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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Modi brought reforms to forefront of politics

Since 1991, "reform" has been a buzzword in Indian politics. It was realised in most circles that the system of doing things that had steadily evolved since the time of Jawaharlal Nehru and more specifically, Indira Gandhi, was no longer fit for purpose. It was not merely the case that the so-called socialist system had throttled Indian entrepreneurship. It was simultaneously acknowledged that the way the Government functioned had contributed immeasurably to inefficiency, waste and, above all, corruption. Unless India had made up its mind to remain an impoverished Third World state, blundering from crisis to crisis and unduly dependent on international hand-outs, reforms were imperative.

The easy part was to secure an intellectual consensus over the need to change and move in a direction that would unleash the full potential of the country. The more difficult part lay in galvanising the political forces that would make reforms a reality. At every stage of the reforms process that began during the prime ministership of PV Narasimha Rao and continues under Narendra Modi, it has been a case of two steps forward and at least one step backward. Sometimes, the retreat has been so great as to make the reforms near-invisible.

The pressure to let sleeping dogs lie has been visible since Manmohan Singh's landmark Budget of 1991. Those who follow the history of decision-making may care to remember the dogged fight put up by the so-called Bombay Club of Indian industrialists who were keen to preserve their special protected privileges of the licence-permit-quota raj. They packaged their resistance to the opening up of the Indian markets to international competition in the disingenuous garb of swadeshi.

The play didn't work but it ensured that the dream of radical reforms was kept in abeyance. Instead, the political consensus was that change must be in baby steps and insulated, as far as possible, from political discourse. This meant that the priority was put on reform by stealth. In the mid-1990s, confronted by a formidable challenge from the so-called Congress Left that had found a new messiah in Arjun Singh, the Congress tried to present economic reforms as the highest stage of Nehruvian creativity. It was laughable but, alas, the political class didn't laugh uproariously. They also didn't laugh when the Congress crashed to an ignominious defeat in the elections of 1996 and 1998. The political class also took heed at the unexpected defeat of the NDA under

In India, where change, in any case, proceeds at a snail's pace, the anger is specifically directed at Modi who actually believes that he has the political mandate to push through larger changes. Modi threatens the cosy world of the status quo and those who benefit from stagnation

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, despite having ushered landmark reforms that were well appreciated throughout the democratic world.

In hindsight, it was Narendra Modi who brought reforms back into the forefront of politics. As Chief Minister of Gujarat for 13 years, Modi changed the culture of governance in the State. Making the State administration more responsive to the needs of investors and business wasn't terribly difficult in a province where making money was always a cherished goal. What was revolutionary was the fact that this was combined with efficiency, transparency and honesty. The fact that corruption in Government services came down exponentially was a big factor in making Modi the star draw in the 2014 election. He came to be perceived as a politician with a difference.

The extent to which Modi's image as a man of unimpeachable integrity became a factor in pushing through reforms should not be underestimated. The demonetisation of 2016 was widely perceived by political pundits and economists as a disastrous step that would kill the BJP politically. They were wrong because the dramatic step was widely believed by people to be a decisive step against black money. Regardless of its avowed objective, what is now clear is that demonetisation prepared the ground for the stupendous expansion of banking services and, consequently, the Government's ability to deliver welfare payments to actual beneficiaries without intermediaries. The big leap in cashless transactions owe entirely to the stir resulting from demonetisation. This infrastructure, it may be added, played an enormous role in delivering relief to people during the Covid-19 lockdown. This, however, was an unintended consequence.

The resistance to reforms is highlighted in the context of the farmer's agitation in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh. The stir, to negate all agricultural reforms, is aimed at preserving the pre-eminence of those who used to be pejoratively described by Leftists as kulaks. This time, since the target is the Modi Government, the rent-a-cause Left has made a seamless shift from the barricades of Shaheen Bagh to the langars along the Delhi-Haryana border. In search of a cause that will cripple the Modi Government and, in the process, the modernisation of agricultural marketing, they have enlisted the support of all those who had in earlier years lamented the fact that successive Governments had left Indian agriculture insulated from reforms. Their U-turn is understandably political and aimed at somehow forcing a retreat. The calculation is that if Modi steps back, it will make future reforms impossible. And if the reforms process comes to a screeching halt, the Modi Government will lose its momentum and merely go through the motions of governance for the rest of its second term.

Opposition to change has been a feature of democratic politics for long. In India, where change, in any case, proceeds at a snail's pace, the anger is specifically directed at Modi who actually believes that he has the political mandate to push through larger changes. Modi threatens the cosy world of the status quo and those who benefit from stagnation.

2 vaccines get emergency use nod

DCGI to take final call on mass use of Covaxin, Covishield; vaccination free of cost across India, says Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India inched closer to launching a country-wide vaccination drive against coronavirus with a Government-appointed panel of experts on Saturday approving two vaccine candidates for emergency use in the country.

The final call on approval of these vaccines — the Serum Institute of India's coronavirus vaccine Covishield and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin — for mass use will be taken by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan announced that vaccination will be free across the country.

"In 1st phase of #Covid19 vaccination, free vaccine shall be provided across the nation to most prioritised beneficiaries that include 1 crore healthcare & 2 crore frontline workers," the Minister tweeted.

However, he later on said that modalities to vaccinate 27 crore people will be worked out soon.

Covaxin, which is still in the clinical trial phase, was granted approval in "public interest as an abundant precaution" in connection with the



mutated strain of the coronavirus, the Union Health Ministry said in a statement. "Grant of permission for restricted use in emergency situation in public interest as an abundant precaution, in clinical trial mode, specially in the context of infection by mutant strains, to Bharat Biotech International," the Centre said in a statement.

The Subject Expert Committee of the DCGI also recommended approval to Cadila Healthcare for conducting the third phase trials of its vaccine.

The Serum Institute is the local maker of the vaccine developed by Oxford University and pharmaceuticals company AstraZeneca.

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Won't trade off protocol for vaccine approval: Vardhan

Dry run across India to understand best way to administer vaccine and plug loopholes, if any

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India gears up to launch world's largest vaccination drive, select hospitals across the country conducted an inoculation dry run on Saturday. The nationwide rehearsal was to understand the best way to administer the vaccine and plug loopholes in logistics and training, if any.

A key aspect of the massive exercise which came the day a Government-appointed panel of experts gave nod to two vaccine candidates for emergency use in the country, was to decide how to manage any possible adverse events following immunisation.

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, who reviewed the process at GTB Hospital in Delhi, said the Government would not compromise on any protocol in approving a vaccine. He also appealed to people



Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan attends the Covid-19 vaccine trial programme (dry run) at Maternity & Child Welfare centre in Daryaganj, New Delhi on Saturday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

not to be misguided by rumours regarding the safety and efficacy of the vaccine.

As per the Centre's directive, Delhi, Punjab and Haryana along with Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Gujarat were among many States and UTs which conducted a dry run for Covid-19 vaccination. The dry run was aimed at testing the laid out mechanism for the vaccination roll-out. As per the guidelines

issued by the Union Health Ministry, all States selected their particular areas and districts to hold the dry run exercise at various Government medical college, hospitals, medical centres and the community health centres.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Health Organization (WHO) supported the drive.

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Delhi's daily Covid count lowest in over seven months

New Delhi: Delhi recorded 494 fresh Covid-19 cases, the lowest in over seven months, and 14 new fatalities on Saturday, even as the positivity rate stood at 0.73 per cent, authorities said.

The infection tally in the city stands at over 6.26 lakh and the death toll rose to 10,561, they said.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain tweeted that the positivity rate has been below one per cent for the past 11 days. "First time less than 500 cases in seven months (since May 17). Positivity reduced to 0.73 per cent from 15.26 per cent on Nov 7," he said. **PTI**

It's BJP's vaccine, won't take shot, says Akhilesh

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday termed the Covid-19 vaccines to be rolled out in the country as "vaccine of the BJP" and said he would not take the shot, drawing a sharp retort from the ruling party which accused him of "insulting" the doctors and scientists. **Detailed report on P6**

Farmers threaten tractor parade on Republic Day

Unions to intensify stir if demands not met in Mon meeting

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The farmers' union on Saturday delivered an ultimatum to the Centre and said they will take out a tractor parade towards Delhi on January 26, when the country will celebrate Republic Day, if their demands are not met in the next meeting scheduled for January 4.

Addressing a Press conference at Press Club, the farmers' leaders said that they intend to be peaceful and they have told long ago to the Government during their talks that it has only two options — either repeal the three Central farm Acts or use force to evict us.

The Press conference was addressed by Balbir Singh Rajewal, Darshanpal Singh, Gurnam Singh Chadhuni, Ashok Dhawale, Jagjit Singh



Farmer leaders during a press conference at Press Club in New Delhi on Saturday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Dallewal, Abhimanyu Kohad and Yogendra Yadav.

"The time has come for decisive action here, and we have chosen January 26 because the Republic Day represents the supremacy of the people and also because we would complete on the day two months of peaceful demon-

stration at Delhi's borders in extreme weather conditions with our resolve to get our demands met," said the farmer leaders.

Sanyukt Kisan Morcha also announced their plan of action according to which they will intensify their movement. **Turn to Page 4**

26/11 brains Lakhvi arrested in Pak for financing terrorism

PTI ■ LAHORE

Mumbai attacks mastermind and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) chief Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi was arrested on Saturday in Pakistan on terror financing charges, according to an official statement, amidst growing international pressure on Islamabad to bring to justice terrorists roaming free in the country.

UN proscribed terrorist Lakhvi, who was on bail since 2015 in the Mumbai attack case, was arrested by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab province in Pakistan.

"Following an intelligence-based operation conducted by the CTD Punjab, proscribed organisation LeT leader Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi was arrested on charges of terrorism financing from Lahore," the CTD said in an official statement. **Turn to Page 4**

"Lakhvi, 61, is accused of running a dispensary, using funds collected for terrorism financing. He and others also collected funds from this dispensary and used these funds for further terrorism financing. He also used these funds for personal expenses," the CTD added.

The CTD said that in addition to belonging to proscribed organisation LeT, Lakhvi is also a UN designated individual. "His trial will be held before the Anti-Terrorism Court in Lahore," it added.

Lakhvi was designated as a global terrorist by the UN in December 2008 for being associated with LeT and al-Qaeda and for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf or in support of" both the entities. **Turn to Page 4**

Trump extends freeze on H-1B until March 31; Indians to be hit

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has extended the freeze on the most sought-after H-1B visas by Indian IT professionals, along with other types of foreign work visas and green cards through March 31 to protect American workers, saying that the reasons for which he had imposed such restrictions amid the pandemic have not changed.

The freeze on visas was ordered by Trump through two proclamations on April 22 and June 22 last year. Hours before the freeze was set to expire on December 31, Trump issued a proclamation, ensuring his sweeping limits on legal immigration remains in place when President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in on January 20. **Detailed report on P7**

UK fliers need to carry Covid -ve report on arrival in India from Fri

Govt issues SOP, allows 15 flights a week for carriers till January 23

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India-United Kingdom flights resume partially from January 8 with a new set of SOP, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Saturday said all passengers coming from the UK between January 8 and January 30 would be subjected to self-paid Covid-19 tests on arrival. Besides, they will also be required to carry a negative test report which should be done 72-hour prior to their journey. The Ministry has come up with a new standard operating procedure (SOP) for travelers arriving from the UK. These



SOPs shall be valid till January 30 or till further orders.

The guidelines came after Union Minister of Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri said, "Operations till January 23 will be restricted to 15 flights per week each for carriers of two countries to and from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad only." Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will

issue necessary permission for a limited number of flight operations between India and UK (as per the directions from the Ministry of Civil Aviation), to the eligible airlines. India had suspended all flights to and from the United Kingdom from December 23 to 31 to check the spread of the mutated, more contagious variant of coronavirus found there. **Turn to Page 4**

Sourav stable after angioplasty for 90% heart blockage, to stay in hospital for 4-5 days

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Sourav Ganguly is stable and out of danger for now after undergoing angioplasty for 90 per cent blockage in the right artery, doctors treating him for myocardial infarction or triple vessel disease that caused him a mild heart attack on Saturday morning said, adding that the other two arteries too had 70 per cent blockage and the decision regarding them would be taken subsequently.

The BCCI president suffered a mild cardiac arrest on Saturday morning while he was through a routine workout session in the gym at his home, sources said, adding he experienced pain in his hand and back and then passed out for a while before being rushed to a private health facility in south Kolkata where doctors after

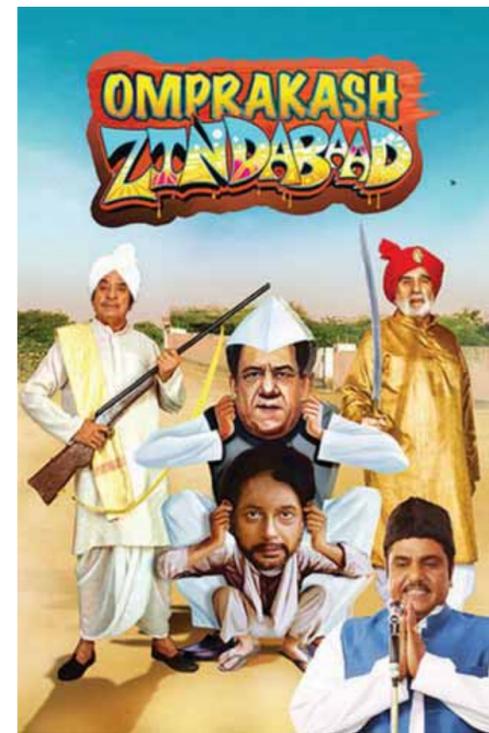


conducting various tests, including angiogram said he had been suffering from myocardial infarction.

The former India captain would be monitored for the next 48 hours and would be required to remain in hospital for the next 4-5 days when a team of senior doctors would decide whether more angioplasty would be conducted on him or whether he would require a bypass surgery immediately. **Turn to Page 4**

HOME THEATRE

Gives out a hard hitting message



OMPRAKASH ZINDABAD
Voot Select
*ing: Om Puri, Jagdeep, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Zakir Hussain
Rated: 5.5/10

It is not very often that we see movies that make us sit up and think long after the credits have stopped rolling. *Omprakash Zindabad* directed by Ranjeet Gupta may not be your average film that has *masala* or an item number. But it does have a hard hitting message to deliver. A message how the common man with

small dreams gets taken in by the outwardly materialistic world and falls for it hook, line and sinker with no means for a reprieve.

The story is straight forward. A village man thinks that getting a bike will get him the leg up in life. For this he is willing to put his wife up for the worst kind of crime that can be done against a woman — to be gang-raped and paraded naked in the village — so that he can get the compensation that the Government gives to such survivors. All for the sake of a bike and become the town's hero.

This satirical take on the situation and how the system is manipulated by those in power has its moments that makes one laugh at the greed and the lengths they would go to for money and the next, it leaves one with a feeling of disgust and sadness that people would rape, a heinous crime, for their own personal gains and scam the poor in the name of the Government compensation.

This is Om Puri and Jagdeep's last movie. It is unfortunate that this film was released four years after the former's death. But it was good to see Jagdeep, who died in July 2020, and that he had not lost the spark in his eyes even though he was 81. One just wished that Gupta could have better utilised their talent. The same goes for Kulbhushan Kharbanda whose talent is wasted here.

— Shalini Saksena

Fresh take on leftovers



BEST LEFTOVERS EVER!
Netflix
Rated: 6/10

What if one were to tell you that one could make Mexican dishes remade into gnocchi, dumplings and much more. What if one were to ask to use healthy leftovers like marinated veggies and pork tenderloin and turn it into cozy comfort food? Or one turned festive meal leftovers of glazed ham, apple pie and green bean casserole — into a fancy sandwich?

Well, the latest reality show is sure to have all the answers for all those cooks out there who love to cook up a storm in the kitchen from leftovers. While the dishes may not be something that one would find in Indian homes, the fact of the matter is that instead of reheating the food and eating the same thing the next day, one can whip up an entirely new dish by adding a few extra ingredients that are already in our kitchens to wow the family members with your culinary skills. All it takes is a bit of thought and viola — one has an entirely new dish on the table for the family to feast on.

It is a competition with three chefs/cooks who are judged on the basis of their creativity, technique and the number of leftovers used to remake an entirely new dish. The winner takes cash worth \$10,000! Next time, there are some leftovers in the refrigerator, take inspiration from this show and delight your family and friends.

— Shalini Saksena

Look out for

Broken but Beautiful Season 3

Cast: Sidharth Shukla, and Sonia Rathee
One of the most successful OTT franchises, *Broken But Beautiful* was loved by one and all and still ranks high on the rating chart. The beautiful original music of the franchise is still the top chart numbers amongst the fans. The first two seasons showcased a tender love story of individuals (portrayed by Vikrant Massey and Harleen Sethi) who meet in the most unexpected of circumstances and soon become a support system for one another. And now, with the new *jodi* — Sidharth Shukla, and Sonia Rathee — roped in for season 3, fans can't wait to know more about the story of Agastya and Rumi!

Apharan 2

Cast: Arunoday Singh, Nidhi Singh, Saanand Verma, Sukhamni Sadana, Aditya Lal, Varun Badola
After the resounding success of Season 1, ALTBalaji's *Apharan — Sab Ka Katega* is renewed for the second season. Packed with a gripping narrative, unimaginable twists, thrilling storyline, and electrifying situational background score, *Apharan* is a 70's style *masala* entertainer at its very best. The cast and crew of the show is currently shooting in Uttarakhand for the second instalment of the show. Going by the excitement on set, it certainly seems that Arunoday Singh and Nidhi Singh, who played the part of Rudra Srivastava and Ranjana Srivastava respectively, are the most excited. With shooting going on in full swing, the duo is performing to the best of their abilities as they look to make the second season all the more gripping and better than season 1.

Dev DD Season 2

Cast: Asheema Vardaan, Sanjay Suri and Nauheed Cyrusi,

Dev DD is set to make things get wilder than your imagination.

This modern-day version of Devdas is full of drama, heartbreak and romantic twists in the life of lead protagonist Devika. Starring Asheema Vardaan in the lead along with, Sanjay Suri and Nauheed Cyrusi, it's time to be hooked to the screen one more time as the saga of love, lust, betrayal and everything in between mesmerize each one of us.

Punch Beat Season 2

After the resounding success of Season 1, ALTBalaji's *PunchBeat* is renewed for the second season. Featuring Harshita Gaur, Priyank Sharma, Siddharth Sharma, and Khushi Joshi in lead roles, *PunchBeat* is a teen drama series that showcases the story of four students from one of the most prestigious schools in India. Starting as strangers, one sees how the lives of this quarter get intertwined leading to them becoming best buddies. This youth-based show is packed with a whole lot of fun, Masti, drama and you guessed it, pranks. Always ready to outdo each other, we see these kids have a blast enjoying every moment of their lives.

Crashh

Cast: Zain Iman, Rohan Mehra, Aditi Sharma
Crashh depicts the story of four siblings, who are torn apart by a fateful accident in early 2000. What happens when the four siblings meet again? Watch on to know the story of Kabir, Kajol, Jashn, and Gia!

Bang Baang

Cast: Faisal Sheikh (Mr Faisu) and Ruhii Singh
Bang Baang — *Sound of Crimes* is set to be a visual spectacle for quintessential action cinema lovers and will leave the viewers glued to their seats. The original web-series involves mystery,

suspense, dhamakedaar action, and loads of youth drama amidst deep-lying secrets that unravel one by one.

The Married Woman

Cast: Ridhi Dogra, Monica Dogra, Imaad Shah, Ayesha Raza Mishra, Rahul Vohra, Suhaas Ahuja, Divya Seth Shah
The Married Woman is a love story, based on Manju Kapur's famous book *A Married Woman*, that began during the times of unrest in the country revolves around two beautiful souls — Aastha & Peeperli, who love rose beyond religious, gender, and societal conditions to find each other.

7 Kadam (Eros Now Original)

Cast: Amit sadh, Rohit Roy
In a clash of ideologies, soccer coach Aurobindo's son Ravi, the star striker, joins a rival team, to uplift his family's status.

Udan Patolas (Eros Now Original)

Cast: Aastha Ssidana, Sukhamni Sadana
Apoorva Arora, Poppy Jabbar
Four small town girls try to hilariously fit in the big city. They are maybe unlucky in love but their sisterhood is unbreakable.

Aisa Waisa Pyaar (Eros Now Original)

Cast: Ahsaas Channa, Prit Kamani, Adah Sharma, Saqib Saleem, Nidhi Singh, Sheeba Chaddha, Rajit Kapu
From a millennial couple to an 80+ couple celebrating their 60th anniversary... from stories featuring man's best friend to someone differently abled. 4 unusual love stories spanning 4 different ages, stages of relationships, backdrops, and characters. Told in a contemporary style of Modern Love, come fall in love again, it is time for #Pyaar! Four-part love anthology where each story takes you through love story of a different generation.

CHEERS TO NEW YEAR



and celebrating the last day of the year with my loved ones so that the next year of my life starts with people who matters the most to me. Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year. — Madirakshi who plays Parvati in Sony Entertainment Televisions Vighnaharta Ganesh

— Adhvik Mahajan who plays Joginder in Zee TV's Teri Meri Ik Jindri



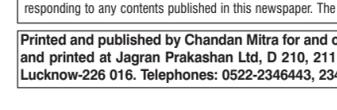
This year has taught us so many things. I always believed more in planning the future but the past few months made me understand the importance of living in the moment and enjoying it. Hence, I have stopped worrying about upcoming problems and instead started enjoying the present moment more. This definitely doesn't mean spending every penny you have earned, without any planning. While we didn't have much work in terms of shoots, this year, it still feels like a very tiring year, mentally. Hence, I want to travel a lot in 2021, to relax and be recharged. The past year has also taught us how much we need our friends and family, especially at such low times. So, I will make sure I catch up with them more often this year. My New Year resolution is to concentrate on my fitness as I will try to hit the gym everyday. I have also wanted to learn playing the Guitar for a long time and hope to accomplish that this year.

— Paras Arora who plays Dr Pramod in Sony SAB's Kaatela & Sons



This year taught me to be calm and also to save money. The most important thing that I learnt is to love yourself more than anything or anyone else because your happiness matters the most. So, I have started loving myself a little more. With the new year arriving, I have decided to be disciplined in life — wake up early, work out, have fun and be more passionate about my work. Since I live away from my parents, I will make sure I spend as much time with my family as possible because I miss that home love and care here in Mumbai. I plan to enter 2021 by traveling to Goa with my brothers as I love travelling with them. For the same, I have applied for a few days off from the shooting of *Maddam Sir*, way in advance and I am very excited.

— Mukdha Chapekar who plays Prachi in Zee TV's Kumkum Bhagya

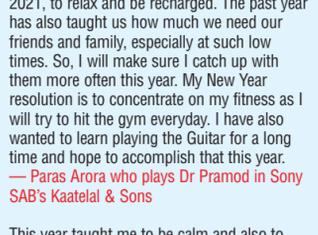


I wish 2021 brings a lot of happiness and prosperity for everyone around. 2020 has been a tough year I hope 2021 will make everyone forget the hardships of 2020 and give a new way of living to everyone. This year I will be staying at home



I have always believed in beginning the New Year with a fresh mind and a lot of optimism. There is no better way to begin the year with a little detour from my routine life, I will be travelling for two days to visit my extended family in my hometown Panipat. While my mother and my brother reside with me in Mumbai, I haven't had a chance to meet my dad since the lockdown reopened or connect with my cousins and other relatives. Every occasion and festival celebrated with them has till date been a memorable one and nothing excites me more than to start a new chapter amidst the presence of my family. I am very excited for this trip and I look forward to having the happiness and fun as I did during the lockdown.

— Kanika Mann who plays Guddan in Zee TV's Guddan Tumse Na Ho Payega



2020 has honestly been a year of mixed feelings for me. While the whole pandemic affected a lot of people, it was also the year when my first show went off air. Looking at the struggles of many other I kept myself together believing that my struggles are not that big, and I would make it through. And I did! Despite it all, this year also got me a role in a beautiful show like *Apna Time Bhi Aayega*. Rani is a very different character and she brings out the little innocent yet strong-willed child within me. While I had my fair share of struggles, this is the best thing that has happened this year and I am eagerly looking forward to 2021. While I don't really make any resolutions, I do wish to continue working hard and entertaining my audiences. I hope it's a better year for everyone and we can finally be free of COVID.

— Megha Ray who plays Rani in Zee TV's Apna Time Bhi Aayega



■ **What is your role in the show?**
I play a superhero. I play two characters and both are different from each other. One, Veer, he is a compassionate person, fun-loving and responsible. While is a do-gooder but he is not the kind of person people can take advantage of. He is the one who finds the magical ring. The other is the super hero who takes on the true image of what Veer is all about — he is naughty. The ring is evil and brings out the bad in the wearer. But since Veer is such a good person, the ring doesn't overpower him.

■ How did you come on board the project?

I got a call for an audition. I was very hopeful and gave the auditions. Unfortunately, I didn't get that part. A few months later, I got a call for another audition. When I went to sign the contract, that is when I came to know it was a lead.

■ How tough was it to bring out the contrast in the two roles you play?

It was a bit tough but I love challenges and that's the reason why I took it up. The roles excited me and I was looking for a project like this. I am grateful I got it. I identify with my character of a superhero; Veer is too good and nobody is that perfect.

■ Your brother is also an actor, do you think there will be comparisons?

I don't think so. Our work is totally different and we are different people. Our approach to acting is not the same either. The genre we are working on is different as well. Siddharth (who plays Aladdin) and I have always done things that are not the same. I am hoping that people too get to see different things.

■ How did you get into acting?

I came to Mumbai in 2014 and pursuing law. At the same time, I started giving auditions. But things never move or happen the way you want them

'Tough to play two contrasting roles'

ABHISHEK NIGAM, who plays a superhero in SAB TV's new show *Hero — Gayab Mode On*, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his character, how he got into acting and his first day of shoot

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Siddharth and my work is totally different and we are different people. Our approach to acting is not the same either. The genre we are working on is different as well

to. Whatever acting that I know, I have learnt while giving auditions. I used to get called for a lot of mythological shows. Slowly, I made contacts and started getting work. That is how I got a role in Panipat.

■ What made you turn to TV then after doing a film?

At the stage where I am today, it doesn't matter whether it is TV or films. If we see screens are getting smaller — from 70 mm to laptops to tablets to mobiles today. People see content that you are part of and how big it is.

■ You are the elder brother. Was it tough to wait for the right role while your brother already had a show as a lead?

I never felt that he had more than I had. I was not

desperate to get a break in the industry. I was doing my own thing back then. I was doing law and even directing that kept me busy. There were other small ventures that I was part of. I played tennis at the State level. My brother and I have never competed with each other, we have been a support system to one another.

■ What are these ventures?

Over the years, I learnt directing and did two music videos under my own label. So that is something that I do. Also, while shooting for Panipat, I learnt more about directing. When you are in the industry, you tend to pick up tips.

■ What do your parents think — both sons in acting?

My mother has always been supportive. She told us that whatever we did we needed to give it our best.

■ You did a show — Chandra Nandini — with Siddharth. How was it to work with him?

We had a lot of fun. The only problem that I faced was how people would confuse my name with his. Working with him was great. When we work professionally, I treat him as a serious person since he has been in the industry for a longer time.

■ Most super hero shows in India are not as good as one gets to see in Hollywood. Will there be comparisons?

There will be comparisons whatever we make. Even if we make a love story people will say Hollywood made it like this. But our industry has given some great super heroes like *Shaktiman* and *Balveer*. What matters is how we approach the project. It is not correct to what we are doing on TV with a *Marvel* project. In fact, it is wrong to compare a film with a TV show due to scalability.

VACCINE TO BE PROVIDED FOR FREE: JAIN

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Saturday said Covid-19 vaccine will be provided to people in the national Capital for free once it arrives, and asserted that the city Government has made preparations for the vaccination drive.

Jain reviewed the dry run of the Covid-19 vaccination process at the Daryaganj dispensary. He said the Delhi Government has made preparations to vaccinate one lakh people in a day.

The dry run was organised at three places which included GTB Hospital in Shahdara, Venkateshwar Hospital, Dwarka and Primary Health Centre, Daryaganj.

"This is not the trial run for the vaccine but of its vaccination process. Preparations have been done in Delhi for the roll-out of the vaccine, from storage to the application. Around 1000 centres will be set up," said

the Health Minister.

"There are three types of centres - Government hospital, private hospital and dispensaries. The purpose of conducting the dry run at three different types of centres was to review the system set up in each. The system is flawless," he said.

"The Delhi Government is fully prepared to roll out the vaccine to 1 lakh people on a daily basis. Initially, it will be rolled out to healthcare and front line workers, along with people over the age of 50 or with co-morbidity. Almost 51 lakh people will be injected in the first phase. The vaccine will be provided free of cost to people in Delhi once it arrives," the Health Minister added.

Responding to queries surrounding side effects of the vaccine, Jain said they have set up monitoring stations at all locations.

"Around 10 patients will be admitted at a time following all norms of social distancing. When the vaccination is applied,



Health Minister Satyendar Jain attends the Covid-19 vaccine trial programme (dry run), at a Maternity and Child Welfare (MCW) Camp in Daryaganj, New Delhi on Saturday

the person will be put under observation for 30 minutes. Every centre has been linked to

a hospital. In case any patient shows any kind of discomfort, an emergency room has also

been set up. Along with this, the patient will be sent to nearby hospitals, if need be," said the

Health Minister.

"Delhi saw 585 cases on Friday. The positivity rate was 0.73 per cent and is continuously on the decline. Very soon, the number of cases too will come under 500. Even after reducing the availability of beds, 10,500-11,000 beds are still vacant," said Jain.

"Only 2,000 beds are occupied at present. As far as the new strain is concerned, 40 cases have been traced and have been admitted to LNJP Hospital. Along with this, four private hospitals too, have been authorised. We are well aware and fully prepared to combat any situation," Jain said.

A video conference was held under the chairmanship of the Delhi health secretary on Friday for conducting a dry run for Covid vaccination at three selected sites, one each in Central District, Shahdara District and South West district.

From installing freezers to setting up cold chain equipment, arrangements are being



A health worker conducts the dry run of Covid-19 vaccination at a healthcare centre in Daryaganj, New Delhi on Saturday

made at a Delhi Government hospital here for storing the vaccine, whenever it arrives.

The Delhi Government is fully prepared to receive, store and administer Covid-19 vaccine to 51 lakh priority category persons in the city in the first

phase of vaccination, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said on December 24.

These persons include the healthcare workers, frontline workers, people aged above 50 and those below 50 years but with co-morbidities.

75-year-old farmer on protest commits suicide in Ghazipur

STAFF REPORTER ■ GHAZIABAD

A 75-year-old farmer protesting against the Centre's agriculture laws allegedly committed suicide on Saturday morning at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border in Ghazipur. Police have also recovered a suicide note written in Punjabi in which he stated that he was unable to bear the plight of farmers.

The farmer has been identified as Kashmir Singh, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Rampur. Police said he allegedly took his own life by hanging himself in a washroom at the protest site. In the suicide note Kashmir Singh also stated that his last rites should be performed by his grandchildren who are also on the Delhi-UP border here.

Meanwhile, the UP Police had taken the suicide note in its custody and they said they are verifying the facts. Singh has held the Government responsible for his suicide and in his letter stated accused the Centre of not paying attention to the farmer's demands and reason for his suicide.

Rakesh Tikait, national

spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, said the farmers are deeply hurt by the incident. He said if this is the situation of the Government, then the farmer will become furious.

"Till the agricultural laws are withdrawn, the agitation of farmers will continue," he said.

Meanwhile, after receiving information regarding the incident, the District Magistrate, Ajay Shankar Pandey, SSP Kalanidhi Naithani, ADM City SK Singh, SSP City and top officials including reached the spot.

At UP Gate, the officials interacted with the farmers leaders and the relatives of the deceased farmer and consoled the victim's family.

However, during this time the farmers also expressed their anger to the authorities. SSP Kalanidhi Naithani said prima facie the case seems to be of suicide.

"The case will be investigated. But the family refused to conduct a post-mortem from the police. At the request of family members, the body was handed over to them, with which they left for his home in Rampur," said a senior police official.

AAP to provide legal aid to farmers: Raghav Chadha

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Supporting the ongoing farmers' protest, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha on Saturday said the AAP will provide legal help to the farmers who have filed defamation notices to senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, including Union Minister Giriraj Singh, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel and Ram Madhav for a pre-meditated smear campaign to discredit the protest.

These framers are — Ramneek Randhawa, Kuldeep Dhaliwal, and Sukhwinder Singh Sidhu, showing unconditional support to them, Chadha said that AAP had kept its promise by providing legal aid to farmers.

"AAP has already offered food, water, medical supplies, and free-wifi to the protesting farmers on Delhi's Singh borders, claiming that AAP is the only party with farmers," the AAP leader said.

Terming Giriraj Singh, Member of Parliament from Begusarai as a firebrand leader of the BJP, Chadha said on December 12, Singh stated that farmers were being misled and the farmers protest was not being held in favour of the farmers.

Mentioning remarks on farmers termed them as Khalistani, farmers a farmer from Amritsar, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, has sent a legal notice to the Union Minister, seeking an unconditional apology and unambiguous withdrawal of the defamatory and derogatory statements.

Dhaliwal belongs to a family of farmers and cultivates 6 acres of land in Jagdev Kalan village in Ajnala Tehsil, Amritsar, and has been a part of the farmer movement since November 27.

It may recalled on December 17, 2020, Nitin Patel, Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat had said, "In the name of farmers, anti-national elements, terrorists, Khalistanis, Communists and pro-China people have sneaked into the agitation... We can see them having pizza, pakodi... All that is coming free of cost... Anti-national elements are giving them lakhs of rupees to stay put..." taking objection to such vilification, Ramneek Singh Randhawa from Jalandhar has issued a notice to Nitin Patel, seeking 'an unconditional apology and unambiguous withdrawal of the defamatory and derogatory statements'.

Randhawa too, has been fighting for his rights at Singhu border.

Seeking an unconditional apology and unambiguous withdrawal of the defamatory and derogatory statements and referring to an article where Madhav had questioned the authenticity of the farmers' movement stating, 'Is Khalistan the reason for farmers' march to Delhi?' Sidhu has issued a notice to Ram Madhav.

Briefing the media, Punjab Unit Co-incharge, Chadha while reiterating his and his Party's stance on supporting the farmers' movement said, "This is the farmer who has given his blood, his sweat, his entire life to tilling his land. It is because of the sacrifices made by a farmer and his family that food reaches our homes, our plates, and we're able to eat to our heart's content."

"If someone has a problem with this farmer, if someone is abusing an honest farmer, it's almost like they're abusing Mother India. Farmers are, in the truest form, sons of the soil, and the Aam Aadmi Party and its National Convenor, Arvind Kejriwal will stand by these farmers. All of us will fulfil our responsibility of a sewaadaar."

NCB recovers more than 5 kg heroin at IGIA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of two Zambian nationals in two separate operations, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has recovered more than five kilogram (kg) of heroin at Terminal-3, Indra Gandhi International (IGI) Airport.

The accused has been identified as Mulapi Joshua, who was arrested December 25 while Mambwe William was apprehended on December 31. With their arrest, the reverse route of trafficking of Heroin into India has been busted.

According to KPS Malhotra, the Deputy Director of NCB, in the first incident, on December 25, after receiving specific inputs Mulapi Joshua was apprehended at T-3 of IGI airport.

"From the search of his luggage, the NCB team recovered 4.650 kg of heroin in the cavities made inside the luggage bag. The complete network of such traffickers was identified and further information was developed," the deputy director said.

"As a result, on December 31, one more Zambian national, Mambwe William was apprehended. From the search of his luggage, 700 gm of heroin was recovered, hidden in the cavities made in the luggage bag," Malhotra said.

"The vigil of Border Guarding Forces had made the drug traffickers shift to some other route. Thus, the Drug Traffickers had started pushing drugs into India through two different routes. Now, heroin sourced from Afghanistan and Pakistan is shipped via sea cargo to Sri Lanka and Maldives to evade detection. Then from Maldives and Sri Lanka, Heroin is trafficked in India," Malhotra added.

"Another route identified by the official is that heroin is trafficked to African Countries from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Then through the air route, with the help of couriers and passengers, heroin is being trafficked into India," Malhotra said.

Man arrested for bid to take loan on forged papers

New Delhi: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police has arrested a man for allegedly preparing forged property documents and submitting it to the bank for availing the loan.

The accused has been identified as Ranvir Singh who had retired as conductor from Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC). According to Dr O P Mishra, the Joint Commissioner of Police, EOW, a case was registered after Delhi Nagrik Sehkari Bank Limited in its complaint stated that Ranvir had availed a loan of Rs five lakhs in 2011 from Lajpat Nagar branch for marriage of his daughter.

"He submitted requisite documents with the application form. He mortgaged his property by depositing necessary documents to the bank. After scrutiny of the documents, the bank came to know that the sale GPA dated NIL executed in favour of Ranvir Singh and his salary slips deposited with the bank are forged and fabricated," said the Joint CP.

"Police team arrested Ranvir on December 30. He had also stopped paying EMIs, allowing the loan turn NPA and then disappearing from the scene," said the Joint CP. SR

Fire at four-storey building in Moti Nagar, no casualty

New Delhi: A massive fire broke out at a four-storey building, having a showroom of motorcycle company Harley Davidson on the ground floor, in west Delhi's Moti Nagar in the early hours of Saturday, officials said.

Officials of the Delhi Fire Service received information about the blaze at 1.36 am, following which 25 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. It took the fire officials over an hour to rescue four people — Mohammad Shadab (23), Dhirender (21), Kiran (20) and Riya (24), they said.

The blaze was finally brought under control at 5.50 am, a senior fire official said.

The first and second floor of the building were severely affected by the fire, the officials said, adding that some portions of the ground floor and the basement also suffered damage.

There was a nightclub - Markaz — on the third floor of the building and a restaurant on the terrace. Markaz did not have a NOC from Delhi Fire Services, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (west) Deepak Purohit said, "The fire took place around 12.30 am on Saturday. The staff of Markaz restaurant tried to extinguish the fire but couldn't succeed." Police said they rushed to the spot and found that there was a massive fire at the first floor of the building where rear-view mirrors of cars and bikes were manufactured.

The nightclub Markaz, running on the fourth floor, was winding up operations but some people were stuck there. They were safely rescued around 3 am and taken to ABG hospital. They were later discharged. At the second floor of the building, there was a ready-made garments factory, a senior police officer said. PTI

Cops' accidental death cover hiked to ₹78 lakh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Commissioner SN Shrivastava on Saturday announced a raise in the insurance cover for the personnel of the force in case of natural and accident deaths as well as suicides. The CP also held a webinar with police officials and lauded the Law and order management in handling of North-East riot, Farmers agitation and other political activities.

"The efforts put by police personnel also reflected in overall crime situation as the crime is down although we have taken cognizance in most of the cases. Better response to public complaint has been focal point to make the city safer for every one either women, children or senior citizen," said the CP.

Extending greetings on the occasion of New Year, he said all policemen above 40 years would undergo compulsory medical checkups so that any ailment could be timely diagnosed and treated.

The commissioner said the year gone by was challenging and the police personnel were mentally, physically and officially over-stretched due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Being frontline warriors, as many as 7,612 police personnel got infected. Out of them, 7,424 personnel recovered and resumed their duty, yet we lost 32 of our colleagues due to corona pandemic," the commissioner said in a statement.

Besides, Delhi Police lost 231 of its personnel due to natural deaths, 44 to accidental deaths and 14 to suicides. "It shows that police personnel are facing serious physical and mental health issues, which needs to be taken care of," he said.



Keeping this in view, it has been decided that all the policemen above 40 years would undergo compulsory medical checkups, so that any ailment could be timely diagnosed and treated, he said in the statement.

It would enhance health levels of the force. Serious deliberation is being done for maintaining physical fitness of the police personnel. In this direction, seven wellness centres have already been opened in police colonies, which also provide Allopathic and Ayurvedic doctors for medical consultations, he stated.

"Insurance cover for natural deaths has been raised from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 28 lakh, while the cover for accidental deaths has been lifted to Rs 78 lakh from Rs 30 lakh. "Though no family wishes to be compensated in financial terms, yet in unfortunate incident, a provision of Rs 10 lakh has been made to help the family in suicidal cases, he said.

A total of 135 personnel have been granted Out-of-Turn promotions, while 235 have been decorated with Asadharan Karyia Puraskar while 145 were awarded Commendation Rolls, the statement said. Under a special initiative, three Out-of-Turn promotions for tracing 50 or more missing children in a calendar year have also been granted, he said.

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Bidding of 29 Residential, 1 LICD** Business Park Peeragarhi and 82 Institutional
- 28.01.2021**
Bidding of 37 Industrial and 33 Commercial
- 29.01.2021**
Bidding of 20 Function Site, 25 EHS* and 25 Built up Shop

- 82 Institutional (Leasehold)
- 33 Commercial (Freehold)
- 25 EHS* (Freehold)
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Maoist, wife beaten to death for killing one

Medininagar (Jharkhand): A Maoist and his wife were beaten to death allegedly by his fellow village folks in Jharkhand's Palamu district on Saturday after he shot dead a man over a land dispute, police said.

Thirty-six-year-old Pragas Singh, a member of the banned CPI (Maoist) outfit, had come to his house in Kundalipur village in Manatu police station area on leave from his squad, Superintendent of Police

Sanjeev Kumar said. He shot 40-year-old Vinod Singh dead, also a local person, over an old land dispute, following which villagers beat the Maoist and his wife Premni Devi (30) to death with sticks, he said.

A police contingent has been sent from Medininagar to the village that lies in dense hilly forests close to the interstate border with Bihar, the officer added. **PTI**

Shah: Govt making efforts for equal attention to all security aspects

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Emphasising that national security is paramount, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that the central government is making sincere efforts to give equal attention to all aspects related to security.

The Minister expressed his views after releasing an inaugural issue of "National Police K-9 Journal" here. It is first such publication in the country on Police Service K9s (PSKs) or police dogs.

"National security is paramount and our government is making sincere efforts to give equal attention to all aspects related to security. The police dog squad can act as a force multiplier to ensure the safety of society, much like the way drones or satellites are used in the country," Shah

said. The Minister said that the dogs can be used effectively to detect drugs and even in the fight against terrorism.

A special "Police K9 Cell" was established in November 2019 under the Police Modernisation Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs with the mandate of mainstreaming and augmentation of police service K9s in the country.

The publication of Police K9 journal is another step in creating an ecosystem in the country to train and learn on augmenting this vital resource.

The journal comprises section in Hindi and English. Apart from security forces personnel, a few foreign experts too have contributed article to the inaugural issue. It is a biannual journal to be released in April and October every year.

Poster politics in Bihar heats up post Arunachal Pradesh

IANS ■ PATNA

Following the souring of ties between Janata Dal United (JDU) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), political temperatures in Bihar continue to soar defying the winter.

An evidence of can be found in posters of BJP leaders cutting CM Nitish Kumar's chair posted at prominent locations of state capital Patna. However, it is not clear who is behind the action.

The poster has several provocative messages including "Arunachal to bas jhanki hai, ye kursi abhi baki hai" (Arunachal was just a trailer, the BJP will now cut this chair as well).

After the Arunachal Pradesh episode in which several JD (U) leaders crossed over to the BJP, CM Nitish Kumar and his party members are reportedly miffed with its ally in Bihar.

The opposition is cashing in on it by claiming that Nitish Kumar will soon join the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance). Former CM Rabri Devi said as much on Friday. The JDU on the other hand has made it clear that the RJD and the Congress are desperate to grab power. Hence they are spreading these falsehoods.

Chitranjan Gagan, the state spokesperson of RJD, said: "Nitish Kumar has had a healthy relation-

ship with Lalu Prasad in the past. Moreover, Nitish is facing humiliation in the NDA. In this case, the claim of former CM Rabri Devi may turn out to be true in the next few months."

In a tweet on Friday, Rabri Devi said that discussions are underway to include CM Nitish Kumar in Mahagathbandhan. BJP MP Ajay Nishadh said: "There is no chance of Nitish Kumar leaving the NDA. After returning to the NDA for the second time, he won't go anywhere. A few differences between the JDU and the BJP and will soon be resolved. Both parties want the government to complete its five-year tenure."

Kerala logs 5,328 new cases, 21 more deaths

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala recorded 5,328 new coronavirus cases on Saturday even as 4,985 more patients recovered in the last 24 hours, Health Minister KK Shailaja's office said. Twenty-one more fatalities took the state's death toll to 3,116.

As many as 65,374 people are undergoing corona treatment in the state at present.

Ernakulam district led with 743 new cases, whereas Kasargod with 83 cases was at the lowest position. The positivity rate of Kerala is 9.85 per cent.

Of the 5,328 new cases, 78 emerged outside the state. As many as 4,801 persons tested positive after contact with corona patients while the source of contact of 392 patients was yet unknown.

Fifty-seven health workers tested positive on Saturday, followed by Ernakulam with 14, Thrissur with eight, Pathanamthitta with seven, Kozhikode with five, and Kollam, Kottayam and Kannur with four cases each, Thiruvananthapuram with three, and Palakkad, Wayanad and Kasargod with two cases each, and Idukki and Malappuram with one case each.

As many as 2,40,490 persons are under observation in Kerala, including 2,28,679 in home or institutional quarantine and 11,811 in hospitals. **IANS**

Noida Police starts campaign to check forced child begging, send kids to schools

Noida (UP): The Gautam Buddha Nagar Police has launched a campaign to check forced child begging and send the rescued children, who have lost their way out of education for myriad reasons, back to classrooms, officials said on Saturday.

The police would also ensure presence of teachers in slums across Noida and Greater Noida after it emerged that their absence since the COVID-19 outbreak has been an impediment in children's education, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Women and Child Safety) Vrinda Shukla said a larger campaign is underway in entire Uttar Pradesh with a focus on rescuing children engaged in beggary. "In pursuance of that we have started the campaign in Gautam Buddha Nagar also with the support of the district child helpline and some NGOs," Shukla said.

As part of the campaign, she said, the police have identified some major slums

in the district from where children are found engaged in beggary. "In the first phase, we are focusing on raising awareness in these places and encouraging adults there to send their children to school instead of engaging them in begging," the officer said.

Shukla said when the police started reaching out to people in slums some residents informed them about difficulties in sending their wards to school.

The people said some schools which had shut down at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic have not resumed, impacting the education of their children, she said "So, with the support of some NGOs and private companies we are trying to ensure the presence of teachers in these places so that children could return to education for their bright and better future, and not wander their way into begging or crime," Shukla added. **PTI**

UP: Out to buy toffee, 5-year-old boy dies after falling in septic tank

Noida (UP): A five-year-old boy who had gone out of his house here to buy a toffee from a nearby shop died after accidentally falling into a septic tank at an under-construction site, police said on Saturday.

The boy had left his house on Monday but did not return until late in the day, prompting his parents to begin a search for him in the neighbourhood and the whole Muradgarhi village, which falls under Rabupura police station limits in Greater Noida, an official said.

"Later, the parents approached the local police station and a missing persons complaint was lodged. The police also launched a search for the boy, who was found in the septic tank of an under-construction house in the same village," a police spokesperson said.

"The boy was pulled out and rushed to a hospital where the doctors declared him dead," the spokesperson said. According to the official, the child's parents later gave another statement to the police stating that their son was playing near the construction site and accidentally fell into the pit, leading to his death.

Legal proceedings were being carried out in the case, the police added. **PTI**

GDA organises City Forest Carnival

Ghaziabad: Ghaziabad Development Authority in its ambitious project City Forest Sahibabad launched several schemes and on this occasion cultural events were also organized.



The chief guest of the function was Asha Sharma, Mayor of Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation and Sunil Sharma, MLA from Sahibabad. The function was presided over by GDA vice president Kanchan Verma. On this occasion, Asha Sharma and Sunil Sharma inaugurated the City Forest Carnival by lighting a lamp.

In his address, Asha Sharma described City Forest as the pride of Ghaziabad and said that today the GDA has given two libraries, restaurants, ticket counters, information centers, open theater etc. to the public.

On this occasion, MLA Sunil Sharma said that it is a matter of his good fortune that several schemes were launched today in his constituency inside the City Forest.

On this occasion, he got a chance to join, he is happy. In the city forest, where the libraries will give information to the people, the same environmental library will help the people to conserve the environment.

The open theater, which has seating for 500 people, will entertain and people will be able to organize their own small events in the canteen.

2 vaccines get emergency use nod

From Page 1

The UK has already given nod for vaccination to the shot developed there. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is India's first indigenous vaccine for coronavirus. The inactivated virus vaccine has been developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Virology (NIV).

Bharat Biotech's interim findings of Phase I trials showed the drug induced an immune response and led to no serious side effects. Data from Phase II trials showed "tolerable safety outcomes", suggesting antibodies may persist for six to 12 months.

The Subject Expert Committee met for the second time this week on Friday to review the applications of the vaccine candidates. Both Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech had made presentations before the expert panel on Wednesday. Meanwhile, biopharmaceutical company Pfizer has requested more time to present its data.

Emergency use authorisation will pave the way for vaccine rollout in India, which is the world's second-most affected country by the virus after the United States.

Adar Poonawalla, chief executive officer of the Serum Institute of India, had on Monday said that the company has already made 40 million to 50 million doses of the vaccine. However, the Government has not yet signed a deal with the firm.

26/11 brains Lakhvi arrested in Pak ...

From Page 1

Proscribed terrorists and entities are subject to an assets freeze, wherein all states are required to freeze funds and other financial assets or economic resources of designated individuals and entities, a travel ban that prevents the entry into or transit through nations' territories by the designated individuals and an arms embargo.

Last month, the UN Security Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee allowed for a monthly payment of Pakistani Rupee 1.5 lakh for Lakhvi to meet his personal expenses.

The LeT, led by Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed, is responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people, including six Americans.

The global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is instrumental in pushing Pakistan to take measures against terrorists roaming freely in Pakistan and using its territory to carry out attacks in India and elsewhere.

The Paris-based FATF placed Pakistan on the Grey List in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019 but the deadline was extended later on due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Schools to reopen in Odisha for Class 10, 12 from Jan 8

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government on Saturday decided that schools will reopen for Class 10 and Class 12 from January 8. In a statement, School and Mass Education Department informed that students will be taught for 100 days including Saturdays and Sundays.

Classes will be held for Class 10 students from January 8 to April 26 and Class 12 students will attend their classes from January 8 to April 28.

Notably, the schools have been closed in the state since March 17 due to Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Board of Secondary Education (BSE) will conduct the High School Certificate (HSC) examinations from May 3 to May 15. The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) will conduct the 12th examinations between May 15 and June 11.

The practical exam of Class 10 students will be held from April 27 to May 2 and Class 12 students will be held from April 29 to May 14, the statement said.

The guidelines issued by the Health and Family Welfare Department and the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) will be followed strictly at the schools.

The department has released a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the opening of the schools.

It said only the schools outside containment zones shall be allowed to reopen and students, teachers, employees living in containment zones will not be allowed to attend the school.

Online learning will continue to be the preferred mode of teaching and will be encouraged. The students may attend schools with the written consent of parents, the department said. **IANS**



Tourists visit the historic Hawa Mahal, amid coronavirus pandemic, in Jaipur on Saturday **PTI**

UK fliers need to carry Covid -ve report...

From Page 1

Later, the suspension was extended till January 7.

According to the SOP, all the passengers arriving from the UK are required to carry a negative RT-PCR test report which should be obtained 72 hours prior to the journey.

"The same will also need to be uploaded on the same portal mentioned above. After arriving at the Indian airports, all passengers will be subjected to self-paid RT-PCR tests. In the case of positive test results, passengers will be isolated in an institutional isolation facility in a separate (isolation) unit coordinated by the respective state health authorities," it said.

Meanwhile, passengers seated in the same row of the Covid positive patient, three rows in front and three rows behind would also be subjected to institutional quarantine in separate quarantine centers. The passengers who are found Covid-negative after the tests conducted at

the airport would be advised home quarantine for 14 days and the concerned state or district administration should regularly follow up with them. "In case, the genomic sequencing indicates the presence of a new variant of SARS-CoV-2, then the patient will continue to remain in a separate isolation unit. The patient will remain in the isolation unit as per the existing protocol. The patient will be kept in the isolation facility till his sample is tested negative," it said.

"The Directorate General of Civil Aviation will ensure proper separation of flights coming from the UK to avoid crowding at airports for testing and waiting for results. To ensure stringent following to all protocols, only 15 flights per week by airlines of India and as many by carriers of the UK - 30 in all weekly - will be allowed to and from the four metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad only till January 23, 2021.

As per the SOP, airlines and airports will inform passengers about the new protocols and also make in-flight announcements about the same. "The State-wise passenger manifest of the flights from UK landing at Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai airports in India (from Jan 8-30, for now) shall be conveyed by the Bureau of Immigration to state government/integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) so that this data would be provided to the surveillance teams," it said.

"All the contacts of those travellers who arrived at various airports between January 8 and 30 and tested positive on arrival during air travel would be subjected to institutional quarantine in separate quarantine centres and would be tested as per ICMR guidelines (or earlier if the passenger develops any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19). Contacts and Hyderabad only till January 23, 2021.

Sourav stable...

From Page 1

Informing that the cricketing legend was stable, Dr Aftab Khan of the hospital where he was being treated said, "Sourav Ganguly has undergone angioplasty. He is stable now. He will be monitored for 48 hours. He is completely conscious. There are two (more) blockages in his heart for which he will be treated. As of now he is stable, we will have a meeting on Monday and then we will decide what needs to be done further, priority is to let him settle down after heart attack. He is risk-free and he is talking as well."

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who met him during the visiting hours "his spirit is so high ... when I went to see him ... before I could ask a question he asked me as to how I was ... I wonder how a youngster like him can get a heart attack ... I could also know after speaking to him that he would never get any test done." Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar with whom Banerjee met a few days ago at the Raj Bhavan --- giving rise to speculations that the BJP wanted him as its Chief Ministerial candidate in Bengal elections --- said, "I was apprehensive before meeting him. But after seeing him in a cheerful mood I have no doubt that our Dada will recover soon. I am relieved like millions of his followers to see him in his usual cheerful mood."

Earlier Home Minister Amit Shah too enquired about his health following which Bengal observer for the BJP Kailash Vijayvargiya called up the hospital authorities to get his information.

Cardiologist who had earlier treated his father said the disease Ganguly was suffering from could have a hereditary history adding however there could be other reasons too which are related to lifestyle.

"Normally such things should not happen to a player living under such regulated regime ... however hereditary issues --- like ischmic heart or lifestyle can cause such attacks ... he might have been under strain in the past few months," a doctor refusing to give his name said.

Meanwhile India captain Virat Kohli, who is currently on paternity leave, his former colleagues Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble, Mohammad Kaif, BCCI secretary Jay Shah, woman cricketer Mithali Raj and many stars from Indian cricket and other arena wished for his speedy recovery.

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Recoveries outnumber new Covid cases in J&K

Jammu: Recoveries outnumbered new Covid cases in Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday as 260 patients were discharged while 244 new cases came to light during the last 24 hours.

An official bulletin said 260 patients were discharged from different hospitals after recovery while 244 tested positive - 107 from Jammu division and 137 from Kashmir division.

So far, 121,471 people have been infected by coronavirus in J&K out of which 116,587 have recovered while 1,885 people have succumbed to the dreaded virus so far including one patient who died on Saturday. **IANS**

Won't trade off... Farmers...

From Page 1

"A fortnight of nationwide campaign will be started to counter the Government's propaganda called "Desh Jagriti Abhiyan" during January 6 to 20 which will include rallies, conferences and dharnas all over the country," said the farmers' union.

"Lohri and Sankranti festivals will be marked as Kisan Sankalp Diwas by burning the copies of these three laws. On January 18 farmers will celebrate Mahila Kisan Diwas to underline the role of women farmers while Azad Hind Kisan Diwas will be marked on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary on January 23 by protesting outside Governors' official residence in all State capitals," said the farmers union.

On Friday, the farmers had

announced that if the talks on January 4 do not succeed, farmers will march on KMP Expressway on the January 6 and subsequently the Shahjahanpur blockade will also move towards Delhi.

"It is a "plain lie" that the Government had accepted 50 per cent of the farmers' demands. In last round of talks, the Government agreed to two minor demands of the farmers' movement and even these are yet to be secured in writing or legal form while the major demands of the protesting farmers remain unresolved," said Yogendra Yadav.

"On the demand to repeal the three Central farm laws, the Centre had asked the farmers' organisations to come up with alternative proposals, and the farmer leaders responded by saying that there is no alternative other than repeal. The Government has refused to agree, even in principle, to our demand for legal right to purchase at MSP," said

Gurnam Singh Chadhuni. "We have no alternative and if the Government does not meet our demand by the 26th of January, we will be left with no option other than to start marching peacefully to Delhi," he said.

The farmers, mainly from Punjab and Haryana, in these chilling winters are protesting at various borders including Singhu, Tikri, Chilla and Ghazipur borders of the national Capital for more than a month against these three new laws.

The protests have also led to traffic congestion forcing police to divert vehicular movement. Taking to Twitter on Saturday, the Delhi Traffic Police alerted commuters about the routes that remained closed owing to the agitation and suggested them to take alternative roads.

"Tikri, Dhansa Borders are closed for any Traffic Movement. Jhatikara Borders is open only for

LMV (Cars/ Light Motor Vehicles), two wheelers and pedestrian movement," it tweeted.

"The Chilla and Ghazipur Borders are closed for traffic coming from Noida & Ghaziabad to Delhi because of farmer protests. Please take alternate route for coming to Delhi via Anand Vihar, DND, Apsara, Bhopra & Loni Borders.

"Singhu, Auchandi, Piau Maniyari, Saboli & Mangesh borders closed. Please take alternate route via Lampur Safiabad, Palla & Singhu school toll tax borders. Traffic has been diverted from Mukarba and GTK road. Please avoid Outer Ring Road, GTK Road & NH-44," they tweeted.

"Available Open Borders to Haryana are Jharoda (Only Single Carriageway/Road), Daurala, Kapashera, Badusarai, Rajokri NH-8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahera Borders," the Delhi Traffic Police said in a tweet.

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Ph: 011-4112327-28 kumarassociatesadvocate@gmail.com

India first country to culture UK viral strain



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has become the first country to successfully culture the new viral strain originating from the UK even as more cases of the new Covid-19 variant, which is more infectious, are trickling in. Within five days of tracing first case of the new coronavirus variant, India has now 29 people infected with the disease even as the ICMR on Saturday said it has successfully isolated and cultured the new strain on the horizon.

The UK Government had recently announced that the newly identified strain of the virus found in their population is up to 70 percent more transmissible, following which India sprung into action.

The country put in place a pro-active and preventive strategy to detect and contain the variant. So far, the new variant has been detected in 29 UK returnees through genome sequencing.

"India successfully cultures the new viral strain on the horizon (UK variant of SARS-CoV-2). UK-variant of the virus, with all signature changes, is now successfully isolated and cultured at the National Institute of Virology from the clinical specimens collected from UK-returnees," the apex research council tweeted.

Notably, no country has yet reported successful isolation and culture of the UK-variant of SARS-CoV-2. In India, Vero cell lines were

used by the scientists of ICMR-NIV to culture the UK-variant of the virus.

The new UK Variant has already been reported by Denmark, Netherlands, Australia, Italy, Sweden, France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Japan, Lebanon, and Singapore.

From November 25 to December 23 midnight, about 33,000 passengers had disembarked at various Indian airports from the UK. All these passengers are being tracked and subjected by States and UTs to RT-PCR tests to track down the mutant coronavirus strain.

Those found infected with the new variants are being kept in isolated for treatment as per their need.

US study upholds Modi's 'farsighted leadership'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pointing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has scored the 'highest rating' (55 per cent) in a survey conducted by a US data firm, Union Minister and senior BJP leader Prakash Javadekar claimed on Saturday that it was a vote for Modi's "farsighted leadership".

While complimenting the Prime Minister for an "increase" in his popularity within the country and outside, Javadekar hoped that the farmers' agitation will be resolved by January 4 and "all will return home...we are hopeful". He was addressing a press conference.

The minister said Modi leads by 29 percent from the leader (Mexican President) placed in the second position by the survey. "In six years, Modi's popularity has not diminished...it is increasing...normally it doesn't happen so", he said.

BJP president J P Nadda

BJP president JP Nadda also cited Modi's approval rating among world leaders in the survey

also cited Modi's approval rating among world leaders in the survey saying this is a testimony to his able leadership and a matter of pride for all Indians.

American firm Morning Consult, which regularly tracks approval ratings of world leaders, said over 75 per cent people approve of Modi while 20 per cent disapprove, putting his net approval rating at 55 per cent.

This is higher than any other world leader the firm tracks. Referring to the survey, Nadda tweeted that Modi has yet again emerged as the most popular head of government for his efficient handling of various issues and management of the COVID-19 crisis.

"PM @narendramodi ji's popularity not only rises unabated across all demographic groups & geographic regions of the country and he also gets a thumbs up globally for his dedication to his country. PM Modi ranks Number 1 among all global leaders in this (these) challenging times," he said.

Ever since the Modi-led government came to power, people's trust in the government and the faith that the nation is progressing in the right direction have risen drastically, he added.

"This rating is testimony of his able leadership and hard work and is a thing of pride for all Indians," Nadda said. According to Morning Consult's survey, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's approval rating was 24 per cent while it was in the negative for UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson as more people disapprove of his work than those who approve.

Bill to raise age bar for tobacco buyers, sellers in the offing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Soon, persons below 21 years of age would not be able to sell or buy cigarettes and other tobacco products as a bill to raise the age bar from the current 18 years is in the offing.

Sources in the Union Health Ministry said that the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Act, 2020 has been drafted in this regard to be put up for seeking comments and objections from the stakeholders.

The provision for raising the age limit to 21 years is part of the new Bill being piloted by the Union Health Ministry. The bill seeks to amend further the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003.

Under the amendments proposed in the bill, "No person shall sell, offer for sale, or permit sale of, cigarette or any other tobacco product - (a) to or by any person who is under twenty-one years of age, and in an area within a radius of one hundred meters of any educational institution."

Section 7 is being amended to say, "Provided that the trade and commerce in ciga-



rettes or any other tobacco product shall be in sealed, intact and original packaging."

It also adds a provision, "No person shall, directly or indirectly, produce, supply or distribute cigarettes or any other tobacco products unless every package of cigarettes or any other tobacco products produced, supplied or distributed by him is having minimum quantity as may be prescribed."

Contravention of this Section 7 will lead to imprisonment of two years or fine going up to ₹1 lakh and second conviction leading to prison for 5 years or fine going up to ₹5 lakh.

The Bill also has a provision for coming down on manufacture and sale of illicit cigarettes and tobacco products.

Sale of illicit products will lead to punishment of imprisonment of 1 year and a fine of ₹ 50,000 and a second conviction of imprisonment of 2 years and ₹1 lakh, said a senior official from the Ministry about the draft Bill.

The fine on manufacture of illicit cigarettes is imprisonment of 2 years and fine of Rs 1 lakh. The penalty for smoking at restricted areas is being increased from ₹200 to ₹2,000.

The amendment on advertising says, "No person shall directly or indirectly advertise cigarettes or any other tobacco products through any medium and no person shall take part in any advertisement that directly or indirectly promotes the use or consumption of cigarettes or any other tobacco products," as per the official.

Talent pool of IIMs could help in turning India 'atmanirbhar': PM Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged the students of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) to work towards turning local into global and to come up with ways to this end. Laying the foundation stone of the permanent campus of IIM Sambalpur, Modi said that the talent pool of IIMs could help in turning India 'atmanirbhar'.

"To turn local into global, students of IIM need to come up with new ways. The country had 13 IIMs in 2014. Now it has 20 IIMs. This huge talent pool will help the vision for a self-reliant India," Modi said after laying the foundation stone for IIM-Sambalpur in Odisha.

Modi also asked the student to research the way Covid crisis was handled in India with innovation and collaboration at such a big scale. He asked them to study how capacity and capability was expanded in such a short time. He expressed happiness that the country is coming out of the short-term approach of problem solving and how the focus now is on long term solutions.

"It is our responsibility to get 'brand India' global recognition. Those who will be part of this institution need to encourage development and focus on inclusivity of all," Modi added.

"This decade will be devoted to the development of new multinational corporations in India. Today's startups are tomorrow's MNCs. These are largely growing in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. These startups need able managers and those passing out of these institutions will lead the way," Modi said.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Governor Ganeshi Lal and Union min-



isters Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Dharmendra Pradhan and Pratap Chandra Sarangi also graced the occasion.

"Education in Odisha is witnessing a rapid transition. I am happy that our state continues its dominance in education sector and has emerged as the education hub of Eastern India," said Patnaik at the virtual event.

Earlier the Prime Minister said that the permanent campus of the IIM Sambalpur will not only showcase the culture and resources of Odisha but will also give Odisha a global recognition in the field of management.

The Prime Minister talked about the new management challenges in the light of new technologies like additive printing, changing production techniques, logistics, and supply chain management.

These technologies coupled with digital connectivity, and work from anywhere concept have turned the world into a global village. India has undertaken rapid reforms in recent months and has tried not only to keep pace with the changes but also tried to anticipate and surpass them, Modi added.

The Prime Minister said that the changing work styles are impacting demands on management skills and top-down or top-heavy management skills are being replaced by collaborative, innovative and transformative management. With bots and algorithms in picture, technological management is equally important as human management.

Senior Cong leader Buta Singh breathes his last at AIIMS at 86

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Buta Singh died at Delhi's AIIMS early on Saturday morning. He was 86 years old. He was in coma since October last year after he suffered a brain haemorrhage.

President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the country in offering condolences to Singh, who was a member of the Shiromani Akali Dal before joining the Congress in the 1960s.

His demise was announced by his son Arvinder Singh Lovely Sidhu on Facebook. "My father, Buta Singh, passed away today morning, May Waheguru bless his soul," read the post in Hindi.

Kovind said: "In the passing of Shri Buta Singh, the country has lost one of the longest serving parliamentarians with rich administrative experience. He championed the cause of the oppressed and marginalized. Condolences to his family and supporters."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described him as an "experienced administrator", and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said he was a loyal leader who devoted himself for the service of the country.

"Shri Buta Singh Ji was an experienced administrator and effective voice for the welfare of the poor as well as down-trodden. Saddened by his passing away. My condolences to his family and supporters," PM Modi tweeted.

Tributes also poured in from Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Chief Ministers Ashok Gehlot and Amarinder Singh besides many others including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"The country has lost a true public servant and a loyal



leader with the death of Sardar Buta Singh Ji. He devoted his entire life to service of the country and people's well-being. For this, he will always be remembered. My condolences to his family members during this difficult time," Rahul tweeted.

Born in 1934 in Punjab's Jalandhar, Buta Singh joined the Congress under Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership and was close to Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, both.

Singh was first elected to the Parliament in 1962. Over the years, he served as the Home Minister in the Rajiv Gandhi government from 1986 to 1989, National President of Scheduled Caste Commission, governor for West Bengal and Bihar, and Union minister for Agriculture, Railways, Commerce and Sports, among other departments.

Singh's last political assignment was a two-year term as the Governor of Bihar in 2004, after which he only held organisational posts within the Congress.

Sad to learn about the demise of former Union minister, senior Congress leader and former MP from Rajasthan, Shri Buta Singh ji. My heartfelt condolences to his family members in this difficult time, may God give them strength to bear this loss. May his soul rest in peace," Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot wrote about the former four-time MP from State's Jalore.

CBI raids Shakti Bhog Foods Ltd premises for cheating banks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Saturday conducted searches against Delhi-based Shakti Bhog Foods Ltd for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks, led by the State Bank of India (SBI), to the tune of ₹3,269.42 crore.

The searches followed the registration of a case under various Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, forgery of valuable security, forgery for cheating, using forged documents as genuine and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act for falsification of accounts. The agency registered the case on Thursday on a complaint from SBI against the private company (borrower company) based at Delhi and others including its MD/Guarantor; Directors and unknown public servants/others for causing an alleged loss of ₹3,269.42 crore to the SBI and other consortium member banks.

"It was alleged in the complaint that the said accused had cheated the State Bank of India led consortium banks by ways of criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery of valuable security, forgery for the purpose of cheating, using forged documents as genuine etc.," the agency said in a statement.

Searches were conducted at eight locations in Delhi at the official and residential premises of the borrower company/other accused, which led to recovery of incriminating documents, it added.

Besides Shakti Bhog Foods Ltd., others named in the FIR are promoters/directors Kewal Krishan Kumar, Siddarth Kumar, Sunanda Kumar, unknown public servants and unknown others.

Plea seeks direction to Centre, States to publish draft laws on websites before House voting

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A PIL seeking a direction to the Centre and States to publish draft legislations prominently on Government websites and in the public domain at least 60 days before they are introduced in Parliament and State Assemblies has been filed in the Supreme Court.

The plea filed by BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay has also sought a direction to the Centre to ensure that all the draft and final legislations are put in the public domain in all regional languages.

"In today's democratic process, with the advent of advanced media and technology, it is no longer appropriate for Governments, both Central and State, to suddenly pass laws overnight with scarcely any legislative debate and no wider consultation at all, the plea, filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey, said.

Protests against the farm reforms show how the message of a law is lost in the legal jargon and the consequences of lack of such a discussion prior to the bills being tabled in the legislature, it said.

The petition said any draft legislation, except those related to national security, must be published on government websites at least 60 days before they are introduced in Parliament or state legislature.

As far as central laws are concerned, it said, the proposed legislations should be translated into regional languages and published online at least 60 days prior to their introduction in Parliament so that citizens have a complete Referring to the protests against the new farm laws, the PIL stated that farmers have been misled by politicians as the draft laws were not published for wide consultation and feedback before being introduced in Parliament.

This has led to a lot of misinformation and protest among the farmers and people with vested interests are using this chaos to advance their cause, using the farmers as a front, it said.



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END : 22 Jan., 2021 (05:00 PM)

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14 Boranada	03 Dausa
04 Jodhpur	37 Nagaur
11 Bharatpur	38 Udaipur
20 Kota	05 Rajsamand
27 Jaipur (N)	64 Alwar
04 Banswara	16 EPIP, Sitapura (Jaipur)
04 Jaipur (R)	

EMD START: 04 Jan., 2021 (10:00 AM)
END : 19 Jan., 2021 (06:00 PM)

BID START: 21 Jan., 2021 (10:00 AM)
END : 25 Jan., 2021 (05:00 PM)

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40 Pali	24 Ghiloth
39 Bhiwadi-I	02 Churu
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Yogi: Covid vaccine will be available by Sankranti

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said Covid-19 vaccine will be available in the State close to Hindu festival "Makar Sankranti" which will be celebrated on January 14.

Speaking at a programme here, he said, "We initiated the campaign against Covid-19 in March 2020 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and at the beginning of this year we could say firmly that the dry run of the vaccine will be held on January 5 across the State and the vaccine will be available near around Makar Sankranti."

The Chief Minister added that a dry run of the vaccine is being held at some places in the State on Saturday.

Adityanath was speaking while laying the foundation stone of Advocate's Building at the collectorate campus here on Saturday.

On Friday, the Subject



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath speaks during the foundation stone laying ceremony of a new collectorate office and development project in Gorakhpur on Saturday

The Chief Minister added that a dry run of the vaccine is being held at some places in the State on Saturday

Expert Committee (SEC) on Covid-19 of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

(CDSCO) recommended granting permission for restricted emergency use of Oxford-Astrazeneca vaccine Covishield, being manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, paving the way for the roll-out of the first Covid-19 shot in the country in the next few days.

It's BJP's vaccine, wont take the shot, says Akhilesh Yadav

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday termed the Covid-19 vaccines to be rolled out in the country as "vaccine of the BJP" and said he would not take the shot, drawing a sharp retort from the ruling party which accused him of "insulting" the doctors and scientists.

"How can I trust the vaccine, which will be used for vaccination by the BJP? We cannot get vaccinated by the BJP's vaccine," he told reporters here.

He also said his party will come to power in the state after 2022 elections and everybody will get the vaccine free.

His remarks prompted an instant rebuttal from BJP leader and Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya who termed the statement an "insult to the doctors and scientists of the country".



"Akhilesh Yadav does not have trust in the vaccine, and people of Uttar Pradesh do not have trust in Akhilesh Yadav. His raising questions on the vaccine is an insult to doctors and scientists of the country. He should tender an apology," Maurya told reporters.

A trial drill for distribution of Covid-19 vaccine began across the country on Saturday, officials said.

The Centre had on Thursday stated that the exercises aims to test the linkages between planning and implementation, and identify challenges.

Covid vaccines don't belong to any party, but humanity: Omar Abdullah

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Covid-19 vaccines do not belong to any political party, but humanity, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said on Saturday, hours after Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav termed coronavirus vaccines to be rolled out in the country as "vaccine of the BJP".

Taking to Twitter, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said, "I don't know about anyone else but when my turn comes I'll happily roll up my sleeve & get a Covid vaccine."

The more people get vaccinated, the better it will be for the country and the economy, the National Conference (NC) vice president said.

"No vaccine belongs to any political party, they belong to humanity & the sooner we get vulnerable people vaccinated the better," he tweeted.



While talking to reporters in Lucknow, Yadav said, "How can I trust the vaccine, which will be used for vaccination by the BJP? We cannot get vaccinated by the BJP's vaccine."

On Saturday, an expert panel of India's central drug authority recommended granting permission for restricted emergency use of the indigenously developed Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin with certain conditions, a day after giving similar directions for the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine.

Gujarat: Four UK returnees detected with Covid strain

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Four persons who recently returned to Gujarat from the United Kingdom (UK) have tested positive for the new strain of coronavirus, a top State health department official said on Saturday.

Results of the 15 samples that had tested positive for coronavirus on arrival in Ahmedabad from the UK are currently pending with the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune, the official added.

"All the passengers who had reached Ahmedabad from the UK were screened, and the samples of those who had tested positive for coronavirus were sent to the NIV. We have received intimation that the UK strain of coronavirus has been detected in four such cases," Principal Secretary (Health), Jayanti Ravi told reporters.

Ravi said all the four patients have been kept in "special isolators" at the SVP Hospital in Ahmedabad as per the Centre's guidelines.

"Results of the 15 samples tested positive for coronavirus on arrival in Ahmedabad are pending with the NIV," she added.

Ravi further said, "Passengers sitting in flights in three rows ahead and three rows behind of the passengers who have tested positive for coronavirus have been identified through contact tracing and are kept under observation and isolated. Health teams are following up with screening of these passengers on a regular basis."

She said the infectivity of the UK coronavirus mutant is much higher though there is no evidence regarding its virulence.

Responding to a query, Ravi said the treatment protocol for the patients detected with the new coronavirus strain and other positive patients is similar.

"Contacts of all UK returnees who have been kept in isolation are being tested through RT-PCR test after a gap of one week," she said.

Pak Army shells areas along LoC in Rajouri

Jammu: The Pakistan Army opened heavy fire and shelled mortars at forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir's Rajouri district on Saturday, prompting Indian troops to retaliate, officials said.

"At about 1645 hours today, the Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Nowshera sector in district Rajouri," a defence spokesman said. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, he said.

On Friday, JCO Naib Subedar Ravinder died after being injured in shelling by Pakistan in Nowshera sector, spokesman said.

Jammu & Kashmir recorded 5,100 instances of ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) in 2020, official sources said.

Jaishankar acts on a letter written by Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Having taken cognisance of Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi's appeal seeking intervention to rescue and evacuate 39 sailors stranded in China since July, the Ministry of External Affairs has taken up the matter to China's Vice Foreign Minister and sought Beijing's assistance for evacuation of the stranded sailors.

"On December 31, I had appealed via a letter to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar ji, requesting him to intervene in prioritizing the rescue and evacuation of 39 of our sailors stranded since July in China," Priyanka said here on Saturday.

According to Chaturvedi, the two ships -MV Anastasia and the Indian bulk carrier Jag Anand - were refused permission by the Chinese authorities to offload their cargo nor did they allow other sailors to be

sent in so as to relieve the crew. The Anastasia has been docked at China's Bohai Sea and Jag Anand anchored at the Chinese port of Jingtang. "It has been widely reported that on board, the merchant ship the Anastasia, four crew members are on suicide watch. Many of the crew members have developed skin infections due to contaminated water supply. There is no medical help," Priyanka said.

"The families of the sailors, many of whom are based in Maharashtra, have been running from pillar to post with no help in sight. Hence I had appealed to GoI through our Hon. Minister to ensure that we give this issue the importance it deserved," the Sena MP said.

"It was heartening to note that GoI has taken cognisance of the matter and Indian Ambassador has personally taken up this issue with China's Vice Foreign Minister. The

MEA has also conveyed to the Chinese that assistance should be provided in an urgent, practical and time-bound manner given the humanitarian situation developing on board these ships," Priyanka said.

The Sena MP, however, said that the Chinese authorities continued to maintain that "the crew change isn't being permitted from these ports due to Covid related restrictions". "This is an untenable situation and has to be pursued diligently till a solution is found," she said.

Priyanka also thanked the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for taking suo moto cognisance of the issue and for pursuing this with MEA Secretary and Director General Shipping, Ministry of Ports and Waterways. "I will continue to pursue this with the relevant authorities till our sailors are brought back home," the Sena MP added.

Maha sees 3,218 new Covid cases, 51 deaths

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a further dip in the Covid-19 infections and fatalities, Maharashtra on Saturday logged 3,218 new infected cases, while 51 deaths were reported from different parts of the State. A day after the state recorded 3,524 infections and 59 deaths, the infections dropped to 306 cases, while the daily death tally went down by eight.

With 3,218 fresh infections, the total number of infected cases climbed from 19,35,636 to 19,38,854. Similarly, with 51 new deaths, the Covid-19 toll in the state rose from 49,580 to 49,631.

As 2,110 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March this year went up to 18,34,935. The recovery rate in the state

dropped marginally from 94.69 per cent to 94.64 per cent.

With 7 new deaths, the total number of deaths went up from 11,125 to 11,132, while the infected cases rose by 593 to trigger a jump in the total infections from 2,94,067 to 2,94,660. Meanwhile, the number of "active cases" total cases in the state rose from 52,084 to 53,137. The fatality rate in the state stood at 2.56 per cent.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,73,219 to 3,73,727 while the total number of deaths in Pune stood static at 7767.

Thane district remained in the third spot - after Pune and Mumbai - after the total number of infections rose from 2,54,875 to 2,55,248, while the total deaths climbed from 5,586 to 5,590.

1 primary contact of UK returnee tests +ve for new virus strain

Bengaluru: One primary contact of a UK returnee was among 10 people who tested positive for the new strain of Covid and all of them are undergoing treatment, Karnataka Health Minister K Sudhakar said here on Saturday.

"Ten people have so far been confirmed with the new variant of coronavirus infection... Nine of them are returnees from the UK, while one is a contact, the mother of one them. All of them are undergoing treatment and are without any serious health condition. They will recover soon," he said.

The Minister told reporters here that so far 32 people who returned from UK and 10 of their contacts - a total of 42- have been confirmed with Covid-19 infection during RT-PCR test.

Syrian Orthodox Church hurt as Vijayan snubs spiritual man

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The five lakh strong Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church in Kerala is upset over the "humiliation" meted out to the representative of the church by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in his recent interaction with community leaders at Malappuram.

Vijayan, who is touring the headquarters of all districts in the State as part of the 2021 Assembly election campaign, blamed the Orthodox Church

when a priest tried to draw his attention towards the discrimination shown by the Government towards the MOSC during the former's interaction with citizens of Malappuram. The Priest had tried to draw the Chief Minister's attention to the ongoing tussle between the MOSC and the breakaway faction of the community for control of Churches.

The Chief Minister and the CPI(M) are peeved over the recent meeting the Orthodox

Church bishops had with Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking the intervention of the latter's office to resolve the issue.

Vijayan blamed the Orthodox prelates for the dispute with the Jacobite faction and asked the Church representative to behave properly. "The Chief Minister's reaction should be seen as a challenge to the judicial system in the country," said Dr Yuhanon Mar Diacoros Metropolitan, secretary of the holy synod.

Dr Geevarghese Mar Yuliose Metropolitan, who heads the media wing of the MOSC said that fascism has set its foot in Kerala through the Communists. "What is happening in Kerala under the regime of Vijayan is unfortunate. Fascism and authoritarianism are at its peak under the CPI(M) rule. We feel as if we are living under an autocratic regime. This was in expected lines as Communist rulers are not known for their love for democracy," said while reacting

to the incident.

The Metropolitan heads the media wing of the Orthodox Church and usually stays away from all controversies.

He said that the Prime Minister has made no interference in the legal dispute between the Orthodox and Jacobite sections. "If someone feels that Thiruvananthapuram is the national capital, it would be better if he changes that notion at the earliest," said the Metropolitan.

4 held with mephedrone, psychotropic medicines

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai Zonal Unit of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday claims to have busted an inter-state drug network, by seizing 1.134 kilograms of party drugs and arresting four drug peddlers during raids launched on the eve of New Year.

"The raids yielded 100 grams of mephedrone and 1.034 kgs of psychotropic medicines and four drug peddlers have been arrested," NCB's Mumbai Zonal Unit Director Sameer Wankhede said.

Giving details of the raids conducted at various places on the eve as well on the New Year day, Wankhede said that the raids were conducted at Kurla in north central Mumbai, at Andheri and Versova in north-west Mumbai and in Navi Mumbai where these peddlers have been active for long and "they part of an interstate network".

Mephedrone (MD), also known as M-cat, Meow Meow or White Magic, is a synthetic stimulant drug of Amphetamine class psychoactive characteristics and usually used at rave parties.

The investigators are trying to find out the local links of the

arrested peddlers and trace the masterminds involved in the busted drug racket.

The New Year-eve raids were part of the ongoing effort to drug menace in Mumbai and surrounding areas.

The NCB registered two drugs cases in the wake of the investigations launched by the CBI into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput in June last year upon the directive issued by the Supreme Court. While the first drug case relates to the actor's death, the case is the Bollywood-drug mafia nexus case.

Sushant, it may be recalled, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his closed room of his duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai on June 14.

More than 25 persons - including Sushant's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik - have been arrested and a large number of persons have been questioned in connection with a case registered by the NCB on August 28, two days after it registered a case suo moto. Subsequently, Rhea was granted conditional bail by the Bombay High Court in the Sushant death-related drug case on October 7, 2020.

Mumbai cops seize banned gutkha, pan masala worth ₹1.22 cr

PNS ■ MUMBAI

In a raid conducted on a Godown in south Mumbai, the Mumbai Police on Saturday seized banned gutkha and pan masala products worth ₹1.22 crore.

Acting on a tipoff, the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) team headed by Sachin Waze, raided the premises at Nagpada's Bhandi Bazar locality in south Mumbai and seized a huge stockpile of banned gutkha and pan masala.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Pushpa Rani W/o Mr. Mahesh Kumar who is the owner of the Residential E.W.S. House No. E-1118, Ground floor, without roof rights, land area measuring 31.88 sq. mtr. Situated at Pocket-1, Madhuban Bagmati Colony, Tehsil & Distt., Ghaziabad, U.P. and same to be finance & mortgage by Aviom India Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. That, the Original Allotment Letter, Original Information of Possession dated 02.05.2014, Original Possession Letter in favour of Mr. Sandeep Sharma S/o Mr. Dinesh Chander, Original Registered ATS with consideration dated 21.05.2014 & Original WILL in favour of Mrs. Pushpa Rani W/o Mr. Mahesh Kumar in respect of the said property has been lost/impounded. 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 documents or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, Concern person is required to communicate within 7 Days in writing to the undersigned at below address.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor,
Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ex.II,
New Delhi-49, Contact #011-40045316

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION
DIVISION, U.P. JAL NIGAM, 14 M.L.D.
SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT
GHATAMPUR, MOLANA MOHAMMAD
ALI JOHAR ROAD RAMPUR

Letter No. 1421/विधि-04/45
Date : 29.12.2020
E-TENDER NOTICE

U.P. Jal Nigam, online percentage Rate E-tenders are invited "Supply, Installation and commissioning of 53 Nos submersible pump for multiple handwash in various primary school of Distt. Rampur". Intending tenders must have experience of distribution system such as laying of pipe line and construction of tubewell work should be available with bidder. Proof of such experience must be submitted by the bidder. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website http://tender.up.nic.in & http://jin.upscd.gov.in latest by 05.01.2021 Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their tender, duly filled, online as per schedule given below :-
Date for :-
(i) Uploading bid document at website : 05.01.2021 at 15:00 hrs.
(ii) Online Submission of e-bids : (i) Up to 15.01.2021 at 12:00 hrs.
(ii) Opening of bid : 15.01.2021 at 16:30 hrs.

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पूर्वी तटबंध प्रमंडल-2, वीरपुर
अल्पकालीन राष्ट्रीय स्पर्धा पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या -03SBD/2020-21
(केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

1. कार्य का विवरण :-

युप सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख ₹० में)	अग्रधन की राशि (लाख ₹० में)	परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगुतेय) ₹० में	बैट्टरॉन को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग फी (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगुतेय) ₹० में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1.	पूर्वी कोषी तटबंध के कि०मी० 16.64 से 16.68 के बीच कटाव निरोधक कार्य।	749.73	15.00	10000	5900	15.05.2021

02. विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, पूर्वी तटबंध प्रमंडल-2, वीरपुर, जिला-सुपौल (बिहार), पिन-854340 Email id - eke2birpur1@gmail.com मोबाईल नं० -7463889464

03. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि :- दिनांक 31.12.2020

04. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड/अपलोड करने की अवधि :- दिनांक 08.01.2021 से 12.01.2021 के अपरहाइन 3 बजे तक। केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।

05. प्री-बिड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि :- दिनांक 11.01.2021 को अपरहाइन 3 AM बजे मुख्य अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, जल संसाधन विभाग, वीरपुर के कार्यालय में।

06. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 14.01.2021 के अपरहाइन 3.30 PM बजे केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।

07. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर घोषित की जायेगी। केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।

08. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :-

09. निविदा की वैधता की अवधि :-

10. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाईट <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

11. कोई संश्लेषक जो केन्द्रीय/राज्य सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रों में नियमित हो अथवा अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय/राष्ट्रीय स्तर के हो, निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं। परन्तु उक्त कार्य का लेटर ऑफ एक्स्पेन्स प्राप्ति होने के बाद अनिवार्य रूप से जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार में निबंधन कराना होगा। 12ई-टेंडरिंग की प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने हेतु संश्लेषकों को पंजीकृत होना होगा, जिसके लिए उन्हे उपयोगकर्ता का नाम (User ID) पासवर्ड (Password) अंकीय हस्ताक्षर (Digital Signature) आवश्यक होगा। यह उन्हे वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in से डाउनलोड करने/ई-टेंडरिंग की प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने की योग्यता प्रदान करेगा।

विरतुत जानकारी के लिए state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है।

(ई० राम सेवक साह) कार्यपालक अभियंता
पूर्वी तटबंध प्रमंडल-2, वीरपुर

PR. No. 010475 (WRD) 2020-21

नोबल कोरीना के संघ में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सत्योम हेतु Toll Free No. 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।
व्याप सामग्री-संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल बेतिया
अति-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02 SBD/2020-21
राष्ट्रीय स्पर्धा निविदा
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

कार्य का विवरण -

युप सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख ₹० में)	अग्रधन की राशि (लाख ₹० में)	परिमाण-विवरण का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (रुपया) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुगुतेय ₹० में)	बैट्टरॉन को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग फी (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुगुतेय ₹० में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
01	गद मार्जिनल बॉध के शि०50-0.00कि०मी० से 1.20कि०मी० एवं 1.70कि०मी० से 4.90कि०मी० तक उच्चोकरण एवं सुदृढीकरण	473.36	946800.00	10000.00	5900.00	15.05.2021
02	इमिरीली कटहरवा ग्राम के समीप मसान नदी के बायें तटबंध पर कटाव निरोधक कार्य	240.06	480200.00	10000.00	5900.00	15.05.2021
03	खटौरी ग्राम के समीप मसान दायें तटबंध पर कटाव निरोधक कार्य	284.52	569100.00	10000.00	5900.00	15.05.2021

2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि :- दिनांक 30.12.2020

3. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 08.01.2021 से दिनांक-11.01.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक की अवधि (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

4. प्री-बिड मीटिंग का तिथि एवं समय, स्थान :- दिनांक 09.01.2021, 15:00 बजे में मुख्य अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, जल संसाधन विभाग, मुजफ्फरपुर।

5. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 12.01.2021 समय 15:00 बजे तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

6. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 14.01.2021 समय 15:30 बजे अपरहाइन। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

7. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :-

9. निविदा की वैधता अवधि (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि से) :-

10. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, कार्यालय जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल बेतिया।

11. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं वेबसाईट www.wrd.bih.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
कार्यालय जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, बेतिया

PR-010489 (WRD) 2020-21
किसी भी तरह आपदा की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु आपदा प्रबंधन के हेल्पलाइन नं० 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 30 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead at the footpath near Pillar No. 262, Peera Garhi Relief Camp, Rohtak Road, Paschim Vihar, Delhi on 22.12.2020 at 10:38 a.m. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No: 32-A dated 22.12.2020 at PS Paschim Vihar East, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:
Sex: Male, **Age:** about 30 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Fair, **Identification:** A tattoo of "Flower" on chest and tattoo on the right hand, **Wearing:** Blue colour sweater with red print, and military colour track pant.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/ Paschim Vihar East, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Paschim Vihar East, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-25267286, 25263471

DP/593/OD/2021

AMID US TENSIONS

Iran Guards vow decisive response to any action

Tehran: Iran's Revolutionary Guards chief Hossein Salami vowed on Saturday to respond to any "action the enemy takes," in a visit to a strategic Gulf island, amid rising tensions with the US.

Salami was speaking on the eve of the first anniversary of the US killing of top Iranian military commander Qasem Soleimani in a Baghdad drone strike on January 3, 2020.

"We are here today to evaluate and be assured of our powerful capabilities at sea and against enemies who sometimes boast... and threaten," Salami said according to the Guards' official website Sepahnews.

Salami inspected the troops stationed on Abu Musa island, accompanied by the Revolutionary Guard Corps navy commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangisiri.

"We would respond with a reciprocal, decisive and strong



blow to whatever action the enemy would take against us," Salami warned.

Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb islands are located in the Gulf near the entrance to the strategic Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of world oil output passes.

The islands are under Iranian control but are also claimed by the United Arab Emirates.

Tensions have been build-

ing up in the run-up to the anniversary of Soleimani's killing, with two American B-52 bombers recently flying over the region.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Thursday accused outgoing US President Donald Trump of aiming to fabricate a "pretext for war" after Trump blamed Tehran for a rocket strike on the US embassy in Baghdad on December 20.

AFP

Iran plans 20 per cent uranium enrichment as soon as possible

Dubai: Iran said on Saturday it plans to enrich uranium up to 20 per cent at its underground Fordo nuclear facility "as soon as possible," pushing its programme a technical step away from weapons-grade levels as it increases pressure on the West over the tattered atomic deal.

The move comes amid heightened tensions between Iran and the US in the waning days of the administration of President Donald Trump, who unilaterally withdrew America from Tehran nuclear deal in 2018.

That set in motion an escalating series of incidents capped by a US drone strike that killed a top Iranian general in Baghdad a year ago, an anniversary coming Sunday that has American officials now worried about possible retaliation by Iran.

Iran's decision to begin enriching to 20 per cent a decade ago nearly brought an Israeli strike targeting its nuclear facilities, tensions that

only abated with the 2015 atomic deal. A resumption of 20 per cent enrichment could see that brinkmanship return.

Even Ali Akbar Salehi, the US-educated head of the civilian Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, offered a military analogy to describe his agency's readiness to take the next step.

"We are like soldiers and our fingers are on the triggers," Salehi told Iranian state television. "The commander should command and we shoot. We are ready for this and will produce (20 per cent enriched uranium) as soon as possible."

Iran's decision comes after its parliament passed a bill, later approved by a constitutional watchdog, aimed at hiking enrichment to pressure Europe into providing sanctions relief. It also serves as pressure ahead of the inauguration of US President-elect Joe Biden, who has said he is willing to re-enter the nuclear deal.

AP

Trump extends freeze on H-1B, other work visas until March 31

Indian IT professionals to be hit

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has extended the freeze on the most sought-after H-1B visas by Indian IT professionals, along with other types of foreign work visas and green cards through March 31 to protect American workers, saying that the reasons for which he had imposed such restrictions amidst the pandemic have not changed.

The freeze on various categories of work visas was ordered by Trump through two proclamations on April 22 and June 22 last year.

Hours before the freeze was set to expire on December 31, Trump issued another proclamation on Thursday to extend it until March 31.

He said that the reasons for

which he had issued such a restriction have not changed.

The continuation of the restrictions, which comes with just 20 days left in the Republican President's term, is the latest effort to bar the entry of immigrants to the US.

Restricting immigration has been a focus of the Trump administration since its first days when it issued the travel ban on seven Muslim-majority countries, and it has continued into Trump's final year in office as the White House uses the coronavirus pandemic as cover.

US President-elect Joe Biden has promised to lift the suspension on H-1B visas, saying Trump's immigration policies are cruel.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from

countries like India and China.

They would now have to wait at least till the end of March before approaching the US diplomatic missions to get stamping. It would also impact a large number of Indian IT professionals who are seeking renewal of their H-1B visas.

President Trump said that the effects of COVID-19 on the US labour market and the health of American communities are a matter of ongoing national concern, and the considerations present in the two previous proclamations have not been eliminated.

"The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to significantly disrupt Americans' livelihoods. While the November overall unemployment rate in the United States of 6.7 per cent reflects a marked decline from its April high, there were still 9,834,000 fewer seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs in November than in February of 2020," Trump said in his proclamation.

Palestinians say Israeli gunshot in the neck paralysed man

Ramallah (West Bank): The Palestinian Health Ministry said on Saturday a youth is suffering from paralysis a day after he was shot in the neck by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank.

The man, Haron Abu Aram, 24, was left quadriplegic, the ministry said.

Witnesses said the incident was triggered when Israeli forces tried to stop Palestinians building a house in a village in southern Hebron and seized an electricity generator belonging to Abu Aram.

Israel prevents Palestinians from building houses on areas under its control in the West Bank without hard-to-obtain building permits. The Israeli military said "a violent riot" was instigated when the troops were

evacuating "an illegal building" in the At-Tuwani village. The military said Palestinians attacked the forces with "massive amount of rocks." "We are aware of a report regarding a Palestinian who was injured by live fire during the incident. The incident is being investigated," the Israeli military told The Associated Press on Saturday.

Video showed a group of Palestinians trying to recover the generators from the hands of the soldiers before a gunshot is heard and Abu Aram appears on the ground.

In 2020, Israeli has demolished the homes of more than 900 Palestinians in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, according to the Israeli rights group B'Tselem.

AP

UK Judge to rule on Assange's US extradition

London: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will find out Monday whether he can be extradited from the UK to the US to face espionage charges over the publication of secret American military documents.

District Judge Vanessa Baraitser is due to deliver her decision at London's Old Bailey courthouse at 10 am. Monday. If she grants the request, then Britain's home secretary, Priti Patel, would make the final decision.

Whichever side loses is expected to appeal, which could lead to years more legal wrangling.

However, there's a possibility that outside forces may come into play that could instantly end the decade-long saga.

Stella Morris, Assanges

partner and the mother of his two sons, has appealed to U.S. President Donald Trump via Twitter to grant a pardon to Assange before he leaves office on Jan. 20.

And even if Trump doesn't, there's speculation that his successor, Joe Biden, may take a more lenient approach to Assange's extradition process.

US Prosecutors indicted the 49-year-old Assange on 17 espionage charges and one charge of computer misuse that carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.

Lawyers acting on behalf of the U.S. Government said in their closing arguments after the four-week hearing in the fall that Assange's defense team had raised issues that were neither relevant nor admissible.

AP

Britain will allow mixing of virus vaccines on rare occasions

London: Britain will allow people to be given shots of different Covid-19 vaccines on rare occasions, despite a lack of evidence about the extent of immunity offered by mixing doses.

In a departure from other strategies globally, the government said people could be given a mix-and-match of two Covid-19 shots, for example if the same vaccine dose was out of stock, according to guidelines published on New Year's Eve.

"(If) the same vaccine is not available, or if the first product received is unknown, it is reasonable to offer one dose of the locally available product to complete the schedule," according to the guidelines.

Mary Ramsay, head of immunisations at Public Health England, said this would only happen on extremely rare occasions, and that the government was not recommending the mixing of vaccines, which require at least two doses given several weeks apart.

"Every effort should be made to give them the same vaccine, but where this is not possible it is better to give a second dose of another vaccine than not at all," she said.

Covid-19 has killed more than 74,000 people in Britain - the second-highest deaths in Europe, and health officials are racing to deliver doses to help end the pandemic as fears grow that the health service could be overwhelmed.

Earlier this week, the government reactivated emergency hospitals built at the start of the outbreak as wards fill up with Covid-19 patients. Britain has been at the forefront of approving the new coronavirus vaccines, becoming the first country to give emergency authorisation to the Pfizer/BioNTech and the AstraZeneca/University of Oxford vaccines last month.

Both vaccines are meant to be administered as two shots, given several weeks apart, but they were not designed to be mixed together.

FRANCE

Charges against hundreds of people for Covid violations

Rennes, France: Hundreds of revellers were booked for breaking coronavirus restrictions as an illegal rave in northwestern France ended on Saturday after more than two days of partying that saw clashes with police.

Police had failed to stop the underground event, which drew around 2,500 people from Thursday night in two disused warehouses in Lieuron, south of the city of Rennes in Brittany.

Such mass gatherings are banned across France to prevent the spread of Covid-19,

and a nationwide 8:00 pm curfew -- which was not lifted for New Year -- has been in force across the country.

Techno music blared out during the night from the warehouses, which had been transformed into illegal nightclubs for partygoers who had flocked to the site from across France and even from abroad.

The local prefecture said Saturday the music had been switched off and sound systems dismantled after two nights, and the first revellers began

leaving the site before dawn. By 10:15 am it was under the control of police, the local prefecture said.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said in a tweet that police had booked more than 1,200 people and seized a truck, sound equipment and generators from the site of the "illegal rave party."

The large police presence at the site had led to the break-up of the event "without violence," he added.

The regional prefect,

Emmanuel Berthier, said 800 people had been booked specifically for coronavirus-related offences such as failing to respect the curfew restrictions or wear masks, or for participating in an illegal assembly.

Police fined several hundred others for use of narcotics, he told reporters.

Police on access roads were checking all those leaving the site, on foot or in vehicles, using torches to check their eyes for signs of drugs use, an AFP photographer said.

AFP

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a male namely Anil Panwar, S/o: Sh. Khajan Singh, R/o: RZ-46B/2, Gali No. 1 near Sabzi Mandi main, Sagarpur, New Delhi has been reported missing since 18.11.2020 at 11:00 PM from his home. In this regard DD No. 105 A dated 19.12.2020 has been registered at P.S. Sagarpur,

Delhi. The description of missing male is as under:

Name: Anil Panwar, Age: 37 Years, Height: 5'11", Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Wearing: Grey colour Jacket, Cream colour pant and sleeper in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station Sagarpur, Delhi
Ph: 011-28522653, 7065036228

DP/451/SW/2020

10 more arrested over attack on Hindu temple in Pakistan

Peshawar: Pakistani police have arrested 10 more people in overnight raids for their alleged involvement in the vandalism of a Hindu temple by a mob led by members of a radical group in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

With the latest arrests, the number of accused arrested in the case has risen to 55. Over 350 people have been named in the FIR after the temple in Terri village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak district was vandalised and set on fire on Wednesday by a mob protesting against its expansion work.

Search is underway to arrest the others accused named in the FIR.

The temple which also had a samadhi of a Hindu religious leader was attacked by the mob after members of the Hindu community received permission from local authorities to renovate its decades-old building.

The mob, led by some local clerics and supporters of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party (Fazal ur Rehman group), demolished the newly constructed work alongside the old structure.

AFP

WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

To Tender No.: BCT/20-21/299, Dtd. 29/12/2020 & BCT/20-21/300, dtd. 29/12/2020 which was due for Opening on 02/02/2021. The Date of Opening was published as 02/02/2021 but the Same May be Read as 25/01/2021. All other Details remain the same. 0539

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Sarita Gupta is owner of Third Floor, area measuring 100 sq. yds., of Property bearing Municipal No. A-726, old Plot No. 155, Kharsa No. 1184/5, 1186/7 & 620/17, in the area of Village Sadhora Khurd, Delhi situated at Shastri Nagar, Delhi, "the said property" by virtue of Sale Deed dated 26.12.2005, Registration No. 9404, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to take loan against the said floor from Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. If any body has any objection/nuisance on the said floor, its ownership / Title and Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, 2nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mooli Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-41115227-28, kumarassociates.advocates@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following Special Trains will be revised as under:-

Revised Timings of 02855/02856 Bhubaneswar - New Delhi - Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Special Train (via Sambalpur City-Rourkela) Weekly

Train No.: 02855	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	Train No.: 02856
---	07:15		BHUBANESWAR	20:10	---	
07:40	07:42		CUTTACK	19:06	19:08	
08:32	08:34		DHENKANAL	18:09	18:11	
09:35	09:37		ANGUL	17:15	17:17	
11:23	11:25		SAMBALPUR CITY	14:55	14:57	
12:38	12:40		JHARSUGUDA	14:13	14:15	
14:00	14:08		ROURKELA	12:20	12:30	
15:31	15:33		CHAKRADHARPUR	10:50	10:52	
18:08	18:10		ANARA	08:18	08:20	
20:00	20:05		NSC GOMOH JN.	06:55	07:00	
21:33	21:35		KODARMA	05:20	05:22	
22:19	22:22		GAYA JN.	04:07	04:10	
00:35	00:45		PT. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAY JN	01:52	02:02	
02:33	02:35		PRAYAGRAJ JN	23:53	23:55	
04:40	04:45		KANPUR CENTRAL	21:45	21:50	
09:55	---		NEW DELHI	---	17:00	

Date of Revised Timings: 02855 from Bhubaneswar on every Saturday w.e.f. 09.01.2021 & 02856 from New Delhi on every Sunday w.e.f. 10.01.2021.

Revised Timings of 02825/02826 Bhubaneswar - New Delhi - Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Special Train (via Adra) Bi-Weekly

Train No.: 02825	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	Train No.: 02826
---	10:35		BHUBANESWAR	16:15	---	
11:01	11:03		CUTTACK	15:17	15:19	
11:52	11:54		JAJPUR K.ROAD	14:21	14:23	
12:45	12:47		BHADRAK	13:48	13:50	
13:30	13:32		BALASORE	12:46	12:48	
14:57	15:05		HIJLLI	11:20	11:30	
17:13	17:15		BANKURA	09:08	09:10	
18:00	18:05		ADRA JN.	08:20	08:25	
20:00	20:05		NSC GOMOH JN.	06:55	07:00	
21:00	21:02		KODARMA	05:20	05:22	
22:19	22:22		GAYA JN.	04:07	04:10	
00:35	00:45		PT. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAY JN	01:52	02:02	

Date of Revised Timings: 02825 from Bhubaneswar on every Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday w.e.f. 11.01.2021 & 02826 from New Delhi except Monday, Friday & Sunday w.e.f. 12.01.2021.

02:33	02:35	PRAYAGRAJ JN	23:53	23:55
04:40	04:45	KANPUR CENTRAL	21:45	21:50
09:55	---	NEW DELHI	---	17:00

Date of Revised Timings: 02825 from Bhubaneswar on every Wednesday & Sunday w.e.f. 10.01.2021 & 02826 from New Delhi on every Monday & Friday w.e.f. 11.01.2021.

Revised Timings of 02823/02824 Bhubaneswar - New Delhi - Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Special Train (via Tata) 04 days in a Week

Train No.: 02823	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	Train No.: 02824
---	09:30		BHUBANESWAR	17:30	---	
09:54	09:56		CUTTACK	16:41	16:43	
11:35	11:37		BHADRAK	15:13	15:15	
12:20	12:22		BALASORE	14:13	14:15	
13:50	13:55		HIJLLI	12:50	12:55	
15:55	16:00		TATANAGAR JN.	10:40	10:45	
17:58	18:00		MURI	08:25	08:27	
19:00	19:05		BOKARO STEEL CITY	07:30	07:35	
20:00	20:05		NSC GOMOH JN.	06:25	06:30	
21:00	21:02		KODARMA	05:20	05:22	
22:19	22:22		GAYA JN.	04:07	04:10	
00:35	00:45		PT. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAY JN	01:52	02:02	
02:33	02:35		PRAYAGRAJ JN	23:53	23:55	
04:40	04:45		KANPUR CENTRAL	21:45	21:50	
09:55	---		NEW DELHI	---	17:00	

Date of Revised Timings: 02823 from Bhubaneswar except Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday w.e.f. 11.01.2021 & 02824 from New Delhi except Monday, Friday & Sunday w.e.f. 12.01.2021.

For any other information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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.

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139

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Today's Indian start-ups are tomorrow's MNCs: PM

PTI ■ SAMBALPUR (ODISHA)

The Indian start-ups of today are the Multinational Corporations of tomorrow that can go a long way in achieving the goal of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

The last few decades saw Multinational Corporations from abroad do business and prosper in India but this decade will belong to the Indian MNCs, he said, after laying the foundation stone for the permanent campus of IIM-Sambalpur in Odisha through video conference.

"Today's start-ups can become tomorrow's MNCs as India seeks to make its start-up ecosystem inclusive to ensure speedy development," he said.

Noting that start-ups are mostly coming up in Tier-II and Tier-III cities in the coun-

try, Modi said, they need professional managers, and the youth require to be prepared for the massive opportunities that lie ahead.

"In this new decade, we all are accountable to give a new image to brand India globally," he said, asking young managers to align their career goals to the aspirations of the country.

The country had 13 IIMs in 2014 and 20 now, and this talent pool can expand the scope and boost the mission of creating a self-reliant India, he said. "Innovation, integrity and inclusion have emerged as the key mantras in the field of management which are important for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' mission. The goal of a self-reliant India will also be achieved with the help of collaborative, innovative and transformative concepts in management," Modi said.

"Technology management

is as important as human management," he said, adding the country has been able to build substantial capacity over the last decade which was evident in the handling of the COVID-19 crisis.

Modi said the new campus of IIM Sambalpur will give Odisha a new identity in the world of management education with proper recognition of the state's great culture and resources.

Management experts, who are coming out with new experiences in fresh areas, will play a big role in taking India to new heights, Modi said, underlining that despite the COVID-19 crisis the country has given more unicorns this year than the previous years. A unicorn is a term used in the venture capital industry to describe a privately held start-up company with a value of over USD 1 billion.

China warns of retaliation for NYSE's delisting of companies

AP ■ BEIJING

China said Saturday that it would take necessary countermeasures in response to the New York Stock Exchange's announcement that would delist three major Chinese telecoms, in the latest flare-up of tensions between Beijing and Washington. The stock exchange said Thursday that China Telecom Corp. Ltd., China Mobile Ltd. and China Unicom Hong Kong Ltd. would be delisted from the exchange, with trading of the companies to be suspended sometime between Jan. 7 and Jan. 11.

The move stems from an executive order President Donald Trump issued on Nov. 12 barring investment in publicly traded companies that the US government says are owned or controlled by the Chinese military.

"China opposes the Americans from abusing national security by listing Chinese companies into the so-called 'Communist China Military Companies' list and will take the necessary countermeasures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies," a spokesperson for the Chinese Commerce Ministry said in a statement. The actions will also "greatly weaken all parties' confidence in the US capital market," the statement said.

The ministry did not offer details on what the measures might be. Under Trump, the U.S. has stepped up economic sanctions and travel bans against Chinese companies, government officials and Communist Party members, especially recently in Trump's last few weeks in office.

Exports fall 0.8 pc in Dec, trade deficit widens to USD 15.71 bn

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Contracting for the third straight month, India's exports slipped marginally by 0.8 per cent in December 2020 even as the trade deficit widened to USD 15.71 billion due to the rise in imports.

Exports in December 2020 stood at USD 26.89 billion, as compared to USD 27.11 in the same month of 2019, according to the preliminary data released by the commerce ministry on Saturday.

The rate of contraction in the country's outbound shipments has improved against a decline of 8.74 per cent in November, mainly due to the increase in shipments of certain sectors such as gems and jewellery, engineering and chemicals.

After a gap of nine months, imports in December recorded a positive growth of 7.6 per

cent at USD 42.6 billion. In February 2020, it had registered a rise of 2.48 per cent.

"India is thus a net importer in December 2020, with a trade deficit of USD 15.71 billion, as compared to a trade deficit of USD 12.49 billion, widened by 25.78 per cent," the ministry said in a statement. The trade deficit (the difference between imports and exports) at USD 15.71 billion was highest since July 2020. The country had witnessed trade surplus in June 2020. In April-December 2020-21, the country's merchandise exports contracted by 15.8 per cent to USD 200.55 billion, as compared to USD 238.27 billion in the same period last fiscal. Imports during the nine months of the current fiscal declined by 29.08 per cent to USD 258.29 billion. It was USD 364.18 billion in April-December 2019-20.

Bank credit grows at 5.4% in Sept quarter: RBI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bank credit growth on a year-on-year basis stood at 5.4 per cent in September quarter of the current fiscal year compared to 5.7 per cent growth in the previous quarter, RBI data showed.

Credit growth for metropolitan branches, which have major share in bank credit, decelerated to 3.3 per cent year-on-year in September 2020 quarter as compared to 4.7 per cent in April-June.

It however improved for the bank branches in rural, semi-urban and urban areas, according to the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). RBI on Friday released Quarterly Basic Statistical Returns (BSR)-1.

Outstanding Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), September 2020.

GST collections at all-time high of over ₹1.15 lakh cr in Dec

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST collections touched a record high of over ₹1.15 lakh crore in December, reflecting festive demand and reflation economy.

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of December 2020 is ₹1,15,174 crore and is the highest since the introduction of Goods and Services Tax from July 1, 2017, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

"This is the highest growth in monthly revenues for the last 21 months. This has been due to combined effect of the rapid economic recovery post-pandemic and the nation-wide drive against GST evaders and fake bills along with many systemic changes introduced recently, which have led to improved compliance," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The total number of GSTR-3B Returns filed for the month of November up to 31st December 2020 is 87 lakh.

During the month, revenues from import of goods were 27 per cent higher and the revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are 8 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

In line with the recent trend of recovery in the GST revenues, the mop-up in December crossed Rs 1 lakh crore mark for the third month in a row and was 12 per cent higher than over Rs 1.03 lakh crore collected in December 2019.

During December Central GST mop-up is Rs 21,365 crore, State GST is Rs 27,804 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 57,426 crore (including Rs 27,050 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 8,579 crore (including Rs 971 crore collected on import of goods). The government has settled Rs 23,276 crore to CGST and Rs 17,681 crore to SGST from IGST as regular settlement.

Centre's ethanol focus positive for sugar industry, as exports likely to reduce: Ind-Ra

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's continued focus on ethanol is a positive for the sugar industry as exports are likely to reduce in SS21 (sugar season 2021), India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said in a report.

As per the report, record exports and a resilient domestic demand made sugar one of the few sectors to witness strong revenue growth in the Covid-19 affected in 1HFY21.

"The growth was also supported by an increase in the distillery revenue. The aggregate revenue of major sector entities grew 30 per cent YoY in 1HFY21..." the report said.

"However, the growth in the sugar segment is likely to witness a moderation in 3QFY21 with a significant reduction in exports due to the delay in announcement of export subsidy mid-December 2020. While the government has extended the period of subsidy by three months to December, most large mills

had exhausted their quotas by 2QFY21." On December 16, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) announced the long-awaited export subsidy for SS21, reducing the amount to Rs 5.8 per kg possibly due to the stretched government finances and an increase in international prices.

Besides, Ind-Ra expects sugar exports to moderate from the SS20 historical high.

"India exported 5.7 million tonnes (mnt) of sugar in SS20 and reports indicate an export of another 0.2-0.3mnt during October-December 2020, thus almost achieving the entire MAEQ target of 6mnt for the season." The increase in exports is mainly attributable to the opening up of Indonesian market as the country extended its preferential lower import duty to Indian sugar amid a decline in sugar production in Thailand. Besides, imports to Iran increased to at least a 15-year high, with Iran and Indonesia together importing 1.7mnt of sugar in SS20."

DoPPW instructs to appoint nodel officer

The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), vide its order dated, December 14, 2020 had instructed all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India to appoint nodal officers and conduct nation-wide Pension Adalats in the last week of December 2020 and first week of January, 2021.

All India Pension Adalats are being organised every year since 2017 by the Department of Pensions & Pensioners' Welfare, under the aegis of Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State, Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions.

Approximately 64 Departments/Organisations of Govt. of India are engaged in this exercise as per preliminary reports 1800 cases shall be taken up in these Adalats. Another unique feature of the Adalats, as per the directions of DoPPW, shall be to leverage technology and conduct the proceedings online through video conferencing so that Pensioners or their representatives can participate from the comfort of their homes. All stake-holders of a grievance shall meet on a single platform and give a resolution on-the-spot.

It is expected that priority shall be given to Family Pension matters and chronic cases which have been pending for long.



J&K signed MoU with NAFED India for high density plantation of apple, walnut, almond, cheery in JK. LG Manoj Sinha presiding over the meeting observed that NAFED will also work on high density plantation of apple and other horticulture produce in Jammu division

SEBI imposes fine on Mukesh Ambani, RIL for 'manipulative trading'

IANS ■ MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 crore and Rs 15 crore respectively on Reliance Industries (RIL) and its Chairman Mukesh Ambani for manipulative trading.

The SEBI order observed that RIL had entered into a well-planned operation with its agents to corner the open interest in the RPL (Reliance Petroleum) futures and to earn undue profits from the sale of RPL shares in both cash and futures segments and to dump large number of RPL shares in the cash segment during the last ten minutes of trading on the settlement day resulting in a fall in the settlement price.

The case pertains to 2007.

It also observed that Mukesh Ambani being the Chairman & Managing Director of RIL, was responsible for its day-to-day affairs and thereby, liable for the "manipulative trading" done by RIL.

The order noted that Navi Mumbai SEZ Pvt Ltd and Mumbai SEZ Ltd have allegedly aided and abetted RIL by providing funds to one of the agents appointed by RIL, who in turn provided funds to other 11 agents for making the margin payments for the short positions in RPL November Futures.

The capital market regulator imposed penalties of Rs 20 crore and Rs 10 crore on Navi Mumbai SEZ and Mumbai SEZ respectively.

LPG refill booking just a missed call away

New Delhi: Booking a cooking gas LPG refill cylinder is just a missed call away for Indane Gas consumers. Indian Oil LPG customers anywhere in the country can use a single missed call number -- 8454955555 -- for refill booking, an official statement said on Friday. Booking refills via missed calls is a faster way to book with customers not having to hold calls for a long time. Also, no call charges are levied to customers as compared to IVRS calls where normal call rates are applicable. This facility will be of immense help to people who are not adept with IVRS or old age customers as well as those in rural areas, the statement said.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the missed call facility for LPG consumers at an event in Bhubaneswar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
STATE MISSION DIRECTORATE, JAL JEEVAN MISSION J&K
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR/ JAMMU (Email: info.jjmjk@jk.gov.in.)
CORRIGENDUM/ ADDENDUM-03
Dated: 01/01/2021
Subject: NIT No. 04 of 2020, Dated: 16/12/2020 issued for "Engagement of PMC for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in UT of J&K".
 Please and the words "(The amount to be quoted, against provisional sum in the Financial Proposal/ BOQ shall be Rs 30.00 lacs only, by all bidders)," after the words 'Provisional Sum' at S No (15) in Format - 2 (Financial Proposal Template / BOQ) of Section IV-B at Page No 41 of NIT/RFP document. The same shall apply to the 'excel format' of BOQ uploaded on the portal.
Sd/- Addl. Mission Director
State Mission Directorate, JJM, J&K
No. DIPK-11253/20 Dated: 02.01.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
 This is to inform to all concerned that George Kutty S/o Mr. Scaria Rio 89/D, Model Town, Delhi-110009, who is the Original allottee of Flat No. 827, Sector-37, Noida, U.P. had sold the said property on G.P.A. basis to the following person(s) G.P.A. was executed on 27.02.1997 in favour of Sh. Sudhakar Shukla S/o Sh. S.R. Shukla Rio 827, Sector-37, Noida, (U.P.) which is registered and the Agreement to sell was not registered. So, with the help of this notice it is informed that transfer of the above property goes in favour of Mrs. Mohini Chawla W/o Sh. Late Bhagwan Das Chawla Rio A2/258, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063. If anyone has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the Noida Group Housing Department of the Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication of this notice.
Kamal Singh (Advocate)
Ch.No.512, Rohini Courts, Delhi-110085

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 30 Years (Approx), **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'7", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White Shirt & Dark Blue Pant and bare footed, has been found in unconscious condition at jurisdiction of P.S. Hauz Khas, New Delhi, on 11.12.2020, he was admitted in AIIMS Hospital for Treatment, During Treatment Doctors declared him dead on 20.11.2020 in the Jurisdiction of P.S. Hauz Khas, New Delhi

In this regard a DD No.49A, dated 20.12.2020 has been lodged at P.S.Hauz Khas, Delhi. Dead Body is preserved in AIIMS Hospital Mortuary for 72 hours for identification.

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. Hauz Khas, Delhi
Ph. 011-26867878, 26510077
DP/378/SD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Name:** Reejek Kumar, **S/o Ram Dayal, R/o:** H.No. 324, Babu Lal ka makan, Mata wali gali, Samalka Village, New Delhi has been missing since 16.11.2020 at 08:00 am. from his house from the area of P.S. Kapashera, New Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No. 36A dated 26.11.2020** has been lodged at PS Kapashera, New Delhi.

The description of the missing boy are as under: **Age:** 19 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5' 3", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue colour jeans, black colour jacket. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID - cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax No.: 011-24368639
Ph. Nos.: 011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Kapashera, New Delhi
DP/423/SW/2020
Ph.: 011-25063758, 7065036226

PNIT NO: e-PT-XXX/EE/RD/ABS/2020-21 DATED-01/01/2021

On behalf of the 'Governor of Tripura' the Executive Engineer, R.D Ambassa Division, Ambassa, Dhalai District, Tripura invites e-tender from eligible bidders up to 3.00 P.M. on 21/01/2021 for Construction of (i) 01 (one) No. RCC Cantilever Foot Bridge, (ii) 01 No. Multipurpose Sports Complex, (iii) 03 Nos. Type-III Quarter for Hostel Superintendent at various locations under the jurisdiction of R.D Ambassa Division. For details visit website <https://tripuratenders.gov.in> and contact at M-08732042622 (during office hours only). Any subsequent corrigendum will be available in the website only.

Also everyone is requested to give up the use of plastic for the sake of the earth and also requested to use mask on face and to keep maintain social distance to avoid COVID-19 pandemic.

Sd/-
[Er.S. Biswas]
 Executive Engineer
 R.D. Ambassa Division
ICA/C-2639/2020-21

UJVNL Limited
 (A Govt. of Uttaranchal Enterprise)
 H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
 Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

RO. No.: 01 Tender Notice Date: 01.01.2021
 Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-II), BCCGPP, Kashipur invites bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No.01/EE(BCCGPP)/NDH/2020-21
 Name of work/supply/services etc. : Hiring two (02) nos. vehicles along with driver for one year for DGM (BCCGPP) & EE (BCCGPP), UJVNL, Kashipur.
 Estimated cost: Rs. 7,51,080.00 (Excluding GST & Fuel).
 Date of availability of bid document on website :02.01.2021 at 16:00 Hours onwards
 Last date for submission of bids : 23.01.2021 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Executive Engineer (E&M-II)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

WESTERN RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/32/2020 Date 30/12/2020

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
831	Pull Rod Main for Car-A	54 Nos.	04/01/2021
832	Top Seal N Type Roll	50 Nos.	05/01/2021
833	Bogie Brake Push Rod	17 Nos.	05/01/2021
834	Bogie End Pull Rod	27 Nos.	05/01/2021
835	Equilising Lever Complete with Bushes	14 Nos.	11/01/2021
836	Door Center Latch Catch Lock Assy.	600 Set	13/01/2021
837	Door Lock for DiCab Sliding Door	50 Set	13/01/2021
838	Shrink Ring for 3 Phase AC	50 Nos.	13/01/2021
839	Maintenance Kit - 02	572 Set	15/01/2021
840	Maintenance Kit - 03	293 Set	15/01/2021
841	Foot Step Arrangement	2338 Nos.	18/01/2021
842	Set of Lock Assy.	34 Set	18/01/2021
843	Lateral Damper 200 kg	609 Nos.	19/01/2021
844	High Capacity after Cooler	117 Nos.	20/01/2021
845	Pressure Sensor	184 Nos.	22/01/2021
846	Set of Suspension Springs	40 Sets	22/01/2021
847	Grease Exxon Arapen RB-320	724 Kg	22/01/2021
848	Set of Cable Terminal	80 Set	25/01/2021
849	Switch for Head Light	69 Nos.	25/01/2021
850	Set of Brake Valve	80 Set	25/01/2021
851	M48 Maintenance Kit for Air Dryer	88 Set	27/01/2021
852	Overhauling Kit for Pantograph	88 Set	27/01/2021
853	D Type 6 AMPS.	658 Nos.	28/01/2021
854	Set of Spring Loaded Switch	89 Nos.	28/01/2021
855	Set of Spares of Valves	1 Set	28/01/2021
856	Breaking Exitation Contactor	66 Nos.	29/01/2021

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.irps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

For Principal Chief Materials Manager
 Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** 45/50 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'6", was wearing Grey colour Jarsi, 1 Khakhi colour Shirt, 1 White colour Shirt and White colour Pajama, was found near Metro Gate No. 4, Ajmeri Gate side, New Delhi Railway Station at 03:49 PM. In this regard a **DD No. 21A, dated 30.12.2020, has been lodged at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi
DP/37/Rly/2020
Ph.: 011-23744073, 8750871305

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Raj Kumar, **S/o Khatak Bahadur Thapa, R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 35 yrs, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Sex:** Male, **Face:** Oval, **Hairs:** Black, **ID Mark:** Tattoo on left forearm. **Wearing:** White Check Shirt was found got admitted in BJRM hospital on 05.11.2020 and on 09.11.2020 an information was received at PS vide dd no. 40a from BJRM hospital regarding during treatment he had been expired on 09.11.2020. In this regard, a **DD No. 40a Dated 09.11.2020** has been lodged at PS S.P. Badli 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., S.P. Badli, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27854757, 27854799,
8750870326
DP/707/ON/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy **Name:** Suraj Raj **S/o Late Sh. Tarkeshwar Singh R/o Bal Sahyog Connaught Circus, New Delhi (Permanent Address :** Village Jalalpur, PS: Mahnar, Distt: Vaishali, Bihar) has been missing/kidnapped from the Bal Sahyog, Connaught Circus, New Delhi since 20.12.2020. In this regard, a case **FIR No. 92/20 u/s 363 IPC Dated : 22.12.2020 has been registered at P.S. Barakhamba Road, New Delhi.** The description of the missing boy at the time of missing/kidnapped was as under.

Age: around 16 Years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 159 cms, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Black colour jacket, blue colour pant and white colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped boy then please inform P.S. Barakhamba Road, New Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Barakhamba Road, New Delhi
DP/179/NDD/2020
Ph: 011-23413800, 23413999



BIG ONSCREEN HOPES

2021 has big-ticket movies in the kitty. While it is still unclear whether it will be a theatrical or an OTT release, the movies are a sureshot dose of entertainment. From Radhe in Bollywood to the likes of superhero movies in Hollywood, the New Year looks promising for the entertainment industry. SUNDAY PIONEER lists the fare

W E T O O

GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI

Director – Sanjay Leela Bhansali
Producers – Bhansali Productions & Pen India Limited
Cast – Alia Bhatt

ATRANGI RE

Director – Aanand L Rai
Producers – Colour Yellow Productions, T-Series Films, Cape Of Good Films
Cast – Akshay Kumar, Dhanush, and Sara Ali Khan

RAKSHABANDHAN

Director – Aanand L Rai
Producers – Colour Yellow Productions & Cape of Good Films
Cast – Akshay Kumar

JERSEY

Director – Gowtham Tinnauri
Producers – Aman Gill, Dil Raju, Gowtham Tinnauri
Cast – Shahid Kapoor, Mrunal Thakur

SALAAR

Director – Prashanth Neel
Producers – Hombale Films
Cast – Prabhas

HASEEN DILLRUBA

Director – Vinil Mathews
Producers – Colour Yellow Productions, Eros International & T-Series Films
Cast – Taapsee Pannu, Vikrant Massey, Harshvardhan Rane

HUNGAMA 2

Director – Priyadarshan
Producers – Venus Records and Tapes LLP
Cast – Paresh Rawal, Shilpa Shetty Kundra, Meezaan, Pranitha Subhash

BLIND

Director – Shome Makhija
Producers – Sujoy Ghosh, Avishek Ghosh, Manisha W., Pinkesh Nahar, Sachin Nahar, Hyunwoo Thomas Kim
Cast – Sonam Kapoor Ahuja

INDIA LOCKDOWN

Director – Madhur Bhandarkar

KUN FAYA KUN

Director – Kushan Nandy
Cast – Harshvardhan Rane, Sanjeeda Shaikh

FRESH FACES ON SCREEN

ANMOL DHILLON

Film: Tuesdays and Fridays
Director: Taranveer Singh
Producer: Bhansali Productions



RINZING DENZONGPA

Film: Squad
Director: Nilesh Sahay
Producer: Nilesh Sahay, Brajesh Sahaya

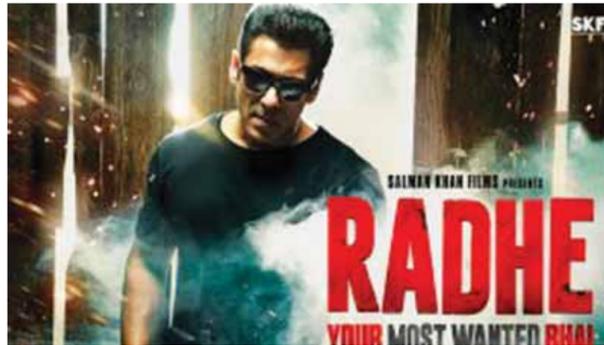


PRANITHA SUBHASH

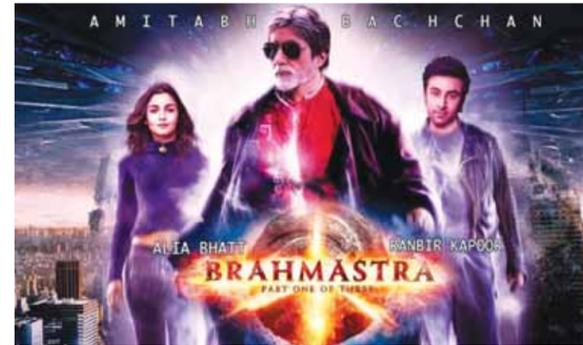
Film: Hungama 2
Director: Priyadarshan
Producer: Venus Records and Tapes LLP
Film: Bhuj – The Pride Of India
Director: Abhishek Dudhaiya
Producer: T Series and Select Media Holdings LLP



BIG DHAMAKA



RADHE: YOUR MOST WANTED BHAI
Cast: Salman Khan, Megha Akash, Disha Patani, Jackie Shroff, Randeep Hooda
Director: Prabhu Deva



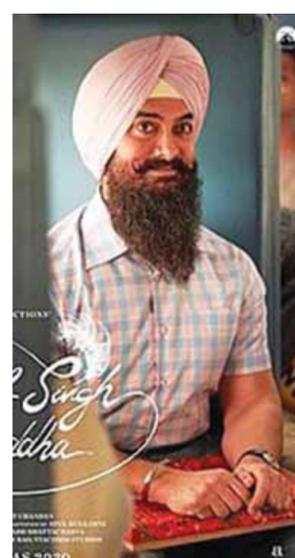
BRAHMASTRA
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Mouni Roy, Divyenndu, Dimple Kapadia, Prateik Babbar
Director: Ayan Mukerji



BELL BOTTOM
Cast: Vani Kapoor, Huma Qureshi, Akshay Kumar, Lara Dutta
Director: Ranjit Tiwari



SOORYAVANSHI
Cast: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Ajay Devgan, Ranveer Singh, Jackie Shroff, Jaaved Jaaferi, Arushi Sharma
Director: Rohit Shetty



LAAL SINGH CHADDHA
Cast: Aamir Khan, Vijay Sethupati, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Mona Singh, Sharman Joshi
Director: Advait Chandan



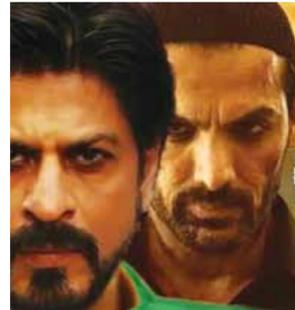
SHAMSHERA
Cast: Ranbir Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, Vaani Kapoor, Ronit Roy, Iravati Harshe
Director: Karan Malhotra



DOSTANA 2
Cast: Jhanvi Kapoor, Laksh Lawani, Kartik Aaryan, Asha Bhatt, Abhishek Banerjee, Abhay Deol
Director: Collin D'Cunha

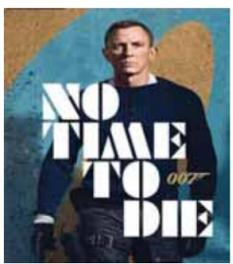


'83
Cast: Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Tahir Raj Bhasin, Saqib Saleem, Ammy Virk, Harrdy Sandhu, Jiiva, Amrita Puri
Director: Kabir Khan



Pathan
Cast: Shah Rukh Khan
Director: Siddharth Anand

FROM THE HOLLYWOOD PACK



NO TIME TO DIE
Director: Cary Joji Fukunaga
Releasing: Early 2021
A spy film and the twenty-fifth instalment in the James Bond film series produced by Eon Productions. The film features Daniel Craig in his fifth and final outing as the fictional British MI6 agent James Bond.



BLACK WIDOW
Director: Cate Shortland
Releasing: April 29, 2021
An American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name. Produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney, it is intended to be the 24th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.



FAST & FURIOUS 9
Director: Justin Lin
Releasing: May 28, 2021
In the film, Dominic Toretto and his crew join forces to battle the most skilled assassin and high-performance driver they've ever encountered — his forsaken brother.



VENOM: LET THERE BE CARNAGE
Director: Andy Serkis
Releasing: June 24, 2021
An American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character Venom, produced by Columbia Pictures in association with Marvel and Tencent Pictures.



JUNGLE CRUISE
Director: Jaume Collet-Serra
Releasing: July 22, 2021
An American adventure film directed by Jaume Collet-Serra from a story by Glenn Ficarra & John Requa and a screenplay written by Michael Green, Ficarra and Requa, based on Walt Disney's theme park attraction of the same name.



THE SUICIDE SQUAD
Director: James Gunn
Releasing: August 4, 2021
The further adventures of Harley Quinn, Rick Flag and their team of assembled supervillains.



THE KING'S MAN
Director: Matthew Vaughn
Releasing: 2021
Period spy action comedy film.



MORBIUS
Director: Daniel Espinosa
Releasing: March 19, 2021
An American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name, produced by Columbia Pictures in association with Marvel.



DUNE
Director: Denis Villeneuve
Releasing: December 18, 2020
A science fiction film in which Paul Atreides leads nomadic tribes in a battle to control the desert planet Arrakis.



TOP GUN: MAVERICK
Director: Joseph Kosinski
Releasing: July 2, 2021
An American action drama film, sequel to 1986's Top Gun.

5 Indian players sent in isolation

BCCI set to back Rohit, Pant, Gill, Saini, Shaw; investigation launched

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Five India Test players, including vice-captain Rohit Sharma, opener Shubman Gill and wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, have been placed in isolation and an investigation launched into a possible breach of the COVID-19 bio-security protocol by them, Cricket Australia said on Saturday.

This was after a fan put out a video of the players sitting inside an indoor restaurant on Twitter on Friday. He claimed to have been seated close to them and also talked about getting a hug from Pant after he paid for the players' meal. He later retracted the claim about the hug after it raised serious questions on a breach of protocol.

The BCCI brass had initially ruled out any investigation after reports of a possible breach first appeared in the media here, but Cricket Australia's late statement said a joint probe is on.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Cricket Australia (CA) were today alerted to a video post on social media that purported to show Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill, Prithvi Shaw and Navdeep Saini eating at an indoor venue in Melbourne on New Year's Day," CA said in a statement.

It has been learnt that the Indian Cricket board will back its players as the general consensus is that there hasn't been any deliberate breach. There is a feeling that Indian team might

Navaldeep Singh
@NavalGeekSingh

When they got know that i have paid the bill.. Rohit sharma said bhaji pese lelo yaar acha nai lagta.. i said no sir its on me. Pant hugged me and said photo tabhi hogi jab pese loge wapis. I said no bro not happening. Finally sabane photo khichwai :) mja aa gya yaar #blessed

Navaldeep Singh
@NavalGeekSingh

Clarification - Pant never hugged me it was all said in excitement we maintained social distance all thru:) Apologies for miscommunication @BCCI @CricketAus @dailytelegraph

just come together like 2007-08 'Monkey Gate' controversy when Andrew Symonds had claimed that Harbhajan Singh had abused him racially.

As per protocol, players are allowed to eat out in outdoor settings, following social distancing norms.

"The BCCI and CA are investigating the matter and seeking to determine whether the outing constitutes a breach of bio-security protocols."

The isolation protocols were put in place after consulting with medical teams.

"...On the advice of the Australian and Indian medical teams, the aforementioned players have been placed in isolation as a precaution."

"This will include separating the group of players from the broader Indian and Australian squads when travelling and at the training venue," CA further stated.

It is understood that as per bio-security protocols provided by Cricket Australia, players are not just barred from indoor restaurants but they are also not supposed to avail any public transport. They are, however, allowed a walk around the cities where they are playing.

Cricket Australia's statement doesn't specify any time-frame for the investigation but it has been learnt that the Indian team is not amused by the turn of events.

India and Australia are engaged in a four-Test series right now and the third match is due to start on January 7 in Sydney.

"The players were standing outside the restaurant and due to

drizzle, they had gotten inside. If this is a way of trying to unsettle the team before the third Test, it's a bad ploy by Cricket Australia," a senior BCCI official told PTI.

Rohit had recently completed 14 days of hard quarantine in Sydney and started training in Melbourne only a couple of days back.

The players will be permitted to train in accordance with the protocols that have been put in place.

Asked if Cricket Australia could disallow the three players (Rohit, Pant and Gill) from taking part in the next Test, the official said: "Firstly, they are allowed to train. Secondly, I don't think it will come to that as then there could be adverse implications."

Earlier, a senior Indian cricket board official told PTI that the visiting contingent is "well aware" of the COVID-19 protocols and had not violated any of them.

"No, there has been no breach in bio-security protocols. Everyone associated with the Indian team is well aware of the protocols," the senior BCCI official had said in the morning.

"We can only term it as a malicious spin by a section of Australian media and this has started after their humiliating defeat," he added. India crushed Australia by eight wickets in the second Test in Melbourne, making an incredible comeback days after the debacle in the four-match series opener in Adelaide.

The bio-security bubbles have been put in place to ensure that the players are not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped the world for months now,

Rohit is new Test vice-captain

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior opener Rohit Sharma was appointed the vice-captain of the Indian Test team for the first time in his career, replacing Cheteshwar Pujara, who was entrusted with the responsibility for the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne.

After regular captain Virat Kohli went on paternity leave after the first Test in Adelaide, Pujara was named Ajinkya Rahane's deputy for the second match. However, it is learnt that the team management was always clear that once Rohit is fit and able to join the squad, he will be Rahane's deputy.

"There was never an iota of doubt about who will be India's vice-captain once Virat takes a break and Ajinkya is elevated. It was always going to be Rohit and Pujara was just a stop-gap arrangement till

the former joined the squad," a senior official privy to the development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Rohit has been India's long-time white ball vice-captain, so it was only imperative that in Virat's absence, he will be a part of the team's leadership group," the official added.

It is still not clear whether Rohit will prefer opening the innings alongside Shubman Gill, with Mayank Agarwal being dropped from the playing eleven due to his prolonged bad patch, or bat in the middle-order in place of Hanuma Vihari, who looks like a certain casualty in terms of team combination.

with parts of Australia reporting fresh outbreaks in recent times.

This had also put the future of the third Test in Sydney in doubt before CA clarified that it would not

be shifted to Melbourne.

The match will begin on January 7 and the two teams will arrive in Sydney a couple of days before the scheduled start.

Natarajan replaces Umesh in Test side

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Tamil Nadu's yorker sensation Thangarasu Natarajan on Friday replaced injured pacer Umesh Yadav in the Indian Test team for the remaining two games against Australia, continuing his remarkable rise in international cricket.

Earlier, Shardul Thakur had replaced an injured Mohammed Shami in the squad before the second Test.

"Umesh Yadav sustained a strain in his left calf muscle on Day 3 of the second Border-Gavaskar Test in



Melbourne...The fast bowler will not recover completely ahead of the remaining two Test matches and has been ruled out of the series," BCCI Secretary Jay Shah stated in a media release.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Natarajan as Yadav's replacement. Ahead of the Boxing Day Test, Shardul Thakur was added to the Test squad as Mohd. Shami's replacement after the senior fast bowler suffered a hairline fracture in his right forearm," the release added.

Both Shami and Umesh Yadav will head to the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for further rehabilitation of their injuries.

The 29-year-old Natarajan had started off as a net bowler during the series and then subsequently made it to the T20 and ODI squads. He snared eight wickets (two ODI and six T20) during his four limited-overs appearances in national colours.

He has played 20 first-class games for Tamil Nadu and will now be in contention for a slot in traditional format.

Earlier, fit-again top batsman Rohit Sharma completed his quarantine and joined the team in Melbourne.

The series is locked 1-1 right now with the third Test starting in Sydney from January 7.

Warner is big inclusion for us: Labuschagne

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australian batsman Marnus Labuschagne is looking forward to the return of David Warner for the third Test against India in Sydney as he feels the hosts will benefit not just from his batting but also the "terrific energy" he will bring to the field.

Warner, who missed out a major chunk of the India assignment due to a groin injury, was brought back into the squad for the last two Tests with the series locked at 1-1. The third Test begins January 7.

"He's a big inclusion for us if he does come back in," Labuschagne



told reporters in an online interaction. "He's someone with over 7000 Test runs and averaging near-on 50, he's a superb player."

"He's in that top calibre of player and his energy around the group and in the field will be terrific. It will be great to have him," he added.

In the absence of Warner, Australia's batting has failed miserably in the first two matches. Only Matthew Wade (27.75), Labuschagne (32.25) and captain Tim Paine (43.50) are averaging more than 23 for the series.

There had been a lot of uncertainty around the venue of the Sydney Test after a fresh COVID-

19 outbreak in the northern beaches in the city.

However, Cricket Australia has decided to retain the Sydney Cricket Ground as the venue of the Pink Test.

Labuschagne, who notched up his highest Test score of 215 against New Zealand at the SCG last January, said it will be "hard work" putting runs on the board with two world-class bowling attacks.

"It's a beautiful venue to bat at and it has been, at times, quite batting-friendly," Labuschagne said.

"But with two world-class bowling attacks it's always hard work, it doesn't matter what the wicket's like," he added.

Bumrah has mastered the art of deceiving batsmen: Akhtar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jasprit Bumrah is the "smartest fast bowler" in contemporary cricket who has learnt the art of deceiving batsmen in air, something that was the secret of success for Pakistani greats, said Shoaib Akhtar.

One of the fastest bowlers to have ever played the game, Akhtar is enamoured by Bumrah's skill-sets and his ability to outwit a batsman in a mere "five seconds" from an ungainly run-up which isn't exactly a critic's delight.

"He (Bumrah) is probably India's first fast bowler, who checks the wind speed and wind direction rather than how much grass has been left on the track. This

thing used to be the art of Pakistanis, we used to know how you could play with the wind," Akhtar said on YouTube channel 'Sports Today'.

He then cited example of how the two Ws and him used to read the wind speeds during their heydays.

"We used to actually (do that), me, Wasim bhai and Waqar bhai, we used to note the wind speed and direction, look the wind is blowing from that corridor, okay I might get reverse from that end," he said.

"We knew mechanics and aero dynamics of fast bowling, how much swing and at what time of the day. This is my assumption that Bumrah knows these sort of things

which I hardly think other fast bowlers know these sort of things," Akhtar added.

For Akhtar, post Mohammed Asif and Mohammed Aamir, Bumrah is the "smartest operator" in terms of intelligence.

With his seven-step run-up, Bumrah terrorises the batsman in a matter of five seconds. "In Bumrah's world, in those five seconds, he only visualises the batsman and thinks about his art of taking wickets."

"He is a great character. He will be the most unusual but great fast bowler if fitness permits. If his back remains okay, he will play for a long time."

Akhtar loves the manner in which Bumrah has proved people wrong.

"He has proved people wrong time and again. The more people were critical of his ungainly action, he just told them, look boss this is what I can do with this action."

Ind players rush to take part in club events

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading India players, including Jemimah Rodrigues, Veda Krishnamurthy and Deepti Sharma, will be taking part in a club T20 tournament in Bengaluru from Monday even as uncertainty continues over the team's next international assignment amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Team has not played since the T20 World Cup in March and there is no clarity over its next fixture with the Australia tour, scheduled to be held later this month, postponed to 2022. There is also no final word yet on the women's domestic season.

The tournament, comprising four teams, will run from January 4-12 and has been organised to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Falcon Sports Club. The other India players participating in the tournament include Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Pnam Raut, Radha Yadav, Yanitha V R, Nuzhat Parveen, Anuja Patil.

Rizwan confident despite Babar's absence

PTI ■ KARACHI

Stand-in captain Muhammad Rizwan is confident of his team's good chance of winning the second Test in Christchurch despite regular skipper Babar Azam being once again ruled out as he hasn't yet recovered from his injury.

Babar was again ruled out of the second test on Saturday although he had had a nets session on Friday.

"Babar is still not confident 100 percent that he is fit for the test match and I know he will never take a chance unless he is completely sure he has full match fitness," Rizwan said on the eve of the match.

Babar, who sustained a thumb fracture last month in Queenstown during a throw-down, will return home without having played a single match in New Zealand.

In his absence in the



first test, Pakistan put up a gallant fight but lost the game in the final session with just four overs to go in the match.

"Babar's absence is a big blow as he is a key player but the series is still not over for us and we can still win this test and level the series if we play well and to our strength," Rizwan who got fighting half centuries in both innings in the first test said.

The Pakistan team was unable to train properly on Saturday due to rain in Christchurch. Rizwan said that after winning the last match of the T20 series, Pakistan had gained some momentum and they carried it into the Test series.

"We fought hard in the first test and the players are pretty confident about doing well here as well," he said.

"The last match of a tour is always very important and we want to end the tour on a win-

ning note," he added.

Rizwan confirmed the team management was thinking about some changes in the side but said this would be decided later on.

The PCB said Babar had a full-fledge training session yesterday but felt slight pain in his thumb, following which, the team management has opted against taking any risk.

"With a home series coming up against South Africa, we didn't want to take a risk with Babar," a team official said.

Team Doctor Dr Sohail Saleem: "We have seen improvement in Babar Azam's injury but he is yet to fully recover. He is our captain and the most important batsman in the lineup, so we do not want to take any risk."

"The medical team is constantly reviewing his injury and we are hopeful he will be available for the home series against South Africa."

Ganguly suffers mild heart attack



PTI ■ KOLKATA

BCCI president and former India skipper Sourav Ganguly Saturday suffered a "mild" heart attack and is undergoing "primary angioplasty" at a city hospital, doctors said.

The 48-year-old cricket icon is stable.

"He had an acute myocardial infarction (MI) but is stable now. He is stable haemodynamically and has received loading doses of dual anti platelets and statin.

"Mr Ganguly is undergoing primary angioplasty now. We are yet to decide on how many stent insertion is required for Mr Ganguly," a doctor at Woodlands Hospital said.

A myocardial infarction (MI), commonly known as a heart attack, occurs when blood flow decreases or stops to a part of the heart, causing damage to the heart muscle.

According to an earlier account attributed to a doctor at the same hospital, he had suffered a cardiac arrest. A sudden cardiac arrest is when the heart malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly.

A heart attack is a circulation problem and sudden cardiac arrest is caused due to an "electrical" issue.

Primary angioplasty, also called percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), is a procedure which treats blockages within the coronary arteries and improves blood flow to the heart.

SINGLES

MAJUMDAR TO LEAD BENGAL

KOLKATA: Veteran batsman Anustup Majumdar was named Bengal captain for the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament, replacing Abhimanyu Easwaran. Shreevats Goswami will be Majumdar's deputy in the squad that also has Mohammed Shami's younger brother, seam bowling all-rounder Mohammed Kaif. Majumdar was rewarded with the captaincy for his stupendous show in the last season where he literally singlehandedly carried Bengal to the final. The Cricket Association of Bengal however said the 36-year-old Majumdar was appointed "only" for the domestic T20 tournament to free Easwaran of the "captaincy burden".

KRUNAL, HOODA IN BARODA SQUAD

VADODARA: All-rounders Krunal Pandya and Deepak Hooda have been named in the 22-member Baroda squad for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy National T20 Championships, starting January 10. The Baroda Cricket Association announced the squad on its website. Apart from the pair, seasoned opener Kedar Devdhar and right-handed batsman Vishnu Solanki have also been included in the squad. The bowling attack is led by left-arm pacer Lukman Meriwala and comprises 30-year-old slow left-arm orthodox bowler Bhargav Bhatt alongside relatively new faces. The association also named Prabhakar Bairgond as its head coach after Dav Whatmore, who was initially appointed, was not able to take up the assignment.

ARJUN PICKED IN MUMBAI'S SENIOR SQUAD

KOLKATA: Young left-arm pacer Arjun Tendulkar, who is the son of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, was on Saturday picked in Mumbai's senior team for the first time, featuring in an extended 22-member squad for the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. This was confirmed by the Mumbai team's chief selector Salil Ankola on Saturday. Apart from Arjun, another pacer, Krutik Hanagavadi, was also added to a 22-member squad. "Earlier the BCCI had asked to select 20 players. But later they said that 22 players can be selected in the squad, accordingly the two players were added to the squad," an MCA official stated. This is the first time that 21-year-old Arjun has been included in Mumbai's senior squad. He has been playing age-group tournaments for Mumbai and also has been part of the team, which plays invitational tournaments.

ENG SQUAD CLEARS COVID-19 TEST

LONDON: England's Sri Lanka-bound cricket contingent has tested negative for COVID-19 and will be leaving for the island nation on Saturday for a two-match Test series, starting on January 14. England players and support staff had undergone COVID-19 testing on December 30. They will fly to Sri Lanka as per schedule on Saturday. On arrival, the contingent will spend 10 days in a bio-secure bubble in Hambantota, according to a report in 'Sky Sports'. England is scheduled to play two Test matches against Sri Lanka in Galle from January 14-18 and January 22-26. The series was postponed in March last year midway through the visitors' warm-up game in Colombo due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is part of the ongoing World Test Championship. This will be England's second touring assignment since the COVID-19 pandemic threw schedules haywire.

DALE STEYN 'UNAVAILABLE' FOR IPL THIS YEAR

JOHANNESBURG: South African pace legend Dale Steyn on Saturday made himself "unavailable" for this year's Indian Premier League (IPL) but ruled out an imminent retirement from competitive cricket. Steyn, 37, played for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the latest edition of the IPL. The pacer said he wants to take time off from the game. "Just a short message to let everyone know that I've made myself unavailable for RCB at this year's IPL. I'm also not planning on playing for another team, just taking some time off during that period," Steyn tweeted. One of the world's greatest fast bowlers, Steyn also made it clear that he is not calling it quits anytime soon, despite playing international cricket for the past 16 years. The bowler, though, had retired from Test cricket in 2019 as South Africa's highest wicket-taker in the format. "I will be playing in other leagues, nicely spaced out to give myself an opportunity to do something I've been excited about as well as continue to play the game I love so much. 'NO, I'm NOT retired,' he stressed. Agencies



Moments later, Jack Harrison's cutback was blocked by Matt Doherty and Mateusz Klich fired the loose ball over from close range. Patrick Bamford should have done better than head Raphinha's cross over from six yards out. But Tottenham finally steadied their nerves and took the lead in the 29th minute. Steven Bergwijn got behind Alioski and went to ground after contact on the edge of the Leeds area. VAR decided the offence had taken place just inside the box and Kane stepped up to dispatch the penalty for his 17th goal of the season. Kane wasted a chance to double Tottenham's advantage when he slashed wide from a good position. Bergwijn fared no better after Ben Davies picked him out with just Leeds keeper Illan Meslier to beat. Leeds nearly equalised when Harrison's curler from the edge of the area flashed over. Yet Son ensured his teammates' misses wouldn't be costly as he increased the lead with his 15th goal of the season in the 43rd minute. Once again, it was Kane who linked up with his attacking partner to deadly effect as his perfectly-weighted cross picked out Son, who guided a clinical finish past Meslier from 10 yards. It was the 13th time Kane and Son had combined for a goal this term, equalling the Premier League record set by Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton for Blackburn in 1994-95. Tottenham put the result beyond doubt in the 50th minute. Meslier has been the guilty party on several occasions when Leeds have conceded this season. The French keeper was caught out again when Alderweireld headed Son's corner through his weak attempted save as the ball trickled just over the line. With just seconds left, Doherty was dismissed after catching Pablo Hernandez with a late tackle.



Pochettino takes PSG hot-seat

AFP ■ PARIS fans have always loved." His priority will be to sate the Qatari-backed club's quest for Champions League glory. Tuchel, who oversaw the club's first ever Champions League final appearance last season, guided Neymar and company into the knockout stages this season before being axed. Pochettino's first major test will be the Champions League last-16 away leg at Barcelona next month. Pochettino will take charge of his first match next Saturday at Saint-Etienne as Ligue 1 resumes after the winter break with PSG one point off the leaders in third. Then, on February 16, he will be plotting the downfall of his compatriot Lionel Messi's Barcelona at the Camp Nou, with the return leg on March 6. Like Tuchel, Pochettino was sacked after leading Spurs to their first ever appearance in a Champions League final, against Liverpool in 2019. Although he has yet to win any silverware the former PSG defender's attacking playing identity that Parisian

SON-SATIONAL

Korean forward scores his 100th goal for Spurs in 3-0 win over Leeds

AFP ■ LONDON South Korea forward Son Heung-min scored his 100th Tottenham goal in a 3-0 win over Leeds that hauled his team back into the Premier League title race on Saturday. Son grabbed the second goal for Jose Mourinho's side after Harry Kane's penalty had opened the scoring at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Reaching his century of Tottenham goals was a landmark moment for Son, who is the 18th player to score 100 in all competitions for the north London club and the first from outside the United Kingdom and Ireland. Since arriving from Bayer Leverkusen in 2015, the 28-year-old has established himself as one of Tottenham's key players and maintaining his fine form will be key to their hopes of pushing for the title. Toby Alderweireld scored Tottenham's third goal as they climbed to third place. The only frustration for Mourinho was a stoppage-time red card for Matt Doherty after the Republic of Ireland right-back received a second booking. Having ended their disappointing run of four league games without a win, Tottenham moved within four points of leaders Liverpool, who play Southampton on Monday. The victory was especially welcome after Tottenham were forced to criticise Erik Lamela, Sergio Reguilon and Giovanni Lo Celso after the trio were pictured breaching coronavirus rules by attending a large Christmas party. The Spurs stars' behaviour came just days after Mourinho was critical of the Premier League for calling off their match against Fulham due to an outbreak of the virus among the Cottagers' squad. Lamela was not named in the squad on Saturday, while Reguilon was on the bench and Lo Celso was out injured. Leeds made a vibrant start and Ezgjan Alioski shot into the side-netting after a flowing move prised open the Tottenham defence.



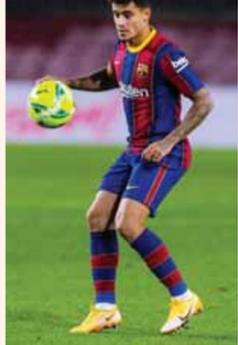
Messi ready for Huesca match

AFP ■ BARCELONA Lionel Messi is fighting fit after his festive break and overcoming an ankle injury, and he's expected to be involved in Barcelona's trip to bottom-placed Huesca on Sunday. "Messi is in good shape, he trained on December 30 and 31, even when his teammates had days off, and he's not feeling any discomfort anymore," Koeman said Saturday, according to Reuters. "He's ready, he's feeling happy and very determined, and that's very important for us." Messi flew back from Argentina on Tuesday and was immediately in attendance at the Camp Nou when Barcelona drew 1-1 with Eibar. The 33-year-old has scored seven and assisted once in 14 La Liga appearances, and he's added four goals and three assists in four Champions League outings. His contract in Catalonia expires at the end of the season.



Coutinho out for 3 months

AFP ■ BARCELONA That 1-1 stalemate left Ronald Koeman's side in sixth in La Liga, 10 points behind leaders Atletico Madrid. Coutinho, who joined Barcelona three years ago from Liverpool but was loaned to Bayern Munich last season, joins Koeman's list of long-term absentees which includes Ansu Fati and Gerard Pique, both also sidelined with knee injuries. Barcelona midfielder Philippe Coutinho has undergone left knee surgery and will be sidelined for "around three months," the club revealed on Saturday. The 28-year-old Brazilian required the operation to mend a torn meniscus after he limped off the pitch late in Tuesday's home draw with Eibar.



The Executive Engineer, LTV Division, PWD(R&B), Manu, Dhalai Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No. 06/EE/LTV/PWD/M/2020-21 Dated 30/12/2020.

For "Brick soled roads to be converted to all weather road by paver blocks/improvement of road from Challengta Budha Mandir to NH-44(A) under Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure in 2020-21".

DNIT No. 19/CE/PWD(R&B)/ACE(P&DU)/2020-21

With

- **Estimated cost:** ₹1,64,36,469/-
- **Earnest Money:** ₹1,64,365/-
- **Time of Completion :** 12(twelve) months.
- **Last Date of bidding for bids - 20/01/2021 *upto 15.00 Hrs.**

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

Sd/
(Er. P. Debbarma)
Executive Engineer,
LTV Division, PWD(R&B),
Manu, Dhalai Tripura

ICA/C-2630/2020-21

Rangers beat Celtic in Old Firm

AFP ■ GLASGOW Rangers took a giant step towards ending a decade-long wait for the Scottish Premiership title after victory over 10-man Celtic moved them a staggering 19 points ahead of their rivals. Steven Gerrard's side made it three derby wins on the spin thanks to Callum McGregor's own goal after Nir Bitton was sent off for the Hoops for a challenge on Alfredo Morelos. It leaves Neil Lennon's men, who still have three games in hand, with a mountain to climb in their quest for an historic 10th consecutive league title. Celtic had dominated until referee Bobby Madden showed Bitton a straight red card just after the hour but were denied by the outstanding Allan McGregor and later made to pay by the only goal of the game. The victory maintained Rangers' perfect home record in the league with 11 wins as Celtic suffered their first away domestic defeat in more than a year. It was an emotional day at Ibrox as both sides paid tribute to the 66 Rangers fans who lost their lives on the 50th anniversary of the Ibrox Disaster. Once the action got under way it was the visitors who started on the front foot and the pick of McGregor's saves was a stunning fingertip save to touch a Leigh Griffiths shot onto the post. But it was Rangers who grabbed a huge three points with the only goal of the game coming when James Tavernier's corner was deflected in off Celtic skipper McGregor after Joe Aribo knocked it onto him.



GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN
RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(1st Call)

System Tender No.: 70326 /NIT No. : 11/SAC/2020-21,
Gariaband, Dated: 30.12.2020

Online Tenders are invited for The Following Works up to 20.01.2021 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work : EXCAVATION OF PILOT CHANNEL FROM R.D. 470 M. TO 690 M. IN SPILL CHANNEL AND CONSTRUCTION OF R.C.C RAILING OVER GUIDE WALL & WING WALL OF SIKASAR RESERVOIR OF PAIRI PROJECT IN GARIABAND DISTRICT.

Probable Amount : Rs. 596.57 Lakhs
of Contract

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 06.01.2021, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE:- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Water Resources Division, Gariaband
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)

R. O. No: 85989/2
Dated: 31/12/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, M/s Radhey Build Homes Pvt. Ltd. in collaboration with M/s Adani M2K Projects LLP, having its office at Adani House, Plot No 83, Institutional Area, Sector 32, Gurugram-122001, have proposed to migrate part area of Licence No. 24 of 2012 dated 27.03.2012 granted for setting up of Group Housing Colony situated at Sector 102A and 102, Gurugram, for the purpose of taking licence of Affordable Plotted Colony (DDJAY-2016) under the migration policy of Town and Country Planning Department dated 18.02.2016 and declare that we have not created any third party rights on the applied land under migration policy on an area measuring 12.85625 acres.

If allottee (if any) of the licenced colony (under Licence No. 24 of 2012) has any objection to the above stated migration, the same may be submitted in the office of District Town Planner, Gurugram within 30 Days from the date of issue of this Public Notice.

Mr. Praveen Shukla
Authorised Signatory

Place: Gurugram For M/s Radhey Build Homes Pvt. Ltd.
Date: 03.01.2021 in Collaboration with Adani M2K Projects LLP

RAIL LAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Kankarbagh Tower-II DMRC Building, Almeri Gate, New Delhi-110002, Phone: +91-11-23232854, Fax: +91-11-23232835

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER
(RFP Notice No. RLDAR/PP/CD/19 of 2020)

GRANT OF LEASE FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON APPROX. 4000 SQM. OF RAILWAY LAND AT SAWAI MADHOPUR, RAJASTHAN FOR 45 YEARS

Site Description	Area	Built-Up Area	Bid Security	Reserve Price
Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan	4000 Sqm.	8000 Sqm.	Rs. 35.00 Lakh	Rs. 13.50 Crore

ONLINE PRE-BID MEETING ON WEBEX : 08th January 2021 AT 11:30 HRS
(Online Pre-bid meeting details to be obtained from Manager/Planning-I)

Last Date of Submission of E-bid Online : 11.02.2021 UPTO 15:00 HRS

For Further details of the project, please visit our website www.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in or on e-procurement Portal www.tenderwizard.com/RLDA Under the heading 'e-tender'

For any clarifications, may please contact :-

Manager/Planning-I	Chief Project Manager/Jaipur	Consultant - Mr. Ravi Chauhan	For E-bid Queries - Mr. Suraj
M: 99717 76230 mrgroup1@rlda.railnet.gov.in	M: 94140 41060 mlmeena68@gmail.com	M: 70420 00567 ravi.chauhan@ap.jll.com	M: 95996 53865 suraj@tenderwizard.com

Note:- Any Corrigendum or Addendum shall be published only on RLDAs Website DGM/Tender, (M) 77039 18078

UTTAR PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH

Letter No.: 9652/96 M-Bulandshahr Circle Date 24-12-2020

VERY SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Construction of Government Atal Residential School at Bulandshahr, (Uttar Pradesh), INDIA.

UPPWD on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh & as Executing Agency of Department of Labour Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for this Project, invites online bids for construction on Design, Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis from eligible bidders working in any central/ state departments or government/semi government undertakings or in private sector for building works through e-tendering from eligible contractors/firms in two bid system for the following work:

Name and Description of work	Estimated cost	Completion period of Work	Last date to fill/upload the bid through e-tendering	Cost of Bid Document	Bid/ Tender Fee	EMD/ Bid Security amount
Design, Engineering, Procurement and Construction on EPC basis of Atal Residential school at Bulandshahr (U.P.), INDIA	Rs.67.2279 Crore	12 Months plus Defect Liability Period of one year	11.01.2021 Upto 12:30 Noon	Rs. 35000 +GST	Rs. 300+ GST	Rs. 67.2279 Lakhs

♦ The bid document shall be available online from 05.01.2021 at 10:00 AM to 11.01.2021 at 12:30 P.M. & the last date of submission of bid document shall be 11.01.2021 upto 12:30 PM (Online). Opening of Technical Bid shall be 11.01.2021 at 03:00PM.

♦ Prebid conference will be held on date 05.01.2021 at 11:00 am in the office of Chief Engineer Building Cell, U.P.P.W.D., Lucknow, 96 MG Marg, Nirman Bhawan, Lucknow. The queries can be sent to mail ID - ee.cd2bsr@gmail.com. The bidder shall have to send the queries in both pdf format as well as word format.

♦ For submission & other tender details, please refer detailed NIT available on websites e-tender portal <https://www.etender.up.nic.in>. Other details are also available on UPPWD website <https://www.uppwd.gov.in> and Corrigendum / amendments etc., if any, will be notified on these websites only and separate advertisement will not be made for the same.

♦ UPPWD reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason or incurring any liability what so ever.

Executive Engineer **Superintending Engineer**
Construction Division-2 **Bulandshahr Circle,**
UPPWD, Bulandshahr **UP PWD, Bulandshahr**

U.P.: 158336, Date : 31.12.2020 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

बिहार सरकार

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमण्डल, बगहा

अतिअल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 02 एस्.बी.डी. / 2020-21
राष्ट्रीय स्पर्द्धा निविदा
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

1. कार्य का विवरण -

सुप. सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राककलित राशि (लाख रूप में)	अग्रघन की राशि रूप में (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) फिजिकल/ मैन्युअल मोड में मुगतेय)	परिमाण-विपत्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुगतेय) रूप में	बेल्डौन को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग फी (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुगतेय) रूप में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि / तिथि
1	गंडक नदी के बायें किनारे स्थित मंगलपुर, बगहा-2 के स्लोप एवं एरॉज के पुर्नस्थापन हेतु, कटाव निरोधक कार्य	263.05	526100.00	10000.00	3540.00	15-05-2021

2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक: 30.12.2020

3. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने की अवधि : दिनांक: 07.01.2021 से दिनांक-12.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक

4. प्री-बिड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक: 09.01.2021, 3.00 बजे अपराह्न में, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमण्डल, बगहा।

5. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 13.01.2021 समय 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

6. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक : 15.01.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

7. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर

9. निविदा की वैधता अवधि (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि से) : 120 दिन

10. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमण्डल, बगहा।

11. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं वेबसाइट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमण्डल, बगहा

PR. No. 010421 (WRD) 2020-21

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



■ What is your role in Coolie No 1?
I play Anjali, Sara's sister. Our father, played by Paresh Rawal, is looking for the richest of the

rich husbands for us. Then we go on a trip with Raju and then the entertainment follows. You will have to watch the film to know the rest of it.

■ What attracted you towards the role?
The fact that she was in the *Coolie No 1* and David Dhawan's universe and also that she dances on *Husnn Hai Suhaana*, one of my favourite songs.

■ Any memories from the sets?

I remember with *Husnn Hai Suhaana*, Varun kept changing the steps because we wanted to make it more fun and also because the song is so fantastic. I was nervous for the first 15 minutes and then I got into the nerve and gave my suggestions as well. It was a lot of fun shooting for that song,

it is like a dream come true moment for me.

Also, to get the chance to share the screen with people I have admired my whole life like Paresh Rawal, Johnny Lever, Jaaved Jaaferi and Rajpal Sir was epic. The final work with David Sir, who has collaborated with my father so many times, was just fantastic.

■ An advice given by your father that helped you on the way?

Yes, he has always been there to give me great advice, both of my parents have. He has always been supportive. He has always told me to have fun, keep your head down, keep working, make good friends while you are at it, don't take yourself too seriously and stay grounded. This is the blanket advice that he has always given me. For this film, he just told me to have fun and that's exactly what I did.

■ Has there been a role that you turned down?

I have always said no to a one

My father has always told me to have fun, keep your head down, keep working, make good friends while you are at it, don't take yourself too seriously and stay grounded. This is the blanket advice that he has always given me

dimensional character that was offered to me in the past quite a few times. It was of a fat girl and that's all that there was to the character. She is either hungry or horny. These characters just don't excite me as an actor and there's a lot more to me than just being a fat girl. This industry, by the way, has always been kind to me and I have been able to find opportunities that challenge me as an actor.

■ What has been your take away from the industry in all these years?
There are some great people around. Make the most of your time when you are on the sets of films, have fun, just observe people, take notes since there is so much to learn every second when you are here in the industry.

■ What's there in the pipeline?
All my attention is directed towards *Coolie No 1*. Also, there is some amazing work coming up. I am going back on stage and once the official announcements are made, I will let everyone know about it.

Talktime

SHIKHA TALSANIA

She always manages to charm the audience with her acting skills and she did the same in Coolie No 1 which recently released on Amazon Prime Video. The actor shares with Musba Hashmi what attracted her to play Anjali, fun memories from the sets and how she always says no to a one dimensional role

Ringling in new trends

The New Year has brought with it loads of hopes and optimism for a better future. SUNDAY PIONEER lists the trends in the different sectors that will rule the year

Get inked in style



to immortalise voices or your favourite tune through body art is the futuristic, latest invention in the world of tattooing.

Here's how it works: Record an audio clip between 5 to 30 seconds of your loved ones and send it to the guys at Devil'z Tattoo through Whatsapp or email. They will create a soundwave of that audio clip and ink it on your skin permanently which you can playback by scanning it with your mobile phone whenever you want to hear their precious voice.

Armband tattoos: Armband tattoos are for people who want very bold tattoos. While armband tattoos are popular among men, it has also gained a lot of female attention nowadays. Armbands are usually like a bracelet usually done on arms as the name itself suggests. They can be of different types — solid black or with a theme like tribal, mandala, polynesia, nature-related or space-related. An armband tattoo can look very cool and aesthetically pleasing without taking up too much space on the forearm or bicep.

Portrait tattoos: Mostly rendered in a realistic style that portrays a head shot of a person. Portrait tattoos are usually for tattoo lovers who want to memorialise an important figure or person. They typically represent something or someone extremely meaningful — could be of a loved one who recently passed away, a newly born baby, a pet or a favourite musician.

Minimal tattoos: "Less is more" is the word on the street. Too much makeup, too many accessories, loud clothing, etc. will be sure to lose just about anyone's attention. People simply don't have any clue where to look first. The same applies to tattoos. Often, it's the dainty tattoos that have a huge influence on your style. Want to convey across a powerful message in a subtle way? Then small tattoos characterized with clean lines are the way to go!

Minimalist tattoos: One kind of tattoos that are super discreet, incredibly detailed, pretty and aren't likely to date. That is why the millennials, especially women still haven't grown tired of the tiny trend.

Realism tattoo: Realism tattoos are characterized by maximizing the life-like quality of anything we see in the world- monuments, animals, flowers etc. It can also be categorized as a "3D" tattoo with accurate representations of real-life imagery. A realism tattoo done by an inexperienced artist or someone who hasn't trained in that particular style can be a disaster. But if done right, it will surely blow your mind. India's first Award-winning, internationally experienced artist, Lokesh Verma, Founder of Devil'z Tattoo is best known for his coloured realism and portraits style of tattooing that is mastered by only a few people across the world!

Sternum tattoos: Also known as chest or underboob tattoo, Sternum tattoo is considered among one of the best chest tattoo for women because it looks great aesthetically and gives a feminine feel.

Soundwave/talking tattoos: A new, revolutionary way

Decorate dreams



2020 has surely been the year of mostly staying indoors. While we were all left in our abode craving for comfort in every possible aspect, we ended up creating and reimagining the space around us in the most innovative and multifunctional manner. At some point, we turned our living space into a multipurpose office room and at other hand, our bedrooms were no less of a canvas.

Where we all have unprecedentedly turned ourselves into a decor expert, there are a few inculcated experiments that have earned the title of trends and shall stay with us in the new year too.

■ Multi-purpose furniture
A definite uptick and fascination with multi-purpose furniture pieces is already visible, and the trend is poised to get bigger in the coming year. Moreover, products

which can shapeshift — have different forms and sizes when in use and when not in use — are a hot favourite amongst urban dwellers as they seamlessly fit into compact houses and are a novel design trend, says Pritika Singh, Founder, Mohh, a contemporary furnishing brand.

■ Minimalism
Less is more is what we have learnt in 2020, creating a minimalist bedroom look has surfaced as a new trend especially when people are enjoying their work as well as new learnings in their bedrooms. Minimalism is all about following a style inspiration and theme while abiding the declutter game. Thus, 2021 will see a mixture of mood and preference. A subtle theme lover would definitely go for dark hues, textured, printed organic fabrics and while on the other side, the year will also witness bedrooms turned into an art using geometric and abstract prints, comments Rajiv Merchant, President Retail, Indo Count Industries Ltd

■ Light furniture and opulent elements
A wave towards lighter furniture — in weight and finish is also gaining traction as the younger audience is moving away from the traditional darker, heavier furniture which tends to look bulky and are looking for modular furniture with light finishes, particularly white, distressed whites etc, adds Pritika Singh, Founder Mohh. Lastly, we may also see more opulent elements such as wicker, inlay, gold and silver finishes make way into modern designs as it neatly ties together the old-time aesthetic sensibility with the need for modern designs as India's growing urban population, largely millennials, become the country's biggest consumer segment.

■ Growing and showing off greens
Spending more time indoors has let people turn their abode into a lush green place following the minimal trick. Thus, 2021 will see the range of innovative indoor planters, adds Pritika Singh, Founder, Mohh.



'I don't want to be labeled as party song singer'

AASTHA GILL recently released her latest track *Crazy lady*. The singer-songwriter speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about what the song is about and how from a journalist she went on to being a singer

■ What is your latest song about?
The song is about my own life experiences. It is important to be a bit crazy to make it big in life. I have been a crazy person when it comes to making decisions and breaking barriers. In this sense, it is important to be crazy and hence the title of the song as well.

■ From a Bachelor's in Journalism, how did you end up a singer?
It was a crazy decision on my part. One day I got a call from Raftaar *bhai* when I was working in advertising; a profession that I had decided to pursue. He asked me to reach the studio to dub my first Bollywood song. I took a leap of faith and left everything behind, didn't look back and got into singing.

■ Your father is a musician. What made you pursue journalism then?
I had seen my dad struggle as a musician. I had seen so many others in his field waiting for the correct opportunity. I, therefore, wanted a stable job. This was my outlook when I would talk about my career graph. I loved advertising; I had learnt graphic designing and getting into creatives. But I suppose destiny had something else in mind. When I got this opportunity to sing, I couldn't say no to it.

■ Did you train in music?
Yes, partially. I wanted to learn and follow music for myself. Hence learn piano till Class IV; I have learnt classical music and western as well. But this was on and off all through growing up.

■ How did you end up collaborating with Sony Music India?
I have been with them for the last six years; that is when I signed up with them. All my big projects have been on it; it is like family to me.

■ The year 2020 was tough for almost all artists. Was it the same for you?
Yes, it has been tough. We are used to travelling and going out and being out there in the world. It has been a draining — emotionally and financially. Most of our income is based on the live shows that we do. Doing these is still not back on track. But I tried and made use of this time to my advantage and reinvented myself; I started penning down songs and tried my hand at production too.

■ How did you get your first break?
The first was *Dhup Chik for Fugly*. Like I said, I got a call from Raftaar *bhai*. I was not sure if it was a Bollywood song. I was just an ordinary person doing my advertising job. I knew it is not easy to get a break into Bollywood. But this song just came my way. While the first break was easy, the struggle started after this. I left my job and it was a fresh start. I was clueless where to go and what to do. It was hard work to get my single debut released. *DJ Wale Babu* happened due to *Badshah bhai*. He was introduced to me by Raftaar *bhai*. *Abhi Toh Party*, I dubbed and started travelling with *Badshah bhaiyya*. The struggle was to do better. We tried cracking the benchmark and couldn't find anything. Then *Buzz* happened and it launched me as a solo pop singer.

■ Is this the reason behind *Crazy Lady* — to be at the top all the time?
I would not say I am at the top. I have still many miles to go before I am anywhere near the top. But yes, I am proud of this song because I have penned the song as well with Charan and Kamika.

■ What kind of music do you like to listen to?
I listen to all kinds of music — Punjabi, Hindi, Hip-hop, Blues, English and Bollywood. It completely depends on my mood. I draw my inspiration from whether people will be able to relate to the song we pen down.

■ What next?
I have a few collaborations that I am working on. I have a release lined-up. My next step is to explore genres and not be labeled as a party song singer.

A new year means new resolutions and a new outlook towards life, specifically your love life. And what better way to jumpstart your dating experiences than on the first Sunday of the year, popularly known as 'Dating Sunday'. This particular day is known to have the highest number of singletons looking for love or a fresh start in their love-lives! And 2021 will not be any different. Going by tradition, in 2020, OkCupid witnessed over 13 million new conversations during the first week of January around the world. The positive mood

It's a dating Sunday

continued through the month with over 54 million conversations during the entire month of January. This year, the international dating app is predicting upwards of 15 million new conversations on and around Dating Sunday. To make 2021 your year of love, OkCupid has shared the following simple tips to up your dating, particularly if you're looking for a meaningful relationship. So, get

online and get dating!
Update, Update, Update!
An estimated one in three dating app users don't update their dating app profile once they put it up - but if you add a new photo or a new story, most dating apps treat you like a new person and the algorithm kicks into gear, showing you to more people. People who complete their OkCupid profile get 200% more matches

Upload a variety of photos (more than just selfies!)
Share photos that show what makes you, you, whether about working in your make-shift office space at home or a recent hobby that you've taken up. Here's the secret — you want to make it easy for that other person out there to reach out about the photo. Photos that include animals are 3x more likely to get attention.

Show don't tell
Instead of describing yourself with a long list of adjectives, talk about the things you love and enjoy doing. If you love dogs; show a picture with you and Fido in the park; if you're an adrenaline junkie, mention the time you went skydiving; if you're funny describe the time you made everyone laugh with your maid of honor toast. OkCupid's essays are a perfect place to show potential matches with these aspects of yourself. **Send a meaningful message to initiate conversation**

While it is true that women are 2.5x more likely to get a response than men if they initiate the conversation. Men shouldn't lose heart. Look at a prospective match's profile and comment on something specific that you like. Keep it around 140 characters and please don't say "hey." Try to engage on a specific photo or question, such as "Pizza is the best food out there." And yes, saying "hey" in a first message is almost equivalent to saying nothing, this greeting has an 92% chance of being completely ignored.

2020 has been a year of cancelled trips and missed experiences. The New Year is here and we can't wait to talk about what is on the horizon. 2020 has been a year like no other and while much has been said about the adversity, positive news around the vaccine rollout has also uplifted spirits helping all see a glimmer of hope.

The pandemic has been a shape-shifting event when it comes to consumer behaviour and preferences. Sifting the travel search and booking data on MakeMyTrip over the last nine months, here are the definitive trends that will shape how Indians are going to travel, come 2021.

Revenge travel on bucket list: Revenge is a dish best served cold and after having been left out in the cold for almost one full year — expect travellers hit the road with a vengeance. Travel is on top of mind as people look at making a fresh start. Searches on our platform related to travel destinations and activities reaffirm that travel may have slowed down but travel planning has been on in full swing for travel dates as far out as fall of next year. People are going to spend time and effort planning their excursions for future travel in 2021 relying on platforms that provide treasure trove of information and booking choices.

Travel fresh and contactless

Rise of slow, immersive travel: The one thing that this year has taught us is to slow down and somewhat appreciate an unhurried life. So be it a workation, staycation or a weekend getaway, travellers are gravitating towards fuller and richer immersive travel experiences that allow them to connect, explore and unwind. More and more people will prefer travel that balances their itinerary with a languid pace affording them the time to explore more while eliminating the stress of rushing around many places to tick the boxes.

More takers for premium stays & non-hotels: Safety and hygiene have emerged as the new comfort and luxury in travel. The traditional in-stay checklist has now made way for questions like — does the stay ensure adequate social distancing, is there a private kitchen, can I have an extra room for help or support staff and so on. Post-COVID, travellers are looking for more control over their stay — leading many to opt for higher category hotels, premium homestays, independent villas and non-hotels that promise comfort of a vacation while meeting addi-



tional requirements. So, if in 2019, one in every two Indian traveller was thinking of booking an alternative accommodation property (results from the survey conducted by MakeMyTrip's

Consumer Insights team in October 2019), come 2021 more Indians than ever will be booking villas, homestays, vacation rentals and non-hotels for their travel.

Weekend getaways to become the new weekend goals: Urban Indians were just warming up to the idea of weekend breaks in recent years but the pandemic seems to have flipped the switch for good. More and more Indians have tasted the fun of quick getaways during the pandemic induced travel restrictions and this travel habit is all set to become the norm. On MakeMyTrip we have seen a 70 per cent recovery in the short-haul leisure travel segment.

Contactless travel a reality: Post the pandemic, the travel and hospitality industry has made significant efforts to boost confidence among travellers by making services contactless as far as possible.

From contactless check-in at airports and hotels; to ordering food and beverages and concierge services at hotels online, contactless offerings are becoming a norm more than an exception. In parallel, travellers are also warming up to the idea of using contactless services and also building appreciation for the tech-rich experiences that promise travel safety, upfront



I think it's a mistake when women cover their emotions to look tough. I say let's own who we are and use it as a strength
— Gal Gadot

the pioneer agenda

#BeTheBetterGuy

A Road Safety Initiative



FROM THE INSIDE

2

Tips to lead a successful life

Mindful decisions and action are the keys to a successful life. We list 10 things to give up in order to declutter your mind



4

Be ready to brave challenges

Pandemic apart, the country appears to be headed for challenging times in this year on other counts as well



NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI, the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, spoke to *Agenda* on a wide range of issues concerning his ministries and laid out the roadmap for developmental and economic recovery after COVID-19

BACK IN THE FAST LANE

In India, over 1,50,000 people died on the roads in 2019. While the number was less in 2020, owing largely to the Coronavirus pandemic, what, in your view, are the main reasons for such a high number of road deaths? Would you say that with the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, the situation has improved of late? Are people driving better?

It is indeed a matter of grave concern for the country. It is true that a lot many people die in India due to road accidents. In my view, there are four reasons for such high road deaths:

The first is poor road engineering — primarily wrong designs. We have identified these as “black spots”. So far, we have been able to fix nearly 1,200-1,250 black spots. There is still a list of about 3,000 black spots on the National Highways waiting to be fixed, and to improve those, we have made two policies/plans. A plan of ₹7,000 crore has been approved by Asian Development Bank and another ₹7,000 crore has been granted by the World Bank.

In this, the Indian Government will contribute 50 per cent. All of this money would be used to fix the black spots or the accident spots. For the new roads, care has been taken to incorporate the best road engineering, one that includes a lot of preventive measures. Underpasses, bridges and signals have been designed keeping in account multiple cross-sections of roads. We have studied this issue a lot and very carefully and improved upon it.

Two, after a road accident, immediate medical help is required. On this front, we have tried to provide medical vans immediately and saved several lives. Now we are trying to build helpads on road-sides (based on suggestions that this would expedite the help extended to the injured), so they can be shifted quickly to the hospitals and more lives can be saved. Emergency services certainly is the second most important aspect for us.

The third “issue” (if I may call it that) is that of education (or lack of it). It is important that proper education be imparted on the rules of the road. For this, beginning with the primary classes, we are trying to inculcate a sense of discipline and respect for the rules of the road in the younger generation.

Earlier, such messages were put across to people by way of inculcating fear of the law rather than respect for it. We have in the recent past roped in Bollywood celebrities such as Shah Rukh Khan and Akshay Kumar, to share the message of road safety and importance of following road rules. These campaigns were carried out on big platforms in order to widen their outreach and create more awareness among the masses.

The fourth aspect is enforcement. As you might be aware, for the first time, we studied the vehicle rules of seven-eight countries across the globe (with the help of the World Bank) and came up with a modern Act (which has since been ratified by Parliament). Owing to this, rigorous implementation of the laws and rules is being carried out, and we have incorporated an intelligent traffic system for road safety. For example, if a car crosses a red signal, the camera will immediately capture a photo and the fine slip would be sent directly to your house.

So while we are consistently working on all four aspects, I must share that much more is being thought of and planned at the Government level to make the roads safer for our public. We all are very sensitive to this issue. The number of fatalities in the age group of 18-35 is more than 60 per cent. By way of such accidents, we lose

Agenda Series

1

A direct and candid conversation with the changemakers and nation builders of India

about three per cent of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP). And this is no small number.

With help from the World Bank, Tamil Nadu's incumbent Government has done commendable work in this area and reduced the number of accidents and casualties by 25 per cent. However, one thing stands true: Due to Covid-19, the on-road traffic was light and, naturally, the number of accidents has reduced to a large extent.

Despite the current scenario, sincere attempts have been made in this direction by the Tamil Nadu and other State Governments in which the National Highways, state highways, district roads and city highways are under the scanner. We have started working on various projects at different levels to increase awareness. Recently, a road safety council was also set up. We are working on this very seriously.

We had set our sights on reducing accidents and deaths by 50 per cent in the next 30 years. I made this declaration in Stockholm, asserting India's commitment to make our roads safer and accident-free. We will definitely reduce accidents and deaths by 50 per cent before 2024. This is my belief. We and all other stakeholders are working very seriously and speedily to achieve this end.

Also, due to the new Act, the control over rule violators has increased. The punishments have become more severe, the amount of fines has increased and automobile engineering has also seen a lot of improvement. I have asked the automobile manufacturers to put in airbags even in economy models. Overall, I feel that the results in the forthcoming years will be good and we are sensitive towards this issue.

One of the best things to have happened is the help given to the Government by the media, both electronic and print, in spreading awareness and putting out the importance of this issue in the public domain. It has received good response, too.

Sir, you just spoke on need for better road safety education. Due to the pandemic, shared mobility services like Uber and Ola have been hit and various new drivers and aggregators have emerged. How do you plan to educate these people? Even in schools, do you think driving training should be given and included in the syllabus? How do you get the new drivers to follow it?

There is a shortage of about 22 lakh drivers in our country. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has also made some plans and policies, but there still remains a vast shortage of drivers. I have decided that I will not allow driverless cars to enter India because our country is poor and driving provides a source of employment.

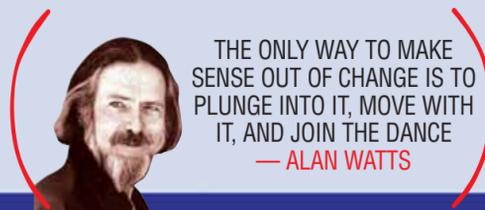
While on this issue, let me tell you that our plans were stayed by the Tamil Nadu High Court so we couldn't go ahead. There are about 100-150 driving schools in our country, whereas we need about 2,000 driving schools. These driving schools have to come up primarily not in big cities like Mumbai, Delhi or Pune but in tribal/backward areas where the socially and economically backward people live; places which are poor and aspiring districts, where there is no employment...

I am happy to announce that we now have a new plan. In this plan, there is provision for driving training schools. During my tenure, I aim to open at least 1,000 driving training schools across the country. We have already prepared a scheme for this. We will not only back every such school, we would also help set up new institutes, which would also provide the fitness and pollution certificates. To achieve that certain machines are also being procured. This is being done to lower the pollution levels on the one hand and to generate new employment even in the private sector, on the other. This is the attempt we are making and now the new rules will hasten the process.



SO FAR, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIX NEARLY 1,200-1,250 BLACK SPOTS. THERE IS STILL A LIST OF ABOUT 3,000 BLACK SPOTS ON THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS WAITING TO BE FIXED, AND TO IMPROVE THOSE, WE HAVE MADE TWO POLICIES/PLANS. A PLAN OF ₹7,000 CRORE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND ANOTHER ₹7,000 CRORE HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE WORLD BANK





FROM PAGE 1

BACK IN THE FAST LANE

The last question about road safety is that recently there was a lot of controversy about the Global NCAP test in which various popular cars failed but India's own manufactures — Mahindra and Tata — performed very well. As Bharat NCAP is set to start from this year, do you think the cars will now become safer and would you want to say anything about the Global NCAP results?

Here, I'd like to share that India's public transport system definitely needs to be strengthened. In our country, more than 18 crore vehicles have been registered. Given the growing number of cars owned per family, parking issues are increasingly growing, especially in the big cities.

So, we are trying to encourage people to switch to public transport by offering great connectivity (for instance, from Mumbai to Pune and Mumbai to Nashik). We also plan to introduce double-decker AC buses, with economy class at the lower level and executive class at the upper. Just as in flights, food and beverages will be provided on board and these buses will run on bio-fuel.

In some of the hill regions, besides ropeways and cable cars, funicular railways are being planned. These take less time to build and cause much less pollution. We are also making the E-highways electric. The Mumbai-Delhi highway is being built at a cost of ₹1 lakh crore and 30-40 per cent work has already been accomplished. This highway will be completed in about two years and people will be able to travel from one metro to the other in about 12 hours. A pilot project for this is in the works.

We are trying to introduce various innovative technologies. For instance, for the very first time in our country, we have initiated a project in Nagpur which has received approval from railways, the Maharashtra Government and the Urban Affairs Ministry. It is called Broad Gauge Metro. As against ₹350 crore per km that is being spent to build a Metro line, the Broad Gauge Metro would cost only ₹5 crore per km to build. We have made use of the existing broad gauge and made an eight-boxed Broad Gauge Metro which will run from Gondia to Nagpur, Nagpur to Amravati, Amravati to Narkhed and from Narkhed to Nagpur, then from Nagpur to Chandrapur to Ramtek.

This entire 850-900 km broad gauge line is being used to replace the standard gauge with eight-boxed broad gauge double-decker in which passengers can sit on both the upper and lower levels. It will have an AC first class chair car and a second class chair car. In addition, there will be one box for milk, fruits and vegetables and one box for restaurants. It will work just like an airline. This Broad Gauge Metro will travel at the speed of about 160km/hr as compared to our passenger car which has the speed of about 40km/hr and express which goes at 60km/hr.

To put it in straightforward terms, this Broad Gauge Metro will replace passenger cars on Delhi to Chandigarh and Delhi to Jaipur route and the travellers would be able to book a seat for themselves just as they do for airlines. This would fetch the Government good revenue and cut down on our losses, and people would be able to travel more comfortably. The dis-

ance of 250 km would be covered in two hours straight.

The Metro will stop at every station for about a minute and then quickly gain speed. This technology is also in place and we have worked a lot on it. Basically, public transport on electricity is much more beneficial for people from the perspectives of pollution, ticket cost and safety.

I would also like to share that recently, we made a *jalmarg* on River Ganga — from Varanasi to Haldia and from Prayagraj to Varanasi. And now we have given a proposal to the World Bank for a similar project on River Yamuna from Delhi to Mathura, Mathura to Agra, Agra to Etawah and from Etawah to Prayagraj. So if we go on water, decidedly public transport and waterways are the cheapest.

Here, I must share that I have fulfilled my promise as the Transport Minister to make airplanes land on water. An amphibious aircraft service has been launched in Gujarat which touches down both on water and land. The day is not far when such amphibious aircraft will start operating widely in our country.

Not just cars, scooters and buses, but new innovations have been devised comprising electric buses, trolley buses, double-decker buses, public transport running on electricity, Broad Gauge Metro, amphibious planes and suchlike to bring about a transport revolution. I am working hard with my team to bring about all the changes in the transport sector. Hundred new airports are being currently constructed; naturally dams will become water ports and rivers will be used to build a new network which will reduce accidents, pollution and expenditure while being sustainable and comfortable.

You have recently announced highway projects specific to the Northeast. Can you tell us a bit more about that connect in the remote areas?

In the Northeast, we are currently working on projects worth about ₹1 lakh crore. We are building six bridges on the Brahmaputra river and, in many places of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura, we have put in a lot of work to create good road network. India is changing and so is the Northeast. Even in Jammu & Kashmir, we are building tunnels at a cost of ₹11,000 crore. Work on Zoji La has started and the road to Mansarovar is almost 85 per cent complete.

There have been some issues regarding the Char Dham project following the Supreme Court verdict which I feel will be resolved soon. In the Northeast, we are making a number of bridges on the Brahmaputra river and several roads are coming up in the backward areas.

I am greatly inspired by a quote by American President John F Kennedy which states: "American roads are not good because America is rich, but America is rich because American roads are good." Roads bring prosperity and now Arunachal, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, all have good roads.

To move on to MSMEs, now that Aatmanirbhar Bharat being our big slogan, what plans or policies have been made to benefit the MSMEs in bringing in and conducting businesses?



The idea of *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* is that India must be turned into a happy, prosperous, strong and No. 1 global economy, and to do this we have to reduce our imports and increase our exports. We have to upgrade our technologies and our primary aim should be to prepare and produce in India whatever things we import today. Without compromising on the quality, we have to reduce the production costs, power costs, labour costs and logistic costs. These factors make for the basis of our work in sector.

The best example for this is that our automobile sector is in talks for electric cars, electric buses, electric two-wheelers, electric trucks, so slowly ethanol, methanol, biodiesel, bio CNG, electric, hydrogen fuels are coming into India and, through these, a major change is underway in the MSME sector.

I believe that in the future, we will definitely become a large exporting economy. The sector currently contributes 30 per cent to our GDP but we will soon increase that to about 40 per cent. Our country's total export owing to MSMEs is 48 per cent and we plan to increase that to 60 per cent. We have created 11 crore jobs in the past five years and we are attempting to create 5 crore new jobs.

Our village industry has a turnover of ₹80,000 crore and, in two years, we aim to increase it to ₹5 lakh

“OUR VILLAGE INDUSTRY HAS A TURNOVER OF ₹80,000 CRORE AND, IN TWO YEARS, WE AIM TO INCREASE IT TO ₹5 LAKH CRORE. FOR THIS, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED SECTORS, TOOL ROOMS, TECHNOLOGY CENTRES, NEW INNOVATIONS FOR SKILLED WORKERS AND DESIGNS. I BELIEVE THAT IN THE COMING TIMES, THIS SECTOR WILL BECOME THE BACKBONE OF DEVELOPMENT”

crore. For this we have identified sectors, tool rooms, technology centres, new innovations for skilled workers and designs. I believe that in the coming times, this sector will become the backbone of development and economy. And our attempts, including the packages handed out by the Prime Minister, will be used. I feel that positive results will be seen in the next two years.

In the interim, our GDP had fallen for a while but there has been a significant rise in this quarter and slowly there will be a rise in every quarter. Currently, due to Covid-19, we are in a lot of trouble, even our economy has faced a lot of challenges but soon we will defeat the virus and will be a developing economy going forward.

You have been talking about FDI which has also been affected by the pandemic. So is there a plan or policy in place to fix this?

On a large scale, we are trying to take MSMEs towards the stock market. We have done funding of ₹20,000 crore and the MSMEs which have a good turnover, which file income tax returns and have a good track record, besides maintaining a good bank and GST record, we will rate them and when they go to the capital market, they will be awarded with 15 per cent by the Indian Government. That is our policy and work has already started on this front.

In our country, insurance economy, pension economy and share economy is fairly lagging in comparison to the world, so if we go into stock market, it will really benefit the MSMEs. Besides, if the various MSMEs, which are earning profits and exporting material, go into the capital market, public money will definitely be involved. A very good aspect in all of it is that, now when we deposit money in the banks we get low interest, but we will slowly ask people to invest in MSME shares so that the share value increases along with the return value. With all these attempts, I am hopeful that a positive impact will be seen within a year.

A bit about the FASTag system that comes into place soon...

Till now, the FASTag system is about 75 per cent complete and from February 15, 2021, FASTag would be mandatory for all. Everyone would have to go through FASTag only, so there will be seamless traffic. In time, you won't even see toll booths, there will only be cameras which will scan your vehicle details when you enter. A photo will be clicked at the point of exit and that amount of toll will be deducted from your bank account. This entire system would be seamless and will be operative in the country in about two-three years. Soon, there will be no need to stop at the toll plazas.

There is a similar system in place in Portugal...that there is no stoppage, there is only a card reader, no need to pay so through this, will the efficiency also increase on the highways?

Our toll income has been ₹24,000 crore as of now. In spite of Covid-19 travel restrictions and other hiccups, our estimate is that it will go up to ₹34,000 crore. ₹10,000 crore would increase owing to the reduction in thefts and when this system will be 100 per cent operative in the next five years, the NH toll income will be more than ₹1 lakh crore. So this is a major positive change due to the digitised system; all thefts and loopholes will be eliminated and there will be a lot of benefits.

You spoke of intelligent traffic system among other things... What do you think would really improve through better technology, traffic behaviour and management?

Technology has the power to impact a lot of lives. What we do need to do is change people's mindset and behaviour. There has to be fear as well as respect towards the law and the law must be followed. For this, education not just in schools but also public education, is very important in which the road safety council would include NGOs, educational institutes, universities, newspaper organizations and the media.

With the help of all these, public campaigns will be launched to make people aware of both technology and changing people's mindset and behavior. Even students and children — basically all future citizens — are also being educated in this aspect. When all the stakeholders make positive attempts, only then will we get positive, foreign-like results.

Interview by Kushan Mitra & Navneet Mendiratta

10 THINGS TO GIVE UP FOR A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

Mindful decisions & action are the keys to a successful life, says SAMRIDH SETH, as he offers tips to declutter your mind

Procrastination is a trait that has been learnt by us due to technological advancements over the years. But in our pursuit for a stable, promising and illustrious life, moving ahead after shedding this quality is the only way out. Mindful decisions and action are the keys to a successful life. However, it is easier said than done. Certain challenges come in our way, of which some are dependent on the external factors while others are a part of our lifestyle. Using corrective measures to check certain practices that we follow would certainly help us lead a life that helps us be at peace. Listing 10 things that would certainly help you lead your life with much more clarity.

- **Day Dreaming:** Dream big and work big. But that excludes day dreaming. This process is both time consuming and emotionally draining. All you do with daydreaming is lose out on time that you could have spent working on your dream
- **Planning:** It is good to think ahead and be organised but to just keep



planning what is to be done can be time-consuming. Rather, focus on action.

- **Waiting for the right time:** There is never the right time and every time is right. Get up and start working on what you have in mind. Be it simple reading or a new project, just start working on it and things will start falling in place.
- **Dwelling in the past:** No point crying over spilt milk. Be here and now! The more time and energy you give to the past, the less you'll have to propel you into the future.
- **Final Destination:** It's the journey that matters more than the destination. There is always room for improving, learning, excelling as you go along!
- **Perfection:** Perfection is mere illusion. Give what you are doing your best ability, and then release it out into the world and see what happens. Perfection is a myth, it's only excellence what one can achieve.
- **Doubt:** Doubt and fear of failure only put you through self-criticism

and impact your growth adversely. Don't be afraid of the world out there, embrace it, it is your world too!

- **Overthinking:** It only creates anxiety in the mind. The mind starts exploring all the worst-case scenarios and builds up the adrenaline response (fight, flight or freeze) which we take as anxiety.
- **Comfort Zone:** Do not hesitate to explore something out of the box. Make the uncomfortable zone your comfort zone. You will come back richer in experience and wiser.
- **Blame game:** It is far easier to pin the blame on others than own up to one's faults. Own the mistake, understand where you went wrong and then learn and improve. Never commit the same mistake and don't hold others responsible for your wrong doing. Don't be afraid of failure. Take failure as the stepping stone for success.

The writer is the author of Past Dwellers

World is indebted to anti-terror hero Gen Soleimani

The year 2020 had just begun. While people were engaged in the New Year's celebrations, on January 3, the sad news of the assassination of Major General Qasem Soleimani, the great commander of anti-terrorism forces, shocked the world. US President Donald Trump's admission of this act of terror added to the global bewilderment.

Now, ahead of the first anniversary of the dastardly assassination of martyr General Soleimani and Arabaen or Chehellom (40 days following martyrdom) of martyr Professor Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, people in Iran and around the world are holding commemoration ceremonies to pay tribute to these late Iranian icons.

Respected both by friends and foes as a major military tactician, General Soleimani was the world's most talented military figure in the field of counter-terrorism.

For many people worldwide, General Qasem Soleimani was an anti-terror hero, who played a key role in defeating Daesh (ISIS) in Iraq and Syria. However, US President Donald Trump ordered his assassination in an air strike during his official visit to Baghdad and while being received by the Iraqi authorities at the International Baghdad Airport. This cowardly terror act was the biggest gift from the US to takfiri terrorism and its supporters.

General Soleimani had played a major role in defending the region against Daesh's terror campaign. As foreign-backed takfiri outfits raised their heads in 2014, the late commander emerged as a key strategist and ingenious commander leading Iranian military advisers assisting Syrian and Iraqi troops in battles against terrorists.

He assisted the Baghdad Government in operations to retake the strategic oil-rich city of Tikrit from Daesh in 2015. General Soleimani was on the front line of anti-terrorism operations, from Iraq's

Mosul to Syria's Aleppo. The General also took personal command of the battle against takfiri militants in the Syrian city of Bukamal, located in Dayr al-Zawr Province, in November 2017.

Finally, in November 2017, he declared the end of Daesh's territorial rule in a letter addressed to the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The late General's anti-terror drive was also beneficial for India's national interests. His efforts were key to the rescue of Indian nationals, including a group of 11 Indian nurses, trapped by Daesh in Iraq. In fact, from General Soleimani's point of view, terrorism recognises no religion or specific country and it may take victims from all corners of the world, irrespective of their religion, faith or nationality. For this great man, delivering relief and rescue to all people of the world by fighting against terrorism and extending support to victims of terror was a basic principle.

Martyr Soleimani had a humble and kind face in his encounter and interactions not only with military officers but also with the common people and that is why he was so popular with the people of region and many memorial functions were spontaneously erected to observe his martyrdom after his sudden demise. Inside Iran, in his farewell funeral, millions of people in different cities poured to the streets to attend this ceremony.

Martyr Professor Mohsen Fakhrizadeh had also an outstanding role in different peaceful scientific projects in Iran, the most recent example of which is the development of the first indigenous Covid-19 test kit and vaccine, which is a great contribution to Iran's national efforts in curbing the Covid-19 pandemic and production of its vaccine at a time when Iran is under the inhumane, unjust and unilaterally imposed sanctions by the United States.



The remains of a vehicle hit by missiles outside the Baghdad airport. The commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps, Maj Gen Qasem Soleimani (inset) was killed in the attack AP/File photo

These dastardly acts are committed against Iran which itself has so far been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism in order to establish and contribute to peace and stability in the region and the world and such acts are a flagrant violation of international rules and humanitarian principles. The US' criminal move to target General Soleimani has once again proved to the people of the world who is really backing the

terrorists and that the US definition of terrorism is defined by its self-interests and is rooted on double standards.

It goes without saying that had it not been for martyr Soleimani's valuable efforts, Daesh would have spread its rule of terror throughout a wider part of the region. Curbing of Daesh also prevented the takfiri terrorists from causing terror in other parts of the world, including South Asia. By

giving a severe blow to the foundation of Daesh, more recruitments for this terrorist group from other countries were also prevented.

To honour the memory of martyr General Soleimani and pay tribute to all scarifying their lives for the peace and tranquility in the region and beyond, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposes the following: designation of January 3 as "World Counter-Terrorism Day" by the

international community and dedicating an annual International Martyr Soleimani Award to the heroes of fighting with terror.

Last but not least, it is hoped that 2021 may be a year of peace, tranquility, health, prosperity and development for the people of our region and the entire world.

(The writer is the Ambassador of Iran to India)

Had it not been for martyr Soleimani's valuable efforts, ISIS would have spread its rule of terror throughout a wider part of the region. The late General's anti-terror drive was also beneficial for India's national interests. His efforts were key to the rescue of Indian nationals, including a group of 11 Indian nurses, trapped by ISIS terrorists in Iraq



ALI CHEGENI

PERSPECTIVE

A new global Britain post-Brexit

The United Kingdom (UK) has finally left the European Union (EU). The latest Brexit withdrawal agreement is officially titled the "Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community". This historic treaty was concluded between the EU, the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom) and the UK on January 24, 2020. The three main signatories of the agreement are: Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister of the UK, and Charles Michael and Ursula von der Leyen for the EU and the Euratom respectively.

It's a divorce, a bitter one, after four and a half years of hard bargaining accompanied by high-level diplomatic and political negotiations since June 23, 2016. The UK officially left the trading bloc on January 31, 2020, despite the EU being the nearest and largest trading partner. What the UK claims is that decades of tension with the neighbouring EU member-nations has been resolved amicably with a deal. Johnson said, "Having taken back the control of our money, our borders, our laws and our waters by leaving the European Union by January 31, we now seize this moment to forge a fantastic relationship with our European neighbours, based on free trade and friendly cooperation". Further he reiterated that "at the heart of this bill is one of the biggest free trade agreements in the world".

Now only time will tell whether the implementation of the deal has been fruitful, and what the UK could achieve from the dissociation from the trading bloc.



London after receiving the signature of EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels.

The lawmakers in the House of Commons voted 521-73 in favour of the agreement sealed between the UK and the EU a day before the Christmas eve.

However, the Europeans have lamented the departure of the UK from the EU. For them, this divorce will be too expensive and it might herald a doom for the country. It is bringing an end to the seamless trade and decades of partnership with the EU. But the vast majority of the MPs in the British Parliament voice that despite having all the odds ahead the post-Brexit, the current deal is much better than a chaotic rupture from the EU.

The EU claims it has respected the major red lines between both the signatories of the agreement. The EU has finally avoided the hard border

on the island of Ireland. Thus it has been able to preserve the four freedoms of its cherished "single market" which are free movement of goods, services, capital and people. The UK gets its zero tariffs, zero quota goods trade with the EU that finally prevents the European Court of Justice in settling any trade disputes. On fisheries, the EU has agreed to give up 25 per cent of its existing quotas in the UK waters for a transition period of five and a half years after which annual renegotiation will be initiated. However, the free movement of people will be hit the hardest ever.

How is Brexit affecting India's relations with the UK as well as the EU? En route to realise the vision of "Global Britain", the relationship between the UK and India is turning to be more complex. Considering the growing change in the traditional UK-India ties, then UK Prime Minister Theresa May had vis-

ited Delhi as early in November 2016. In 2016, the UK was the fifth largest export partner of India behind the US, the UAE, Hong Kong and China.

However, it accounted for only 3.3 per cent of total exports, valued at USD 8.66. Whereas India's exports to other European countries were almost 16 per cent in the year the Brexit referendum took place. And in the import zone, the UK is not a potential country for Indian goods. But the pragmatists say that much more than the formal export-import relations, overall bond between the two nations depends on investment from both the countries into each other and the level of shared innovation and research projects carried out by various entities in either of the nations.

By the end of the big deal signed between the EU and the UK, the bigger concern is whether it will end the special relationship between the two

The provisions relating to trade in the historic deal are almost entirely devoted to goods. This further implies that the agreement has hardly left any space for services which, in fact, consists of more than 80 per cent of Britain's economy. And interestingly, this is the fastest growing area of global exports.

The major concern is that the EU is yet to deliver an equivalence ruling for financial services regulation. Even if such regulation is declared, it can be withdrawn within a short span of 30 days notice period. The global and the European economic experts say that what is more urgently required is an EU data adequacy decision to allow free flow of data, which is there at the centre of cross-country or cross-border trade regimes across the globalised world.

Another sticky area which is missing in the deal is the mutual recognition of qualifications demanded for profes-

sional services in the EU member nations and the UK.

Besides, the new deal has nowhere mentioned anything related to foreign policy cooperation between the EU and the UK. It seems the current British Government has hardly paid any attention to building a more robust foreign policy dialogue with the EU in the near future. It has mentioned some provisions about domestic security but the experts feel that Britain will probably have not much leverage on its access to the EU security database and the Europol system of police like before. Once the deal is operationalised, the UK will lose its natural way of using the European Arrest Warrant (EAW). This arrest warrant is valid in all the member countries of the EU. Once such a warrant is issued, it demands other members to arrest and transfer a criminal or an offender to the issuing nation so that the detainee can be put on trial. Such a system of arrest helps fast-tracking the legal process and enhances mutual understanding and trust among the EU member countries. Now, of course, the UK will not have unhindered rights on this particular front.

Clearly, what comes into the immediate picture is the loss of free movement of the British citizens across the EU member nations. This deal will bring home some travel and work restrictions in the EU nations and the existing facilities in regard to health insurance and car insurance regime are likely to be over now.

Though some kinds of scientific and research collaborations will continue, what hits hard Britain is its immediate exclusion from the Galileo Satellite Positioning Network. Even the uncertainties hovering over the participation in the "Horizon Europe" research programme is bringing more disillusionment to the scientific fraternity of Britain. EU's next funding programme for research and innovation will

run from 2021 to 2027, covering a proposed budget of 100 billion Euros. The participation of the scientific community from Britain in this signature research project would have opened much more space for collaboration, innovation and trust building in future for an immediate help, on the event of any crisis situation.

Again, the British student community will also be dropped from the much-acclaimed student exchange programme, called Erasmus Programme (European Region Section Scheme for the Mobility of University Students). It is an EU-funded programme that organises student exchange across all the EU nations. Unlike the UK, Northern Island will have full access to the EU single market and to the Customs Union. Many experts opine that the customs and border checkpoints on the Irish Sea are going to become future bone of contention between Britain and Northern Ireland.

Are we all going to experience a "Global Britain"? Succinctly, Boris Johnson will find it too tough to craft a new role for Britain. It is better for him to sustain first as his country is badly affected by the Covid-19. Today Britain's economy is seriously paralysed. He must try bringing the country's economic powerhouse back on track. Besides, a pandemic, accompanied by a looming trade war between the US and China is disturbing the global power calculus. And it's going to continue.

"The destiny of this great country now resides firmly in our hands," Johnson said moments after the post-Brexit trade deal received the Royal Assent on December 31. It now depends on how the team Boris takes the UK forward. And as the UK started its long solitary journey on January 1, 2021, the future of the UK lies in the hands of the Britons.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

It now depends on how the team Boris takes the UK forward, without any hangover of the Brussels bureaucracy. And as the UK started its long solitary journey on January 1, 2021, the future of the UK lies in the hands of the Britons only



MAKHAN SAIKIA



IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, KINDNESS AND LIES ARE WORTH A THOUSAND TRUTHS — GRAHAM GREENE



YOUR YEAR AHEAD



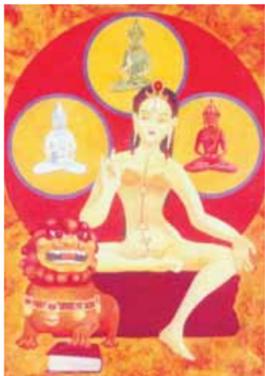
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This year you have a good chance of recovery from a prolonged illness. Your will power and strength will be high. Keep yourself hydrated and practice deep breathing and meditation to stay relaxed. Your professional life will be on the go. You will enjoy a friendly atmosphere at work. You will be efficient at organising and managing your team with outstanding productivity. You will get recognition and promotion for your hard work. The business owners will also enjoy the fruits of their labour. On the relationship front, those in committed relationships will spend jovial days with your partner and may take your bond to a next level by tying the knot. Singles are likely to turn to the person of their dreams.

Lucky Colours Indigo, Pink, Yellow
Lucky Numbers 2, 6, 23
Lucky Days Sunday, Thursday, Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This year your mental health will be somewhat disturbed. You may face emotional hurdles which may lead to anxiety and depression. Your stress will eventually start reflecting on your physical self. You need to express your feelings and follow guided meditation sessions. Professionally, your work life will not be smooth this year. You may face challenges and hurdles in completing your tasks. Those planning to start a new venture may get stuck while choosing a proposal. You may face some financial troubles. On the relationship front, you may have some complexities. Arguments with partner are foreseen. Be patient while handling complex issues. For those who are married, your partner may be too demanding and will ask for more time and attention.

Lucky Colours Peach, Green, Orange
Lucky Numbers 14, 18, 26
Lucky Days Monday, Tuesday, Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This year the health doesn't look too good for you. You may suffer from seasonal allergies and flu. It is advised not to take any self-medication as this will worsen up the situation. Practice deep breathing and meditation to relax. On the professional front, life may bring some struggles and challenges in this year. Office politics may cause anxiety. It is advised to keep a positive attitude despite all likelihoods, as this will help you to deal with the unfavourable circumstances. On the personal front, you are likely to face disagreement and conflicts with your partner. Singles, this is not a good time to get into a relationship. Tense moments are indicated between married couples. A simple conversation can resolve major issues in your relationship.

Lucky Colours Yellow, Brown, Off White
Lucky Numbers 7, 12, 13
Lucky Days Monday, Wednesday, Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This year the health may be delicate, especially for the females. Adopt a healthy lifestyle and follow exercise routines. Similarly, maintain emotional balance, as being over sensitive will disturb your peace of mind. On the career front, this year will be moderate for you. It is recommended that you do not make any hasty decisions and look into both positive as well as negative aspects of a thing. Your reasoning and analytical skills will bring fruitful results. Those who are planning to convert their hobbies into a profession, the time is favourable. Cash flow will be decent. On the relationship front, singles have some good news. This year will bring love and romance in your life. Those looking forward to getting married have a bright chance this new year.

Lucky Colours Orange, Purple, Sky Blue
Lucky Numbers 3, 6, 10
Lucky Days Tuesday, Thursday, Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Those with health issues will recover. Avoid oily and starchy food. Follow a balanced diet with lots of fresh fruits and vegetables and maintain your optimum weight. On the career front, this year will offer a learning face. You will put a lot of hard work and dedication into your work, which will bring you good results. You will get recognition and rewards for your best efforts. The businessmen will have a favourable year. You will be looking at expansion, besides pushing for new projects. The monetary aspect will be good. On the relationship front, those in a romantic relationship may have to put some efforts for the smooth running. Spend as much time with your partner and try to understand each others' needs and interest.

Lucky Colours Brown, Indigo, Green
Lucky Numbers 9, 12, 17
Lucky Days Friday, Saturday, Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This year health will be a cause of concern. Women may face hormonal disturbances. Those with a history of PCOS must consult a professional for treatment. Listen to your body. On the professional front, life will be monotonous this year. You may feel tired and stuck in your current work profile. It is advised to look for a switch for better opportunities. Be active in making decisions else you will find yourself stressed, and work will be burdensome. Investing in a speculative business is not advised as some losses are indicated. On the relationship front, you will have a good time. You will be emotional and over-sensitive during this period. Singles, getting into a sincere relationship will take some time. It is best to wait, than be sorry.

Lucky Colours Pastel Color, Magenta, Brown
Lucky Numbers 8, 18, 20
Lucky Days Wednesday, Friday, Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This year the health will be on the weaker side due to troublesome situations in your personal and professional life. Stay emotionally strong to avoid any major health concern. Practising yoga and meditation will be helpful. On the professional front, life will be slow and monotonous this year. You are advised to focus on your existing tasks as change may not be good. You will face obstacles in drawing out your payments in the business. Planning a budget and avoiding unproductive expenditure will make you financially stable. On the personal front, keep your temper in check and try to understand the feelings of your partner. Anger will upset your loved ones. Trusting each other is the key to building a strong bond.

Lucky Colours Parrot Green, Silver, Grey
Lucky Numbers 13, 15, 18
Lucky Days Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This year those suffering from health issues are likely to recover well. Consider traditional doctors and medicines for your wellness. For better results, follow Ayurveda. You can also include yoga and meditation to your regime for holistic healing. This year things will be overwhelming on the career front. Those in government jobs will earn a good reputation. Promotion to a new department or higher authority is predicted. Businessmen will gain a good name in their respective industry. The cards predict that this year will be auspicious for gaining name and fame on the work front for the natives. On the relationship front, the year is favourable. This year is also good in terms of attaining relationship goals. You will build a harmonising bond with your partner and plan your future together.

Lucky Colours Red, Mauve, Golden
Lucky Numbers 7, 20, 22
Lucky Days Monday, Saturday, Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your mental stress will be reflected in your body and may cause BP issues. Get a check-up done regularly. Do not take your health concerns casually. Meditate to relax your mind. On the career front, you may be unhappy with your office environment and hit a communication block. This will impact your work performance and cause stress. You may suffer unforeseen financial loss. You are advised not to make any new investment, whether in the form of assets or expansion of the property. On the personal front, the love life will also be affected due to your professional life. You will face conflicts with your partner. You are advised to take your relationship slow and keep your work-life stress away from your dear one.

Lucky Colours Green, Coral Blue, Indigo
Lucky Numbers 15, 23, 31
Lucky Days Tuesday, Thursday, Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This year recovery is on the cards. Those suffering from illness have a good chance to recover. You will be high in spirit and strength. This will motivate you to follow a good regime and lead a healthy lifestyle. Be cautious about what you eat, as you are likely to be prone to allergies. On the work front, you will get fruitful results. This year is good to bring success stories of your manifestation and goals. If planning to start a new venture or project, then time is auspicious for you. The card spread suggests that this year is for growth and abundance in terms of your professional life. On the relationship front, those in committed relationships will have a smooth year. You can also start something in a joint venture with your partner.

Lucky Colours Pink, Peach, White
Lucky Numbers 10, 11, 12
Lucky Days Monday, Tuesday, Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This year will be filled with vitality and positivity which will bring wellness. Take care of your eating habits; avoid oily and spicy foods. Putting some effort into your fitness routine which will help keep disease at bay. On the work front, this year will be good for the opportunist, as they will get several opportunities to acquire success. You will be full of enthusiasm and would be able to turn all the possibilities into fruitful results. The businessmen will get new projects and working professionals will get an environment to showcase their talents. The monetary gains from the endeavours will be good. On the personal front, relationship goals will be fulfilled. You will witness a time of great joy and happiness. Any conflicts of the past will be resolved in this year.

Lucky Colours Black, Gauge, Peach
Lucky Numbers 4, 11, 19
Lucky Days Thursday, Saturday, Sunday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This year you would be in the pink of health. Those with a prolonged illness may move towards recovery. You may get affected with seasonal cold and flu. You are advised to keep your water intake high. On the work front, life will be good if you work hard towards it. The cards indicate that you should keep your fear and insecurities aside and look upwards, as success is assured. Trust your instincts. The finances will be stable, however, do not make an impulsive decision on money. On the personal front, your love life will be exciting. Your relationship with your loved one will grow stronger with time. Singles will have a great time as they will meet the person of their dreams. You will figure out different aspects of love in your relationship.

Lucky Colours Grey, Red, Turquoise
Lucky Numbers 9, 19, 30
Lucky Days Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Be ready to brave challenges

I wish the valued readers a healthy and productive life ahead. This would be the obvious wish of all, given the devastating experience of the ongoing pandemic. It brought the usual run of life to almost a grinding halt for almost a year, with more than 79 million people affected and 1.7 million people dead. Thanks to improved medical facility, the damage could be contained at this level, unlike 1918-1920 pandemic, when 50 million people are said to have lost their lives. As already indicated in the opening issue of this column for 2020, line up of 7 planets on the Solar Eclipse axis on 26th December, 2019 hold the key to this happening. Amongst them, Saturn and Ketu, both carried killing instinct; expansive Jupiter multiplied it; and deadly Pluto made it a massive affair. Since no proven astrological indicators of pandemic was available, it could not be foreseen, but massive death was very much visualised. The big relief for India is that despite pandemic hitting USA and Europe hard, the curve seems to be flattening here. For, Saturn and Jupiter now passing through Capricorn sign, the one identified with India as a country, are progressively getting distanced from Pluto. By

January-end both Saturn and Jupiter will move more than 10 degrees away from killer Pluto, indicating downsizing of the pandemic effect. Yet, we can't afford to be complacent, given the cluster of 7 planets this time in Capricorn sign in the New Moon chart for 11th February, which is indicative of serious problems ahead. The effect of New Moon chart is ordinarily limited to a month. The point of relief, however, is that Pluto will be far behind other 6 planets. Coinciding with all these planetary developments is the development of vaccines, which should bring the pandemic under check. So, hopefully, the situation should be under control after March 2021. Pandemic apart, the country appears to be headed for challenging times ahead on other counts also. The conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Capricorn sign needs to be marked. The phenomenon termed as Great Mutation is usually indicative of major changes in terms of political and societal dynamics. This particular conjunction indicates intense societal churning, often leading to internal conflicts, rebellion, power struggles, public demonstrations, and economic recession. Jupiter and Saturn have been



together since 21st November 2020, which became exact on 21st December 2020. Both were then opposite natal Moon and Mercury in India's Independence chart. Moon the lord of 4th house in Independence chart signifies people in general, agriculture, land and estate and women in general. Saturn against Moon indicates people's discontent and distrust against government. All the more because in Independence chart progressed Saturn is bang on natal Sun. Saturn opposite Mercury implies fixated one track mind of the government as well as agitating people. Jupiter opposite Mercury may mean clash of perception. Also, policy flip flop may invite ire of the people in general. No wonder neither the agitating farmers nor the government seem to be budging. Youth agitation too is not ruled out. The intellectual circle will be at the receiving end. Trade and Commerce will not move as expected. Let us now look at other astrological pointers having related bearing on nation's course of life. The first to make note of is that progressed Mars is conjunct natal Saturn in Independence chart. It foretells serious security concerns within the country as also at the borders. There may be threat to the life of some of

our leaders also. In the New Year chart, Venus is conjunct Ketu in the 3rd house, also placed adverse to mischievous Neptune. It implies that the transport sector is not expected to come out of its mesh soon. Women's security will be a matter of concern. Nation's finance is not expected to be in good shape. The chart drawn at the time of solar ingress in Capricorn has a cluster of five planets — Sun, Moon, Saturn, Jupiter and Mercury — in Capricorn sign, all placed adverse to fiery Mars. That will further aggravate conflict. Also, there is possibility of terrorist strike, communal flare up, and financial trouble. There is a lunar eclipse due on 26th May 2021, which is happening in fixed sign. This read together with Saturn in the 4th house of eclipse chart, which is placed adverse to Uranus and Mars, is indicative of the possibility of Earth quake and cyclone causing lot of death. Benevolent Jupiter's presence in Capricorn, may however, minimise the damage. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025. Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273. Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com