

OPINION 6
A NEW
WORLD ORDER

WORLD 8
INDONESIA'S MERAPI VOLCANO SPEWS
HOT CLOUDS, 500 EVACUATED

SPORT 12
MAN CITY REACH
LEAGUE CUP FINAL

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Trump concedes defeat after Capitol siege

Supporters storm Capitol building in insurrection bid, clash with cops, 4 killed; after US Congress certifies Joe Biden-Kamala Harris' victory, Trump says there will be an orderly transition on Jan 20

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

In an unprecedented assault on democracy in the US, thousands of supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol building here and clashed with police, resulting in four deaths and interrupting a constitutional process by Congress to affirm the victory of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris in the election.

The Electoral College votes of Biden and Harris were finally approved early on Thursday after both the Senate and the House of Representatives rejected all objections raised by the Republicans to the votes in the States of Pennsylvania and Arizona.

In the presidential election held on November 3, Biden and Harris received 306 electoral votes, while President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence got 232. The counting of Vermont's three electoral votes put Biden and Harris over the 270-threshold needed to win the presidency.

In a statement released just after the certification was finalised, Trump at long last acknowledged his election loss. He said that even though he disagrees with the outcome,



Violent protesters, loyal to President Donald Trump, storm the Capitol on Wednesday

"there will be an orderly transition on January 20th."
"I have always said we would continue our... Fight to ensure that only legal votes

were counted. While this represents the end of the greatest first term in presidential history, it's only the beginning of our fight to Make America

Great Again!"
The 78-year-old Democratic leader and his 56-year-old Indian-origin deputy will be inaugurated on January

20, it was announced after the constitutional process was finally completed by a joint session of Congress.
In the violence on

Modi joins world leaders in decrying storming of Capitol

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday joined the world leaders in condemning the violence let loose by the US President Donald Trump's supporters and tweeted, "Orderly and peaceful transfer of power must continue. The democratic process cannot be allowed to be subverted through unlawful protests."

Spate of resignations in US after violence

Washington: US Deputy National Security Advisor Matt Pottinger, first lady Melania Trump's chief of staff Stephanie Grisham and White House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Matthews have resigned following the violence at the US Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump.



US Capitol Police with guns drawn stand near a barricaded door as protesters try to break into the House Chamber at the US Capitol on Wednesday

demonstrators being arrested, police said.
Metropolitan Police Department Chief Robert Contee called the rioting by pro-Trump demonstrators "shameful" during a news conference.

One woman was shot and killed by Capitol Police during the rioting. Police said three other people — a woman and two men — died after apparently suffering "separate medical emergencies" near the Capitol grounds.

The joint session of Congress, which is normally a ceremonial step, was halted for several hours when sup-

porters of Trump breached the Capitol. Proceedings resumed and continued through the night after the building was cleared. Vice President Pence brought the Senate session back into order and proceeded with the verification process.

"The announcement of the state of the vote by the President of the Senate shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons elected President and Vice President of the United States, each for the term beginning on the 20th day of January 2021..." Pence said following the count of all of the state's Electoral College votes.

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Covid-hit GDP to contract by record 7.7%, reports NSO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's GDP is estimated to contract by a record 7.7 per cent during 2020-21 as the Covid-19 pandemic severely hit the key manufacturing and services segments, as per Government projections released on Thursday.

Amid overall decline in economic activities, some respite was provided by the agriculture sector and utility services like power and gas supply, which have been projected to post positive growth during the current fiscal ending March 2021.

"Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices (2011-12) in the year 2020-21 is likely to attain a level of ₹134.40 lakh crore, as against the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2019-20 of ₹145.66 lakh crore..."

"The growth in real GDP during 2020-21 is estimated at -7.7 per cent as compared to the growth rate of 4.2 per cent in 2019-20," said the first advanced estimates of nation-

al income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The contraction in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), however, would not be as steep as projected by certain international agencies like the IMF and World Bank.

NSO also estimates the Real Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices at ₹123.39 lakh crore in 2020-21, as against Rs 133.01 lakh crore in 2019-20, showing a contraction of 7.2 per cent. GVA does not factor in net taxes.

GVA in the key manufacturing sector is likely to see a contraction of 9.4 per cent during 2020-21 as compared to a flat growth of 0.03 per cent in the year ago period.

"Mining and quarrying," and "trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting" GVAs are likely to contract by 12.4 per cent and 21.4 per cent, respectively, said the first advanced estimates of the NSO.

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Farmers display determination in tractor rallies

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Thousands of farmers on Thursday hit the road at Singhu, Tikri, Ghazipur and Rewasan borders of Delhi, taking out tractor rallies to escalate agitation against the new farm laws.

The farmers said their march on Thursday is just a rehearsal for their proposed January 26 tractor parade during which they will attempt to move into the national Capital from different parts of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

The tractor march started from four different points — Singhu to Tikri Border, Tikri to Kundli, Ghazipur to Palwal and Rewasan to Palwal. As the march started from all borders, the protest sites wore a deserted look.

From Ghazipur border, Rakesh Tikait, the spokesperson of Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) lead the rally in which there were around 500 tractors, some cars and bike. With Punjabi songs and slogans, farmers on tractors started their rallies around 11 am.

Meanwhile, the crowd thinned at the Singhu Border, the main protest site, but life continued as usual.

Langars kept dishing out



Farmers shout slogans as they take out a tractor rally in a protest march against new farm laws at Western Peripheral Expressway in Kundli, Sonapat, on Thursday

meals, and medical camps distributed medicines to all those who stayed back, particularly the elderly and the women.

Logs for bonfire have been brought in huge quantities to keep people warm in the chilling temperature.

Meanwhile, the KMP expressway was dotted with tractors and farmers the whole day. Several protesters lined on the route to provide fellow farmers with all kinds of supplies, including peanuts, tea, and newspapers.

Joginder Singh Ugrahan,

president of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan), whose union is one of the largest farmer organisations in Punjab, claimed farmers participated in the march with over 3,500 tractors and trolleys. He said they will not accept anything less than the repeal of the three farm laws.

Yogendra Yadav on Thursday claimed people are still joining the protest in a large number and it will be intensified in coming days.

"Today's tractor rally was just a trailer for the

Government. Around 5,000 tractors were there today in the tractor march. If the Government does not repeal these laws till January 26, we will enter Delhi on our tractors," said Yadav.

"Women are also joining the protest and they have also come forward to hold one day hunger strike against the Centre's new farm laws. On Thursday, 11 women whose husband died during the protest sat on one day hunger strike," said Yadav.

"We are the sons of soil. If the laws are passed, we will starve to death. This rally is our way of telling the Government that we will not give up unless it gives in to our demands," said Jaspal Singh Deol from Punjab's Chamkaur Sahib.

The eighth round of talks between protesting unions and the Central Government is scheduled to be held on Friday.

Following the tractor rally call, the Delhi, Gurugram and Uttar Pradesh (UP) police tightened its security along the borders. The police also diverted routes and closed the KMP expressway for commuters for a few hours which led to traffic jams at several places.

Braving severe cold and sporadic rain, the farmers have been camping at Delhi borders.

Apex court fears about protesters' exposure to Covid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed concern over large gatherings of farmers protesting against the new farm laws at Delhi borders and drew a parallel with Tablighi Jamaat congregation at Nizamuddin Markaz.

The top court was hearing a plea seeking various reliefs including CBI probe into the matter related to assembly of people at Anand Vihar Bus Terminal and the Tablighi Jamaat congregation at Nizamuddin Markaz in the national Capital after the nationwide lockdown was announced last year to contain the pandemic.

"The same problem is going to arise in farmers' agitation. I do not know if farmers are protected from Covid. So, the same problem is going to arise. It is not that everything is over," said Chief Justice SA Bobde, heading a Bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

The court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, whether protesting farmers are protected from Covid-19. Mehta replied, "certainly not."

Mehta said he will file a report within two weeks on what has been done and what needs to be done.

The plea, filed by lawyer Supriya Pandita, alleged that the Delhi Police had failed to control the congregation of people and the Nizamuddin Markaz chief Maulana Saad was still evading arrest.

Advocate Om Prakash Parihar, appearing for the petitioner, said no statement has been made by the Centre about the whereabouts of Saad.

The SC told Parihar, "Why are you interested in one person? We are on the issue of Covid. Why do you want controversy? We are interested that Covid guidelines should be there."

The SC issued notice in the matter after which Mehta said he will file a report.

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CAPSULE

BUDAUN RAPE-MURDER MAIN ACCUSED NABBED

Budaun (UP): The fugitive main accused of the brutal gangrape and murder of a 50-year-old woman in Budaun district was nabbed late on Thursday, the District Magistrate told the PTI. Two of his accomplices were arrested on Tuesday. Earlier on Thursday, a member of the National Commission for Women said the crime could have been avoided if the victim had not gone out in the evening.

MIGRANT WORKER, FAMILY FOUND DEAD

Udhagamandalam: A migrant tea estate worker from Jharkhand, his wife and two children were found dead near Coonoor in Nilgiris district on Thursday. It is suspected Ashok Bhagat might have killed his wife and children before killing himself due to a family dispute. The incident came to light when neighbours noticed the front door of the house not opened till noon, they said.

25,800 volunteers enrol for Covaxin Ph-3 trials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Biotech on Thursday announced "successful completion" of volunteer enrolment for Phase-3 clinical trials of its indigenously manufactured Covid-19 vaccine "Covaxin."

"Covaxin successfully completes Phase 3 clinical trials enrolment of 25,800 volunteers," informed Suchitra Ella, Joint Managing Director, Bharat Biotech International Limited.

"We sincerely express our gratitude to clinical trial sites, principle investigators & healthcare workers for their relentless support and trust in our public-private partnership vaccine discovery. My deep appreciation to all the volunteers for reposing trust and expressing pro vaccine public health volunteerism in the



phase-3 clinical trials of India's fully indigenous Covid-19 vaccine," she added.

The announcement came days after the Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer announced successful recruitment of 23,000 volunteers and continued progress towards achieving the goal of 26,000 participants for the phase 3 trial of its coronavirus vaccine candidate Covaxin in India.

Continued on Page 2

Be poised to receive Covid shots shortly: Govt to States, UTs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day before the second nationwide vaccine dry run scheduled on Friday, the Centre asked the States and UTs to remain prepared to receive the first supply of Covid-19 vaccines shortly. 41 destinations across India have been finalised for the delivery of Covid-19 vaccines.

A battery of 1,70,000 vaccinators and 3,00,000 vaccination team members have been trained to administer the doses, once the date for mega vaccination drive is announced, which is likely to be any time soon.

The Centre has also drawn up a detailed draft for the air transportation of Covid-19

vaccines and their movement across different parts of the country. "For vaccine transportation across the country, a common draft has been made and shared with stakeholders. The transportation of vaccines is likely to begin by today or tomorrow," said sources in the Union Health Ministry.

Pune had been chosen as the central hub for Covid-19 vaccine distribution where passenger aircraft will be permitted to transport doses in the hold of the carrier. The Centre has formed mini-hubs across the country for the transportation of the vaccine and a total of 41 destinations (airports) have been finalised for their delivery, the sources said.

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JEE Advanced 75% eligibility criterion scrapped, to be held on July 3

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Thursday announced the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2021 examination date and the eligibility criteria for admission into Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) on Thursday. The exam will be held on July 3 while the 75 per cent eligibility criteria will not be applicable this year.

"JEE-Advanced will be conducted by IIT Kharagpur on July 3. The relaxation in admission requirement of 75 per cent marks in Class 12 which was announced last year in view of Covid-19 pandemic will be offered this year as well," Nishank said.

Masood Azhar to go to jail for terror financing

Lahore: In a significant development, an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Thursday issued an arrest warrant for banned Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar on the charges of terror financing.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Gujranwala issued the warrant during a hearing in a terror financing case instituted by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police against some members of the JeM.

"ATC Gujranwala judge Natasha Naseem Supra issued an arrest warrant for Masood Azhar and directed the CTD to arrest him and present him in the court. The CTD told the judge the JeM chief was involved in terror financing and selling jihadi literature," an official told PTI.

He said the ATC judge issued the arrest warrant for



Azhar on the request of a CTD inspector.

Azhar is believed to be hiding in a "safe place" in his native town — Bahawalpur.

Following the Palwama terror attack in February 2019 in India, Pakistan's Punjab province police had launched a crackdown on terrorism financing and in this connection arrested six activists of the JeM in Gujranwala, some 130kms from Lahore.

Continued on Page 2

Woman sets dad on fire for objecting to her affair

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman allegedly set her father ablaze after he objected to her relationship with a local resident. The 55-year-old man was set afire in Wazirganj area of Budaun on Wednesday. He was admitted to a hospital where his condition was said to be critical.

There were reports that the woman was helped by other members of her family. The case came to light when an unidentified man contacted the police and informed them that a man had set himself on fire. The victim was identified as Mohammed Aamir, a resident of Hatra village in Wazirganj. He works as a marginal farmer and has two daughters and a son. A team of police went to

the spot and saw the man lying on the floor having suffered 50 per cent burn burns. The police rushed the man to the district hospital where he was battling for his life. His statement was recorded after preliminary treatment was administered to him.

"My daughter is having an affair with a local man and when I objected to it, she, with the help of my son and wife and nephew, set me afire after pouring petrol on me. They all wanted to kill me," Aamir alleged.

Additional SP (Rural) Siddharth Verma said they have not received any complaint in the matter and no case has been registered so far. "However, we are looking out for the accused," he said. Doctors monitoring

Aamir's condition said he is stable but needs constant medical attention.

Meanwhile, in Firozabad, mutilated headless body of an unidentified man was found lying in Ramnagar village of Shikohabad police station area on Thursday. The incident came to light when villagers going to their fields found the headless body. The deceased was said to be in his late 20's.

On being informed, police said that apparently, the man was killed elsewhere and the body dumped there. SP Rajesh Kumar, who also visited the spot, claimed that they were trying to locate the head so that the victim could be identified. A case was registered and the body was sent for autopsy while further probe was underway.

Sonu Sood illegally turned residential building into hotel: Mumbai civic body

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has lodged a police complaint against Bollywood actor Sonu Sood, alleging that he has converted a residential building in Juhu into a hotel without permission, a police official said on Thursday.

Sood, however, denied any irregularities.

The K-West ward of the BMC filed the complaint at Juhu Police Station on Monday, the official said.

BMC's junior engineer from K-West ward Mandar Wakankar filed the written complaint against Sood and his wife Sonali for alleged unauthorised addition/alteration and unauthorised change of user from residential to residential hotel building without

taking sanction from the authorities.

Vishwas Mote, assistant municipal commissioner of K-West ward, said the complaint was filed for alleged violation of the provisions of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (MRTP) Act.

However, in a statement issued on Thursday, Sood said that had "taken approval" for the change of user (of the land) from the civic body.

He also said that he would appeal against the BMC's complaint against him in the Bombay High Court.

In the two-page complaint letter, the BMC alleged that the actor did not take any permission from the authorities before carrying out the structural changes in Shakti Sagar, a residential building in Juhu's A B Nair Road.

Jaishankar discusses role of provincial councils with Tamil leaders in Lanka

PTI ■ COLOMBO

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday met the Tamil leadership in Sri Lanka and discussed issues pertaining to the development and devolution and the role of provincial councils as part of national reconciliation.

The meeting assumed significance in the backdrop of moves by the ruling Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) allies to mount a public campaign for abolition of the country's provincial council system. The SLPP's Sinhala majority hardliners have been advocating a total abolition of the provincial council system established in 1987. There are nine provincial councils in Lanka.

"Glad to meet the TNA delegation led by Thiru Sampanthan. Discussed issues pertaining to development & devolution and the role of

Provincial Councils," Jaishankar tweeted after the meeting. Tamil National Alliance (TNA) is the main Tamil party in the island nation.

Jaishankar also met a delegation of the Tamil Progressive Alliance.

"Pleased to meet the TPA delegation. Appreciate their positive sentiments about our development programmes. This will remain an important facet of India's commitment," he tweeted.

Jaishankar is on a three-day visit to Lanka from January 5-7 on the invitation of Lanka foreign minister Dinesh Gunawardena. It is his first overseas visit of the year.

On Wednesday, Jaishankar spoke on the need to ensure aspirations of the minority Tamils are addressed within a united Sri Lanka.

Addressing a joint media

interaction with Gunawardena, he underlined India's backing for Lanka's reconciliation process and an "inclusive political outlook" that encourages ethnic harmony.

"As we promote peace and well-being in the region, India has been strongly committed to the unity, stability and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. Our support for the reconciliation process in Sri Lanka is longstanding, as indeed for an inclusive political outlook that encourages ethnic harmony," Jaishankar said.

"It is in Sri Lanka's own interest that the expectations of the Tamil people for equality, justice, peace and dignity within a united Sri Lanka are fulfilled. That applies equally to the commitments made by the Sri Lankan government on meaningful devolution, including the 13th Amendment to the Constitution," he added.

NCW team meets kin of gangrape-murder victim in Budaun

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A two-member team of the National Commission for Women on Thursday met the family of the 50-year-old woman, who was allegedly gangraped and murdered in Budaun. Interestingly, as the NCW team was at the house of the victim, the wife and daughter of one of the accused sought to meet the visiting delegation. The NCW team also investigated the crime scene. The government and the state administration has already come in for sharp criticism from the opposition parties.

Chandramukhi Devi, one of the members of the Central team, told a news agency that she was not satisfied with the role of the police in the incident. If the police had shown swiftness in the case, they could have saved the victim," she said after her visit to the spot.

Before paying a visit to the victim's family, the team also had a meeting with the SSP and went through the details of the incident. The wife and daughter of the accused, Jashpal, demanded justice, claiming that he is innocent.

"My husband got a call that there was a patient and he went to do his job. He came to know about the case later," Jashpal's wife claimed. She alleged that he was being framed in the case.

NALCO to invest ₹30K cr for expansion, business diversification: Minister

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

It is indeed commendable that NALCO, which started with a modest investment way back in 1981 continues its leadership position with excellent performance for more than four decades. Forty glorious years of sustainable growth reflects the fact that NALCO has matured in the business cycle and now exponential growth and expansion will take this CPSE to the next level of business excellence," said Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal & Mines while addressing the 41st Foundation Day celebrations of the Company, on Thursday in Bhubaneswar.

"The ₹30,000 crore expansion plan of NALCO, spread

over the next 7-8 years will include the expansion of its refinery by one million tonne capacity, adding 3.5 million tonne capacity Pottangi bauxite mines and operationalisation of Utkal D & E Coal Blocks. Further to this, enhancement of aluminium smelting capacity by 0.5 million tonne and Captive Power Plant by another approximately 1200 MW through brownfield expansions at Angul district of Odisha has been envisaged in this growth plan," he added.

The Union Minister appreciated the dedication, hard work of the management and employees for continuing their efforts for optimising production and productivity, particularly during the last few months.

Masood...

From Page 1

The CTD said its teams raided the whereabouts of the JeM's "safe house" and arrested its members - Muhammad Afzal, Muhammad Amir, Allah Ditta, Muhammad Iftikhar, Muhammad Ajmal and Muhammad Bilal Makki -- and recovered lakhs of rupees from their possession.

"The suspects were collecting funds to finance activities of JeM. The chargesheet against them has been submitted to the Anti-Terrorism Court Gujranwala and they are being interrogated," the CTD said.

Following immense international pressure after the Pulwama attack, the Pakistan government had arrested over 100 members of banned militant outfits including the JeM chief's son and brother. The government also took control of the JeM, Mumbai terror attack mastermind Haifiz Saeed's Jamaat-ud-Dawah (Jd) and Falahai Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) properties including seminaries and mosques across the country.

JeM had claimed responsibility for the Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF soldiers.

Pakistan's Punjab government claimed to have taken over the administrative control of the JeM headquarters - comprising Madressatul Sabir and Jama-e-Masjid Subhanallah -- in Bahawalpur.

According to the government, some 600 students are studying there and none of them is associated with any banned outfit or involved in any terror activity. In May 2019, the United Nations designated Azhar a "global terrorist" after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist the Pakistan-based JeM chief, a decade after New Delhi approached the world body for the first time on the issue.

The UN committee listed Azhar on May 1, 2019 as being associated with Al-Qaeda for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of, or in support of," "supplying, selling or transferring arms and related material to," "recruiting

for," "otherwise supporting acts or activities of," and "other acts or activities indicating association with" the JeM.

Azhar is a fugitive released by India in exchange of passengers of the hijacked Indian Airlines plane IC-814 in 1999.

After his release in 1999, Azhar formed the Jaish-e-Mohammed and scripted many audacious terror strikes in India.

On February 26, 2019 India had launched air strikes on what was said to be JeM's biggest training camp in Pakistan's Balakot. 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.

Be poised to...

From Page 1

For North India, Delhi and Karnal will be the mini-hubs. While Kolkata and Guwahati have been chosen as mini-hubs for the eastern part of the country and Chennai and Hyderabad are the designated points for the southern region. Meanwhile, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Thursday in a meeting with the Health Ministers of all States and Union territories (UTs) said that coronavirus vaccines -- Covishield and Covaxin -- are on the verge of being available in the country. "Our efforts are to ensure seamless last-mile delivery of the vaccine," he added. He urged the States to be prepared and stop any misinformation campaigns. "In a massive country-wide exercise, another mock drill on Covid-19 vaccine administration to be conducted in all States & UTs on January 8, 2021. Around 1.7 lakh vaccinators & 3 lakh vaccination team members trained in vaccine administration," the Minister tweeted. In a communique, the Ministry said

vaccine will be supplied to the identified consignee points of 19 States and Union Territories -- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal -- by the supplier. The vaccine for remaining 18 States and Union territories -- Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand -- will be received from their respective Government medical store depts. "All the States and UTs are likely to receive the first supply of Covid-19 vaccine shortly. "In this regard, you are requested to ensure the advance preparation and readiness for the acceptance of forthcoming supply of the vaccine," Dr Pradeep Halder, adviser, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) in the Health Ministry, said in the letter.

Apex court fears...

From Page 1

The Centre had on June 5 last year told the top court that probe into the assembly of people at Anand Vihar Bus Terminal in east Delhi during the nationwide lockdown and the Tablighi Jamaat event is being conducted on a day-to-day basis by the Delhi Police and there was no need for CBI investigation.

Ahead of the Centre-

farmer talks on January 8, the farmers on Thursday held a "tractor march" along the borders of the national Capital amid tight security.

The farmers called it a "rehearsal" for January 26 and warned the Central Government that they will further intensify their stir if the farm laws are not revoked and assurance on minimum support price (MSP) is given.

Trump concedes...

From Page 1

Earlier on Wednesday, thousands of angry supporters of Trump swarmed over the US Capitol, forcing lawmakers to evacuate their chambers and delaying by several hours a normally routine procedure clearing the way for Biden and Harris to be sworn in as president and vice president.

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced after hours of chaos around the white-columned edifice that police had secured the building.

"Today, a shameful assault was made on our democracy," Pelosi said. "It was anointed at the highest level of government. It cannot, however, deter us from our responsibility to validate the election of Joe Biden," she said.

Amidst the violence Biden said he was shocked and sad to see the US has "come to such a dark moment".

"At this hour, our democracy is under unprecedented assault. Unlike anything we've seen in modern times. An assault on the citadel of liber-

ty, the Capitol itself. An assault on the people's representatives and the Capitol Hill police, sworn to protect them. And the public servants who work at the heart of our Republic..." he said in an address to the nation.

"Let me be very clear. The scenes of chaos at the Capitol do not reflect a true America. Do not represent who we are. What we're seeing are a small number of extremists dedicated to lawlessness. This is not dissent. It's disorder. It's chaos. It borders on sedition. And it must end now," Biden said.

"I call on President Trump to go on national television now to fulfill his oath and defend the Constitution by demanding an end to this siege," he said.

Harris also demanded an end to the assault on the US Capitol by the supporters of Trump.

"I join President-elect Joe Biden in calling for the assault on the Capitol and our nation's public servants to end, and as he said, "allow the work of democracy to go forward";

Harris said in a tweet.

Trump has refused to concede the election. He alleges that there was a massive voters' fraud and electoral malpractice. Election officials have denied the allegations.

All four living former US presidents -- Barack Obama, George W Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter -- condemned the actions of the pro-Trump rioters who forced an evacuation of the House and Senate chambers of the US Capitol and underlined the need for a peaceful transfer of power.

Meanwhile, in an unprecedented move, Twitter and Facebook suspended Trump's accounts after he continued to push conspiracy theories about the election.

Twitter suspended Trump's account for 12 hours and also blocked three of his tweets including a video of his address to his supporters.

Facebook said it would be blocking the president's account from posting for 24 hours due to two policy violations.

25,800 volunteers...

From Page 1

In a statement, Bharat Biotech said that the Phase III human clinical trials of Covaxin began in mid-November. It is also the largest phase III efficacy trial ever conducted for any vaccine in the country. On January 3, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had approved Oxford Covid-19 vaccine Covishield, manufactured by the Serum Institute, and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for restricted emergency use in the country, paving the way for a massive inoculation drive. The phase one

and two clinical trials on 375 and 380 participants respectively revealed very low adverse events, ICMR chief Dr Balram Bhargava said, adding, "It showed neutralising antibody responses equivalent to human convalescent serum, strong antibody responses to all structural proteins... three months after vaccination." Industry experts and some Opposition leaders have expressed concern over the absence of Phase 3 trial data on Covaxin. The critics have cautioned that "sleazebagging" processes and giving "premature" clearance could risk lives and fuel vaccine hesitancy in India.

Covid-hit GDP to contract...

From Page 1

The construction sector too is projected to contract by 12.6 per cent, "public administration, defence and other services" by 3.7 per cent, and "financial, real estate, and professional services" by 0.8 per cent, as per the data. On the other hand, "agriculture, forestry and fishing" sector has been projected to grow at 3.4 per cent during the fiscal. The sector had posted a growth of 4 per cent in 2019-20. Similarly, "electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services" is likely to post a growth of 2.7 per cent during the year ending March 2021.

This compares with 4.1 per cent expansion during 2019-20. The economy contracted by a massive 23.9 per cent in the first quarter and 7.5 per cent in the second quarter on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government has been stressing that economic activities are picking up post gradual unlocking of the economy and stimulus packages, and the country would witness a V-shaped growth.

The country's monetary authority, the RBI, had said the second half of the fiscal is expected to show some positive growth. RBI has forecasted real GDP growth at (-) 7.5 per cent in 2020-21, which is an improvement over its previous projection of 9.5 per cent contraction. The World Bank in its latest Global Economic Prospects estimated India's economy to contract by 9.6 per cent in the fiscal year 2020-21, reflecting a sharp drop in household spending and private investment. The growth is expected to recover to 5.4 per cent in 2021, it said.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's economy is projected to contract by 10.3 per cent this year and likely to bounce back with an impressive expansion of 8.8 per cent next year. Moody's Investors Service had recently upped the growth forecast to (-) 10.6 per cent, from its earlier estimate of (-) 11.5 per cent, saying the latest stimulus prioritises manufacturing and job creation and shifts focus to longer-term growth. NSO said in wake of the pandemic, the data challenges in the case of other underlying macroeconomic indicators like the IIP and CPI used in the estimation of National Accounts aggregates, will also have implications on these estimates. Further, the projected indices may significantly vary from the actual indices which in turn will depend on the pandemic-led economic situation prevalent during those months and specific measures, if any, taken by the government, it said.

"Estimates are therefore likely to undergo sharp revisions for the aforesaid causes in due course, as per the release calendar," it added. The per capita net national income (NNI) at current prices is estimated at Rs 1,26,968, showing a contraction of 5.4 per cent, as compared to Rs 1,34,226 during 2019-20 with a growth rate of 6.1 per cent. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) at current prices is estimated at Rs 47,23 lakh crore in 2020-21 as against Rs 54.72 lakh crore in 2019-20. At constant (2011-12) prices, the GFCF is estimated at Rs 37.07 lakh crore in 2020-21 as against Rs 43.34 lakh crore in 2019-20.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
 Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (U.P.)
 Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
 E-Tender are invited from firms / contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com and https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A1	22/CGM/SM/(WC-1)/2020-21, Name of work: M/o Drain (C/o Drain Along between Road Sector-4 & 9), Noida. Cost: Rs. 67.40 Lac
2	23/CGM/SM/(WC-1)/2020-21, Name of work: D/o Village (Renovation of Community Center in front and Hall Painting, Tile Work in Village Harola Sector-5), Noida. Cost: Rs. 40.42 Lac

Which can be uploaded by date 21.01.2021 upto 5.00 pm. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date 22.01.2021 at 11.00 am.

B1	65/NOIDA/GM/SM/(WC-9)/ET/2020-21, Name of work: D/o Sector-94A (M/o Different Work at Animal Shelter in Sector-94A), Noida. Cost: Rs. 51.21 Lac
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Which can be uploaded by date 14.01.2021 upto 5.00 pm. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date 15.01.2021 at 11.00 am.

Chief General Manager
 Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

South Africa to get 1.5 m Covid-19 vaccines from India

Johannesburg: South Africa will receive one million Covid-19 vaccines from the Pune-based Serum Institute of India this month, followed by an additional 5,00,000 doses in February, the health minister told Parliament on Thursday.

Drug major AstraZeneca has partnered with the Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, for the supply of the vaccine to the Indian Government and also to a large number of low and middle-income countries. **PTI**

कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी जिला दतिया (म.प्र.)

क्र./निविदा/2020-21/84 दतिया, दिनांक 04.01.2021

संक्षिप्त विज्ञप्ति

ऑनलाईन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना / 2020-21 (अनुबंध दिनांक से एक वर्ष हेतु)

जिला दतिया में स्वास्थ्य विभाग (कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी दतिया) के अर्नागत वर्ष 2020-21 में अनुबंध दिनांक से एक वर्ष हेतु वार्षिक द अनुबंध किये जाने हेतु विभिन्न प्रकार की निविदाएँ (1-मैडिसिन, 2-मटेरियल, सूचक, सर्जिकल एवं ड्रग्स 3-स्टेशनरी, प्रिंटिंग, 4-भोजन व्यवस्था) आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदाएँ प्रणाली आधारित म.प्र. शासन द्वारा संचालित ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा-प्रपत्र ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर नियत दिनांक से डाउनलोड किया जा सकेगा एवं ऑनलाईन नियत दिनांक से ऑनलाईन निर्धारित शुल्क ऑनलाईन जमा कर निविदाएँ क्रय की जावेंगी। विभिन्न प्रकार की निविदाओं के संबंध में निविदा नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में वर्णित रहेंगी।

ऑनलाईन निविदाओं का विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

Sl No.	Online Tender ID	Tender Description	Online Tender Fees	Publishing date	Download /Sale started date	Prebid Meeting Date	Submission started date	Submission End date	Technical Bid opening date
1	2021 DHS 122051	MEDICINE	500.00+ Processing fees + GST applicable	20.01.2021 At 12:00 PM	21.01.2021 At 10:30 AM	30.01.2021 At 15:00 PM	01.02.2021 At 10:30 AM	10.02.2021 At 17:30 PM	11.02.2021 At 13:00 PM
2	2021 DHS 122053	MATERIAL, SUTURES, SURGICALS & INSTRUMENTS	500.00+ Processing fees + GST applicable	20.01.2021 At 12:00 PM	21.01.2021 At 10:30 AM	30.01.2021 At 15:00 PM	01.02.2021 At 10:30 AM	10.02.2021 At 17:30 PM	11.02.2021 At 13:00 PM
3	2021 DHS 122055	STATIONARY & PRINTING	500.00+ Processing fees + GST applicable	20.01.2021 At 12:00 PM	21.01.2021 At 10:30 AM	30.01.2021 At 15:00 PM	01.02.2021 At 10:30 AM	10.02.2021 At 17:30 PM	11.02.2021 At 13:00 PM
4	2021 DHS 122054	FOOD FACILITY FOR TRAINING & OTHERS	500.00+ Processing fees + GST applicable	20.01.2021 At 12:00 PM	21.01.2021 At 10:30 AM	30.01.2021 At 15:00 PM	01.02.2021 At 10:30 AM	10.02.2021 At 17:30 PM	11.02.2021 At 13:00 PM

नोट:- 1- निविदाओं में किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन आवश्यक होने पर ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर अपनोड किया जावेगा। इसकी पृथक से (ई-मेल /पत्र के माध्यम से) सूचना प्रसारित नहीं की जावेगी निविदाकार द्वारा स्वयं की ई-टेंडरिंग लॉगिन आईडी के माध्यम से संबंधित निविदा में संशोधन को देखा जा सकेगा।

2- निविदाएँ ऑनलाईन ही मान्य की जावेंगी।

3- निविदाओं के संबंध में नियत दिनांकों में निविदाओं की कार्यवाही पूर्ण न होने पर अथवा शासकीय अवकाश होने की स्थिति में आगामी कार्य दिवस में निविदा प्रक्रिया की कार्यवाही पूर्ण की जावेगी।

मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी
 जिला-दतिया (म.प्र.)

G-17444/20 **जब तक कोरोना की दवाई नहीं, तब तक हिलाई नहीं।**

FARMERS' TRACTOR MARCH

Security beefed up along borders

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI /GHAZIABAD

Following the tractor march by the farmers on Thursday, security was tightened by the Delhi Police and its counterparts in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh (UP) police on the borders.

and administration were on alert and during the march officials including IG Praveen Kumar, District Magistrate (DM) Ajay Shankar Pandey, SSP Kalanidhi Naithani took stock of the situation on the National Highway.

A large number of police forces were also deployed at the highway and Ghazipur border.

Following the march, there was a long queue of vehicles from Dasna road, which leads to Eastern Peripheral expressway to Ghaziabad

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police also tightened its noose across the National Capital borders. In a series of tweets, Delhi Traffic Police had said that Singhu, Auchandi, Piau

Maniyari, Saboli and Mangesh borders were closed for traffic movement. "Please take an alternate route via Lampur Safiabab, Palla & Singhu school toll tax borders. Traffic has been diverted from Mukarba & GTK Road. Please avoid Outer Ring Road, GTK Road & NH-44," 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, Bhopra & Loni Borders," the traffic police said.

It said Tikri and Dhansa borders are also closed for traffic movement.

"Jhatikara Border is open only for LMV (Cars/Light Motor Vehicles), two wheelers and pedestrian movement," another tweet read.

According to the traffic police, people travelling to Haryana can take the routes via Jharoda (only single carriage-way), Daurala, Kapashera, Badusarai, Rajokri NH-8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahe borders.



Ranjani Dimri | Pioneer

Govt orders reopening of medical colleges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With less numbers of Covid-19 cases being reported in the city, the Delhi Government on Thursday ordered reopening of medical colleges, however physical classes will resume in a phased manner for different academic batches, the official order said.

The medical institutions, include the Maulana Azad Medical College attached to the LNJP Hospital and the University College of Medical Sciences linked to the GTB Hospital, are closed since March in view of the Covid.

"Consequent upon the reduction in the number of COVID-19 cases reported in the NCT of Delhi and after assessing the current situation, the re-opening of the medical colleges under GNCT of Delhi are hereby ordered with immediate effect by observing distancing and SOPs (standard operating procedures) issued after the lockdown due to COVID-19," the order read further issued on January 6.

Extend ban on UK flights till January 31: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the "extremely serious" Covid situation in the United Kingdom (UK), the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday urged the Centre to extend the ban on flights between India and the UK till January 31.

"The Centre has decided to lift the ban and start UK flights. In view of the extremely serious situation in the UK, I would urge the central government to extend the ban till January 31," Kejriwal said on Twitter.

"With great difficulty, people have brought COVID situation under control. The UK's COVID situation is very serious. Now, why lift the ban and expose our people to risk?" the chief minister said.

India had suspended all passenger flights connecting the two countries from December 23 to January 7 as a new and more contagious variant of the coronavirus emerged in the UK.

Nine residents of the national capital have so far been found infected with the new coronavirus variant.



So far, 66 people, including those who recently returned from the UK and their contacts, have tested positive for coronavirus. Most of them have been kept in a separate isolation facility at the LNJP Hospital here.

Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had said on Saturday flights from India to the UK will resume from January 6, while services from that country to here would resume January 8 onwards.

Puri had tweeted, "30 flights will operate every week. 15 each by Indian & UK carriers.

This schedule is valid till 23 Jan 2021. Further frequency will be determined after review".

According to the standard operating procedures issued by the health ministry, all passengers coming from the UK between January 8 and January 30 would be subjected to self-paid COVID-19 tests on arrival.

Moreover, each passenger arriving from the UK would have to bring his or her COVID-19 negative report from a test done 72 hours prior to the journey, it said.

Prevent spread of bird flu in city: Sisodia to officials

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has directed the officials to take strict precautionary measures to prevent the spread of avian bird flu infection in the National Capital.

In a meeting held with officials of the Animal Husbandry unit in the Delhi Secretariat on Thursday, the deputy CM also reviewed the preparedness in this regard.

Sisodia directed intensive monitoring across Delhi and to also make strict 'dos and don'ts' guidelines to be immediately implemented across city's poultry marketplaces. He also directed the officials to carry out large scale sample collection and ensure frequent reporting of the same.

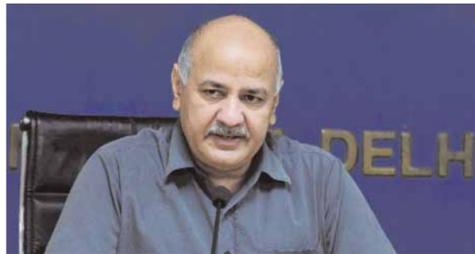
According to officials, not a single case of positive bird flu has been reported in Delhi so far.



"On 28 October 2020, the Delhi Government issued an alert to all doctors and concerned people of the state and issued a directive to monitor bird flu. Following this, on January 4, 2021, a guideline was issued to all the doctors to continue their regular sample collection and its strict monitoring. Apart from this, health

checkup and monitoring of ducks is also being done in various water bodies in the city," he said.

"The doctors of all 48 Veterinary Hospitals of the Department of Development, Animal Husbandry Unit of Delhi Government are continuously monitoring bird flu across the state. Also, 11 rapid



response teams have been formed which are regularly collecting samples," said the official.

"So far, more than 100 samples have been collected and sent to the designated lab in Jalandhar. The report is expected by Monday," he said.

In the meeting, Sisodia also directed the officials to keep a close watch on the poultry birds coming in from neighbouring states. He also instructed them to keep a close

watch on the birds at major bird sites, especially poultry markets, water bodies, zoos among other potential hotspots.

These include Ghazipur Fish and Poultry Market, Shakti Sthal Lake, Sanjay Lake, Bhalswa Horseshoe Lake, Delhi Zoo, and smaller water bodies in DDA parks among others. Sisodia directed them to monitor the sample collection from all such areas on a regular basis and send in frequent reports.

AAP demands fresh MCD polls, accuses BJP of mishandling

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for having failed in running Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCDs), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday demanded to conduct fresh elections in the three MCDs.

Saurabh Bhardwaj, the spokesperson of AAP said that during the 2017 MCD election campaign then Delhi BJP President Manoj Tiwari promised that there will be no scarcity of money in MCD because the BJP will directly bring funds from the central government.

He said that Tiwari misled the people of Delhi by making false promises and did not bring a single penny from the centre, he should resign from the post of the MP.

Bhardwaj said that the BJP got exposed and their lies along with their corruption also got exposed in MCD but they have no sense of accountability at all.

He said that despite getting the full amount from the Arvind Kejriwal government, increasing the house tax and many other taxes also the BJP ruled MCD claims that they do not have any money to pay the salaries of the employees.

Bhardwaj said that the employees of the BJP ruled MCD are protesting at the Civic Centre demanding the immediate release of their pending salaries.

"The employees MCD have not received their salary for the last several months. They are continuously demanding that the BJP and the officials of the MCD should immediately release these pending salaries. The doctors, nurses, medical officials, teachers, sanitation workers and others who have worked in the time of COVID-19 pandemic relentlessly but have not received their salaries. The situation has become the same as it was five years back," said Bhardwaj.

"The AAP demands that the BJP should immediately dissolve the MCD and leave. The AAP also demands that the BJP should hold a new election for the MCD. There are thousands of corruption charges against the BJP ruled MCD but the BJP does not even bother to answer any of the allegations. The AAP demands and believes that the BJP should dissolve the MCD so that the citizens of Delhi get a chance to elect good people to govern the MCD," said Bhardwaj.

Yash Garg appointed G'gram Deputy Commissioner

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Haryana Government appointed Yash Garg as the new Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Gurugram. The newly appointed DC joined his office on Thursday.

He has replaced Amit Khatri, who had earlier applied for study leave which the government has approved. Tuesday was the last official working day for Khatri.

Earlier, Garg, a native of Sonapat district, was posted as Municipal Commissioner in Faridabad from 2019.

Garg, holds an MBBS degree from Maulana Azad Medical College and has worked as a junior resident doctor at Lok Nayak Hospital in Delhi. He was ranked sixth in the Union Public Service Commission examination in 2009.

A 2009 batch IAS officer, Yash Garg was deputy commissioner of Rohtak in 2018

and Rewari in 2017. Garg was deputed as additional deputy commissioner and CEO of District Rural Development Agency in Kurukshetra and Jind before 2017.

After taking charge as Deputy Commissioner in Gurugram, Garg said that his focus on health and education will remain as he believes that healthy health of all citizens is essential for building a healthy 21st century India.

"This is possible only when every person is serious about health and taking care of the health of himself and his family, as well as to make people health conscious in their neighborhood. To remain healthy, the first need is cleanliness, so the cooperation of all is necessary to maintain cleanliness," he said.

The DC also asserted that education is a necessary and basic part in the civic society. The importance of education increases even more, so I would like that no child of the district

should be left without education, he said.

Referring to his priorities, he also said that after health and education, attention will be given to water conservation. As Garg said, according to the report of Central Ground Water Authority, Gurugram district falls in the dark zone in terms of ground water level. Therefore, everyone needs to work together to improve ground water level.

Apart from this the DC said, efforts will be made to complete the development activities in the district within the stipulated time period by establishing better coordination between all Government departments in Gurugram.

"For proper and coordinated development of the district, good coordination between all government departments is necessary, only then the projects can be completed in a time bound manner," Garg said.

Man stabs constable on duty, injured cop's bullet hits assailant

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi Police constable was severely injured after a man allegedly attacked him with a knife in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar area on Wednesday.

According to a senior police official, the incident took place when constable Mukesh and his colleague Deepak, both posted at Tilak Nagar police station, were on checking duty in the Chaukhandi area.

"Around 7.30 pm, a person, identified as Sagar, declared as a 'bad character' of Tilak Nagar police station, arrived at the spot and allegedly attacked Mukesh with a knife and stabbed him in the right hand and left abdomen," said the senior police official.

"The accused also tried to snatch Mukesh's service pistol. However, Mukesh, in self-



defense, fired shots in the air. A bullet "accidentally" hit Sagar. Sagar was taken to a nearby hospital and his condition is stated to be stable," he said.

"Constable Mukesh is being treated for grievous injuries at a hospital. Sagar had been released on bail around 15 days ago and has been previously found involved in cases of robbery and cases under the arms act," said the senior police official.

Legal action is being taken, police said, adding further investigation is underway.



Plan prepared to prevent frothing in Yamuna

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has prepared a nine-point action plan to prevent frothing in the Yamuna due to the discharge of untreated sewage in the river.

The plan, approved by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), lays down targets to be achieved by various agencies, including the Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Development Authority and municipal corporations, to prevent the discharge of untreated wastewater in the river.

According to the plan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh has been asked to upgrade their sewage treatment plants (STPs) to standards prescribed by the DPCC for treating the wastewater entering the

Yamuna through Najafgarh drain and Hindon cut canal.

Untreated sewage entering the Yamuna from Haryana and UP has on multiple occasions led to an increase in ammonia levels in the river water, affecting drinking water supply in the national capital, according to the DJB.

As per the plan, the UP Irrigation Department has been tasked with removing water hyacinths in the Okhla barrage by March 31.

The decomposition of water hyacinths releases surfactants like phosphates, which leads to frothing.

The DJB has to connect all unauthorized colonies and settlements to its sewerage system by December 31 next year.

Till then, the utility has to ensure that the sewage and sep-

tic tank waste from such colonies is collected and transported to sewage pumping stations and sewage treatment plants by authorized vendors - which is an ongoing exercise.

The water utility has to upgrade its existing STPs to meet the prescribed standards of the DPCC by the end of next year.

The construction of new STPs at Coronation Pillar and Okhla has to be completed by June 30, 2021 and December 31, 2022, respectively.

The two STPs will be able to treat 70 MGD and 124 MGD (million gallons of wastewater per day), respectively.

All drain-owning agencies, including DJB, DDA, MCDs and PWD, have to impose environmental compensation of Rs 50,000 on those who

dump solid waste and sewage into the drains.

The DDA has to remove all encroachments, including dhobi ghats if any, from the Yamuna floodplains by March 31, according to the action plan.

"Foam formation in the Yamuna is due to the presence of phosphates and surfactants in the river. Foam is produced when organic matter decomposes and releases fatty acids that act as surfactants or surface active agents," the plan document read.

The major sources of phosphates and surfactants is the untreated sewage from unauthorized colonies without a functional sewer system and the wastewater coming into the Yamuna from Haryana (into Najafgarh drain) and UP (into

Hindon cut canal), it said.

The phosphoric compounds get settled in the river bed. On the release of water from a barrage or reservoir, these compounds get agitated, leading to frothing.



Check Haryana's action of releasing dirty water into Yamuna: Chadha

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Vice Chairman of Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Raghav Chadha, on Thursday appealed to Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to rein in Haryana Government's

repeated action of releasing dirty water into River Yamuna.

Chadha also released a video detailing Rohtak X-Regulator's polluted condition, which is a result of the Haryana Government releasing untreated effluents, with ammonia levels increasing to 40 parts per million (ppm).

"As per our latest survey of the Rohtak X-regulator, it was observed not only has the water turned a dirty green, but the ammonia levels have risen to an alarming 40 ppm. We would like to bring this to the immediate attention of Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat," said Chadha.

"Such alarming levels of ammonia are extremely dangerous and will compel us to shut down our plants, which will have a subsequent impact on the water supply in Delhi,"

said Chadha.

Apart from Rohtak X-Regulator, the Delhi Jal Board's team also surveyed Barota Village and DD-8 at Piao Manihari, and the ammonia levels were found to be at 6 ppm and 3 ppm respectively. It is pertinent to note that DD-8 supplies water to Delhi from Haryana.

Chadha said, "We request the Haryana government to take urgent cognisance of, and immediate steps to curb the release of untreated effluents into River Yamuna."

"The water received at Delhi should be ammonia free, but the release of untreated water on behalf of the Haryana government leads to an increase in ammonia levels, following which Delhi is compelled to shutdown its plants," Chadha said.

PNB SCAM

Nirav Modi's sister Purvi, her husband turn approver



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

PNB Bank fraud mastermind Nirav Modi's sister Purvi Modi, alias Purvi Mehta, and her husband Maiank Mehta have turned approver in the case and also agreed to assist the authorities in realising and repatriating various assets in India and abroad worth ₹579 crore to the Government of India. These assets are in Purvi Modi's name or in the names of companies owned by her.

"They filed an application before the Special (PMLA) Court, Mumbai for allowing them to seek pardon under Section 306 and 307 of Criminal Procedure Code and undertook to make true and full disclosure of the circumstances and events without concealing any evidence and provide complete documents. Purvi Modi has also agreed to assist in realising and repatriating various assets in India and abroad totalling to ₹579 crore to the Government of India," the ED said in a statement.

These assets include one residential flat in (Breach Candy) Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai worth ₹19.5 crores, two flats in Central Park South, New York, NY in the name of a Trust worth US\$ 4,995,000 (Equivalent to ₹36.52 crore),



one unit at Central Park South, New York, NY in the name of a Trust worth US\$ 25,000,000 (Equivalent to ₹182.82 crores) and a Bank Account in Switzerland in the name of Purvi Deepak Modi with a balance of CHF 20,201,500.00 (Equivalent to ₹168.08 crores) and another bank account in Switzerland whose beneficial owner is Purvi Modi and it has a balance of CHF 13,009,200.00 (equivalent to ₹108.23 crore). Other assets are a flat at Marylebone Road, London, NW15PL, UK, Worth GBP 6,250,000 (equivalent to 62.1 crores), a bank account in Syndicate Bank, Nariman Point, Mumbai in the name of Purvi Modi with a balance of ₹1.96 crores.

Prosecution Complaints (chargesheets) were filed by ED before the Special PMLA Court against Purvi Modi, Maiank Mehta and others in the Nirav Modi Bank Fraud case, the ED said.

"Investigation under PMLA revealed that Purvi Modi has more than a dozen bank accounts and has ownership of various companies/Trusts abroad. Vide their statements and their submissions before the Adjudicating Authority, Purvi Modi and Maiank Mehta have categorically stated that all the companies, properties and accounts mentioned in the Prosecution Complaints (Except Pavillion Point Corporation) belongs to Nirav Modi. She gave her willingness to offer all cooperation to repatriate the assets to India," it said.

Both of the accused stated that the funds channelised through their accounts were belonging to Nirav Modi and on Nirav Modi's insistence, it said.

The Special Court has allowed for grant of pardon under Sections 306 and 307 of Cr.P.C., on condition of making full and true disclosure and further allowed that the accused shall be marked as approver in this case. The court further directed that the applicant-accused shall appear before the Court by returning to India, for which purpose the complainant-prosecution shall facilitate the approach of accused at earliest, and shall take suitable steps accordingly. Further investigation in the case is in progress, it added.

NIA conducts searches in J&K, Punjab in narco-terror case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted searches at six locations, five in Jammu district and one in Tarn-Taran district of Punjab, in connection with investigation of a narco-terror module related to seizure of about 61 kg heroin along with arms and ammunitions on September 20 last year at the international border at Arnia, Jammu.

The searches were conducted at the residences of six accused persons— Jasraj Singh, Sham Lal, Bishan Dass, Ajeet Kumar, Gurbaksh Singh and Gurpartap Singh.

"These accused persons were arrested for hatching a criminal conspiracy for carrying out anti-national and unlawful activities, and to help the terrorist organisations by collecting funds and channelizing the proceeds of the activities of such terrorist organisations like Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)," the NIA said in a statement.

Gurpartap Singh of Tarn-Taran district of Punjab is the kingpin of this module. In the second week of September, 2020, Gurpartap Singh had received 10 kg heroin from Pakistan-based handlers through his associates. The consignment in the case was also intended to be received



Gurpratap Singh of Tarn-Taran district of Punjab is the kingpin of this module

by Gurpratap Singh to fund the activities of BKI in Punjab, it said.

During the searches conducted on Thursday, digital devices and other incriminating documents having financial details and accounts numbers have been seized for further scrutiny and analysis, it added.

Originally registered as case FIR No. 65/2020 on September 20, 2020 at Police Station Arnia, Jammu under various Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, attempt to murder and waging war against the nation and provisions of the Arms Act in connection with unprovoked firing at a police patrolling party from Pakistan side to provide cover for the smuggling activity. Sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act were added subsequently during investigation. The case was re-registered by NIA on November 26 and taken up for investigation.

Court sentences ISIS terrorist to 7-year rigorous imprisonment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA Special Court here on Thursday sentenced an accused and ISIS terrorist Shajahan VK of Kannur, Kerala to seven years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fine of ₹73,000 for the offences under section Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery, criminal breach of trust and provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The ISIS-Kannur Case was initially registered by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police as FIR No. 44/2017 dated September 5, 2017 under various IPC Sections and provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Passport Act.

Shajahan was arrested on July 1, 2017 at IGI Airport here on deportation by the Turkish authorities. Another accused Mohd. Mustafa was arrested from Chennai, on July 12, 2017. Subsequently, the NIA took over investigation of the case on September 5, 2017.

"Shajahan Velluva Kandy is a member of proscribed international terrorist organisation ISIS. He had associated himself with ISIS with the intention to further its activities. In October, 2016, he along with his family had gone to Turkey via Malaysia with an intention to go to Syria to fight on behalf of ISIS," the NIA said in a statement.

However, while crossing the Turkey-Syria border, he along with his family were apprehended by the Turkish authorities and deported back to India on February 1, 2017. In his desperation to serve the cause of ISIS, he procured an Indian passport again on the basis of forged documents and in April 2017, he travelled to Turkey via Thailand and was apprehended again while attempting to cross to Syria. Thereafter, he was again deported to India on July 1, 2017 and was arrested, the agency said.

After investigation, the NIA had filed a charge sheet on December 23, 2017 against two accused persons-- Shajahan Velluva Kandy and Mohd. Mustafa.

While Shajahan has been convicted, trial against the other accused person is continuing, it added.

comprising professional investigators from 16 countries, while more are likely to join this international campaign initiated from India. APDI has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi offering help in the government's plans to deal with the fake COVID vaccine issue. The organisation has also written a similar letter to Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.

Continued spike in infection in 4 States might negate overall gains in Covid fight

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With just four States— Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal—accounting more than half of the total cases in the country, the Centre is fearing that the continued rise in infection there might negate the results gained in other parts of the country where cases are on decline.

The Centre has asked the States to take corrective steps to contain the infection.

About 28.61 per cent cases are in Kerala, followed by 22.79 per cent in Maharashtra, 3.99 per cent in Chhattisgarh and 3.89 per cent in West Bengal.

"These states have been advised by the Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan to maintain strict vigil and to take steps to keep a check on the rising cases, especially in view of the new coronavirus strain observed in certain countries, which has also been reported in a few States in India," said a senior official from the Ministry.

In a letter to them, Bhushan drew the attention of the states to their low and declining testing rates and warned that any laxity at this

Private investigators form global alliance to check circulation of fake vaccines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India gears up for a massive Covid vaccination drive, private investigators have formed an international alliance to check circulation of fake vaccines. An initiative of Delhi-based Association of Private Detectives and Investigators (APDI), the Global Alliance Against Fake Vaccine (GAFV) has been formed

crucial junction may squander the results of collective actions in containing the transmission.

He advised them to analyse the surge at the district and sub-district levels to understand the reasons for this rise and aggressively implement the 'Test-Track-Treat' strategy.

The health authorities in the states have also been advised to proactively promote

Cong slams Modi Govt for record petrol price hike

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday attacked the Centre after the petrol price breached the all-time high in 73 years. While Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday hit out at the Modi Government on a range of issues including the fuel price rise, Rahul Gandhi took a swipe questioning the development agenda of the ruling regime. Both the leaders besides the party in a statement criticised the Government also for the ongoing farmers' protest.

"I demand the Government to keep the prices of petrol and diesel to that of the UPA era and give relief to the people and roll back all the three farm laws. In independent India, the country is at crossroads as

farmers are on the Delhi borders for their genuine demands while the unbridled, insensitive government is breaking the backbone of the farmers and middle class," Sonia said in a statement.

Sonia, who has been attacking the Modi government occasionally as against daily criticism by her son Rahul, mentioned in her statement that due to covid, all around the economy is already in shambles while the Modi government is putting money into their coffers.

Sonia alleged that despite less cost of crude in the international market the benefit should go to the consumers but the government is profiteering on it.

"In the last six years, the government collected 19,00,000 crore as excise duty



from the people. Not only this, the rising costs of the domestic LPG has also disturbed the home budget," she said.

Rahul took to Twitter and wrote: "There has been a 'Superb development' in the prices of petrol and diesel. The Modi government is looting the public by charging heavy tax on fuel. This is the reason why the government is not willing to implement GST on petrol-diesel."

Congress slammed the

government and wrote: "Suit-Boot-Loot Sarkar has proved itself once again with another 'historic' milestone: petrol prices are now at an all-time high!"

"Cause looting money from the common man to fill the pockets of middlemen and crony-capitalists is why the BJP came to power," the party said in its Petrol loot campaign.

The cost of crude is around 51 dollars which means petrol should be around Rs 23 a litre but the prices are more than double which is highest in 73 years.

After the raise on Thursday, the petrol price in Delhi increased by 23 paise a litre, the second successive day of fuel price rise, to Rs 84.20 a litre from Rs 83.97 on the previous day. This is the highest level of retail price of petrol in the national Capital after October 4, 2018 when its price had risen to Rs 84 a litre.

In other metros, though the price of petrol has not yet breached the all-time high levels, it has reached very close to that level and may cross it this week if fuel price increases further in coming days.

In Mumbai, petrol price increased to ₹90.83 a litre on Thursday just 51 paise short of all-time high level of ₹91.34 reached on October 4, 2018. In Chennai, the petrol price currently is ₹86.96 a litre, a shade lower than historic high level of ₹87.33 a litre.

Similarly, petrol price also reached very close to record level of ₹85.80 a litre in Kolkata increasing to ₹85.68 a litre on Thursday.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANS. LINE MAINTT. DIV-III UDHAMPUR JKPTCL (JMU)

e- NIT No:- TLMD-III/UDH/18 of 2020-21
Dated:- 02-01-2021

Executive Engineer TLMD-III, Udhampur, for and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir invite online e-bids for "Survey, Soil Testing/Investigation, Engineering Design, Fabrication of Lattice Type Tower Structures, Galvanization, Supply of Structures, Laying of Foundations, Protection Works, Erection of Tower, Laying & Stringing of ACSR ZEBRA Conductor, Inspection, Testing and Commissioning including transportation, insurance, handling, storage of material at site for Re-alignment of 220 KV D/C KPTL Between location No. KP106-KP108 at Samrol Udhampur, completed in all respects as specified in technical specification. Submission of e-bid against this standard Bidding Document (SBD) shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedure, terms and conditions of the standard bidding document with full understanding of its implications. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Interested bidders may view/download the e-bid document, submit their e-bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below.

Scope of Work :- Survey, Soil Testing/Investigation, Engineering Design, Fabrication of Lattice Type Tower Structures, Galvanization, Supply of Structures, Laying of Foundations, Protection Works, Erection of Tower, Laying & Stringing of ACSR ZEBRA Conductor, Inspection, Testing and Commissioning including transportation, insurance, handling, storage of material at site for Re-alignment of 220 KV D/C KPTL Between location No. KP106-KP108 at Samrol Udhampur

Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs) :- 79.00 (Seventy nine lacs only), **Earnest Money (Rs in Lacs) :-** 1.58 (one lac fifty eight thousands only), **Cost of Tender Documents :-** Rs. 2000 (Rupees Two Thousand Only), **Last Date of e-bids submission online :-** 23-01-2021 upto 4:00 PM, **Class of Contractor :-** 'A' Class Electrical contractor

Other Details:

- Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document :-** The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <http://jktenders.gov.in> from date 02-01-2021 (5:00 PM onwards)
- Pre-bid meeting :-** Shall be conducted on 09-01-2021 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-III JKPTCL Udhampur
- e-Bid submission (starts) date & time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format) :-** 02-01-2021 from 06.00 PM onward
- e-Bid submission (end) date & time :-** 23-01-2021 up to 2:00 PM
- Online Commercial & Technical e-Bid opening date & time :-** 25-01-2021 at 3:00 PM

PH. NO :- 01992-270287 Sd/- Executive Engineer, TLMD-III, JKPTCL Udhampur.

No. : DIP/J-3542-P/20 Dated :- 07.01.2021

SC issues notice to Rajasthan Assembly Speaker on pleas against merger of BSP MLAs with Congress

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Thursday sought responses from Rajasthan Assembly Speaker and others on two separate pleas against the merger of all six BSP MLAs into the ruling Congress legislature party in the State.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and BJP MLA Madan Dilwar have filed separate appeals against an order of the Rajasthan High Court which asked the Speaker to decide within three months a disqualification petition against all



the six BSP MLAs 'merging' with the ruling Congress party.

A bench of Justices S Abdul Nazeer and K M Joseph, in the proceedings conducted through video conferencing, also issued notices to the Assembly secretary and all the six MLAs who defected and merged with the Congress.

The merger was a boost to Ashok Gehlot-led State Government as the tally of the Congress increased to over 100 in the house of 200 MLAs.

JEE Advanced on July 3, 75% eligibility criterion scrapped

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' on Thursday announced the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2021 examination date and the eligibility criteria for admission into Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). The exam will be held on July 3 while the 75 percent eligibility criteria will not be applicable this year.

"JEE-Advanced will be conducted by IIT Kharagpur on July 3. The relaxation in admission requirement of 75 per cent marks in class 12 which was announced last year in view of COVID-19 pandemic will be offered this year as well," Nishank said. The exam will be conducted by IIT Kharagpur.

For admissions to IITs, apart from qualifying the Joint

Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advanced, the candidates are required to secure either minimum 75 per cent marks in class 12 board exams or rank among the top 20 percentile in their qualifying examinations.

The JEE Advanced 2021 would be attempted by those who had qualified the JEE Mains last year but could not appear for the next exams due to the coronavirus pandemic. As a one-time exception, the National Testing Agency (NTA) has allowed the latter B'Tech candidates to directly appear for JEE Advanced 2021.

Ahead of Pokhriyal's announcement, candidates have been requesting to scrap 75 percent criteria for JEE Mains, grant multiple attempts for JEE Advanced 2021.

The JEE Main 2021 will be conducted four times this year,

Ahead of Pokhriyal's announcement, candidates have been requesting to scrap 75 percent criteria for JEE Mains, grant multiple attempts for JEE Advanced 2021

as per the suggestions of many students and parents.

The first attempt of the exam will be from February 23 to 26. The last date to register online is January 16. Candidates will now have a choice to attempt only 75 questions out of the 90 questions present in the paper.

India's improved air quality may prevent 7% of pregnancy losses in South Asian regions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Meeting India's air quality targets across south Asia may prevent 7 per cent of pregnancy losses in the region, according to a study published in the Lancet journal.

The modelling study suggested that pregnant women in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, who are exposed to poor air quality, may be at higher risk of stillbirths and miscarriages. It said that an estimated 349,681 pregnancy losses per year in south Asia were associated with exposure to PM2.5 concentrations that exceeded India's air quality standard (more than 40 µg/m or micrograms per cubic meter air), accounting for 7 per cent of annual pregnancy loss in the region from 2000-2016.

In the study, the researchers included 34,197 women who had lost a preg-

nancy, including 27,480 miscarriages and 6,717 stillbirths, which were compared to live-birth controls.

Of the pregnancy loss cases, 77 per cent were from India, 12 per cent from Pakistan, and 11 per cent from Bangladesh.

Pregnancy loss associated with air pollution was more common in the northern plains region in India and Pakistan.

Previous studies have suggested a link between air pollution and pregnancy loss in other regions, but this is the first study, published in Lancet Planetary Health, to quantify the burden in south Asia.

South Asia has the highest burden of pregnancy loss globally and is one of the most PM2.5 polluted regions in the world.

"Our findings suggest that poor air quality could be responsible for a considerable

burden of pregnancy loss in the region, providing further justification for urgent action to tackle dangerous levels of pollution," said lead study author Dr Tao Xue from Peking University in China.

To carry out their analysis, the authors combined data from household surveys on health from 1998-2016 (from women who reported at least one pregnancy loss and one or more livebirths) and estimated exposure to PM2.5 during pregnancy through combining satellite with atmospheric modelling outputs.

The researchers, however noted several limitations of their study. In the surveys, they were not able to distinguish between natural pregnancy loss and abortions and there was under-reporting of pregnancy losses because of stigma or ignoring very early pregnancy losses.

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, BAHADURGARH	RENOVATION WORK IN GOVT. COLLEGE AT BAHADURGARH IN HAJJAR DISTRICT. (ONLY FOR LIC SOCIETY) +1 OTHER WORK	04.01.2021 19.01.2021	36.75 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8901333000 pwd-eeepd-bahadurgarh@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, AMBALA	CONSTRUCTION OF 2 LANE ROB WITH BOW STRING STEEL BEAM IN LIEU OF LEVEL CROSSING NO.118-C/E-2 AT KM 250/9-11 IN BETWEEN DUKHERI & KESRI RAILWAY STATION ON SRE-UMB SECTION ON DFCC ROUTE IN AMBALA DISTRICT. (RECALL OF TENDER)	04.01.2021 22.01.2021	2322.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9417362462 pwd-eeepd2-ambala@hry.nic.in
3	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, AMBALA	REPAIR OF DAMAGED PATCHES OF SYL CANAL FROM RD 0 TO 1.965 KM + 6 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 18.01.2021	206.83 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01712973270 xensylvambala@gmail.com
4	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ZILA PARISHAD KARNAL	PURCHASE OF 112 TRICYCLE GARBAGE RICKSHAW REHRI AS PER SPECIFICATION GEO ZILA PARISHAD KARNAL AND WALL PAINTINGS ON COVID AND SANITATION ETC + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 19.01.2021	EMD 20000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416290875 prexeeng.kri@hry.nic.in
5	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ZILA PARISHAD HISAR	WALL PAINTING WITH LOGO & SLOGANS ON INDIVIDUAL/COMMUNITY PLACES IN DISTT HISAR	07.01.2021 18.01.2021	60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	CEO (ZP/ DRDA HISAR)
6	CIVIL SURGEON HISAR HEALTH DEPARTMENT	APPOINTMENT OF CONCURRENT AUDITORS FOR DFHWIS HISAR FOR AUDIT OF ALL PROGRAMMES UNDER NHM & NON NHM FOR F.Y. 2020-21	06.01.2021 18.01.2021	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9034259920 dhs.cshsr@hry.nic.in
7	DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, PANCHKULA	NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR OUTSOURCING MANPOWER IN DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION HARYANA	CLOSING DATE 18.01.2021	EMD 50,000	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416337471 assistantdirectorsfc@gmail.com

KERALA RAIL LINE PROJECT

Thousands likely to lose houses on proposed route

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Kerala Government's decision on Wednesday to meet half the project cost of Rs 2,815 crore in the construction of Angamali-Erumeli Sabari Rail Route has stirred up a hornet's nest in the region through which the track is to be laid. Thousands of residents staying along the route of the proposed track would lose their dwelling places and fertile farms once the Indian Railways resume the land acquiring process. What is disturbing the Railway authorities in Kerala is that the majority of the people who would be displaced because of the project belong to the minority communities.

The Pinarayi Vijayan-led Kerala Government on Wednesday had declared that it would meet half the cost of Rs 2,815 crore required for the 111 km long railway line from Angamali to Erumeli to facilitate pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Sabarimala.

The legendary Dr E Sreedharan, India's Metro Man, sounded caution about the Sabari Rail project. The Kerala Government has suddenly raked up this project only to get political gains for the next election. This railway line will be of no use to Kerala or to the Sabarimala pilgrims. On the other hand, it will dislocate many people and cause severe environmental damage to the green, beautiful hill ranges." Dr Sreedharan told The Pioneer on Thursday.

He said that automatic signalling can be introduced on the Trivandrum-Mangalore section and the line capacity increased to run many commuted trains at half the cost meant for the project. "This will reduce the road congestion and road accidents," said Dr Sreedharan.

He said the top-sided policies of the Kerala Government has resulted in the stagnation of growth in the State. "A more urgent railway link is the extension of Trissur-Guruvayoor line to Thirunavaya, (a project sanctioned about 14 years back) which will reduce the running time of trains between Ernakulam and Kozhikode by at least one hour and the severe congestion at Shornur junction too will be avoided," he said.

There is widespread complaint against the Centre and Indian Railways for using high handed measures like

threats and coercion to acquire land for the seven kilometre stretch which has been built as part of the project. "This is a move to displace the population belonging to the minority communities from places like Perumbavoor, Kothamangalam up to Erumeli. The question where we would go from the places where we have been living for decades remains unanswered. The Kerala Government had expressed its helplessness in acquiring land for the construction of National Highway in North Kerala and the Centre was forced to shelve its plan to build a six-lane track," said P M Basheer, former councillor of Perumbavoor Municipal Council.

Though the decision to part finance the project has been taken by the Pinarayi Vijayan Government, legal experts are of the view that land acquisition process would not be easy. "The Modi Government itself has amended the land acquisition laws and the Railways would find the process tough. The question is whether it is worthwhile for Governments of India and Kerala to squander public money on a white elephant," said a Kerala High Court lawyer.

investors in Eastern India are not locals but they come from the western or northern part of the country ... this is the reason why she might have tried to fine-tune her rhetoric today," said BN Chakrabarty a political expert.

Banerjee had been under constant attack from the fellow politicians for repeatedly trying to play 'soft communal' card in a bid to garner votes by dividing the communities, castes and linguistics groups.

In fact Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar too had on Tuesday attacked her policy of raising insider-outsider issue. "Today it hurts me to know how the citizens of the country are being called outsiders in an open and politically conscious State like Bengal," Dhankhar

J&K LG announces ₹28,400-crore Industrial Developmental Scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Much awaited Industrial Developmental Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir, aimed at generating employment in both manufacturing and service sectors, was made public by the Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday.

The scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 28,400 crore upto the year 2037 was earlier approved by the Union government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

The proposed scheme is likely to attract unprecedented investment and give direct and indirect employment to about 4.5 lakh persons. Additionally, because of the working capital interest subvention, the scheme is likely to give indirect support to about 35,000 persons.

Sharing details of the scheme, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, in a press conference, claimed the main purpose of the scheme is to generate employment beyond government jobs in both manufacturing and service sectors which directly leads to the socio-economic development of the region.

The Lt Governor also expressed



gratitude towards the Prime Minister for approving the New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir.

Briefing media persons here at Jammu Convention centre, Lt-Gov Manoj Sinha claimed the New Industrial Development Scheme for J&K will give a boost to domestic manufacturing in the region & help J&K in becoming AatmaNirbhar. The Scheme will encourage new investment, substantial expansion and also nurture the existing industries in J&K, he maintained.

The Lt Governor, while giving out the details of the scheme, emphasized that it will be ensured that the implementation of the new scheme shall be done in a manner

which is friendly and hassle free to the investors. It will be ensured that entrepreneurs from within J&K and outside find a smooth and progressive ecosystem for their business plans, he added.

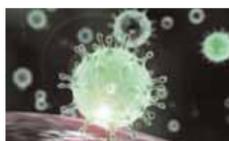
Further, the Lt Governor emphasized that "With our transparent policies, investments in developing infrastructure, market oriented policy environment and skilled human capital, we aspire to become a growth pillar for India in the current decade."

"Earlier schemes offered a plethora of incentives. However, the overall financial outflow was much lesser than the new scheme. Whereas, the earlier schemes have provided about Rs 1120 crores in all these years, this scheme shall provide an outlay of Rs 28,400 crores", Lt-Gov Manoj Sinha said.

He further said that Government and Industry will work closely to achieve the vision of the holistic and balanced development of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also thanked the business associations and all who contributed through their valuable suggestions.

Bihar: School shut after principal tests Covid positive



Patna: A Government high school in Bihar's Gaya district has suspended all its classes for an indefinite period as a precautionary measure after the headmaster of the institution tested positive for coronavirus, an official said on Thursday.

The Gaya district administration on Wednesday announced the closure of the school, situated in Saraiya village.

The state government on December 4 reopened all the government and private schools after a nine-month-long hiatus, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sources said that over 1,000 students study in the school.

Gaya's District Education Officer (DEA), M. Khan said: "The principal wrote to us complaining of fever, a few days back and also cited that he was having respiratory issues. He had also undergone the necessary tests."

IANS

Didi allays 'outsider' businessmen's fears

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In an apparent bid to send the right message to non-Bengali businessmen amid "insider-outsider" debate ahead of the Assembly elections Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said her Government would continue to support them flourish in the State.

Aware that her repeated branding of the north and western Indian BJP politicians as "outsiders" could alienate the non-Bengali industrialists who have their ancestry in Bengal Banerjee said the industrialists who were originally from other States but had made Bengal their base would get all kinds of support from her Government.

A whole lot of industrialists from Bengal like the Neotaias, Goenkas, Agarwals, Budhias, Dalmias, Khaitans, Sonis and Sodhis belong to Marwari, Gujarati and Punjabi communities. "She told us that we are as Bengalis as those who say it as their mother language and hence we too are the parts and parcel of this State," businessman who attended the meeting said adding the Chief Minister asked the business community to stay united and work for the development of Bengal.

Reminding how Bengal had developed a mechanism towards ensuring ease of doing business and how the forthcoming projects like Tajpur sea port, Deocha Pachmi coal block and the newly found nat-

ural gas reserve in North 24 Parganas would help trade and commerce in days to come the Chief Minister said how her Government had worked hard to construct a number of leather and industrial parks in the State besides developing the information technology sector.

"The Chief Minister had already indulged in divisive politics. First she tried to drive a wedge between Hindus and Muslims through her minority appeasement politics and when it boomeranged pitching the majority community against her now she has raising insider-outsider issue trying to segregate Bengalis from non-Bengalis so as to divide the BJP votes ... But this may have repercussions in industrial investment because most

himself hails from Rajasthan. About 75 representatives from industry attended the meeting West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) Chairman Rajiva Sinha said adding the government wanted to know from them what more could be done for ease of doing business.

"WBIDC will provide single window facility through Silpa Sathi office (physical) and Silpa Sathi portal to all sectors -- large, MSME, textile, agro-processing, information technology -- from next week," Sinha said.

Meanwhile the State BJP is all set to receive party national president JP Nadda who will visit Bengal on Saturday. Nadda would hold his first meeting at Katwa in Burdwan district.

3.04 cr new connections provided under National Jal Jeevan Mission: Minister

New Delhi: MOS Rattan Lal Kataria reviewed the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission, a flagship programme of the Government. A presentation was made about the progress of the Mission by Additional Secretary, Department of Drinking water and sanitation Bharat Lal.

Kataria informed that since Independence till August 2019, a total of 3.23 crore rural households (out of total 18.93 crore rural households) had tap water connections, but in a short span of 1 year alone, 3.04 crore new connections have already been provided to rural households under this mission. Jal Jeevan mission has set an ambitious yet achievable target of giving piped water connections to each and every rural household with an approach ensuring - 'No one is

left out'. He informed that Goa is the first state to provide 100% piped connection and so far 27 Districts, 458 blocks, 33,516 Gram Panchayats, 66,210 villages have been declared to have achieved 'Har Ghar Jal'. Recently, Kurukshetra became the 27th District in India and 3rd in Haryana to have achieved this target.

He credited the success primarily to the people of these villages, Gram Panchayats, PaaniSamitis, public health authorities and other stakeholders.

States of Telangana, Gujarat, Haryana, UT of Puducherry are close to achieving 100% coverage. States which have made good progress in terms of increasing the coverage are - Himachal

Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Mizoram, UT of Andaman and Nicobar.

For the Road Map ahead, 2 states (Bihar, Telangana) and 2 UTs (Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar) are expected to achieve 100% coverage in the year 2021. The Ministry is working to leverage Information Technology to provide latest and relevant information about the progress of this scheme in public domain through web portal and mobile apps.

Mr Kataria informed that the project is ushering in a silent revolution as water connections are being provided to all rural households without any discrimination or bias towards any particular caste, community, religion, race or color.

PNS

Andhra Pradesh intermediate board to implement 1:40 teacher-student ratio

Amaravati: The Board of Intermediate Education (BIE), the regulator of the crucial two-year intermediate course in Andhra Pradesh, will implement a teacher-student ratio of 1:40 from the next academic year, 2021-22, an official said on Thursday.

However, for the current 2020-21 academic year, obeying the Andhra High Court ruling, BIE will allow a maximum number of 88 students per classroom.

"Yes, definitely we will reduce it to 40. Whatever studies the High Court has directed us to do, we will conduct them," BIE secretary V. Ramakrishna told IANS.

The BIE envisioned restricting the number of students in a classroom to 40, adhering to international standards of the teacher-student ratio, considering the endless number of students corporate colleges were cramming into classrooms.

However, the court allowed 88 students per classroom for this academic year.

Ramakrishna himself is clueless about who recommended this 88 ratio earlier, which was existing as a government order even before

the court recommended it. The state government has chosen not to challenge the High Court ruling in the Supreme Court as students and parents are eager to start the academic year after the time they lost due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We cannot make the students keep on waiting. Already the academic year is almost over, they are putting a lot of pressure on us to open colleges. Even the managements want colleges to be opened, they have admitted students and collected fees," observed Ramakrishna.

In normal times, intermediate examinations get over by February end. To make up for the lost time, the BIE will extend the current academic year till April and has also slashed some syllabus for the first and second year intermediate courses, in synch with the CBSE.

Syllabus reduction was coordinated with the CBSE so as not to put the state students at a disadvantage when they appear for national competitive examinations such as IIT, AIIMS and others.

Ramakrishna, a 2009 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) offi-

cer has also clipped the wings of several corporate colleges over conducting their own admission tests.

"The admissions should be made based on the SSC (Xth standard) pass or equivalency obtained in the qualifying examination. They should not conduct any test for admission. All the principals are instructed to take measures to provide full security to girl students and also follow the instructions issued for prevention of suicide deaths strictly," observed the BIE secretary.

Likewise, intermediate colleges have also been restricted from admitting students in the second year who have completed their first year in Telangana intermediate colleges.

"The curriculum of the syllabus is different in both the states. If any student is interested to study in Andhra, they should take admission into first year only," he said.

Similarly, college principals have been instructed to take the BIE's permission before admitting students who studied in the Xth standard from other boards. IANS

Man in UP held for raping minor, filming act

Firozabad (UP): A 28-year-old man dragged a 16-year-old minor girl into a field and allegedly raped her while his friend filmed the act on a mobile phone to blackmail her later. The alleged incident took place in Narkhi area of Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad district.

An FIR has been registered against the two accused men of the same village on the complaint of the victim and the main accused has been arrested.

According to the father of victim, the accused Bhuri Singh had raped his daughter when she had gone to collect fodder for cattle on December 1.

His friend Anil Kumar, 25, had shot video of the crime. And both of them threatened his daughter to upload the video on social media if she told anyone about the incident.

The victim said that Singh and Kumar raped her several times over the last one month by blackmailing her with the video. The girl claimed that when she refused to meet the two men earlier this month, they circulated her video on social media.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Mukesh Chandra Mishra said: "On basis of the complaint received from the minor girl, a case has been registered against Bhuri Singh and Anil Kumar under the IPC section 376 (punishment for rape), sections of the SC/ST act and information technology act."

He said that while Singh has been sent to jail on court orders. The other accused will also be arrested soon.

IANS

Avian Influenza: Centre asks States to be prepared for any eventuality

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With 560 crows having been found dead in several States on Thursday, the Centre has asked States to be prepared for any eventuality of Avian Influenza and to ensure sufficient stock of PPE kits and accessories required for culling operations.

Panic gripped in the poultry traders sector across the country with prices plunging below the cost of production due to apprehension among consumers. Egg prices in Mumbai have dropped to Rs 5.45 from Rs 5.65 since the last two days, while in Delhi they have slipped to Rs 5.55 per egg from Rs 6.00 on January 2 and Rs 5.65 on January 4. Prices of live bird also dropped by Rs 20-30 per kg at farmgate.

Taking note of the panic among the poultry traders, the Ministry of Animal Husbandry on Thursday directed states to quell con-

sumer reactions, affected by rumors and increase awareness regarding safety of poultry or poultry products that were safe for consumption following boiling / cooking procedures. According to meat and poultry vendors, traders are picking up less stock due to the sudden drop in the demand. According to the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, confirmed cases have been found in four states-Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh so far.

On Thursday, as many as 381 crows have been found dead in Himachal Pradesh's Pong wildlife sanctuary, 150 in Jammu's Udhampur district, nine in Uttar Pradesh, six each in Karnataka and in Uttarakhand, four in Gujarat's Mehsana district and two in Madhya Pradesh. According to officials, their carcasses have been sent to a laboratory to check if they died due to bird flu or some other reason.

The ministry has suggested measures to states/UTs for control, containment and prevention of spread of the disease. "Besides increasing surveillance around water bodies, live bird markets, zoos and poultry farms. Proper disposal of carcass and strengthening of bio-security in poultry farms may be ensured," the ministry said.

Meanwhile a three-member central team comprising Union Health Ministry's public health specialist Dr. Ruchi Jain, Pune National Institute of Virology scientist Dr. Shailesh Pawar and Delhi RML Hospital physician Dr. Anith Jindal visited Kerala's Alappuzha and Kottayam districts to held discussions with district authorities at their collectorate. The central team will also visit Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to assess the situation.

The number of dead migratory birds at the Himachal Pradesh's Pong

wildlife sanctuary in Kangra district has reached 3,409 as 381 more were found dead on Thursday. Meanwhile, officials said 64 crows have also been found dead in the past a few days in areas near the Pong wetland.

In Delhi, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has said that there is no case of bird flu in the national Capital, yet and asked officials to keep close watch on poultry birds coming in from neighbouring states to prevent any infection.

According to the ministry of animal husbandry, nine crows were found dead in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district, but officials said it seems like the birds died due to cold. The deaths were reported on Wednesday evening from the Dala area of the district and samples have been sent to a lab in Bhopal for testing. It appears that the crows died due to cold, officials of UP said.

In Karnataka, six crows have died in the border district of Dakshina Kannada in Karnataka and their samples had been sent for tests to ascertain the cause of death. According to state health minister Dr K Sudhakar, the authorities have been maintaining a strict vigil in the border districts including Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Mysuru and ChamaraJanagar.

Four crows were found dead in Gujarat's Mehsana district on Thursday.

The crows were found dead in the premises of the famous Sun Temple in Modhera village of Mehsana.

The Centre on Wednesday had said that avian influenza or bird flu outbreak has been reported at 12 epicentres in Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, while Haryana is on high alert due to unusual mortality at poultry farms in Panchkula.

Government of Goa
Directorate of Health Services
Panaji-Goa

No. DHS/NVHCP/SVHMU/2020-21/94 Date: 07/01/2021

Quotation Notice

Quotations are hereby invited for Viral load testing of HBV positive samples. The sealed quotation complete in all respects should reach this office on or before 21 January 2021 up to 1:00 p.m. The quotations will be opened on the same day at 2:30 p.m. in the chamber of State Programme Officer (NVHCP). Quotations received after stipulated date and time will not be accepted. Quotation should be super scribed as "Viral Load Testing for HBVDNA (Quotation)".

Terms and conditions are as follows:-

- The quotation rate should include all types of taxes.
- State Programme Officer (NVHCP) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.
- Canvassing in connection with quotation is strictly prohibited and any quotation submitted by the party who resorts to canvassing is liable for rejection.
- Overwriting and corrections are not accepted in the quotation, however, if found unavoidable, such overwriting, correction shall be properly attested by the competent authority.
- Rates quoted should be valid till 31st March 2022 from the date of acceptance of quotation.

In case of any queries, please email at nvhcpgoa@gmail.com or contact on the phone number 9011025038 / 9158666907.

Sd/-
State Programme Officer (NVHCP)
State Viral Hepatitis Management Unit
D.H.S. Panaji Goa

DI/AdvT/1364/2021

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH,
POLICE HEADQUARTERS, ATAL NAGAR , NAVA RAIPUR
Notice Inviting 2nd Tender

No. PHQ/Sec.-10/Kit-Clo/28/47/2021 Raipur, Dated: 05/01/2021

Sealed tenders are being invited by the Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh from manufacturers (OEM) for the following item.

Sl.No.	Name of Item	Qty	Specification	EMD in Rs	Remarks
1.	Tent Extendable Frame Supported Complete With Accessories (4M Unit)	300 Set	Tent Extendable Frame Supported Complete with accessories (OG W.P. Polyester Viscose Dope Dyed) (For Dope dyed Tent) Specification: JSS-8340-38: 2010 (Revision No. 1), (for Tents) with components made by Dope Dyed Fabrics, and COA(GS)/US/467 (4) (For metal components)	2,25,000/-	1 set Advance Sample: Basic Materials of Tent Extendable with test report as per specification, must be submitted before opening of bid. Sample approved from any N.A.B.L. Accredited Lab.

The tender offer in the prescribed tender form along with all the relevant documents sealed and completed in all the respect, must be submitted as per the schedule below:

SCHEDULE FOR TENDER

a)	Address for submission of Tender Document:	AIG of Police(P&P) Block no 03, Room No. 309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur.
b)	Last Date and Time of Submission on Bids:	04/02/2021 till 03.00 pm Block no. 03, Room No. 309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur.
c)	Place, Time and Date of opening Technical Bid:	Block no 03, Room No.309 Police Headquarters,Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur. 04/02/2021 at 4:00 pm
d)	Place, Time and Date of opening Financial Bid:	Shall be intimated later.
e)	Date till which the Bid to remain valid	120 days from the scheduled date of submission of the Bid.

Note:

- In case of tender opening date being declared as holiday, tenders will be opened on next working day.
- Tender documents can be downloaded from our website www.cgpolice.gov.in and at the time of submission of document tender fee Rs. 2000/- will be paid in the form of DD of State Bank of India/Scheduled Bank (other than Cooperative Bank) payable at Raipur in favour of Assistant Inspector General of Police (Accounts), Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Atal Nagar Raipur Or: State Govt. Challan of Rs. 2000/- to be deposited in the Head of A/c- 0055-Police- 800- other receipt. Tender fee is non refundable and can't be exempted in any condition.
- Modification/Amendments/Corrigendum, if any shall not be advertised in the news paper but shall be published in the aforesaid web site only.
- If any bidder sends tender documents through Courier/Speed post, the tender documents will be accepted till 03.00 pm on 4/02/2021 at Block no.3, Room No.309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur only. Received tender documents in any other address at PHQ on stipulated date and time, will not be accepted.

Sd/-
A.I.G. of Police (P&P)
For-Director General of Police

R.O. No.- 86103/5
R.O. Date:- 06/01/2021

American shame

The violence at the US Capitol by Trump's supporters is a stunning rebuke of American exceptionalism



Electoral and political violence before and after elections is not a surprise in India and many other parts of the world. But the incidents that took place at the US Capitol in Washington DC — where the US Houses of Congress sit and meet, and were sitting to certify the results of the presidential election that took place in the US in November — are shameful since America has for the past two centuries been seen as a promoter and, more recently, a protector of democracy across the world. Egged on by the sitting US President, Donald Trump, the loser of the election, his supporters gave a shameful display of themselves and the US to the rest of the world. Not just Trump, many of those who owe their political careers to him encouraged the supporters and, while they expressed their shock and dismay at the end result, this was nothing short of an attempted coup. Part of the fault lies in the convoluted American election system where different States are given the Electoral College votes based on the weightages decided decades ago. Trump, who won the election in 2016 on this very basis despite losing the popular vote, claims that in several States his votes were “lost” or “extra votes” were found by his Democratic opponents, and the US State of Georgia has been in his crosshairs because he lost the election there by a narrow margin. Trump, who has made a career out of being a “winner”, is bitter with his loss in Georgia and some other States, particularly in Arizona and Pennsylvania, and his claims of fraud have stoked his core supporters, who are almost always racist white vigilante organisations who believe in the conspiracy theories that formed the core of the militias that marched into Washington.

The US needs to move to a simpler and easier presidential election system where the person, a man or woman, who wins the plurality of the votes wins. Trump lost to Biden by over seven million votes, that is 4.4 per cent of the ballots cast. While not a landslide, it is a comprehensive victory margin in any book. Trump does not like losing, but he also lost the plurality of votes in 2016. The rest of the democratic world, which largely follows the first-past-the-post system that has its own flaws, cannot understand how a voter in the sparsely populated agrarian state of Wyoming has his or her vote count as almost double that of a voter in the most populated State of California. The US electoral system is broken and it needs to be fixed urgently, particularly as the country faces off against a rival across the Pacific Ocean once again. A rival that exports autocracy; a rival that exports tyranny. If the world is to trust the US to stand up to China, if India is to trust the US to stand up to China, we need the US to fix its electoral flaws. Fixing the deep divisions in American society, however, is something that might take much longer. The US is clearly a deeply divided nation, much like many other democracies, including ours. Fixing these problems will require exceptional leadership and a multi-partisan approach. As Joseph Robinette Biden Junior becomes the 46th President of the US on January 20, he has an incredibly difficult task in the shape of uniting his country, in front of him.

Another rape in UP

Inaction is worse than delayed action and busts holes in CM Yogi Adityanath's claims of deterrent activity



Soon after the brutal Hathras gang rape, which was nothing but a manifestation of caste vengeance, Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had sought to overturn his State's dismal reputation on crimes against women as a political power tool. He had publicly warned that “those harming mothers and daughters would get such punishment that it would set an example for the future”. Sadly, the only example that UP continues to set in its series of rape-murders, political protectionism of the perpetrators, tardy and lax police investigation and a societal acceptance of excesses as unfortunate and unavoidable. It continues to legitimise the offenders by administrative inaction. What else explains the bestiality in Badaun within

months of Hathras? What explains the lack of outrage over the death of an *aanganwadi* worker who went to a temple and where a *mahant* and his henchmen subjected her to indignity and torture like the 2012 Nirbhaya case, brutalising her with iron rods? What sense does it make to protect the honour of women by waging a war against inter-faith marriages when the authorities can't guarantee their basic safety from men they would rather not touch, given their political stock and sensitivities? Predictably, there has been the tokenism of justice being dispensed by the suspension of an SHO and arrest of two of the three accused. But that doesn't quite make up for the police lapse in registering a missing person's complaint despite the woman's family running from pillar to post to be heard. That predictability of punishing the police *post facto* is worse than a cover-up. And a similar laxity in the Badaun case shows why no lessons have been learnt from the rape and murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras. When nobody questions the police or even holds it to account for forcibly cremating the girl's body, denying her parents and family that right and dignity, and ostensibly wishing away the taint on her upper caste rapists, then what does one expect? When the police, as an unabashed tool of State power, seemingly condones the crime by not following the rule of law and processes as it is mandated to do, when it abandons the victimised; there is legal sanction of a lopsided thinking that emboldens and encourages offenders.

So a Chief Minister, who has been thriving on casteist and communal politics just like his predecessors, only ends up mimicking an administrative drill routinised by successive regimes: A drill that privileges their casteist constituencies at the expense of others and mocks all claims of ushering in a rule of law. Hence the repetitive excesses on Dalits, women and minorities continue to spiral in UP, making it the worst State in the country for anybody vulnerable. As it is, the Centre had confirmed in the Lok Sabha in 2019 that UP accounted for 43 per cent of the total cases registered for harassment against minorities and Dalits. It also tops the rape chart and, according to the National Crime Records Bureau, reported the most cases of violence against women in 2019. The best that the UP Police has done, and continues to do, is to impose Section 144 to can every trouble, debate and dissent, like it did by stopping the Opposition leaders from reaching Hathras to meet the girl's family and booking journalists who were on a fact-finding mission, accusing them of intending to foment unrest. UP's non-action has many precedents, the most recent being the Unnao rape case in which a girl was gang-raped in June 2017 but her rapist, BJP legislator Kuldeep Singh Sengar, was convicted only in December 2019. Or, take the recent encounter killing of underworld don Vikas Dubey that snuffed out all information we could have had on the politico-criminal nexus in the State. Sadly, the UP Police, which at one time had been a professional force, now seems co-opted by the executive. Despite all the recommendations on police reforms and the Supreme Court's directive to set up a police complaint authority at the State and district levels, compliance is a far cry.

A new world order

As the agony of COVID-19 abates, it's time for the Govt to invest in kids by focusing on the emerging strategies for educational transformation



JS RAJPUT

Never before have global education systems undergone such stressful times as were unleashed on these — and the entire humanity, in fact — by the COVID-19 pandemic. The children suffered unprecedented restrictions owing to lockdown and home confinement for extended durations; away from their classrooms, friends, classmates and teachers. There is considerable evidence of emotional, mental and neurological impact on children, among others. Learning has also suffered much.

Mobiles, online learning and contact with friends for the lucky few did bring some solace but these experiences had their own limitations and inadequacies. Suffering was common to all, and caring was experienced from all sides. In these tough times, positive vibes and tender, humane aspects were prominently evident all around. That was, and remains, the biggest ray of hope. The pandemic is not yet over but confidence has been regained. Vaccines are available; and human ingenuity shall overcome all adversity, no matter how major a deterrent and of what magnitude the odds are. In the spirit of “We shall overcome”, things shall be put back on rails and start moving ahead maybe with even greater vigour, confidence and assurance. The world's population in the aftermath of the Coronavirus affliction would require new knowledge and new skill sets and, hence, all countries shall strive to transform their education systems in the face of the emerging post-COVID world.

The world will no longer be the same to which all of us have been accustomed for generations. This is the time for individuals, families, communities, countries and international organisations to envision the measure and magnitude of the transition, be part of it and ensure that the rhythm of civilisational advancement is sustained. Just when the number of Corona positive cases had started indicating a downward trend, media reports about the detection of a new and more dangerous strain in the UK have practically numbed the world. Suddenly, the hope of the impending relief with the arrival of the anti-COVID vaccines has given way to disturbing apprehensions and uncertainty.

A long battle ahead against the invisible, albeit life-threatening, adversary appears inevitable. It would need people of the highest talent, commitment, dedication



and spirit of service, and it would need institutions of higher education and research to get ready at the optimum level of their efficiency to serve a global cause. There would be no institution of higher learning that could afford to ignore it in the totality of its functioning.

The ray of hope, one would like to emphasise, lies in the fact that human ingenuity would finally win over. No calamity, violence, war or any pandemic could ever dampen the human spirit to confront it, to explore the man-nature relationship and persistently unearth deeper secrets of nature. This eternal human quest — symbolised by learning, re-learning and unlearning — shall continue with renewed vigour in the years ahead. It would be sustained by the dynamic education policies that would be subjected to serious transformations imposed by the pandemic.

India came out with a much-delayed new education policy that underwent finalisation in the thick of the Coronavirus crisis; thus enhancing its relevance and readiness for a pragmatic, quick and sustained response. The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) presents a lofty transformational vision and strategically indicates how to move ahead. One could scrutinise it for the inclusion of experiences and its potential to comprehend the emerging aspirations and expectations of people. These shall have to be achieved by the education system through enhanced levels of quality, dynamic skill acquisition, appropriate personality development, character building, innovations and research, and everything else that is part of the

man-making education.

Going ahead, the NEP-2020 shall be continuously assessed in its epistemological strength on the premise that Swami Vivekananda had put before India more than 125 years ago: “We must have life-building, man-making, character-making assimilation of ideas.” This, he taught us, is the *summum bonum* of education, an education that aims at developing the an individual's personality. He firmly deprecated the practice of education that drives into the minds “of the learner a mass of information in which he may develop no interest”. The individuality of every child is to be comprehended and respected as a living and growing up entity with innate capacities and potentialities, which are to be drawn out.

When the “Report to UNESCO of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-First Century” was presented under the title “*Learning: The Treasure Within*”, it accepted the philosophical base that Indian thinkers have propounded since the ancient times. There are no limits to learning and growing up. These elements need to be integral ingredients in the implementation of the NEP-2020.

The Indian education system suffered as it ignored the much-needed transition in strategy at the time of Independence and opted for the convenience of continuing with the transplanted system. In spite of commendable expansion in access and participation, India's youth had to wade through the dilution of quality, inadequacy of personality development, lack of self-confidence,

disturbing levels of inadequacy of entrepreneurial spirit and the spirit of caring and sharing. The gap between the learner attainment and the level required/expected has become worrisome.

On the positive side, India learnt from its lapses and the NEP-2020 responds to the challenges as it opens its first chapter with the words: “Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development. Providing universal access to quality education is the key to India's continued ascent and leadership on the global stage in terms of economic growth, social justice, equality, scientific advancement, national integration and cultural preservation. Universal high-quality education is the best way forward for developing and maximising our country's rich talents and resources for the good of the individual, the society, the country and for the world.” The youth of India have the added responsibility of acquiring the highest levels of competence, knowledge and entrepreneurial skills in the global context and requirement. Our global presence would be a great opportunity to put India at the high pedestal on the world's stage. India's youth abroad should be responsible ambassadors of its culture, history and heritage.

India needs to uplift its institutions to the level of Taxila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Vallabhi and suchlike. The NEP-2020 acknowledges it and inspires India's youth to march ahead on the path of excellence. It recalls the contributions made by the luminaries in the fields of math-

ematics, astronomy, metallurgy, medical sciences, engineering, architecture, ship-building, navigation and many others. The traditional Indian education system produced scholars, researchers, scientists and philosophers of the highest calibre; whose contributions were indeed astounding for their times, and continue to serve humanity even at this juncture. Can anyone in the modern civilised world ignore the contributions of Aryabhata, Varahmihir, Bhaskaracharya, Brahmagupta, Chanakya, Patanjali, Panini, Maitreyi, Gargi, Thiruvalluvar and Gautama et al? Their contributions and exemplary dedication and devotion were worthy of *acharyas*.

The NEP-2020 takes a prepared the necessary outline and strategy for the same. The challenge of implementation is facing the nation and the extent of success at another milestone would really make a difference. The prime acceptors of the challenges that would unfold at the implementation stage would be teacher educators, teachers and teacher education institutions. They would determine the quality of the persons coming out of the schools and universities.

The NEP-2020 takes a comprehensive view on the role of teachers: “The teacher must be at the centre of the fundamental reforms in education system. The new education policy must help re-establish teachers, at all levels, as the most respected and essential members of our society, because they truly reshape the upcoming generations of citizens. It must do everything to empower teachers and help them do their job as effectively as possible. The new education policy must help recruit the very best and the brightest to enter the teaching profession at all levels by ensuring livelihood, respect, dignity and autonomy while also instilling in the system basic quality control and accountability.”

The effective implementation of the NEP-2020 would be possible only through a transformed work culture that respects the learner, his sensitivities, aspirations and expectations. This can be achieved only with the teachers who are lifelong learners and personally convinced of their role as the builders of “New India”. Only they would be able to transform the learning environment, in which every child who enters the system is well looked after, her/his talent and interests are nourished and nurtured and s/he is prepared to enter the world of employment fully equipped professionally, mentally and spiritually.

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

SOUNDBITE

When the beginning of the year is good, the coming days will be much better. The inaugurations are important because India has achieved all this during the pandemic.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

This is not a protest, it's insurrection. It borders on sedition. I'm calling Donald Trump to go on national TV now to fulfill his oath and defend the Constitution.



US President-elect Joe Biden

During the last few days of his (Irrfan Khan's) schedule, he would say: “Dada, can't we go on shooting like this? I am feeling like a free bird; I don't want this moment to stop.”



Filmmaker Shoojit Sircar

I am absolutely fine now. I thank all the doctors and nurses at the hospital for the treatment and care. I'm fine. I have come back to life.



BCCI president Sourav Ganguly

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be wary of bird flu

Sir — The ongoing spread of the bird flu across India is a matter of great concern. With the possibility of the communicable virus always being present in animals and birds, the Government should ensure complete safety of its citizens, especially for vegetarians, by instructing restaurants and food parlours to use separate kitchenware to cook and serve vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes.

Such a step will also mean respecting the religious sentiments of people whose faith does not allow for the killing of animals for food. All restaurants, especially those where non-vegetarian food is served, must declare at prominent places and on menu cards that separate cookware was used for preparing and serving vegetarian and non-vegetarian food.

Taking a leaf from people in the West, who have adopted vegetarianism after realising its benefits from a number of medical studies, there should be a move in India as well to propagate vegetarianism. Already, even several starred and budget hotels are discovering that exclusive vegetarian restaurants are gaining popularity.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal
Delhi

Democracy went downhill in Capitol Hill siege

It is with a sense of pride that I say India would never have seen the kind of violence which took place around Capitol Hill in the United States (US) early on Thursday. However, it is certainly a worrying sign when the Head of a State refuses to honourably accept the people's verdict through the ballot and, instead, tries to incite them against respecting the democratic norms for his own ulterior motives of continuing in the seat of power.

But this message should be seen in a wider perspective rather than limiting it to the unfortunate and one-off incident in Washington. It should come as a warning signal to several countries across the globe, including India, where an individual leader is promoted as someone bigger than the country s/he rules and those who speak against it are hounded and declared anti-nationals.

The voters should see the Head of the State as someone who is elected to serve the people and not to rule them by creating a larger-than-life aura and persona of personality cult. Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rightly said that there is no place for violence during the transfer of power in a democratically elected Government, he would do better to remember that he



himself had heaped praises on several occasions on the outgoing US President Donald Trump, who has left a black mark on a vibrant democracy.

Trump exhorting his supporters to lay siege to Capitol Hill and the resulting violence, which claimed at least one life, has left the entire world in a state of shock and it is really doubtful if the world would in future look at the US as the model of a vibrant democracy.

N Nagarajan
Secunderabad

Realise PSBs' potential

Sir — The full potential of the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) is not being realised because the officers, fearing that they could be pulled up in the name of fixing responsibility, are shying away from taking clear-cut decisions.

It would help clear a lot of confusion if the Government

clearly spelt out the powers of each officer and gave them the assurance that no personal accountability would be fixed for the decisions taken by them as long as these are according to the powers vested in their position.

Sometimes, business calls may go wrong and a banker cannot be the master of the business models of all his clients. The invest-

igation for accountability should be carried out only if the delegated authority is breached, there is suspicious of *mala fide* or negligence. The joint decisions of the consortium of banks should generally not be probed and no inquiry should be conducted after an officer is relieved from service.

M Raghuraman
Mumbai

Leaders should lead

Sir — Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan recently joined a select group of politicians in the country who have refused to take the Coronavirus vaccine, saying that the priority groups should be vaccinated first.

Despite his claim that he would await his rightful turn rather than getting the jab right away, it does seem more plausible that he is biding time only to see and judge the efficacy of the vaccine once it is rolled out amid reports of the possibility of indeterminate side-effects. The fact is that such pronouncements by politicians don't inspire confidence about the anti-COVID vaccine among the people.

As the Chief Minister, Chouhan should volunteer to be among the very first to get vaccinated to inspire confidence among the State's people, especially after the Drugs Controller General of India has stamped its approval on two Coronavirus vaccines.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Ties for free data flow must

A world crawling out of global devastation needs multicountry data alliances to find solutions to current and future pandemics and cybersecurity



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The new decade brings with it unresolved issues of the past and risks and opportunities in the days to come. Did you know that China is the world's largest storehouse of cross-border data while also being the single-largest exporter of what is being termed as the most precious resource or commodity on the planet? If data is the gold reserve of the new decade, it is time to understand the complexities around data silos and a regulated Earth. The pandemic-ravaged year and a "sheltered at home" humanity saw some key rulings and policy documents on data regulations, pinned across strategic geographies, which possibly hold the key to a new world order. In October 2020, China came up with a Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL) draft to provide a structured privacy and data governance regime. This draft, besides stating the obvious about protecting the privacy of Chinese citizens while providing for technological innovation and growth, has significant insights on China's outlook towards the global digital economy. It raises key points related to national security vis-a-vis the world economy, banning of overseas data controllers and processors, and using Chinese companies or investments as economic attaches to international sovereigns, thereby threatening them with reciprocal actions in case of adverse decisions or threats. The PIPL has borrowed heavily from the European Union (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and has provisions which give Beijing digital policing reach beyond its physical boundaries. It also allows China to strictly control data flows from its territory, with possible sanctions and bans against blacklisted entities. The PIPL does not have the provision for an independent data protection authority, with the Cyberspace Administration of China being the enforcer and policymaker on data regulations. Meanwhile, along similar timelines a European top court ruling has junked the provisions of the Privacy Shield, a legal framework which guided data flows between the US and EU countries. The landmark ruling will have substantial ramifications for thousands of companies currently sharing millions of dollars worth of data with the US. Meanwhile, the EU has also released a first set of measures under the Data Governance Act to "foster the availability of data for use by increasing trust in data intermediaries and by strengthening data-sharing mechanisms." This Act has ambiguous guidelines and references on international data transfers, access requests from third countries and provisions to control non-personal data. All of these have edges to cut through the existing fabric of global trade and cooperation.

India introduced a Bill in Parliament for protecting the data privacy of its citizens in 2019, called the Personal Data Protection Bill. Its provisions are still being deliberated by lawmakers. Meanwhile, in the last week of 2020, it also came up with a second draft on the regulation of non-personal data which, according to the committee which prepared the draft, will lead to "India becoming the first country to put in place a simple, comprehensive framework for non-personal data." The underlying principle is to generate economic value through processing and use of data. When we look at the big picture we find some key phrases such as "data sovereignty", "economic value of data", "data protectionism" and "data diplomacy" emerging as commonalities among all regional regulations. It would be naive to assume that each region in its respective bubble, can derive and create significant value out of the evergreen commodity called data, unless it is helped by real world multinational company investments. The beauty of a digital market economy is that it is both a receiver and a generator of the commodity. Any data regulation applicable for a country/geography will find resonance only if it is interoperable with comparative policies in other economically strategic regions. Let us add another dimension of the emerging technology-led promise of greater well-being in the form of 5G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT) and cloud computing, and cyberspace becomes a complex multilayered chessboard. Every player has equal opportunity and risk, with every new move.

To stay in the game, one needs to build alliances or corridors of faith with other players. For instance, the incoming Biden Administration in the US can take the lead in building mutually beneficial tunnels of free data flows between like-minded countries. It may be significant to mention here that China will increasingly use this tactic in its Belt and Road Initiative partner countries, cushioned by large State funded investments and sponsored companies. What is interesting is that each player is learning from the other, while sharpening the next move. Make no mistake that growing concerns/regulations on data flows have a significant impact on the power cords of a "Digital world order" running on innovations in fintech and technology-aided healthcare, while looking at collective issues of tackling pandemics, climate change and sustainable living. A world crawling out of global devastation needs multicountry data alliances to find solutions to current and future pandemics. It needs to collectively find regulatory principles for AI and emerging technology, including ensuring a safe cyberspace. Any damage to the fragile ecosystem will lead to additional layers of regulatory complexities, which will not benefit anyone.

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

WE CANNOT TAKE THE BJP'S VACCINE. THE INOCULATION PROGRAMME UNDER THE BJP-LED REGIME CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

—SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT AKHILESH YADAV

POINT COUNTERPOINT



WE CAN'T EVEN CALL HIM A MISLED YOUTH. WHEN HE NEVER LISTENED TO HIS UNCLE OR FATHER, WHY WOULD HE LISTEN TO THE COUNTRY?

—MADHYA PRADESH HOME MINISTER NAROTTAM MISHRA

A doubtful future

Will the overambitious Xi be able to steer China through its present crisis or would he cause the CCP's demise? It will all depend on how he reacts to global isolation and discord within the party



ANIL GUPTA

In an unprecedented move, China recently removed the military from the Government's control and expanded the powers of its Central Military Commission (CMC), headed by Xi Jinping. The CMC will now be able to mobilise military and civilian resources in defence of national interest, both at home and abroad. The new Defence Law has removed policy and decision-making from the State Council (the Cabinet), thus consolidating power in the hands of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and Xi. It is aimed at strengthening the military leadership under Xi, providing it with the legal grounds to respond to the challenges of accelerating confrontations in which China is embroiled with its neighbours and the US. It empowers Xi to deal firmly with situations that could harm the communist regime at home and abroad. The CMC will now be responsible for the formulation of the National Defence Policy removing it from the purview of the State Council.

Has Xi realised that his move to take on India, that was aimed at sending a strategic message, has backfired? Coupled with this, many other decisions taken by Xi in 2020 are haunting him. There is increased dissension and threat to the regime, spurring a debate on the fallout of these follies on the future of Xi and the CCP. It being a single-party State, the CCP is synonymous with China.

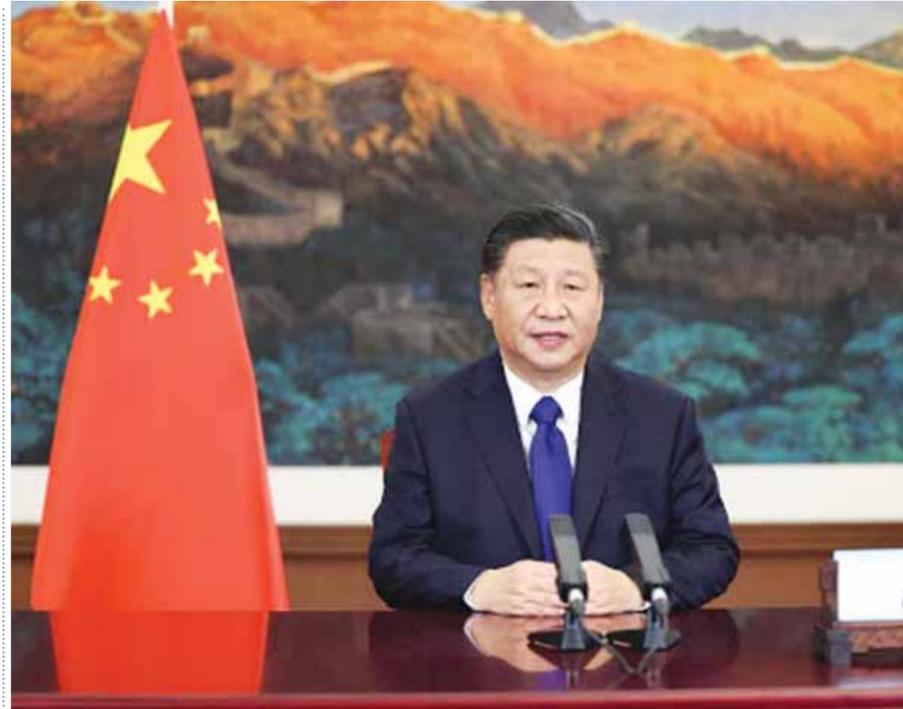
Empirically speaking, no totalitarian party so far has ruled for more than 74 years. The CCP has already entered the 72nd year. It relies on three "Ps" to maintain its iron grip on China. Personnel control, Propaganda and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). In his effort to consolidate the rule of the CCP and its ideology, Xi has assumed firm control of the three "Ps", sidelining the "collective leadership" propounded by his predecessors and thus becoming a virtual dictator.

In the process, is the CCP yielding control to Xi and being undermined? In the absence of collective leadership Xi is surrounded by a coterie which, instead of giving rational advice, generally accedes to the Paramount Leader's thinking? In his urge to become the most powerful Chinese leader and be equated with Chairman Mao Zedong, he has taken a few decisions which are proving counterproductive, leading to dissension within and against the party. The latter is fuelled more by external forces determined to overthrow the communist regime by taking advantage of growing economic disparity and growth of two distinct classes in China. Plus, the expansionist ideology of the CCP followed aggressively by Xi is a major bone of contention at the global level.

When the communists under Mao seized control of mainland China in 1949, it aggressively distanced itself from its feudal past. However, under Xi there has been a concerted attempt to merge the past with the present. In order to combat the dissent against the CCP, he has projected the party as the inheritor of the great Chinese empire of the past. Despite being born with a "Red spoon", Xi was not parachuted to the top and had to work his way up. His family background and the subsequent struggle to rise to power has made him ambitious, adamant and a committed communist.

Xi took over the reins of the party in 2012 when it was in a disarray. In the process of consolidating his position and hold over the party, he brought an end to the "collective leadership" system and became all powerful by grabbing all the three powerful posts in China, including a resolution passed for abolishing the President's term limit, enabling him to rule indefinitely. This act has not gone down

“ Xi's REPRESSIVE POLICIES IN TIBET, XINJIANG AND HONG KONG AS WELL AS EXCESSIVE CURBS ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM, ISSUES LIKE ECOLOGICAL DEGRADATION AND THE WIDENING WEALTH DISPARITIES AT HOME, A PROTRACTED TRADE WAR WITH THE US AND AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS HAVE POSED SERIOUS CHALLENGES FOR THE PARTY AND XI, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND GLOBALLY



well with young and aspiring leaders within the CCP who see a dark future for themselves and no chance of rising to the top. Like all authoritarian leaders Xi, too, has a fair number of dissidents and domestic opponents.

During his consolidation of power, among other things, he has relied a lot on emphasis on ideology and nationalism. To fulfil his ambition he announced a roadmap, that is often referred to as the "China Dream." The underlying idea behind the China Dream is to restore the former Middle Kingdom's glory and regain Chinese supremacy through expansionism. It is also aimed at minimising internal dissension through national unity. Xi's ambition is to make China not only stronger but assertive and the world's number one power by 2050.

China, under Xi, has witnessed substantial growth, thus seeking a greater leadership role in world affairs. At the same time his repressive policies in Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong as well as excessive curbs on academic freedom, issues like ecological degradation and the widening wealth disparities at home, a protracted trade war with the US and aggressive behaviour with its neighbours have posed serious challenges for the party and Xi, both domestically and globally.

The policy of forced population transfers is also proving counterproductive due to fewer livelihood opportunities in the new habitats, causing widespread dissatisfaction. The income disparity between the rural and urban population also poses a serious threat. His attempts to introduce a legal framework in China has drawn flak from the hardliners within the party who consider the CCP to be above any law.

After the outbreak of COVID-19, for which many nations blame China, Xi has been mired in controversies due to various decisions taken by him that have led to the weakening of China globally and the CCP domestically. To combat the glob-

al anger against China, Xi embarked on an aggressive policy to silence his critics and dissenters at home. In the process, he committed the Himalayan blunder of employing the PLA to "teach" India, its potential competitor, "a lesson."

By doing so, he wanted to convey a strategic message but the resolute response of India thwarted all his hopes and put him on the back foot, severely denting his image at home and abroad. His simultaneous aggressive moves in the South China Sea (SCS), the East China Sea (ECS), Hong Kong and Taiwan, too, drew stiff resistance. There was a global outcry to halt the expansionist designs of the CCP turning it into a battle of ideologies: Communism versus democracy; authoritarian versus the Free World. The "Wolf Warrior diplomacy" and the "Three Warfares" strategy of Xi not only proved counterproductive but led to complete Chinese isolation and increased abhorrence for the CCP.

His adventurism in the seas and on the borders with India resulted in a unified alliance by the West and by nations in the neighbourhood against China. The QUAD is fast turning into a military alliance from just a formal grouping. Japan is strengthening its armed forces. Australia has become more belligerent vis-a-vis China. India has signed pacts to augment defence and economic engagement with Vietnam and Japan; both victims of Chinese aggression. Taiwan is determined to face the mainland hegemony and not to succumb to its threats. Taiwan's determination is buoyed by increased support from the US. The UK, US and France have begun aggressive patrolling of the SCS. All eyes are now on US President-elect Joe Biden and his China policy, which is expected to be tougher and more damaging than his predecessor Donald Trump's. But for a handful of friends in Turkey and Pakistan, China under Xi faces total global isolation.

Even at home, things do not appear

to be better due to growing unemployment, loss of business, relocation of global companies, the fallout of control over Hong Kong, disruption and realignment of global supply chains, food shortage, growing income disparities, cruelties of the PLA and suppression of dissent with an iron hand. These are all adding to the woes of Xi.

The implementation of the recently-introduced Civil Code, an effort to introduce the Rule of Law, would be another litmus test of Xi's hold over the CCP. There is bound to be conflict of interest in its successful implementation and maintenance of the supremacy of the CCP. Growing demands for reforms and resistance by the ethnic communities of the autonomous regions to forced "Sinification" is a tinderbox that may lead to the demise of the CPC and China's balkanisation as and when it explodes.

China is at a unique point in history. The CCP has presided over the country for more than seven decades and is close to the shelf life of contemporary totalitarian parties.

Will the all-powerful and overambitious Xi be able to steer China through its present crisis or would he cause the demise of the CCP? It will, to a large extent depend on how he reacts to China's global isolation and growing dissension within the party.

Former professor Cai Xia, who has been recently expelled from the elite Central Party School, has criticised Xi and said that under his regime the CCP is not a force for the progress of China. She said there was widespread opposition within the party but few dared to speak out as they were afraid of political retaliation in the form of internal party discipline and corruption charges. The China watchers are keeping their fingers crossed.

(The writer is a Jammu-based veteran, columnist, security and strategic analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Democracy returns to J&K through the grassroots

After the DDC elections, there is hope that fresh polls for the Legislative Assembly would be conducted soon in a transparent and peaceful environment



DURGESH TRIPATHI

The Indian Parliament took a historic decision through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts. These Acts gave the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) a constitutional status in India. According to the Annual Report (2019-20) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, there are more than 2.76 lakh panchayats in the country spearheading the cause of democracy. The number of women representatives elected to these institutions is a whopping 13.79 lakh. It is the largest number of elected women representatives in the world.

Both the amendment Acts provide

reservation for women to make them an important stakeholder in the process of decision-making at the ground level. The PRIs and ULBs are doing significant work across the country. The ongoing pandemic has shown that these are effective institutions, especially for the delivery of public services till the last mile.

Similar bodies, called the District Development Councils (DDCs), have been functioning in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The recent DDC elections signalled the resumption of democratic processes in the newly-formed Union Territory (UT).

The DDCs are contributing to the strengthening of grassroots democracy in the region. These institutions are working towards the cherished ideals of the Constitution. J&K has been under the scanner of various countries and international organisations since the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A of the Constitution. But the DDC elections were a testimony to the commitment of the nation to the peace, prosperity and progress of J&K. It also reflects the eagerness of the Central

Government to involve and engage the people of J&K in the decision-making process. The Union Government is ready to pass the baton to the people of the UT so that they can provide a direction to the development process.

The Central Government's decision to appoint former Union Minister Manoj Sinha as its representative in the UT is owing to his ability to reach out to people and address their genuine grievances. His long political career and administrative acumen came in handy to restart political activities in J&K.

Even the political parties which were the stakeholders in the election process vouch for the credibility of the DDC polls. These political parties belong to a spectrum of ideologies, from the BJP to the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration. Despite security concerns, all the political parties were provided a fair chance to campaign, interact and engage with their voter base. Although, the Gupkar Alliance won big and bagged 110 out of the total 280 seats, the BJP remained the single-largest party with 75 seats.

This was contrary to all expectations. The elections saw a 51 per cent voter turnout which was overwhelming considering the harsh weather conditions in the UT at this time of the year, juxtaposed with the pandemic scare as well. It showed that the citizens were also willing and enthusiastic about participating in the electoral process. Such a high voter turnout also helped to break the stereotypes associated with the various political actors involved.

While the world worried about the human rights and basic civil liberties of the people of J&K, India took the constitutional way of returning democracy to the people who have suffered long enough for a multitude of reasons. Many scholars and independent observers have vouched for the credibility of these polls and compared them to the 1977 elections when the ruling Janata Party lost all but two seats of Eidgah and Handwara to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's National Conference.

Irrespective of the electoral scores and the bickering that is taking place now with charges of horse-trading fly-

ing thick and fast among various parties, the successful conduct of the elections and the results are a victory of the rule of law and deep democratic roots of the country. The polls buried questions regarding the restoration of democratic institutions and processes.

The security forces along with the administrative mechanism need to be lauded for conducting the democratic exercise in the most transparent manner in such a tense atmosphere. The rise in the number of Independent candidates showcases the open-mindedness of the voters and the start of a new trend in the politics of the UT. A whopping 50 seats were garnered by Independent candidates in the elections. Conducting free and fair polls in J&K under the shadow of terror is a humongous task. Even a tiny mistake could have cast a black shadow over the whole exercise.

A part of the credit for this crucial exercise should be given to the present Lieutenant-Governor of J&K. This political initiative is an integral part of the three-point agenda set by

him when he assumed the position. The agenda focuses on prosperity in the region, industrialisation, employment creation and eradication of anti-India activities.

These elections indicate a fresh hope in politics which will go a long way in building a sense of trust and faith between the people and the authorities. These elections settled the apprehensions and doubts in the minds of those who believed that the political system would remain in suspension perpetually. It also broadened the scope for smaller parties to participate in the polls, as parties like the BSP — which have a relatively limited base — also managed to win one seat. Smaller parties like Apni Party won 12 seats whereas the CPI (M) also bagged five. The participation and the voter turnout also nullified the narrative created by separatist forces in J&K.

It is said that "well begun is half done." After the DDC elections there is hope that fresh polls for the Legislative Assembly would be conducted soon in a transparent and peaceful environment. Such polls

would be a chance for all stakeholders in the political system to showcase their resilience and restore complete normalcy in J&K. It was an administratively sound decision to first test the waters in the UT by conducting the DDC elections and then go for more large-scale elections for the Legislative Assembly.

Peace and normalcy are a prerequisite for development anywhere in the world. The peaceful conduct of elections will also encourage investors from India and abroad to view J&K from a fresh perspective and could open newer growth prospects.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said: "Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal." I believe that polls are one such means to chase the cherished goal of peace in J&K and these recent elections will certainly show the way forward.

(The writer is founding faculty member of University School of Mass Communication, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

US democracy under unprecedented assault: Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
President-elect Joe Biden has said that the democracy in America was under an "unprecedented assault" as thousands of supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump stormed the US Capitol in an unprecedented breach of security resulting in temporary suspension of the US Congress' counting and certification of presidential election results.

"At this hour, our democracy is under an unprecedented assault. An assault on the Capitol itself. An assault on the people's representatives, on the police officers sworn to protect them, and the public servants who work at the heart of our Republic. An assault on the rule of law. An assault on the most sacred of American undertak-



President-elect Joe Biden speaks at The Queen theater in Wilmington, Del. on Wednesday

ings: The doing of the people's business," Biden said on Wednesday.

In a nationally televised address, Biden said that the scenes of chaos at the Capitol do not reflect the true America.

certifying the Electoral College votes.

Vice-President Mike Pence and lawmakers were evacuated to safe locations. Both the House and Senate and the entire Capitol were placed under a lockdown.

Calling on the mob to pull back and allow the work of democracy to go forward, Biden said that the words of a President matter, no matter how good or bad that president is.

"At their best, the words of a president can inspire," he said, calling on President Trump to go on national television, now, to fulfill his oath and defend the Constitution and demand an end to this siege.

"To storm the Capitol, to smash windows, to occupy offices, and to threaten the safety of duly elected officials is not protest. It is insurrection. The world is watching - and like so many other Americans, I am shocked and saddened that our nation, so long a beacon of light, hope, and democracy has come to such a dark moment," Biden said.

"Through war and strife, America has endured much. And we will endure here and prevail now. The work of the moment and the work of the next four years must be the restoration of democracy and the recovery of respect for the rule of law, and the renewal of a politics that's about solving problems — not stoking the flames of hate and chaos," he said.

Facebook, YouTube remove Trump's video

Washington: Facebook and YouTube have removed a video of President Donald Trump in which he repeated unfounded claims that the election was stolen from him after his supporters stormed the US Capitol.

In the video, Trump also said that he loved his supporters.

"I know your pain. I know you're hurt. We had an election that was stolen from us. It was a landslide election, and everyone knows it—especially the other side. But you have to go home now. We have to have peace. We have to have law and order," Trump said in his video that lasted for less than a minute.

He posted the video after thousands of his supporters stormed the US Capitol on Wednesday and clashed with police, resulting in multiple injuries and interrupting a constitutional process to affirm Joe Biden's victory in the November presidential election. **AP**

US deputy NSA, Melania's chief of staff, White House deputy press secy resign

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
US Deputy National Security Adviser Matt Pottinger, first lady Melania Trump's chief of staff Stephanie Grisham and White House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Matthews have resigned following the violence at the US Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump.

Grisham, who previously served as the White House press secretary before making way for current White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany in April, was the first to submit her resignation on Wednesday.

"It has been an honour to serve the country in the White House," Grisham said in a statement posted on Twitter. "I am very proud to have

been a part of Mrs Trump's mission to help children everywhere and proud of the many accomplishments of this administration," Grisham said. She is the first senior White House staffer to resign.

Matthews also tendered her resignation.

"As someone who worked in the halls of Congress, I was deeply disturbed by what I saw today," she said.

"I will be stepping down from my role, effective immediately. Our nation needs a peaceful transfer of power," Matthews said.

Trump's deputy national security advisor Pottinger also resigned, officials said.

According to *ABC News*, White House social secretary Rickie Niceta also submitted her resignation in reaction to

Four living ex-Presidents deride US Capitol breach by Trump supporters

Washington: Slamming President Donald Trump for inciting violence at the US Capitol, all four living former US Presidents — Barack Obama, George W Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter — have condemned the actions of pro-Trump rioters and underlined the need for a peaceful transfer of power.

The statement of Obama and three former presidents came hours after thousands of pro-Trump rioters on Wednesday stormed the US Capitol, interrupting a joint session of Congress where lawmakers were set to certify President-elect Joe Biden's win.

"History will rightly remember today's violence at the Capitol, incited by a sitting president who has continued to baselessly lie about the out-

"This is not who we are. What we are seeing is a small number of extremists dedicated to lawlessness. This is not dissent. It is disorder. It is chaos. It borders on sedition. And it must end. Now," he said.

The police, outnumbered by the protesters, had a tough time in managing the crowd on Wednesday, as hundreds of protesters breached security and entered the Capitol building, where members of the Congress were going through the process of counting and

come of a lawful election, as a moment of great dishonour and shame for our nation. But we'd be kidding ourselves if we treated it as a total surprise," Obama said in a lengthy statement.

For two months now, a political party and its accompanying media ecosystem has too often been unwilling to tell their followers the truth — that this was not a particularly close election and that President-elect Biden will be inaugurated on January 20, he said.

"Their fantasy narrative has spiralled further and further from reality, and it builds upon years of sown resentments. Now we're seeing the consequences, whipped up into a violent crescendo," Obama said. **PTI**

US lawmakers seek immediate removal of Trump after Capitol violence

Washington: Several US lawmakers have demanded immediate removal of President Donald Trump from office, alleging that he incited his supporters who stormed the Capitol in an unprecedented incident that has dented the democracy of America.

Thousands of pro-Trump rioters on Wednesday stormed the US Capitol, interrupting a joint session of Congress where lawmakers were set to certify President-elect Joe Biden's win. **PTI**

UN chief, UNGA president express concern over violence in Washington

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS
Top United Nations leadership expressed sadness and concern over the violence in Washington DC by pro-Trump demonstrators who stormed the US Capitol as lawmakers gathered to certify the presidential election results.

"The Secretary-General is saddened by the events at the US Capitol in Washington, D.C," on Wednesday, Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General, said in a note to correspondents.

Biden picks Indian-American Vanita Gupta as associate attorney general

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
US President-elect Joe Biden on Thursday nominated Indian-American Vanita Gupta to be the associate attorney general and roped in Judge Merrick Garland for the position of attorney general.

He also announced the nominations of Lisa Monaco as deputy attorney general and Kristen Clarke for assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division.

"Our first-rate nominees to lead the Justice Department are eminently qualified, embody

character and judgment that is beyond reproach, and have devoted their careers to serving the American people with honor and integrity," Biden said.

"They will restore the independence of the Department so it serves the interests of the people not a presidency, rebuild public trust in the rule of law, and work tirelessly to ensure a more fair and equitable justice system," he said.

Gupta, 46, is currently serving as President and CEO of the Leadership Conference

on Civil and Human Rights. If confirmed by the US Senate, Gupta would be the highest ranking Indian-American in the Department of Justice.

They are among the "most accomplished" legal minds in our country who also reflect the best of America's full range of talents and background, Biden said. "I am honored they accepted this call to serve at such a critical time in our nation's history," he said.

A former acting assistant attorney general and one of the best-known and most respected civil rights attorneys in

Biden to name Judge Merrick Garland as attorney general

America, Gupta would be the first woman of colour to serve in this role.

She has spent her career fighting successfully for greater equity in our justice system and advancing the rights and dignity of every American, Biden's transition said.

Gupta served as acting assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division — the chief civil rights prosecutor for the United States. She is a successful consensus builder on tough issues, with years of experience on managing complex settlements and advocacy

Pakistan court adjourns, no ruling on freeing Pearl's killer

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court adjourned on Thursday without deciding whether to free the man convicted and later acquitted of the 2002 murder of a American journalist Daniel Pearl.

The key suspect in Pearl's slaying, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, remains in custody while his lawyer has petitioned the top court to free him in keeping with another court's ruling last month that ordered

his release. Pearl's family and the Pakistani Government have appealed the acquittal to the Supreme Court, which resumed its hearing this week. A decision is expected before the end of the month.

Sheikh's lawyer, Mehmood A Sheikh, has been trying to get his client, who has been on death row for 18 years, freed since his acquittal. The lawyer and Sheikh are not related. **AP**

Kim vows to bolster North Korea's military at party meeting

AP ■ SEOUL
North Korea leader Kim Jong Un vowed to strengthen the country's military defences in a speech at a major ruling party meeting that provides insights into his priorities amid growing economic challenges and a US presidential transition.

Kim made clear his "will to reliably protect the security of the country and people and the peaceful environment of the socialist construction by placing the state defense capabilities on a much higher level, and put forth goals for realizing it,"

the Korean Central News Agency said.

The state media report Thursday on Kim's speech to the Workers Party congress the previous day didn't elaborate. North Korea has previously underscored its need for nuclear weapons and missiles as a deterrent and a pre-emptive strike capability to cope with what it describes as American hostility.

Cheong Seong-Chang, a fellow at the Wilson Center Asia Programme, said Kim's speech likely contained "sensitive contents" that can provoke the United States and South Korea.

Indonesia's Merapi volcano spews hot clouds, 500 evacuated

AP ■ JAKARTA
Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano spewed avalanches of hot clouds on Thursday morning as more than 500 residents were evacuated from its fertile slopes.

Fog was covering the volcano at the time, so the distance the pyroclastic clouds spread was not visually observed. The amplitude record and seismic recording data from Geological Disaster Technology Research and Development Centre estimated the hot clouds spread less than 1 kilometre (0.6 miles) from the crater.

Local authorities on Thursday evacuated more than 500 people living on the mountain in Magelang district on Java Island.



Mount Merapi spews volcanic steam from its crater seen from Sleman, Yogyakarta, Indonesia on Thursday

"Until now, the potential danger is not more than 5 kilometres (3 miles)," chief of Yogyakarta's Volcanology and Geological Mitigation Centre, Hanik Humaida, said in a statement.

Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine expands to General Practice services in UK

PTI ■ LONDON
Supplies of the Oxford University vaccine produced by AstraZeneca began expanding to General Practice (GP) led services in the UK from Thursday to make it easier to protect care home residents and other vulnerable people against Covid-19, the British Government said.

As part of a phased rollout since the jabs received regulatory approval last month, the vaccine has been trialled at selected hospitals in the country for surveillance purposes before being sent out to hundreds of community-based local vaccination services.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following special train has been revised as under :-

Revised Timings of 06083 Thiruvananthapuram Central-Hazrat Nizamuddin Superfast Special (Weekly)

STATIONS	Existing Timing		Revised Timing	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
Vasai Road	04:50	04:55	04:40	04:45
Dahanu Road	05:48	05:50	05:40	05:42
Vapi	06:20	06:22	06:11	06:13
Surat	07:40	07:45	07:30	07:35
Bharuch Jn.	08:20	08:22	08:09	08:11
Vadodara Jn.	09:14	09:24	09:06	09:16

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

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTEs App.

Integrated Helpline No. 139 Security Helpline No. 182

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SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Sapana, D/o Sunder Lal, R/o C-183 Lal Bagh, Azadpur, Delhi, Age: 17 Years 6 months, Height: 4'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing Grey colour T-Shirt and Black colour Lower, has been missing/kidnapped from the jurisdiction of P.S. Adarsh Nagar, since 13.12.2020. In this regard a FIR No. 902/2020 U/S 363 IPC, Dated 20.12.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi.**

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

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

SHO P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27672452, 27674452
DP/572/INW/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that the maps have been approved by the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority through its letter dated 25/01/2016 on M/s Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organization's plot no. GH-07, Sector P-4, Builders Area, Greater Noida.

In this context, the general public is informed that the revised map will be available on authority's customer relation cell from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm on all working days for public observation. If any allottee of this project has any objection in the revised map, then the allottee in self / institution can submit their objection in writing with their allotment letter, name, address and telephone number to the authority's customer relation cell addressing the General Manager (Plan/ Arch), Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority within 15 days from the date of publication in the newspaper.

General Manager (Plan/ Arch)
Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority
Plot No. 1, Knowledge Park-4, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age: Approx 30 years, Height: 5'5", Face: Oval, Built: Thin, ID Mark: Binod Chintadevi tattoo mark on right hand forearm, was wearing Blue Shirt, Khaki colour Trouser and Black Jacket, was found near Loha Ka Pul, GTK Road, Samaipur Badli due to accident and taken to BJRM Hospital, Jahangirpuri by PCR Van where doctor declared him dead. In this regard a FIR No. 06/21 U/S 279/304A IPC, dated 04.01.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Samai Pur Badli, 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. Samai Pur Badli, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22513088, 7065036326
DP/724/ON/2021

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
Branch Office: Icici Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Purushottam Das Soni/ Sandeep Soni/ Rajiv Soni/ Manju Karwal/ LBAWR0001889592/ LBAWR00002371493	House No. 749-P, Sector- 22, Gurgaon Urban Estate Gurgaon Haryana 122003./ January 04, 2021	December 11, 2018/ Rs. 92,15,307/-	Gurgaon

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

Date : January 08, 2021
Place : Gurgaon

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

AdvT.No.NAM/RWR/2020

Advertisement

District Ayush Society, District- Rewari

District Ayush Society, District- Rewari invites application from the eligible candidates for filling up of the following post in the District Rewari, Haryana under National Ayush Mission purely on contract basis initially up to 31-03-2021 with details as mentioned below-

Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Date and time of Written Test
1	District Programme Manager	1	27-01-2021 at 10.00 AM
2	Data Entry Operator	1	27-01-2021 at 10.00 AM
3	Yoga Instructor (Part Time) under AHW	12	-----

- For interested candidates are advised to visit website www.rewari.gov.in for details of post and download the application form and also may be collected from office of District Ayurvedic Officer, Rewari.
- Last date for submitting of duly filled application form is 18-01-2021 up to 05:00 PM in the office of District Ayurvedic Officer, Rewari by hand or by post.
- The Venue of Written test will be intimated to the candidate by mobile number and Email.
- The Writing Test for the post of Data Entry Operator will be immediately after written test.
- Interview for the above post will likely be held on 29-01-2021 and onwards. Applicants will be intimated on Mobile No/E-mail id provided by the applicant. Therefore applications are advised to produce valid E-mail ID and valid mobile No. Interview schedule will be uploaded on above mentioned website also. Please check website www.rewari.gov.in regularly.
- Candidates coming for interview are advised to bring original documents for verification.
- For any query you can contact Mob. No. 7678173429.

District Ayurvedic Officer-cum-Member Secretary-District Ayush Society, District- Rewari.

RO No.-1010/11/2/2021/1303/277

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय,
बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमण्डल, बगहा
(efcdbgaha@gmail.com)
शुद्धि-पत्र

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक-696 दिनांक-30.12.2020 द्वारा निर्गत अति अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-02एफ.बी.डी / 2020-21 दिनांक-30.12.2020, जो विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में पी0आर0 संख्या- 010421(WRD)2020-21 से प्रकाशित है, में प्राक्कलित राशि कतिपय कारणों से 263.05 लाख से घटकर 200.00 लाख से कम हो जाने के कारण इसे अति अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-01 / 2020-21 दिनांक-30.12.2020 समझा जाय। तदनुसार निविदा की सभी नियम एवं शर्तों NON-SBD (50.00 लाख से 200.00 लाख के मध्य) के अनुरूप प्रभावी होंगी।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमण्डल, बगहा

PR. No. 010749(WRD) 2020-21
नौदल कोठेना के सभे में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सख्योग हेतु Toll Free No.: 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

GDP estimates show V-shape recovery: Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Thursday said the GDP estimates suggest a continued resurgence in economic activity in second half of the current fiscal and point at post-lockdown sustained V-shaped recovery.

The ministry was commenting on the first advanced estimates (AE) of the national income released by the National Statistical Office on Thursday, which projected 7.7 per cent contraction in GDP for the current fiscal year.

"The AE of 2020-21 reflect continued resurgence in economic activity in Q3 and Q4 - which would enable the Indian economy to end the year with a contraction of 7.7 per cent," it said in a statement.

The continuous quarter-

on-quarter growth endorses the strength of economic fundamentals of the country to sustain a post-lockdown V-shaped recovery, it added.

It further said the movement of various high frequency indicators in recent months, points towards broad based nature of resurgence of economic activity.

"The relatively more manageable pandemic situation in the country as compared to advanced nations has further added momentum to the economic recovery," the ministry added.

On the demand side, it said real GDP in 2020-21 has been supported by an estimated increase in Government Consumption Expenditure by 5.8 per cent.

On the supply side, agriculture is estimated to register

a growth of 3.4 per cent against 4 per cent as per the provisional estimate of 2019-20.

In the manufacturing sector, electricity sector is estimated to register a growth of 2.7 per cent, the data showed.

The pandemic and associated public health measures have adversely affected the contact-sensitive services sector where trade, hotels, transport and communication are estimated to contract by 21.4 per cent in 2020-21.

The ministry further said as two vaccines get emergency use approval in India, the government is undertaking preparations of a mass mega vaccination drive. However, while the impending vaccination is drawing closer, continued observation of "covid-appropriate" behaviour, caution and surveillance is crucial.

Jeep launches 2021 Compass, announces 'Made In India' Wrangler and Grand Cherokee

Italian-American carmaker Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) today unveiled the 2021 variant of their successful Jeep Compass Sports Utility Vehicle. Featuring several improvements, particularly to the interiors including a new 10.25 inch touchscreen infotainment panel and fully digital instrument cluster. The car will also have much improved touch-and-feel with a better arrangement of switches and dials, as well as improved safety features like six airbags and the top-end models will also come with a panoramic sunroof. Speaking to The Pioneer, Partha Dutta, President and Managing Director, Jeep India however did not comment on the merger that FCA is undertaking with French carmaker Peugeot-Citroen and the impact that would have in India but he reiterated FCA's commitment to India with an additional \$250 million of funding as well as



announcing that the Ranjangaon plant will soon be producing 'Made In India' Jeep Wrangler, the iconic offroader, as well as the large Grand Cherokee. Jeep India will also be producing a three-row seven-seat SUV in the coming two years as well.

Skoda names new SUV 'Kushaq'

Czech car brand Skoda, which is now leading the operations of Germany's largest carmaker Volkswagen Group in India today announced that their Vision-IN concept car has been named 'Kushaq' which they said was derived from the Sanskrit for 'King'. This product and its sibling, the Volkswagen Taigun are based on the new MQB-0 platform

AUTO CORNER

and are a vital part of the group's plans to finally conquer the Indian market after years of mediocrity. The car is expected to be launched in the April-May timeframe.

MG introduces 2021 version of the Hector

Chinese carmaker Shanghai Automotive Industrial Corporation (SAIC) through its brand MG launched the 2021 version of their best-selling Hector SUV. The Hector will now be available in three separate 5, 6 and 7 seat versions.

The five-seat car will start at Rs 12.89 lakhs, the seven-seat at Rs 13.34 lakhs and the six-seat model with Captain seats in the second row will start from Rs 15.99 lakhs.

The car will also feature improved voice commands which will recognise more 'Hinglish' terms according to the carmaker.

Union AMC aims to double assets base to ₹10,000 crore

New Delhi: Union Asset Management Company (AMC) on Thursday said it is looking beyond top 30 cities to double its asset base to Rs 10,000 crore within a year.

Union AMC's plan also comes against the backdrop of the amalgamation of Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank with Union Bank of India, which is the co-sponsor of the fund house along with Japan's Dai-ichi Life Holdings. The amalgamated entity now has more arsenals in terms of branches, manpower and number of customers, among others, Union AMC said in a statement. In addition, the fund house is looking to drive the business through mutual fund distributors rather than depending only on the bank branches to sell the financial product.

Sensex jumps over 250 pts in early trade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex jumped over 250 points in early trade on Thursday, tracking gains in index majors Reliance Industries, HDFC and ICICI Bank amid positive trend in global equities.

The 30-share BSE index was trading 270.69 points or 0.56 per cent higher at 48,444.75, and the broader NSE Nifty rose 80.95 points or 0.57 per cent to 14,227.20.

PowerGrid was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising around 2 per cent, followed by SBI, IndusInd Bank, L&T, Axis Bank, ONGC and Bajaj Finance.

On the other hand, Titan, TCS, HUL and Infosys were among the laggards.

In the previous session, Sensex ended 263.72 points or 0.54 per cent lower at 48,174.06, and Nifty fell 53.25 points or 0.38 per cent to 14,146.25.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were net sellers in the capital market as they offloaded

shares worth Rs 483.64 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to provisional exchange According to Binod Modi Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities, domestic equities look to be firm at the moment. Notably, FPIs turned net sellers after a considerable gap, which suggests profit-booking or sector rotation given sharp returns generated by select sectors like IT, pharma and metals.

US equities witnessed sharp recovery mainly on increased prospects of higher fiscal stimulus and capital expenditures towards infrastructure developments as Democrats' control in both houses of Congress will help Biden to push his agendas, said Modi.

"Notably, yesterday's rebound clearly overtook the concerns of reversal of lower tax rates and disruption created by Trump's supporters in the US Capitol where a joint session of Congress was convened to certify Biden's victory over Trump," he added.

Gold plunges ₹714, silver declines ₹386

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold in the national capital plunged ₹714 to ₹ 50,335 per 10 gram on Thursday, reflecting a decline in global precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹51,049 per 10 gram.

Silver also dipped by ₹386 to ₹69,708 per kilogram from ₹70,094 per kilogram in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,916 per ounce, and silver was flat at USD 27.07 per ounce.



Microfinance sector's loan portfolio shrinks in Q2, FY21

PTI ■ BENGALURU

New Delhi: The gross loan portfolio (GLP) of India's microfinance sector witnessed a de-growth of 1.15% in the July-Sept quarter at Rs 2.24 lakh crore, on a quarter-on-quarter basis, according to CRIF High Mark's 'MicroLend' report. However, the GLP rose by 14% on a year-on-year basis. "The live customer base shrunk by 7% in Q2 as of Jun 2020 to nearly 5.7 crores. The active loan base also shrunk by nearly 1.5 per cent to 10.5 crore active loans," it said. The originations are down by 50 per cent, both in value and volume terms as compared to Q2 of last year. Coming into Q2 FY 2020-21, the average ticket size of microfinance loans stood at Rs 34,700.

Indian businesses aim to tap consumers directly in 2021: Report

lockdown period.

"More than 70 per cent of these entrepreneurs had no prior online presence. Small businesses owners are making necessary changes to their brands, to the way they operate, and also the way they deal with their customers online in order to survive in the growing e-commerce space," Gehani explained. The company has launched a report on the e-commerce outlook for 2021 which draws the experiences of more than a million small businesses across the country, including Instamojo's merchants like LegalWiz, Syrow, Profitbooks and MSME. According to the findings, entrepreneurs today understand the power of online presence and digital operations. "There has been a 3 times growth in unique businesses creating online stores," the report mentioned.

The payment gateway and ecommerce platform has onboarded more than 2 lakh small businesses from tier II and tier III cities during the

Spectrum auction: Telcos can get some airwaves for less than half the price paid earlier

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom operators can get spectrum in the 900 megahertz band, used for 4G services, in the upcoming auction for less than half the price paid for several circles in previous auctions, as per the base prices declared by the Department of Telecom.

While most of the base prices are based on the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), the Department of Telecom (DoT) has made some changes in the 700 megahertz and 1800 Mhz bands in select circles for the auctions scheduled to start from March 1.

This round of auction will be held for 2,251.25 megahertz (MHz) spectrum in seven frequency bands -- 700 Mhz, 800 Mhz, 900 Mhz, 1800 Mhz,

2100 Mhz, 2300 Mhz and 2500 Mhz -- at a cumulative base price of Rs 3.92 lakh crore recommended by Trai.

The government has kept frequency bands of 3,300-3,600 MHz, that can be used for 5G services, out of the upcoming auction. These frequencies were part of Trai recommendations for the auction. The reserve price in the 900 Mhz bands frequencies in Assam, Karnataka and North East have been reduced by more than 50 per cent compared to the amount bidders paid in the spectrum auctions held in 2015.

The DoT has lowered the base price in the 900 Mhz band in 11 circles in the range of 27 to 57 per cent compared to the market discovered price in auctions that were conducted in 2014 and 2015.

NOAPARA- DAKSHINESWAR STRETCH

Successful trial run conducted

Kolkata: The second trial run on Noapara- Dakshineswar Extension stretch of North-South Metro has been conducted smoothly on 07.01.2021. The second trial rake started from Noapara at 11.19 a.m and reached Dakshineswar at 11.56 a.m. On the return journey, this trial rake started from Dakshineswar at 12.32 p.m. and reached Noapara at 12.58 p.m.

Officials of Metro Railway & senior officers of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) were present during this trial run. They inspected the entire stretch from Noapara to Dakshineswar via Baranagar from the Driving Motorman's cab both in the UP and DN directions.

SBI raises \$600 million from overseas bond sale at 1.80 pc coupon

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The nation's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Thursday raised USD 600 million from selling bonds to international investors at a coupon of 1.80 per cent.

The issue, oversubscribed by 2.1 times, is part of the bank's USD 10 billion medium term note programme, the ratings of which were withdrawn by the rating agency Moody's on Wednesday.

The 5.5-year issue denominated in US dollars was priced at 140 basis points (bps) over the US treasury, the bank said in a release adding this is the lowest pricing for any Reg S/144a issue from the country with such a maturity.

Earlier this week, the Exim Bank had sold USD 1 billion at a coupon of 2.25 per cent, the lowest for any such issue.

Govt procures 52.15 mn tonnes of paddy so far at MSP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has procured 52.148 lakh tonnes of paddy so far during this kharif marketing season from nearly 68 lakh farmers at MSP costing Rs 98,457 crore, amid the ongoing protest by farmers at various Delhi borders seeking with an MSP value of Rs 98,456.80 crore," the statement said. Out of the total purchase of 52.148 lakh tonnes, Punjab has contributed 202.77 lakh tonnes. "Till January 6, a quantity of 80,26,401 cotton bales valuing Rs 23,485.05 crore has been procured benefitting 15,59,429 farmers," it said.

In the ongoing kharif marketing season (KMS) 2020-21, the government continues to procure kharif 2020-21 crops at MSP from farmers as per existing MSP schemes," according to an official statement.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Sawant Bhatia was the owner of Flat Bearing No. 87/1, on Ground Floor, in Block-E, situated at Naraina Vihar, New Delhi, by virtue of Conveyance Deed dated 08.01.2004, Registration No. 9748, and after her demise her son Mr. Vikas Bhatia became the owner of the said property vide a registered Will dated 08.04.2004 executed by Mrs. Sawant Bhatia. All persons including other legal heirs if any are hereby informed that Mr. Vikas Bhatia want to take loan against the said property from ICICI Bank Ltd, if anybody has any objection/upon the said will / said property and 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, IInd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-41112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my Client Smt. Promila Bansal D/o Late Sh. Lakshmi Narain Garg and W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Bansal R/o C-10/111, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-53 do hereby Voluntarily relinquish her whole undivided share of inherited property owned by her deceased father bearing Prop. No. C-59, Rohit Kunj, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, in favour of her brother, Sh. Yogesh Chander S/o Late Sh. Lakshmi Narain Garg R/o C-59, Rohit Kunj, Pitampura, Delhi-34. Any person having any right, title, interest or claim my put forth his/her claim within 10 days and no claim will be entertained thereafter.

Sd/- G.P. Goyal Advocate Enrol. No. D/406/86

State Bank of India

REGIONAL BUSINESS OFFICE, A0-1 11 PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI-110001, Ph: 011-23407755

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are pleased to announce the merger of our denotated Branches to a more convenient location w.e.f. 09.01.2021: 1. State Bank of India, Connaught Circus, B Block (01537) to merge with State Bank of India, P-4/90, Connaught Circus (50303), New Delhi-110001. Phone no. 011- 23345134, Mob:- 9140821465

Authorized Official

WESTERN RAILWAY TRACK WORKS

1. Executive: DEN(East) BCT Tender Notice No. & Date: BCT/20-21/304 dtd 05-01-2021 Work and Location: Udhna - Jalgaon section : Cleaning underground drainage and manhole in SSE(W)AN section (36 Months) Approx. cost of work ₹: 5.58,341.89 EMD ₹: 11,170.00 Date & Time of submission: 02-02-2021 till 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 02-02-2021 at 15.30 hrs. 2. Executive: DEN(East) BCT Tender Notice No. & Date: BCT/20-21/305 dtd 05-01-2021 Work and Location: Udhna - Jalgaon : TBR Plain track, P&C, Shoulder & Crib ballast, TFFR, TRR, CRR and TTR under ADEN/ Amalner in connection of sanctioned track works for the year 2021-21. Approx. cost of work ₹: 12,32,62,798.93 EMD ₹: 7,66,300.00 Date & Time of submission: 09-02-2021 till 15.00 hrs Date & Time of opening: on 09-02-2021 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of containing cost of tender document (Non-Refundable), EMD, Eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender condition please visit www.treps.gov.in. Manual offer will not be considered. 6549

Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Gungun @ Kashish

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Gungun @ Kashish D/o Sh. Shyam Lal R/o H.No. B/276-77, Jahangir Puri, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped since 31.12.2020. In this regard a FIR No. 700/20 Dated 31.12.2020 has been lodged at PS, Jahangir Puri, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Gungun @ Kashish, Father's Name : Sh. Shyam Lal, Age : 17 year Height : 4'8", Face : Oval, Complexion : Wheatish, Built : Healthy, Wearing : Blue colour Kurta @ Blue Jeans. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers. SHO P.S., Jahangir Puri, Delhi Ph. : 011-27636000 27631600 DP/577/NW/2021

RE-TENDER NOTICE
No.SSA/CW/KGBV-VI to X/254/2020/ 3847 Dated - 06/01/2021
The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, invites fresh bids for the following work from registered contractors [Class-I (A, B & C)] under A. P.W.D. (Building) Assam, having experience of similar nature of work. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 07/01/2021(04:30 PM) to 27/01/2021(2:00 PM) The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Name of Work	Package No	Place	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
CONSTRUCTION OF KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (CLASS VI TO X) (ACADEMIC BLOCK ASSAM TYPE WITH RCC HOSTEL BUILDING (G+2) (KGBV-TYPE-II), SSA, ASSAM	1T	SAIKHUWA, TINSUKIA	Rs. 1,91,28,900.00 [Per site]	12 (twelve months)	Rs. 3,82,578.00 (for General) Rs. 1,91,289.00 (for reserved Category) (PER SITE)	The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Guwahati-19	Rs.5000.00

Janasanyog /CF/3757/20 Sd/- Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CENTRAL)-II ANDHA MUGHAL, PARTAP NAGAR (NEAR METRO STATION) DELHI - 110007

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

PRESS NIT No. 32(2020-21)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Date of release of Tender/Tender Id.	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1.	Improvement of water supply in Regarpura by P.I. 200mm dia. water line at Ganga Mandir Marg from Tank Road to D.B. Gupta Road, Karol Bagh AC-23. (Re-invite)	34,13,373/-	68,300/-	500/-	D1.06/01/2021 2021_DJB_198396_1	20/01/2021 Upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt No. J.S.V. 297/2020-21 Sd/-(Priti Pant) EX. ENGINEER(Central)-II

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Paras Cargo Carrier Private Limited/ Sumita Yadav/ Shishpal Yadav/ Rajesh Kumar A/c No- 661505600086	Khasra No- 920, 931, 932, 933 And 1223/2, MH 2097, Opp Fun N Food, Village Kapashera, Delhi/ January 06, 2021	December 02, 2019 Rs. 25,09,823/-	Delhi

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

Date : January 08, 2021 Place: Delhi/ NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET)
CIPET: Centre for Skilling and Technical Support (CSTS)
Hardwar Road, Post-Bhanyawala, Dohwala, Dehradun-248140 (Uttarakhand)
Ph: 0135-2695075, 9437043410; E-Mail: cipetdehradun@gmail.com

CIPET/Dehradun/Admin/2020-21/01 Date: 08.01.2021
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF HOT & COLD WATER BATH
Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) a premier National Institution invites Expression of Interest for Supply of Hot & Cold Water Bath. Temp Range: 18 to 100 °C (Min); Dimensions: 1 x b x h: 1000 x 600 x 600 mm (Min); Material: SS 304 (Corrosion Resistant)
Interested parties may send their quotation in the sealed cover on or before by 21.01.2021 05.00 PM. For further clarification, please contact above headline number. Director and Head reserves the right to accept or reject any/all EOI without assigning any reason thereof. Director and Head

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808 ; Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : www.ujvn.com

RO. No. 21 TENDER NOTICE Date: 07.01.2021
Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), UJVN Ltd., Lohiahead Khatima, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:
Tender No: 10/EE (Civil)/Lohiahead/Khatima/2020-21.
Name of Work: M&R work of Non Residential Buildings of Lohiahead Colony for the year 2020-21".
Estimated Cost: Rs. 24,81,429.70.
Date of availability of bid Document on website: From 17:00 hrs of 08.01.2021.
Last Date for submission of Tender: Up to 13:00 hrs of 30.01.2021.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website, the tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvn.com Executive Engineer (Civil)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Trend Slazer

Kangana shares her life mantra

Actor KANGANA RANAUT shared her life mantra, which is never compromise on your health, stay away from unhealthy habits and pessimistic people.

She shared it on Twitter with a motivational workout video, where she is seen doing pilates.

“Early morning fitness routine. Remember one thing in life *jo fit hai woh hit hai*. Never compromise on your health, stay away from unhealthy habits and pessimistic people. Stay in the company of great beings if you don't find them physically find their books or teachings,” she wrote along with the video.



On the last few days of his schedule (Piku), he (Irrfan Khan) would say, “dada can't we

go on shooting like this. I am feeling like a free bird, I don't want this moment to stop. Please aap kuch bhikara lo mujhse (you make me do anything). I can't explain this feeling. Can't we just go on and on?” I really miss him.

—Shoojit Sircar

Actor VIDYUT JAMWAL has performed stunts on screen, and has served as an inspiration to many fitness enthusiasts.



He has now posted a video using the *urumi*, a sword with a flexible and whip-like blade that originated in modernday Kerala, which he calls the deadliest weapon in the world.

“This video is very special to me because I got the opportunity to bring forward *Urumi*, the deadliest weapon in the world. I request everyone to avoid trying this at home without proper training,” Vidyut said.

Being virtuous can get boring: James

Actor JAMES MARSDEN feels being virtuous might not always be the sexiest option and can get boring at times, but he likes to celebrate the good through his roles and the stories.

That is what he is trying to do in his latest show *The Stand*, which is based on Stephen King's bestselling novel of the same name. He plays the role of ordinary guy Stu Redman, who gets caught in an apocalyptic pandemic.

“We love our anti heroes right now. I think *Batman Begins* began the whole thing. All of a sudden Superman is not that interesting and Batman is the hero, but not without a dark side,” Marsden said while talking about his decision to play the good guy in the age of anti-heroes.



From unique experiential dining at home to mindful and healthy eating, food trends of 2021 will change our epicurean grammar. Here's a list

Never before in the recent history of mankind was the advent of a new year as anticipated and welcome as 2021. The faith-laden year will, no doubt, continue to influence all aspects of our lives for many years to come, and the food segment is no exception to this. Right from unique experiential dining at home to mindful and healthy eating to sustainable cooking and reduced human interaction, food trends of 2021 will take a leap ahead of what 2020 has shown us. Here's a list:

UNIQUE EXPERIENTIAL DINING AT HOME

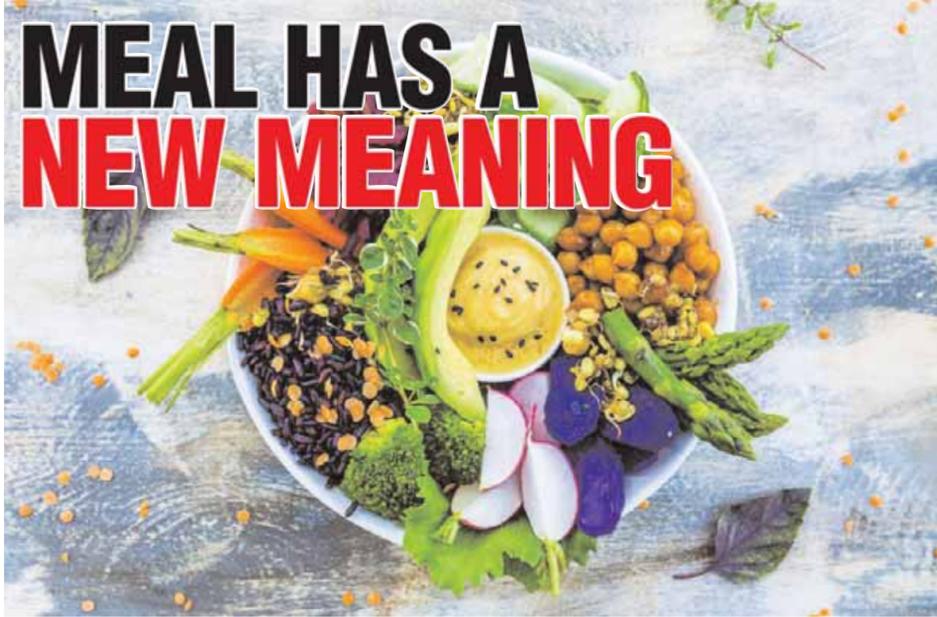
Year 2021 is all prepped up to witness the new food trends. Says Avantika Sinha Bahl, owner at Kampai, “If the lockdown has taught people anything, it's the value of spending time at home with loved ones. While people were forced to be at home, a lot of them took to the kitchen and used the time to sharpen their cooking skills. Restaurants, hotels and cloud kitchens were forced to re-strategise and come up with unique and creative ways of providing experiential dining at home for people who were finding it hard to step out. Customers now appreciate interesting experiences at home. Brands will need to continue innovating in this area.”

Sagar Bajaj, Culinary head, First Fiddle Restaurants and founder, Salsa Kitchen says, “Our focus will return on comfort and simplicity — home style cooking that reflects a heritage experience will give us a sense of normalcy, which we all had been looking forward too.”

GLOCAL IS THE NEW WAVE

This year will focus on fresh, clean lean dishes. Farm to table concepts and locally procured ingredients are going to be the trend. Zorawar Kalra, founder and director, Massive Restaurants says, “Glocal (globally local) is the new wave. The times to come will witness use of many international ingredients in Indian dishes and many Indian spices/ingredients in international favourites, not just within the culinary boundary of India, but overseas as well. This trend is a result of diners becoming more adventurous; while there is a segment that still prefers the traditional cuisine, the newer generation is ready to experiment in order to find newer and finer flavours. Regional food will yet again reign supreme.”

Sagar says, “The use of local and seasonal will be predominant this season. One can expect lot of fusion foods from across countries with a blend of local ingredients and taste. Local produce is far



healthier, cheaper and safer considering the current times.”

MINDFUL AND HEALTHIER EATING

As people around the world are getting more conscious of their diet and health, this trend will continue to grow in 2021. Avantika says, “Cleaner and immunity boosting ingredients will play an important role. Mindful eating will be embraced. The another trends of sustainable cooking is here to stay — waist free cooking, sustainable use of ingredients, proper disposals and so on will continue to grow in importance. There is a growth in plant based foods and veganism as well.” Adding to it, Chef Anas Qureshi, Head chef, Molecule says, “More proactive approach to nourishing mind and soul will be the ruling trend. The desire to influence health and wellness through foods and beverages is creating new opportunities for nutrient-dense products with functional health benefits aimed at supporting immune systems, enhancing mood and sustaining energy.”

COVID has affected our perceptions of health. Hence, Sagar believes that immunity boosting recipes enriched with super foods and nutritionally dense products and ingredients will be a rage.

Chef Harangad Singh, founder, Parat, Cloud Kitchen says, “Hemp” will create a mark in global culinary markets as plant based alternatives. Gourmet will be re-discovered for home dinings. Blast chillers will be in trend, more than ever. People will be more nutrition conscious. Vegan food will see a different boom, as more people are moving towards healthy eating. Chefs will be very creative with additions of vegan dishes in the menu.”

Nisha Agarwal, Co-founder, Oishii Wok says that even before COVID-19, customers were showing interest in innovative, healthy cuisine. “Last year, menu trends embraced plant-based dishes, bioactive ingredients like mushrooms, and probiotic rich fermented foods. With the pandemic still present in our communities, we can expect to see a rise in menus that focus on “food as wellness,” adds she.

One can not forget the new norm of reduced human interaction which will be the continued trend of 2021. “There will be lesser human interaction due to safety. Buffets, sharing platters, etc may take a back seat. Pouring your own wine, serving your own food, maintaining distance between tables and so on may continue,” adds Avantika.

People are eating healthier for that matter even the choice of beverage is shifting towards the healthier choices. Says Zorawar, “Immunity boosting ingredients like turmeric are the go to ingredient this year and kitchens and bars are making some very innovative dishes with the same.”

FOOD DELIVERY SERVICES AND PACKAGING TRENDS

Restaurant industry has undergone a lot of changes and transformations in the last few months and one such major change is the way we look at delivery of food. Chef Harangad says, “In 2021, food delivery services will be in demand. Both fresh and frozen will be relished at home.”

Amit Bagga, Co-founder and CEO of Daryagan Restaurant says, “Breaking the monotony of usual packaging, the unique packaging trends will emerge as the pivotal players in 2021.”

BRING BACK THE NOSTALGIA

An integral part of every culture, diversity & region, food has its own unique language. Deeply rooted in the traditions, lifestyles, religions, climates and agricultural conditions of a place, they tend to evolve and shift a few inches with every generation. Vikrant Batra, Owner, Cafe Delhi Heights says, “We are a country of strong regional preferences, despite a widening palate when it comes to food. Indians have historically

valued pure, freshly cooked and homemade meals, thus borrowing the eating out trends from the west. Therefore, dishes that are cooked from scratch with an origin of its own is trending today. Back to basics Indian Food will be the key trend.”

Classic and original recipes from the past are likely to bring back nostalgia. Our generation has unique fondness for original secret recipes, which take them back in time and make them experience the taste of another era. Hence, Amit says that this will be a major trend. “We at Daryagan have done the same by recreating the secret original recipes of 1947 of late Kundan Lal Jaggi, the inventor of Butter chicken and *Dal Makhani*,” adds he.

ONE POT MEAL IS GOING TO BE THE RAGE

Nisha says, “It's going to be in trend because it's a wholesome meal, easy to cook and provides all nutritional values. Immune boosting ingredients high in Vitamin C, E, and Zinc etc must be included in your diet.”

BAKING TRENDS

This year will be an opportunity to implement and complete what was missed during 2020. Chef Amit Kumar, Lopera says, “Thus, the new year will see the continuation of trends observed over the last decade which are shaping our eating habits, namely search for quality and healthy products combined with a continuing globalisation of eating habits. This trend will mean more natural and less sweet products, a return to more traditional recipes which by definition used less processed ingredients, more aesthetics and a newcomer, home baking. Consumers will continue to become more health conscious and look for more natural products containing less refined sugar and more of products such as honey, fruit syrups, etc.

As for breads, the healthier alternatives containing cereals and whole wheat will continue their ascent. Consumers will look for more traditional recipes such as the lemon tart, Paris-Brest, Mille Feuilles, Chocolate and Coffee Éclair. These products may possibly become lighter whilst maintain their taste. Aesthetics will continue to be of major importance with new geometric and simple forms experimented, keeping in mind that the products are only one click away from the Instagram pages of the patrons. And obviously, customers who spent months in some form of confinement at home and discovered home baking will continue to pursue their newly discovered passion for baking and will perfect their new skills in 2021.”

Vikrant adds that as people are becoming more conscious, healthy bakes will be the most preferred choice of 2021.

TRANSPARENCY IS THE KING

Chef Amit Singh, Ophelia, says, “To meet consumer demand, it will be more important than ever for brands to up their transparency from clean label ingredient to ethical and responsible ingredient sourcing.”

Hence, the year will turn out a blend of need and taste both.

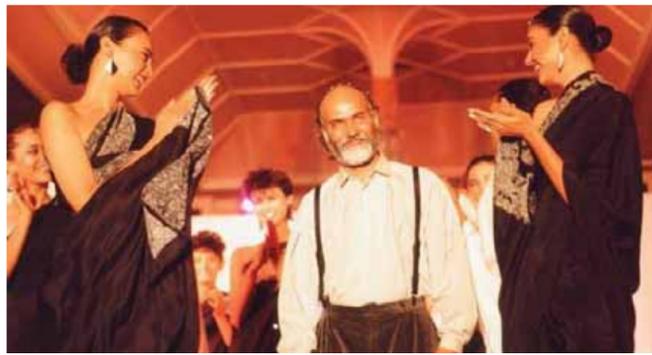
Wrapped in Satya's vision

Fashion designer SATYA PAUL breathed his last in Coimbatore yesterday. As condolences on social media pour in, TEAM VIVA recalls how he launched his iconic label years ago, which continues to revamp the Indian saree with a new twist every now and then

Satya Paul's legacy isn't easy to beat. His stores in Delhi's high-end markets and corners are full of crowds even today. The mere fact that his popularity is still as seasoned years after his first collection was launched is a testament of his class-apart design sensibility and a vivid colour palette. The maestro was the first designer to launch a saree boutique in India — L'Affaire — in 1980. He later launched the label, Satya Paul, in 1986, which is known for Indian prints.

As the world learnt the news of Paul's demise in Coimbatore yesterday, through his son Puneet Nanda's post, social media was flooded with condolences from the fashion industry and aspiring enthusiasts who looked up to the designer as a role model. Nanda posted on Facebook, “Most people are not aware that more than as a designer or an entrepreneur, he has been steadfastly a seeker. In the '70s, his inner journey had started with going to listen to talks with J Krishnamurti. Later, he took sannyas from Osho. After Osho left in 1990, though he wasn't seeking another Master, he discovered Sadhguru in 2007. He immediately started enjoying the path of yoga and eventually moved here (Isha Yoga Centre, Coimbatore) in 2015. He has been a doorway for hundreds of people towards spirituality and all the Masters he was so blessed to have been with. He couldn't have had a sweeter life or passage... at the feet of the Master. We are sad only a bit, mostly rejoicing in him, his life and now his passing with such a blessing.”

Sadhguru took to Twitter to pay Paul a tribute. He wrote, “#SatyaPaul, a shining example of what it means to live with immeasurable passion and unrelenting involvement. The distinct vision you brought to the Indian #FashionIndustry is a beautiful tribute to this. A privilege to have had you amongst us. Condolences & Blessings.”



Filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar said, “Sad to hear the demise of the most influenced fashion designers #SatyaPaul sir. His immense contribution in the fashion industry will be always remembered. My heartfelt condolences to @puneetnanda and the family. #OmShanti.”

Designer Masaba Gupta, with whom Satya Paul had collaborated with for a brief period, urged to educate fashion designing aspirants about Paul's strategies and sensibilities. She took to her Instagram and wrote, “A true example of an actual BRAND, homegrown. Put in corporate hands at the right time and one with a signature that will stand the test of time. Fashion schools — Please introduce young Indian design aspirants to this brand in schools and various other homegrown brands. We can be inspired by the story of Chanel, etc., but we must learn what happened on our soil first.”

Actor-director Lakshmi Manchu tweeted, “He was one of my favourite saree designers. So fun and yet effortless. RIP Satya Paul ji. You filled our lives with your fabrics, colours and designs.”

Another maestro with an eye for detail may have left the world mourning, but the world will always remember him as the one who revamped and reinvented the Indian saree in a myriad of ways, keeping its tradition and culture alive.



2020 taught families to stay together: Sood

Actor and humanitarian Sonu Sood says that 2020 has been a tough year, and was like a reality check for us. Sood, who authored the book *I Am No Messiah*, says that it taught us to put others before us and to keep out families closer to us than ever.

“2020 has been a tough year. But I am happy and I feel blessed that I got the chance to help so many people. The year was like a reality check for us. It taught us to put others before us and to keep out families closer to us than ever. It gave me the opportunity to interact with so many people. I feel like we are one big happy family now. Going ahead, I hope we continue to be kind and compassionate beings. I wouldn't like to look at it like that. While I'm happy to have the support and love of so many people from all around the country, I don't see it as a pressure on me. I will keep doing what I've been doing with the same vigour. My parents have always told me that with success and privilege comes responsibility. I am always going to remember their words. The love that I have received has only motivated me to keep working hard and being there for people to the best of my ability,” Sonu said.

In his memoir, *I Am No Messiah*, Sonu combines the extraordinary experiences of his journey from Moga to Mumbai. Honest, inspirational and heart-warming, this is the story of Sonu Sood and of the people whose lives he continues to transform. Sonu's memoir, co-written with veteran journalist and author Meena Klyer, which was released recently is being well received

by readers from across India. A number of people whose life Sonu has touched, NGOs and various institutions are coming on board to support the book.

During the nationwide lockdown, imposed in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, when a wave of poverty-stricken migrants set out on foot to make their arduous journey back home, the value of *sewa*, service to mankind, instilled in him by his parents, spurred Sonu Sood into action. From taking to the streets and reaching out to the stranded, to setting up a dedicated team and making arrangements for national and international transport, Sonu managed to help thousands of helpless and needy workers. Thus, began his *Ghar Bhejo* programme, carried out like a humanitarian mission. Chartered flights, buses and trains were sanitized and paid for. Distress calls from all over the world were answered. Soon, the movement snowballed into a campaign for providing jobs, medical facilities and educational aid to workers.

Sonu said, “While 2020 has been a challenging year in many ways, it has offered me an opportunity to reach out to millions of people and connect with them directly. During the course of this journey, I have learnt and gained a lot from them. I have shared my experiences in my memoirs *I Am No Messiah*, and it is heartening to see the support the book is receiving not just from book readers but various organisations and institutes who truly believe in our efforts to help people during these difficult times.”





Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavrao Khadye Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai -400034 Tel No.: +91 22 49116300
FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below) in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice send by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) [such documents, collectively "loan agreement"] and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realising/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on **11-01-2021** at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the table below:

S. No.	Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name	S. No.	Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name	S. No.	Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name
1	9353878	SUDAMA SHARMA	24-Oct-19	27,462	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	186	11509659	RAVI RAJA	05-Jun-20	4,905	DELHI-DILSHAD GARDEN	371	10656636	RAJEEV BHATIA	24-Jan-20	4,477	DELHI-SADAR
2	9957529	SATISH S	11-Dec-19	6,631	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	187	11661736	SANTOSH KUMAR	22-Jun-20	40,440	DELHI-DILSHAD GARDEN	372	10914101	MOHAMMAD RIZAZUDDIN	17-Feb-20	2,885	DELHI-SADAR
3	5527056	AKASH KUMAR	09-Nov-19	9,375	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	188	11409380	SHOVIN NIWAZUDDIN	22-May-20	30,359	DELHI-DILSHAD GARDEN	373	10428838	MOHAMMAD RIZAZUDDIN	17-Feb-20	15,634	DELHI-SADAR
4	9721021	WINEENDER KUMAR	19-Nov-19	7,164	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	189	11616348	PANKAJ SHARMA	18-Jun-20	15,264	DELHI-DILSHAD GARDEN	374	10914348	MOHAMMAD RIZAZUDDIN	17-Feb-20	4,273	DELHI-SADAR
5	9736022	BIJENDER SINGH	20-Nov-19	46,369	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	190	11607268	SANTOSH KUMAR	17-Jun-20	26,316	DELHI-DILSHAD GARDEN	375	10730160	GURU DUTT	30-Jan-20	19,859	DELHI-SADAR
6	9827215	PRALHAD SINGH	29-Nov-19	7,881	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	191	11390332	JOGINDRAM RAMFAL	18-May-20	8,785	DELHI-DILSHAD GARDEN	376	11311004	RAHUL KUMAR	19-Mar-20	12,845	DELHI-SADAR
7	9153923	ARVIND KUMAR	11-Oct-19	5,458	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	192	11822494	VIJAY KUMAR	10-Jul-20	7,845	DELHI-DILSHAD GARDEN	377	11613590	PRINCE SURIYA	17-Jun-20	6,700	DELHI-SADAR
8	9654754	GAUTAM KUMAR	15-Nov-19	16,000	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	193	11292014	SACHIN KUMAR	18-Mar-20	14,940	DELHI-DILSHAD GARDEN	378	11779485	RAMJI MANHI	06-Jul-20	9,394	DELHI-SADAR
9	9907126	RAJESH DEVI	06-Dec-19	9,194	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	194	11031570	SANJAY HARI	25-Feb-20	15,486	DELHI-HARI NAGAR	379	3550159	SIDDHARTH SAKKARWAL	26-Dec-17	5,205	DELHI-SADAR
10	9102003	MOHD YAMEN	11-Oct-19	238,005	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	195	5088753	MANOJ KUMAR PATHAK	18-Aug-18	15,119	DELHI-HARI NAGAR	380	4099401	PREMNATH K	26-Mar-18	13,240	DELHI-SADAR
11	10182210	RAVINDER KUMAR	31-Dec-19	5,735	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	196	6225874	IRFAN ANSARI	30-Dec-18	3,913	DELHI-HARI NAGAR	381	5481483	NAINI KHATOON	12-Oct-18	8,700	DELHI-SADAR
12	10189969	VINOD GUPTA	31-Dec-19	4,173	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	197	8746745	RAJ KUMAR	04-Sep-19	33,570	DELHI-HARI NAGAR	382	5193000	NAJIBUL HUDA	31-Aug-18	4,750	DELHI-SADAR
13	10980420	AMIR HASAN	20-Feb-20	29,357	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	198	8278858	SATNAM KUMAR	19-Jul-19	24,387	DELHI-HARI NAGAR	383	5830290	KAMAL ARORA	17-Nov-18	6,915	DELHI-SADAR
14	10851627	AMAN KUMAR	12-Feb-20	13,305	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	199	9120876	PARVEEN KUMAR MISHRA	09-Oct-19	11,065	DELHI-JAGATPURI	384	9867459	DINESH KUMAR	29-Nov-18	3,671	DELHI-SADAR
15	10623483	NAR SINGH	21-Jan-20	17,646	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	200	12004772	SATISH KUMAR	29-Jul-20	12,466	DELHI-JAGATPURI	385	5622646	MOHD SAHIL	28-Oct-18	3,188	DELHI-SADAR
16	10041868	REKHA DEVI	19-Dec-19	4,946	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	201	5977299	RAKESH KUMAR	30-Nov-18	7,741	DELHI-JAGATPURI	386	6159578	MURALI AHMED	21-Dec-18	8,313	DELHI-SADAR
17	10836996	AACIL KHAN	10-Feb-20	10,983	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	202	6433542	KARAN SINGH	22-Jan-19	22,622	DELHI-JAGATPURI	387	6841933	MOHD HIMAYON K	08-Mar-19	6,921	DELHI-SADAR
18	11073843	ANIL MALIK	20-Feb-20	16,300	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	203	6208043	ANIL SHARMA	21-Jan-19	11,098	DELHI-JAGATPURI	388	6262668	RAJNIVENDRA YADAV	04-Jan-19	10,886	DELHI-SADAR
19	11628624	SUNJIDA S	13-Jun-20	12,830	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	204	7927671	RAVI KUMAR	15-Jun-19	9,834	DELHI-JAGATPURI	389	5262647	MOHD RAUF	04-Jan-19	9,884	DELHI-SADAR
20	11852793	SAHIL SADI	13-Jul-20	15,125	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	205	8154559	KARAN SINGH	08-Jul-19	20,653	DELHI-JAGATPURI	390	6262639	MOHD RAUF	04-Jan-19	8,789	DELHI-SADAR
21	11222958	SARFARAZ AHMAD	13-Mar-20	22,250	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	206	8207458	RAKESH KUMAR	12-Jul-19	8,976	DELHI-JAGATPURI	391	7498978	YOGESH KUMAR	08-May-19	15,003	DELHI-SADAR
22	4011154	SHIV SHARAN	15-Mar-18	10,523	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	207	8155801	SANTOSH KUMAR	08-Jul-19	8,967	DELHI-JAGATPURI	392	7492979	YOGESH KUMAR	08-May-19	9,248	DELHI-SADAR
23	5139101	MOHD MEHARBAN	25-Aug-18	7,270	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	208	8665512	PANKAJ KUMAR	27-Aug-19	24,377	DELHI-JAGATPURI	393	7499162	YOGESH KUMAR	08-May-19	15,115	DELHI-SADAR
24	5496478	AJAY CHOUDHARY	23-Oct-18	84,678	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	209	9099441	NAUSHAD MOHD	10-Oct-19	22,503	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	394	7795718	MOHAN KUMAR	06-Jun-19	37,254	DELHI-SADAR
25	6078861	SAILI SINGH CHAUHAN	12-Dec-18	40,540	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	210	9787181	VIKAS GARG	25-Nov-19	114,188	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	395	7946441	MEHFOOZ KHAN	18-Jun-19	10,702	DELHI-SADAR
26	7032286	MOHD SALEEM KHAN	26-Mar-19	4,926	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	211	9575546	SATISH KUMAR GIRI	08-Nov-19	5,864	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	396	8048089	ANIL KUMAR SINGH	01-Aug-19	28,623	DELHI-SADAR
27	7512390	NAEEM AHMED	09-May-19	25,052	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	212	9171198	PARVEEN JAIN	14-Oct-19	153,590	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	397	6243463	DEEPAK KUMAR	31-Aug-18	16,631	DELHI-SADAR
28	7024377	VARUN CHOUDHARY	25-Mar-19	30,108	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	213	10499042	ASHFAK ALI	17-Jan-20	39,507	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	398	7517601	SUNITA CHOUDHARY	14-May-19	9,150	DELHI-SADAR
29	8725481	MOHAN LAL	02-Sep-19	18,127	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	214	11480340	ANKIT KUMAR JAIN	04-Jun-20	11,270	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	399	10181504	PAWAN KUMAR THAKUR	19-Jul-19	15,719	DELHI-SHASTRI NAGAR
30	8600884	POONAM P	20-Aug-19	10,102	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	215	11475933	KAPISH SHARMA	02-Jun-20	39,655	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	400	10292221	MANISH KUMAR	10-Jan-20	16,308	DELHI-SADAR
31	8651493	MANJU BHURTIYA	26-Aug-19	10,907	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	216	11479469	SAGAR ARORA	02-Jun-20	12,236	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	401	11592614	CHANDNI DO MANOJ	15-Jun-20	23,156	DELHI-SHASTRI NAGAR
32	8688726	HAROON RASHID	31-Aug-19	7,880	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	217	11469731	JASDEEP SINGH	02-Jun-20	14,460	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	402	5573947	ROSHAN LAL	22-Oct-19	9,968	DELHI-SHASTRI NAGAR
33	8436456	AKASH KUMAR	07-Aug-19	12,480	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	218	11408843	SUNIL SHARMA	20-Jul-20	16,836	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	403	6341203	RAJNIVENDRA YADAV	11-Jan-19	8,246	DELHI-SHASTRI NAGAR
34	843555	SUNDESI S	27-Aug-19	11,240	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	219	11459947	SATISH SURESH	31-Mar-20	25,560	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	404	6341203	MOHD RAUF	11-Jun-19	8,548	DELHI-SHASTRI NAGAR
35	8084491	ARUN KUMAR ROY	30-Jun-19	19,408	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	220	11861561	SAROJ SHARMA	15-Jul-20	9,230	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	405	8965968	MOHD KALAM	25-Sep-19	12,915	DELHI-SADAR
36	8062309	DINESH D	28-Jun-19	5,754	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	221	11376014	RAVI SHANKAR KUMAR	13-May-20	11,688	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	406	8097208	VIPIN SO DALIARTAR	01-Jul-19	7,461	DELHI-SHASTRI NAGAR
37	8810334	SUMIT SEMRIWAL	10-Sep-19	72,017	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	222	12033373	SUNIL SHARMA	30-Jul-20	26,225	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	407	8047284	NADEEM HAIDER	26-Jun-19	20,399	DELHI-SHASTRI NAGAR
38	8376028	PINKI SHARMA	29-Jul-19	22,414	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	223	4555464	RAJ NARAYAN SHARMA	31-May-18	5,958	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	408	11464982	SHARAN PREET	01-Jun-20	8,946	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
39	8341990	AJAY CHOUDHARY	25-Jul-19	314,682	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	224	5979281	ANURAG DIWAKAR	30-Nov-18	7,928	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	409	11983215	RAM KUMAR SHARMA	27-Jul-20	17,624	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
40	2698382	MOHAMMAD NAFIS	08-Jun-17	36,124	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	225	5978834	RAM KISHORE MAHTO	30-Nov-18	7,484	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	410	11296996	RANJEET KUMAR	20-Mar-20	10,270	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
41	4552110	KISHAN PAL	31-May-18	11,199	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	226	6040145	AJAY MOHANLAL	10-Dec-18	8,090	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	411	11295953	RANJEET KUMAR	20-Mar-20	9,040	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
42	5666857	SUNIL KUMAR	30-Oct-18	12,913	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	227	6904749	VINOD RATHAUR	16-Mar-19	5,959	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	412	4321546	MONU KASHYAP	27-Apr-18	7,569	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
43	7018597	DINESH KUMAR	24-Mar-19	19,188	DELHI-BHAJANPURA	228	7722363	JITENDRA RAKESH	28-May-19	11,758	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	413	5069045	TEJINDER KAUR	16-Aug-18	5,974	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
44	9941602	MAHENDRA PRATAP SINGH	11-Dec-19	9,399	DELHI-KASHMIRI GATE	229	7673417	SANJAY BHARAT	23-May-19	17,072	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	414	5656844	MO SHADAB M	19-Oct-18	6,372	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
45	11462961	ANOJ SAINI	31-May-20	14,826	DELHI-KASHMIRI GATE	230	8445169	MEHBOOB KHAN	07-Aug-19	12,196	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	415	6748000	BALVINDER KAUR	25-Feb-19	12,868	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
46	4039412	MUNAWWAR ALI	19-Mar-18	9,284	DELHI-KASHMIRI GATE	231	8613388	RAGIB IDRIS	21-Aug-19	9,102	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	416	6135132	LALIT KUMAR	18-Dec-18	12,101	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
47	4349362	OM PRAKASH	03-May-18	7,435	DELHI-KASHMIRI GATE	232	8239776	NIJIM MARWAH	16-Jul-19	73,444	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	417	6057348	RAJ BALA	10-Dec-18	7,817	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
48	4354287	GOVIND AMAR	04-May-18	9,631	DELHI-KASHMIRI GATE	233	8654571	GIRDIHARI LAL KANOJIA	26-Aug-19	9,171	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	418	7901172	RAJNIVENDRA SINGH	14-Oct-19	3,806	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
49	3354241	VIJAY AMAR	04-May-18	12,807	DELHI-KASHMIRI GATE	234	6929090	VIKRAM CHAUDHARY	19-Mar-19	9,634	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	419	7901172	DHARMENDRA SINGH	13-Feb-19	17,110	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
50	4718714	MUKESH KUPPUSIDDHIQI	25-Jun-18	4,728	DELHI-KASHMIRI GATE	235	7107868	RAJ KUMAR CHABRA	31-Mar-19	61,299	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	420	7148302	SUNJEET SINGH	05-Apr-19	4,482	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
51	8910766	MOHD NAZIM SIDDIQI	20-Sep-19	17,630	DELHI-KASHMIRI GATE	236	8605271	MOHD SHAMSHAD	21-Aug-19	20,700	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	421	9524966	ASAKTHIVEL ARUMUGAM SAKTHIVEL	05-Nov-19	16,234	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
52	8707719	NAVEEN GUPTA	31-Aug-19	55,466	DELHI-KASHMIRI GATE	237	9740981	LALTA PARSHAD	21-Nov-19	6,540	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	422	9525358	ASAKTHIVEL ARUMUGAM SAKTHIVEL	05-Nov-19	35,331	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
53	8707637	NAVEEN GUPTA	31-Aug-19	55,466	DELHI-KASHMIRI GATE	238	9758651	GOVIND SINGH	22-Nov-19	8,122	DELHI-KAILASH NAGAR	423	8202539	ASAKTHIVEL ARUMUGAM SAKTHIVEL	12-Jul-19	14,128	DELHI-TILAK NAGAR
54	8612675	DINESH KUMAR	22-Aug-19	10,517	DELHI-KASHMIRI GATE	239											

WILL FINDS A WAY FOR OZ

Pucovski scores fifty in his maiden Test innings to put Aus in front before Labuschagne, Smith take charge



Marnus Labuschagne congratulates Will Pucovski on his maiden fifty in Test cricket. Cricket Australia/Twitter

PTI ■ SYDNEY

In signs ominous for India and encouraging for Australia, the beleaguered Steve Smith looked dangerous and his understudy Marnus Labuschagne struck an unbeaten half-century as the hosts reached 166 for two on a rain-marred opening day of the third Test.

At stumps, Labuschagne was unbeaten on 67 and Smith, after his uncharacteristic run of low scores so far, seemed out of the woods with 31 confident runs, which included five authoritative boundaries. Labuschagne found the fence eight times.

This was after debutant Will Pucovski, riding on some luck, made 62 on debut to break the shackles for the under-fire side.

Smith looked positive from the word go and was determined to not let the Indian bowlers dictate terms to him.

"It was good to get a couple of boundaries early. Marnus played well, hopefully we go along well tomorrow," he said at the end of day's play in which 55 overs were bowled owing to a four-hour rain disruption.

Having ended the match after registering scores of 1, 0 and 8 in his last three innings, Smith's first confident shot came against India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who was nicely driven through the

mid-on for his first boundary of the series.

His confidence up after dismissing Pucovski for his first Test wicket, debutant pacer Navdeep Saini got carried away and was guilty of bowling too full to Smith, who latched on to them with a couple of fours.

With Smith looking in fine fettle, the early signs were ominous for India and skipper Ajinkya Rahane brought back his nemesis Ravichandran Ashwin into the attack, but the Australian was equal to the task on this occasion.

A tossed up delivery was whipped off pads through mid-wicket and then Smith danced down the track to loft Ashwin on the outside for another boundary.

Meanwhile, Labuschagne was in his element after he had settled in and played a few pleasing drives on both sides of the wicket, having drawn confidence from the pull shot he played against Bumrah at the beginning of his innings.

The two added 60 runs for the third wicket after a 100-run association between Labuschagne and Pucovski, who was trapped in front of the wicket by Saini but not before starting his Test career with a solid knock. Pucovski also had luck on his side as wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant dropped the opener twice before tea.

Pucovski was on 54 and Marnus

It was a very nice batting wicket. I am very hopeful that with the amount of batting in the team now and what we have got to come, we can post a really good total and then with the world-class attack that we have put them (India) under the pump, hopefully dominate the game.

WILL PUCOVSKI

It is very a flat wicket. Our plan was to build pressure and not try too much as it is a very easy wicket for the batsman. Even the bouncers are not carrying as well it was in the earlier games. But Test cricket it is all about patience and we must keep that in mind.

MOHAMMED SIRAJ

Labuschagne on 34 at the tea break after four hours of play were lost due to rain.

In between three reprieves, Pucovski played some impressive shots and also looked solid in defence after Mohammed Siraj had sent back the returning David Warner early.

Introduced into the attack after 13 overs in India's first bowling change, senior off-spinner Ashwin tempted Pucovski into a drive and the batsman only managed an edge after losing his balance, but Pant failed

Pant needs to work on keeping: Ponting

Sydney: Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting on Thursday slammed Rishabh Pant for his below-par wicket-keeping on the opening day of the third Test here, stating that the Indian youngster has dropped more catches than any other keeper since his debut and needs to work harder.

Pant dropped Will Pucovski on 26 and 32 respectively as the debutant opener went on to score 62. "Since his debut in Test cricket, he's dropped more



catches than any other keeper in the world. That highlights he has got some work to do with his keeping," Ponting told cricket.Com.Au. "The one's (dropped

to hang on to the offering despite getting his gloves to it in the 22nd over.

Pant spilled one more chance and on that occasion the unlucky bowler was Siraj, whose fast and short delivery touched the batsman's gloves on his way to the keeper, who could not complete the task. Pant managed to take it on the second attempt, but the ball had hit the ground by then.

With luck on his side, Pucovski got to his fifty when he pulled another debutant, Navdeep Saini, through the wide mid-on region for a boundary.

Earlier, play resumed as the sun shone brightly after a four-hour rain interruption. Groundsmen at the Sydney Cricket Ground worked relentlessly, including using a blower to go with the super-soppor, to get the surface ready for resumption at 3pm local time.

As many as 35 overs were lost due to rain. Scheduled close of play was extended to 6.30pm with extra 30 minutes permitted to ensure minimum overs.

This was after young pacer Siraj dismissed Warner to leave Australia at 21 for one before the inclement weather stopped play barely seven overs into the first day's action.

The home team had batted for only 7.1 overs when play was interrupted.

Siraj sent back Warner (5) when he had the seasoned opener caught behind by Cheteshwar Pujara at first slip in the fourth over, giving India their first breakthrough before the heavens opened up.

Making a return after a long injury lay-off, Warner showed intensity in the first few overs but got carried away as he chased a wide Siraj delivery.



Dad's memory brought tears to my eyes: Siraj

Sydney: India pacer Mohammed Siraj has revealed that his late father's memory brought tears to his eyes while the national anthem was being played ahead of the third Test against Australia which began on Thursday at the SCG.

Video and images of Siraj fighting back tears went viral on social media before the start of the play.

Siraj had lost his father on November 20, about a week after the Indian team landed in Australia and were in quarantine ahead of the limited-overs series.

The pace bowler, who was part of the squad for the Tests that were to begin only on December 17, was given the option of returning home to attend the burial of his father but decided to stay back as the entire process of going back and returning would

have involved quarantine periods.

"During the national anthem, I just remembered my father. That is why I felt a bit emotional. Dad always wanted to see me play Test cricket. If he would have been alive, he would have seen me," said Siraj after the end of the first day's play.

Former India batsmen Wasim Jaffer and Mohammad Kaif both appreciated Siraj.

"Even if there's little or no crowd to cheer you on, no better motivation than playing for India. As a legend once said 'You don't play for the crowd, you play for the country,'" tweeted Jaffer.

"I just want certain people to remember this picture. He is #SirajMohammed and this is what the national anthem means to him," said Kaif. IANS

BCCI formally writes to CA on relaxation of Brisbane hard quarantine

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Thursday wrote to Cricket Australia seeking relaxation in hard quarantine protocol of Brisbane for the fourth Test to go ahead, reminding the host board that the visitors are done with the strict isolation that was agreed upon at the beginning of the tour.

It is learnt that a top BCCI executive has written to CA head Earl Eddings citing to him the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two boards on the modalities of the tour

which never had any specification on two hard quarantines in separate cities. The Brisbane Test is due to start on January 15 and the quarantine rules will restrict the players to just their hotel rooms after day's play.

"The discussions are still on but today BCCI has formally sent a letter seeking relaxation of hard quarantine for its players if they are to have the match in Brisbane," a senior BCCI official told PTI.

"The MoU that was signed never mentioned about two hard quarantines. India have done one

hard quarantine in Sydney (practice and back to hotel room)," he added.

So what are the precise demands placed by the BCCI after addressing the grievances of its players and where exactly does Queensland health authorities stand at the moment?

"The BCCI's demand is simple. The players want to mingle with each other inside the hotel bio-bubble like they did in the IPL. They want to have their meals together inside the hotel and also have the team meetings together. That's not a big demand," he informed.

Messi back to his best



Lionel Messi celebrates with Pedri after scoring. La Liga/Twitter

AFP ■ BILBAO

Ronald Koeman said Barcelona can still win La Liga after Lionel Messi scored twice on Wednesday

if Atletico will be hard to catch, given they also have two games in hand.

Koeman admitted last week it would be "very difficult" to close the gap but was more optimistic after the victory at San Mames.

"There is always a chance," he said. "The season is very long and you can have ups and downs. It may be that one team that is doing very well will later find it difficult."

Barca trailed to an early Inaki Williams strike but responded with a slick attacking performance that had Messi at the heart of it.

It was his cross that led to Pedri's equaliser and then the Argentinian could have had a hat-trick, only for VAR and the woodwork to intervene. But this was a vintage display from the 33-year-old, perhaps his best of the season so far, at a time when his future at Barcelona remains up in the air.

Only a late mistake took some of the shine off Messi's night, a poor pass allowing Iker Muniain to finish and make the result look closer than it was.

Bilbao had scored in the third minute and the 90th, each time exposing Barcelona's defensive frailties that remain unsolved.

Yet in between, Koeman's team were able to dictate the match and demonstrate why going forward they are still a force to be reckoned with.

"The team is growing, playing with more confidence," said Koeman. "Sometimes we look close to our best."



Juve end Milan's unbeaten run

Milan: Federico Chiesa scored a brace as Juventus inflicted a first league defeat this season on Serie A leaders AC Milan, ending their 27-match unbeaten run with a 3-1 win on Wednesday.

Stefano Pioli's side maintained their one-point advantage over city rivals Inter who missed a chance to go top with a 2-1 loss at Samp.

AC Milan had been unbeaten since before the coronavirus lockdown last March, with a run of 12 matches without defeat to complete last season where they finished sixth, and 15 games this campaign.

But Chiesa, who joined from Fiorentina last October, bagged his first brace for the

champions, scoring on 18 and 62 minutes in the San Siro with McKennie getting a third with quarter of an hour to go.

"This defeat hurts," said Pioli. "If there is an opponent against whom we have suffered it is Juventus, who have won the Scudetto for nine years in a row. "But understanding how bad you feel after a defeat will also help us grow."

The hosts, chasing their first Scudetto since 2011, had been hit hours before kick-off with the news that forward Ante Rebic and midfielder Rade Krunic had tested positive for Covid-19.

AFP

I'm absolutely fine: Ganguly discharged from hospital

IANS ■ KOLKATA

Former Indian skipper and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly was discharged from Kolkata's Woodlands Hospital on Thursday morning, following six days of hospitalisation.

"I am absolutely fine now. I thank all the doctors and nurses at the hospital for the treatment and care," Ganguly said after getting discharged from the hospital.

He, however, refused to answer any question from the media.

The 48-year-old had suffered a sudden blackout following mild chest pain during a workout session at his Behala residence on January 2. He was moved to the Woodlands Hospital that day itself where he underwent angioplasty.

Meanwhile, Ganguly's fans gathered in front of the hospital as well as in front of his Biren Roy Road residence at Behala this morning to catch a glimpse of their favourite cricketer.

"I'm keeping fine. I have come back to life," said Ganguly towards his followers after reaching his residence.



Earlier, noted cardiac surgeon Devi Shetty, who came to the West Bengal capital on Tuesday morning, had examined the BCCI chief and said the former batting great was stable and could be discharged.

"His heart today is as strong as it was when Sourav was 20 years old," Shetty told reporters. "Sourav can participate in a marathon, fly a plane, or even get back to cricket if he wants without this event being any setback."

According to hospital sources, Ganguly will have to follow a strict guideline for the next two weeks. Some medical tests will also be conducted upon him during that time.

Jan 21 deadline for IPL player retention

Trading window closes Feb 4

New Delhi: The IPL's governing council has decided that the eight franchises will be allowed to submit the names of their retained players by January 21, league's chairman Brijesh Patel said on Thursday.

Patel and members of the IPL GC recently had a virtual meeting earlier this week where the planning and preparations of the next IPL was discussed at length.

"We will have the players' retention till January 21 and the trading window for the franchises closes on February 4," Patel, the former India Test batsman told PTI while informing that the date of the auction is yet to be finalised.

It is expected that the mini auction that is supposed to be held this year for the existing eight teams will be held in the second or third week of February. The eight IPL teams enjoy a players' purse of ₹85 crore and Patel said that there will be "no increase of purse" for the 2021 auction.

It is learnt that governing council has decided to wait for a month before finalising whether the IPL-14 will be held in India or not. PTI

Atletico out of Copa del Rey

Madrid: La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid crashed out of the Copa del Rey on Wednesday after suffering a shock second-round 1-0 defeat by third-division Cornella.

Cornella sit seventh in their Segunda B division, Spain's third tier, but deserved a historic win thanks to a volleyed finish by Adrian Jimenez in the seventh minute.

Atleti's task became tougher when 20-year-old Ricard Sanchez was sent off in the 63rd minute, while Saul Niguez had hit the crossbar in the first half.

Diego Simeone also left out some key players including Luis Suarez, Koke, Marcos Llorente and Yannick Carrasco, with Joao Felix taken off in the second half when they needed an equaliser.

But Atletico also struggled for fluency and chances



against a far less prestigious opponent. "We apologise to the fans," said Saul. "We are the ones to blame."

Atletico's defeat makes it consecutive seasons they have lost to a third-tier side in the cup after being knocked out by Cultural Leonesa 12 months ago.

"The cup is not giving us much satisfaction," said Atletico boss Diego Simeone. AFP

MAN CITY TO FACE SPURS IN FINAL

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City reached the League Cup final for fourth consecutive season as they inflicted more semi-final pain on Manchester United with a 2-0 win at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

John Stones and Fernandinho were the unlikely goalscorers for Pep Guardiola's men, who will face Jose Mourinho's Tottenham in the final at Wembley on April 25.

Mourinho was United boss the last time they lifted a trophy in 2017 and the Red Devils wait for silverware under Solskjaer goes on as they lost a fourth semis in the past two seasons.

Any fears of a repeat of the goalless draw between the sides last month in the league were quickly dispelled as both had



goals ruled out inside the first five minutes.

Stones breathed a sigh of relief when his own goal was chalked off for offside by Rashford in the build-up before Ilkay Gundogan was also denied by the offside flag.

Zack Steffen was deputising for first-choice goalkeeper Ederson, who was one of City's absentees due to a coronavirus outbreak, and the

American produced an incredible save to deny Bruno his 16th goal of the season with a curling effort that was destined for the top corner.

City looked more like their old selves in a thrilling first-half performance and were inches away from the opener thanks to a stunning move that started deep inside their own half and ended with

De Bruyne smashing against the post from the edge of the area.

The deadlock was finally broken five minutes into the second half when Stones cushioned in Foden's free kick with his thigh for his first goal in three years.

Stones' poor form has seen him fall down the pecking order in recent seasons, but City have now kept nine clean sheets in the 11 games Stones has started this season as he has formed a formidable partnership with Ruben Dias.

City's issues this season have been at the other end and they again failed to make the most of their chances in the second half.

Cancelo's piledriver flew just over before Dean Henderson made fine saves to deny Sterling and Riyad Mahrez.

However, Henderson could only watch as Fernandinho volleyed into the bottom corner after United failed to clear a corner for his first goal in two years, seven minutes from time.

PSG held in Poch's 1st match

AFP ■ PARIS

Mauricio Pochettino's first match as Paris Saint-Germain coach ended in a 1-1 draw at Saint-Etienne on Wednesday as his new team slipped three points behind Ligue 1 leaders Lyon.

The defending league champions fell behind early on to Romain Hamouma's strike before Moise Kean levelled soon after, but laboured in the second half and failed to find a winner.

The former Tottenham boss was only confirmed as Thomas Tuchel's successor on Saturday, four days after the German's sacking was officially announced.

But the scale of

the task facing the former PSG defender was laid out in front of him at the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard as the capital-city giants' title defence suffered another blow.

Lyon survived a late Lens comeback to extend their lead with a 3-2 win, with Memphis Depay's double proving crucial.

PSG did move into second, above Lille on goal difference, after Christophe Galtier's team slipped to a surprise 2-1 home loss to Angers.

Marseille boosted their title hopes, though, as Dimitri Payet's 80th-minute strike helped secure a 3-1 home success against Montpellier.

Andre-Villas Boas' men are fifth, but only eight points behind Lyon with two games in hand.