

OPINION 6
END OF THE
GOLDEN AGE?

WORLD 8
CHINA SPACECRAFT ENTERS MARS
ORBIT, 2ND IN 2 DAYS AFTER UAE

SPORT 12
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OF AUS OPEN

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RISHIKESH
HAS BEEN
LUCKY: BHUMI
10 VIVACITY



Disengagement begins from Pangong

In a first step to restore peace at LAC, India, China pull back troops from Tso

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The nearly 10-month-old stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh saw some positive development on Wednesday with the Chinese and Indian frontline troops pulling back from the flashpoints at the Pangong Tso (lake).

Making this announcement in Beijing, Chinese defence spokesperson Colonel Wu Qian said the troops from both the sides started synchronised and organised disengagement at the south and north banks of the lake. He also said the disengagement commenced "simultaneously and systematically."

However, there was no official comment from the Indian side, so far, on the statement made by the Chinese defence ministry spokesperson and carried by China's official media. The Government was likely to make a statement in this regard in Parliament on Thursday, it was learnt.

Sources, however, indicated here that the process of disengagement had begun. They said some tanks were withdrawn and thinning out of troops had taken place. They also said it was the first step in a long process to restore peace along the LAC.



The Chinese spokesperson said the disengagement began as part of the consensus reached in the ninth round of Corps Commander-level talks between India and China on January 24.

Sources said the partial pullback was a confidence-building measure to break the persisting logjam. The withdrawal of the

armoured elements or tanks from one of the multiple friction points in the East Ladakh sector comes nearly a fortnight after military commanders of the two armies agreed on January 24 to push for an early disengagement of their frontline troops.

This move by both the sides was the first such step to defuse tension at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh which also witnessed a bloody brawl on June 15 killing 20 Indian soldiers, including the commanding officer. The Chinese side also suffered casualties and unconfirmed reports pegged the number at 35.

After the ninth round of talks, a joint statement issued by both the armies said it was agreed to push for an early disengagement of the frontline troops. They also agreed to follow the important consensus of their State leaders, maintain the good momentum of dialogue and negotiation, and hold the 10th round of the Corps Commander-level meeting at an early date to jointly advance de-escalation.

The two sides agreed to continue their effective efforts in ensuring the restraint of the frontline troops, stabilise and control the situation along the LAC in the Western Sector of

the China-India border, and jointly maintain peace and tranquility.

Incidentally, the Indian Army in an action in August last year established posts at all the strategic hill tops on the southern and northern banks of the lake. It put the Chinese troops at a great disadvantage as the Indians were able to monitor their every movement.

Also, the first face-off in May last year started from the Pangong Lake when the Chinese and Indian troops exchanged blows leaving several injured. The incident occurred when the Chinese stopped the Indian patrol claiming it was in the Chinese territory. Meanwhile, the Chinese reports as mentioned in *The Global Times* quoted Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University that after a prolonged nine rounds of record-breaking talks between the two militaries, particularly the three most recent rounds of meetings in which both sides struck more and more consensus and the atmosphere became more constructive, disengagement became a natural step.

"This event will ease the border tensions and play important role in resuming peace and stability to the region as soon as possible," Qian said.

Calling the move a breakthrough, analysts noted that the

location of the disengagement had been a focus and a core issue of the months-long border faceoff.

The situation in the northern bank of the Pangong Tso

had long been in deadlock, and as India attempted to force China to make compromise, it made provocations on the southern bank in August 2020, Qian said, noting that the rea-

son some of the recent negotiations failed to make significant progress is the differences at this location which has been a core issue.

Continued on Page 2

China harps on 'package solution' to India's bid for UNSC permanent seat

PTI ■ BEIJING

China, which has been blocking India's efforts to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council, on Wednesday reiterated its stand on New Delhi's bid, and called for evolving a "package solution" that is acceptable to all to reform the top organ of the global body.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wang Wenbin's comments in response to a question came a day after India and China discussed a wide range of issues relating to top UN body.

China is a permanent member of the UNSC while India began its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member on January 1. In August, India is scheduled to serve as the president of the UNSC.

Asked about the outcome of the meeting and whether there was any discussion on India's candidature for permanent membership of the

UNSC, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang told a media briefing here that during Tuesday's virtual meeting, the two sides held consultations on Security Council issues.

The two sides exchanged views on upholding multilateralism, peacekeeping operations and counter-terrorism, he said.

"As for India's bid for permanent membership to the UNSC, I can reiterate China's principled position on this issue. China supports UNSC reforms in a manner that increases the authority and efficacy of the UNSC, increases the representation and voice of developing countries so that small and medium-sized countries have a greater opportunity to participate in the decision making of the UNSC," he said.

"It should be done through the widest possible democratic consultation and seek a package solution that takes into account the interests and

concerns of all parties," he said.

China is part of the permanent five (P5) of the UNSC with veto power has been stonewalling India's efforts to become member of UN's powerful body for years pointing to lack of consensus even though the other four, US, UK, France and Russia have expressed backing for New Delhi's membership. Beijing's all-weather ally Pakistan is also opposed to India becoming a permanent member of the UNSC.

India and China on Tuesday held discussions on a wide range of issues relating to the UNSC, the Ministry of External Affairs said in New Delhi.

The MEA said the Chinese delegation was briefed about India's priorities during its UNSC tenure in the meeting that took place in the virtual format. It said both sides agreed to continue their engagement on key issues on the UNSC agenda.

PM: Kisan stir sacred, but 'andolan jivi' hijacked it

Modi slams Opp for 'misleading' farmers on farm laws; Cong, TMC stage walkout

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday once again defended the three controversial farm laws and accused the Opposition of "misleading" the farmers while calling their protest as a "planned strategy" and reiterating his "andolan jivi" jibe against the agitators. Upset with the PM's remarks, the Congress and the TMC staged walkout from the Lok Sabha.

"Kisan Andolan" is sacred, but when "andolan jivi" hijack it and show pictures of those jailed for terrorism, what purpose does it serve, the Prime Minister said in the Lok Sabha while speaking on the vote of thanks on President's address.

PM Modi had used the term "andolan jivi" first during his speech in the Rajya Sabha.



The Prime Minister invited agitating farmers to "sit across and resolve the issue" as he asserted that the laws offer "one more option" to the agriculturalists to sell their produce and are not compulsory for everyone to follow.

Against the backdrop of the ongoing farmers' stir on the borders of Delhi and deadlock in the talks with the Government, Modi stressed the need to move ahead with the farm reforms by breaking the long-held status quo in farming which he said has turned "non-remunerative".

Modi first asked, "Whether new laws taken away the rights

available in the old system...?" He then himself answered saying "ye kisan kisi ke liye bandhan nahin hai...this is optional where you have benefits...Virodh ka karan nahin banta". The PM speech was disrupted by slogan-shouting Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and his party MPs who later stages a walkout from the House.

The motion of thanks was passed by the House after the Prime Minister concluded his address.

The Sanyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) reacted angrily to the PM's remarks and said: "We condemn the charge made by the PM and we would like to remind him that it was andolan jivi who helped India break free from colonial rulers and so we are proud of being andolan jivi. It is the BJP and its forefathers who have never participated in an agitation against the British. They were always afraid of people's movements and that is why they are afraid of people's movements even now," the SKM said in a statement.

Continued on Page 2

Farmers announce 4-hour nationwide 'rail roko' on Feb 18

Won't allow toll collection in Raj from Feb 12: SKM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Protesting farmers on Wednesday announced a four-hour nationwide rail blockade on February 18 as they renewed their strategy to intensify their agitation, which also included a candlelight march on February 14 in the memory of those killed in the 2019 Pulwama terrorist attack.

In a statement, the Sanyukta Kisan Morcha, (SKM) also said toll collection will not be allowed in Rajasthan from February 12 as part of their week-long protest plan.

The SKM said in the statement that in a meeting on Wednesday farmer unions decided to escalate their agitation. "There will be a 'rail roko' programme across the country from 12 pm to 4 pm on

February 18," the SKM said. Earlier this month, the protesting farmers had observed a three-hour road blockade to press their demand of repealing the three laws.

SKM leader Darshan Pal said candle marches, "Mashaal Juloo" (torch marches) and other programmes will be held across the country on February 14 in respect of the sacrifices of the 40 CRPF personnel who were killed in a terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir's Pulwama on February 14, 2019.

He said the farmers also will hold events in a show of solidarity on the birth anniversary of Sir Chhotu Ram — who was one of the most prominent pre-partition farmer leaders — on February 16.

The announcement comes on a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Government and Parliament have great respect for farmers who are voicing their views on the three farm laws.

Continued on Page 2

Twitter suspends 500 accounts, accedes to Govt order partially

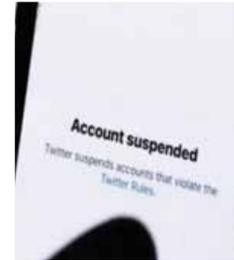
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid its stand-off with the Centre, Twitter on Wednesday partly acceded to a Government order to curb the spread of alleged misinformation and inflammatory content around farmers' protests. The microblogging site said it has suspended over 500 accounts and blocked access to several others within India.

Twitter, in a blog post, said it has not blocked accounts consisting of "news media entities, journalists, activists and politicians" as doing so "would violate their fundamental right to free expression" guaranteed under the country's law.

Twitter's decision to counter the Ministry of Electronics and IT's order by not cancelling many other accounts and offering a public explanation through a blog has not amused the Ministry.

The Ministry termed as "unusual" Twitter's move to publish the blogpost before a slated talks with the IT Secretary on the issue, as sought by the US company. Interestingly, the Ministry



replied to Twitter through a newly-developed homegrown social networking platform, Koo, which has been joined by several Ministers, Ministries and prominent rightwingers.

Upon the request of Twitter seeking a meeting with the Government, the Secretary IT was to engage with senior management of Twitter. In this light, a blog post published prior to this engagement is unusual," the IT Ministry said in its response on Koo. The Government will share its response soon, the post on Koo said.

In the blog post, Twitter said it will continue to advocate for the right of free expression

of its users and that it is "actively exploring options under Indian law — both for Twitter and for the accounts that have been impacted".

The development comes against the backdrop of the Government on February 4 ordering Twitter to take down 1,178 accounts with links to Pakistan and Khalistan supporters that were spreading misinformation and provocative content related to farmers' protest. In all, Twitter has taken action against over 1,000 accounts — 500 as sought by the Government and an equal number that were found by the company engaging in platform manipulation and spam.

The Government had late last month sought to block 257 tweets and handles in connection with the agitation by farmers over the new pro-market agricultural laws.

Twitter complied, only to restore the accounts hours later. This led to the Government issuing a non-compliance notice and a warning of stringent penalties and potential jail terms.

Continued on Page 2

SC notice to Govt on plea against Viraat dismantling

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered status quo on dismantling India's decommissioned aircraft carrier "Viraat" which was in service with the Indian Navy for nearly three decades but issued notice to the Centre and the firm dismantling the aircraft carrier.

A private firm has moved the apex court in a last ditch effort to save "Viraat" which has been dismantled about 30 per cent by another company that had bought it through an auction.

The petitioner-firm has offered to pay ₹100 crore for the ship so that it can be converted into a museum instead of being dismantled.

Continued on Page 2

Maa Annapurna to return to India after 100 yrs

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has expedited the process of bringing back 18th century Maa Annapurna idol from Canada and sought quotations from private firms handling artefacts to ferry the antiquity here.

An official from the Union Culture Ministry said around four firms have submitted the quotations so far showing interest in bringing back the idol which was said to have been stolen from a temple in Varanasi and transported to Canada over a century back.

"We are in the process of closing the quotation," said the official while refusing to share further details in the matter.

Initially, the antique idol was part of the University of Regina, Thomas Chase university's collection in its MacKenzie Art Gallery in Canada. However, it was handed over by the interim president and vice-chancellor of the University of Regina,



Thomas Chase, to India's High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria, in a virtual event that was also attended by officials from Global Affairs Canada and Canada Border Service Agency.

Initially, it was proposed to be repatriated to India by mid-December last year, but because of various unavoidable rea-

sons, it could not happen, the official said.

He added that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is the nodal agency to execute the task, being the official custodian of all such repatriated idols.

The Annapurna, also spelt Annapoorna, known as the

goddess of food, shot in fame after Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned about its arrival from Canada to its original home in Varanasi. The PM was addressing the public on Dev Deepawali Mahotsav on November 30, 2020.

"Every Indian would feel proud to know that an ancient idol of Maa Annapurna is being brought back from Canada to India. This idol was stolen from a temple of Varanasi (Modi's Lok Sabha constituency) and smuggled out of the country around 100 years ago somewhere around 1913," Modi said.

"Mata Annapurna has a very special bond with Kashi (Varanasi). And the return of the idol is very pleasant for all of us. Like the statue of Mata Annapurna, much of our heritage has been a victim of international gangs," he added.

The Indian High Commission in Canada in a statement said the university recently discovered that the

Annapurna statue may have been acquired "under suspicious circumstances and did not conform to current principles of ethical acquisition".

Bisaria said, "The move to voluntary repatriate such cultural treasures shows the level of maturity and understanding in India-Canada relations."

That it may have been illegally brought to Canada was first raised by artist Diviya Mehra as she was going through the collection while preparing for her exhibition, which began in August this year. Later, Dr Siddhartha V Shah, curator of Indian and South Asian Art at the Peabody Essex Museum, identified the statue as the Hindu goddess from her "female physical characteristics."

She holds a bowl of kheer (rice pudding) in one hand and a spoon in the other. These are items associated with Annapoorna, who is the goddess of food and the queen of the city of Varanasi," he has been quoted as saying.

Man remanded in 7-day police custody for Red Fort violence

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A man, arrested from Punjab in connection with the Red Fort violence on Republic Day during farmers' tractor parade against the Centre's three new agri laws was sent to 7-day police custody by a Delhi court on Wednesday.

Iqbal Singh, carrying a reward of ₹50,000 on his arrest, was nabbed from Hoshiarpur by the Delhi Police's Special Cell and brought to the national Capital on Wednesday.

He was produced before Metropolitan Magistrate Poorva Mehra, who sent him for custodial interrogation after the police said his interrogation was required to confront him with several videos and identify other accused persons for the violence.

CAPSULE

NURSERY ADMISSIONS IN DELHI FROM FEB 18

New Delhi: Nursery admissions in Delhi will begin from February 18, the Directorate of Education (DoE) announced on Wednesday. "The application process will begin on February 18 and the first list is expected on March 20. The entire process will conclude on March 31," Yogesh Pal Singh, Assistant Director of Education, said.

CONG, AKALI WORKERS CLASH IN MOGA: 2 DEAD

Chandigarh: Two persons were killed in a clash between the Congress and Akali workers campaigning for municipal polls in Mogga.

GADGET ACCESS TO EWS KIDS: SC STAYS HC ORDER

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the Delhi High Court verdict which directed schools to provide gadgets and internet packages to students from economically weaker section so that they have access to online classes.

PM deplores insult to pvt sector for votes

If 'babus' belong to country so do youngsters: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday stressed on the private sector's vital role in the economy and asserted that the culture of "abusing" it for votes is no longer acceptable. If the public sector is important, the role of the private sector is also vital, he said during his reply in the Lok Sabha to the discussion on the motion of thanks to the President's address. Noting that wealth creators are a necessity for the country as only then wealth can

be redistributed to help the poor, he wondered what can be achieved by handing over the nation to "babus" (government officials). Just because somebody is an IAS officer, he is running fertiliser and chemical factories to airlines, Modi said in a reference to public sector units being headed by bureaucrats, and asked what this will achieve. "If our babus belong to the country so do our youngsters," the Prime Minister said. Pitching for private enterprises, Modi said there should be faith in the abilities of India's young population and everyone should get opportunities. Modi cited the examples of telecom and pharma sectors to note as to how the robust pres-

ence of private firms in these fields has helped people, with even the poor using smart phones, and mobile calls costing virtually nothing due to competitiveness. If India is able to serve humanity during the Covid-19 pandemic, it is also due to the role of the private sector, he said. "To use improper words against the private sector may have got votes for a few people in the past but those times are gone. The culture of abusing the private sector is not acceptable any longer. We cannot keep insulting our youth like this," he said. The Modi Government has announced in the Budget its fresh push for disinvestment in the public sector, drawing criticism from the Opposition.

Road to fighting climate change is through climate justice: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the road to fighting climate change is through climate justice and called for giving developing countries enough space to grow. Addressing the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS), Modi said two things will define how the progress journey of humanity will unfold in the times to come — "health of our people and health of our planet, both of which are interlinked". "The road to fighting climate change is through climate justice. At the root of climate justice is the principle of being large-hearted. Climate justice is also about thinking about the bigger and long-term picture," he said. The remarks at the Summit, which brings together a wide range of experts to discuss ways to mitigate climate change, come

amid a continuing tug of war between developed and developing countries on who needs to do more to save the environment by reducing emissions. Noting that the sad reality is that environmental changes and natural disasters impact the poor the most, Modi said climate justice is inspired by a vision of trusteeship where growth comes with greater compassion for the poorest. "Climate justice also means giving the developing countries enough space to grow. When each and every one of us understand our individual and collective duties, climate justice will be achieved," he said. Asserting that India's intent is supported by concrete action, Modi said the country, powered by spirited public efforts, is on track to exceed its commitments and targets set at the Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015.

Kisan Kranti Park will be built at Ghazipur border, says Tikait

STAFF REPORTER ■ GHAZIABAD



The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader, Rakesh Tikait on Wednesday said that they will build a Kisan Kranti Park at Ghazipur border, which is one of the protest sites of ongoing farmers agitating against the Centre's new farm laws. The farmers are campaigning at Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders of National Capital for last 76 days, demanding government to repeal the farm laws. Addressing the people at Ghazipur, Tikait said that they have started by planting flowers and a flag will be planted in the park. "The Government wants to prolong the movement. The farmers have also formulated the strategy in the same way. The movement will be carried out as a strategy on the border. The farmer who reaches the movement site on Monday will return home on Monday itself.

In this way, the agitators will be able to keep an eye on the movement and also on their fields," said Tikait. "If the need arises, the movement can be started from October onwards. The summer season is coming and now we have to install big generators here and if the Government does not want generators to run here, then they can provide electricity connection and farmers will also pay electricity bill," said Tikait. Tikait also asked the farmers to join the movement with a week-long strategy. He said that this movement can continue even after October, the government is mistaken that they will go in the heat. Meanwhile, Tikait also requested Bablu Mann to recite patriotic songs. People from the local Muslim community have also come out in support on the Ghazipur border. Sweet rice and biryani were also being given at the protest site on Wednesday. Farmers said that people have not diminished at the site of the movement and most of the farmers are staying in their tents due the rising mercury and temperature.

U'khand disaster: Drones, remote sensors deployed to locate workers trapped in tunnel, 170 still missing

Dehradun/Tapovan: Using drones and remote-sensing equipment, rescue teams intensified efforts Wednesday to reach the 25-35 men trapped in a sludge-choked tunnel as over 170 people remained missing after the Uttarakhand disaster three days ago. Two of the men earlier counted among the 174 missing returned home safely after being stranded since the flash flood in Chamoli district. Two more bodies were recovered during the day, raising the confirmed death toll to 34. The multi-agency rescue operation at the NTPC hydel project site has been going on uninterrupted since Sunday, when the Alaknanda river system was hit by the flood triggered possibly by a glacier break or an avalanche in the upper reaches of the Himalayas. Eight of the 32 bodies earlier recovered from different places in the disaster-hit areas of Chamoli district had been identified, the State Emergency Control Centre in Dehradun said. The missing people include those working at

NTPC's 480 MW Tapovan-Vishnugad project and the 13.2 MW Rishiganga Hydel Project and villagers whose homes were washed away as a wall of water came hurtling down mountainsides. A focal point of the rescue work has been efforts to penetrate through tonnes of silt, sludge and debris to get to the about 30 people, who were at work inside the 1,500-metre tunnel at Tapovan when the waters came rushing in. Indo-Tibetan Border Police chief S S Deswal said the rescue operation to locate the workers trapped in the tunnel will continue till it reaches its "logical conclusion." "We are very hopeful that we will be able to rescue them. The workers are stated to be located at their work station that is about 180 metres from the mouth of the Tapovan tunnel," he told PTI. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Nilesh Anand Bhanne, Uttarakhand Police chief spokesperson, said drilling through the debris has become more difficult with the silt inside the tunnel drying up and getting harder. PTI

Pak intruder shot by Army near LoC in Uri Sector

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

The Army has shot dead an "intruder" along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir's Uri sector, officials said on Wednesday. "Two infiltrators were spotted crossing the Rewand Nala along the Line of Control (LoC) by surveillance devices in Uri. A search operation was launched and contact was established. Pakistani post fired back to provide cover to one of the infiltrators," an Army official said. In an operation, one infiltrator was killed and an AK-47 rifle, a magazine and 30 rounds were seized, he said. A search operation is in progress, the official said. A police official identified the "intruder" as Sarfraz Mir (56), a resident of Kundibarjala Kamalkote in Uri. "Mir had crossed the LoC in 1990 and then returned in 1992. He surrendered (before security forces) in 1995 and then went back to Pakistan in 2005," the official said. Also, an identity card issued by authorities of Muzaffarabad area in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir has been recovered by the Army, the police official said.

Dominica PM lauds Modi for sending vaccines

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit has lauded his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for sending Covid-19 vaccines to the Caribbean nation and said he never imagined that his request to India would be answered so swiftly. He said being the leader of a small Caribbean island with a population of 72,000 people, he did not fancy the chances of such a prompt positive response to his request from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "I must confess I did not imagine that the prayers of my country would be answered so swiftly. One would have thought and understood that in a global pandemic such as this, a nation's size and might would

Last month, Skerrit had requested Modi to send vaccines so that his country could begin vaccination drive have been the primary consideration. But to the credit of Prime Minister Modi our request was considered on merit and the equality of our people was recognised," he said at a ceremony after the vaccines arrived from India. Last month, Skerrit had requested Modi to send vaccines so that his country could begin the vaccination drive. "I would like to take this opportunity to once again express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Prime Minister Modi, his government and the citizens of India," he said.

Scientists develop monsoon forecast model to help kisan

PTI ■ LONDON

Scientists, including those of Indian-origin, have developed a new system which they say can provide farmers in India early forecasts of expected variations in the monsoon season, an advance which may help reduce crop losses. The researchers, including those from the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) in the UK, used their long-term global weather forecasting system to predict when the summer monsoon will start, and how much rainfall it will bring. In the study, published in the journal Climate Dynamics, they noted that the model provided accurate forecasts a month in advance for the tim-

ing of the monsoon in India's major agricultural regions. The scientists believe providing this information to farmers could help them prepare earlier for unexpected heavy rainfall or extended dry periods, both of which regularly destroy crops in India. According to the researchers, the Indian monsoon brings around 80 per cent of India's annual rainfall with even small variations in the timing of its arrival potentially having a huge impact on agriculture. "Accurately predicting these year-to-year variations is challenging, but could be the difference between prosperity or poverty for many families," said study co-author Amulya Chevuturi from the University of Reading in the UK.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client, ASHOK KUMAR S/o Sh. Surja Ram R/o Ward No.07, Jhansi, Jhunjhun, Rajasthan-333502 and Koshiya Devi, W/o Ashok Kumar R/o Ward No. 07, Rangaj, Jhunjhun, Rajasthan-333502, hereby solemnly affirm and declare, that the deponent has debarred/drawn his name only Son AJEET KUMAR and Son In Law SURJINDER KUMAR from the aforesaid and immovable properties and has severed all types of relationships with him due to his quarrelsome temperament/ conduct and illegal acts. The contents of the above affidavit and application have been drafted upon the indication if the deponent, which are correct, and nothing has been concealed therefrom. Madan Gopal Vachar (Advocate) Ch. 236 Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client MISS. VEENA DUREJA D/O Late Bishan Dass Dureja, R/O, B-1/230, G.F Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, Partner of the firm MIS. CONCORDE COURIERS & TRAVELS, situated at N-1A/31, Kirli Complex, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, after the death of her father Bishan Dass Dureja expired on 31.08.2016, who was one of the partner in the said firm. That my client will be responsible for any type of claim/litigation if incurred in future regarding the same. J.C. TRIKHA (Advocate) Ch.No. M-4, C.S., Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54.

PM: Kisan stir sacred, but 'andolan jivis' hijacked it

From Page 1 Modi hit out at the Congress for adopting two separate models on the vote of thanks debate in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha, participating in the former and boycotting the latter and described it as a "confused party that could do no good to the country." The Prime Minister said dialogue with farmers even when it was restricted in Punjab was on and "we made all efforts to clear doubts on the farm laws." "If some gaps or lacunae are there, nothing harm in changing it if it is convincing, we will change it," he said. Modi said amid interruptions that in fact Minimum Support Price (MSP) increased after implementation of any new farm laws. He said there is no restriction on the old 'mandis' and more money allotted in the Budget to modernise them. He quoted kisan leader (from Western Uttar Pradesh) Rakesh Tikait (two haills) and former Prime Minister. Charan Singh from his book Bharat ki Arthniti to buttress his case for

new farm laws where Singh advocates removal of restrictions in the trading of farm produce and creating a single farm market in the country. "Taking a swipe at what he called 'andolanjivi', Modi said the country need to be saved from them who he said attacked Toll-plaza and destroyed telecom wires during agitation. "This section believes that talking is right thing, they only believe in talking and hate those who do right things", the Prime Minister said and pointed that the same group "speaks of gender justice but opposes triple talaq, speaks for the environment but supports parauli-burners". The Prime Minister said our country is very diverse and one should not think that any new thing will have 100 per cent acceptance. "We are not feudal", he said. When TMC MP Saugata Roy said, "Kisan does not want new laws", the Prime Minister said, "I am saying the same. They can adopt the old system". Modi, however, said status quo need to be changed if India

wants to have its share and standing in "new post-coronavirus world order." Accusing Opposition leaders of misleading farmers and indulging in "double-talk", the Prime Minister cited NCP leader and Agriculture Minister (Sharad Pawar) who he said had advocated change in the 'mandi-system' and need to break their "nexus". Opposition parties in some States too changed farm laws but now opposing new farm laws, he said and likened this attitude to "Na kheloonga, na khelne doonga aur khel bigadunga" (neither I will do good, nor let others do the same), he said amidst a peel of laughter in the Treasury Benches. The Prime Minister spoke of several infrastructure projects undertaken by his Government within the country and along borders including those on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). He said work is in progress on 75 bridges along LAC (on the India-China border) and also spoke of high morale of county's Army to defend the country.

Farmers announce 4-hour nationwide 'rail roko' on Feb 18

From Page 1 Earlier in the day, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait asserted that the agitating farmers were not aiming at any change in power at the Centre but a solution to their problems as he said many of their leaders will tour different parts of the country to spread the movement. Addressing the protesting farmers at Singhu border, Tikait said that the agitation against the farm laws will stretch till the Centre addresses their issues. "We do not aim change in power (at the Centre). The government should do its work. We want it to repeal the farm laws and ensure a law on MSP," he said. Tikait said that the agitation will be long drawn and continue till the Government starts talks with farmer leaders. The protesting farmer unions have been alleging the laws will weaken the MSP mechanism and end the mandi system. But the Government says the new legislations offer more options to farmers to sell their crops, and will help raise their incomes.

SC notice to Govt on plea against...

From Page 1 A Bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde issued notice to the Centre and the firm dismantling the aircraft carrier on the plea. "Issue notice. In the meantime, parties are directed to maintain status quo with regard to dismantling/breaking of the subject-ship known as INS Viraat, as on date," the bench said in its order. The centaur-class aircraft carrier, INS Viraat, was in service with the Indian Navy for 29 years before being decommissioned in March 2017. During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, the top court asked Rupali Sharma, petitioner in person representing firm Envitech Marine Consultants Pvt Ltd, as to how much they are willing to pay for the "passion of preserving national monument". The bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, told Sharma, "The firm which had bought the ship has spent over

₹125 crore. Tell us how much you are going to spend? Tell us, how much you are going to pay for your passion of preserving national monuments?" Sharma told the bench that they had approached the firm which bought Viraat at an auction for ₹38.54 crore in July last year. She said the company which bought Viraat has sought Rs 100 crore for the ship from her firm and an No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Centre for selling it. The bench said it is issuing notice and directing for status quo on further dismantling of the ship. Viraat had reached the Alang ship breaking yard from Mumbai in September last year and the dismantling process was going on. Shree Ram Group at Alang in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat has bought Viraat at an auction in July last year for Rs 38.54 crore and it began the dismantling process in December last year. The Centre had in July 2019 informed the Parliament that the decision to scrap Viraat was taken after due consultation with the Indian Navy. Viraat is the second aircraft carrier which is being dismantled in India. In 2014, Vikrant was dismantled in Mumbai.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that (20) 02) D. Car of Miss. Neelam & Miss. Gaytri issued by ICICI Bank against the property No. 6620 & 10166 has been found missing and/or lost on 15.01.2021. Anyone who finds the said ID card is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager, Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sector, Near INA Colony, New Delhi-110015, the legal owner of DDA Janta Flat No. 1529, Second Floor, Pkt-16-B, Dwarika, Phase-II, Delhi, has applied for the cancellation of the aforesaid property from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The Original Allotment Letter, Demand Letter and Possession Letter, of the above Flat has been lost. An FIR/NCR to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 122328/2021. Any person/claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9598957455 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to, Director (Housing) R, Block 3rd Floor, or Director (H) A, Block, Vikas Sadar, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Ilyas Khan is owner of Gyankhanda-II/29, addressing 112.50 sq. mtrs, in the residential colony Indraprastha Ghaziabad, (the said property) by virtue of sale deed dated 11.09.2018, executed by Mrs. Jyoti Mehtani, who became the owner of the said property vide mutation letter issued by GDA after demise of her husband Late Mr. Dushyant K. Mehtani. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want take Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the said sale deed/said property and its ownership / Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-4111327-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

Disengagement begins from...

From Page 1 "Hopefully India can block China half way and strictly carry out the consensus reached by both sides, so that the disengagement can take place smoothly," Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson at China's ministry of foreign affairs, said on the side lines of a routine press conference on Wednesday. Now both sides should monitor each other over the disengagement and make sure they all abide by the agreement, Qian said. While it remains difficult to cancel the tense stand-off and return to peace and stability once and for all, the future looks promising, Qian said.

Twitter suspends 500 accounts, accedes to Govt order partially

From Page 1 Seeking to clarify its stance, Twitter in its blog post said it had taken steps to reduce the visibility of the hashtags containing harmful content that included prohibiting them from trending on Twitter and appearing as recommended search terms. It has "withheld a portion of the accounts identified in the blocking orders" within India, making them accessible only outside the country. Stating that it has informed the IT Ministry (MeitY) of its enforcement action, Twitter said it has taken a range

over 500 accounts suspended across all MeitY orders - including permanent suspension in certain cases for violation of its rules. "...Today, we have withheld a portion of the accounts identified in the blocking orders under our Country Withheld Content policy within India only. These accounts continue to be available outside of India," Twitter said. It, however, did not provide details of the handles against whom action had been taken. Twitter argued that it has not taken any action on accounts that consist of news media entities, journalists, activists, and politicians as it does "not believe that the actions we have been directed to take are consistent with Indian law, and, in keeping with our principles of defending protected speech and freedom of expression".

Twitter argued that it has not taken any action on accounts that consist of news media entities, journalists, activists, and politicians as it does "not believe that the actions we have been directed to take are consistent with Indian law, and, in keeping with our principles of defending protected speech and freedom of expression".

कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक (अभियन्त्रण) उ०प्र० राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण, ए-1/4 लखनपुर, कानपुर

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के निम्नलिखित विद्युत विकास कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में अर्ह 'ए' श्रेणी में विद्युत लाईसेन्सी फर्मों/डीलरों/अनुमोदी निर्माता/लाइसेन्सी देकादरों से अल्पकालीन ई-निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। जो दिनांक 11.02.2021 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 18.02.2021 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती हैं। जिन्हें दिनांक 19.02.2021 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे खोला जायेगा। निविदा दाताओं द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ दिनांक 22.02.2021 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती हैं। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा सम्बन्धी विवरण निम्नवत है:-

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत रु० (लाख में)
1	Construction of 1X5 MVA, 33/11 KV Sub-Station at I.A. Trishundi, Sultanpur	241.02
2	Construction of 1X5 MVA, 33/11 KV Sub-Station at Mega Food Park Baheri, Bareilly	241.28
3	Providing street light fittings in housing sector- 12A at Saraswati Hi-Tech City Naini, Allahabad	143.54

नोट:- 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जी०एस०टी० सहित देय अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा।
2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय 'विद्युत सूचना विभाग' उ०प्र० शासन, लखनऊ में श्रेणी 'क' अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा।
निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी निगम की website: www.upsidc.com पर स्थित ई-लिक एवं यूट्यूब चैनल की website: http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (मु०) विद्युत उ०प्र०/औद्योगिक, कानपुर

Nursery admissions to begin from Feb 18

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Education (DoE) on Wednesday announced that the process for nursery admissions in over 1,700 schools in Delhi will begin from February 18.

The application process will begin from February 18 as per notified schedule and the last date to apply is March 4. The first list of selected children will be displayed on March 20, followed by the second list on March 25 and subsequent list for admission, if any, on March 27. The entire admission process will conclude on March 31.

"Congratulations to all parents and children. We have to bring the excitement back in schools after defeating coronavirus. Our schools are waiting for their students," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, referring to the notification of nursery admission schedule.

The DoE has also directed that since schools are closed in view of the Covid-19 pandemic and physical class room learning is not going on for entry level classes at present, no fee except prescribed registration fee, admission fee, caution fee (if school already charges) and tuition fee, shall be charged at the time of admission by the schools and thereafter only tuition fee shall be charged from the students till further orders.

The DoE has also asked to furnish required information, following which the application process is rolled out in December. However, there has been no development on it in 2020.

The Delhi government officials had in December said that a proposal to scrap nursery admissions is being considered as the schools have been closed for nine months due to COVID-19 and will remain closed till a vaccine is available. A whole year of online learning for small children seems unviable, they had said. But school principals had opposed this idea.

However, Deputy Chief



Minister Manish Sisodia last month had ruled out scrapping nursery admissions.

"No deviation from the above schedule shall be permitted. Each school shall display the admission schedule on its notice board and website. Further each school shall ensure that application forms for admission are made available to all applicants till the last date of submission of admission's application form," Udit Prakash Raj, Director of DOE told PTI.

"Only a non-refundable amount of Rs 25 can be charged from the parents as admission registration fee. The purchase of prospectus of the school by the parents shall be optional," he added.

As per norms, all private unaided recognized schools admitting children in pre-school, pre-primary and Class-I level shall reserve 25 per cent seats for EWS or DG category students and children with disability.

"The number of seats at the entry levels shall not be less than the highest number of seats in the entry level classes during the last three years 2018-19, 2019-20 & 2020-21. The details of all entry level classes along with the seats available for admission must be declared by all schools," the Director said.

Teen stalks 50 girls on social media, held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 19-year-old boy who allegedly harassed more than 50 women including minors by stalking them on social media and morphing their pictures. Police said that he was arrested from Faridabad area. The accused has been identified as Rahim Khan and he studied upto class 8th. Police said that he is professionally engaged in operating various morphing apps.

"The accused Khan harassed more than 50 women including minors over various social media platforms after stalking their profiles and initiated sexting with them using a fake identity of a woman. He even targeted minor girls by morphing their pictures," said police.

According to Ingit Pratap Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southwest district, an action was taken against Khan after a complaint was received on Tuesday at RP Puram police station by one of the victim who alleged that an unknown person with an Instagram handle "ch_rahim_khan786" was

sending her morphed pictures and further demanding nude pictures.

"A case was registered under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC). Based on technical inquiry and details sought from Instagram, the Cyber Cell team of southwest district succeeded in establishing the whereabouts of the accused Rahim Khan," said the DCP.

"With the help of technical surveillance, Khan was nabbed from his house in Faridabad, Haryana. During interrogation, Khan confessed his involvement in the crime and further revealed that for pleasure and personal satisfaction, he had victimized more than 50 women across India including many minors," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP).

"The police have recovered incriminating evidence including photos, chat and videos shared by victims from Khan's the mobile phone. Further investigation of the case is in progress," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) adding that efforts are being made to connect other victims.

3-day training programme for Child Welfare Committees

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) and Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) have jointly begun a three-day training programme for Child Welfare Committees (CWC), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) and District Child Protection Officers (DCPO).

Addressing the event on Wednesday, Delhi Women and Child Development (WCD) Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam said that each stakeholder should understand the purpose of the work that the JJBs and CWCs are mandated to do which will help in ensuring justice to every child.

Gautam in his inaugural address assured of unwavering support of the Government in ensuring that justice is delivered to every child. Justice Madan. B. Lokur (Retired Judge, Supreme Court of India) delivered the keynote address and reinforced the principles governing the Juvenile Justice Act and encouraged the CWCs/JJBs to focus on substantive justice.

CWCs, constituted under Juvenile Justice Act 2015, are

the bench of magistrates at the district level responsible for rescue, rehabilitation and integration of children such as those victims of sexual violence, early marriage, trafficking, crimes, substance abuse, and begging, bonded labour amongst others and therefore CWCs are the first line of defense for these children.

Juvenile Justice Boards, constituted under Juvenile Justice Act 2015, are the judicial institutions which conduct inquiries into matters where children have come in conflict with the law and accordingly undertake reformatory measures for their rehabilitation.

Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) is the statutory body entrusted with the responsibility for monitoring of the law to ensure its effective implementation and therefore has collaborated with the Department of Women & Child Development for the training which assumes significance in the light of the roles of CWCs and JJBs.

Anurag Kundu, Chairperson, DCPCR pointed to large gaps between the expectations drawn from the rights, and the reality. He

focused on how the institutions need to redesign their processes to make them truly child centric.

He further articulated details of the training programme which will have another 3 days refresher course in March. The training focuses on building nuanced positions of the law along with discussion on important Supreme/High Court judgements, and practical skills such as record management, leveraging technology, drafting concise and detailed orders, and preparation of individual child care plans.

Right at the outset of the training, Dr. Rashmi Singh, Director (WCD) emphasized the importance of convergence across stakeholders and linkages with different government schemes and explained the detailed process through which the new members of JJBs and CWCs are appointed. Ms. Madhu K Garg, Secretary (WCD) laid out her vision of making Delhi a child friendly space and as an example for other cities and states to follow.

It must be noted that several of the appointments to Child Welfare Committees and JJB have been recently done and therefore the majority of

3 held for ₹523 cr property transaction fraud in G'gram

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Three people, including a woman, have been arrested by the Gurugram Police for property fraud of Rs 523 crore.

Officials said that the Punjab based gang used to prepare false documents related to plots in Ansal Townships owned by NRIs and sell them to unsuspecting buyers.

According to the police, the arrested accused have been identified as Kavita Rani alias Riya Sehgal (33), Rahul (29) and Ranveer Kumar (49) all residents of Punjab.

The prime accused of the gang have been identified as Sanjay Katuhriya, who is a proclaimed offender (PO)

while the others culprits have been identified as Sandeep alias Mota, Ajay Sehgal alias Alok Kumar and Rakesh Kumar alias Ram all are yet to be arrested.

Sanjay Katuhriya has settled in Dubai along with his family, the police said.

The Haryana Police had also fixed a bounty of Rs 1 lakh each on Kavita, Rahul, Ranveer, Sanjay and Rakesh in January 2021 on their arrest.

A total of 9 cases of property fraud against the culprits were registered at Sushant Lok and Sector-29 police stations. Till now the culprits had sold more than 10 plots in fraudulently.

According to the police, to nab the culprits a SIT was

formed following a direction of the police chief which was led by Karan Goyal, ACP (DLF) and Preet Pal Sangwan, ACP (crime) including crime branch teams of DLF phase-4 and Sector-40.

"The culprits were nabbed by a team of crime branch DLF phase-4 and Sushant Lok police station from a guest house located in Sector-39 after a tip-off on February 5 and were on five days police remand," said Preet Pal Sangwan, ACP (crime).

"During interrogation the accused revealed that they used to open fake bank accounts based on forged documents and later transfer the huge amount by selling plots in these accounts," Sangwan said.

"The prime accused Sanjay used to conduct recess to find lots and houses in Ansal townships in Sushant Lok, Palam Vihar and Sector-29 area whose owners did not visit often. They used to prepare false documents after taking details of the owner from the society and officials. Later they prepare the false seal on the documents, and transfer the property to either themselves or someone they knew. They would then sell the properties to unsuspecting buyers," said the police.

"Rakesh used to ferry people from Punjab to Gurugram to falsely represent them as the owners of the plots and prepared fake sale deed documents and sell them to buyers. The accused had also paid Rs

50,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh as commission to these people" the ACP said.

The accused have also disclosed the name of an accused Kunal of Punjab who used to prepare fake IDs and Aadhaar cards and later they used these documents to open fake bank accounts and another agent Kamal who used to prepare fake passports in Chandigarh.

"During investigation the probe team came to know that around Rs 523 crore money transactions have been found in their accounts during the past six months. In connection with the matter an information will also be sent to the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Further probe is underway," Sangwan said.

Husband, wife held for cheating people

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police has arrested husband-wife duo for allegedly cheating several people to the tune of 42 thousands crores after inducing them in their ponzy scheme 'Bike Boat'.

The accused have been identified as Ravinder and his wife, residents of Jalandhar in Punjab. Police said that the duo, husband-wife who was also directors in the company was already in judicial custody and they were arrested in the case after permission from the court. Police said that they till now have arrested 18 directors and officials of the accused company Garvit Innovative Promoters Limited.

According to Dr O P Mishra, the Joint Commissioner of Police, EOW, several victims had filed complaints against Sanjay Bhatia and others of Garvit Innovative Promoters Limited regarding cheating of approximately Rs 42 thousand Crore. "It is alleged that the accused persons have induced the victims to invest Rs. 62,000 for a bike and to receive Rs. 9500 monthly including principal and rental income on bike for one year," said the Joint CP.

"Due to lucrative offers of alleged, number of victims invested and in January 2019, the alleged company launched the Electric-Bike scheme and offered to deposit Rs. 1.24 lacs for a Bike and to receive Rs. 17000 per month till one year. Initially alleged had repaid the assured amount but after winning confidence of investors, they absconded," said the Joint CP. "During investigation, the account details of the alleged company were obtained and a reply from the RBI was also received, where it was revealed that the alleged company was not registered with RBI as a NBFC and was not authorized to collect money from the public," said the Joint CP.

"Around 8000 complainants against the alleged company are Delhi based and their cheated amount is approx 250 Crore. From the investigation conducted, a number of properties worth Rs several hundred crores have been found and investigation on the same is in progress. Directorate of Enforcement Lucknow Zonal office is also investigating this issue and a number of cases are registered in Noida and other states," he added.

NDMC bans road cutting in its areas till March 31

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of upcoming Swachh Sarvekshan-2021, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has banned road cutting in its areas till March 31 except for urgent repair or maintenance work.

"In view of the forthcoming Swachh Sarvekshan-2021, NDMC has imposed a ban on all type of road cutting in its area till 31st March, except for urgent repairs / maintenance works for restoration of civic services. In this connection, a direction has also been issued to all government agencies like MTNL, BSNL, DTL etc for strict compliance," the NDMC said in a statement.

NDMC areas are home to the high and mighty of the country, including Union ministers and parliamentarians besides many top industrialists. Parliament House, offices of all the ministries, Supreme Court, High Court and residences of Supreme Court judges, senior bureaucrats and senior military officers are in NDMC areas.

GAIL (India) Limited
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

One Nation, One Gas Grid

Extract from the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months Ended 31st December 2020

Sr. No	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated				
		Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended		Financial Year Ended	Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended		Financial Year Ended
		31 st December 2020	31 st December 2019	31 st December 2020	31 st December 2019	31 st March 2020	31 st December 2020	31 st December 2019	31 st December 2020	31 st December 2019	31 st March 2020
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total income from operations	15,456.80	17,768.82	41,188.72	54,121.34	71,876.35	15,680.62	17,898.16	41,671.10	54,629.62	72,567.70
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	1,867.69	1,871.63	3,774.22	5,387.66	7,943.36	2,345.85	2,816.31	4,506.60	6,830.24	10,428.94
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	1,867.69	1,871.63	3,774.22	5,387.66	7,943.36	2,345.85	2,816.31	4,506.60	6,830.24	10,428.94
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	1,487.33	1,250.65	2,982.51	3,602.43	6,620.63	1,897.04	2,029.51	3,608.18	4,700.76	9,514.64
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	2,130.81	1,032.10	3,537.13	2,444.98	3,820.67	2,724.01	1,650.51	4,328.59	3,521.87	6,781.75
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of ₹ 10 each)	4,510.14	4,510.14	4,510.14	4,510.14	4,510.14	4,510.14	4,510.14	4,510.14	4,510.14	4,510.14
7	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves as per Balance Sheet	-	-	-	-	37,529.45	-	-	-	-	42,734.28
8	Earnings per share (Face Value of ₹ 10 each)										
	a) Basic	3.30	2.77	6.61	7.99	14.68	4.18	4.49	8.09	10.41	20.89
	b) Diluted	3.30	2.77	6.61	7.99	14.68	4.18	4.49	8.09	10.41	20.89
	(EPS for the Quarter and Nine Months are not annualised)										

Notes:-
 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges website (www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com) and Company's website (www.gailonline.com).
 2. The above Unaudited Financial Results are in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with the relevant rules issued thereunder and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
 3. Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

For GAIL (India) Limited
Sd/-
(A K Tiwari)
Director (Finance) and CFO
(DIN: 07654612)

Place: New Delhi
Date: 10th February 2021

(CIN: L40200DL1984G01018976)

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NDA Govt mismanaged economy in 6 yrs: Sibal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Charging the Government with ignoring the poor in the Budget for the next fiscal, the Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Wednesday said in the Rajya Sabha the NDA regime in last six years "mismanaged economy" and encouraged "crony capitalism" by favouring "three or four big boys."

Rejecting his claim, BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi termed the Budget as "bold and reformist" and said it took care of all sections of the society. He also listed out several welfare measures taken to reach out to the poor during the lockdown period last year.

Listing some of the big steps, the newly elected MP to the Upper House said in his maiden speech, the next year will see more than ₹100 crore infused into the infrastructure sector to boost the economy. Modi also said disinvestment was needed to raise money and make the economy vibrant.

Initiating the debate on the budget presented Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, Sibal said the Budget document was "jugglery of data."

He also questioned the Government for not listening

to "mann ki baat" of farmers protesting at Delhi's borders, saying their demand was Minimum Support Price (MSP), which is a minimum thing that they are asking for unlike big corporates.

Cautioning the government against the farm laws to bring in reforms in the agriculture sector, Sibal said such experiments in the US and Europe led to corporatisation. Claiming that the number of small farmers had reduced in the US due to these measures, he said the suicide rate was more in rural areas of the US and compared to urban centres.

Noting that subsidies given to farmers were lower in India compared to China, the US and Europe, the Congress leader said, "In the US, every farmer gets from the Government about USD 62,000 a year. You are not willing to give our farmers MSP. Farmer does not ask for more, your corporates do..."

When corporates ask for tax relief and exemptions, the government gives them, he added.

Termining the Budget as "vote bank politics," he said while it talks about growth it completely ignores the people of the country. Sibal said several indicators have shown that the economy was in shambles

even before the Covid crisis.

Sibal also took critical stock of AtmaNirbhar Bharat and asked if the Sc and St besides minorities have become self-reliant. The Congress leader further said the government was not focussing on job losses. He said 120 million jobs were lost due to Covid-19 pandemic but the allocation for MNREGA has been reduced.

Termining that the Budget 2021 was "jugglery of data," Sibal said the government was "perpetuating a rigged economic system" besides doing a "loot bank politics" as more development works have been announced for poll-bound states of West Bengal, Assam and others.

While every budget has two objectives of growth and equity, the government has preferred growth and forgotten the poor people of the country, while also promoting "crony capitalism," he alleged.

Sibal, without naming anyone, said one big corporate was all over in all sectors from ports to airports to gas and railways.

The projects were given to them overriding think-tank Niti Aayog and Finance Ministry's objections, he claimed.

Tharoor slams Govt for ignoring 'aam admi' in Budget

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the Lok Sabha, initiating the debate on the Budget, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor slammed the Government for ignoring the "aam admi" and showing insensitivity towards agitating farmers in the budget proposals. "The aam admi has been let down totally in the last seven years...and the budget has betrayed his most fundamental aspirations," said Tharoor, accusing the Finance Minister of "running out of ideas."

The finance minister has neither played defensive nor hit the ball, he said, adding, "She has just run out of ideas. You cannot cross the sea but just keep staring at it." Tharoor said the budget has reduced expenditure on defence and health-care, and "delivered a blow to the economic system".

Although the nation suffered a lot because of the stringent lockdown in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government's response to deal with the sufferings of people "showed no sensitivity," he said, adding, "Bharat should become atmanirbhar (self-reliant) and not Bharatvasis."

Accusing the government of ignoring the crisis instead of recognising that there is one at the border with China, Tharoor said the Centre seems to have overturned the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" into "Na Jawan, Na Kisan". The budget, he said, did nothing to assuage the concerns of the agitating farmers with regard to the minimum support price (MSP).

Countering the Opposition, BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi said due to the efforts of the Narendra Modi government, the country has come out of the "fragile five" economies. Today, India is among the top five economies in the world, she said, adding that the finance minister is now talking about a double-digit growth rate.

The economy is projected to grow at 11 per cent during 2021-22 after a likely contraction of 7.7 per cent in the current financial year as a result of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. After saving lives, the focus is now on promoting livelihood, which the budget has tried to do, Lekhi said, adding that the allocations for most of the sectors have been doubled.

Centre, States owe Air India ₹498.17 cr for VVIP travel, evacuation operations



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre and States owe Air India ₹498.17 crore as on December 31, 2020 for VVIP travel, evacuation operations, travel of foreign dignitaries among other services. The Governments in states and at the Centre owe the airline ₹84.57 crore for VVIP travel, ₹12.61 crore for foreign dignitaries' travel, ₹9.67 crore for evacuation operations and ₹391.32 crore as other outstanding dues, Union Civil Aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri told Rajya Sabha in a written reply to a question.

The national carrier incurred a provisional loss of ₹7,982 crore in 2019-20 as compared to the net loss of ₹8,556 crore in 2018-19, Puri said. The Government is currently in the process to sell its

entire stake in debt-ridden airline.

"The total amount of outstanding dues owed by the Central and State Governments to Air India for VVIP travel, evacuation operations, foreign dignitaries travel and other outstanding dues as on 31.12.2020 is ₹498.17 crore," Puri stated.

In reply to another question, Puri said that amid coronavirus pandemic, domestic passenger traffic fell from 11,99,45,632 during March-December 2019 to 3,77,79,592 during March-December 2020, while international passenger traffic fell from 1,96,64,179 to 18,55,033. Similarly, Revenues of major Indian scheduled carriers fell from ₹46,711 crore during April-September 2019 to about Rs 11,810 crore during April-September 2020. Their

full time and contractual employment which was ₹74,887 as on 31 March 2020 fell to ₹67,906 as on 30 September 2020.

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha to a asked by ND Gupta, Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that airline carriers have been severely affected due to restrictions on domestic and international passenger movements. "Domestic air cargo handled fell from 1.15 million metric tonnes (MMT) during March-December 2019 to 0.72 MMT during March-December 2020, while international air cargo handled fell from 1.74 MMT to 1.19 MMT. Deccan Charters Pvt. Ltd. and M/s. Air Odisha Aviation Pvt. Ltd. have ceased operations from 24 July 2020 and 30 July 2020 respectively," Puri said.

No need to maintain minimum amount in FASTag wallet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a big relief to highway commuters, the National Highways Authority of India on Wednesday said it has decided to do away with the requirement of maintaining a minimum amount in FASTag wallet to ensure seamless movement at electronic toll plazas.

It has been decided that the users will now be allowed to pass through the toll plaza, if the FASTag account/wallet balance is non-negative. After crossing the toll plaza, if the account balance becomes negative, the bank can recover the amount from the security deposit, which should be replenished at the time of the next recharge by the user.

"In order to increase the FASTag penetration to ensure seamless movement of traffic and to reduce avoidable delays at the toll plazas, NHAI has decided to remove the mandatory threshold amount for the FASTag account/wallet, which was paid by the



user in addition to the security deposit for the passenger segment (Car/Jeep/Van)," NHAI said in a statement.

It said issuer banks were unilaterally mandating some threshold amount value for the FASTag account/wallet, in addition to the security deposit amount.

As a result, many FASTag users were not allowed to pass through a toll plaza, in spite of having sufficient balance in their FASTag account/wallet, the statement

said adding this was resulting into unwanted hassles and avoidable delay at toll plazas.

With more than 2.54 crore users, FASTag contributes 80 per cent of the toll collection. Daily toll collection through FASTag has crossed Rs 89 crore mark.

As payment on toll plazas through FASTag will become mandatory from February 15, 2021, NHAI is targeting to achieve 100 per cent cashless tolling at the toll plazas across the country.

Ministry: Heritage building of National Archives to be retained

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has said that the heritage building of National Archives will be retained while the National Museum will get shifted to retrofitted North and South Blocks. As per plan, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) will be temporarily housed in the refurbished Janpath Hotel building and will finally be shifted to a new building to be constructed at Jamnagar House plot.

In a reply to Rajya Sabha, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that as per Central Vista Development/Redevelopment Plan evolved so far, heritage building of National Archives will be retained. National Museum will get shifted to retrofitted North and South Blocks.

"Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) will be temporarily housed in the refurbished Janpath Hotel building and will finally be shifted to a new building to be constructed at Jamnagar House plot," he said in a written reply to a starred question asked by MP KC Venugopal in Central Vista Redevelopment Project.

"Clearance of Heritage Conservation Committee has been obtained on 11.01.2021 for construction of New Parliament Building and for Central Vista Avenue Projects on 02.02.2021. For other projects, it will be obtained, wherever necessary," Puri said.

The Centre last week held the bhoomi puja for laying the foundation stone of the redeveloped and restructured Central Vista Avenue—the next phase of the Central Vista redevelopment plan.

Low-intensity avalanche may strike Ladakh, Himachal today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment has issued a level-2 danger (low) in terms of avalanche outlook for Leh in Ladakh and Lahaul-Spiti and Kullu in Himachal Pradesh till Thursday evening. This is replete with partly unsafe conditions with possible small size triggering along a few extreme slopes. Valley movements are generally safe while movements along slopes need caution.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department has predicted dry weather in Uttarakhand till February 14. According to the IMD, an incoming western disturbance has moved in closer in the form of a cyclonic circulation to the hills of North-West India as it lay this (Wednesday) morning over North Pakistan with an overarching trough over Central Pakistan. It has already started influencing weather over North-West India.

SC issues contempt notice to Maharashtra officials for rewarding killers of 'man-eater' tigress

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice on a plea seeking contempt action against Maharashtra principal secretary Vikas Kharge and eight others for rewarding people who had killed an alleged 'man-eater' tigress 'Avni' in Yavatmal district in 2018.

A bench of Chief Justice Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian was told by animal rights activist Sangeta Dogra that the tigress was not a man-eater as was evident from the post-mortem report of the animal.

"Issue notice returnable within two weeks. In the meantime, necessary documents will be filed," the bench said.

During the hearing, the bench asked Dogra as to how one can identify from the post-mortem whether the animal was a man-eater or not. Dogra replied that if an

animal is man-eater it could be ascertained from the DNA reports, hair and nails remains in the intestines, which last for more than six months.

"The tigress which was killed, her stomach was empty," she claimed.

She said that forest officials of the state ordered killing 'Avni' on the ground that it had killed thirteen persons in the area and was a man-eater.

"The killers of tigress were awarded by the state and there was celebration, which was in violation of the top court's order," Dogra said.

The bench said that it cannot control celebration but it can issue notice if people were rewarded flouting the Supreme Court order.

The top court also asked Dogra to file additional documents to substantiate her claim that the tigress was not a man-eater and said, "We want clear finding that the tigress was not a man-eater and reports on nails, hairs and teeth".

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
P.H. DIVISION, BALASORE
C-424 Phone : 9437086137, e-mail-eephbls@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement (Online Mode)
Invitation for Bids (IFB) dt.09.02.2021

The Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Balasore on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Item Rate bids in Double cover system in ONLINE mode only.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Bid-Identification No.	Value of Work (Rs. In Lakh)	Period of Completion	Availability of bid documents for online bidding		Last date and time of seeking clarification	Date & Time of opening of technical bid
					From	To		
1	Supply of ISI Marked DI (K-7) Pipes for different Pipe Water Supply Projects under State Plan Grant 2020-21 in Jaleswar Municipality, Soro Municipality and Nilagiri N.A.C.	EHPHLS-30 dt.09.02.2021	255.14	60 (Sixty) Days	11:00 Hrs. of dt.15.02.2021	17:00 Hrs. of dt.02.03.2021	17:00 Hrs. Of 27.02.2021	11:00 Hrs. 04.03.2021

The bidders shall have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason therefor.

Name and Address of the officer inviting bid :- The Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Balasore-756056, Odisha, Phone : 9437086137

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 P.H. Division, Balasore.

OIPR-13053/11/0010/2021

CRPF releases doctrine to foster initiative and creativity in its ranks



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CRPF on Wednesday released "Warrior's Creed-Our doctrines" at a function at CRPF Academy Gurugram. The document is a collation of CRPF's operational philosophy and mores aimed at providing the future leaders with guiding principles for administrative and operational imperatives.

A brain child of Director General of CRPF, Dr A P Maheshwari, the compilation of the doctrine was undertaken jointly by the CRPF Academy and the Operations Directorate of the Force's headquarters here. The document has recorded and codified the doctrines which will also go a long way in 'fostering initiative' and 'stimulating creativity'.

"It is for the first time in the history of CRPF that such a keystone document has been promulgated. This work has been inspired by the vision of Dr A P Maheshwari, DG CRPF. CRPF, the nation's lead Counter Insurgency force, is deployed across the country, performing myriad duties, with 90 % strength deployed continuous-

ly in high intensity violence theatres. Consequently, CRPF is required to maintain a high level of readiness, regardless of the terrain or the weather. Counter Insurgency Ops have, over the years, become far more complex and challenging, necessitating the need for an intellectual study framework, which should be coherent enough to provide guidance and flexible enough to be adapted to given scenarios," the CRPF said in a statement.

Speaking on the occasion, DG CRPF reiterated that the Warrior's Creed is not meant to be sacrosanct or timeless, they will continue to evolve with changing times and challenges. They will not act as iron tight procedures or dictates but as a guide to help commanders to think, within the parameters of our charter of duties, and execute operational tasks in the best possible manner.

He also stressed that Doctrines are always 'unfinished products' being 'Evolving in nature', for ready reference as 'Distilled wisdom' and a 'Referral document' for the policy makers, CRPF personnel and the academia.

Test for Covid after job if symptoms appear, says study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Clinicians should have a "high level of suspicion" about possible Covid-19 symptoms in the two weeks following vaccination, results of a new study in healthcare workers has suggested.

While the study that was published in the journal Emerging Infectious Disease based its conclusion following patients outcomes in a worker vaccination programme at a large Israeli hospital where they were given the first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine given December last year, such cases have emerged in India too where healthcare workers are being given Covishield and Covaxin.

For instance, five doctors in Chamarajanagar district in Karnataka in India tested positive for Covid-19 a week after they got the first shot of the vaccine in January last this year.

The Israeli study had excluded workers who already had recovered from Covid-19. Among more than 4,000 vaccinated hospital staff members, 22 developed Covid-19 from one to 10 days following immunisation (a median 3.5 days). Thirteen workers were tested after showing symptoms (typically including fever, chills, cough, headache, muscle aches and sore throat). Two others were tested due to exposure to confirmed or suspected Covid-19 cases, and

asymptomatic cases were found as part of post-exposure screening, reported Gili Regev-Yochay, M.D., of Harvard and Chaim Sheba Medical Center, in Israel.

The takeaway? "Clinicians should not dismiss post-vaccination symptoms as vaccine-related and should promptly test for Covid-19," Regev-Yochay and colleagues wrote.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is not likely protective against clinical disease the first days after the first dose is given, according to results of clinical trials. Although protection increases to 52% a week after the first dose, positive Covid-19 test results have been found among vaccine recipients even early after the second dose.

"Thus, during a large-scale immunisation campaign coinciding with rapid national increase in Covid-19 cases, some immunised persons likely will develop clinical disease," the authors of the hospital study concluded.

Health experts have called for the need to practice precautions like wearing masks, social distancing norms, hand washing and avoiding crowded areas.

Those who have received both shots of the vaccine should follow all precautions until a significant percentage of the population has been vaccinated, as per health experts.

Up to 75K inoculation sites in two weeks



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government will be increasing the number of inoculation sites to 75,000 in a couple of weeks from now as a part of a massive capacity building exercise ahead of the Covid-19 vaccination roll out for the people above 50 years.

This was stated by Dr N.K Arora, Head, Operations Research Group, National COVID-19 Task Force at a virtual event on Wednesday.

"In the next couple of weeks, the number of immunisation centres will be increased from 50,000 to 75,000 and we would be able to vaccinate about 5 to 7 million people everyday," he said. Arora added that the country has the capacity to inoculate 1 crore people everyday. "We have the capacity to vaccinate 10 million individuals per day," he said.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday the total number of people who have received Covid-19 vaccinations in the country reached 68,26,898, said Union health ministry joint secretary Mandeep Bhandari. As many as 2,15,113 jabs were administered on Wednesday till 6 pm.

Out of the total, the number of healthcare workers who have been inoculated stands at 56,65,172 and the number of frontline workers are 11,61,726.

Cong will repeal farm laws when it will be in power, says Priyanka

Saharanpur (UP): Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday promised that his party will repeal the three "black" central farm laws and ensure MSPs for different crops as soon as it returned to power at the Centre. "When the Congress comes to power again, we will immediately repeal these farm laws. We will also ensure MSPs for all farmers," she said while addressing a "Kisan Panchayat" in Chilkhana in Saharanpur district. Priyanka also urged the farmer not to step back from their ongoing agitation across many states in support of their demands and assured that the Congress would stand with them in "their fight against the black laws". "There should be no politics with farmers. Those who do not respect the sentiments of farmers cannot be called

patriots," the Congress leader said. The Congress leader also flayed Prime Minister Narendra Modi while reminding the audience that the BJP had promised to clear sugar cane dues totalling Rs 15,000 crore within 15 days of coming to power at the Centre. "Instead, the Prime Minister bought two planes worth Rs 16,000 crore for himself and conveniently forgot about the farmers' money," she quipped. "When a farmer's son becomes a jawan, he provides security to the Prime Minister but the latter does not recognise what lies in the hearts of farmers." "They claim that those protesting on the Delhi borders are not farmers but anti-social elements. Why do they have to ridicule the farmers? And what do they mean by using the term 'andolanjivi'?" she asked. IANS

Ahead of Priyanka's visit, Sec 144 imposed in Saharanpur

Saharanpur (UP): The district administration in Saharanpur imposed Section 144 ahead of the Kisan panchayat that was to be addressed by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the afternoon. District Magistrate Saharanpur issued an order citing various reasons including upcoming festivities, the spread of Covid-19 pandemic and the possibility of violence by anti-social elements in the State. The restrictions have been imposed till April 5. Meanwhile, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra reached Dehradun on Wednesday morning and is on her way to Saharanpur where she will first offer prayers at the Shakumbhari Devi temple, before addressing the Kisan panchayat. Congress Leader Priyanka Gandhi visits Raipur Khanqah Dargah in Saharanpur on 10 February 2021. IANS

BJP factory of liars, vote for Mamata, says Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA The BJP will get a "crow-bite" for the lies it peddles, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said once again staking her personal charisma to charm the voters ahead of the Assembly elections. She said "the BJP will come to you with cash ... take them as this is your money ... but do not vote for them ... do not allow the outside ideas to ruin Bengal," adding Bengal will not be ruled by Gujarat "Bengal will only be ruled by Bengal". She asked the electorate to "ignore who is contesting from a given seat ... only think that Mamata Banerjee is fighting from all the (294) seats," prompting her critics to wonder whether the ruling Trinamool Congress was in short supply of credible faces or "whether it has lost all credibility as a political unit". Addressing a huge rally in Malda, Banerjee quoted from a famous Kapadia number warning "Jhoot Boley Kaula Katey ... (you liars will get the crow-bite) ... for all the lies the BJP is peddling". The saffron outfit is a "factory of liars whose only job is to create division among the communities,

castes, religions, Bengalis and non-Bengalis to ignite riots and garner votes," Banerjee said reminding how "BJP makes fake videos --- by imposing clippings from Hindi and even Bangladeshi films --- of women in Bengal being pulled by their sarees to fan communal riots." She said "the BJP will come to you with cash ... take them as this is your money ... but do not vote for them ... do not allow the outside ideas to ruin Bengal," adding Bengal will not be ruled by Gujarat "Bengal will only be ruled by Bengal". The BJP leaders have been "falsely propagating against the Bengal Government that we have stalled central schemes for farmers whereas we have given them the names and answered all the queries ... now why are they not paying the farmers (under Kisan Sanman Nidhi)," Banerjee said adding how the farmers of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh were crying and repenting for having voted the

She said "the BJP will come to you with cash ... take them as this is your money ... but do not vote for them ... do not allow the outside ideas to ruin Bengal," adding Bengal will not be ruled by Gujarat "Bengal will only be ruled by Bengal"

English and other channels) were being framed by the Government. "They are not even sparing the journalists who are being falsely implicated in the farmers' movement in Delhi," she said. Taking a dig at the BJP leadership for taking out Rath Yatras in Bengal "spending crores of ill-gotten rupees" she said the "we only know about Rath Yatras Lord Jagannath who is our revered deity ... but today the BJP leadership thinks that it is equal to Lord Jagannath and so they are riding Raths," reminding how even the demon king Ravana had also ridden a Rath while abducting Mother Sita. Meanwhile, BJP national president JP Nadda hit back at the Chief Minister for perpetrating a dictatorial rule in the State. "Didi came to power riding the slogan of Maa-Mati, Manush but today she is pursuing a policy of appeasement, dictatorship and extortion," Nadda said from a meeting at Kalaikunda in West Midnapore.

Raj Governor reads Preamble, fundamental duties in Assembly

IANS ■ JAIPUR For the first time in independent India, the Preamble of the Constitution and the fundamental duties were read in the Assembly by Governor Kalraj Mishra before the start of his formal address to the sixth session of the 15th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. Mishra introduced this new tradition before his address. While reading the Preamble and duties of the constitution in the Legislative Assembly, the MLAs repeated them after him. After administering the oath to all legislators to promulgate the constitution and the fundamental duties, the Governor read the complete address. Meanwhile, as the Governor continued his address, Communist Party of India (Marxist) MLA Balwan Poonia created an uproar raising slogans like 'Andolan kari

Zindabad' in protest against the three farm laws. The CPI(M) leader continued to create a ruckus in the well of the House and the Governor kept reading the address. Many Congress leaders, including party whip Mahesh Joshi and state Parliamentary Minister Shanti Dhariwal, came to pacify Left leader Poonia who was joined by other leaders who raised slogans in favour of farmers saying 'Jai Kisan' while BJP MLAs continued chanting 'Jai Shri Ram.' Later, the Congress leaders convinced Poonia to come out of the Assembly and took him out as the Governor continued his address. After reading the speech for nearly 45 minutes, the Governor left the Assembly. Earlier, Congress MLA Indra Meena came to the Assembly driving a tractor to show her support for farmers protesting against the three farm laws.

Kangana to withdraw her appeal against BMC unconditionally

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI In a fall-out of an order passed by the Bombay High Court in a litigation between her and the Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) in November last year, Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut has decided to unconditionally withdraw her suit against the BMC in the Bombay High Court over a 2018 demolition notice issued to her for certain alleged irregularities at her bungalow at Khar in north-west Mumbai. In a submission made through her lawyer advocate Birendra Saraf before the high court, the actress said that she would withdraw her case within the next four days unconditionally and she would apply for regularisation of alleged illegal portions in her structure within four weeks. Allowing the Kangana to withdraw the appeal, a HC single-judge bench Justice Prithviraj K Chavan said "The appellant (Kangana) is permitted to apply for regularisation before the BMC within a period of four weeks". He said that the BMC shall decide the same expeditiously and in

accordance with the law. The Judge also ruled that no coercive action be taken by the BMC till it considers and decides on the actress' regularisation application and for two weeks thereafter to enable her to appeal in case of an adverse order on her regularisation application. He said this case which the actress is planning to withdraw relates to her property in Orchid Breeze building at Khar in which the BMC had served a demolition notice in 2018 for certain unauthorised constructions. In 2018, the BMC had served a demolition notice to Kangana for various unauthorised construction in the premises, which involved merging three apartments on the 5th floor, constructing more than permissible limits, and availing 50 per cent or area of the uninhabited floor space. The Dindoshi civil court on December 22, 2020, dismissed a notice of motion filed by Ranaut against a 2018 BMC notice for alleged violation and irregularities at her Khar bungalow. The civil court had, however, extended interim pro-

KHAR BUNGALOW DEMOLITION ROW

tection against coercive action for another six weeks to enable her to file an appeal before the high court. While quashing and setting aside the latest notice dated September 7 2020 and the subsequent oral demolition order, the HC bench had on November 27, 2020 allowed Kangana to take such steps as were required to make the said bungalow "habitable" so that the Petitioner can immediately start occupying and using the same. The HC bench said that in the event of Kangana filing an application for regularisation of any unauthorised but demolished portion of her bungalow making an application to the BMC, the BMC would decide on the application within four weeks of the receipt of the application/plan. In its ruling on the much-discussed on the Kangana demolition case, the HC bench had held the action by the Shiv Sena-ruled BMC as "ex-facie illegal, arbitrary, unjustified and highhanded and mala fide" and said that the BMC had

"ignored" its statutory provisions and guidelines of the Courts as well as of its own circulars and the said action is an abuse of power and authority. "The Petitioner therefore is fully justified in approaching this Court for redressal of her grievances and the protection of her rights," the judges observed. On the issue of allowing Kangana to reconstruct the demolished portion, the HC bench said: "As regards allowing the Petitioner to reconstruct demolished portions of the property, we record that though parties have taken contrary positions about the authorized or unauthorized offending portions, we have not been shown any material to justify either of the contentions. We have, accordingly no occasion to decide one way or the other". "We must accordingly leave the parties to their positions in law. If, and to the extent the demolished portions were originally created / constructed in accordance with law, that is to say, either as tenantable repairs

for which no permission of MCGM was required, or simply matters of interior decoration and work for which no planning permission is required, or were authorized having regard to the approved plans, the Petitioner shall be within her rights to reconstruct the same," the judges said. "In case they (Kangana) require a planning permission and none exists, the Petitioner may apply for such permissions and the MCGM shall be bound to deal with such application in accordance with law," the judges noted. It may be recalled that on September 9, the demolition squad of the BMC pulled down a portion of Kangana Raut's bungalow at Bandra in north-west Mumbai, which housed the office of her film production company, Manikarnika Films Pvt Ltd. By the time Bombay High Court stayed the demolition of the process of Kangana's bungalow, the BMC employees - who had come armed with big drill machines, hammers, sledgehammers and crowbars and a JCB machine - pulled down the allegedly illegal por-

tions involving at the bungalow. The BMC, which had served a notice on the actress on September 7 about the alleged "illegal" constructions at the bungalow, followed it up with demolition on September 9 after rejecting the reply provided by the actress' lawyers and pasting a response at the door of Kangana's bungalow. On the portion that has not been demolished by the BMC, the high court said: "As regards the area, which is not demolished by the MCGM, if the MCGM proposes to take any action, it may issue a notice giving 7 days time to the Petitioner to respond to / comply with the same. The Petitioner shall also be at liberty to make an application seeking regularization of the works already carried out but not demolished under section 53 (3) of the MRTP Act, 1966". "In case any such application is made no further steps in response to the notice shall be taken by the MCGM before disposal of such application and a copy of the order provided to the Petitioner as well as her Advocate," the judges had ruled.

Accused Wilson seeks probe into planting of fake evidence into his computer

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI Rona J. Wilson, one of prime accused in the sensitive Bhima-Koregaon case, on Wednesday moved the Bombay High Court seeking formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into the "fake evidences" planted into his computer ahead of his arrest in the case, and dismissal of the case against him. In an application filed through his lawyer R. Sathyanarayanan, Wilson cited a report prepared by a US-based digital forensic firm Arsenal Consulting which has said that a Wilson's laptop was hacked and 10 letters planted in it ahead of his arrest. It may be recalled that the Pune Police and later the NIA had used the letters allegedly recovered from the computer of Human Rights activists Rona Wilson Jacob to make out a case against him other activists arrested in the famous Bhima-Koregaon case. Among other things,

BHIMA KOREGAON CASE Arsenal Consulting has claimed that not only Wilson's computer was 'attacked and compromised' from June 13, 2016 for over 22 months, but similar malware attacks were made on even other accused in other high-profile Indian cases. The hacker, who has not been identified, had used the malware to create hidden folders where the 10 incriminating letters were sent using an advanced version of MS Word which was not available on Wilson's laptop. The US firm's report further said that it found no evidence suggesting that Wilson ever interacted with the top 10 most important documents used to prosecute him, and said he had in fact never opened those documents. The scanned copies of letters were among the virtual and physical documents recovered by the investigators during their simultaneous raids conducted by the investigators on April 17

2018 ahead of the arrest of Wilson and other accused in the case. On the basis of one of the allegedly incriminating letters seized from Wilson's computer, the Pune police had claimed that the CPI (Maoist) had hatched a "conspiracy" to "overthrow" the Government and "target" the country's highest political functionary. The letter, written by "R" (which the investigators suspected might be Rona Jacob himself) and addressed to one comrade Prakash, states: "We are thinking along the lines of another Rajiv Gandhi-type incident. It sounds suicidal and there is a good chance we might fail but we feel the party must deliberate over our proposal. Targeting his road shows could be an effective strategy. We collectively believe that survival of the party is supreme to all sacrifices". The letter also talks about the requirement of Rs 8 crore to

procure M-4 rifles as an annual supply and four lakh rounds of ammunition. Among other things, the letter states: "Modi-led Hindu fascist regime is bulldozing its way into the lives of indigenous adivasis, in spite of big defeats like Bihar and West Bengal. Modi has successfully established BJP govt in more than 15 states. If this pace continues then it would mean immense trouble for the party on all fronts. Greater suppression of dissent and more brutal form of Mission 2016 (OGH). Com. Kisan and few other comrades have proposed concrete steps to end Modi-raj". "Defeating Hindu fascism has been our core agenda and a major concern for the party... We are trying to consolidate ties with like-minded organisations, pol. parties, representatives of minorities across the country," the letter stated. The arrests of five "Maoist-linked" activists were made under the FIR registered on January 8, 2018 at the Pune's

Vishram Baug Police Station in connection with the Elgar Parishad organised on December 31, 2017 by the leftist outfit Kabir Kala Manch (KKM) and Republican Panthers Party ahead of the January 1, 2018 Bhima-Koregaon riots. The FIR, originally registered u/s 153(A), 505 (1)(b), 117 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), was made a conspiracy case in March 2018 and now has sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) added to it. It may be recalled that on January 1, one Rahul Phatangale (28), a Dalit, was killed and another 40-odd vehicles and some other property were damaged after some miscreants attacked Dalits celebrating the January 1, 1818 victory of British troops over Peshwa Bajirao II's army at Bhima-Koregaon in Pune district of western Maharashtra. Following the incident, Maharashtra had witnessed large-scale Dalit protests which turned violent at some places.

Burdwan blast case: Bangladeshi man awarded 29 years imprisonment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI The NIA special Court, Kolkata on Wednesday convicted the head of JMB (Jamatul-Mujahideen Bangladesh) in India, Kausar alias Boma Mizan under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and IPC Sections in connection with the Burdwan Blast Case for 29 years and a fine of Rs 35,000. Kausar is a resident of Shekharbhita village under Jamalpur Police Station, Jamalpur district of Maymansingh division, Bangladesh and was convicted for offences under IPC Sections relating to criminal conspiracy and various Sections of the UA (P) Act, Sections of Arms Act and provisions of the Foreigners Act. He JMB is a proscribed organization. He is also a

charge-sheeted accused in another NIA Case related to Bodh Gaya Blast in Bihar, in January, 2018. The background of the case is that on October 2, 2014 at about 12:15 hours, a powerful bomb (IED) blast had taken place at the first floor of a rented house in the busy Khagragarh locality of Burdwan district of West Bengal. The IED had accidentally gone off at the time of its fabrication by the members of banned terrorist organization JMB. Two terrorists had succumbed to their injuries due to the bomb blast. The case was initially registered by West Bengal Police, which was subsequently taken over by NIA on October 10, 2014 for investigation. "Investigation by NIA revealed a conspiracy by JMB (Jam at - ul - Mu jah i de en

Bangladesh) to radicalize, recruit and provide training in arms and explosives to its members in India for committing terrorist acts and waging war against the democratically established Governments of India and Bangladesh. A large number of IEDs, explosives, hand grenades, training videos were recovered during the investigation of the case," the NIA said in a statement. After extensive investigation, a total of 33 accused were charge sheeted by NIA for commission of various offences in this case. Out of 33 accused, 31 were arrested. Earlier, 30 accused persons were convicted and sentenced, to various terms, by the NIA Special Court, Kolkata. The trial against the remaining two absconding charge sheeted accused persons continues, it added.

UP: Life-term for father who raped daughter

Agra (Uttar Pradesh): The Special Protection of Children from Sexual Offence (POCSO) court has convicted a man to life imprisonment for raping his minor daughter. The court also slapped a fine of Rs 1.75 lakh on the accused and dismissed his plea for minimum sentence, as there was no one in the family to take care of his elderly mother. According to reports, the accused, labourer by profession, had raped his 12-year-old daughter for 10 days in 2015, in the absence of his wife, who had gone to attend to her sister who was recuperating after a surgery. The matter came to light when the girl's mother returned home and found her daughter depressed and silent. After learning about the incident, she lodged a police complaint at the Jagdishpura police station in Agra on June 10, 2015. IANS

Goa to slash hefty fines for traffic violations: Minister

Panaji: The Goa Government is considering softening the impact of the amended Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, which mandates hefty fines and penalties for traffic violators. In the wake of severe criticism of the poor road infrastructure as well as the Goa Legislative Assembly elections slated for early next year, the State Government has decided to revise the traffic rules, sources said. After delaying the implementation of the modified central act, first due to the onset of the pandemic and secondly due to a lack of consensus in the State Cabinet, Goa's Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho has said that the State rules for the amended MV norms would be put in place soon, but fines imposed would be the minimum as prescribed under the amended legislation, pushed by the road transport ministry and

aimed at making the roads safer. "We have done homework on the Motor Vehicle Act. For any offence, the law has given a zone of consideration in fines from Rs 500 to Rs 5,000. So, from Rs 100 at present the fine will go up to Rs 500," Godinho said. Other traffic offences, for which fines have been hiked to between Rs 1,000 and Rs 8,000, they have been limited to Rs 1,000, he added. "We have kept the fines at the minimum, because we do not want to fine people a lot," Godinho said. While a formal cabinet decision vis-a-vis implementation of the MV Act has not been taken yet, Goa is not the only Indian state to have taken a minimalist view as far as imposition of the steep fines, which the law that was amended in 2019, mandates. Soon after the amended MV Act was passed in the

Parliament, Gujarat was one of the first states to implement it and notify the rules, but only after reducing the new fine structure. Other state governments like Uttarakhand and Karnataka have also tweaked and lowered the quantum of fines listed in the central law. According to a Goa Minister, the steep fines in the amended law were unpopular and to impose such fines with the state assembly elections around a year away would incur the electoral wrath of the public. "People are not used to paying such fines. It would not make political sense to implement such a law with elections around the corner. Such fines would come as a shock to the people of Goa, especially when Covid-19 has already caused economic hardship to the people," a Minister said on condition of anonymity. IANS

Raj: Public Relations Commissioner holds meeting with newly appointed officials

Jaipur: Information and Public Relations Department Commissioner Mahendra Soni directed the newly appointed Public Relations Officers to ensure proper publicity and publicity of public welfare schemes of the State Government. Soni, while addressing the officers on Tuesday at the headquarters of the Information and Public Relations Department, apprised them of the departmental functioning. Soni informed the officers about all the cells of the department. He also explained about press note writing. Discussed in detail about the language and style of advertisements to be released by the department. Also instructed the officers to understand the platforms of social media and use digital tools more and more.



A participant during the State-level bullock cart race at Kempanahalli near Chikmagalur on Wednesday. PTI



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PAPER WITH PASSION

True spirit

The speeches by PM Modi and Congress leader Azad reflect the strength of democracy

Critics might accuse him of running roughshod over the Opposition, not being accommodative of contrarian viewpoints and being too assertive at times, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emotive speech in the Rajya Sabha proved again that he is a sensible person driven by strong emotions and love for millions of countrymen whom he addresses as "bhaiyo aur behno". The way he choked up a couple of times while bidding farewell to leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad is what makes him stand out. Azad, too, echoed the sentiments and welled up visibly. What happened in the House of Elders is enough to reflect the true strength of our parliamentary democracy. However, the display of such emotions or camaraderie and respect for leaders cutting across party line is not unprecedented. For one, Modi himself — after being elected leader of the BJP parliamentary party in May 2014, in other words the PM-elect — choked up while responding to LK Advani's speech where the senior leader said that Modi had done a *kripa* (favour) on the party. Even earlier, in 1994, then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao requested Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a member of the Opposition at the time, to lead the Indian delegation at a crucial United Nations (UN) meeting in Geneva, and Vajpayee agreed and played an important role at the session. Had the resolution against India passed, the country would have been put under economic sanctions. These leaders, belonging to rival parties, disagreed politically but put India first.



It may be unconceivable for those who believe in the politics of allegations and counter-allegations, and take the political discourse to a new low every day. However, Modi and Azad — sitting across each other in the Upper House — shared the spirit of working together in national interest, which made them transcend party or petty politics. The farewell speeches were the day's highlight as these drowned the MPs and millions of television viewers in a sea of emotions. "I am concerned that whoever is appointed to his (Azad's) position may not be able to match up to him," Modi said. Visibly overwhelmed, the PM had to pause for a few sips of water while recalling how Azad, then the Chief Minister of J&K, called him up (Modi was the Gujarat CM) in 2006 to inform him about a terror attack in the Valley that claimed the lives of several Gujarati tourists. Azad also referred to the incident in emotionally charged words, and said that when he reads about the situation in Pakistan, he feels proud to be a "Hindustani Muslim". Political pundits are free to interpret the speeches any way they like; they may argue that those were only "crocodile tears" and seasoned politicians like Modi and Azad know well how to use the "emotional quotient" for political mileage. However, we need not take such pessimistic and cynical assumptions seriously as long as leaders with emotion in their hearts continue to spearhead our democracy. We need not worry, we are in safe hands.



An aerial view of the Tapovan dam in Uttarakhand AP

Loudmouths!

KP, Vaughan's jibes after England's win in the first Test are not in good taste, to say the least

It's always fun to have one's wit around, and a little banter on and off the field never hurt anyone. In fact, it is an integral and enjoyable part of the goings-on inside any crowded stadium but, as we saw in Australia too, sometimes matters tend to go out of hand and quickly take a turn for the worse. It's quite acceptable for any sporting fan or player to indulge in some harmless fun while playing with the mind of their opposite number, but heckling, taunting or putting out things indiscreetly is another ball game altogether. A couple of developments emanating from the touring English cricket team's camp came sort of close to leaving an unsavoury taste in the mouth when the Test series is only one match old. While cricket commentator and former England international player Kevin Pietersen poked fun at India losing the Chepauk Test in a Hindi tweet, his compatriot, Michael Vaughan, a former England skipper, targeted Team India's gesture of presenting a jersey signed by all team members to Australian player Nathan Lyon to mark his 100th Test match during the recent tour Down Under, and wondered if the same treatment wasn't provided to Joe Root just because India had lost the match.



Soon after India lost the match to the visiting team, Pietersen gleefully took to Twitter and wrote in Hindi to underline that his January 19 prediction had come true: "India, yaad hai maine pehele hi chetawani di thi ke itna jashn na manaye jab apne Australia ko unke ghar pe haraya tha (India, you remember I had warned you already not to celebrate so much when you defeated Australia at their home.)" Striking an ominous note, he then noted that "the real team" would arrive in a few days "from whom you'll be defeated at your own home". Similarly, Vaughan ribbed the hosts when on February 9 he indiscreetly put out a question: "India gifted @NathLyon421 a signed shirt for his 100th Test at the end of the Gabba Win ... Did @root66 receive one today after the loss ?? Not sure if it happened? Can anyone confirm?" The cricket-crazy Indian fans paid the duo back in the same vein, telling Vaughan "They gifted him the Test match instead", and "You don't go on to ask gifts from others"; and reminding Pietersen not to repeat the folly that many Australian cricket pundits had made after India's first loss: "You may have won the match but Series is not over yet" and "We always welcome our guests with grace". Comments made in good taste are always welcome but, it must be remembered at all times that, after all, it's not called the gentlemen's game for nothing.

End of the Golden Age?

Time and again in history, a great age is almost always followed by a time of darkness. That is where the aviation industry finds itself now



KUSHAN MITRA

In the first couple of months of 2020, your columnist made two trips to the West Coast of the United States. Each time he boarded flights that took over 14 hours, a couple of flights even passed over, as near makes no difference, the North Pole. Travel that once took days and several transfers with the potential of lost luggage and what not, now took just one, maybe two flights, in relative luxury even in Economy Class, thanks to inflight WiFi and a better choice of movies than most streaming platforms.

Sure, the food still could taste bland but that possibly had more to do with the human body's physiology at higher altitudes where taste buds often go for a toss. But the most fascinating thing was that in early 2020, these ultra long-haul flights had become almost ordinary. Indeed, while rumours of an impending pandemic started to filter out, global air travel was on a massive high. It was growing at an unprecedented pace and a shortage of aircraft after the grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX was the biggest concern.

Now, while it is far too soon to sound the death knell for very long-haul flights as Air India has just started a Bengaluru to San Francisco flight, something that would have been technologically impossible just a decade ago, global air travel is today in a quagmire. Thousands of planes are grounded across the world with demand having collapsed in the wake of the pandemic. International travel, which had been truly democratised with lower fares and increased connectivity, is now on life support. It isn't as if there are no more flights; with strict quarantine measures and several countries restricting travel to citizens and legal residents, travel has become essentially one for emergencies and repatriation. Of course, there are some who have to travel for business, particularly in an age of globalised workforces, but that is now being done without families.

Will air travel recover from this devastating hit? There are many ways to look at it, but one



has to understand that there are different types of air travel. It is evident from the numbers emerging that the Indian economy is on the upswing and local business travel will almost certainly recover. Once all the States fully open up, one can expect air travel to regain some normalcy by the middle of 2021. Of course, there are other factors: While evidence points to a decreasing caseload of COVID-19 and the vaccination rollout has been impressive in India, the emergence of new variants, particularly in Brazil and South Africa against which existing vaccines are less effective, is alarming. If one of these variants is able to spread inside India, it could again lead to havoc. That said, domestic air travel will emerge healthier post-pandemic, not just because of business demand but also leisure demand as travellers after a year of being cooped up at home will want to travel and, with foreign destinations closed off, domestic tourism is bound to pick up.

But as for international air travel, it could be several months, even a year or two, before things come even close to recovery. There are however a few trends that might change, the first being more direct connectivity thanks to



WORK TRAVEL AND LARGE CONFERENCES ARE NOT GOING TO GO AWAY, BUT WILL BIG SHOWS SUCH AS MOTOR SHOWS TAKE PLACE OR WILL THE '2020 AUTO EXPO' AT GREATER NOIDA GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE 'LAST BIG SHOW'?

nations having different rules for transit passengers.

While this might again change going forward, particularly as a vaccine is deployed, this fundamental change, coupled with the emergence of modern aircraft, will pose an existential threat to airlines that have for years survived primarily thanks to connecting passengers.

There is also the likelihood of a "vaccine passport". Anyone travelling to Sub-Saharan Africa or certain Latin American countries needs to show that they have taken a yellow fever shot; now this requirement will likely be global. Popular destinations, like in South-East Asia, have travellers from many countries and preventing them from interacting is impossible. While COVID-19 rages on in North America and Western Europe, the only way to protect both citizens and tourists from bringing in the virus is some sort of vaccine passport. This might actually be a good time for India to explore the opportunity to embed its passports with RFID chips that can store vaccination information.

Then, of course, there comes the very concept of necessary travel. This pan-

dem has made us all realise that working from home is an option for many people. Work travel and large conferences are not going to go away, but will big shows such as motor shows take place or will the '2020 Auto Expo' at Greater Noida go down in history as the "last big show"? The huge trade shows, even for the airline industry such as the events in Farnborough and Paris, might never be the same and that will take a toll on business-class travel. Low-cost international leisure travel might come back roaring thanks to the introduction of new aircraft such as Airbus's A321XLR, of which several are on order by India's largest airline, IndiGo.

But we do not really know how we, air passengers who love travelling, will react in a few months, once a considerable number of people have been vaccinated. We still don't know whether nations will have quarantine rules up in place if the virus evolves into a deadlier form. But one thing is certain, aviation is in a dark place right now and it could be another year before there is any hope of recovery.

(The author is Managing Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIA NEEDS TO WIN THE CONFIDENCE OF US

Sir— This refers to the editorial 'Serious business' (February 10). Ever since he assumed charge, US President Joe Biden has made it clear that he will keep American interest above all. He is likely to work out the political equations keeping this in mind. Biden will not give any special privilege to India unlike his predecessor Donald Trump, who shared a very cordial and friendly relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Biden, who had recently unseated his arch-rival Trump in the bitterest political battle in the history of America, is likely to reverse the decisions or policies of Trump. This will prove antagonistic to the interests of India and will give opportunity to countries like China to extend their influence in the region. The Indo-American ties need to be revisited as the circumstances have changed with the change of regime in America.

However, this bodes well that PM Modi and President Biden have acknowledged the significance of continuing the close cooperation between the nations to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific, in their very first conversation. It's good that both the leaders have shown their commitment for resuming the democratic process in Myanmar which is now under military rule. India can play a lead role in it and thus establish close ties with America which will eventually be in its interest.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

STOP PLAYING WITH NATURE

Sir — Natural calamities are common but at times these turn fatal and cause huge damage to property. The recent calamity in Uttarakhand reminds us that nature is mighty and can ruin human settlements within seconds. It also teaches us not to exploit nature and its resources for our benefit and in the name of development. We must remember that despite all the progress modern science has made, sometimes our scientists fail to predict the impending danger and then the loss to life and property becomes inevitable.

M Pradyu | Kamru

Pedal your way to health



The recent move by the Karnataka Government to introduce bicycle lanes on Race Course Road in the central business district of Bengaluru is a welcome step. At a time when eco-friendly and sustainable modes of transportation like bicycles and electric vehicles are increasing across the world, the decision of the State Government is an example for other

States who are likely to follow suit. Bicycles do not pollute the environment like cars and buses and thus help in maintaining ambient air quality and health of environment.

It also reduces traffic congestion on the roads. The State Capital is overburdened by the large number of vehicles plying on roads and causing congestion. The authorities should chalk out an extensive plan for developing more bicycle lanes across the city. Schools and educational institutions should encourage their students to use bicycles to commute.

Private and Government offices should also encourage the use of bicycles, with private players diverting a corpus of funds under Corporate Social Responsibility for promoting it. Pedalling is not only environment-friendly but also helps the rider in keeping lifestyle diseases like diabetes and blood pressure at bay. There is no harm in enjoying a bicycle ride on weekends and exploring nearby places by pedalling.

Varun Dambal | Bengaluru

Though storms, downpours and floods can be predicted soon and forewarnings can be made to evacuate people to safer zones, there are still some natural events like lightning and thunderstorms that sometimes strike and cause severe damage and casualties. A number of States in India like Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar witness thunderstorms and lightning between April and June.

It is really good to know that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) plans to set up the first-ever thunderstorm and lightning research centre in the country in Balasore district of Odisha. It will provide important scientific information, data and updates that will help in saving lives. But we must stop playing with nature before it's too late.

A FORCE TO RECKON WITH

Sir — The return of VK Sasikala, the former aide of late Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, after her long stay in prison to Tamil Nadu

politics will provide new dimensions to the politically sensitive State. Her journey will rally behind Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Deputy CM O Panneerselvam. They must keep in mind that her popularity shows that Sasikala is a force to reckon with.

CKR Nathan | Coimbatore

They feel that the party's rank and file will rally behind Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Deputy CM O Panneerselvam. They must keep in mind that her popularity shows that Sasikala is a force to reckon with.

CKR Nathan | Coimbatore

SOUND BITE

When the Congress comes to power again, we will immediately repeal these farm laws. We will also ensure Minimum Support Price for all farmers.



Congress leader

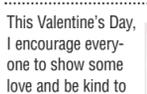
—Priyanka Gandhi



A key priority of the UN this year is to build a global coalition for carbon neutrality by the middle of the century. Young people will have a critical role to play.

UN Deputy Secretary-General

—Amina J Mohammed



This Valentine's Day, I encourage everyone to show some love and be kind to animals, our planet and our bodies by keeping animals off our plates.

Actor

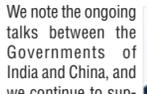
—Sonu Sood



What I really love about Team India is that Virat Kohli doesn't find any excuses. That's what I really love about his captaincy, he took the blame for everything.

Jamaican sprinter

—Yohan Blake



We note the ongoing talks between the Governments of India and China, and we continue to support direct dialogue and a peaceful resolution of the border disputes.

US State Dept spokesperson

—Ned Price

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

REPUBLICAN SPLIT THE ONLY WAY OUT?

It's a risk but genuine conservatives have no future in a party under Donald Trump anyway



GWYNNE DYER

If the Republican Party splits, what name should the breakaway party use? The Conservative Party, maybe? This question has not become a burning issue yet, because it's far from clear that the Republican Party really will split. After all, a majority out of the 50 Republican senators are going to vote against impeaching former President Donald Trump in the trial that opened in the Senate. That doesn't sound like they are getting ready to chuck him out of the party. There's Rand Paul, the Kentucky Republican senator who took the lead in demanding that the charge against Trump of "incitement of insurrection against the Republic" be set aside. "Impeachment is for removal from office and the accused here has already left office," he said, parroting the party's excuse for refusing to convict Trump without actually condoning the attempted coup. But on January 6, just hours after the mob had left the Capitol building, Paul spoke strongly against the idea that anybody in Congress should try to reverse the election outcome certified by the States, the very thing that Trump had sent the mob to force the Congress to do. The man is clearly conflicted, and so is his party. But there's a deeper story here. Compare what the Republican Party did in the House of Representatives on February 3 in a secret vote and then what it did on January 4 in an open public vote.



Last Wednesday the Republican members of the House, voting in closed caucus, confirmed Republican Liz Cheney as third senior-most Republican in the lower chamber even though she had "betrayed" Donald Trump by voting for his impeachment. The vote wasn't even close: 145 in favour of keeping her in post, only 61 against. The following day, in an open vote on whether Republican Marjorie Taylor Greene, a fanatical Trump loyalist, should keep her seat on several congressional committees despite her shocking and controversial views, the Republicans voted to keep her in place by 199 to 11. Greene believes that the California wildfires were set by Jewish laser beams from space and shares Q-Anon conspiracy theories. She lost her committee seats anyway, because all the Democrats voted to force her out. But in a secret vote, most of those Republican Congressmen would also have disavowed her, probably by the same two-to-one majority they gave in support of Liz Cheney. The Republican members of Congress may be weak and cowardly, but most are not wicked. In an open vote they felt they had to back Greene, because otherwise Trump's loyalists back in their home districts would ensure that they never got elected again. But they'd love to dump him if they could do it safely.

It won't be that easy, because Trump is terrifying if you are within reach of his wrath, as all but a few of these men and women are. But those two wildly contradictory votes are telling us that the Republican Party will probably split. What remains to be settled is which successor will survive in the long term. When political parties split, it doesn't usually end well for the faction that appears to have stormed out. The ones who stay behind in the "old" party keep the bank accounts and the donor lists and they also tend to look more mature, which can be a big political advantage in a turbulent time. So the first priority for the sane wing of the Republicans must be to provoke a split as soon as possible — and make sure that it looks like the Trumpites did it. That shouldn't be hard to arrange with Trump at the helm. It's a risk, but genuine conservatives have no future in a party that's under his thumb anyway. Wouldn't that split the vote on the right? Yes, but it's too late to worry about that. Maybe the Democrats will win again in the mid-term elections in 2022, but if the split happens soon the civil war could be over and the Republican Party rebuilt on a better foundation by 2024. There's a good chance that Trump will be full gaga by then but still hanging on, which would help the process along. (Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work.' The views expressed are personal.)

Mental health worries in a post-Corona world

Before the pandemic, the WHO had predicted that by 2020, around 20 per cent of India's population would suffer from mental illnesses. Now, this number is expected to go up



ANITA MISHRA

RITIKA GUPTA

Experts believe that there will be a surge in cases of mental illness in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic due to the lasting mental and emotional impact of physical distancing, quarantine and socio-economic factors. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), every 40 seconds a person dies by suicide. A paper by the Indian Council of Medical Research showed that in 2017, a whopping 197 million Indians were suffering from mental disorders, of whom 46 million had depressive disorders and 45 million had anxiety disorders. The spread of the Coronavirus only aggravated the situation. So deep is the fear of the virus that people with no history of mental illness have developed serious psychological problems for the first time, including borderline personality disorder, psychosis, mood disorder, depression and psychotic episodes, as a result of the social distancing and quarantining that is required. Anxiety, irritability, anger, insomnia, stress and emotional exhaustion stand out as being very common during the pandemic as evidenced by the increased number of suicides across the world. India is no exception to this crisis.

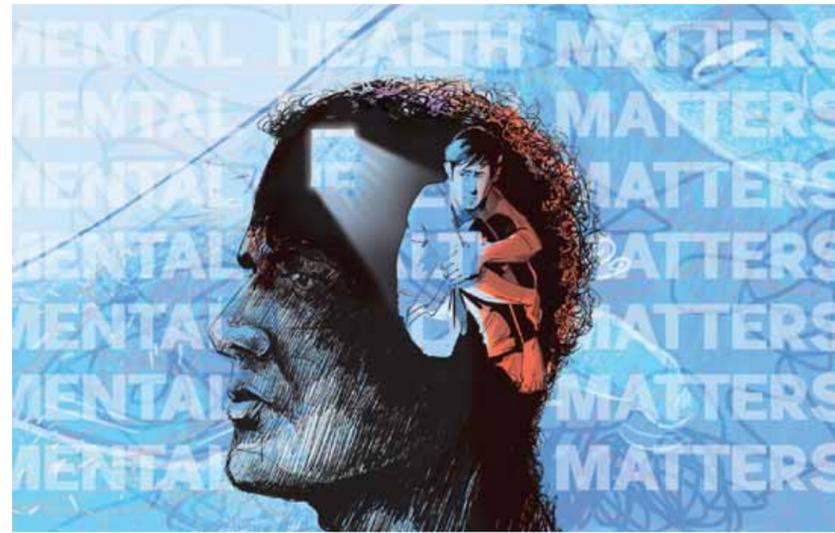
The prolonged and unprecedented countrywide lockdowns, restricted movement and limited availability of public services led to increased loneliness, stress and anxiety, stranding many people in rental apartments or boarding houses away from home. According to a survey conducted by the Indian Psychiatric Society, within a week of the lockdown, the number of reported cases of mental illness in India rose by 20 per cent. A report by the WHO reveals that 7.5 per cent of the Indian population suffers from some form of mental disorder and it accounted for nearly 15 per cent of the global mental, neurological and substance abuse disorder burden. Before the pandemic, the WHO had predicted that by 2020, around 20 per cent of India's population would suffer from mental illnesses. Now, with the country in the grip of the contagion, this number is expected to go up. India's National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) reveals that nearly 150 million Indians need active intervention, whereas fewer than 30 million get it.

Different people were affected differently by the pandemic. Many were stuck at home with disoriented families or abusive relationships. This can be juxtaposed with several others who were able to reconnect with their families and loved ones better during the lockdown, yet the consequences of the pandemic like loss of jobs, fear of death and so on, led to anxiety. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, there has been a sharp rise in unemployment to 27.11 per cent with daily wage workers (urban poor and migrant labourers) being the worst hit. According to a survey conducted by Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI), 56 per cent of the urban poor were found to be anxious about their financial future. This was not only limited to individuals, even families committed suicide due to financial stress. Frontline healthcare workers experienced stress and burnout due to the shortage of supplies and rapidly increasing cases. Delayed payments and reduced incomes are adding to the stress. With schools closed for nearly ten months the lives of millions of students in India are in a limbo, leading to lack of personal space and separation from their friends. Even though the senior



FIGHTING THE COVID-19 CRISIS AND THE MENTAL HEALTH WOES THAT IT HAS BROUGHT WITH IT ESSENTIALLY REQUIRES A HOLISTIC APPROACH THAT SUFFICIENTLY INTEGRATES INFRASTRUCTURAL, SOCIAL, BEHAVIOURAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS TO PREPARE FOR ANY EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Mishra is Administrative Advisor and Gupta is Assistant Director, Impact and Policy Research Institute. The views expressed are personal.



children have been able to go back to school, the younger students are still stuck at home. The digital divide also led to feelings of deprivation, resulting in increased incidents of suicides among students. People with disabilities and senior citizens too are feeling vulnerable to the virus and fear gaps in healthcare, isolation and dependency on their loved ones. Hence, India's mental health burden is set to increase.

Sadly, mental health treatment is expensive due to a huge gap in demand and supply of qualified professionals for those seeking help. Even health insurance does not adequately cover mental illness treatment despite the existence of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, where offering insurance for mental health ailments has been made mandatory by law. Outpatient treatment, therapies and counselling cost thousands, which effectively excludes the middle and lower income groups. Moreover, there exists inadequate knowledge or awareness about the subject, which makes the situation dire. Plus, India has the added challenge of stigma attached to mental health that can be classified into two: Public stigma and self-stigma.

Public stigma involves the prejudices and beliefs endorsed by the common man. This, in general influences personal feelings. Public stigma such as fear, exclusion and authoritarianism lead to the exclusion of mentally ill people from mainstream society. Research has shown that people are less likely to pity persons with mental illness, instead

reacting to psychiatric disability with anger and believing that help is not deserved. Sadly, public stigma translates into self-stigma where an individual's self-confidence is eroded due to constant exclusion and fear and they start harming themselves. This results in suicides and sometimes murders of others in extreme cases. Stigma results in reluctance to seek help or treatment, lack of understanding by the family, friends, co-workers or others, fewer opportunities for work, school, social activities, trouble finding housing, bullying, physical violence or harassment. The stereotype attached with the treatment of mental illness — where it is believed that everyone with a mental disorder has to be admitted to a mental asylum — is stopping people from seeking proper treatment. The most worrying factor is that people in India are dealing with two pandemics. One is the virus, the other is the "infodemic" that has dominated all social media platforms and has resulted in increased time spent online. Increasingly new crimes, trends and terms are being identified due to the extreme use of social media. The lives of people are being run by social media which encourages jealousy, hatred and is breeding a judgmental group of people. According to a study conducted by the Population Foundation of India, among the youth of three States during the lockdown and subsequent reopening of the economy, 68 per cent respondents in Uttar Pradesh reported an increase in social media use. Of those respon-

dents who reported feeling depressed, social media use was higher at 92 per cent. These figures show that people in India are dealing with dual pandemics.

The significance of ensuring dissemination of correct information and dispelling myths and pseudo-scientific practices cannot be emphasised enough. At the same time, global grassroots policy experiences suggest that in a country like India, health-related information alone helps little. It is imperative to bring behavioural changes to reap maximum benefits from public health interventions. To what extent such changes can be brought about in a short period is debatable, yet remains critical as the outbreak is expected to linger till the end of this year.

Social and behavioural change communication (SBCC) may be employed as a potential strategy to increase awareness of the effectiveness and the necessity of preventive measures. SBCC employs mass media, community-level activities, interpersonal communication, information and communications technology and new media to carry out its objectives. Such evidence-based communication programmes can help enhance knowledge, shift attitudes and change public behaviour. Fighting the COVID-19 crisis and the mental health woes that it has brought with it essentially requires a holistic approach that sufficiently integrates infrastructural, social, behavioural and psychological aspects to prepare for any emergency response.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

'ANDOLAN JEEVI' CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT PROTESTS. WE HAVE TO IDENTIFY SUCH PEOPLE AND PROTECT THE NATION FROM THEM.
—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI



I AM A PROUD 'ANDOLAN JEEVI'. THE QUINTESSENTIAL 'ANDOLAN JEEVI' WAS MAHATMA GANDHI.
—CONGRESS LEADER
P CHIDAMBARAM

Death of intellect as self-made men preferred over educated ones

An anti-intellectual attitude is often part and parcel of a politically influential middle-class that has a strong dislike for what it sees as 'political elite'

One point that supporters of Prime Minister Imran Khan really like to assert is that, "he is a self-made man." They insist that the country should be led by people like him and not by those who were "born into wealth and power." According to the American historian Richard Hofstadter, such views are largely aired by the middle-classes. To Hofstadter, this view also has an element of "anti-intellectualism." He says that, as the middle-class manages to attain political influence, it develops a strong dislike for what it sees as "political elite." But since this elite has more access to better avenues of education, the middle-class also develops an anti-intellectual attitude, insisting that, as a ruler, a self-made man is better than a better educated man. Khan's core support comes from Pakistan's middle-classes. And even though he graduated



NADEEM PARACHA

The views expressed are personal. Courtesy: Dawn

from the prestigious Oxford University, he is more articulate when speaking about cricket — a sport that turned him into a star — than about anything related to what he is supposed to be addressing as the country's Prime Minister.

But many of his supporters do not have a problem with this, especially in contrast to his equally well-educated opponents, Bilawal Bhutto and Maryam Nawaz, who sound a lot more articulate in matters of politics. To Khan's supporters, these two are "dynastic elite" who cannot relate to the sentiments of the common man. It's another matter that Khan is not the kind of self-made man that his supporters would like people to believe. He came from a well-to-do family that had roots in the country's military-bureaucracy establishment. He went to prestigious educational institutions and spent most of

his youth as a socialite in London. Indeed, whereas the Bhutto and Sharif offsprings were born into power which is aiding their climb in politics, Khan's political ambitions were carefully nurtured by the military establishment.

Nevertheless, perhaps conscious of the fact that his personality is not suited to support an intellectual bent, Khan has positioned himself as a self-made man who appeals to the ways of the common man. He doesn't. For example, wearing the national dress and using common everyday Urdu does not cut it anymore. It did when ZA Bhutto did the same. But years after his demise in 1979, such populist antics have become a cliché. The difference between the two is that Bhutto was a bonafide intellectual. Even his idea to present himself as a "people's man" was born from a rigorous intellectual scheme.



However, Khan does appeal to that particular middle-class disposition that Hofstadter was writing about. When he attempts to sound profound, his views usually appear to be a mishmash of theories of certain Islamic and so-called "post-Colonial" scholars. The result is rhetoric that actually ends up smacking of anti-intellectualism.

So what is anti-intellectualism? It is understood to be a view that is hostile to intellectuals. According to Walter Houghton, the term's first

known usage dates back to 1881 in England, when science and ideas such as the "separation of religion and the State", and the "supremacy of reason" had gained momentum. This triggered resentment in certain sections of British society who began to suspect that intellectuals were formulating these ideas to undermine the importance of theology and long-held traditions. According to the American historian Robert Cross, as populism started to become a major theme in American politics in the early 20th Century, some mainstream politicians politicised anti-intellectualism as a way to portray themselves as men of the people. For example, US Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson insisted that "character was more important than intellect."

Across the 20th Century, the politicised strand of anti-

intellectualism was active in various regions. Communist regimes in China, the Soviet Union and Cambodia systematically eliminated intellectuals after describing them as remnants of overthrown bourgeoisie cultures. In Germany, the far-Right intelligentsia differentiated between "passive intellectuals" and "active intellectuals." Apparently, passive intellectuals were abstract and thus useless whereas the active ones were "men of action." Hundreds of passive intellectuals were harassed or killed in Nazi Germany.

According to the US historian of science Michael Shermer, a more curious idea of anti-intellectualism began to develop within Western academia as "postmodernism" had begun to hijack various academic disciplines in the 1990s. Postmodernism emerged in the 20th Century as a critique of

modernism and derided it as a destructive force that had used its ideas of secularism, democracy, economic progress, science and reason as tools of subjugation. "Post-colonialism" or the critique of the remnants of Western colonialism was very much a product of postmodernism as well.

Imran Khan is a classic example of how "postmodernism" and "post-colonialism" have become cynical anti-intellectual pursuits. Khan often reminds us that social and economic progress should not be undertaken to please the West because that smacks of a colonial mindset. So, as his regime presides over a nosediving economy and severe political polarisation, Khan was recently reported as discussing with his Ministers whether he should mandate the wearing of the dupatta (a stole) by all women TV anchors. Go figure.

GOP Senator Bill flips on trial, rips Trump lawyers

Baton Rouge (US): Republican Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana joined Democrats in voting against ending Donald Trump's impeachment trial, a surprise reversal that Cassidy said was a response to the former president's lawyers doing "a terrible job" of arguing his case.

Cassidy was among six Republican senators who sided with Democrats on the question of whether a former president can be tried after leaving office. The Louisiana senator's position was a switch from January, when he voted to end the proceedings on the grounds that they were unconstitutional.

The vote drew swift criticism from Republicans in the senator's deeply conservative state. But Cassidy said Trump's attorneys didn't make their case. While the Democrats' impeachment managers were "focused, they were organized," relying on precedent and legal scholars, Trump's team "was disorganised, random, had nothing," he said. "They talked about many things, but they didn't talk

about the issue at hand," Cassidy said after the vote on Tuesday. Still, the senator said his decision to move ahead with the trial shouldn't be taken as a sign he will later vote to convict the former president. In recent calls with reporters, including one Tuesday morning, Cassidy has refused to say whether he believes Trump committed an impeachable offense.

"I have not yet decided on

how I will vote," he said. Trump is the first president to face impeachment charges after leaving office. The House accused him of inciting an insurrection for his role in the Jan 6. Siege on the U.S. Capitol. Hundreds of rioters ransacked the building to try to stop the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's victory, a domestic attack on the nation's seat of government unlike any in its history. Five people died. AP

Former British Governor-Gen of India finds mention during impeachment proceedings

Washington: Prosecutors seeking to impeach Donald Trump for a historic second time on Tuesday invoked the trial of Warren Hastings, the first British Governor-General of India, by the House of Lords in the 18th century after he had left office, to rebut the former US president's stand that the trial by the Senate was unconstitutional as he was no longer in power.

The US Senate on Tuesday confirmed the constitutionality of Trump's impeachment trial by 56-44 votes following presentation from both sides — House impeachment managers and lawyers representing the former president — paving the way for the historic impeachment trial of the 45th President of the United States who left office on January 20. PTI

Myanmar protesters back on streets despite crackdown

AP ■ YANGON

Crowds demonstrating against the military takeover in Myanmar again defied a ban on protests Wednesday, even after security forces ratcheted up the use of force against them and raided the headquarters of the political party of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi.



Demonstrator wave flags of the National League for Democracy party during a protest against the military coup in Yangon, Myanmar on Wednesday AP

Fresh protests were reported in Yangon and Mandalay, the country's two biggest cities, as well as the capital Naypyitaw and elsewhere. The protesters are demanding that power be

restored to Suu Kyi's deposed civilian government. They're also seeking freedom for her and other governing party members since the military detained them after blocking the new session of Parliament on Feb. 1. The military says it acted because November's election, which Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won in a landslide, was marred by irregularities. The election commission had refuted the allegation. The growing protests and the junta's latest raid suggest there is little room for recon-

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ciliation. The military, which held power directly for five decades after a 1962 coup, used deadly force to quash a massive 1988 uprising and a 2007 revolt led by Buddhist monks. In Naypyitaw and Mandalay on Tuesday, police sprayed water cannons and fired warning shots to try to clear away protesters. In Naypyitaw, they shot rubber bullets and apparently live rounds, wounding a woman protester, according to witnesses and footage on social media. The reports could not be independently confirmed.

Yemen rebel attack on airport sets plane on fire

AP ■ DUBAI

Yemen's Houthi rebels on Wednesday targeted Abha International Airport in southwestern Saudi Arabia, causing a civilian plane on the tarmac to catch fire, the kingdom's state television reported.

The state-owned Al-Ekhabriya TV said that firefighters have brought the blaze under control. The initial reports offered no word on any possible casualties from the

attack. Saudi officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment Wednesday.

Col. Turki al-Maliki, the spokesman for the Saudi-led military coalition, said coalition forces intercepted and destroyed two bomb-laden drones launched by the Houthis toward the kingdom. He condemned the assault as a "systematic and deliberate attempt to target civilians in the southern region" of Saudi Arabia.

Independent Polish media black out coverage to protest tax

Warsaw: Independent media outlets in Poland suspended news coverage on Wednesday to protest a planned new advertising tax that they view as an attempt by the right-wing government to undermine press freedoms.

The government says the tax will raise money after state finances have been badly strained by the coronavirus pandemic. A letter signed by 45 media companies said the tax would be extremely burdensome, noting that they already pay many taxes, and said it could push some to collapse. "We strongly oppose the use of the epidemic as an excuse to introduce another

new, exceptionally heavy burden on the media," they wrote. The US threw its support behind the media companies, with Chargé d'Affaires Bix Aliu calling free media "a cornerstone of democracy" in a tweet and saying "the United States will always defend media independence."

Gazeta Wyborcza, the country's leading newspaper and a liberal critic of the populist government, called the advertising tax "a powerful blow to free media." In place of the usual news items on its webpage was a black screen and a warning that if the tax is passed, it could lead readers to one day lose access to independent news. AP

Prachanda warns to surround PM Office and house if Oli fails to correct his mistakes

Kathmandu:

Chairperson of the Nepal Communist Party's splinter faction Puspaha Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Wednesday warned that a million people would be forced to picket Singha Durbar and Baluwater if Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli failed to correct his mistakes, as thousands of people staged a massive rally in the capital against dissolution of Parliament. "Prime Minister Oli has committed a huge crime by killing the constitution and people have now understood it very well," Prachanda told the rally organised by his faction at Bhrikutimandap in Kathmandu. Prachanda warned that in the next protest rally he will mobilise a million people who

will surround Singha Durbar, that houses Prime Ministers' Office, and Baluwater, the official residence of the Prime Minister. He also warned Prime Minister Oli against deceiving the people by making false statements and threatening Election Commission and influencing other constitutional bodies. PTI

B'deshi court sentences to death eight Islamists for killing publisher of secular books

Dhaka: A special anti-terrorism tribunal in Bangladesh on Wednesday sentenced to death eight Islamic militants, including a sacked military officer, for killing a publisher of books on secularism and atheism at his office in 2015. Islamist militants hacked to death publisher Faisal Arefin Dipon, the owner of Jagrity Publishers, at his office at central Dhaka's Shahbagh area on November 31, 2015. Anti-Terrorism Tribunal Judge Mohammad Mojibur Rahman announced the sentence as six of eight convicts, all belonging to outlawed Ansar Al Islam terrorist group, also known as Ansarulaha Bangla Team (ABT), were present in the court. PTI

Around the Globe

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday barred the execution of inmates suffering from mental disorder, observing that carrying out the death sentence does not "meet the ends of justice" if a convict was unable to comprehend the rationale behind the punishment. **Colombo:** Sri Lanka will begin giving permission for Muslims who die of Covid-19 to be buried, the prime minister said Wednesday, following an outcry over a previous ban. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa gave the assurance in response to a question from a lawmaker in Parliament. **Accra (Ghana):** Ghana's parliament has been suspended for at least three weeks following a surge in COVID-19 cases among parliament members and staff.

PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED						
STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (REVIEWED) FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31 st DECEMBER 2020 (Rs. in Crore)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended		Year Ended
		Un-Audited	Audited	Un-Audited	Audited	
1	Total Income from operations	155.74	106.17	144.22	324.10	489.69
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	24.91	(1.70)	4.05	18.15	18.97
3	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	24.91	(1.70)	4.05	18.15	18.97
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	16.67	(1.79)	2.47	11.74	13.05
5	Total comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	16.64	(1.82)	2.46	11.65	12.07
6	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 10/-)	89.14	89.14	89.14	89.14	89.14
7	Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve)					100.81
8	Earnings Per Share (Rs. 10 each)					
	Basic:	1.87	(0.20)	0.28	1.32	1.36
	Diluted:	1.87	(0.20)	0.28	1.32	1.36

China spacecraft enters Mars orbit, 2nd in 2 days after UAE

Beijing: A Chinese spacecraft entered Mars orbit on Wednesday on a mission to land a rover and collect data on underground water and possible signs of ancient life, state media said. "China's probe Tianwen-1 successfully entered the orbit around Mars on Wednesday after a nearly seven-month voyage from Earth," the Xinhua News Agency said in a brief report. The orbiter-rover combo became the second spacecraft in two days to reach the red planet. An orbiter from the United Arab Emirates led the way on Tuesday. Next week, the U.S. Will try to land its Perseverance rover on the Martian surface. Only the U.S. Has successfully touched down on Mars — eight times beginning with two

French Government seeks to set age for sexual consent at 15

Paris: France's Government wants to set the age of sexual consent at 15 and make it easier to punish long-ago child sexual abuse, amid growing public pressure and a wave of online testimonies about rape and other sexual violence by parents and authority figures. Calling such treatment of children "intolerable," the justice ministry said in a statement that "the government is determined to act quickly to implement the changes that our society expects." "An act of sexual penetration by an adult on a minor under 15 will be considered a rape," Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti said Tuesday on France-2 television. Consent would no longer be able to be cited to diminish the charges,

French Government seeks to set age for sexual consent at 15

but exceptions would be made for teenagers having consensual sex, he said. The change would still need to be enshrined in law, but the announcement is a major step after years of efforts to toughen French protection for children victims of rape and sexual violence. A push to set France's first age of consent 3 years ago in the wake of the global #MeToo movement failed amid legal complications. But the effort has gained new momentum since accusations emerged last month of incestuous sexual abuse involving a prominent French political expert, Olivier Duhamel. That unleashed an online #MeTooIncest movement in France that led to hundreds of similar testimonies. AP

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Satya Prakash Singh Proprietor M/s Kodand Glass @ Aluminium Works, R/o F-939, Sector-3, Ghaziabad, UP has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 009/2020 u/s 174A IPC, P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Satya Prakash Singh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Satya Prakash Singh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Satya Prakash Singh of FIR No. 009/2020 u/s 174A IPC, P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.04.2021. By Order, Ms. Pragati Metropolitan Magistrate Patiala House Courts, New Delhi DP/217/ND/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given by Mrs. Sunila who Mr. Hari Kishan is the owner of Land measuring 200 Sq Yards, out of Khana No.1098-13-18/35, 24/22, situated in the revenue area of Village Farukh Nagar, Anandpur, Committee Farukh Nagar, Feroz and District Gurgaon. That the Original Sale Deed dated 01.02.1998 executed by Sh. Rameshwar Singh, Sh. Phula Ram in favour of Sh. Krishan Kumar Singh, Ragbir Singh & Original Sale Deed dated 18.01.2006 executed by Sh. Krishan Kumar Singh, Ragbir Singh in favour of Smt. Bhagwati W/o Sh. Balraj, Singh in respect of above mentioned property has been found misplaced. Public is being warned not to deal with the said document. Any person dealing with the said document would do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person. If anybody found these document or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, Concern person is required to communicate in writing to the undersigned at below address.
Lucam Legal LLP
 269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moh. Opp. Uday Park, South Ex. II, New Delhi-49, Contact #911-40046316

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
 E-Tender Notice
 Following E-tenders are invited by DRM (Engg.) & (TRD) NWR/Ajmer at 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. 1. Tender No.: 05/2021, Name of work: Abu Road- Provision of Inspection Pit for 140 Ton crane and Misc. works., Approximate Cost: Rs. 14,92,440.10, Earnest Money: Bid Security Declaration, Tender Closing Date: 02.03.2021, 2. Tender No.: 09/2021, Name of work: ADEN-Marwar Jn. Sub Division : Zone No. 13 (2020-21 & 2021-22)-All Repairs & Maintenance and Sanitary works in Staff Quarters between Somesar to Jawai Bandh Section (Based on CPWD DSR-2018) , Approximate Cost: Rs. 59,92,500.00, Earnest Money: Bid Security Declaration, Tender Closing Date: 02.03.2021, 3. Tender No.: DRM/TRD/08/2020-21, Name of work: Provision of BG-A Class ART siding at Udz station, Approximate Cost: Rs. 23,21,932.20, Earnest Money: Bid Security Declaration, Tender Closing Date: 23.02.2021, The detailed information of the above tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in and Tender Notice Board of DRM Office, NWR/Ajmer 68-82/21
 Please join us on f t i n /NWRRailways

NOTICE
 I builder Buyer Agreement of Kunwar Singh and Poonam Preet Kaur Flat No 12/36 Flam Olympia, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, Allottee (Sheetal Mittal and Vishal Mittal) actually lost somewhere which would be considered illegal for others.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 It is known to all that the allottee of Residential Flat No. 105-B, Block-B-12, Sector-34, Ms. Gauri Misra D/o Late B.P. Singhal & Late Shaktantala Singhal, R/o C-001, Stellar Kings Court, F-32, Sector-50, Noida, has sold the above flat on GPA basis as under:-
 1. A.G.P.A. was executed in favour of Sh. Binu Thomas son of Late John Thomas, R/o C-183, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, Delhi, which is regd. in the office of S.R. Noida, on dt. 12.11.2020 and the Agreement to Sell was not executed in favour of any person. Because the Agreement to Sell written in para 1 above is not executed/regd., so with the help of this notice, it is informed that the transfer of the above said flat on the basis of GPA goes in favour of Smt. Shila Sharma wife of Sh. shyam Lal, R/O Sadullapur URF Malepur, Jewar, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar-U.P. If anyone has any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection in the Residential (Housing) Section of Noida Authority within 15 days of the publication of this notice.

ADDI INDUSTRIES LIMITED						
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated		Year Ended
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	
1	Total Income from operations	9.70	9.81	25.06	29.92	67.43
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax and exceptional items)	(9.35)	(9.04)	5.80	(26.06)	7.49
3	Net Profit for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	(8.33)	(4.89)	9.80	(25.99)	7.41
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	(6.46)	(7.20)	8.95	(1.18)	10.87
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income after Tax)	(4.97)	(5.71)	9.85	3.28	13.90
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value Rs 5/- each)	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00
7	Earnings Per Share (of Rs 5/- each)(Not Annualised)					
	Basic:	(0.06)	(0.07)	0.08	(0.01)	0.10
	Diluted:	(0.06)	(0.07)	0.08	(0.01)	0.10

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	E-NIT No. 44/2020-21/XEN/TS DIV. HVPNL, HISAR DATED: 08.02.2021 FOR: - 1. MTC. OF NON- RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 132 KV SUB-STATION HVPNL, FATEHABAD. 2. MTC. OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 132 KV SUB-STATION HVPNL, FATEHABAD 3. MTC. OF NON- RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 220 KV SUB-STATION HVPNL, FATEHABAD (ONLINE TENDER ID-2021_HBC_159086_1)	09.02.2021 15.02.2021	5.66 LACS	https://www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
2	HVPNL	PROVIDING 132 KV S/C BAY TO ACCOMMODATE 132 KV S/C LINE FROM KARNAL CO-OP SUGAR MILL LTD. TO SHEKHUPURA JAGIR AT 132 KV S/STN., HVPNL, SHEKHUPURA JAGIR	08.02.2021 15.02.2021	5.05 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
3	HVPNL	E-NIT NO. 43/2020-21/XEN/TS DIV. HVPNL, HISAR DATED: 08.02.2021 FOR: - 1. PROVIDING AND FIXING TILES IN CONTROL ROOM BUILDING (NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING) AT 132KV S/STN. NARNAUD. 2. PROVIDING AND LAYING INTERLOCKING PAVERS BLOCK FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD CONNECTING MAIN GATE TO CONTROL ROOM BUILDING AT 132KV S/STN. HANSI (ONLINE TENDER ID-2021_HBC_159068_1)	09.02.2021 15.02.2021	7.73 LACS	https://www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
4	HVPNL	DEPOSIT WORK FOR PROVIDING 1 NO. 132 KV LINE BAYS (132 KV D/C SHEKHUPURA JAGIR-SUGAR MILL KARNAL LINE) ALONG WITH ALLIED EQUIPMENT IN BAY B-9 AT 132 KV S/STN. SHEKHUPURA JAGIR (CIVIL WORKS).	09.02.2021 15.02.2021	RS. 19,500.00 FOR GENERAL, RS. 9750.00 FOR REGISTERED SOCIETY	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
5	MC PATAUDI	PROVIDING AND FIXING OF TIN SHED IN NEW GOVT. HOSPITAL FOR PARKING, WARD NO. 01, PATAUDI+ 12 OTHER WORKS	05.02.2021 14.02.2021	2.18 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicepp/app	0124-2672869 secymcpataudi@gmail.com
6	MC PATAUDI	CONST. OF TOILET AND WALL UNDER EXISTING TIN SHED IN SHAMSHAN GHAT, WARD NO. 01, PATAUDI+ 4 OTHER WORKS	08.02.2021 16.02.2021	58160/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicepp/app	0124-2672869 secymcpataudi@gmail.com
7	HVPNL	MUFFING OF 48 NO. TOWER LEGS OF 12 NO. TOWERS FOR STRENGTHEN THE TOWER OF 66 KV S/C JORIAN-LADWA LINE.	08.02.2021 17.02.2021	2.09 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
8	HVPNL	PAINTING OF RUSTED AND UN-GALVANIZED TOWER OF 66 KV JORIAN-JATHLANA LINE FOR THE FY 2020-21(INCLUDING LABOUR AND MATERIAL)	08.02.2021 16.02.2021	2.33 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
9	HVPNL	E-NIT NO. 45/2020-21/XEN/TS DIV. HVPNL, HISAR DATED: 09.02.2021 FOR: - 1. WHITE WASHING/PAINTING OF BOUNDARY WALL AT 220 KV S/STN. MASUPPUR. 2. WHITE WASHING/PAINTING OF BOUNDARY WALL AT 132 KV S/STN. BARSII (ONLINE TENDER ID - 2021_HBC_159168_1)	10.02.2021 16.02.2021	2.93 LACS	https://www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
10	HVPNL	PAINTING OF RUSTED TOWERS, BEAMS, GANTRIES AND EQUIPMENT STRUCTURES AT 220 KV AND 66 KV LEVEL AT 220 KV S/STN SHAHABAD	10.02.2021 22.02.2021	2.60 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
11	HVPNL	MOISTURE CLEANING OF 16 NO. 11 KV PANELS OF 11 KV BUS BAR OF 66/11 KV 12.5/16 MVA POWER TRANSFORMER T-1 AT 66 KV SUB-STATION SECTOR 15 HUDA JAGADHRI.	08.02.2021 16.02.2021	1.46 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
12	HVPNL	REPAIRING OF BROKEN BOUNDARY TOWE WALL OF YARD AT 66 KV SUB STATION HVPNL BILASPUR (INCLUDING LABOUR AND MATERIAL).	09.02.2021 20.02.2021	1.55 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
13	DHBNV	TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RECORD ROOM, DRIVER ROOM, GENTS TOILET, DISMANTLING INTERLOCKING TILE AND RELAYING THEM WITH DESIRED GRADE AND LEVEL CUM SR. AO OFFICE RENOVATION WORK IN CE (SMART CITY) OFFICE PREMISES, SEC. 14, GURJURAM (NIT NO. 15/XEN/CIVIL/GOV/2020-21 DATED 05.02.2021.	09.02.2021 02.03.2021	17.79 LACS	www.dhbnv.org.in	8059888451 xencivilgn@dhnv.org.in
14	HFDC KURUKSHETRA	FELLING OF TREES FROM FOREST AND NON-FOREST AREAS WITH EXTRACTION OF STUMPS, CONVERSION, MEASUREMENT, RECORDING, LOADING, CARRIAGE, UNLOADING & STACKING (MAKING LOTS) IN SALE DEPOSITS OF DISTRICT KATHAL.	CLOSING DATE 17.02.2021	80000/-	www.hfdc.gov.in	01744-230364 rmhfcdckr1@hfo.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 1759

LOWERING INDIA'S DEBT TO GDP RATIO High fiscal deficit to pose challenge: Fitch

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings on Wednesday said India's high fiscal deficit would pose a challenge in lowering the debt to GDP ratio, which is expected to rise above 90 per cent in the next five years.

It said India entered the pandemic with little fiscal headroom from a rating perspective. Its general government debt/GDP ratio stood at 72 per cent in 2019, against a median of 42 per cent for 'BBB' rated peers.

Fitch said the budget points to a loosening of fiscal policy to support the country's ongoing economic recovery from the pandemic and will consequently lead to a rise in public debt. The debt/GDP trajectory is core to our sovereign rating assessment, meaning higher

deficits and a slower consolidation path will make India's medium-term growth outlook take on a more critical role in our analysis, Fitch Ratings said in a statement.

It now expects public debt/GDP to rise above 90 per cent of GDP over the next five years, based on the revised budget targets. However, recent reforms and policy measures, including those announced in the budget, could also influence the rating agency's growth expectations and its debt trajectory forecasts.

Fitch estimated India to clock a 11 per cent growth in the fiscal beginning April and then grow at 6.5 per cent a year through to 2025-26 fiscal.

The agency had in June last year revised India's 'BBB-' rating outlook to negative from stable based on its assumptions

Indian economy to contract by 7% in FY21: SBI Research

Mumbai: Pencilling in a GDP growth in third and fourth quarters, SBI Research on Wednesday revised its contraction forecast for the current fiscal year to 7 per cent. The agency had earlier forecast a 7.4 per cent contraction in 2020-21 GDP numbers. In April-September, the economy contracted 15.7 per cent but the second half may see a surprise 2.8 per cent growth, if the SBI analysis turns out to be correct.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic adviser at State Bank of India (SBI) said of the 41 high frequency leading indicators, 51 per cent are showing acceleration which should help the economy turn around to the green from the third quarter with a 0.3 percentage point growth which is likely to surprise positively when the final numbers are out.

In April-June, the Indian economy contracted by a record 23.9 per cent, but dramatically improved to -7.5 per cent in the second quarter. PTI

No plans to cut taxes on petrol, diesel: Pradhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as the oil prices are soaring, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday ruled out any cut in the excise duty, for now, to give relief to consumers.

Making this assertion in the Rajya Sabha, he said "There is no such proposal at present." This reply came when he was asked if the Government was looking at cutting taxes to cool off prices. Petrol price crossed the ₹94-mark in Mumbai and diesel soared to ₹84.63 per litre on Wednesday. Retail pump rates have not seen a reduction in almost 11 months.

International benchmark rates had plunged to decade lows in April. The Government had hiked excise duty on petrol by a record ₹13 per litre and on diesel by ₹16 a litre to mop up gains arising from the fall in rates but did not cut taxes when

oil prices bounced back. Retail petrol price have risen by ₹18.01 per litre since mid-March 2020 and diesel rates have gone up by ₹15.44.

Replying to questions on rising fuel prices, Pradhan said retail pump rates are governed by international prices as India is 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its need. Both central and State Governments rely heavily on collections from taxes on these products for meeting their developmental and welfare priorities, he said.

"They need some resources... (and) this (taxing petrol and diesel) has been a proven and substantial route by all the Governments, whether the State Governments or the Central Government," he said.

The current rally in fuel prices is because crude oil prices have touched \$61 per barrel mark for the first time in more than a year.

IN BRIEF

GAIL ACQUIRES 5% STAKE IN INDIAN GAS EXCHANGE
New Delhi: GAIL (India) Limited has signed a Share Purchase and Shareholders Agreement (SPSHA) with IGX and Indian Energy Exchange Limited (IEX), the promoter and parent company of IGX for acquisition of 5% equity stake in Indian Gas Exchange Limited (IGX).

GOVT RELAXES RULES FOR FAMILY PENSION TO SURVIVORS
New Delhi: Government has issued instructions to liberalise the income criteria for eligibility of a child/sibling of a deceased Government servant/pensioner for grant of family pension under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. The relaxation is granted for family pension to disabled survivors as they require greater medical care and financial assistance. The Government is of the view that the income criteria for eligibility for family pension, applicable in the case of other family members, may not be applied in the case of a child/sibling suffering from a disability.

GAIL PAT JUMPS 20% TO ₹1,487 CR IN Q3
New Delhi: GAIL (India) Limited recorded 13% increase in turnover to ₹15,386 crore vis-a-vis ₹13,611 crore in Q2 FY21. Profit before Tax (PBT) increased by 20 per cent to ₹1,868 crore as against ₹1,550 crore in Q2 FY21. The Profit after Tax (PAT) increased by 20 per cent to ₹1,487 crore in Q3 vis a vis ₹1,240 crore in Q2 FY21. Both physical as well as financial performance of the company improved further across all major segments in Q3 as compared to Q2 FY21. The Physical Performance improved by 4 per cent in Natural Gas Transmission, 8 per cent in Gas Marketing, 3 per cent in LPG Transmission, 3 per cent in Petrochemical Sales and 8 per cent in Liquid Hydrocarbon Sales.

RITES Q3 FY21 REVENUE ₹480 CR, PAT ₹105 CR
Gurugram: RITES Ltd. (NSE: RITES, BSE: 541556), the leading Transport Infrastructure Consultancy and Engineering company, reported its standalone and consolidated financial results for the Quarter and Nine Months ended on 31st December, 2020. The consolidated revenue in Q3FY21 has decreased to ₹480 crore as against ₹663 crore in Q3 FY20 on account of export deliveries not scheduled during this quarter (approx. impact of ₹90 crore) and restrictions imposed due to pandemic. Similarly, operating revenue, excluding other income, stands at ₹449 crore in Q3 FY21 as against ₹620 crore in Q3 FY20. EBITDA and PAT stand at ₹159 crore and ₹105 crore against ₹214 crore and ₹150 crore, respectively, in Q3 FY20.

LIC'S PENSION SCHEME FETCH OVER ₹1L CR OF PREMIUM
New Delhi: LIC pension and group schemes vertical, looking after group schemes and superannuation business of the corporation created a record by clocking more than one lakh crore premium income during the first 10 months of the current financial year 2020-2021. This is first time ever any single vertical of the insurer has crossed such a gigantic premium income figure successively for two years. Pension and group schemes vertical of LIC provides employees' retirement management solution to the who's who of India Inc and has been steadily holding around 80 per cent market share in new business premium post opening of the life insurance industry.

DDA UNVEILS BUDGET, NARELA GETS BIG BOOST
New Delhi: DDA unveils a sustainable development oriented Budget, Narela gets a big boost. DDA, in its meeting held on Wednesday, chaired by the Lt. Governor, NCT Delhi approved the annual Budget for 2021-22, with an annual outlay of ₹6,738 crore and receipts have been projected at ₹6,749 crore. A significant component of the expenditure is earmarked for Narela sub city Development Area. Significant allocations have also been made for transport infrastructure projects such as grant to DMRC towards construction of Phase-IV metro line for Rithala-Bawana-Narela corridor and construction of UER-II stretch in Delhi through NHAI.

Tomar: Reduction in pulses imports resulting in saving of ₹15,000 crore annually

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the production of pulses gone up from 14 million tons to 24 million in the last 5-6 years, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday said that the Government has saved ₹15,000 annually reducing the dependence on imports for pulses. "In the last five-six years, due to the tireless hard work of farmers, scientists and farmer-friendly policies of the central government, the country has increased its pulses production from 140 lakh tonnes to 240 lakh tonnes. Now we also have to pay attention to future requirements," Tomar said while addressing on the occasion of world pulses day.

"We are working towards achieving self sufficiency in pulses production since the

Modi government took over. Now we need to work towards meeting requirement which is likely to go up to 32 million tonnes by 2050. We have focused heavily on cultivation of pulses. This has reduced the import of pulses drastically," Tomar said. He said that the government has promoted cultivation of pulses by purchasing pulses at minimum support price (MSP). "We have increased MSP of pulses by 40-73% in last 6 years. The payment to pulses farmer has gone up by 40 times to ₹10,530 crore," the minister said.

The sowing of pulses in this winter season has gone up by 3% to 16.73 million hectares. The acreage in summer season was also up by 5% to 14 million hectare. "The production is likely to cross 24 million tonnes this year also meeting the needs of the country.

Parl panel suggests lower GST rate for auto sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce on Wednesday recommended a slew of measures, including changes in GST rates of certain commodities, to improve the investment scenario in the country.

The panel, headed by YSRC leader and a Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy, said the main challenges faced by the country presently included administrative and regulatory hurdles, inadequate and costly credit facility, tedious land acquisition procedure, inadequate infrastructure facilities, high logistics cost and large unorganised manufacturing sector, among others.

The panel, in its report titled "Attracting Investment in

Post-Covid Economy: Challenges and Opportunities for India", welcomed the policy changes and incentive schemes brought in by the Centre to overcome the challenges. Stressing the need to sensitise the State machinery/administration towards the importance of investment and business, the report said countries are competing to attract foreign investors.

The Committee recommends that the Department (the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) should look into the policy changes brought in by countries such as Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand, etc that made them more attractive to the companies shifting their bases from

China," the report said. It asked the Centre to enter into more international trade agreements that are beneficial to the country in order to boost its international trade relations. **Consensus on land reforms** The panel said a long-term solution should be worked out in a structured manner to the land issue. It suggested that the Centre constitute an Empowered Committee of State Ministers and the concerned Central Ministers to discuss issues regarding land acquisition and build a consensus on land reforms, in consultation with industry and other stakeholders. "The Empowered Committee should look into issues relating to land acquisition policies, digitisation of land records and simplifying

administrative procedures like registration and land use conversion. Further, the possibility of having a land bank that will be made readily available for developmental projects may be discussed with concerned stakeholders," the report said.

For boosting domestic demand in automobile sector, the panel suggested that the rate of GST should be reduced from 28 per cent to 18 per cent for all categories of vehicles and auto components. It also recommended an incentive-based vehicle scrappage scheme that should be introduced at the earliest.

To help the pharmaceutical industries during periods of high demand, the panel said an increase in 15 per cent over the approved pollution load may be allowed for a particular month.

Sensex slips for second day; HDFC Bank top drag

Mumbai: Equity indices closed with mild losses for the second straight session on Wednesday, weighed by selling in banking counters, as domestic sentiment remained subdued despite a bullish trend overseas.

After swinging 666.64 points intra-day, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 19.69 points or 0.04 per cent lower at 51,309.39. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 2.80 points or 0.02 per cent to close at 15,106.50. Index heavyweight HDFC Bank was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 1.77 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, ONGC, Nestle India, L&T, Infosys and SBI.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finserv, M&M, Bajaj Finance, TCS and Reliance Industries were among the gainers, surging up to 2.96 per cent. PTI

Rupee firms up 3 paise to end at 72.84 against dollar

Mumbai: The rupee firmed up by 3 paise to settle at 72.84 against the US dollar on Wednesday in a restricted trade amid muted trend in the domestic equity market.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 72.87 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 72.81 and a low of 72.88. It finally ended at 72.84 against the American currency, registering a rise of just 3 paise over its previous close. PTI

Corrigendum
Under the column, BUDGET 2021: A RAY OF HOPE published on page 10 on 10th Feb, 2021, Delhi Business School should read DELHI SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, Delhi School of Business offers a 2 year postgraduation in management, approved by AICTE, MHRD, GOI.

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमण्डल, बख्तियारपुर
आतिअल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 07 एस्बसी०डी०/2020-21
राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक दिविदा आमंत्रण
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राकल्पित राशि (लाख ₹० में)	अंशदान की राशि (लाख ₹० में) (ऑन लाईन अथवा फिजिकल / मैन्युअल मोड में बुगतये)	परिभाषा-शिप त्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में बुगतये)	बेट्टॉन का देय 'बीड प्रोसेसिंग फी' (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में बुगतये) ₹०	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
01	पटना जिला के भोकासा प्रखण्ड अर्न्तगत गंगा नदी के दोहे किनारे महादेव स्थान, शिन्धारा में पक्का सुरक्षात्मक कार्य। (एड्रेसका सं०-166/02/2020)	515.00	10.30	10000.00	5900.00	15-05-2021
2	विज्ञापन दाता का नाम	कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमण्डल, बख्तियारपुर				
3	निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि	दिनांक 10.02.2021				
4	निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि	दिनांक 19.02.2021 के 10.00 बजे पूर्ववाह से दिनांक 23.02.2021 के 03.00 बजे अपराह्न तक (केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)				
5	प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय स्थान एवं तिथि	दिनांक 20.02.2021 को 03.00 बजे अपराह्न में मुख्य अभियंता बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सर्जन, जल संसाधन विभाग, पटना				
6	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 25.02.2021 के अपराह्न 03.30 बजे (केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)				
7	वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	सहस्र पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर घोषित की जायेगी।				
8	निविदा खोलने का स्थान	केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।				
9	निविदा की वैधता अवधि	निविदा प्रप्ति के 120 दिन बाद तक।				
10	विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु	वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in www.wrd.bih.nic.in / www.state.bihar.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।				

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमण्डल, बख्तियारपुर
मो० - 7463889518

PR. NO. 012669 (WRD) 2020-21

नोल कोरेना के संख्य में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहाय्य हेतु Toll Free No. 104 पर संयर्क कर सकते हैं।

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of immovable property(ies)
E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgage/ charged to Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd. [CIN: U67110MH2006PLC305312] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 15.03.2021 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 4,41,18,220/- (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakh Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty only) towards Loan Account No. K0020IV-4 (earlier Loan Account No. HLPANO00392742) [old Loan Account], by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.02.2021 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan documents(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2021 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from the KAPIL GUPTA and DEEPA GUPTA.

The old Loan Account along with its underlying security(ies), including the immovable property(ies), had been assigned to and in favour of the Secured Creditor, acting in its capacity as Trustee for Indiabulls ARC-IV Trust, vide Assignment Agreement dated 31.12.2018.

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property will be Rs. 1,20,00,000/-(Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 12,00,000/-(Rupees Twelve Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of **INDIABULLS ARC-IV TRUST**, Account No. 918020025174137 with Axis Bank Ltd. (IFSC: UTIB0000653), having its branch at Ground Floor, 167, Ready Money Terrace, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli Naka, Worli, Mumbai - 400018 (Maharashtra), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES)

FLAT NO. T1 - 103 HAVING SUPER AREA OF 2917 SQUARE FEET EQUIVALENT TO 271.10 SQUARE METERS ON 1ST FLOOR IN THE COMPLEX KNOWN AS "PARSVNATH PRESTIGE - II" SITUATED ON PLOT NO. 002 IN SECTOR 93A, DISTRICT GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, NOIDA - 201304, UTTAR PRADESH TOGETHER WITH PROPORTIONATE, UNDIVIDED IMPARTABLE INTEREST IN THE LAND ON WHICH THE SAID FLAT IS SITUATED ON SUB-LEASE BASIS.

FLAT NO. T1 - 103 IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:-
EAST : OPEN WEST : OTHER'S FLAT
NORTH : PASSAGE SOUTH : OPEN.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullsar.com and use www.auctionfocus.in.

Date : 08.02.2021 Sd/
Place : NOIDA Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD.
TRUSTEE OF INDIABULLS ARC-IV TRUST

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown R/o: Unknown Age: About 35-40 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Sallow, Sex: Male, Face: Round, Built: Strong, ID Mark: A tattoo marks "Fifties Report" on left arm. Wearing : Red colour banyan, black colour winter inner, green, white and light blue colour jersey, black colour shirt having white lining, black colour jacket, blue colour pant, black colour warm inner, "Deepak Magic" branded brown colour underwear, brown shoes without lase on right leg. Red black and white scarf on head and neck. A golden colour wrist watch with black strip on left hand, one ring embedded with red coral (Munga) in middle finger of left hand, Black thin thread and red colour thick thread on right hand wrist. found dead near Minto Road Round About, Near Civic Centre, Kamla Market, Delhi P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi. In this regard, a FIR No.: 29/2021/2021 Dt.: 05.02.2021 U/s 302/201 IPC has been lodged at PS: Kamla Market, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. SHO P.S., Kamla Market, Delhi DP/646/CD/2021 Ph. : 011-23230623, 23233743, 8750870424

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Marjina**, D/o Rehman, R/o N-38, 267 CD, Park, Jahangirpuri, Delhi, Age: 16 years, Height: 5'3", Built: Medium, Complexion: Sallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Black Colour Suit and Salwar and Hawaii Chappal in her feet has been kidnapped from the her home since 28.12.2019 at 6:00 pm. In this regard a Vided FIR No. 601/19, u/s 363 IPC dated 29.12.2019 has been registered at P.S. Jahangirpuri, Delhi.

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in SHO
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Jahangirpuri, Delhi
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-27631600, 27636000,
DP/650/NW/2021 8750870228

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead at electric Pole No. 26/24, 26/22 DN Main Line Near Narela and Raith Dhana, Delhi by Train Accident dated 07.02.2021 at 6.38 am. In this regard a DD No. 1A, dated 07.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. Sabzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification at Sabzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hrs. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 40-45 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Built : Medium, Face: Round, Wearing : Blue Jeans Pant, Red Colour Shirt, White jacket, Full Sleeve Banyan, Sky Colour Chappal in his feet. Identification : OM engraved on Right hand, Injury mark on head. Injury Mark : Both hand broken, Right leg cut from thigh, left leg broken. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Sabzi Mandi Railway Station , Delhi
Fax: 24368639 Ph.: 011- 23692455, 8800154439
DP/57/RLY/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General public is hereby informed that this girl namely Deepika D/o Rajender R/o H.No. A-378, Balbir Vihar, Kirari, Suleman Nagar, Delhi Age : 16 years, Height : 5', Complexion : Sallow, Face : Oval, Identification: A cut mark on left side of forehead, wearing black colour jeans, pink colour top and jutti in feet, has been missing/kidnapped since 23.01.2021 from her house. In this regard FIR No. 061/21 dated 30.01.2021 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi.

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

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO : P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. : 011-27581223, 27581559
Fax: 24368639
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person (as depicted in the photo) has duped an elderly woman by manipulating her in the name of safety of her jewellery. His modus operandi is to convince the victims to hand over their precious items in the name of safety. In this regard a FIR No. 755/2020 dated 21.11.2020 u/s 420/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Vikaspuri, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the wanted man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the man is as under: Height: 5'7", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Strong. If anyone has any information regarding this man, kindly inform SHO/Vikaspuri, New Delhi.

E-mail : sho-vikaspuri-dl@gov.in SHO
Ph.: 011-8750871131, 8806516949 P.S. Vikaspuri, New Delhi
DP/337/WD/2021 Ph. No. 011-25551213

TREND BLAZER



RISHIKESH HAS BEEN LUCKY: BHUMI

Actor **BHUMI PEDNEKAR** is heading to Rishikesh for her next film *Badhaai Do*. "Rishikesh holds a very special place in my heart and it has been incredibly lucky for me! I shot in this most beautiful place for my debut film *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*, then for *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan*, and both these films went on to become huge hits. Now, I will be shooting there again for *Badhaai Do* and I'm certain that it will become my lucky charm for the third time!" Bhumi said.

fairtalk

ANNUP SONI



'Mahesh (Manjrekar) sir and I go way back! A few years ago we worked together on a project, so we're quite familiar with each other's style of working. We met one fine day and he mentioned he's working on an ambitious take on the 1962 war and I instantly wanted to be a part of it. My role of Ranjeet Khatar is a very sweet and nice one.'

dailytalk

ADAH SHARMA



'I don't think I will have any friends after my film *Chuha Billi* releases. My character is one of the toughest roles I've done. For everyone asking me if it is a horror film, it isn't. But it is very scary. I'm really thrilled that Prasad (Kadam) thought of me for the part. I'm glad we are pushing the envelope and creating some awesome content.'

MARRY ME PUSHED TO NEXT YEAR

The romantic comedy *Marry Me*, starring Jennifer Lopez and Owen Wilson, has been pushed off the 2021 release calendar. The film, originally slated for a release on May 14 this year, has now been scheduled for February 11, 2022. The decision comes due to the uncertainty in the film exhibition business, with theatres still struggling to tide over the COVID impact.



EAT, SLEEP, SNUGGLE, REPEAT

Here are five gifting ideas to surprise your partner, who prefers being cosy at home rather than heading out, this Valentine's week

Valentine's day is on the horizon and it falls by the end of this week where people express their love in a fanciful way to their kindred souls. But many find themselves on the horns of dilemma and wonder what would be the perfect gift for someone who loves being cosy. If you plan not to bore your Valentine by giving typical gifts like chocolates, cakes and flowers, and instead want to charm them by going out of the ordinary way?

Here are five gifting ideas to surprise your partner who loves being cosy this Valentine's week. A smooth move which will set your loved one on a promenade to the cosy dreamland.

Ayurvedic Mattress: Everyone deserves a good

undisturbed sleep everyday. It makes you active throughout the day. If your partner is not getting enough sleep, an eco-friendly ayurvedic mattress is the best gift to make your partner feel loved. Moving beyond harmful, artificial materials, Livepure's mattresses are made from materials like plant & nut-based oils and sandalwood infused latex. The memory foam is made from plant-based oils and latex is obtained from Kerala rubber plantations. Best part is the lavender infused cover which releases a faint lavender scent when you touch the fabric.

Eye Pillow: Eye pillow plays a very important role in the sleep experience. If your partner works day to night in front of



screens, a good lavender eye pillow is one of the best gifting options for him/her. Yogasya's lavender eye pillow will help anyone slip into deep relaxation with the subtle scents of lavender. One can use this pillow during yoga, before bed or any time you want to feel relaxed.

Aroma Essential Oil Diffuser: If you are planning to spend a cozy time with your lover at your home on V-Day, then don't forget to carry aroma essential oil diffuser as a gift to your partner's place. Shoppoworld Electronic Ultrasonic Aroma Essential Oil Diffuser can be a good choice. It provides pleasant

aromas and colour-changing mood lighting to create a calm, relaxing environment anywhere. This will surely make your day romantic and stress free.

Comfy Pj's: If you and your partner are deciding to go low key on this Valentine's day and have decided to celebrate indoors, then gifting a comfortable pj set is the best option. Sneaking into your pyjamas and having a cozy coffee date at home would be very relaxing for most of the couples. Zivame has a wide variety of nightwears in their collection. Buy a quirky yet cute nightwear set to light up the Valentines evening.

Vinyl Record Player: Gifting music to your partner is always a great way to surprise and express your love through songs. And if you are doing that then you might want to do it in a classy way.

Vinyl record players are purely classy from the design aspect. These music machines had gone out of fashion in the 2000s due to the arrival of CDs Players. And today it has come back and people are calling it the "famed vinyl revival." The real appeal of listening to a Vinyl record is undeniably the sound. The differences in listening to a CD or Digital music compared to a vinyl record are enormous. Your partner will definitely get wrapped up in it because the music through a vinyl record will sound vivid, and real. Wockoder's latest model is pure vintage style and will take you back to a classic design and a great setup that will elevate the listening experience. Also don't let the vintage design fool you because inside, this model is packing some great modern features including wireless capability. Hence, it would be one of the best gifts for your Valentine.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Ram Singh, S/o Suwa Singh, R/o: H.No. B-2/45, Nand Nagri, Delhi, Age: Approx 65 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Normal, ID Mark: Cut mark on forehead, wearing Sky Blue colour T-Shirt, Blue colour Pant and Black Chappal in feet, has been missing from his house since 11.01.2021. In this regard a DD No. 69-A dated 12.01.2021 has been registered at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
 E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-24368639
 Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
DP/543/NE/2021 Ph. No.: 011-22585985, 22583307

MCG MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GURUGRAM NURTURING GURUGRAM

Public Notice Plastic Waste Management in Gurugram

As per the Haryana Non-Biodegradable garbage (Control) Act, 1998 & its Amendments, there is prohibition and accordingly

- No person shall manufacturing, sale, distribute, stock, transportation and use of virgin and recycled plastic carry bags and recycled plastic articles such as plates, cups, tumblers, spoons, forks and straws.
- No person shall use containers made of recycled plastic for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging food stuffs.
- Conditions of manufacturing of plastic containers:-
 - Containers should be made up of virgin plastic in natural shade or white
 - Recycling of plastic shall be strictly accordingly with IS:14534:1998 and be marked/code as per IS:14534:1998 and the end product made out of recycled plastic shall be marked as "Recycled"

Thus in considering the above mentioned Regulations and for implementing the same, Municipal Corporation Gurugram decided to consider the plastic ban in phase-wise manner to strengthen our nation resolve to combat plastic pollution. In first phase i.e from date of issue of these notification to 6 months, following items will be totally banned in city:-

- Plastic Bags (with/without handle) and Non-woven Bags
- Plastic Bags — from Virgin plastic
- Bottled water (PET/PETE) less than 200 ml
- Plastic Mineral Water Pouch
- One time use/single-use disposable items made of thermacol (Polystyrene) or Plastic eg. Dish, spoon, cups, Plates, glasses, fork, bowl, container and Disposable Dish/bowl/container used for packaging of foods in hotels, straw, stirrer
- Plastic Flags, Plastic Bunting
- Plastic wraps sheets such as used for gift wraps, flower bouquet etc
- Plastic Sheets used as table cover
- Single used or short lived PVC flex, banners and posters (only eco friendly versions i.e cloth banners, light weight textile fabrics, wrinkle resistant wrap knit, natural fiber based sandwich boards, resin-infused paper, particle board etc is allowed).

Food packaging for example Bhujiya packets, Milk packets, breads, biscuits or any other food items which can get deteriorated its usage quality or can catch moisture are allowed to be stored and packed in plastic wraps which in any case should not be less than 50 micron.

After 6 months, second phase communication will be issued for ban on items in addition to above mentioned list. Thus all retailers, shopkeepers, hawkers, citizens are directed to ensure the compliance within 15 days of issue of these notification, after 15 days any violation of these rules shall be liable to pay such fines as specified below:-

Sr. No.	Quantity of prohibited Variety of carry bags	Amount in Rupees
1	Upto 100 gm	500
2	101-500 gms	1500
3	501-gms to 1 Kg	3000
4	Above 1 Kg to 5 Kg	10,000
5	Above 5 Kg to 10 Kg	20,000
6	More than 10 Kg	25,000

For any further query please contact Joint Commissioner (SBM), Municipal Corporation, Gurugram Office.

JC (SBM)
Municipal Corporation,
Gurugram

RO NO. 1755 Dt. 10-02-2021

Bittu makes it to Oscars

As the 93rd Academy Awards announced the first short-listed candidates for the Short Film in Live Action Category, Indian Women Rising's first project *Bittu* emerges among the Top 10 candidates for the Oscars.

After recently bagging the honour of Best Asian American Student Filmmaker Award in East Region by the Director's Guild of America, Karishma Dev Dubé's *Bittu* is now inching closer towards the Oscars race. Competing among 174 films from across the globe, *Bittu* has qualified for the top 10 after the first round of voting and will now be subjected to the votes of members of the short films and animation branch to determine the shortlists and the nominees.

The second round of voting begins on March 5 that would decide the top five films across the globe, making it to the final nominations to be announced on the March 15.

The short film is inspired by the infamous school poisoning of 2013 and explores the close friendship between two school girls on this seemingly normal day at school. Set in the picturesque locations against the backdrop of Himalayas, it follows the story of an eight-year-old who must take matters into her own hands when her community fails to protect its most



vulnerable. Karishma said, "It's every filmmaker's dream to be recognised by the academy, and I'm overwhelmed by the gratitude. This recognition, however, is not mine alone. I made this film with an incredible cast and crew, all of whom I'm so grateful for. I'm just very happy that *Bittu* is able to represent this team and

country at this platform." The film has been presented by Ekta Kapoor, Guneeet Monga and Tahira Kashyap under their Indian Women Rising initiative. They, in a joint statement, shared, "Exhilarated, proud and overwhelmed to witness the journey of *Bittu* unfold so gracefully. Karishma's excellent storytelling compelled us to come on board for the project and now as the world is recognising and appreciating the efforts, we are nothing but proud of the film and the entire team that made it possible to achieve this feat. We are all geared up for the next steps that lay ahead of us in this journey and look forward to continued support we received so far. Truly humbled."

The film has been screened at several prestigious film festivals like BFI London Film Festival, Telluride, Palm Springs Shortest, Dharamshala Film Festival and the HollyShorts Film Festival.

Rahul Bhat shoots minus clothes for Man Naked

Actor Rahul Bhat had to shoot minus clothes for the forthcoming film titled *Man Naked*. He says the challenge lay in the fact that the two-hour film was canned as a single shot project.

Man Naked revolves around a 40-year-old struggling actor named Ronnie who realises that his career is finished. He gets drunk and passes out naked, only to hear the doorbell ring in the middle of the night. In a bizarre turn of events, his destiny changes as his nude video clips go viral and Ronnie becomes a star.

The film is directed by debutant Sanjeev Kaul, who carved his niche in theatre. It is rare for an actor to bare all in Indian films, and the unit had to undergo several mock shoots with real camera and technicians to get it right in a single shot.

"The challenge of doing this part was not only that it was a single shot film but also I had to be totally naked in most of it and also I had to remember an entire pros from the 'Soul of Lilith' and perform the monologue in the middle of the single shot in one take," said Rahul.

Director Kaul said: "I wanted to portray an actor struggling to crack the formula for



success and take his talent to the world. The film follows him over the course of one night in Mumbai and how his life changes after an incident."

He added, "The idea of shooting the film entirely in one shot came from the need to be with our protagonist at every step and get intertwined in his environment just as he sees it."

The film has been screened at several film festivals. It was a finalist at Tokyo International Film Festival and a semi-finalist at Montreal Film Festival. The film is an official selection at Venice Shorts, Cannes Independent Film Festival, Goa Film Festival and a winner in the categorised of Best Film, Best Actor and Best Director at The Next International film festival.

APPENDIX IV A
 [See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of immovable property(ies)
 E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd. [CIN: U67110MH2006PLC305312] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 15.03.2021 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 4,27,23,308/- (Rupees Four Crore Twenty Seven Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Eight only) i.e. Rs. 2,93,80,203/- (Rupees Two Crore Ninety Three Lakh Eighty Thousand Two Hundred and Three only) pending towards Loan Account No. D0030IV-01 [earlier Loan Account No. HLPADCP00159948] and Rs. 1,33,43,105/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Three Lakh Forty Three Thousand One Hundred Five only) towards Loan Account No. D0030IV-02 [earlier Loan Account No. HLPADCP0233201] by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 04.02.2021 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 05.02.2021 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from DELTRONIX INDIA LIMITED, MR. KAPIL GUPTA, MRS. DEEPA GUPTA, KAPIL GUPTA AND SONS HUF (THROUGH ITS KARTA, MR. KAPIL GUPTA), KAYSER INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED and SONIA & CO PRIVATE LIMITED.

The old Loan Account along with its underlying security(ies), including the immovable property(ies), had been assigned to and in favour of the Secured Creditor, acting in its capacity as Trustee for Indiabulls ARC-IV Trust, vide Assignment Agreement dated 31.12.2018.

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property will be Rs. 20,00,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Crore only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,00,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS ARC-IV TRUST, Account No. 918020025174137 with Axis Bank Ltd. (IFSC: UTIB0000653), having its branch at Ground Floor, 167, Ready Money Terrace, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli Naka, Worli, Mumbai - 400018 (Maharashtra), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES)
 PROPERTY BEING SONIA FARMS, LAND ADMEASURING 13 BIGHAS AND 8 BISWAS, BEARING MUSTATIL NO.66 KILLA NO.1 (4-16), MUSTATIL NO.67 KILLA NOS. 5 (4-16), 6 MIN (3-16) SITUATED IN VILLAGE JONAPUR, ROAD CHHATRAPUR, TEHSIL MEHRAULI NEW DELHI - 110047.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullssarc.com and use www.auctionnotice.in.

Date : 08.02.2021 Sd/
 Place: NEW DELHI Authorized Officer
 INDIABULLS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD.
 TRUSTEE OF INDIABULLS ARC-IV TRUST



VOCAL FOR LOCAL

Aadi Mahotsav festival is TRIFED's attempt to familiarise people with the rich and diverse craft, culture and cuisine of tribal communities

People have been visiting the Tribes India Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat to get a peek into the rich tribal culture of our country. The festival is TRIFED's attempt to familiarise the people with the rich and diverse craft, culture and cuisine of tribal communities across the country at one place.

A major attraction of the festival has been the cultural programmes, which showcase the diversity and variety of Indian tribes. This was a highlight especially on day six, as people enjoyed cultural programmes in the evening. One striking aspect of the programme was a tribal fashion show that featured designs and clothes handcrafted by tribal master craftsmen and curated by the tribal artisan Ruma Devi and the renowned fashion designer Rina Dhaka. The resplendent weaves and fabrics came to life in the crafted designs that reflect the close connection tribals have with nature.

The show featured tribal weaves from various parts of the country — saris, kurtis, tops, shawls, stoles and

exquisite accessories like jewellery from the North East and dhokra jewellery and bags.

"The Aadi Mahotsav showcases traditional art and handicrafts and the rich, diverse cultural heritage of our tribes. Their close connection with nature and simplicity can be seen in their weaves, clothes, fabrics and art-forms. I am happy that TRIFED is popularising tribal culture," said Pravir Krishna, Managing Director, TRIFED.

Senior IAS officials such as

Deepak Khandekar, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training; R.P. Gupta, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change; Ajay Tirki, Secretary Ministry of Rural Development; Richa Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change; Ms Manju Pandey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change; Neerja Adidam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of

Agriculture, Sudhanshu Pandey, Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, P K Tripathi, Secretary, Ministry of Steel, and Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs among other dignitaries attended the festival.

Other scintillating art forms on display during cultural performances on Saturday evening included Baigi parondha nritya from Madhya Pradesh, Kharsawan Chhau from Jharkhand; Sambalpuri nritya from Odisha; and Jaunsari nritya from Uttarakhand.

Apart from this, a special focus is on the stall dedicated to 50 tribal GI products. They occupy a prominent place and all visitors have been visiting this stall with much interest. One notable visitor was Bhaskar Khulbe, Advisor to the PM. He visited the event on Sunday and took a look at the Van Dhan demo centre, stalls featuring tribal handicrafts and expressed his appreciation for the focus that the GI products have been given.

On the occasion, Khulbe said, "I

am pleased to note that TRIFED has actively taken up the cause to promote GI tagged products and transform into a brand, thus empowering tribal artisans."

The stall features renowned, exquisite items such as Rajasthan's blue pottery, the Kota Dariya fabric, Madhya Pradesh's Chanderi and Maheshwari silk, Bagh print, Odisha's Pattachitra, Karnataka's Bidriware, Banarasi silk from Uttar Pradesh, Darjeeling tea from West Bengal, Kala jeera from Himachal Pradesh, the extremely spicy Naga chilli, and the large cardamom from the North East.

Besides these GI products, one can also find other ethnic tribal handicrafts and products and organic items — from the natural and immunity-boosting tribal produce such as organic haldi, dry amla, wild honey, black pepper, ragi, triphala and lentil mixes such as moong dal, urad dal, white beans, and dalia to artefacts and paintings in various styles.

(The festival is on at Dilli Haat till February 15 from 11 am to 9 pm.)

IN SHORT



On Tuesday, CM Ashok Gehlot presented a cheque for dividend amounting to ₹1.29,41,000 by Dr. Subodh Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director of Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation at CMs residence. Dr. Agarwal informed that Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation earned a total net profit of ₹23,36,000.00 in the financial year 2019-20. On the occasion, Energy Minister Dr. BD Kalla and Principal Secretary of Energy Dinesh Kumar and other officers of the corporation were present.



With an objective to enhance the capacity and ease the traffic flow, AAI's Kolkata Airport has undertaken the work of construction of New ATC Tower and Technical Block at an estimated cost of ₹458 crOre. The new tower complex spread in an area of 2040 sqm. will accommodate all ANS units for efficient air traffic management. With more than 50 metres of height, the new building will be equipped with advanced digital technology. Automation & VCS equipment will be of higher capability with provisioning of more number of Controller Work Positions (CWP) to meet the requirement of upper & lower area harmonisation in Kolkata Area Control Centre (ACC). The complex will have centralised redundant UPS system with 100 per cent back-up (1200 kVA for Technical Block & 100 kVA in ATC Tower) which will provide regulated, reliable & uninterrupted power supply for all equipment.



In view of the prices of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana houses in neighbouring states, the Uttar Pradesh government has also given a green signal to all development authorities to increase the price of houses to be constructed under this scheme in future. The Ghaziabad Development Authority is going to present a proposal to increase the value of houses in the board meeting of GDA convened on February 18. Till now, the value of houses in this scheme was ₹4,50,000 which has now been increased to ₹6,51,000. Along with increasing the cost of houses, the government has also increased the area of the houses from 22.5 metres to 29.5 metres. GDA Secretary Santosh Rai said that at present there are five projects in the metropolis under this scheme. The mandate will not affect their prices. More than 2300 houses are under construction in Madhuban Bapudham, Nurgagar Pratap Vihar Dasna and Nivadi under the Prime Minister Housing Scheme.

—PNS (Ashok Nirvan)



Under the state cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of CM Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday, several important decisions were taken, including the proposal to implement the Intellectual Property Rights Policy, the Rajasthan Raina Award, the process of starting the Gandhi Sadbhavana Samman and the approval of the guide to promote innovations. The cabinet has implemented Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathy, Yoga and Naturopathy in the state. Rajasthan State Ayush policy with the objective of promotion of systems and planned development Policy-2020 is also approved.



A special workshop was organised at RO Delhi, Central Warehousing Corporation on February 5. It was graced by Namrata Bajaj, Manager (Rajbhasha) and Mahimnand Bhatt, Manager (Rajbhasha). Rajeev Bansal, RM inaugurated the workshop and advised all officers and staff members to follow the rajbhasha guidelines and rules. Rajeev Vainai, General Manager(Admin.) also requested the same. Ashirwad, Hindi Translator welcomed the guests and Neha, SAM expressed gratitude through her vote of thanks.

IRFC issues bonds

On February 3, 2021 Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited priced its USD 750,000,000 bonds based on a Rule 144A/Regulation S offering format under IRFC's recently updated USD 4 billion global medium term note programme.

The bonds were issued on February 10, 2021 for a tenor of 10 years at a fixed rate of 2.80 per cent. The bonds carry semi-annual interest payment and bullet principal repayment.

Commenting on the issuance, Amitabh Banerjee, Chairman and Managing Director, IRFC, said, "The amount is a part of our USD 4 billion global term note programme. We will be looking to raise the rest of the amount by the end of this fiscal. Our credit ratings are similar to the sovereign rating of the country which helps us in getting competitive rates with suitable tenors."

"IRFC launched its USD 750 mn 144A/Reg S USD Bonds under the 4 billion GMTN programme on 3rd February, 2021. The bonds received overwhelming response from diverse set of investors. The fact that IRFC has been able to achieve a pricing even below the price at which its own secondary paper was trading in the international market, is a remarkable achievement," he added.

The bonds will be listed on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited, India International Exchange (IFSC) Limited and International Securities Market of the London Stock Exchange.

ICAR-CRIJAF celebrates 68th foundation day

ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres celebrated its 68th foundation day on Tuesday. On this occasion a "Field Day-cum-Demonstration-cum-Exhibition for showcasing the ICAR-CRIJAF proven technologies to wider group of stakeholders" was organised in the institute campus at Barrackpore. The programme was attended by delegates from Industry, Govt. Institutions (NJB, JCI, IJIRA, Govt. of West Bengal etc.), ICAR Institutes, Regional Stations and Media persons and farmers. The proven technologies were showcased in different exhibition stalls for the knowledge of all the stakeholders and farmers.

Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta, Vice Chancellor of Biswa Bangla University and former Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR, New Delhi graced the occasion as the chief guest. A. K. Jolly, Managing Director, Jute Corporation of India, Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore and Dr. D. B. Shakyawar, Director, NINFET, Kolkata were the guests of honour. The guests inaugurated the exhibition stalls displaying proven technologies developed by CRIJAF and other ICAR institutes, industries and SHGs.

In his welcome address Dr. Gouranga Kar, Director, ICAR-CRIJAF mentioned about the major achievements, varieties and tech-



nologies developed by the institute to resolve the bottlenecks and problems faced by the farmers in the cultivation of jute and allied fibre crops vis a vis enhancing the productivity and profitability through yield and quality improvement and reduction in cost of cultivation. He highlighted the role of these crops beyond fibre yielders as ideal candidate crop for ecosystem service, nutraceuticals and other by products.

Increasing labour cost, scarcity of water during the retting season have made the quality retting a difficult task for the farmers. Dr. Kar told that the quality of jute fibre largely depends on retting method-

ology. Hence, the institute has developed pond-based in situ retting based self-reliant eco-farming technology mediated through microbial consortium for better fibre quality even if the retting is conducted in stagnant water. This technology ensures better quality fibre, reduced retting duration and enhanced income for jute farmers. This type of model for jute retting is very much climate resilient which ensures not only clean retting process there by reducing pollution but also multiplies the net income of farmers from unit area of jute cultivation.

He further highlighted that JAF-Safe App developed by the

institute is becoming much popular among the extension workers, field functionaries and other stakeholder for proper identification of pests and diseases and their timely management. JAF-Kisan App developed during the pandemic time helped in collection of real time information on jute cultivation, various problems faced by the farmers and delivering the solution through filed functionaries. Besides he emphasised the importance and special initiatives of the institute in facilitating formation of jute-based Self Help Groups and Farmers' Producers Organisation and training on manufacturing of value added jute diversified products that is going to encourage entrepreneurship and ensure higher income of farmers and other stakeholders engaged in jute sector.

Dr. Prateek Satya, Principal Scientist of ICAR-CRIJAF also highlighted overall activities of the institute during past one year. The Foundation Day Awards in different categories were awarded.

More than forty farmers attended the exhibition and farmers-scientist interaction in which the scientists addressed the problems faced by jute farmers. The guests and farmers also visited the museum and research field of the institute to get acquainted about the mandated fibre crops and technologies demonstrated in the field.

'START ASKING QUESTIONS'

NIKHIL DAMODARAN explores the government's position on the farmers' protest and the economic motivation behind introducing the laws

Why is there so much protest by the farmers at the Delhi border? Why isn't the government preserving its rural vote-bank? What makes them uphold the farm laws and promote their "reform agenda"? I teach the power of incentives in undergraduate economics. I urge my students to uncover the underlying incentives in economic activities by producers, consumers, and the government alike — promising them that these incentives will lead them to uncover reasons for their actions. In this piece, I explore the theory behind this government's position on the farm protests — potential conjectures which dictate their stance and help us understand this deadlock.

The economic motivation for introducing the laws is that the existing agricultural commodity markets, controlled by the government, are inefficient. This inefficiency hurts farm incentives and prevents growth in farm incomes. Hence the idea is that these laws would remove these inefficiencies and promote farm incomes, eventually make farmers better off. Then why is there so much protest?

This logic is based on two crucial presumptions. First, if a market is left to private players, it will be more efficient than one operated by the government. Does the government admit its own inefficiency? Is this a case of improving existing institutions without necessarily a need to change the market structure? Perhaps it is. A move towards privatisation of the

produce market increases uncertainty involved in predicting the market structure when private players completely replace the existing system. Will the market be a private monopoly where farmer have lesser say in their incomes or can the farmers dictate private companies and bargain a higher price for their produce? This is anybody's guess.

Second, when private companies are allowed to buy farm produce directly, will they 'jump' at this offer? They will enter the produce market only if they find it lucrative in comparison with other markets to which they could potentially expand. When they enter, the assumption is that their increase in profits would also benefit the farmers who might receive higher incomes. These benevolent companies will share their profits. Then why is there so much protest?

We assume that when these companies enter the market, they do not distort the market in any way possible. The protest is wary of the possibility that these markets would no longer remain competitive. Farmers will be at the whims of private procurement companies, who could eventually gain control of the primary produce market. In fact, it is rare to see markets remain competitive over time. A company's growth (in stock prices or its acclaim) is tied to how it increasingly captures more and more market space.

This brings us back to the underlying economics of these farm laws. Even economists agree that there is



far too much uncertainty to predict the implication of these laws on farm incomes. Then why should there be no protests? If we face the possibility of getting a salary reduction, we agitate and fight with human resources. When farmers agitate, they are fighting this very uncertainty. In fact, most developed world — US and EU especially have systematically kept agriculture protected with farm subsidies and tariff barriers to overcome this uncertainty.

The thrust with which these laws were introduced in the parliament indicate that it is in the political interest of the government to push this reform agenda. Surely none of us believe that "reform legacy" is the key motivation behind government's push for these farm laws. It should be purely political and entirely perceptible to

a student of economics too. We simply have to conjecture about the potential benefits to the government when these farm laws are operational. Again, this is merely a thought experiment which we all must do.

It is entirely possible to conjecture about the political benefits of creating newer and more lucrative markets — private procurement market in this instance. Corporate electoral support and potentially larger contribution in GDP for the agrarian sector. However, the flip side of this potential benefit is the threat to vote banks dominated by farmers. For India, it becomes tricky. Since a major part of the population is still either directly or indirectly dependent on the agrarian sector, the threat of persisting with farm laws could be a great electoral risk.

If the net benefit is positive and significant, then it is prudent to take the decision in favour of thrusting these laws within the ambit of a parliamentary democracy. The metric is simple and indicates a potential positive and sizable net benefit. One could also examine the observed response by the government to infer about their motivations. The spikes around the farmers protest and their intent to hold ground on the laws indicate their clear choice.

Has this been done before? Yes. Historically, there have been cases where government either erects legal or administrative institutions to ensure that private markets function properly or directly enters the mar-

ket. The former ensures that investor confidence is not wavering while the latter makes the risk of market uncertainty public.

Why did these companies wait till 2020 to take part in private agricultural markets? Agriculture in the late 50s and early 60s was ridden with production uncertainties — crop failures, rainfall dependence etc. It was only after government intervention through the green revolution that private production could sustain and generate a food surplus. The presence of this surplus meant that production issues were systematically reduced by government intervention. With successive improvements in farming (debatable), fluctuations in agricultural production stabilised and it became lucrative to enter these markets.

The crucial question then is whether potential entrants into the produce market could predict this agitation. Perhaps they could and perhaps they believe that political motivations of this government in terms of electoral certainty through financial support could incentivise the government to stand firm. In theory, while the economics underlying these laws is as unpredictable as the weather, the motivations for persisting with these laws seem to favour political certainty. But this is still just a theory and we have to start asking questions.

(The writer is Assistant Professor of Economics at Jindal School of Government and Public Policy. Views expressed are personal.)



LIC Pension and Group Schemes Vertical, looking after Group Schemes and Superannuation business of the corporation created a record by clocking more than One Lakh Crore Premium Income during the first 10 Months of the current financial year. Pension and Group Schemes Vertical of LIC provides Employees Retiral Funds' Management Solution to the Who's Who of India Inc and has been steadily holding around 80 per cent market share in New Business Premium post opening of the Life Insurance Industry. This vertical of the corporation manages funds of over seven lakh crore, through approximate 80,000+ gratuity, superannuation and leave encashment schemes.



Delhi Transport Corporation has added a new facility where it will issue contactless daily passes to commuters through contactless mobile ticketing trial so that no physical contact between the conductor and commuter takes place. The trial has begun with 128 DTC buses of Gazipur and Hasanpur Depot. Enforcement/Checking team has also been deployed to carry out the inspection and assist the conductors and passengers in an effective manner.

DJOKER PASSES TIAFOE TEST

Serena, Osaka & Halep also win but Wawrinka, Andreescu, Venus, Kvitova exit

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Eight-time champion Novak Djokovic was made to sweat at the Australian Open on Wednesday, as Serena Williams made serene progress in her bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title.

As Major winners Stan Wawrinka, Bianca Andreescu and Petra Kvitova were second-round casualties, Djokovic dropped his first set of the event before grinding past America's Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

"I was fortunate to get through the third set today, it was anybody's game," said the defending champion, after his win in hot conditions on Rod Laver Arena.

The top seed looked in control after taking the first set, but lightning-quick Tiafoe, who reached the quarter-finals two years ago, refused to go quietly.

The American bounced back to take a close second set but imploded as tensions rose in the fourth, receiving a code violation for an audible obscenity as Djokovic took charge.

The Serb is targeting a record-extending ninth title and his 18th Grand Slam trophy overall as he snaps at the heels of Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, who top the all-time list with 20 each.

He avoided the fate of 2014 winner Wawrinka, who blew three match points in the fifth-set tiebreaker in his four-hour epic with Hungary's Marton Fucsovics, who won 7-5, 6-1, 4-6, 2-6, 7-6 (11-9).

"I had some chance to finish the match, I didn't finish," said the 35-year-old Swiss, a three-time Grand Slam winner.

Earlier, the 39-year-old Williams continued her quest to equal Margaret Court's all-time mark of 24 tennis Grand Slams with a 6-3, 6-0 romp past 99th-ranked Serbian Nina Stojanovic



Novak Djokovic, left, and Frances Tiafoe react during their second round match at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday AP

Aus Open (2nd round)
Live from 5:30am IST
SONY TEN 2 & SIX

in just 69 minutes on Rod Laver Arena.

Williams hit 27 winners in her 101st Australian Open match while again sporting her unique, one-legged catsuit inspired by track legend 'Flo-Jo'.

In the evening session, Japanese sensation Naomi Osaka thwarted Caroline Garcia with an effortless straight-sets victory, as she stormed into the third round, where she will face 27th seed Ons Jabeur.

The third seed, faced a tricky contest against the Frenchwoman, who was ranked a career-high of fourth in late 2018 but never gave her a sniff in the 6-2, 6-3 victory in 61 minutes.

"I stayed focused throughout the match and I tried to play within myself," Osaka, who hit 23 winners, told the crowd at Rod Laver Arena.

The three-time Grand Slam winner is riding a 16-match unbeaten streak — including the US Open final — dating back 12 months, and is building momentum having not played before arriving in Australia since her triumph in New York.

Osaka is eyeing redemption after her title defence last year ended with a shock loss to American teenager Coco Gauff in the third round.

'CROWD HELPED ME FIGHT'

Williams' older sister Venus, 40, however, was a major casualty when she painfully rolled her

ankle in the first set against Sara Errani before hobbling through a 6-1, 6-0 defeat.

And Andreescu, the 2019 US Open champion who missed the entire 2020 season with a knee injury, saw her comeback come to an abrupt end, losing 6-3, 6-2 to Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Su-wei.

"You need to find a way to get through and the crowd helped me fight," said Hsieh, after beating the Canadian, who was coming off a draining three-setter against Mihaela Buzarnescu.

Elsewhere Kvitova, the former Wimbledon champion and Melbourne runner-up in 2019, committed 44 unforced errors in her 6-4, 1-6, 6-1 defeat by Romania's Sorana Cirstea as the big names tumbled on day three.



Bopanna-McLachlan pair goes down fighting

Melbourne: India endured a second successive disappointing result at the Australian Open with Rohan Bopanna and Ben McLachlan bowing out after a close opening-round defeat to Ji Sung Nam and Min-Kyu Song in the men's doubles event, here on Wednesday.

Bopanna and his Japanese partner lost 4-6, 6-7(0) to the Korean wild card pair in one hour and 17 minutes.

Not having enough court time due to hard quarantine seemed to have an effect on

Bopanna's sharpness. McLachlan, on his part, struggled to negotiate volleys and that hurt them.

Bopanna had spent 14 days in his room and came out only on January 30, jumping into the tune-up event, only to lose his opening round with Frederik Nielsen.

The Indian did not get enough competition time to be ready for the season's first major.

India now have Divij Sharan (men's doubles) and debutant Ankita Raina (women's doubles) left in fray. PTI

However, reigning US Open champion Dominic Thiem, runner-up to Djokovic last year, was all smiles as he beat Germany's Dominik Kopfer 6-4, 6-0, 6-2.

"It was great, to be honest," the Austrian said of his performance on Margaret Court Arena.

"I really love this court and have pretty good stats on it, so super happy to be back."

Eighth seed Diego Schwartzmann also hurried into the last 32, brushing aside Frenchman Alexandre Muller 6-2, 6-0, 6-3 in 1hr 32min on Show Court 2.

Sixth seed Alexander Zverev ground past Maxime Cressy but he made heavy weather of ousting the qualifier.

The German, a semi-finalist last year who is gunning for a maiden Grand Slam title, struggled to snap the American's resistance in a tight first set.

He finally made a breakthrough in the 11th game to seal the set and went onto win 7-5, 6-4, 6-3 in 2hr 4min.

His reward is a tricky clash against France's Adrian

Mannarino, the 32nd seed who swept past Serb Miomir Kecmanovic 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

Volatile Australian Nick Kyrgios, meanwhile smashed a racquet, delivered underarm serves, ranted at the umpire and saved two match points on his way into the third round.

The 25-year-old drew a raucous, socially distanced crowd to his favoured John Cain Arena and kept them highly entertained, with the atmosphere electric in a gripping clash with Frenchman Ugo Humbert.

He eventually came through 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 after 3hr 25min against the 29th seed to set up a blockbuster clash with third seed Thiem.

Women's second seed Simona Halep was rattled by big-hitting Alja Tomljanovic, another Australian, but won five games in a row to survive a major scare and reach the third round.

The two-time Grand Slam winner was pushed to the brink in a see-saw clash before finally prevailing 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 in 2hr 34min.

SINGLES

ATLETICO-CHELSEA MATCH MOVED TO ROMANIA

Nyon: The Champions League match between Atletico Madrid and Chelsea will take place in Romania this month because of pandemic-related restrictions on travel from England. The first leg of the last-16 matchup will be played in the Arena Nationala in Bucharest on Feb 23 instead of in Madrid on the same day, UEFA said.

KRUNAL PANDYA TO LEAD BARODA

Vadodara: India all-rounder Krunal Pandya will lead the Baroda squad in the Vijay Hazare Trophy beginning February 20. Krunal had led Baroda initially in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy but then had to leave the tournament's bio-bubble mid-way due to his father's demise. Baroda are placed in Elite Group A for the domestic ODI tournament alongside Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Hyderabad, Tripura and Goa.

IYER NAMED MUMBAI SKIPPER, SHAW DEPUTY

Mumbai: India batsman Shreyas Iyer, who had missed Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy as he was recovering from a shoulder injury, was on Wednesday named as captain of the Mumbai team for the Vijay Hazare Trophy. India opener Prithvi Shaw was made vice-captain of the Mumbai team. Mumbai has been placed in the Elite Group D, alongside Delhi, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Puducherry. Mumbai will play all their matches in Jaipur.

BANGAL APPOINTED ROB BATTING CONSULTANT

Bengaluru: Former India batsman Sanjay Bangar was on Wednesday appointed as the batting consultant of IPL side Royal Challengers Bangalore ahead of the upcoming season. Bangar served as the batting coach of the Indian men's senior team for five years from 2014 till the 2019 World Cup. He will join Mike Hesson, the director of cricket operations for RCB, and Simon Katich, the head coach.

LYON EXTEND STREAK WITH 5-1 WIN

Paris: Lyon posted its fifth consecutive win in all competitions with a 5-1 thrashing of second-division Ajaccio in the French Cup. As top-flight teams entered the competition in the round of 64, Reims immediately stumbled and bowed out of the tournament with a 4-3 home loss to Valenciennes. Also, Lorient progressed with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Paris FC.

TSEGAY SETS NEW WORLD INDOOR RECORD

Lieviv: Gudaf Tsegay of Ethiopia set a new 1,500 meters indoor world record by finishing in 3 minutes 53.09 seconds at a meet in northern France. A world Bronze medalist, Tsegay followed the fast tempo set by the pacemaker and held on to prevail over double European indoor champion Laura Muir and her teammate Melissa Courtney-Bryant. Muir set a new British indoor record by running 3:59.58.

MURRAY WINS OPENER AT ATP CHALLENGER

Biella: Five-time Australian Open finalist Andy Murray began his season on Tuesday with a 6-7 (3/7), 6-2, 6-3 victory over Maximilian Marterer in the second-tier Challenger event at Biella in northern Italy. Agencies

FIT AXAR BACK IN NETS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India could go for one change to their playing XI in the second Test against England starting Saturday with Jharkhand left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem making way for fit-again all-rounder Axar Patel after his poor show in the series-opener in Chennai.

While Nadeem's replacement will be decided by Friday, one can expect Patel to replace him after his debut was put on hold by an injury.

"Axar had a minor knee niggle and has already started batting at the nets. He is expected to start bowling during the next couple of days," a senior BCCI source said on Wednesday.

"He was always the first choice to play the opening Test



but it will depend on skipper Virat Kohli, head coach Ravi Shastri and bowling coach Bharath Arun," he added.

Indian captain Virat Kohli didn't hide his disappointment when it came to Nadeem's performance during the post-match presentation where he said that he and Washington Sundar

couldn't keep up the pressure that was created by Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin.

Nadeem had four wickets in all but gave away 233 runs in 59 overs across two innings with an economy rate of close to 4 runs per over. And if that wasn't enough, as a slow bowler, a total of nine no balls at the Test match level can be considered criminal.

Washington bowled 26 overs for 98 runs in the first innings and got a solitary over in the second innings.

However, Washington, who was impressive with the bat in the first innings, is likely to retain his place in the playing XI.

Root rises in rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India skipper Virat Kohli was on Wednesday pushed to the fifth spot by his English counterpart Joe Root, who rose two rungs to third in the latest ICC Test rankings for batsmen, even as Jasprit Bumrah and R Ashwin moved up in the bowlers' chart.

Kohli, who had had scores of 11 and 72 in the opening Test against England, has 852 points and down one spot in the latest chart issued on Wednesday.

Veteran spinner Ashwin and pacer Bumrah have jumped a rung each to be seventh and eighth respectively.

Root, who helped his team to a memorable 227-run victory in Chennai that kept England in contention for the World Test

Championship final, has reached 883 rating points.

It is his highest position since September 2017 after a fabulous run in the sub-continent saw him accumulate 684 runs in three Tests, two of which were in Sri Lanka.

Ahead of Kohli for the first time since November 2017, Root is now 36 points behind top-ranked Kane Williamson and trails Steve Smith by only eight points. With Marcus Labuschagne also in the mix, competition for the top five slots is intense with all of them above 850 rating points.

For India, Rishabh Pant's knock of 91 in the first innings has helped him become the first full-time wicketkeeper from his country to reach 700 rating points as he retained the 13th position among batsmen.

Opener Shubman Gill progressed seven places to 40th position while all-rounder Washington Sundar is 81st after moving up two slots. Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem too has gained two places to reach 85th position among bowlers.

English players made the way up in the bowling rankings presently led by Australia fast bowler Pat Cummins. Formerly top-ranked James Anderson is up to third from sixth and only four points behind compatriot Stuart Broad, a fellow-member of the 500-wicket club.

Anderson is at his highest ranking since the start of the ICC World Test Championship while spinners Jack Leach and Dominic Bess are both at career-best rating points, moving up to 37th and 41st positions, respectively.

West Indies batsman Kyle Mayers, whose scores of 40

and 210 not out helped script an epic win in the first Test against Bangladesh in

Chittagong, has entered the rankings in 70th position with 448 rating points.

Former England captain Nasser Hussain feels incumbent Joe Root is "arguably" the country's best ever player of spin and can break all the Test batting records accumulated by the nation's batsmen.

Root struck 218 in England's first innings on a spin-friendly pitch to lead his side to a 227-run win over India in the first Test in Chennai on Tuesday.

"Root sure is one of England's greats. He will probably end up breaking all records, he will probably go past Sir Alastair Cook's 161 Test matches and probably tally of runs as well," Hussain wrote in his column for Sky Sports.

"He is in great nick, only 30 years old, and if you did a list of all-time England batting greats — the ones I have seen anyway — you'd have to

Root will break all batting records of Eng: Hussain

PTI ■ LONDON

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"He is in great nick, only 30 years old, and if you did a list of all-time England batting greats — the ones I have seen anyway — you'd have to

have Root with Cook, Graham Gooch and Kevin Pietersen.

"I would say he is arguably England's best-ever player of spin, the way he sweeps spin away is outstanding to watch."

The 52-year-old Hussain said the massive win against India in their own den was a "perfect performance" and will go down as one of the great England Test wins.

"People were writing England off, saying this series could be 4-0 to India. No one really gave this side much of a chance. India had won in Australia, Virat Kohli was back and India is a very difficult place to go and win in Test match cricket.

"So, this win for England has to be right up there, especially away from home. They put in the perfect performance. From ball one to the final delivery, it was outstanding."

Anderson in 'best shape of his life': Silverwood

PTI ■ CHENNAI

England head coach Chris Silverwood feels James Anderson is in the "best shape of his life" and won't be surprised if the 38-year-old carries on to lead the team's pace attack even in his 40s.

Anderson blew away the Indian batting with his lethal display of reverse swing on the final day to hand England a massive 227-run win in the opening Test.

"He is in the best shape of his life. And it hasn't gone unnoticed, he's worked extremely hard in his fitness. And he's in great shape and he's bowling beautifully," the English coach said in a virtual news conference on Wednesday.

Asked if Anderson can push it to 40, he said: "That's Jimmy's choice... As long as he's fit, strong and healthy, and wants to play then he will feel the time for it, doesn't it?"

Anderson produced one of the best spells of pace bowling, claiming two key wickets of Shubman Gill and Ajinkya

Rahane in four balls to trigger India's collapse.

Despite the heroic show, the 38-year-old is likely to be rested as per England's rotation policy of their pacers to keep them in shape in the long run.

"It is hard (to leave Anderson out), he is a class act, you'll have to wait and see... But I'm not reluctant to change the winning team, Silverwood said.

Anderson may have looked fitter and better than ever but with the heat and humid conditions on offer here and keeping with the crammed schedule of the four-match Test series, Silverwood said it's the best option.

"It's the best thing to do for the players and it's the best thing to do for the team and the longevity of it. "I mean you run the risk of opposite result being different. But you could play the same team, and the result could still be different... "We know India are going

ahead of the second Test. Stuart Broad had played the first Test against Sri Lanka while Anderson replaced him in the second in Galle as they blanked the Islanders 2-0 before coming to India.

"Broady didn't play in the last game and we've many bowlers here who we could play at any given point," said Silverwood.

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SPECIAL TRAIN
For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Special Express Train as per the schedule given below:-

04021/04022 Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Jaipur - Delhi Sarai Rohilla Sainik Special Express Train (via Sikar) (Tri-weekly)

Train No. 04021		STATION	Train No. 04022	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
--	22:25	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	05:35	--
22:40	22:42	Delhi Cantt	05:05	05:07
22:58	23:00	Gurgaon	04:48	04:50
23:21	23:23	Pataudi Road	04:25	04:27
23:55	00:05	Rewari	04:04	04:07
00:25	00:27	Dahina Zainabad	02:58	03:00
00:36	00:38	Kanina Khas	02:47	02:49
00:52	00:54	Mahendragarh	02:31	02:33
01:45	02:20	Loharu	01:35	02:00
02:36	02:38	Surajgarh	00:28	00:30
02:50	02:52	Chirawa	00:14	00:16
03:07	03:09	Ratan Shahar	23:58	23:59
03:23	03:25	Jhunjhunu	23:41	23:43
		Nua	23:27	23:29
03:53	03:55	Dundlod Mukundgarh	23:11	23:13
04:24	04:26	Nawalgarh	22:57	22:59
04:55	05:00	Sikar Jn	22:23	22:33
05:23	05:25	Palsana	21:54	21:56
05:58	06:03	Ringas	21:32	21:37
06:16	06:18	Govindgarh Malikpur	21:13	21:15
06:28	06:30	Chomun Samod	21:01	21:03
06:49	06:52	Dahar Ka Balaji	20:37	20:40
07:20	--	Jaipur	--	20:30

Days of Run:- 04021 Ex. Delhi Sarai Rohilla on every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday from 16.02.2021 till further advice and 04022 Ex. Jaipur on every Wednesday, Friday & Sunday from 17.02.2021 till further advice.

Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Note: The above Special Train will have the reserved accommodation only.

Note: 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 may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTEs App.

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निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र

क्र.175/यां./2021 भोपाल, दिनांक 08.02.2021

निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत टेकेदार परसेन्टेज मोहर बंद निविदाये निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	घरोहर राशि	प्रथम राशि	कार्य हेतु निर्धारित एम. आ. आर.	कार्य की अवधि
2	2021_UAD_128041_1	CONSTRUCTION OF SABJI MANDI CHABUTRA SHADE AND SHOP AT PARWALI GROUND GANDHI NAGAR WARD 01 ZONE 01	1,70,81,995/-	1,70,820/-	12,500/-	MPUADD road and building WORK ISSR 2012	180 Days

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2. किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा।

अधीक्षण यंत्र (सिविल)
नगर निगम भोपाल

चि.क्र. 1635/020/2021