0 to improve their superb away league record. Despite the absence of injured leading scorer Jamie Vardy, Kelechi Iheanacho opened the scoring for Brendan Rodgers' men and James Justin doubled their lead on the stroke of half-time.

Jesse Lingard scored twice on his West Ham debut to clinch a 3-1 victory at Aston Villa. While Dominic Calvert-Lewin and Gylfi Sigurdsson scored in Everton's 2-1 victory at Leeds.

Crawley out of first 2 Tests

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Fast-rising England opener Zak Crawley was on Thursday ruled out of the first two Test matches against India after sustaining a freak wrist injury on his 23rd birthday.

Crawley, who turned 23 on Wednesday, had slipped on the marble floor of the Chepauk dressing room, thereby injuring his wrist. The first Test begins here on Friday.

"Following the results of last night's scan, England top-order batsman Zak Crawley has been ruled out of the first

two Tests of the India versus England series," the ECB said in a media release.

"Scan results have confirmed that Crawley has jarred his right wrist, which has sprained the joint and led to local inflammation. The England medical team will continue to assess his progress over the next few weeks," it stated.

"Yeah, it's really frustrating and really frustrating for Zak in particular, real freak incident (the way it happened)," Root said at the pre-match media interaction.

"Walking out the change between slipped over and landed on his wrist, so hard

for him to take specially at the back off, trying to get as best prepared as well possible for this series and of course...

"...It means, we have to look at things from a selection point of view. I think from as a more general saying I think everything on the table in terms of selection one way, and we get to the ground, look at the conditions, look at the surface again and try and have real clarity going into the game." "There's a number of different things we've got, we've got some brilliant players, brilliant options to choose from and we look at the balance of the side and things as well..."

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of passengers that the timings of the following Special Trains will be revised as under:-

Revised Timing 02813/02814 Bhubaneswar-Anand Vihar Terminal-Bhubaneswar Express Special (Weekly)								
Train No. 02813				↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 02814			
Existing Timings	Revised Timings		Existing Timings		Revised Timings			
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	
13:26	13:28	13:41	13:43	Dhenkanal	13:18	13:20	13:28	13:30
15:00	15:02	14:45	14:47	Angul	12:40	12:42	12:50	12:32
16:04	16:06	16:03	16:05	Rairakhol	10:50	10:52	10:50	10:52

Revised Timings effective from : 02813 from 13.02.2021 and 02814 from 15.02.2021

Revised Timing 02855/02856 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Express Special								
Train No. 02855				↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 02856			
Existing Timings	Revised Timings		Existing Timings		Revised Timings			
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	
08:32	08:34	08:32	08:34	Dhenkanal	18:09	18:11	18:09	18:11
09:35	09:37	09:25	09:27	Angul	17:15	17:17	17:00	17:02
11:23	11:25	11:23	11:25	Sambalpur City	14:55	14:57	14:55	14:57

Revised Timings effective from : 02855 from 13.02.2021 and 02856 from 14.02.2021

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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